

Interim Report for WAI Funding: 13 February 2026 – 28 August 2026: GA 45-24/25 ID 1404

Title of Project: Braided Rivers biodiversity restoration.

Name of Grant Recipient: BRaid Inc. **Date:** 18 August 2026

Name of author of report: Sonny Whitelaw

List of parties involved in the project (providing both in-kind and funding support):

- Environment Canterbury: Dr. Frances Schmechel professional advisory
- Department of Conservation: Dr. C. Ellery Mayence professional advisory
- Sonny Whitelaw contract manager 13 February – 18 August 2026: 260.5 hours. Of this, 60 were voluntary (website maintenance) as per budget
- Nick Ledgard, Chair: 27 February – 08 July: 66 volunteer hours
- Sue Mardon, contract Treasurer, 13 February – 18 August: 19 hours. Of this, 9 were voluntary as per budget
- Edith Smith (Forest & Bird): volunteer secretary
- Ailsa Howard (Forest & Bird) volunteer committee member
- Grant Davey (ARRG): volunteer committee member
- Bec Simpson (Boffa Miskell biosecurity consultant); volunteer committee member

Activities Deliverables /Milestone 13 February 2026 – 28 August 2026

Provision of information (A) Website (B) Presenting to community groups, schools, and councils/zone committees on request	(A) Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) for every page, image, and PDF on website completed. Currently up to date including paid annual subscriptions to hosting server, third-party plugins, security systems and backup systems (B) Note: some in conjunction with the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group (ARRG); specific presentations for ARRG alone excluded: Date / location February 27 / Fernside school March 6 / Volunteer expo display March 13 /Fernside school river March 27 /Platform opening Waikuku April 20 /Ohoka school April 22 / DPB Kaiapoi North school June 12 / ECan Enviro school riverbed (G2) w N. Canterbury school reps June 29 / Local home school kids (18) July 8 / Braided Rivers conference Lincoln Uni.
Writing and distributing a minimum of two e-newsletters annually	Seven sent to 330 confirmed email subscribers: from newest to oldest: • Newsletter #113 • Newsletter #112

	• Purple willow in Canterbury Rivers. What's the story? • Newsletter #111 • Newsletter #110 • Newsletter #109 & Braided Rivers Conference 2026 programme • Newsletter #108
Annual Workshop Seminar Additional: assist in Black-fronted tern workshops and communications	Completed: https://braidedrivers.org/2026-conference-2/ See conference report attached. Ongoing: dedicated (currently private) web pages for black-fronted tern working group to enable draft materials to be shared. This is in conjunction with ECan and DOC.
Graphic resources	• Craigieburn Basin signage discussion underway • Coleridge/Harper Delta discussion commenced As recipients are responsible for printing and installation costs, completed designs of signs may be delayed or deferred due to their budget constraints.