

BRaid Manager's report 23 September 2024

Funding

- End of financial year report for Waitaha Action Fund sent to ECan
- Application made to Waitaha Action Fund for 2025-27; we will know by December if this is successful

Education/outreach/support

- **Eight newsletters** were sent since the last meeting, delivered to 309 (updated last week) verified emails, up from 298 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, information and reports are added regularly, and errors or omissions sorted quickly. The new statistics plugin, which I added 05 October 2023, shows a total of 44,190 visitors with 97,397 page views to date; that is, on average, visitors look at 2 pages, generally by using the 'Search' function'. See attached image; **note:** '0' for this week is because the week has not yet ended. The bump around the time of the seminar is consistent with past years.
- **Member's area:** includes all minutes, reports, submissions, financial statements, and audit reports: <https://braidedrivers.org/members/>
- **Facebook posts:** As per 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.
- **2024 Seminar:** 146 confirmed participants with half a dozen extra 'walk-ins' on the day. Charging \$40 for the event has made it much easier to manage. There was only one instance where someone asked for a discount or free entry, which was given, and for the third year running they failed to attend on the day. The numbers are down on last year. Based on feedback, much of that can be attributed to a substantial loss of LINZ, NIWA and DOC staff plus Government de-funding environmental projects, and projects such as the National Science Challenges ending June 30. The event videos were edited and PDF presentations are available on the website as a group: <https://braidedrivers.org/seminar-2024/> and each presentation is also included in topic-specific pages, for example, the presentation on weeds is on the 'threat/weeds' page: <https://braidedrivers.org/threats/weeds/>
- **Harper River delta (Lake Coleridge):** Last year's recommended 'Silver' accreditation not awarded due to incomplete data.
- **Awareness signage:**
 - 4 signs for the Upper and Lower Rakaia River (presently in draft form)
 - 1 Trapping sign for ECan
 - 1 Advertisement for Crate Day
- **Submission:** ECan LTP submission 12 April: <https://braidedrivers.org/members/>

Correspondence:

- Report to ECan for WAI funding to July 2024
- Report to ECan on 2024 Seminar
- Application for the Waitaha Action Fund 2025

Monitoring/bird counts

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

