

31 July, 2020

Braided Rivers seminar 2020

Thank you for your assistance in helping to organise and sponsor the 2020 event under less than ideal circumstances.

One hundred and eighty eight were booked prior to the Covid-19 lockdown. Cancellations and re-bookings ended with 113 people confirmed, with 93 attending on the day. The presentations and data on attendees are outlined on the following pages. The table below contains (blue text) links to both the to the speaker biographies and also PDFs of the presentations on our website.

Website traffic shows that in the days following the seminar, there were around 3 x more visits to the pages where the presentations were listed, than in 2019; a strong indicator of high levels of engagement. Some of this may also have been from people who booked but cancelled, although there is no way to tell. I have attached screen grabs of the stats for June and July at the end of this report: see the left column 'posts and pages' for unique visitor numbers.

2020 Braided Rivers Seminar

Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
Sonny Whitelaw	BRaid	Introduction: braidplains
Cnr. Grant Edge, David Owen, and Dr Frances Schmechel	Environment Canterbury	Management of braided rivers
Pete Caldwell, Megan Reid and Shaun Thomason	Boffa Miskell & LINZ	Managing biosecurity on the lakes, rivers and land LINZ is responsible for administering
Assoc. Prof Ann Brower	University of Canterbury	Contested ownership of land and braided rivers
Dr Jonathan Tonkin	University of Canterbury	Managing for sustainable river ecosystems in a non-stationary world
Dr Frances Schmechel	Wildlife Management Int. Ltd.	Five year management project to improve the breeding success of black-fronted tern in the Upper Waiau Toa
Grant Davey	Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group	Site preferences and predation issues associated with a riverbed gull/tern colony
Scott Wilson	Lincoln Agritech Limited	Understanding the subsurface hydrology of braided rivers
Hugh Gourlay	Manaaki Whenua	Weeds and biosecurity development

	Landcare Research	
Rachel Hufton and Anthony Coote	Aspiring Biodiversity Trust	Makarora braided river bird protection and monitoring: adventure and the challenges of nature
Nick Ledgard	BRaid/ARRG	Small braided rivers are different
Adele Coombs	Orari River Protection Group	Protecting the Orari River

Presenters

University of Canterbury
Wildlife Management Int.
Environment Canterbury
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

LINZ
Boffa Miskell
Aspiring Biodiversity Trust
Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group
Orari Rivercare Groups

Participants and Speakers

Environment Canterbury (inc. 1 Councillor and Zone Committee chairs): 23
Department of Conservation: 2
District Councils: 5
Crown Research Institutes: 2
Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago Universities (inc. PhD students): 9
Ecology consultants inc. Boffa Miskell: 6
LINZ: 7
Forest & Bird: 1
Trustpower: 4
Irrigation company: 1
Conservation groups, river groups, charitable trusts etc: 26
Other (no affiliation specified): 8
Total 93

Total salaried professionals: 69 (74%)

Others (non-salaried, volunteers, or non-specified: 24 (26%)

This is a similar proportional breakdown as the 2019 Seminar. The lower than anticipated numbers was presumably a direct result of Covid-19 and feedback from several people who cancelled and expressed considerable concern about attending a 'live' event so soon after lockdown.

Sonny Whitelaw
Manager