

Biodiversity Advisory Group

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Tuesday 3 August 2021
Time: 1.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street,
Ashburton

Membership

Ashburton District Council:	Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair) Mayor Neil Brown (ex officio) Cr Diane Rawlinson Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)
DOC:	Ian Fraser and Brad Edwards
Environment Canterbury:	Donna Field (also Whitcombe Landcare Group rep) Janine Holland
Federated Farmers:	Mike Salvesen
Fish & Game:	Jayde Couper and Mark Webb
Fonterra:	Marcelo Wibmer
Foothills Landcare Group:	Gen de Spa
Forest & Bird, ACCT:	Val Clemens and Edith Smith
Forest & Bird Society:	Mary Ralston (also Awa Rata reserve rep)
Kānuka Trust:	No person specified
Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society:	Barry Austin
Synlait:	Michael Edmondson
QEII Trust:	Alice Shanks
Water Zone Committee:	Bill Thomas

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 & Actions**
 - Confirmation of minutes 8/06/21 **1**
- 5 Agency Updates**
- 5.1 Forest and Bird **3****
- 5.2 Ashburton District Council **3****

Biodiversity Advisory Group (Unconfirmed)

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 8 June, commencing at 1.00pm in the Mayors Reception, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton.

Present: Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair) and Diane Rawlinson, Bert Hofmans (ADC); Steve Fabish (ADC); Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.); Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra), Mary Ralston (Forest & Bird and Awa Awa Rata Reserve) and Edith Smith (Forest & Bird).

In attendance: Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Donna Lil (Environment Canterbury), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager)

1 Apologies

Donna Field, Alice Shanks, Val Clemens, Angela Cushnie, Ian Fraser, Jayde Couper and Janine Holland

Ralston/Austin Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 2/02/21

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 2 February 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Rawlinson/Austin Carried

5 Reports and Presentations

5.1 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

The group discussed the answers that were prepared by staff and agreed these could go back to the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Group.

6 Agency Updates

Edith Smith (Forest & Bird) presented on:

- A work plan to demonstrate the work involved in biodiversity planting.
- Some images to highlight the opportunities for the Ashburton Domain and for some of the road side reserves.

Ian Soper acknowledged the opportunity for native plants to be planted in the Domain and there are plans for natives to be planted in the Domain. Can look into the possibility of dryland areas to be created. Officers to bring a report back to next Biodiversity Advisory group meeting on this.

Bert Hofmans (ADC)

- DOC have advised that they are likely to decline ADCs application for a wildlife permit at Ashton Beach. Will have to bring a report back to Council to advise of the way forward and the options for this.
- Planting Natives 101 – date of 2 July likely to change due to the recent weather event. Group discussed a potential alternative date for a time in late September/early October.

Other agencies gave verbal updates

Donna Lill (Ecan)

- Some changes to come in biodiversity funding through the LTP.

Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra)

- 46 Fonterra farms affected by the recent floods. Some are not so bad but others have experienced a lot of damage.

Mary Ralston (Awa Awa Rata Reserve)

- Hoping to apply for funding for restoration works and trapping

There was discussion on what work is being done regionally or locally in order to become predator free by 2050.

Group agreed to get a speaker in to talk about trapping.

Action	Person Responsible
Open Spaces provide report to Biodiversity Advisory Group on opportunity for native plants to be planted in Ashburton Domain.	Ian Soper
Invite speaker to future meeting to speak about trapping.	

Next Meeting

Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 2:46pm

5. Agency Updates

5.1 Forest and Bird Significant Natural Areas

Rising high ... Kahikatea saplings in a local significant natural area. PHOTO: INES STAGER

Protecting our natural heirlooms benefits all

There has been quite a hype in the media recently about a so-called land grab by the Government with regards to significant natural areas (SNAs) on private properties.

The draft national policy statement on indigenous biodiversity was developed following a collaborative process and included the following interest groups: the Conservation and Freshwater Iwi Leadership Group, the Environmental Defence Society, Federated Farmers, the Forest Owners Association, Forest & Bird and a representative from the extractive/infrastructure industries.

This policy is to provide national guidance to councils on how to protect nature in their regions. A requirement under the Resource Management Act is that SNAs be protected on both public and private land.

The Timaru District Council, through its proactive stance in assessing significant natural areas within the district, is well ahead of other councils around New Zealand.

The Timaru council contracted an ecologist and since 2005 about 860 sites have been identified as SNAs within

Voice for Nature with Ines Stager

the district.

This work has been undertaken through engagement with landowners, many of whom have willingly looked after such areas for a long time.

Landowners of our district with identified SNAs have been notified of these findings, which resulted in only a couple of objections.

Feedback to the council indicated many people were unaware of some of the biodiversity values included in their respective SNAs.

SNAs remain the property of the owner.

The council offers advice and provides funding to help landowners protect and restore SNAs. This includes advice on fencing and pest eradication.

Individuals and community groups are also lending a hand to restore these important remnants.

Generally people are proud of family heirlooms, and tend to value such items.

I consider the little biodiversity we have left, especially here on the east coast of the South Island, is the equivalent to a family heirloom.

SNAs are not just ecologically important; they are also biogeographically, culturally and economically important. These remnants are unique to Aotearoa New Zealand and even to South Canterbury.

Protection and enhancement is far easier than trying to recreate such ecosystems — nature does a better job and provides the canvas for restoration and expansion.

Our local economy appears to have continued to thrive despite the presence of SNAs.

I can only see increased nature protection as a positive for the Timaru district.

To protect, care for and restore the little of our natural heritage that is left in our area is beneficial to everybody.

● Ines Stager is a landscape architect based in Geraldine, a board member of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society and a committee member of that group's local branch.

WIDE RANGE OF MTB'S FROM \$925
2021 CUBE AIM
\$925

HUGE RANGE OF NEWLY ARRIVED

MoleMap
Timaru

5.2 Ashburton District Council

- Biodiversity Officer - the recent adoption of the Council's Long Term Plan has confirmed additional funding for biodiversity.
- Planting Natives 101 event – new date of September 2021 has been confirmed for this event. Speakers have been confirmed, stallholder invites emailed, and there has been an initial media release.
- Alford Forest Vegetation Monitoring – another round of monitoring has been undertaken by ecologist Mike Harding for ADC.
- Ashton Beach – DOC have indicated they will decline an application for wildlife permit unless Council offers to covenant another area to offset the losses. The beach has been included in as a dog prohibited area in the Councils' draft Dog

Control Bylaw. There has been some minor vandalism to a fence which has been repaired.

- Wakanui Beach – attended meeting regarding water in the lagoon. Another round of weed spraying has been undertaken.

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
Bill Thomas	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
<i>[No person specified]</i>	Kānuka Trust
Barry Austin	Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society
Mary Ralston	Awa Awa Rata Reserve
Vacant	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.

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*)