**BRaid Managers report May 2019**

**Braided River Partnership Project:**

* Entirely funded by Lotto, for $30,000 over 3 years. This limits our capacity to expand the project, however it does allow us to maintain existing partnerships. The project is, in effect, ‘folded into’ the day-to-day business of BRaid rather than being regarded as a separate project
  + Karikaas Cheese continues to support ARRG through a percentage of sales donated to ARRG
  + Trustpower is still undergoing a limited trapping programme and reporting results. I have invited them to join an upcoming advanced trapping workshop to be held in Hanmer Springs in July.
  + Contact is maintained regularly with interested parties through social media, newsletters, and in person.
  + Next report to Lotto due mid-2020

**Funding**

* Second report and invoice will be sent to ECan at the end of this month. Their funding is for outreach/communications (website, social media, signs, and the 2019 Seminar)
* The Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund is funding us for catering for the 2019 Seminar. They have indicated that they would consider funding the 2021 Seminar if we invite TRONT to speak to the cultural aspects of braided rivers, specifically the Rakaia. To that end, I have approached TRONT to speak this year as well, but have yet to receive a reply.

**Education/outreach/support**

* **Two newsletters** sent since the last meeting, delivered to 190 verified emails. All newsletters are archived on the website: <https://braid.org.nz/latest-news/>
* **Website**: As ofMay26, the website is composed of: 143 pages, 204 posts, and 230
* calendar entries for 2019
* **Facebook** **posts**: approximately 46 posts since the last meeting.
* **2019 Braided Rivers Seminar:** booked out and waitlisted
* **BRIDGE project**: North Canterbury farmers boycotted the last meeting. Inaccurate information was reported in the media about the content and nature of the meetings, as well as BRaid being inaccurately represented by the media. More information on our reply is here: <https://braid.org.nz/in-defence-of-braided-rivers-as-public-goods/> The decision about what is a ‘braided river’ is still the subject of an appeal against the High Court decision (Dewhirst Land Company Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council decision). Progress is stalled until the outcome is known.
* **Wrybill: Bird of the Year 2019.** Initiative led by Miranda Shorebird Trust; we will support it through social media

**Correspondence In:**

* Notification from Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund grant.

**Correspondence Out:**

* Letter to NC News editor Robyn Bristow objecting to BRaid being misrepresented in the NC News. The error has not been corrected in print and no apology has been received at this time. It seems they are disregarding it as a typo.

**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** – Balmoral Lookout signs are now in place. One of these explains the geological origins and significance of braided rivers, the Hurunui River in particular.

**Monitoring/bird counts**

* No new bird counts as we are now out-of-season
* Wilberforce/Harper bird counts 2019: 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**

* Jet boats and birds research paper –report loaded to website under ‘ecology/threats/human activities’(<https://braid.org.nz/ecology/threats/human-activities/)>