

# Biodiversity Advisory Group

## AGENDA

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### Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**Time:** 1:00pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

### Membership:

#### Ashburton District Council

Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair)  
Cr Liz McMillan (Deputy Mayor) (*Apology*)  
Cr Diane Rawlinson  
Mayor Neil Brown (ex officio)  
Steve Fabish (Group Manager, Community Services)  
Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager)  
Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)

#### Ashburton Water Zone Committee

Angela Cushnie

#### Awa Awa Rata Reserve

Mary Ralston

#### Department of Conservation

Ian Fraser (*Apology*), Brad Edwards

#### Environment Canterbury

Donna Field (*Apology*), Janine Holland (*Apology*)

#### Federated Farmers

Mike Salvesen (*Apology*)

#### Fish & Game

Jayde Couper, Mark Webb

#### Fonterra

Marcelo Wibmer

#### Foothills Landcare Group

Gen de Spa (*Apology*)

#### Forest & Bird, ACCT

Val Clemens, Edith Smith, Mary Ralston

#### Kānuka Trust

Jane Riach

#### Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society

Barry Austin

#### QEII Trust

Alice Shanks

#### Synlait

Michael Edmondson

## Biodiversity Advisory Group

Timetable	
Time	Item
1.00pm	Meeting commences

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Extraordinary Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Previous Minutes**  
Confirmation of minutes from 2 November 2021 (**Appendix 1**).
- 5 Action Points**  
Confirmation and update on action points (**Appendix 2**).
- 5 Terms of Reference**  
Updated Terms of Reference, as highlighted below (**Appendix 3**).
- 6 Biodiversity Strategy Review** (Steve Fabish)  
Discussion on holding a future workshop to identify key actions that the Biodiversity Advisory Group wish to jointly accomplish for 2022.
- 7 Role of the Biodiversity Advisory Group** (Edith Smith)  
The Biodiversity Advisory Group was set up in 2011 in lieu of a biodiversity officer. Now that Council has agreed to establish a biodiversity officer position what will the long term role of the Biodiversity Advisory Group be?  
*Discussion about the value of this group whose skills and knowledge about the district biodiversity and ecosystems continuing to contribute as a community liaison group. The review of the Biodiversity Advisory Group is due this year.*
- 8 Ashton Beach motorbike park** (Edith Smith)  
An update on the dry terrace motorbike park at Ashton beach.  
*What are the Council plans for protecting the dryland biodiversity and other ecosystems in the area?*

## **9 Agency Reports**

### **9.1 ADC Open Spaces** (Ian Soper/Bert Hofmans)

#### ***Lake Camp/Clearwater***

Another round of weed spraying was conducted January 2022 around Lake Camp and areas near the Lake Clearwater Settlement. Broom, gorse, rosehip, lupins and rowans were targeted. The contractor noted a large number of rowan seedlings (27) along the eastern margins of Lake Camp.

#### ***Ashton Beach***

A skink survey was conducted November 2021 by Marieke Lettink of Fauna Finders at Ashton Beach. The purpose of the survey is to assist Council in determining what measures will be required if it is to be successful with its wildlife permit application. This will be the subject of a report to Council in the very near future.

### **9.2 Ashburton Water Zone Committee** (Angela Cushnie)

The Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective was formed in December 2021, updates once the strategy and action plan have been finalised. Chairman Duncan Barr and Catchment Coordinator Angela Cushnie are the contact people.

#### ***Eiffelton Biodiversity Collective***

Planted 1,000 carex secta and 500 flax as riparian planting with plans to add more every year.

#### ***Ashburton Water Zone Committee***

2021-2024 Action Plan incorporates mahinga kai, ecosystem health and biodiversity targets by working alongside landowners, Rununga, communities, councils and others.

Field trip in November to visit: Align (regenerative ag trial), Mt Somers Station and O Tu Wharekai/Ashburton Lakes

#### ***Kanuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust***

Attended the Rakaia Bike track opening in December

Planting project and lizard habitat in conjunction with Fairton School, Talleys, Ashburton College

### **9.3 Awa Awa Rata Reserve** (Mary Ralston)

Rat trap boxes have been placed around the Awa Awa Rata Reserve and are being checked regularly - so far numerous rats, mice and stoats have been caught. Another committee member has placed stoat and possum traps around the reserve. Wasp bait was put out this week around the reserve and along the DOC tracks above the picnic area.

### **9.4 Department of Conservation** (Brad Edwards)

**9.5 Environment Canterbury** (Donna Field, Janine Holland)

**Carters Creek:**

- Fortnightly water sampling.

**Boundary Stream Hapua:**

- Willow drilling, monitoring of mouth.

**Ashburton River:**

- SH1 gulls – working with Forest and Bird, bridge repair contractors. Signs and trapping.
- Walkhams Road gulls – signage.
- Survey of upper river.
- Trapping.
- Rivermouth track maintenance and flood repairs with replacement signage.

**Mt Harding:**

- Riparian projects.
- Report almost complete.
- Working with ADC to keep water in Mt Harding Stream at all flows.
- Ashburton lakes.
- Science and land management team continue monitoring and working with landowners.

**Rakaia:**

- Trapping
- Weed control.

**9.6 Federated Farmers** (Mark Salvesen)

**9.7 Fish and Game** (Mark Webb, Jayde Couper)

**9.8 Fonterra** (Marcelo Wibmer, Hemi Bedggood)

Marcelo Wibmer will provide an update on the flood recovery project at Mt Harding Creek.

**9.9 Foothills Landcare Group** (Gen de Spa) - *not attending*

**9.10 Forest & Bird** (Edith Smith, Val Clemens, Mary Ralston)

**Edith Smith's update**

Lupins appear to be on the increase in the dryland area between the Ashburton River below Buicks Bridge and Paddle Stream. Forest and Bird have an arrangement with DOC to spray them in the area near the old rubbish dump. This season over 800 Russell Lupin have been dealt with in three visits. A volunteer has checked for lupins from our work area to Blowing Point Bridge to ascertain the spread and whether the lupin is beyond our control. This will be reported to DOC and ECan.

This dryland area is a significant remnant of old riverbed vegetation and important to keep weed free. Our concern is not only the lupin but the rapid increase in willows along the river edge but also among the wetter areas in the vicinity. Ecan and LINZ have a role in controlling these.

Two wilding tree days over the area from Paddle Stream gate fence line to the Hakatere Heron road resulted in reassuring few random wilding pine numbers along with rowan and elderberry and no broom in the wider area. Unfortunately

adjoining Hakatere Station over 900 pinus wildings and 60 broom plants. This work is part of Forest and Bird's agreement with DOC and has been carried out for over 10 years. There are discussions among wilding management experts about the removal of the wilding seed sources including shelterbelts.

There are still Pinus contorta growing at Lake Camp which should be dealt with. It is hoped ADC will continue to clear the area of these and other seed producing wilding trees in their proposed management plan.

Trustees of the Harris Scientific Reserve met with Open Spaces Manager Ian Soper to discuss the future of the Reserve with a proposal that ADC take over management. It was recommended that this would need to be included in the Long Term Plan if changes were to be considered. The Reserve has become a resource for locally sourced Canterbury Plains native vegetation for seed collection and recent visitors were very impressed by the variety of species from known local sources growing at the reserve. This potential as a seed repository for local native vegetation planting projects adds to the significance of the Reserve.

### ***Wetland Film***

*Rohe Koreporepo The Swamp, the Sacred Place*  
*Saturday 12 February - 4pm at Regent Theatre*

This film produced by Kathleen Gallagher, features reflooding swamps, springs and wetlands throughout New Zealand. Kathleen meets local kaitiaki and their wetlands. It features an interview with the late John Wilkie, well known advocate for our waterways and Kerry Harmer from Castleridge Station which farms close to Lakes Emily and the Maori Lakes.

Tickets are available from the Regent Theatre.

**Now postponed until  
a later date**

A prior visit to Wakanui beach and occasional wetland is from 2 -3pm where locals will be on hand to tell the past, present and future for the Wakanui wetland. Following the film there will be a short forum for questions and answers.

Our repo, our swamps, store carbon, restore biodiversity and the water cycle  
— the solutions we need to dig us out of the looming environmental disaster humanity faces.



# Rohe Kōreporepo

## The Swamp The Sacred Place



60 kaitiaki repo guardians  
replant, reflood and restore our old intimate relationships  
with rohe kōreporepo our swamps our sacred places

Saturday 12th February  
2-3pm Gathering at Wakanui  
4pm at the Regent Theatre in Ashburton

A film by Kathleen Gallagher

Screening in NZ International Film Festival

a Feature Documentary ©Wickcandle Film 2021 [www.wickcandle.co.nz](http://www.wickcandle.co.nz)

Putea : CCC, DOC, WET, ACT, WRC, SDC, ECAN, NWT, Doc Edge Rough Cuts, NZIFF NZ Film Commission

Kathleen Gallagher  
Invites you to visit the Wakanui Hapua  
And then to view her film

# Rohe Koreporepo

**The Swamp The Sacred Place**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**2 - 3pm Gathering at Wakanui**

An opportunity to hear the story of the Wakanui  
Lagoon and gather seed to help with the restoration  
effort.

**4pm at the Regent Theatre in  
Ashburton**

(tickets available at the theatre)

Featuring significant wetlands throughout  
New Zealand, including the Ashburton Lakes  
and Wakanui.

Inquiries: Edith Smith      ph. 021 131 4931  
Val Clemens      ph. 027 228 5620

- 9.11 **Kanuka Trust** (Jane Riach)
- 9.12 **Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society** (Barry Austin)
- 9.13 **QEII Trust** (Alice Shanks)
- 9.14 **Synlait** (Michael Edmondson)

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**The meeting concluded at:**

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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 6 April 2022

## Appendix 1

### Biodiversity Advisory Group

MINUTES: 2 November 2021



## *Biodiversity Advisory Group Minutes (Unconfirmed)*

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on Tuesday 2 November, commencing at 1:00pm via Zoom.

**Present:** Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair), and Diane Rawlinson; Mayor Neil Brown, Bert Hofmans (ADC); Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra); Ian Soper (ADC); Edith Smith (Forest & Bird); Donna Field (ECan), Ian Fraser (DOC), Alice Shanks (QEII Trust), Angela Cushnie (Ashburton Water Zone Committee & Kanuka Trust), Mark Webb (Fish & Game)

**In attendance:** Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Ian Hyde (District Planner, ADC); and Amy McIlwraith (Ecan).

#### 1 Apologies

Mary Ralston and Val Clemens.

Smith/Rawlinson

Carried

#### 2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

#### 3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

#### 4 Confirmation of Minutes – 3/08/21

**That** the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 3 August 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Rawlinson/Smith

Carried

#### 5 Significant Natural Areas

Ian Hyde reported on Areas of Significant Conservation Value (ASCVs) in reference to what is in the District Plan.

- These have similar characters to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs).
- Was initially expecting a policy statement to come through this year but this has been pushed back due to legislative changes. Expecting to happen in the early part of next year. Expect it will be a resource intensive process. Have engaged Mike Harding to do some desktop analysis to see what needs to be done for the Biodiversity National Policy Statement.
- Hoping new Biodiversity Officer will be able to assist in this work.
- Could be a formal regulatory approach or there is potential for a collaborative approach or something in between. Favours the collaborative approach. Will allow land owners to actually be invested in the process.

## **Appendix 1**

### **6 Meeting Dates for 2022**

The meeting dates for 2022 were acknowledged and accepted by the group.

- There was discussion on the frequency of meetings and a suggestion was made to have more frequent meetings throughout the year. It was noted that there would have to be a visible need for additional meetings and meeting support would be dependent on the resource available. Chair to follow up with the Chief Executive.
- It was discussed that the Biodiversity Strategy is due for review in 2022. It was suggested that the draft strategy be shared with the group and for people to bring their ideas to the next meeting in the New Year.

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**The meeting concluded at 2:23pm**

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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

## Appendix 2

### Biodiversity Advisory Group

#### ACTION POINTS



Date	Action	Person Responsible	Status
3 Nov-21	Add Mary Ralston's study on agenda for first meeting of 2022.	Governance Support	
3 Nov-21	Review Biodiversity Strategy and have feedback prepared for first meeting of 2022.	Biodiversity Advisory Group	
3 Nov-21	Circulate Biodiversity Strategy for review		
3 Nov-21	Discuss with Chief Executive the suggested need for more meetings within a year.	Lynette Lovett	
3 Nov-21	Circulate presentation by Alice Shanks on planting.	Bert Hofmans	Completed
3 Aug-21	Circulate report that Mike Harding is working on around Alford Forest Vegetation Monitoring	Bert Hofmans, will circulate report next week after it has been through Council.	
3 Aug-21	Circulate web link to District Plan which shows location of all areas of significant nature conservation value (ASCVs).	Bert Hofmans	Completed
3 Aug-21	Invite Ian Hyde to next meeting to get more explanation from him on SNAs. Any questions to be sent to <a href="mailto:Governance@adc.govt.nz">Governance@adc.govt.nz</a> in advance.	Aisling O'Reilly	Completed

### Biodiversity Advisory Group

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE



## Biodiversity Advisory Group Terms of Reference

### Purpose and Scope

#### The purpose of the advisory group is to:

- Coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Maintain partnerships between local and regional organisations with an interest in the management of indigenous biodiversity.
- Provide a forum for discussion and community-wide promotion of biodiversity.

### Membership

Representatives on the working group were invited based on their organisation's participation in developing the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy, and/or their ability to contribute to the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.

Membership of the Advisory Group is:

Mayor, Neil Brown (ex officio)	ADC
Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair)	ADC
Cr Diane Rawlinson	ADC
<del>Bill Thomas</del> Angela Cushnie	Ashburton Water Zone Committee
Gen de Spa	Foothills Landcare Group
Alice Shanks	QE II
Mary Ralston/Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Forest and Bird
Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (ACCT)
Mike Salvesen	Federated Farmers
Mark Webb/Jayde Couper	Fish and Game
Donna Field	Whitcombe Landcare Group
Donna Field/Janine Holland	ECan
Ian Fraser/Brad Edwards	DOC
Michael Edmundson	Synlait
Marcelo Wibmer	Fonterra
[No person specified]	Kānuka Trust
Barry Austin	Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron
	Conservation Society
Mary Ralston	Awa Awa Rata Reserve
Vacant Ian Soper	Open Spaces Manager, ADC
Bert Hofmans	Open Spaces Planner, ADC

Speaking rights will be granted to one member of each of the advisory group member organisations at each meeting.

Membership of the group may be amended to include representatives from other organisations. This will be at the discretion of the Ashburton District Council.

## Appendix 3

To form a quorum, the attendance of representatives from at least 6 of the advisory group member organisations, in addition to at least two ADC local representatives, is required. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend advisory group meetings as the need arises.

### Meeting Frequency

Meet five times a year.

### Delegations

**The representatives on the working group are expected to:**

- Meet to coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Form project groups where appropriate to work towards specific actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Share information, both on organisational initiatives and collaborative initiatives, to support better decisions and knowledge of biodiversity.
- Communicate and consult with one another in a flexible and open way.
- Maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- Represent their organisations' policies.
- Respect other organisations' governance and policy approaches and priorities in the district / region, and seek a consensus approach to work with these.

### Reporting

The Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group will report to Council.

### Costs & Expenses

It is acknowledged that being a member of the advisory group will involve a commitment of members' time and energy, and will involve travel to Ashburton District Council to attend meetings. These costs will be met by the organisation(s) or group(s) that members represent. Costs of meetings and associated catering will be met by Ashburton District Council.

Meetings will generally be held in the Council meeting rooms, and may be held in other venues throughout the district as appropriate.

### Adopted

**9 April 2020** ~~(Amended 8/12/20)~~ (Amended 1/02/22)