

Soils of the Waipa from Norman Taylor to a digital soil map

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In 1939, Grange, Taylor and Sutherland published a soil survey map for part of Waipa County. Since this time several surveys have gathered soil information in various parts of the Waipa catchment, but until now no complete catchment wide survey and map has been completed in any detail. Recently a catchment wide survey of the Waipa has been completed resulting in a new digital soil map available via S-map.

This three year project initially involved a recognisance of the catchment along with a review of legacy soil information. From here a field survey of the Waipa focused on gathering soil information that could potentially be used for modelling purposes, to modify existing maps, or to produce a new map using traditional methods. As this was a commercially funded project the primary objective was to produce the best catchment wide soil information with the time and money available; the fall-back position being to improve existing legacy maps.

This presentation will outline the approach taken to develop the new S-map layer for the catchment, emphasising how expert soil knowledge (starting with Taylor et al.) was used to enhance modern soil mapping techniques.

The final soil map of the Waipa maybe best defined as a digitally assisted soil map as it has been developed by using a variety of different techniques that were employed during the course of the project. Knowledge gained through this project will allow more cost effective mapping informed by a more strategic approach for on going digital soil mapping in the Waikato Region.