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| **Date of report:** | 07 Dec. 2017 |
| **DOC Community Fund Grantee Progress Report** |
| **Project name:** | Braided Rivers Partnership Project |
| **Project contact:** | Sonny Whitelaw - Manager (Nick Ledgard – chair) |
| **Phone number:** | 0226378931 (033128799 / 0224386711) |
| **Email:** | manager@braid.org.nz (nick.ledgard@xtra.co.nz) |
| **Report number:** | 4 |
| **Date range of report:** | June 2017- November 2017 |
| **Payments received to date:** |  | **Amount** | **Date** |
| *Payments received from the DOCCF to date related to this project* | 1 | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | 19/01/2016 |
| 2 | $ | 6,066 (incl. GST) | 16/08/2016 |
| 3 | $ | 6,234.50 (incl. GST) | 17/01/2017 |
| 4 | $ | 6,234.50 (incl. GST) | 26/09/2017 |
| 5 | $ |  |  |
| 6 | $ |  |  |
| **Amount now requested** |  | $ | 4,550.00 (incl. GST) | *YOU NEED TO ATTACH AN INVOICE (are all details correct according to invoice template for GST registered or not GST registered?)* |
| **Progress report:** | *Brief progress report of 250 words (approx) which should include: work undertaken, work completed and volunteer hours contributed within the period this report covers. Comment whether the project is running to timeline, and if the project is meeting all objectives, giving explanations. What are your key achievements for this reporting period?* |
| Database continuously updated, partnership recruitment slow, for reasons previously outlined: Kaikoura quakes, spring floods washing out birds, few colonies, and diminishing bird numbers. Hard to encourage or maintain a sense of ‘ownership’ of the birds when they’re migratory and Spring floods destroyed intial nesting sites, forcing them to move elsewhere. We continue to direct attention to better publicity. Drone footage over rivers now used by several organisations for research (including more accurate bird counts), documentary films, tourism, and discussion about more signage (now underway). The 2017 Braided Rivers Seminar was again very successful. Education and outreach programmes with schools has resulted in Rangiora High School creating a long term invertebrate monitoring programme. We are delighted to report that Karikaas Cheeses has just launched a South Island wide campaign (North Island in 2018) to raise awareness of braided river birds through their packaging of award winning cheeses, donating a percentage of sales to their local Ashley Rakuhuri River Care Group. While this will not help BRaid become financially sustainable, it is an excellent result as Karikaas are now a fully committed corporate sponsor. Also good news that weed clearing and island formation plus Spring flooding have resulted in attracting a colony of black-billed gulls to return to breed on the Ashley Rakahuri. We ran a trapping workshop with the goal of forming a trapping group around the estuary, in order to re-introduce kaki/black stilt. That goal is now one step closer with volunteers meeting and a trap plan in place. One of our ‘reporting partners’ alerted us to a solitary kaki breeding on the estuary with poaka (not in itself desirable, but ‘proof of concept’ that kaki can and will breed outside the Tasman).  |

**Milestones** - *must be reported against those listed in your deed of grant. Please provide information on the progress of milestones. As per your deed of grant, please identify:*

*• the milestones that were scheduled to be progressed for this reporting period*

*• the activities or interventions scheduled to be undertaken towards achieving the milestone and their scheduled completion date*

*• the progress (in summary) of the activities scheduled, including tangible achievements.*

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| **Milestone name** | **Scheduled Activities** | **Scheduled completion date for activities** | **Deliverables** | **Activities/Deliverables Status:**completeoron-going/on trackoron-going/delayednew completion date  | **Progress summary on Activities/Deliverables Status:*(please provide comment)*** |
| 1.Partnership Database | Database of commercial operators and stakeholders developed across 6 river catchments | October 2016 | Completed | Completed, however this will be a continous processas interested parties join  | See previous reports – continuously updated. |
| 2.Partnership Recruitment  | Visit and recruit potential commercial tour operators to monitor colony nesting birds on braided rivers | October 2016 | Completed | First stage completed, however this will be a continous process | See previous report. While this fulfills our initial goals, the process is ongoing **Recruitment since June 2017 report**1. Karikaas Cheese Factory sponsorship (see attached images)
2. Makarora River group (see <http://braid.org.nz/braided-rivers/makarora/>)
3. Dart River trapper
4. Up to 17 volunteers to form a trapping group around the Ashley Estuary following trapping workshop (see phots and map)
 |
| 3.Publicity / Education and monitoring/management protocols developed | A. Develop information/publicity materials tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwi.B. Develop monitoring/management protocols tailored to each river and commercial operator in consultation with iwiC. Develop accredition measures for levels of engagement of commercial river operators  | October 2016 | Completed | Publicity /Education OngoingMonitoring / management / accrediation processes developed | See previous report. While this fulfills our initial goals, the process is ongoing **Subsequent outcomes since previous report:**1. Publicity
* Braided Rivers Seminar June 29 attended by approximately 155 people; 20 presenters. See <http://braid.org.nz/seminar-2017/> for presenter biographies and papers.
* The Flock Project successfully completed by Arts in Oxford/ public and professional art exhibition and flyways Exhbition (see PDF ‘flyways’ and ‘Flock workshops’) late May through to July
* Article in Irrigation NZ published
* The Flock Project is now a ‘Wild Eyes’ project
* The Flock Project featured in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens/ Christchurch Walking Festival (see photos
* Newspaper articles regularly feature birds, but also problems (see attached example)
1. Monitoring protocols developed for existing partners
* Completed; designed to be flexible according to needs and capacities.
1. Accreditation measures

completed; see April 2016 report.  |
| 4.Implementation of Partnership Monitoring / Management | Participants promoting birds and monitoring / managing bird populations at regular intervals using agreed protocols  | April 2017 | 1. Promotional material in use2. Monitoring /management protocols being implemented by clients (as appropriate)Summary Report at the end of the first complete breeding season February 2017  | Promotional material printed and started to be distributed - on trackSimple protocols for reporting now in place | 1. See previous reports; also ongoing because, of the neeed for uniquely tailored promotional material, including…* Karikaas cheeses – created initial designs for their new cheese packaging

2. Simple protocols are in place for clients in terms of trapping and monitoring. Also moved into a new phase, of testing the efficacy and safey of a drone to monitor birds (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHAhzyjL228>Summary report sent with previous report.  |
| 5. Stakeholder surveys and feedback anaylsis | Feedback sought and through surveys from stakeholders, with analysis completed to refine and improve engagement strategies. | Sept 2018 | New end-user promotion/management protocols produced, due to better understanding of how the needs of stakeholders can be met to encourage their involvment with protecting and enhancing br habitats, halting the decline in braided river bird populations in Canterbury. | Not yet implemented | Not yet implemented |

**Objectives/Progress of Key Performance Indicators** *- How are you progressing against your Key Performance Indicators as per your deed of grant*?

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| **Your Project Objectives** List the project objectives as per your deed of grant | **Key performance indicators (KPIs)**List the KPIs as per you deed of grant |  **Progress against your KPIs** | **General comments on progress towards KPIs** |
| 1. Develop a comprehensive database of commercial tourism operators in Canterbury that utilise braided rivers as part of their day-to-day business. | Database of commercial operators and stakeholders developed across river catchments:* Ashley
* Waiau
* Hurunui
* Waipara
* Waimakariri
* Rakaia
* Rangitata
* Lower Waitaki
* Ashburton
* Orari
* Wilberforce
* Harper
* Pareora
* Makarora
* Dart

  | Total number of operators and other potential stakeholders identified in 15 river catchments.  | 1. No. of river catchments reported at end of the season (details of some reports will be presented at the upcoming seminar)2016/2017See previous reports2017/2018Initial survey data of the Waiau, Ashburton, Ashley, and Waimakariri rivers are now in but reports yet to be written. Makarora River report now up on website: <http://braid.org.nz/braided-rivers/makarora/> |
| 2. Increase accuracy of records of the distribution and numbers of colony river nesting birds through working with commercial operators | Minimum 6 visits to commercial operators and stakeholders that have expressed interest and willingness. By the end of Year 1, commercial river users are reporting presence and/or absence of colony nesting birds (basic monitoring). | 1. Number of river catchments with ‘clients’ involved with biodiversity monitoring. 2. Number of operators reporting presence and/or absence of birds (involved with bird monitoring).3. Number of operators approached but not interested.4. Level of existing knowledge about braided rivers and their native biodiversity measured in hours spent to establish and develop knowledge.  | 1. 18 visits to date.

2.* Ashley – yes and ongoing
* Waiau - yes
* Hurunui - no reports yet
* Waimakariri - bird count completed
* Rakaia - no
* Rangitata - no
* Lower Waitaki –not yet
* Wilberforce – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower, but DOC now progressing trapping
* Harper – no reports other than anecdotal by Trustpower
* Ashburton – yes
* Orari – not yet
* Pareora – no
* No reports from LINZ operators
* Waikuku Beach farm – gulls have moved to the river following weed clearing/floods
* Makarora - yes

3. See previous report4. See previous report. This is definitely improving. I’m spending more time than ever answering emails and phone calls ( including from journalists) about birds, and am receiving more reports about bird sightings on rivers. However, none are coming in from people on the ground in a position to assist; rather, they are just happy to report. Very difficult to tease out the exact number of hours this involves, but given most reporting and bird counts are undertaken by volunteers, it’s quite a lot. |
| 3.Empower tour operators and allies to assist with braided river bird education/promotion, monitoring and management. | Production and delivery of two ‘field tolerant’ information packs on:1) uniqueness of braided rivers and birds, and 2) monitoring activities, ranging from just locating and monitoring presence/absence, to trapping, habitat enhancement (weed removal and island creation) and level of breeding success. | The number of field packs tailored to individual operators/river environments and bird species. | * Completed, see previous report. The magnets are proving to be the most effective tool, far more so than brochures.
* Karikaas cheeses have taken up the magnet idea and producing their own as well as producing beautiful boxes to package their cheeses that promote the birds
 |
| 4. Implementation of monitoring/management protocols | Number of operators undertaking monitoring and management (measure as to degree of monitoring (once, twice etc /season) and number of management activities (trapping nights, predators caught etc) ‘Clients’ implementing monitoring/management protocols.Summary report on outcomes of Years 1 & 2. | Level of pack use, measured by number of:1. Operators receiving publicity material and feedback 2. Monitoring using agreed protocols3. Trapping (locations and trap nights)4. Clearing weeds (where applicable)5. Creating islands (where applicable)6. Educating members of the public about braided river birds through their normal tour operations | 1. 11 primary outlets last season (see previous report.)2. Currently underway as flooding has washed away nests several times in Spring. 2. Underway3. Wilberforce River, Harper River, Lake Coleridge, Waiau River, Ashley-Rakahur, Orari River. Dart River uses a paid trapper who co-ordinated with us to maximise ideal locations for trapping in a braided river. Makarora River just now been awarded funding for trapping and management.4. Primarily Ashley and Orari, but Spring flooded ended up doing most of the work (even as it washed away nests). 4-5. Ecan/CWMS Zone Committee to clear weeds on island in Waiau is in progress4-5. Fulton Hogan now working directly with local groups4-5. Ashley-Rakahuri River funding approved and work on weeding completed6. Amuri Jet (Hanmer Springs) awarded Bronze Accreditation6. Karikaas cheese will be awarded Silver Accrediation as they are about to embark on a South Island wide, and then national launch a range of cheeses dedicated to braided river birds. |
| 5.Reviewing outcomes from years 1 and 2 to refine strategies for engagement, monitoring and protection elsewhere - and hopefully expanded and replicated in other environments as well as rivers. | 1. Feedback from operators sought.2. Feedback from operators received.3. Strategies are being continually refined and improved.4. Bird monitoring and management established5. Final report | 1. Effective operator engagement strategies; what works, what doesn’t
2. Operators report improved business outcomes, measured by revenue and/or marketing opportunities such as achieving Qualmark EnviroAwards
3. Off-the shelf components for field kits that can be readily packaged to suit different operators and circumstances

Scale of monitoring and management across 6 major rivers | Partially underway now as we foster the fledgling relationship with Karikaas. Off the shelf components are in place, but we are finding that each ‘partner’ brings and in turn offers different strategies and outlets to promote braided river birds, so adapting to each situation is the key to successful relationship-building. |

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| **Evidence of project progress:** | *List items attached as evidence of expenditure, work programme, work progress etc, through invoices, photos, letters of reference from other organisations etc as per the deliverables in the deed of grant.* |
| * Braided Rivers Seminar <http://braid.org.nz/seminar-2017/>
* Done footage of rivers: <http://braid.org.nz/videos/#rivers>

Attached PDF document includes as follows:1. Invoice for next DOC payment
2. (blank)

3-6. invoices as per attached spreadsheet7. ‘The Flock’ at Oxford Art Gallery8-10. ‘The Flock’ at the Botanical Gardens in Christchurch11. Newspaper article12. Braided Rivers Seminar 13. Flyer and posters for trapping workshop14. Photo trapping workshop15. Amuri Jet Accreditation16.-17. Karikaas cheese packaging18. Map of proposed new trapping line in the Ashley estuary19 -20. Rangiora High School invertebrate sampling, setting up the first annual data collection to determine changes in the river in decades to come.21. Invoice for TIMMS traps left out in a previous report (reconciled in attached spreadsheet) |
| **Other contributions:** | *Provide total dollars and/or volunteer hours that have been contributed. (Note: if this is the Final report it will be for the entire project, if it is for a particular reporting period then report the contribution for the particular period only). Include amount / time and source of contribution.* |
| **Contribution (dollars / hours):**  | **Source of contribution:** |
| $5,421.39 (ex. GST) | Department of Conservation Fourth payment |
| $12,024.50 (ex GST) | DIA (Lotto) 1/6th of lump sum payment for 3 year project |
| $1,521.74 (ex. GST) | BRaid: final contribution to entire 3 year project  |
| 134 volunteer hours | Drone footage and editing videos of 9 rivers including footage for documentary filem ‘Seven Rivers Walking’  |
| 72 volunteer hours | Outreach: The Flock Arts in Oxford exhibition, community discussion, Wild Eyes, and Botanical Gardens/Christchurch Walking Festival, school visits and setting up Rangiora High School long-term invertebrate montioring |
| Est 130 volunteer hours | Start up and preparations to launch Makarora River protection group. This has just been awarded funding (yesterday!) |
| 60 volunteer hours | Trapping (BRaid only, not member groups. There’s a considerable degree of crossover here, so hard to pin down what proportion is actually BRaid ) |
| 150 volunteer hours | Volunteer bird counts on the Waiau, Waimakarari, and Ashley, and Ashburton Rivers Oct/Nov  |
| 120 volunteer hours | Volunteer governance/management oversight of programme, meetings, general talks to groups and schools, publicity and newspaper articles |
| 15 volunteer hours | Monitoring floods and wrybills on the Ashley Rakahuri River |
| $18,967.63 + 681 Volunteer hours  |  |
| **Risks:** | *What, if any risks have you identified with regard to project delivery and how are these being managed or mitigated?* |
| **Risk description** | **Impact of risk** | **Mitigation** |
| Lack of understanding of cultural significance of birds and rivers | Incomplete picture limits marketing potential to engage tourists and locals alike  | Continue to seek input from runanga  |
| Lack of knowledge of possible areas of ngāti wairaki, ngāti māmoe and ngāi tahu wāhi tapu in areas where island formation/clearing or trapping may take place. | Minimal, as weed clearing or trapping is likely to take place on ephemeral islands, and will improve mahinga kai outcomes and assist in restoring the mauri of waterways  | Check with local district councils as established protocols have generally been established and lodged with them; continue to seek input from runanga |
| Lack of buy-in from potential partners  | Failure to implement programme | Market the benefits of this programme as part of a raft of environmental management plans and value-added components to businesses, and tourism potential for communities. This has proven effective with Karikaas, Amuri Jet, Trustpower, Christchurch International Airport, Waikukui Beach dairy farm, and to a degree Fontera and Irrigation NZ |
| Lack of interest due to lack of birds seen on rivers | Leaves a hole in the data  | Impress the importance of reporting an absence of birds as well as a presence, explaining why this data is important. |
| Competition with existing groups or organisations to protect/ restore environmental values of rivers | Risks over-saturating the targeted market with environmental concerns  | Work with existing groups to share resources and knowledge; promote their activities that align with BRaid’s goal. We are achieving this with the Lower Waitaki River Management Society, Orari Rivercare Protection Group, Bring on the Birds in Cheviot (Waiau and Hurunui Rivers). |
| Trapping | Injury to trappers or public  | Implement protocals and training programmes for trappers where this does not yet existEnsure signage is in place. See for example signs created by BRaid for the Wilberforce and Harper Rivers |
| Loss/theft of traps | Loss due to flooding (economic cost) | This may in some instances be unavoidable. We lost 10 traps on the Waiu River due to unexpected flooding. While we were aware the river was rising, it was not possible for anyone in the area or a member of BRaid to get there and remove the traps safely on time. |
| **Health and Safety:** | *If relevant please describe any health and safety activities completed within this reporting period including: frequency or number of health and safety meetings held; training provided to employees, volunteers or contractors; safety improvements made to your project, new hazards identified or significant amendments to your safety management plan. Please provide any material or information relating to the occurrences of safety incidents, injured personnel.* |
| ***Description*** | ***Location and date*** | ***Action taken and outcome*** | ***Reported to? E.g. regulatory authority*** | ***Follow up action taken***  |
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| **General comments regarding Health and Safety *(if relevant)*** |
| None. We have a H&S plan in place and regualrly refer to it. |
| **Final report:** | *If this is your final report relating to this project you should record totals for project. For example: total length of fence constructed, area treated with possum control, overall assessment of project success, as well as your forecast on the long-term future / management of the land involved in the project.* |
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| **Declaration:** | *As a duly authorised representative of the organisation:** *I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in all sections of this Progress Report, or supplied in support of our Progress Report, is complete, true and correct;*
* *I declare that* I *have the authority to sign this Progress Report and to provide this information and that we have paid or will pay all invoices with this instalment in full;*
* *I understand that information presented to the Minister of Conservation and Department of Conservation is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982;*
* *I declare that the fund instalment invoice accompanying this Progress Report is complete, true and correct.*
 |
| **Name of verifier** | Sonny Whitelaw |
| **Position of verifier** | Manager BRaid) |
| **Signature** *(by typing your name in the space provided you are electronically signing this Progress Report)* | Macintosh HD:Users:sonny:letters:signaturesonnysmall.jpg | Date | 07 December 2017 |