**BRaid Managers report September 2016**

**Braided River Partnership Project**

* Bird ID kits – continue to be expanded in type to suit different end users. Just reprinted 1500 brochures; we still have a small supply of magnets.
* Uptake:
  + - Lower Waitaki: Will contact again this month to offer petrol vouchers to members to monitor birds and implement trapping if/where needed
    - Orari: Will deliver some traps to Sven from Oraria Rivercare Protection Group so he can begin preliminary work this year on a section of the river that is less likely to dry out - upstream of Burdon Road ford. Sent draft letter to ECan river engineer to discuss working together to restore braided river bird habitat in conjunction with maintaining Burdon Road ford – most likely next season as they have completed their work this season.
    - Waimak: met with CIAL and ECan (Courtney Popenhagen) to discuss how we can support their black-back gull management strategy and hosting The Flock.
    - Trustpower: Harper and Wilberforce Rivers are being kept weed free and in the case of the Wilberforce, a site visit 29 August revealed dozens of black-fronted terns feeding in the main channel created from the diversion. Trustpower will embark on a trapping programme, with signs on both Wilberforce and Harper Rivers

**The Flock project**

* + Plenty of birds now created through schools and other groups including ARRCG
  + We have permission for multiple prominent hosting sites from Kaikoura to Twizel, including Council owned lands as well as schools and commercial premises
  + Online calendar created so hosts can nominate their preferred times
  + A0 and A1 signs to explain The Flock printed by DOC/ARRG now ready
  + Official launch Friday 09 Sept to kick off Conservation Week, including BBQ at DOC Rangiora with contributers, media etc. Flock roosting at Taggarts (opposite), Nic Toki (DOC Endangered Species Ambassador) meeting with media, possibly television news; Sunday 11 Sept Flock painting day at Oxford Markets, and following Sunday18th at Ashley Gorge for family picnic day.
  + PLEASE if you are involved, add you preferred times to the calendar: <https://teamup.com/ks78572c392ed670e2>
  + Volunteers needed to transport and set up The Flock in different location.

**Other**

* No reports to funding organisations due until later this year
* No short-term need for additional funding
* Email blitz to seek participants in Upper Waimak bird survey
* Website, social media, newsletters – nothing specific other than a continued increase of use, with periodic high traffic at random times as well as predictably following newsletters.
* Ongoing meetings with Waimakariri Science Stakeholder Advisory Group to direct more attention to terrestrial, not just aquatic freshwater ecosystem health in the Ashley-Rakahuri.

Sonny Whitelaw

Manager