

02 July, 2017

Kirsty Joint

Secretary

Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society

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**Braided Rivers seminar 2017**

Dear Kirsty

Once again, we would like to pass on our thanks to the committee, for their approval of funding for our braided river seminar held last Thursday, June 29. It could be a week or two before Lincoln Events Centre and the caterers send us their invoices and we in turn can send you the final cost breakdowns, but as I will be away next week, I wanted to send you our main report, on the outcome and also some of the feedback.

The presentations are outlined below. The blue text links to both the to the speaker biographies and also PDFs of the presentations. The one presentation not included is currently being prepared for publication. We, along with others involveed in river management, will be making direct use of its outcomes in the coming months. All of the field research presented at the seminar has direct relevance to management strategies to protect and enhance biodiversity and river morphology in the Rakaia River catchment, as the problems and management strategies are applicable throughout.

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| [Prof. Ken Hughey](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#ken) | [Keynote address: Local, regional, national and international aspects of braided river management](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/KEN-Local-Regional-National-and-International-aspects-of-braided-river-mgt-Braid-Seminar-29-June-2017.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Sonny Whitelaw](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#sonny) | [BRaid’s 2016 projects and outcomes](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Whitelaw-BRaid-report-2017.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Grant Davey](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/" \l "grantd" \t "_blank) & [Nick Ledgard](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#nick) | [Gulls on a farm – colony of black-billed gulls successfully nesting in a paddock on a dairy farm](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Dairy-Farm-Black-billed-Gulls_small.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Claudia Mischler](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#claudia) | [The national black billed gull census](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ClaudiaMischler_bbg-survey.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Dr Jo Hoyle](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#ailsa) | [The effects of vegetation/weeds on braided rivers](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/BRaid2017_Hoyle.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Grant Davey](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/" \l "grantd" \t "_blank) & [Nick Ledgard](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#nick) | [Weed invasion of the Ashley-Rakahuri River: implications for endemic birds](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Davey-Ledgard-Ashley-River-weeds.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Courtney Hamblin](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#courtney) | [The use of social attractants as a management tool for black-fronted terns](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Courtney-Hamblin-Social-attractants-for-black-fronted-terns.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Georgina Pickerell](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/georgina) | [Mammalian predator presence on braided river islands: implications for management](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PICKERELL_1200_BRAId_29June2017.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Ann-Kathrin Schlesselmann](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#anne) | Habitat creation on the Lower Waitaki River (no PDF available as currently being prepared for publication) |
| [Grant Norbury](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#grant) | [Messing with the mind: using unrewarding prey stimuli to reduce predator impacts](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Messing-with-the-mind-Norbury-et-al.-BRAID-seminar-2017-compressed.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Dean Nelson](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#dean) | [Outcome monitoring for the Tasman River predator Control programme](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Tasman-Predator-Control-presentation-for-BRaid-seminar.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Dean Nelson](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#dean) | [Update on the kakī recovery programme](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Kaki-update-for-BRaid-seminar.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Natalie Forsdick](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#natalie) | [Genome analysis of hybridisation between Kakī (Black Stilt) and Poaka (Pied Stilt)](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/14.Forsdick_Kaki_BRaid17.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Jim Jolly](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#jim) | [Upper Waimakariri River surveys indicate stable numbers over time](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/BRaids-Repeat-Survey-of-the-Upper-Waimakariri.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Kevin Fraley](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#kevin) | [Flood-proneness, flow, and land cover impact on fish communities in different tributaries of the Waimakariri River](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fraley_Braided-Rivers_2017.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Jennifer Schori](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#ailsa) | [Introduced mammals as drivers of population decline in braided river grasshoppers and the life history of the robust grasshopper](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/JSchori_BRaid-presentation-2017.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Colin O’Donnell](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#colin) | [Values and management of lowland braided rivers for birds](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ODonnell-Values-and-management-of-lowland-braided-rivers-for-birds_-Colin-ODonnell.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| Chris Keeling & [Philip Grove](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/" \l "grove" \t "_blank) | [Addressing Land Use Change in Braided Rivers](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ECan-BRaid-Seminar-29-June-2017-4.40pm.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| Dr Richard Maloney | [Opportunities and priorities for future braided river conservation](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Maloney_June-29_2017-presentation_future-targets7.pdf" \t "_blank) |
| [Ailsa Howard](http://braid.org.nz/about-braid/2017-seminar-speakers/#colin) | [Banded dotterels on South Bay, Kaikoura](http://braid.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DotPoster2017.compressed.pdf" \t "_blank) |

**Presenters**

Canterbury, Lincoln, and Otago Universies

NIWA

Ecology Consultants

Department of Conservation

Environment Canterbury

Landcare Research

Wildlife Consultants

Conservation groups

**Participants**

Regional Council (nearly all ECan): 21

Department of Conservation: 15

Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago Universities +NIWA: 14

Ecology consultants: 3

NGOs: 2

Trusts, Govt. Departments, and Museums: 1 each

Total salaried professionals: 58 (44%)

Others: 73 (56%)

We are aware from professional association, that amongst many of the 'others' were several professionals who used their private email addresses. We are also aware of approximately 20 people, mostly professionals, who were only able to attend the morning or afternoon sessions, and thus did not register (primarily for catering purposes).

**Sample of feedback thus far:**

‘*Was stoked to hear coverage on National Radio on my way home (black billed gulls nesting on farmland). Brilliant outcome! Thanks so much for all of your hard work, and dedication. My highlights (aside from my awesome students, I’m so lucky!) was Richard’s talk.’*

* Dr Tammy Steeves. Senior Lecturer in Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics, Canterbury University

*‘It was a great seminar. Will recommend it to more people next year.’*

* Pete Caldwell,Biosecurity Consultant, Boffa Miskell

*‘Thanks for organising another wonderfully interesting and informative seminar. Pleased to see the 2018 in there too – is so good to see all the interest and activity across the region and country.’*

* Dr Frances Schmeckel, Senior Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury

*‘…a big thank you for the fantastic conference yesterday. The content was outstanding and I know I personally gained a lot of new ideas and information from attending. Well done.’*

* Courtney Popenhagen, Environment Canterbury Regional Park Ranger

*‘It is great hearing of all the amazing work being done to protect our vulnerable birds.’*

- Karen Talbot, volunteer, South Island Wildlife Hospital

*‘Awesome seminar - best yet & learnt heaps.’*

- Penny Wright, Conservation volunteer

Yours faithfully



Sonny Whitelaw

Manager, BRaid Inc