



Braided Rivers Partnership Project 2016-2017

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Funding from DOC and Department of Internal Affairs to improve the success of colony-nesting river birds by working with local communities and commercial river users.

*"Globally, there is an increasing demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly products. Businesses that can meet this demand have a competitive market edge. Hence, gaining accreditation for environmental stewardship is simply **good business**."*

Goals:

- 1. Increase bird populations**
- 2. Gain green credentials for tourism and export market =
ECONOMIC BENEFITS**



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

1. Report sightings of birds

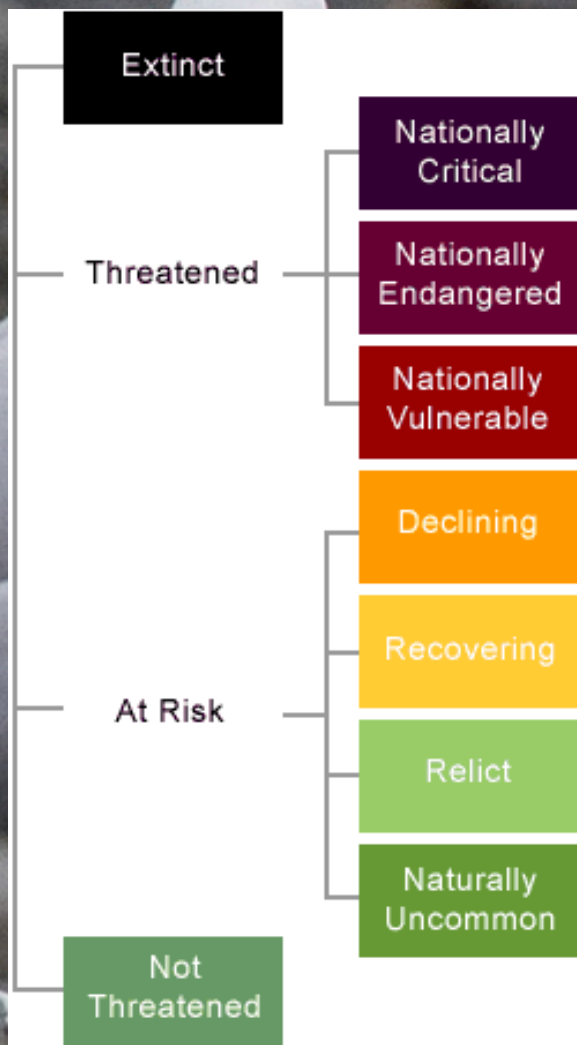
2. Help develop appropriate management strategy:

- **Signs**
- **Trapping**
- **Weed clearing**
- **Island formation**

3. Provide resources to promote activities:

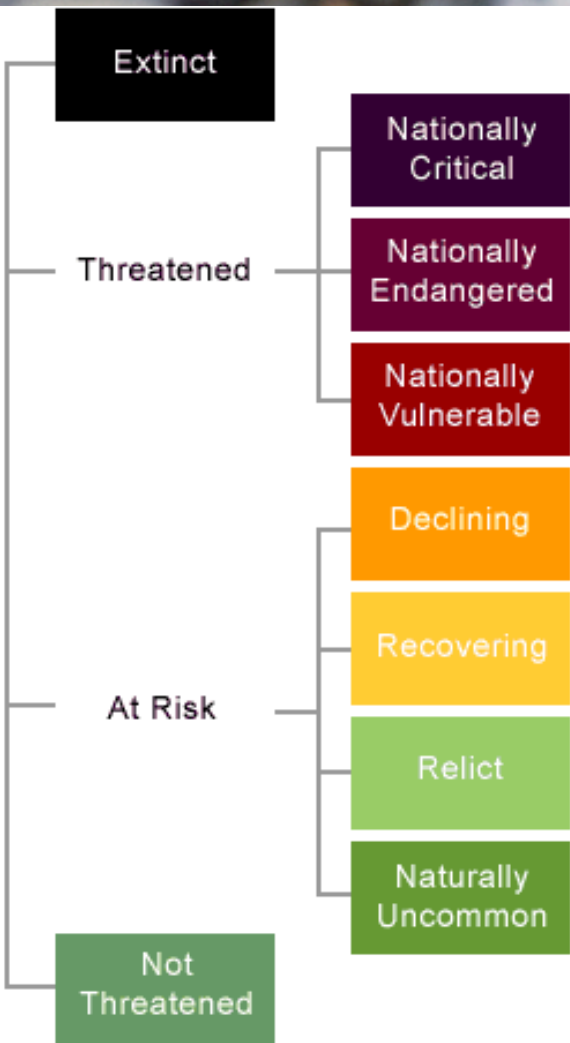
- **Brochures**
- **High quality photographic prints for display**
- **Marketing material to support tourism/business activities**
- **Community engagement project #TheFlockNZ**

Black-billed gull - tarāpuka



**Status: Nationally Critical
- next stop extinction**

Black-fronted tern - tarapiore



Status: Nationally Endangered

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Trustpower



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Trustpower



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Trustpower



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Environmental Management Accreditation 2016

Trustpower



Banded dotterel nest Harper River Delta Nov. 2016
Photo: Coleridge Habitat Trust

BRONZE ACCREDITED
Braided River Aid www.braid.org.nz

BRAid 

In recognition of your work to restore braided river bird habitat on the Harper River delta, trapping predatory mammals, and installing bird interpretation signs.

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Environmental Management Accreditation 2016

Fulton Hogan



BRONZE ACCREDITED
Braided River Aid www.braid.org.nz

BRAid 



*In recognition of your assistance clearing weeds
and creating islands for rare and endangered
braided river birds on the Orari River.*

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Environmental Management Accreditation 2016

Taggarts



Photo: Steve Attwood

SILVER ACCREDITED
Braided River Aid www.braid.org.nz

BRAid 

*In recognition of your assistance with bird management
on the Ashley River-Rakahuri over many years.*

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

*Environmental Management
Accreditation 2016*

Craigmore Station

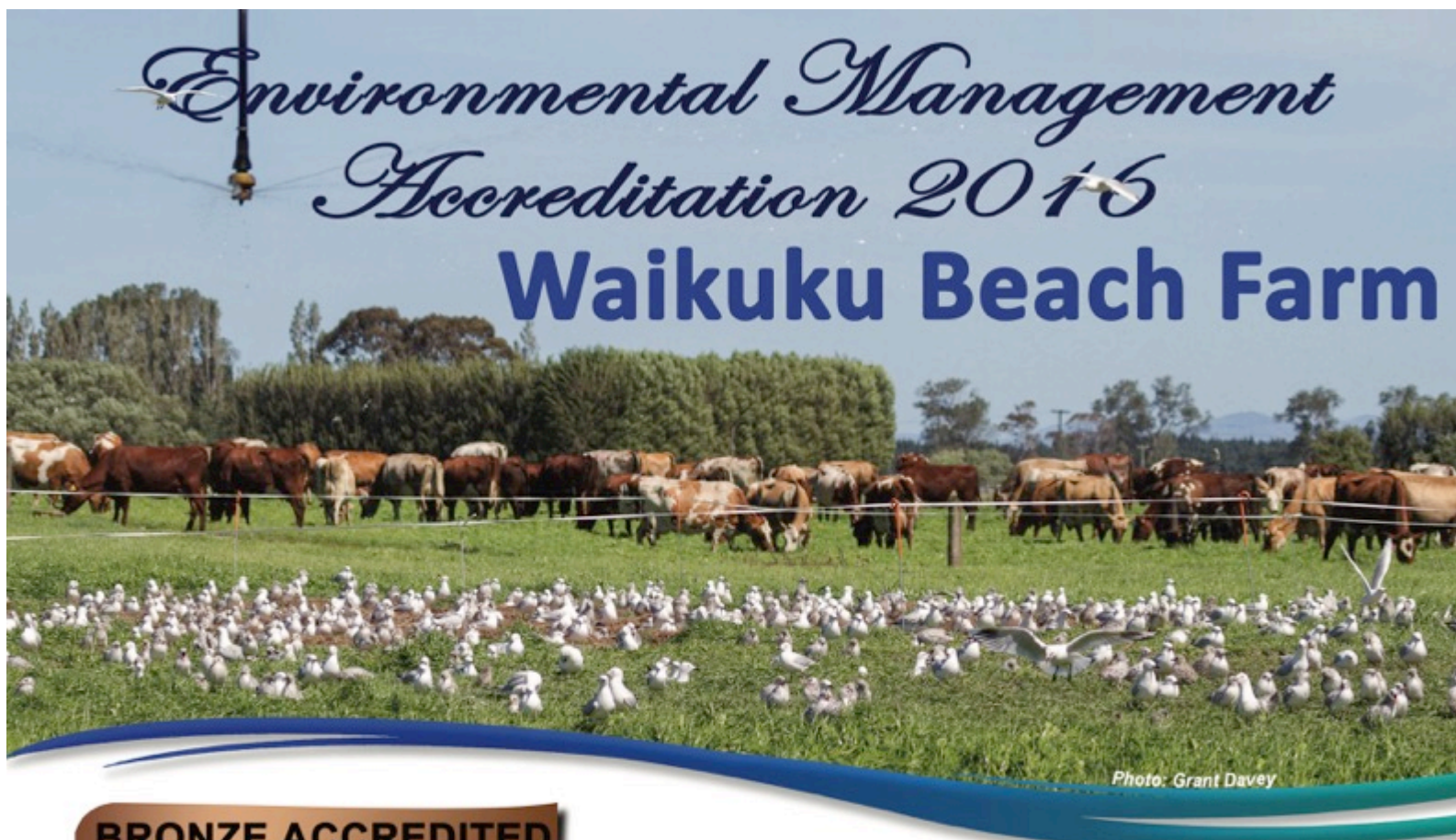


Photo: Steve Attwood



*In recognition of your work in successfully hosting a
colony of critically endangered black-billed gulls.*

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project



In recognition of your successful hosting of a colony of critically endangered black-billed gulls at Waikuku Beach farm

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

Fonterra

Critically endangered birds find new home on farm

Two of our Co-op's farmers recently discovered over 800 critically endangered black billed gulls had moved to an unusual location on their farm.

The gulls decided to leave their home on the Ashley Kaitiaki braided river and relocate to Tim Delaney's farm in Waikuku, North Canterbury to nest.

North Canterbury Environmental group 'BRaid' spotted the birds on the farm and approached Tim and farm manager James Henderson with the idea of playing host to the birds. James said they were happy to help and they have done everything they can to help guarantee the birds survival.

"Together with BRaid, we set up a simple electric fence in an area of the paddock and set traps on the fence line to protect the birds from predators. Chick survival appears to be close to 100 per cent, therefore these efforts seem to be proving successful.

"It's been a privilege to be involved with this conservation effort and I encourage other Fonterra farmers to get behind similar events," says James.

North Canterbury Area Manager Mike Hennessy was alerted to this news just before Christmas and took a trip down to the farm to check it out.

"It's an unusual sight to come across, however it seems to be working well," said Mike.

BRaid Chairman Nick Ledgard believes the attraction to the farm was similar to the riverbed, a clear area to nest on initially, plus ready access to food. The colony started after the ground was turned in the field, revealing a rich food source.

"If you follow where the birds go for food, it is usually associated with where the cows are grazing," said Nick.

"The next challenge is figuring out how to get them back to the braided river once their chicks are old enough to fly, which could be any time now.

"On most New Zealand farms there are opportunities to care for the environment; the challenge is to identify these and to make the most of them. This example shows how simple actions from farmers can make a huge difference towards saving a species on the brink of extinction."



A black billed gull brings food for its chick to eat.



Endangered black billed gulls and their chicks with their new neighbours.

Irrigation NZ

Braided rivers – how irrigators are helping save the birds



You'll think endangered black billed gulls, grazing dairy cows and snuffling irrigation would make for uneasy bedfellows. But late last year, a colony of almost 800 black billed gulls set up home on Tim Delaney's Waikuku Beach Farm and they really enjoyed their new home.

"The fact that these black billed gulls chose to establish themselves in the middle of an actively managed dairy farm is interesting. Although they can often be seen feeding in irrigation paddocks, and have been known to nest on farmland, this is the first record of a colony on improved pasture regularly grazed by cows. Not only that, but a cattle point spraying was regularly passed over them and it doesn't seem to bother them at all," said BRaid manager, Tony Whelan.

Unlike their larger black-tailed gull 'cousins' who tend to favour marine coastal environments, black billed gulls are 'land specialists' – preferring to live and breed on the shallow water interface between land and the channels of braided rivers. Irrigated farms can sometimes present the same 'water-land' interface that the birds need for breeding and feeding. The birds won't nest in ground paddocks, but what can happen is that they will establish a colony when a paddock has been ploughed or cultivated in spring – and by the time the grass has grown back, they've made themselves at home!

If farmers do encounter the birds in their paddocks, they're encouraged to contact BRaid or their regional council.

"Fundamentally, we're looking to develop relationships with farmers who may be using birds trying to nest in their paddocks, beside storage ponds and dams, or grubbing for worms and bugs after ground cultivation while

overwintering. It doesn't take much to help the birds – often it's just a matter of setting up a bar wire around them to keep farm animals from trampling the nests and just keeping an eye on them."

At the Delaney's place, the cost to the farmer was the loss of a very small part of a paddock; the gain was that nearly all of the chicks survived. "Success on this scale is virtually unheard of elsewhere, where they are more likely to be washed away by floods, drenched or harmed by birds using the rivers, or eaten by predators," said Tony.

Once the birds fledged earlier this year, the only evidence they left at the Delaney's was water-down grass in their corner of the paddock and a slightly worn path around the colony margin where the cows stood to stare at their new neighbours.

"The beauty of the farm environment is that it can be both a nesting location and a food source for the birds. There are obviously aspects of modern farming which can work in well with indigenous conservation – all it takes is better recognition of the compatible factors, and then working together to make the most of them."

ABOUT BRAID:

BRaid (Braided River Act) works to protect, enhance and restore braided river ecosystems through co-operation and partnership.

BRaid can provide environmental accreditation for farmers who work with them to monitor and protect black billed gulls getting involved can help you meet some of the biodiversity requirements in your farm management plan.

To find out more about the accreditation programme and how irrigators can participate and benefit: www.braid.org.nz



Parliamentary Commissioner for
The Environment: *Taonga of an island nation:
Saving New Zealand's birds*

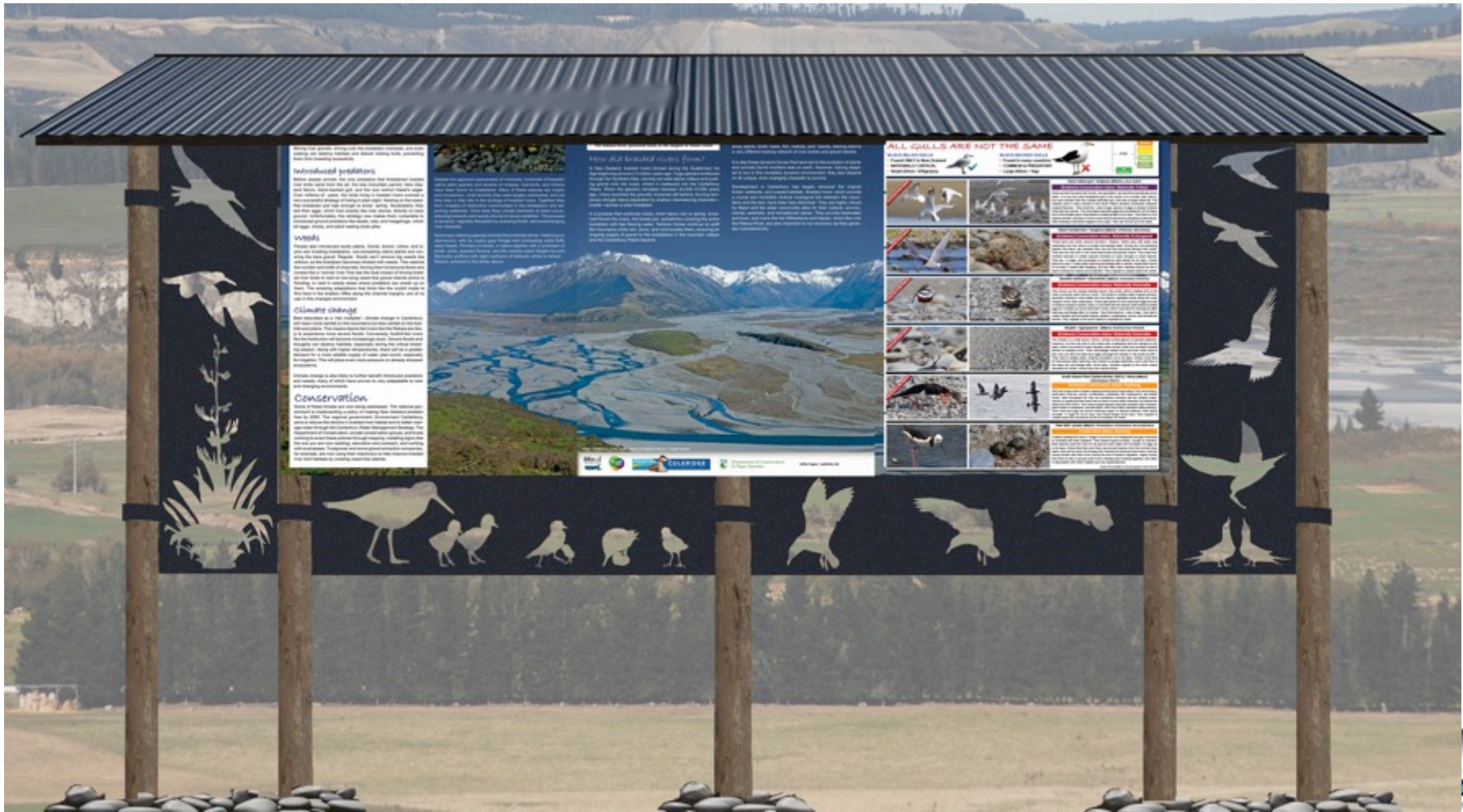
2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

- **National Black-billed gull survey**
 - Contributed to costs of jetboat hire
- **Upper Waimakariri River bird count**
 - Submission to Canterbury Pest Management Strategy on Russell lupins
- **Waiau River**
 - Black-fronted tern colony - trapping at Shark Tooth
 - BRaid supplied traps monitored by Amuri Jet
 - Submission to Zone Committee to protect black-fronted tern colony at Marble Point



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

- **Community Engagement / tourism**
 - Christchurch International Airport
 - Kiwi Rail
 - Coleridge Habitat Enhancement Trust



2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

#THE FLOCK_{nz} Welcome Back Braided River Birds

Meet the birds...

Pied stilt
pōaka
Nationally Vulnerable

Wrybill
ngūtaparore
Nationally vulnerable

Banded dotterel
pōhōwera
Nationally vulnerable

South Island pied oystercatcher / tōrea
Nationally Vulnerable

Black stilt
kākī
Critically endangered

Black-billed gull
tarāpuka
Critically endangered

Black-fronted tern
tarāpīroa
Critically endangered

Braid
Braided River Aid

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

www.braid.org.nz/the-flock

Ashley Robakuri
RIVERCARE GROUP



Get creative join the fun, & help make

#THE FLOCK_{nz}

Here's how it works...

Just like real braided river birds searching for a safe place to nest, **The Flock** will pop up overnight in towns and places near braided rivers, then disappear...only to reappear somewhere else. **The Flock's** movements will be shared through social media, along with its inevitable losses as some fall victim to theft and damage. Just like the real birds as they struggle to find a place to breed and raise chicks.

Everyone can help!

Right now, we're creating **The Flock**. We need help with:

1. **Making out birds for decorating** - plywood or corrugate needed, along with cutting skills
2. **Assembling and colouring the birds** - paint, write a message, knit a jersey, add **bling**...
3. **Host The Flock** - if you have an idea for a good spot (the more prominent the better), or can organize a spot, we'd love to hear from you!

See:
www.braid.org.nz/the-flock

- discover what birds belong to the **braided river wing of The Flock**, and where they nest
- download templates to cut out **The Flock**
- find out where you can deliver completed birds
- download learning resources for schools

Braid
Braided River Aid

...has adopted the braided river wing of **The Flock**.

Get your school, business, club or community group involved!



Hundreds of creative hands made over 300 birds that landed in dozens of locations from Kaikoura to Mt Cook



Thursday September 15, 2016 | Issue 716



Rally time:
Ashley Forest rally
sprint this weekend.
—page 18.

VOTING

Elections:
Candidates have
their say.
—pages 20 - 21.



Earthmoving:
Kaiaoi recovery
remains on target.
—pages 28 - 29.

The Flock has landed in Nth Canty

A colourful array of birds has kicked off Conservation Week celebrations in North Canterbury.

By SHELLEY TOPP

The Flock touched down at Rangiora's Department of Conservation (DOC) office last Friday.

The Flock, a bunch of brightly-coloured, hand-made birds, were launched at a party hosted by Braided River Aid (BRAID) and DOC.

The launch provided an early start to Conservation Week, which began last Saturday and provided the platform to "welcome back" migratory birds who return to Canterbury's braided rivers every year to breed.

The Flock project is part of a national campaign to raise awareness of New Zealand's endangered birds and is already gaining attention overseas.

It is being run by Pokeno's Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre in the North Island in conjunction with BRAID, an organisation supporting braided river-care groups in the South Island, which has adopted the braided-river wing of The Flock.

BRAID manager Sonny



Big bird in The Flock ... Rangiora Borough School pupils Daniel Kavanagh (8, left) and Jakob Humphreys (5), with the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare group's large wrybill overlooking The Flock, on the Department of Conservation office lawn last Friday.

PHOTO: SHELLEY TOPP

The project involves creating a handmade flock of rare and threatened native birds using old corrugated metal signs or plywood to cut out silhouettes of the birds, painting them in bright colours then transporting

them to a launch party in Rangiora last week were made by pupils from Rangiora Borough School, Windwhistle Area School, Lake Coleridge Habitat Trust and members of the public.

The display also included

"The realistic looking birds and the predatory cats were made by the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group and DOC staff at Rangiora," Sonny said. Paint for the brightly coloured birds was supplied by Resene who are the official

she said.

So far The Flock consists of wrybills, black-fronted terns, black-billed gulls, banded dotterels, pied stilts, black stilts and pied oystercatchers.

"The Flock birds at Rangiora would be mixed with all the others made at different locations and will pop up overnight in towns and places near braided rivers, then disappear - only to reappear somewhere else without warning," Sonny said.

The Flock's movements will be shared through social media, along with the inevitable losses as some fall victim to theft and damage.

"Just like the real birds as they struggle to find a safe place to breed and raise their chicks," Sonny said.

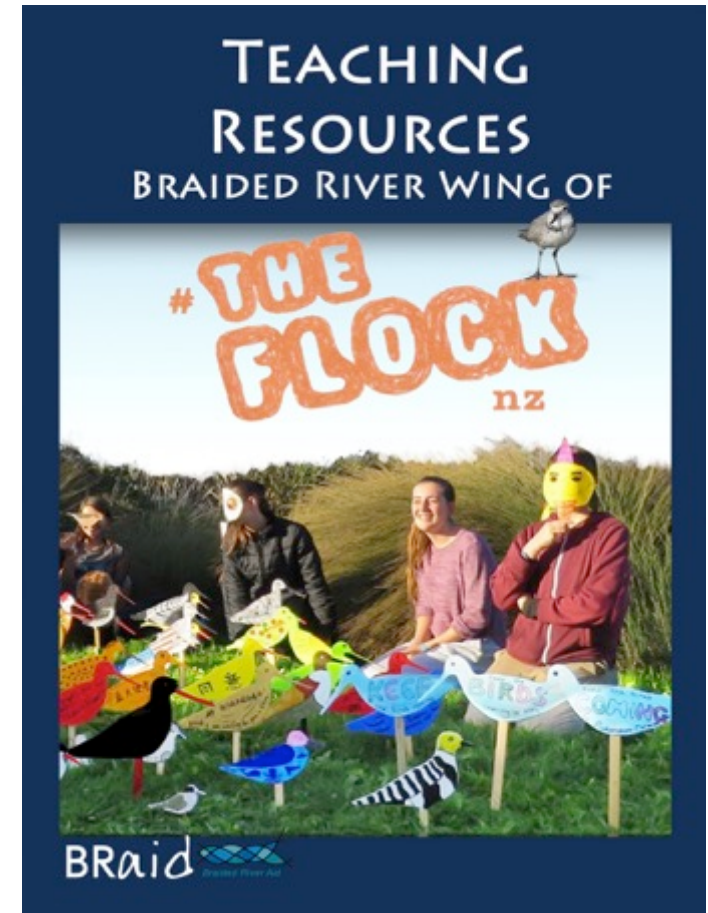
"We're not going to reveal when The Flock will appear over the following months, as that's part of the fun and mystery."

However some of the locations included council-owned parks and reserves, businesses in Kaikoura, Hanmer Springs, Cheviot, Culverden, Waiau, Amberley, Rangiora, Oxford and Selwyn as well as the Tuhaitara Coastal Park, Ashley Gorge and Christchurch International Airport, Waimakariri River Regional Park, Orana Wildlife Park, Methven iSite, Darfield Library, Salmon Tales Cafe in

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project



24-page teaching resource - PDF



Interactive iPad version

2015-2017 Braided River Partnerships Project

From the Rivers to the Shore & The Flyway Print Exchange

Arts in Oxford Gallery 10 June – 18 July

Exhibition opening 3pm Saturday 10 June

72 Main Street, Oxford www.artsinoxford.com

Opening Hours: Tues – Sun 10 – 4
Closed Mon and public holidays
03 312 1289