

BRaid Manager's report 05 October 2023

Funding

- End of financial year and mid-year reports sent to ECan
- Application made to Waitaha Action Fund for 2024; we will know by December if this is successful; if so, payment is made June 2024

Education/outreach/support

- **Ten newsletters** were sent since the last meeting, delivered to 298 (updated last week) verified emails, up from 288 this time last year. I always receive quite a bit of feedback from these, so please take a moment to look over them: <https://braidedrivers.org/news/>
- **Website:** Thanks to feedback and contributions (especially from Frances Schmechel), information and reports are added regularly, and errors or omissions sorted quickly. Unable to report on site stats as the (paid) plugin used for this began glitching and failed to back up the site, which was its primary purpose. Not paying their last invoice resulted in all site visitor data being deleted when I tried to access it today. Rather than pay for bad service, I have just installed a free site statistics plugin. Within seconds it recorded a new site visit (from the US) so it looks like it should deliver much the same type of reports in the future, without the cost.
- **Member's area:** includes all minutes, reports, submissions, financial statements, and audit reports.
- **Facebook posts:** 106 since the last AGM. Vastly reduced after June 2022 as we do not have the same budget. This doesn't seem to have affected interest in braided rivers given seminar bookings.
- **2023 Seminar:** 220 people booked. Cancellations and re-bookings ended with 190 people confirmed, and 198 attending on the day (headcount at 10am). Video and PDF presentations are available on the website as a group and also included in topic-specific pages. A call for papers for the 2024 is now underway.
- **Opihi River:** Due to the end of the Partnership Project and associated funding two years ago, this has not progressed.
- **Harper River delta (Lake Coleridge):** Manawa have invested in widescale weed clearing, looking to expand trapping, creating new signs, and possible SBBG control this season. Recommended 'Silver' accreditation award subject to monitoring this season.
- **Awareness signage**
 - 23 new and updated signs for Ashburton Hakatere River mouth including 3 'Dotterel point' lookout signs (see page 2).
 - Karikaas is again running a billboard advertising campaign over the next few months in Christchurch and will once again run one for BRaid.
- **Presentation** to Rivers (engineering) group November 2022 in Wellington.
- **Article** on presentation for 'Flow' rivers (engineering) magazine to be published December 2023.

Correspondence:

- Report to ECan for WAI funding to July 2023
- Report to sponsors on 2023 Seminar
- Application for the Waitaha Action Fund 2024

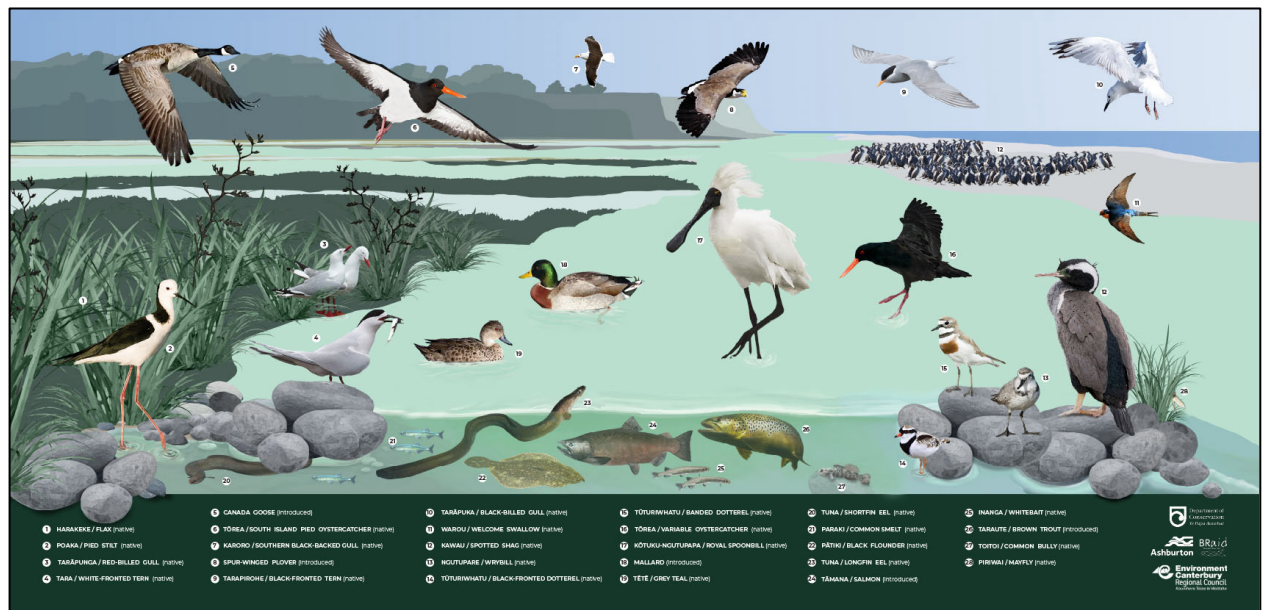
Monitoring/bird counts

Promoted through newsletters; results are added to the relevant 'rivers' and 'bird' pages on the website.

Biodiversity / climate change project: climateandnature.org.nz

Funding has discontinued; I maintain it personally.

Dotterel Point

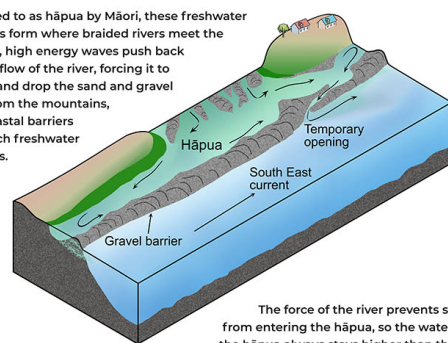


Do you know...

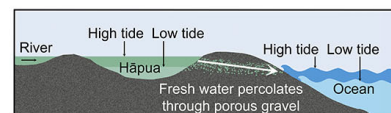
-  **POAKA / PIED STILT** (native)
I make a yapping sound like a small dog to alert other birds to dangers
-  **TŌREA / SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER & VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER** (native)
We eat all kinds of shellfish but we never eat oysters!
-  **TARAPIROHE / BLACK-FRONTED TERN** (native)
I live only in Aotearoa and breed only in braided rivers
-  **TARĀPUKA / BLACK-BILLED GULL** (native)
I live only in Aotearoa and I am the most endangered gull in the world
-  **KAWAU / SPOTTED SHAG** (native)
I go swimming in the hāpua only so that I can wash the salt off my wings
-  **NGUTUPARE / WRYBILL** (native)
I am the only bird in the world with a bill that's bent sideways — always to the right
-  **TŪRURIWHATU / BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** (native)
We like walking and running more than we like flying
-  **TŪRURIWHATU / BANDED DOTTEREL** (native)
Some of us fly all the way to Australia to spend winter in a warm climate
-  **KŌTUKU-NGUTUPAPA / ROYAL SPOONBILL** (native)
We move our spoon-shaped bill back and forth across shallow water to catch fish and invertebrates
-  **TUNA / SHORTFIN EEL & LONGFIN EEL** (native)
We live in freshwater all of our lives until we migrate to the seas around Tonga to breed

...how this hāpua formed?

Long referred to as hāpua by Māori, these freshwater tidal lagoons form where braided rivers meet the ocean. Here, high energy waves push back against the flow of the river, forcing it to slow down and drop the sand and gravel it carried from the mountains, creating coastal barriers behind which freshwater accumulates.



The force of the river prevents saltwater from entering the hāpua, so the water level in the hāpua always stays higher than the ocean.



Some freshwater percolates through the barrier into the ocean during low tide. As the tide rises, less water can permeate so the level of hāpua also rises with the tide.