**BRaid Managers report September 2020**

**Braided River Partnership Project:**

* Lotteries funding for this specific project ends 2021, at which time it is rolled into general business
* Contact maintained regularly with interested parties through social media, newsletters
* Trustpower provided prizes for Covid-19 kids project, also met with them to discuss future alliances
* Meeting with nascent Hurunui River group
* Planned meeting with possible Opihi River group (see below)

**Funding**

* End of financial year and mid-year reports both sent to ECan
* Mid-project Lotteries ‘Partnership Project’ report submitted
* ECan have generously funded us for another 12 months years to support the website, social media, and other communications strategies including seminars and workshop
* Trustpower contributed prizes to the Covid-19 lockdown project for kids
* LINZ funded morning and afternoon teas at the symposium
* Awaiting quote from Mike Bell for SBBG control
* Funding from Rata Foundation for climate resiliency project received: $10,000.00
* Further application to Lotteries for this project has been submitted; results will be known Nov.

**Education/outreach/support**

* **Four newsletters** have been sent since the last meeting, delivered to 191 verified emails. Newsletters are archived here: <https://braidedrivers.org/news/>
* **BRaid Website**: Late 2019 site breach. No data lost and no security risks to those visiting the site. Third-party tech support was able to remove a trojan file and the site is now backed up daily on two separate remote servers. Attempted brute-force (ie, random and not specifically targeted at us) attacks increase the more the site is visited. All plugins and software are up-to-date.
* **Climate website** (funded by Rata Foundation): 50 pages now completed.
* **Member’s area** **on the website**: a password-protected area where meeting minutes, reports, financial statements, audit reports, funding applications and reports etc are available online. We are a charitable trust and that information is not sensitive if the password is breached, and I will not add member’s details or contact list databases.
* **Facebook** **posts**: approximately 170 posts since the last meeting.
* **2020 Braided Rivers Symposium:** large number of cancellations due to Covid , but close to 100 attendees, good food (big shout out to Karikaas cheese), excellent range of speakers and lively forum at the end that had to be cut short for time. Presentation are on the website under ‘references’ in the relevant pages, and also here: <https://braidedrivers.org/2020-symposium/>
* **2021 Braided Rivers symposium:** there is a very narrow window of opportunity to get dates that suit most people and one where the venue (Lincoln university) is available. **In 2021, that date is Wednesday 14 July.** To that end, we have booked the venue.
* **Boffa Miskell:** weed contractors given 2-page river bird ID kit; discussion underway about contractors leaning trapping
* **Hurunui River:** met with nascent river care group organizer and will follow up with support if a group forms
* **Opihi River:** plans to meet with key stakeholders including DOC, ECan, Opuhi dam, Opihi river group, gravel extraction company all set to happen until Covid Level 4. The same plans are ready to be re-started once we enter Level 1. Meanwhile, Grant has been analysing historic air photos for the Orari and Opihi that show increasing confinement with stopbanks and trees by the catchment boards and ECan plus uncontrolled expansion of gorse and broom. This underscores the submission BRaid made to the Action for Healthy Waterways (see the minutes for the last meeting).
* **Awareness signage** – created 21 panels for Ashburton river-mouth. These are now being printed and once installed, an example showing 3 panels will be online here: <https://braidedrivers.org/conservation/signs/>
* **Historic reports of bird counts** – visited Andy Grant and given Grant Davey a copy of DOC’s database. Anyone who would like to see this database to access historic bird counts, please contact Andy Grant as he will be keeping it updated from multiple sources. The copy Grant has is only valid up until early 2020.

**Correspondence In:**

* Notifications of submission to Action for Healthy Waterways
* Letters/emails of support from BRaid committee members to apply for funding for the climate project
* Letters of support to accompany Rata Foundation application:
	+ Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust
	+ Forest & Bird (North Canterbury)
	+ Ashburton Conservation Trust
* Letters of support to accompany Lotteries application:
	+ Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust
	+ Forest & Bird (North Canterbury)
	+ ECan

**Correspondence Out:**

* Reports to ECan, Boffa Miskell and LINZ thanking them for their support in planning and catering for the symposium
* Request support for Climate project, outlining rationale to:
	+ Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust
	+ Forest & Bird (North Canterbury)
	+ Ashburton Conservation Trust
	+ ECan

**Monitoring/bird counts**

* Upcoming bird surveys are added to the Facebook calendar, so please let me know when yours are scheduled!