

15 July, 2021

## Braided Rivers seminar 2021

Thank you once again for your assistance in helping to sponsor this event.

Some 210 people were booked to attend. Cancellations and re-bookings ended with 190 people confirmed, and 184 attending on the day. We opted to cater for 180 people based on past years' late cancellations and no-shows. This worked out well as 3 people were unable to stay after the morning presentations and others arrived after lunch.

The presentations and data on attendees are outlined below. The blue text links to the speaker biographies and PDFs of the presentations on our website: <https://braidedrivers.org/seminar2021/>

Unfortunately we were unable to secure a speaker from one of the runanga, however Andrew Spanton from Selwyn District Council did an excellent job presenting on restoration (and some still ongoing or ready to launch) projects funded by the Rakaia Catchment Habitat Environmental Enhancement Society. This was both well-received and very informative.

Website traffic following the seminar shows a typically large increase in traffic. Along with feedback, we feel this is a good indicator of a high level of post-event engagement in the format and content.

Tēnā koutou,

Sonny Whitelaw  
Manager



### Topic: Habitats

Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
<a href="#">Sonny Whitelaw</a>	BRaid	(web pages): <a href="#">Brief history of river management</a>   <a href="#">Defining a 'braidplain'</a>
<a href="#">Duncan Gray</a>	ECan	<a href="#">Braided river ecosystems: physical habitat, ecological complexity and the management conundrum</a>
<a href="#">Helen Greenep</a> (presented by Philip Grove)	ECan	<a href="#">Land use change of braided river margins</a>
<a href="#">David Owen</a> (presented by Leigh Griffiths) & <a href="#">Matt Surmann</a>	ECan	<a href="#">Braided River Revival Whakahaumanu ngā awa ā pākahi and steering the river management ship</a>
<a href="#">Adrian Meredith</a>	ECan	<a href="#">Important features of the "wet" part of braided rivers – important habitats of fishes, invertebrates and algae</a>

<a href="#">Jo Hoyle</a>	NIWA	<a href="#">Effects of flood harvesting on fine sediment deposition in braided rivers</a>
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<a href="#">Grant Davey</a>	BRaid/ ARRG	<a href="#">The plight of the foothills-fed Canterbury braided rivers</a>
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## Topic: Birds

<a href="#">Nick Ledgard</a>	BRaid	<a href="#">Case studies of 'ideal' habitat enhancement</a>
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<a href="#">Ellery Mayence</a>	DOC	<a href="#">Incorporating food web research into a braided river adaptive management project: overview of the next five years on the Waiau Toa/Clarence River</a>
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<a href="#">Colin O'Donnell</a>	DOC	<a href="#">Distribution and long term population trends of banded dotterels on braided rivers in New Zealand</a>
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<a href="#">Dan Burgin</a>	WMIL	<a href="#">Threats faced by shorebirds along flyways and wintering grounds</a>
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<a href="#">Ann-Kathryn Schlesselmann</a>	Landcare Research	<a href="#">Tōrea /South Island pied oystercatcher on the move</a>
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<a href="#">Jean Jack</a>	ECan	<a href="#">River bird surveys and gravel extraction under the RMA</a>
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## Topic: Pests, predators, futures, and forum

<a href="#">Andy Spanton</a>	Selwyn District Council	<a href="#">Rakaia Catchment Habitat Environmental Enhancement Society restoration projects</a>
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<a href="#">Ini-Isabée Gunn &amp; Lauren Smith</a>	LINZ	<a href="#">Expanding weed and pest control operations in Rakaia River – What next?</a>
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<a href="#">Brent Barrett</a>	Boffa Miskell	<a href="#">The commercialisation horizon of new pest tracking and control technology</a>
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<a href="#">Sonny Whitelaw</a>	BRaid	<a href="#">Climate change and biodiversity project</a>
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### Presenter affiliation:

Environment Canterbury  
Wildlife Management Int.  
Department of Conservation  
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research  
Boffa Miskell

LINZ  
NIWA  
Selwyn District Council  
Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group

### Participants and Speakers

Conservation trusts	37
Universities (senior lecturers and post grads)	21

District councils inc. elected official	9
School teachers	3
DOC	11
ECan	29
Forest & Bird	4
Member of Parliament	1
Fish & Game	7
Landcare Research	3
LINZ	9
Consultancies (T&T, BM, PDP, WMIL etc.)	26
Trustpower	3
Tuhaitara Coastal Park	1
Other/unspecified	17
Total	181

Total salaried professionals: 121 (66%)

Others (presumably most conservation trusts are non-salaried volunteers) + non-specified: 60 (33%)

A larger proportion may be non-salaried than previous years, but this is a very rough guess because I have worked this out based entirely on the names of the organization attendees used when booking. I am aware of several who work for both councils and conservation trusts who attended representing no one ('other'), and there are certainly some salaried professionals (myself included) who work for conservation trusts.

## Feedback (sample only)

- An outstanding day of high quality of presentations. Bringing together the government agencies, crown research organisations, consultancy firms as well as community groups meant all those who are working in the field were able to share their latest findings on the state of braided rivers. The added bonus of this information now being on the website provides the opportunity for further sharing and discussion on where the gaps are and what future actions around protection are required. An invaluable resource has been created. Huge thanks Sonny for incredible organisation with a smooth flow that meant those who attended left feeling the time had been valuable to their professional work and networks.  
- Cynthia Roberts
- A brilliant get together of interesting people with shared passions and interests. Well-coordinated and I congratulate Sonny on her time management and organisational skills!  
The venue was superb and catering excellent, although I was hoping for some Karakaas Cheese!  
- Tim Connolly
- It was a really informative day and great to get such an array of knowledgeable and caring people in the room. I enjoyed that you were able to create an organised, friendly and relaxed vibe while enabling the sharing of information.  
- Andy Spanton, Ashburton District Council
- You have done an outstanding job of pulling the seminar together. I enjoyed the programme with some very good speakers including Dan Burgin, the predator research guy [Brent Barrett] and others. Thanks for the opportunity to attend.  
- Paul McGahan
- Really enjoyed the Seminar. Learnt so much and it was a great opportunity to catch up with key people in the industry and meet new contacts. Appreciated the honesty from presenters on a range of issues -

valued the fact presenters felt free to critique current practices and recognise areas for improvement, even within their own organisations. A fantastic event!

- Toni Barlow, Coleridge Habitat Enhancement Trust

## Day 1: Seminar



## Day 2: Field trip to Ashley Rakahuri

