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# **CONSTITUTION OF OTATARA LANDCARE GROUP INCORPORATED**

## **Name**

The name of the Society is OTATARA LANDCARE GROUP INCORPORATED (hereinafter called “the Society”).

## **Registered Office**

The registered office of the Society shall be the residence of the secretary or such place as the committee shall determine.

## **Mission Statement**

- To focus attention of Otatara residents and others on the natural features and ecological values of the Otatara environment, especially native forest and wetland flora and fauna.
- To promote and, where possible, facilitate the protection, restoration and creation of such features in the interests of scientific appreciation and intrinsic worth and to encourage community appreciation of these values.

## **Objects**

The objects of the Society shall be as follows:

- To act as a liaison forum for Otatara landowners, with the Invercargill City Council, Environment Southland, Department of Conservation and other agencies, in issues of land use and management of natural resources;
- To provide information to Otatara residents and other landowners on how best to manage and enhance natural areas, including weed and pest management;
- To advocate for the preservation and enhancement of forest remnants and other natural values of the Otatara area (including New River Estuary, Sandy Point and Oreti Beach);
- To promote increased use of native plants in gardens and on properties in Otatara;
- To improve the habitat for native wildlife in the Otatara area;
- To run a programme of activities which will include bush walks, field days and talks to improve knowledge of the local environment, and working bees to help individuals and organisations with their environmental projects;
- To promote Otatara’s natural areas to local people and visitors through publicity (newsletter, leaflets etc).

## **Geographical Area of Interest**

See map on page 4.

### **Membership**

Membership of the Society is open to any person or institution sympathetic to the objects of the Society. Application for membership is to be made to the secretary with the required subscription. Members shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at an annual general meeting or special general meeting of the Society and shall be entitled to attend any committee meeting, but not to vote. Life membership is available by paying an amount determined at the AGM. Life Membership can be bestowed by the OLG Committee under special circumstances.

### **Cessation of Membership**

A member may resign by informing the secretary or by a lapse of subscription or the committee may resolve to suspend or expel a member who it deems has acted contrary to the interests of the Society after due process or right of reply to the committee.

### **Subscription**

The subscription shall be set at the annual general meeting of the Society.

### **Meetings**

Meetings will normally be held monthly or at other times as the committee considers appropriate.

Notice of meetings will be given in writing.

The chairperson shall determine the conduct of the meeting.

A quorum shall be five.

The chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote in the event of a tie of any meeting of the Society.

### **Annual General Meeting**

An annual general meeting shall be held not later than six weeks from the end of the financial year (1 April to 31 March).

Notice of the annual general meeting shall be sent to all members of the Society at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting shall be:

- To receive the annual report and financial statement;
- To elect officers and an auditor;
- To consider any other matter that may be brought before the meeting.

### **Special General Meeting**

A special general meeting shall be convened upon receipt of a request signed by ten members of the Society and stating the purpose of the meeting, or at any time upon the initiative of the committee.

Notice of the special general meeting shall be sent to all members of the Society at least 14 days before the date set for the meeting.

### **Committee**

The committee shall consist of a chairperson, secretary and treasurer and five to twenty committee members.

The committee shall have the power to make an appointment to fill any vacancy and to co-opt additional members. The committee may appoint convenors and sub-committees as necessary.

### **Alteration of Rules**

The rules of the Society may be altered or rescinded by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at an annual general meeting or special general meeting, provided that all members have been advised in advance of the intention to move the alteration or rescission.

### **Banking**

The funds of the Society shall be under the control of the committee, which shall have the power to spend, invest and borrow money. All cheques shall be signed by two of secretary, treasurer chairperson, or committee member.

### **Audit**

The accounts of the Society shall be audited as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year.

### **Honorary Auditor**

An honorary auditor shall be appointed.

### **Honorary Solicitor**

An honorary solicitor shall be appointed.

### **Patron**

The members of the Society may elect a suitable person to the office of patron.

### **Income and Property**

The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the purposes of the Society and no portion shall be transferred directly or indirectly in any way whatsoever by way of profit or gain to the persons who at any time are or have been members of the Society PROVIDED that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith to any member of the Society for goods supplied or

services rendered by the member where such goods are supplied or such services rendered during the course of the member's usual or accepted occupation. No member of the organisation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage whatsoever.

### **Winding-up**

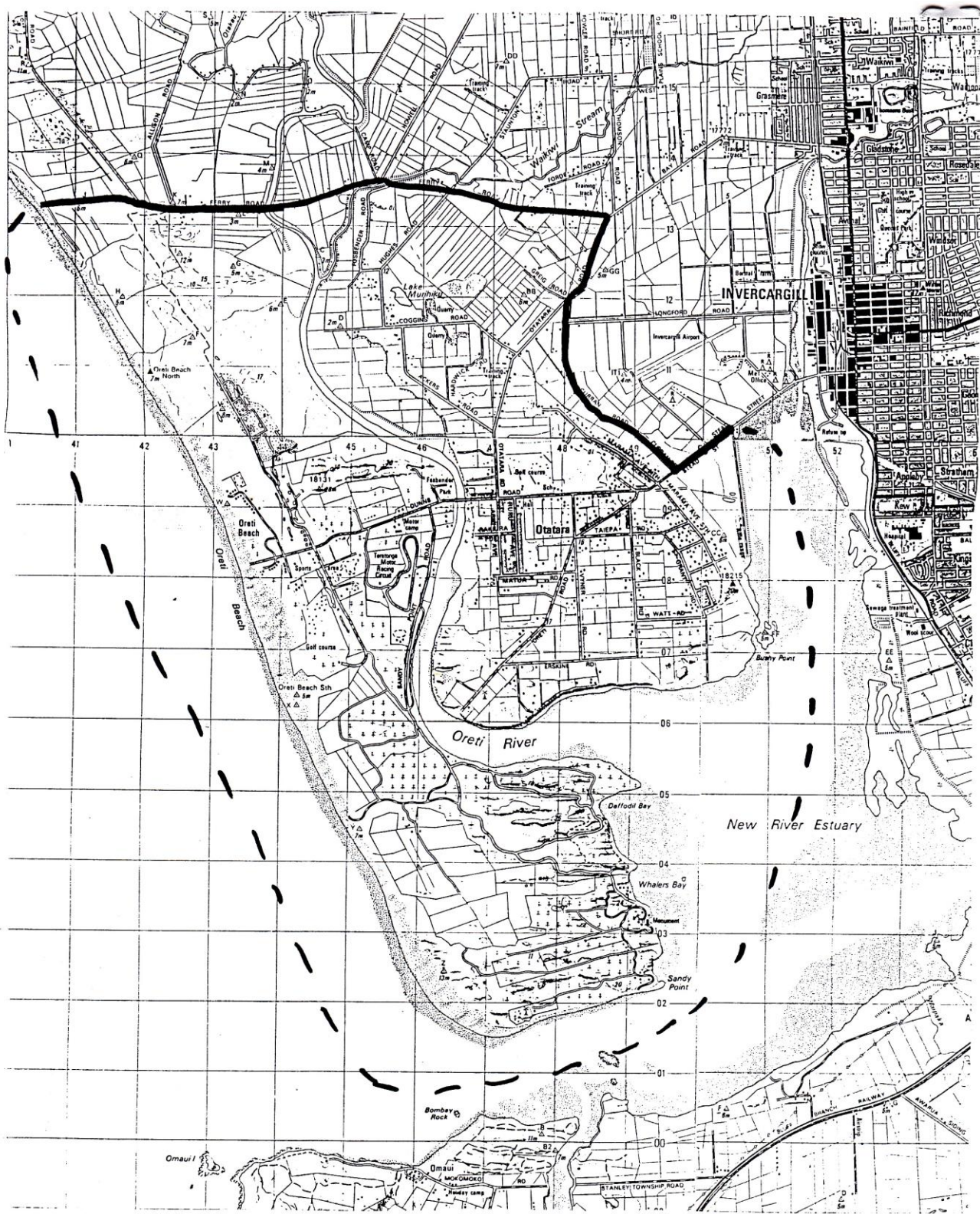
The Society may be voluntarily liquidated by a majority of members at a special general meeting or annual general meeting, providing that the intention to put a motion to wind up the Society has been advised in advance. Surplus assets shall be disposed of for the benefit of charitable organisations with similar objectives.

### **Interpretation**

The committee, whose decision will be final, will settle any question relating to the interpretation of these rules, or any alteration thereof.

### **Matters Not Provided For**

If any matter shall arise which is not, or which in the opinion of the committee is not provided for by or under this Constitution, the same shall be determined by the committee in such manner as it shall deem fit, and even such determination shall be binding upon the Group and its members unless and until set aside by a resolution of a general meeting.



Otatara Landcare Group Geographical Area of Interest