

Biodiversity Advisory Group

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Tuesday 7 February 2023

Time: 1:00pm

Venue: Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

Membership:

Ashburton District Council

Cr Leen Braam (Chair)
Cr Lynette Lovett
Cr Richard Wilson
Mayor Neil Brown (ex officio)
Neil McCann (Group Manager, Infrastructure & Open Spaces)
Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager)
Christian Chukwuka (Biodiversity Advisor)
Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee & Kānuka Trust

Angela Cushnie

Awa Awa Rata Reserve

Mary Ralston

Department of Conservation

Ian Fraser, Brad Edwards

Environment Canterbury

Donna Field, Maria Captein

Federated Farmers

Mike Salvesen

Fish & Game

Mark Webb

Fonterra

Marcelo Wibmer

Foothills Landcare Group

Gen de Spa

Forest & Bird, ACCT

Val Clemens, Edith Smith, Mary Ralston

Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society

Barry Austin

Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective

Janine Holland

QEII Trust

Alice Shanks

Synlait

Nick Vernon

Biodiversity Advisory Group

Timetable	
Time	Item
12:45pm	Tea/coffee will be available
1:00pm	Meeting commences

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1. **Apologies**
 - Nick Vernon (Synlait)
 - Alice Shanks (QEII Trust)
 - Angela Cushnie
2. **Extraordinary Business**
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Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting minutes - 18 August 2022
5. **Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisors Report** 7
Report from Dr Christian Chukwuka
6. **GIS Mapping**
Mapping of Biodiversity project sites on GIS using field map (Dr Christian Chukwuka and Margo Tercier, ADC GIS Team)
7. **Pudding Hill**
River weed survey at Pudding Hill (Dr Christian Chukwuka and Donna Field)
8. **Focus Group Proposal**
Insurance reserve for the Ashburton Plains plants
9. **Agency Updates** 9
*A verbal update from each individual agency, **where there is new information to share***

4. Meeting minutes – 18 August 2022

Meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Thursday 18 August 2022, commencing at 1.00pm, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton (and also via MS Teams).

Present:

Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair) and Diane Rawlinson; Alice Shanks *via Teams* (QEII Trust), Angela Cushnie (Ashburton Water Zone Committee), Edith Smith (Forest & Bird, ACCT), Val Clemens (Forest & Bird, ACCT), Mary Ralston (Forest & Bird, Awa Awa Rata Reserve), Mike Salvesen (Federated Farmers), Gen de Spa (Foothills Landcare Group), Donna Field (Environment Canterbury) and Nick Vernon (Synlait).

In attendance: Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), Christian Chukwuka (Biodiversity Officer), and Mary Wilson (Governance Support).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Cr Liz McMillan (ADC)
- Mark Webb (Fish and Game)
- Ian Fraser (DOC)
- Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Society; Lake Heron Conservation Society)
- Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra)

That the apologies be accepted.

Field/Rawlinson

Carried

It was noted that Synlait's representative on the Advisory Group is now Nick Vernon.

2. Extraordinary Business

- Val Clemens asked if she could also give a brief presentation on two new species that have been discovered. This was agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest

- Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes – 1 February 2022

The minutes were amended to remove reference to Mary Ralston who was not in attendance.

- **That** the minutes of the 1 February 2022 Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett / Smith

Carried

Agreed actions were presented and discussed.

Agreed Action: Biodiversity Advisory Group to facilitate group activities to remove wilding pines at Pudding Hill. An assessment of the area is to be carried out and added to the Action Plan.

Agreed Action: Dr Christian Chukwuka to send a template out to members to show what information is required to add to the GIS layer being created.

1:56pm: Angela Cushnie left the meeting

5. Biodiversity Workshop

- Biodiversity Advisory Group workshop notes – 7 June 2022
- **That** the notes from the 7 June 2022 Biodiversity Advisory Group workshop be received for information.

Shanks / Clemens

Carried

6. Presentations were given by:

- Angela Cushnie
- Val Clemens

7. 2022 Members Survey results

- Results from the 2022 members' survey were presented by Dr Christian Chukwuka.
- It was noted the importance of each member taking back conversations from BAG meetings to their individual organisations.
- Also communicate these discussions with Ashburton DC.

That arising from the survey, the highest priority was to protect, then maintain and restore areas of significant biodiversity – and the rules for vegetation clearance and protection of indigenous vegetation are upheld.

Field/ Ralston

Carried

8. Terms of Reference

- Terms of Reference to be reviewed in alignment with the survey results.
- Organisations to be included in the membership, with a proviso made that if representatives change they are to be updated.
- TORs to include ADC Biodiversity Grants. Feedback to be gathered regarding applications for Biodiversity Funding either at a meeting or by email.

Agreed Action: Steve Fabish to distribute funding criteria to all BAG members.

- Total available funding is \$10,000 per annum. Funding rounds are held in February and August, however if all funding is allocated in February the second round will not be held.

Recommendation to Council

That the Biodiversity Advisory Group Terms of Reference be adopted.

Alice Shanks / Edith Smith

Carried

The Biodiversity Advisory Group would support and recommend that the terms of reference be continued in the new term of Council, subject to Council confirming its arrangements and membership for the advisory group.

9. Agency Reports

9.1. Diane Rawlinson

- Last meeting as a Councillor. Pleased that the Ashburton District Council has realised the importance of Biodiversity within the District.

9.2 Mike Salvenson

- Biodiversity is not a new concept. A lot of it is awareness.
- Policies being introduced from Government are issuing conflicting advice.

9.3 Val Clemens

- Generating vegetation around the foothills, acknowledge that there is another issue relating to climate change, etc, which is difficult to get the balance.
- Suggests that the members visit Awa Awa Rata Reserve and view the regeneration that is going on.
- Fewer birds being viewed.
- ACCT having a planting day upcoming.
- Harris reserve – working on the habitat.

9.4 Mary Ralston

- Reserve has suffered lately with wet weather and snow.

9.5 Edith Smith

- Nothing to update.

9.6 Val Clemens

- Wakanui is full of fresh water which is encouraging wildlife. As soon as the water is there the birds come back. Functioning well as an eco-system.

9.7 Dr Christian Chukwuka

- All members are invited to Lake Camp on 8 October 2022 to assist with the removal of wilding pines.

9.8 Ian Soper

- Open Spaces team are supporting the ADC Biodiversity Officer in his endeavours.

9.8 Gen de Spa

- Contractors have been clearing the area.
- 5-10 year plan being developed.
- Caretakers accommodation being built to ensure the commitment is solid.

9.8 Donna Field

- ECan recently undertook a fly-over of the coastline looking for rubbish dumps that are being exposed, with a number of dumps identified. A compliance officer has now visited the area on a 4WD motorbike.
- The responsibility of rubbish removal is with the landowner. Landowners will be approached and requested to remove the rubbish.
- Zone Committee have \$50,000 funding available.

9.8 Nick Vernon

- Looking forward to being involved in the group and attending the meetings.
- Synlait have provided support to the Methven Lions Club, gifting them 2,000 plants to extend walkway over the last two years with the relationship continuing to prosper.
- On-boarded with MMC – next year allocating about 10,000 plants across the catchment groups.

9.8 Alice Shanks (via MS Teams)

- Thanked Ashburton District Council for being able to join on MS Teams.
- Involved in a Canterbury meeting for looking at plants that have gone into decline. The numbers on the list are increasing, especially in non forest dryland
- Watching for opportunities to increase forest land, advocating farmers to create a small income for them.

Additional

- The Lake Camp and Clearwater development plan was adopted by Council on 17 August. Includes options for Council land only.

Agreed Action: Steve Fabish to email plan to group members when it is available.

- Agreed to ask for ideas and collate them, to assist in achieving the first priority. Collaboration would be ideal.

Meeting finished at: 3:02pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 7 February 2023

5. Report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor

Author *Dr Christian Chukwuka, Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor*
GM responsible *Neil McCann, GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Biodiversity Advisory Group with an update of projects carried out by the Biodiversity Advisor since the last meeting held 18 August 2022.
- The report brings about the opportunity for members to ask questions and seek clarification on any items mentioned.

Report

Lake Camp/Clearwater

1. Biodiversity Community Volunteer day was held on 8th October 2022 with 38 attendees, including ADC staff, Hutholders Association, Forest and Birds members and the public. Planting of 1380 native plants was completed at Lake Camp/Clearwater to replace the *Pinus contorta* that were removed in May. The planting includes a mix of eco-sourced mountain beeches, tussocks grasses, totaras, kanuka, *Coprosma* sp., toi toi, cabbage trees and some flaxes.
2. Weed management at Lake Camp – Annual weed spraying was completed at Lake Camp to suppress the spread of undesirable weeds around the Hakatere. Some of the sprayed weeds include Russel lupins, gorse, brooms, wilding pines, Rowans etc.
3. A correspondence letter from the Council was sent to the Hutholders association highlighting the obnoxious weeds around the Lakes and efforts to keep weeds away from their baches and the entire Lake areas. The letter was based on a weed survey report between the Council and the Department of Conservation.
4. Council has blocked off 4WD drive and ATV access to the back part of the Lake Camp to protect water quality and biodiversity values. We have noticed few breaches since the installation of the signs.
5. Lake Camp/Clearwater Landscape Management Plan is under review as part of the 30-year plan implementation for the area. Council is utilising its internal expertise for this project and the report will be made available to the ADBAG when finalised.

Rakaia Gorge

Old-man pine removed at Rakaia gorge (ADC Council land under ASCV), a wider collaborative project between ADC and other councils/agencies, ECan/Selwyn/LINZ. This will be followed by immediate replanting with native vegetation in autumn 2023 (March – April).

Awa Awa Rata Forest Reserve

Pest monitoring is ongoing at Awa awa rata forest reserve using trail cameras. This will build on the vegetation survey by Mike Harding and inform our management of animal pests and funding applications in the future.

Fairton/Works Road

Council is undertaking a revegetation of the deforested site with native plants. The expected completion is mid- 2023.

Biodiversity Advisory Group

7 February 2023



6. Biodiversity Advisory Group Member updates

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Biodiversity Advisory Group with an update of projects carried out by the Biodiversity Advisor since the last meeting held 18 August 2022, where there is new information to share.
- The report brings about the opportunity for members to ask questions and seek clarification on any items mentioned.

From: Val Clemens <val.clemens@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 January 2023 19:40

To: Mary Wilson <Mary.Wilson@adc.govt.nz>; Edith Smith <edithsmith05@gmail.com>

Subject: ADBAG agenda

Dear Mary,

Below are agenda items from Mary Ralston, Edith Smith and me. All three of us are members of Ashburton Forest and Bird as well as representing a number of other groups.

Could you please add them to the ADBAG agenda.

Thank you,

VAL

Agenda Items for ADBAG – 7 Feb 23

1. What does each person/organisation representative at this meeting understand is the purpose of ADBAG? What do they get out of coming to these meetings?
2. Since the ADBAP 2017-22 will presumably be reviewed and updated by ADC staff, Forest and Bird urges the council to carefully consider the information presented by Mike Harding, Christian and Bert at the 7 June ADBAG meeting when priorities are decided. Mary Ralston would like to speak to this item.
3. Assuming that it will take time for the above, that members be given the opportunity at the January meeting to suggest action items for ADBAG to work on during 2023.

Suggested action items:

- Establish a list of groups within the district, with contact details and a short description of what they are working towards and where they are working.
- Invite groups, such as Landcare Groups, to join ADBAG or come and speak to ADBAG, or appoint an ADBAG representative to them.
- Set up focus groups for projects such as:
 - **Wakanui.** Continue to work on the management plan, liaise with the Zone Committee.
 - **Foothills Biodiversity.** Issues include deer control and weed control.
 - **Lake Camp and Clearwater.** Inform on water quality issues, weed removal and control (eg. Russell Lupins and Rowan.)
 - **Protect, maintain, restore :** ask members for suggestions to identify priority sites, set up criteria and goals. (eg. Site 2789 at Ashton Beach).
 - **District Plan rules relating to Biodiversity** - prepare a submission to the Long Term Plan.
 - **Predator Trapping** to support people wanting to begin and maintain trap lines.

From: gen de spa <gendespa@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 12:36

To: Mary Wilson <Mary.Wilson@adc.govt.nz>

Cc: Leen Braam <Leen.Braam@adc.govt.nz>; Richard Wilson <Richard.Wilson@adc.govt.nz>; Lynette Lovett <Lynette.Lovett@adc.govt.nz>; Neil Brown <mayor@adc.govt.nz>; Liz McMillan <Liz.McMillan@adc.govt.nz>; Ian Soper <Ian.Soper@adc.govt.nz>; Bert Hofmans <Bert.Hofmans@adc.govt.nz>; Dr. Christian Chukwuka <Christian.Chukwuka@adc.govt.nz>; ashanks@qeii.org.nz; angelacushnie@outlook.com; donna.field@ecan.govt.nz; maria.captein@ecan.govt.nz; edithsmith05@gmail.com; val.clemens@xtra.co.nz; ifraser@doc.govt.nz; bedwards@doc.govt.nz; admin@kanukatrust.co.nz; marcelo.wibmer@fonterra.com; mary.ralston@xtra.co.nz; nick.vernon@synlait.com; mwebb@fishandgame.org.nz; salvesen@farmside.co.nz; Barry Austin <danebury@xtra.co.nz>; Neil McCann <Neil.McCann@adc.govt.nz>; Council Chambers <chambers@adc.govt.nz>; Comms <Comms@adc.govt.nz>; jrholland@xtra.co.nz; Margo Tercier <Margo.Tercier@adc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting

Kia ora everyone,

I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the next meeting but wanted to report a few recent sightings/hearings from Staveley Camp. I'm not sure where or whether I should report these officially so thought I would start here.

In the last few weeks we have heard a kakariki in the camp forest three times and had a definitive sighting on Saturday 21st January. The bird was in flight so colouring could not be made out.

On 12th Dec 2022 a tui was heard in the camp forest. No subsequent sightings or hearings.

Two more yellow mistletoe (*Alepis Flavida*) have been found in the camp forest bringing the total known individual plants back to three after two of the others died. There are also five known red mistletoe here.

Just sharing this for your information.

Nga mihi maioha,
gen

--

gen de spa

ph: 0211 345 802

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