**BRaid Managers report November 2018**

**Braided River Partnership Project – end of Project**

* In spite of increased reports of BBG and BFTs, no significant colonies were found near properties, including the Waimakariri/Kowhai confluence, although Grant Davey complied a comprehensive report on what bird species were found. This report will be added to the website under ‘Waimakariri River’
* Grant is scheduled to check a Mason River farmer’s property in the next few days
* No further accreditation has been issued since the last meeting. I would recommend considering Silver Accreditation for Karikaas Cheese next year, as they have demonstrated a consistency in marketing and donations to ARRG

**Funding**

* Application submitted to Lotto for $59.886.00. Just in half of this ($30,000.00) was granted to continue advocacy and communications in order to help secure the future of braided river bird habitats.
* This segues with ECan’s funding to BRaid of $15,000 funding until mid 2019, specifically for communications and running a Braided Rivers seminar in 2019.
* End of project draft report for Lotto completed (due 06 December).
* End of project draft report of DOC underway (due later in December)

**Education/outreach/support**

1. One **newsletters** sent since the last meeting; final one of the year scheduled next week
2. **The website** and Facebook continues to be our key resource and communications tool respectively. Facebook hits 120-8000 per posting. Recent post on managing SBBG attracted anti-1080 trolls, but they were shut down the following morning
3. **Black-backed gull management.** WMIL have now released their draft report on managing the birds in the Waiau/Hurunui Rivers. Propose we set aside $2,200.00 of Partnership funding for traps to SBBG management on the upper Waimakariri in 2019.
4. **CWMS forum:** review of proposed outputs 2020-2040.There will be a follow up meeting at ECan is tomorrow morning, which I will be attending.
5. **Shared stand with DOC at Tuhaitara Coastal Park** open day 11 November. DOC’s stuffed animals as usual, attracted considerable attention.

**Correspondence In:**

* Notification from Lotto of grant.

**Matters arising from previous meeting**

* **Case for better management of smaller rivers –** I would recommend tabling this until the BRIDGE project recommendations are available mid-2019
* **Historic reports of bird counts** – no further information. I recommend this item be removed from the agenda as we are not in a positon to replicate other work or the database compiled and maintained by Andy Grant at DOC.
* **Awareness signage**
  + Ashburton bird signs have been completed (Donna Field). These signs are a 2-tiered approach.
    - 1: appealing image of individual bird, a single sentence with a quirky fact, and their status (endangered, threated etc).
    - 2. A STOP sign, photo of nesting gulls and terns, and a warning of $100,000 fine for interfering with wildlife.

**Monitoring/bird counts**

* Grant Davey has been contracted to monitor key colonies this season. He has already completed the Okuku and Kowhai/Waimakariri confluence. Mason/Waiau is scheduled.
* Wilberforce/Harper: to be discussed
* All reports and monitoring sent to me are forwarded to Andy Grant at DOC. **Please remember to include the date and exact location.**

**General Business**

* **Lupins:** aposter was designed but not used however the event was promoted on Facebook and in response to a newspaper article about lupins in the Mackenzie. Based on the comments from the general public, there is need for some serious education work around this, as there is an element in society that loves lupins as much as cats.
* **2020 Braided River Seminar**: pencilled in for 26 June 2019 but Lincoln University has not given me a written confirmation.