**BRaid Managers report February 2019**

**Braided River Partnership Project: end of Project**

* End of project reports sent to DOC and DIA/Lotto, December 2018.

**Funding**

* First report and invoice sent to ECan, 02 February 2019. Their funding is for outreach/communications (website, social media, signs, and the 2019 Seminar)
* Application for funding catering for the Seminar made to Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund; outcome should be known in the next week or so.

**Education/outreach/support**

1. One **newsletter** sent since the last meeting
2. **Website**
   1. All 2018 calendar pages were removed and 144 new pages added.
   2. 2 new posts added (newsletter + BRIDGE project in response to Dewhirst court case)
   3. Due to changes in the websites and access to species databases of external providers, primarily DOC, Landcare Research, NatureWatch, and ECan, every page contained multiple broken and/or dated links. These pages have now been updated and the entire website being given a bit of a facelift.
   4. New SSL certificate issued for the website purchased along with technical assistance to overcome a site shutdown due to a hack.
   5. ARRG has a new website: www.arrg.org.nz
3. **Facebook** posts reach 170 to 20,000 people, varying significantly depending on the topic
4. **Black-backed gull management.** This remains unchanged, with no objections from DOC or Lotto yet raised to our proposed $2,200.00 of Partnership funding diverted to SBBG management on the upper Waimakariri in 2019.

**CWMS forum:** review of proposed outputs 2020-2040.The follow up ECan meeting in late November explained how emphasis is now turning to addressing braided rivers. Defining the scope of a ‘braided river’ is a crucial step, one reflected in the decision to appeal the High Court decision, Dewhirst Land Company Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council decision.

**Correspondence In:**

* Notification from Lotto of grant.

**Correspondence Out:**

* Report to ECan (see ‘funding’)
* Report to DOC (see ‘funding’)
* Report to Lotto (see ‘funding’)
* Letter to Kaikoura Council opposing the decision to encourage freedom camping on an important banded dotterel nesting site.

**Matters arising from previous meeting**

* **Case for better management of smaller rivers –** recommend tabling this until the BRIDGE project recommendations are available mid-2019 and/or the outcome of the appeal against the High Court decision, Dewhirst Land Company Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council decision.
* **Historic reports of bird counts** – no further information as we are not in a position to replicate other work or the database compiled and maintained by Andy Grant at DOC.
* **Awareness signage** – **n**othing new since November

**Monitoring/bird counts**

* Grant Davey has now completed monitoring key colonies this season, including the Mason/Waiau confluence and Ashley/Okuku confluence.
* Wilberforce/Harper: to be discussed
* All reports and monitoring sent to me are loaded under the respective ‘river’ names on the website and also forwarded to Andy Grant at DOC. Where reports are side-rivers, such as the last two undertaken by Grant, they are listed on the main river pages, ie Waiau and Ashley rivers. **Please remember to include the date and exact location.**

**General Business**

* **2020 Braided River Seminar**: 26 June 2019. Several speakers lined up and around 90 people so far booked to attend.