

**Annual Progress Report for WAI Funding: 01 April 2025 – 19 August 2025: GA 45-24/25 ID 1404**

**Title of Project:** Braided Rivers biodiversity restoration.

**Name of Grant Recipient:** BRaid Inc. **Date:** 19 August 2025.

**Name of author of report:** Sonny Whitelaw

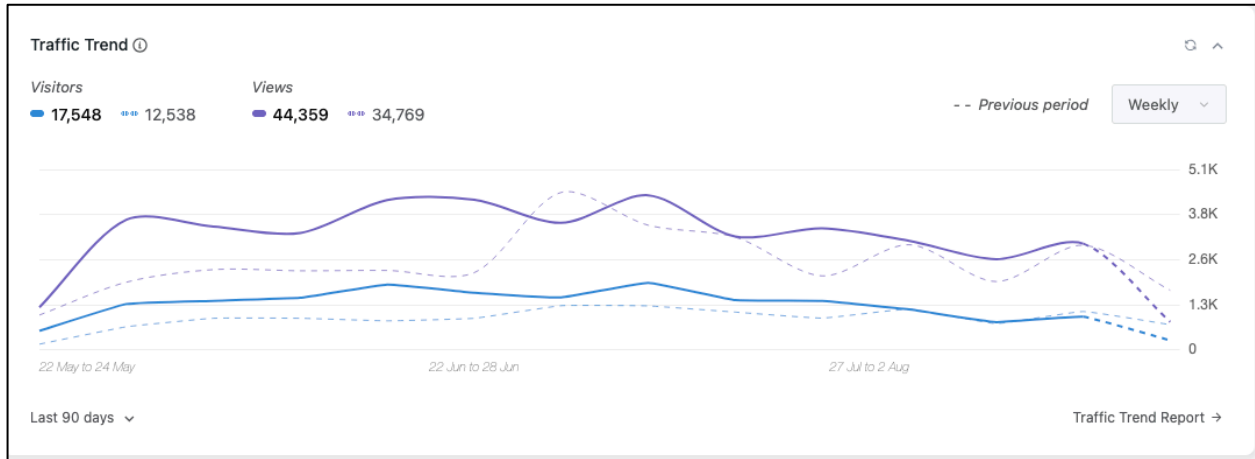
**List of parties involved in the project (providing both in-kind and funding support):**

- Environment Canterbury (Frances Schmechel Seminar advisory)
- Department of Conservation (C. Ellery Mayence)
- Sonny Whitelaw (255 volunteer hrs. \$10,200.66: ie 50% discount on invoiced hours. 01 April 2025 – 20 August 2025)
- Nick Ledgard (98 volunteer 01 April – 19 August 2025; 40% for ARRG = total 51 )

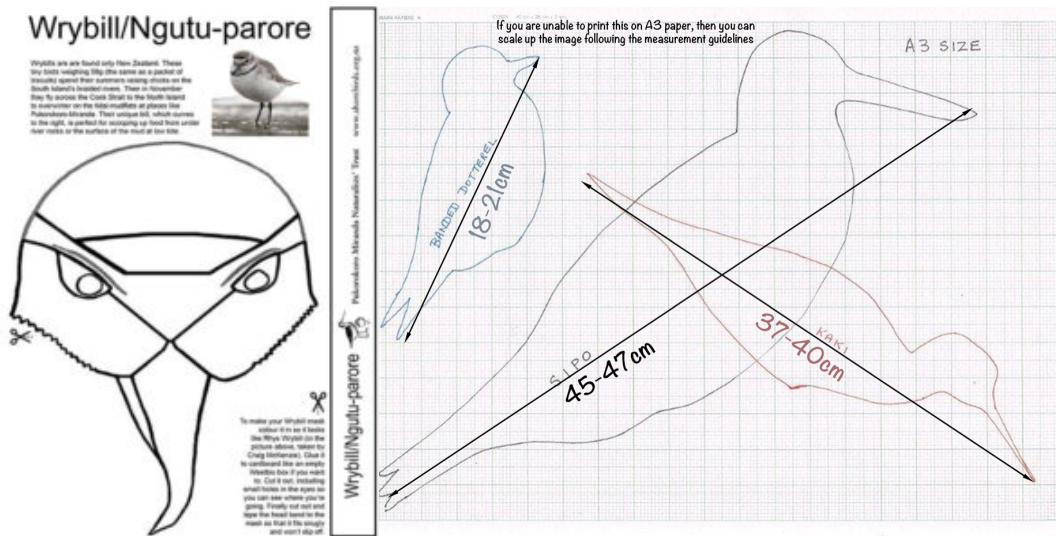
**Activities Deliverables /Milestone**

Provide up-to-date information braided rivers research and management of BRaid website. Refer to site statistics page 2.	<b>Currently up to date</b> including paid annual subscriptions to hosting server, third-party plugins, and software applications.
Writing and distributing a minimum of two e-newsletters	<b>Completed</b> 5 newsletters #98 - #102 distributed to 329 registered recipients 01 April 2025 – 19 August 2025 <a href="https://braidedrivers.org/news/">https://braidedrivers.org/news/</a>
Presenting to community groups, schools, and councils/zone committees on request	Note: these are also in conjunction with the Ashley Rakahuri (AR) Rivercare group: April 15 - Youth Development meeting -3 hours, May 22 - Estuary essay comp. prize-giving 2 hours June 16 - Down Back Paddock talk to Sefton school - 3 hours July 9 - BRaid conference - 10 hours July 10 - BFT workshop - 10 hours (includes prep) July 11 - CompassFM interview - 1 hour July 21 - BRaid seminar debrief - 4 hours July 23 - Ashley school talk - 2 hours Aug 7 - Talk to Rnga Mens Friendship Group - 3 hours Period - 6 hours/month emails etc 5x8 = 40 hours
Produce the annual Braided River Seminar that is open to the public and sharing the outputs with attendees  <b>Additional:</b> assist in Black-fronted tern workshop	<b>Completed:</b> <a href="https://braidedrivers.org/2025-seminar/">https://braidedrivers.org/2025-seminar/</a> See report sent 21 July 2025  <b>Underway:</b> dedicated (private) web pages for black-fronted tern working group to enable draft

	materials to be shared. This is in conjunction with ECan and DOC.
Creating signs, short videos, and other information material where needed.	Bird of the Year campaign (ongoing) Provided <a href="#">templates</a> and <a href="#">signage</a> for <a href="#">The Flock</a> to Waimakariri District Council (see examples below) materials to be shared.



Braid website statistics for the period 20 May 2025 – 16 August 2024. The dotted lines show weekly trends. It's normal for the trend to go up in early -mid July as the seminar presentations come online.



# Get creative join the fun, & help make

# THE FLOCK nz

Every spring, migratory birds fly to the South Island's braided rivers to breed. Some come from the coast, while others fly from the North Island or across the ocean from Australia & Fiji. They've been making this journey for millions of years, but because of predators & habitat loss, some are close to extinction.

Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre in the North Island, are creating The Flock to help spread the message about the threats facing them, and...



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

## 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 cut out birds for decorating - plywood or corflute 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 organise a spot, we'd love to hear from you!

See:

[www.braid.org.nz](http://www.braid.org.nz)

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

