

# Biodiversity Advisory Group

## AGENDA

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### Notice of Meeting:

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

**Date:** Monday 13 May 2024

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Venue:** **Wakanui Room** (*Ground Floor*), **Te Whare Whakatere**  
**Ashburton Library & Civic Centre, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton**

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### 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 (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor)  
Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)

#### QEII Trust

Alice Shanks

#### Ashburton Water Zone Committee

Adi Avnit

#### Environment Canterbury

Donna Field

#### Forest & Bird, ACCT

Val Clemens, Edith Smith, Mary Ralston

#### Awa Awa Rata Reserve

Mary Ralston

#### Foothills Landcare Group

Gen de Spa

#### Department of Conservation

Ian Fraser, Brad Edwards

#### Kanuka Trust

Kim Wall

#### Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective

Angela Cushnie, Janine Holland, Willy Leferink

#### Fonterra

Lisa Peer-Adams

#### Synlait

Nick Vernon

#### Fish & Game

Nikki Dellaway

#### Federated Farmers

Mike Salvesen

#### Mt Somers Walkway Society &

#### Lake Heron Conservation Society

Barry Austin

## **Biodiversity Advisory Group**

| <b>Timetable</b> |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Time</b>      | <b>Item</b>                 |
| 12:30pm          | Lunch (in the Wakanui Room) |
| <b>1:00pm</b>    | <b>Meeting commences</b>    |

| <b>ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <b>1 Apologies</b>   |             |
| - Cr Lynette Lovett, Nick Vernon, Donna Field and Lisa Peers-Adams   |             |
| <b>2 Extraordinary Business</b>  |             |
| <b>3 Declarations of Interest</b>  |             |
| <b>4 Confirmation of minutes – 12 February 2024</b>  | <b>3</b>    |
| <b>5 Launch of Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy and discussion on the implementation plan</b>  |             |
| <b>6 Bringing Indigenous Nature back into NZ urban centres – Round table discussion on lesson learnt from the presentation and how we could implement the outcome in Ashburton District.</b> |             |
| <b>7 Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor’s Report</b>   | <b>6</b>    |
| <b>8 Group Updates</b>   | <b>9</b>    |
| 8.1 - Synlait planting programme   |             |
| 8.2 - Forest & Bird  |             |
| 8.3 - Kanuka Trust & Department of Conservation newsletters  |             |
| 8.4 - Environment Canterbury   |             |

## 4. **Biodiversity Advisory Group Minutes 12/02/24**

Minutes of a meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Monday 12 February, in Hine Paaka Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, commencing at 1.00pm.

### **Present**

Mayor Neil Brown and Councillors Leen Braam (Chair) Lynette Lovett and Richard Wilson;  
Alice Shanks, Adi Avnit, Edith Smith, Angela Cushnie, Barry Austin, Lisa Peers-Adams, Kim Wall, Mike Salvesen, Val Clemens, Jan Kirini and Ian Fraser.

Matt McElwain (Methven Lions Birdsong Initiative) was also present.

### **In attendance**

Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Dr Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) and Mary Jenkin (Governance Support).

### **1 Apologies**

**That** apologies received from Janine Holland, Donna Field, Nick Vernon, Willy Leferink and Mary Ralston be accepted.

Wilson/Lovett

Carried

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil

### **4 Previous Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 13 November 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Austin/ Avnit

Carried

### **Presentation**

Professor Bruce Clarkson, University of Waikato (via MS Teams) – 1.05 pm-1.48 pm

### **5 Bringing Indigenous Nature back into NZ urban centres**

Professor Bruce Clarkson was welcomed to the meeting and invited to present his report.

The presentation was a summary of urban/peri-urban interactions and ecological restoration, looking at expanding and connecting, and reconstructing urban areas.

At the conclusion of the presentation members took the opportunity to ask questions.

Prof Clarkson cautioned about planting invasive trees and the need to consider if the original inhabitants (plants and animals) have been catered for. He said there has to be a re-balancing of landscapes.

A copy of Prof Clarkson's presentation will be circulated and members may also refer to the website [peoplecitiesnature](http://peoplecitiesnature)

The Open Spaces Manager left the meeting at 1.48pm.

## 6 **District Planning Manager**

Ian Hyde provided an overview of RMA and District Plan provisions. This included an explanation of Rural C Zone Rules and the National Environmental Standards (NES) for Plantation Forestry which discusses wilding management and issues associated with historical planting when there were no controls or consents.

Barry Austin commented on the amount of weed control that's been undertaken by the Lake Heron Conservation Society. With a change of land ownership, it's understood that pines will be planted for carbon credits.

Pest management is also an issue and concern was expressed about reduced DOC funding.

It was agreed that solutions need to be found and worked towards.

## 7 **Ecologist / Biodiversity Advisor's report**

**That** the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor's report be received.

Smith/ Austin

Carried

## 8 **Group Updates**

### • **Chertsey tussocks**

Edith asked if Council could carry on the work that she initiated with this significant natural area. Christian will investigate this and report back.

### • **Staveley Camp and remnant native forest**

Last weekend's weed wrangling and well-being day was successful. The Trap Library is working well and members are assisting to train people to help with monitoring.

The wasp problem needs to be put into a pest management plan – noting that 65 nests have been dealt within a 10 hectare section.

### • **Awa Awa Rata**

It was reported that plantings are doing well – as are the weeds.

### • **Lake Heron Conservation Society**

Barry Austin reported that DOC found only four wasp nests on the tracks and they have been dealt with. Lake Heron trapping programmes continue. A number of pests have been cleared – mainly hedgehogs and a large number of stoats, but no possums.

Barry confirmed that the Walkway Society maintains Sharplin Falls and noted that some steps need remedial work.

### • **Forest and Bird**

Val Clemens congratulated the Council for the biodiversity at Te Whare Whakatere and for naming Hine Paaka Council Chamber after a woman and a tree. Congratulations also on the new restrooms and viewing platform at Rakaia Gorge. The Mayor thanked Val for her comments which will be passed onto staff.

Forest & Bird are continuing to experiment with wool weed map around the rare plants at Harris Reserve. The second enclosure has been completed.

**9 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13 May 2024

The meeting concluded at 2.56 pm.

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## **7. Report from the Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor**

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

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group receives the report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor.

### **Summary**

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Biodiversity Advisory Group with an update on projects carried out by the Biodiversity Advisor since the last meeting held on February, 2024.
- The report brings about the opportunity for members to ask questions and seek clarification on any items mentioned.

### **Report**

#### **1. Biodiversity Strategy Adopted by the Council**

Council adopted the first-ever Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Strategy on 20 March 2024 with a minor adjustment. The strategy document is now in front of you. Council staff will be developing an implementation plan for the first-year target and will consult with ADBAG members and stakeholders on finalising the plan.

#### **2. Plantation Road Insurance Reserve**

Consultation is currently ongoing with the neighbouring landowners and is being delayed due to ill health. A report will be prepared and forwarded to the Council once the process has been completed for consideration and implementation. The outcome of the report will be presented to ADBAG before forwarding to the Council.

Also, the repair of dilapidated fences around the native plants has been completed by our fencing contractor.



### **3. Biodiversity Grant**

Eight applications were received in the 2024 first round of applications, with most projects on wetland planting, pest control and weed control. The application is currently with the Grants Committee and will be decided on soon. Due to oversubscription, there may not be a second round of applications in August 2024.

### **4. School Programme**

***Ashburton Borough School Planting programme:*** Ashburton Borough School Years 6 and 7 completed planting at Small Bone Reserve on 3 May 2024 for their school project on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

### **5. Pudding Hill Stream weed Control (collaboration with Donna Field, ECan)**

This project has now been completed within the available funds, but more work is needed going forward. We removed willows, sycamore trees, larches, Douglas fir, some Himalayan honeysuckle, alders, poplars and monkey musk along the Pudding Hill Stream berms. The project was initiated by the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group in 2022 and managed by the Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor and ECan's Biodiversity and Land Management Advisor. We have received \$8,000 in funding from the Water Zone Committee towards the project.

### **6. Completed and Ongoing Projects (Planting and Pest Management)**

#### **a) *Wakanui Beach Planting***

Biodiversity Planting at the Wakanui Beach Restoration site was held on Sunday 21 April 2024. Twenty-two participants, made up of Council staff, Wakanui Crew Group and Ashburton Forest and Bird, attended the event. We planted 660 mixed species of native trees.

b) ***Lake Clearwater planting led by the Lake Camp/Clearwater Hutholders Association***

Planting day was organised by the Lake Camp/Clearwater Hutholders Association to continue planting along the lake Clearwater edges. The event was attended by around 46 people including some Ashburton Forest and Bird members and myself. We planted over 1500 native shrubs and grasses between 8 am and 12 pm. The project was funded by the Council Biodiversity grant.

c) ***Pest Control at Awa Awa Rata Reserve***

Quarterly animal pest control using night shooting is underway at Awa Awa Rata Reserve. We have extended the project coverage into DOC land and have gotten buy-in from the neighbours. The project will be completed by late May 2024.

d) ***Annual animal pest control around Lake Camp/Clearwater*** was completed in March 2024. We dispatched 238 pest animals made up of possums, feral cats, rabbits and hares within three nights. This is to reduce the number of rabbits/hares around the area and part of the extensive pest management approach at the Council-managed land at the Lakes. Hutholders have been informed of the need to install rabbit-proof fencing around the huts to reduce available microhabitats for breeding.

e) ***Weed Control***

We completed biennial weed control at the Swamp Road Significant Site. The weed control is part of the QEII biennial routine covenant monitoring programme. Some of the weeds sprayed include blackberry, grey willow, prunus plums, spindle berry, gorse and broom. As noted by the QEII rep, the site would make an informative article for a Council biodiversity article (Great Hinds swamp, Māori and European use of the flower stems and fibre, flower masting, invertebrates that are found on harakeke, Council's care of the site etc).



## 8. *Group activity updates*

### 8.1 **Synlait – Nick Vernon**

Synlait has progressed very well this year with native planting and will dispatch approx. 50,000 around the Canterbury region for Autumn out of 80,000 for FY24 year.

Big thanks to Foothills Catchment Group for recently installing a very bright pink sign at their plants located opposite Mt Hutt Station. So please have a look when you are next up that way.

### 8.2 **Forest & Bird – Edith Smith & Val Clemens**

- **Professor Clarkson**

The excellent presentation by Professor Clarkson at the previous meeting featured bringing indigenous nature back into NZ Urban centres. Could we have an update from Open Spaces staff to outline plans to utilise our local native species? What projects are underway to achieve this currently and in the long term? One suitable site might be Mill Stream near the Phat Duck Cafe.

- **Wilding issue**

The Long Term Plan must focus on the removal of all wilding species including silver birch in the Lakes Camp and Clearwater area. The current shadow of hundreds of wildings on the neighbouring private property near Lake Camp is a matter for concern. This is an example of other landowners' shelterbelts producing wildings on neighbouring public land. The Forest & Bird wilding event will be at Lake Heron on 19 May.

- **Late notice decision not to identify or mandate SNAs in the Ashburton Biodiversity Strategy**

This has removed an opportunity for those landowners who might have chosen to protect their native biodiversity and contribute to the longevity of the remnant original ecosystems in the district.

In place of SNAs, is the Council planning to incentivise landowners to protect or enhance the district's native biodiversity by some other means? Financial support in the form of rates reduction incentives and fencing subsidies are used elsewhere. This support may relieve the reluctance to protect native species that still remain in the Ashburton District.

- **Other topics to consider**

- Harris Scientific Reserve. Update on long term management, planting preparation and ongoing weed spraying.
- Long term Plan submission - water race ecology and heritage status.
- Programme – wildings Lake Heron, Winter lakes survey.
- Ashburton Hakatere River Management – water quantity and quality.

- **BRaid Seminar**

[Braided Rivers New Zealand – Braided River Aid](#)

BRaid was set up to provide leadership, promote research and management, collect, store and share data and information on braided rivers.

They hold an extremely informative seminar each year, with articulate and well-qualified speakers. The booking details for the seminar are on the website above.

The BRaid website is extremely well managed and contains information very relevant to biodiversity in the Ashburton District.

- **Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Hurunui Biodiversity Trust and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust**

These, and other similar organisations are taking leadership and coordination roles in their districts. Waimakariri is a district similar to Ashburton. They provide strong links between ECan and District Councils. There are a number of small groups working within Ashburton with little or no communication between them.

ADBAG meetings provide a platform for biodiversity groups but have the potential to do much more. By exploring how these and similar organisations are set up and achieving significant gains, ADBAG has the opportunity to provide leadership in this area and catch up with other similar districts in protecting precious biodiversity.

Suggestion: Invite a member of one of these organisations to speak at the next ADBAG meeting about their role in the community and the work they do.

- **Plantation Road**

Does the Council have anything to report, re the protection of native species present on this paper road?

### **8.3 Kānuka Trust and Otūwharekai**

Updates from the Kānuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust and Otūwharekai are included in the appended newsletters.

***Pages 11-14***



# PLANTING FOR PURPOSE



## Kānuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust

Our planting for purpose pillar focuses on enhancing biodiversity and improving the environment through planting.

We focus on what role plants have in our environment (habitat, food source, protective shelter, source of filtering water/soil conditioning etc).



### Kānuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust in school environments....



As we inquire we learn about the importance of right plant, right place. Really thinking about if the conditions we have in our place (school environs) are right for the plants to thrive in. Often this has us looking at what was historically planted in the area.

A great chance to enquire with our communities and grandparents about what are good plants for our local space.

Learners are engaged in how to successfully plant seedlings and the skills needed for future care of the plants to ensure they thrive. In the future, these plants will be used for seed collection, sharing, replanting and natural regeneration!

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua.

Care for the land, care for the people, go forward.





Over 800 native seedlings planted.

15 tracking tunnels made



post likes 2000+

Three schools with new native spaces

3

10+ community connections developed



Over 40 visits into local schools!

THE LION FOUNDATION



THANKS TO GRANTS FROM THESE TWO LOCAL TRUSTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!

Growth from our 2021 planting in Fairton in conjunction with Fairfield Farms.



Hinds growth at the Ellis property since 2020.

Hinds school riparian planting project with a focus on increasing water quality within the northern drain.



# Ōtūwharekai Newsletter

## Summer 2023-2024.

### Successful bird breeding season on the Upper Hakatere River

This breeding season saw the best success for wrybill on the Upper Hakatere/South Ashburton River with three chicks successfully fledged from two nests. The previous best success was 2021-2022 with one chick successfully fledging. With the exception of the 2021-2022 season, the last few years of monitoring have seen either no wrybill nests found or no successful fledgings. Due to the larger size of the rocks and a lack of smaller gravels in the riverbed, the Upper Hakatere/South Ashburton is not the most ideal habitat for wrybill and therefore naturally does not support high numbers of wrybill. Environment Canterbury (ECan) river surveys between 1981-2023 show a maximum of 19 wrybill with an average of only 6-7 birds in any given year.

After a couple of seasons of little to no success, the black-fronted terns (BFT) opted to shift the location of their colony downstream ~1.8km from previous years. While the total number of adult birds was lower than what we have seen in previous years, the colony still successfully fledged 12 chicks, with a further six chicks as probable fledging. This is the second highest number of chicks fledged from this colony for the last five seasons. 2021-2022 saw 16 fledglings.

The success of the wrybill and BFT this breeding season is probably due to a mixture of factors including little to no flooding this spring, an increase in intensity of the ECan trapping network and the removal of weeds in the riverbed which created more habitat for nesting.

Over the last three years Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has funded ~100 ha of weed control in the Upper Hakatere/South Ashburton riverbed.

The removal of larger areas of gorse and broom in the lower stretch of the river above Blowing Point bridge has seen a return of a more normal braided river channel system and an increase in open gravel areas. This has resulted in more food and breeding habitat for the birds which call the area home.



**Figure 1:** Braid channels and gravels starting to be restored post gorse and broom removal above Buicks Bridge, South Ashburton/Hakatere River



**Figure 2:** Black-fronted tern chick and egg in the nest.

## National Crested Grebe Survey

This summer was the ten yearly national Australasian crested grebe (pūteketeke) survey (nicely timed to coincide with crested grebe winning bird of the century).

A group of volunteers lead by Ashburton Forest & Bird spent a windy Saturday morning surveying all the lakes in Ōtūwharekai. A total of 21 crested grebe were counted with 15 seen on Lake Heron. This is likely to be an underestimate due to the windy conditions making it quite challenging to observe and identify birds across the larger lakes.

Annual winter bird counts of all the lakes in Ōtūwharekai since 1987 is showing a decreasing trend in crested grebe numbers observed each year. However, nationally crested grebe numbers are on the increase with over 1040 crested grebe counted by approximately 185 volunteers at this years annual survey. This is up from 701 nationally in 2014 and 390 in 2004.



**Figure 3:** Counting grebes in challenging conditions on Lake Heron.



**Figure 4:** Australasian crested grebe with chick

## Upgrades to facilities

Recent digger work in the lower Stour valley from the boundary gate to Manuka Hut has finished restoring the public walking track to near pre-2021 flood access. This work has aimed to reduce the number of river crossings and increase the track width in some areas. Drainage ditches have been added to some of the worst mud patches, hopefully improving winter track conditions.

As a part of this digger work a new toilet hole was dug at Manuka Hut, which was required as a result of the increase usage that Manuka Hut has seen over the last couple of years.

## Freshwater Biosecurity

Over recent times several lakes in the Ōtūwharekai have been sampled using nets and environmental DNA and no new freshwater pests were detected. We want to keep them free of invasive plants and animals, such as:

- The noxious pest fish rudd, which are present in Canterbury due to illegal stocking.
- Invasive oxygen weeds like Lagarosiphon and hornwort, and algae like didymo and Lindavia. These can hitch-hike from tiny fragments on boats, kayaks, hiking boots, and other gear.
- Gold clams, new to New Zealand but not yet found in the South Island. They can breed asexually and produce up to 400 juveniles a day that are as small as a grain of sand, quickly dominating and clogging up waterbodies.

To prevent their spread, please check, clean, dry: i.e. inspect your watercraft and gear when leaving the water for fragments of plants or visible algae, clean with detergent or bleach if the material is porous, and dry for 48 hours. If you see any suspicious fish, weeds, or clams in the water please take a photo and call DOC enquiries 0800 275 362.

## 8.4 Environment Canterbury update

### General

Our biodiversity team, Michelle Ingham, Jess Cochrane and Donna Field are being kept busy with invoicing, funding and checking on contractors work as well as ongoing projects ( see below).

Funding is uncertain for the coming year.

- **Rakaia River.** – Michelle Ingham project lead.



The Upper Rakaia has been a focus catchment for us this year with funding from the Me Uru Rākau program (from ECan) which is a catchment-based protection, planting and restoration programme designed to support communities to enhance biodiversity in their area.

MUR funding for next year has not been confirmed and is looking uncertain. There is the potential for huge loss of biodiversity in the district if this project was to not continue.

Much of this budget is used in conjunction with other agencies such as DOC and LINZ.

It included the

1. Upper Rakaia Weed Control – 12-year project managing braided river weeds in the Upper Rakaia Catchment . DOC /LINZ ECAN
2. Rakaia Predator control – 6-year project trapping to ensure protection of Wrybill and black fronted terns. DOC/LINZ/ECAN
3. Rakaia Gorge weed control (See below)– 3-year project managing terrestrial weeds in the Rakaia Gorge. DOC/LINZ/ECAN/Private landowners
4. Lake Coleridge Island

On the 13<sup>th</sup> April Michell, Donna, Fish and Game and the Canterbury Botanical Society boated to the very small Coleridge Island in Lake Coleridge to ascertain its value as a plant refuge for rare Canterbury plants. It was a wonderful day and the botanical society members were knowledgeable and enjoyed the opportunity to update the plant list. One of the highlights was the many geckos on the island. This is possibly due to a lack of rats and mice. We are waiting on the report from the Botanical Society however it looks unlikely to be suitable due to the amount of Broom.

- **Rakaia Gorge weed control-** Michelle Ingham project Lead.

This project is a multiyear weed control project targeting homestead weeds in the Rakaia Gorge. The predominant species are Sycamore, Cotoneaster, Cherry Laurel, Wild Cherries and Holly .

This project is a priority project for the Rakaia, and we are trying to find alternative funding for this work.

We are replacing marker pegs on the monitoring lines with brighter and easier to find stakes.

Contractors are working in the gorge at present and are struggling to complete their contract on time. Work is currently focusing on the True Left (Terrace Downs and Zig Zag areas).

An aerial operation to control the Sycamores and some wilding pines was conducted in the lower part of the gorge on the true right.

A drone orthomosaic imagery flight has also been conducted while the sycamore were in colour to highlight any changes in the sycamore infestations.

- **Ashburton River**- Donna Field project lead. Jess Cochrane and Michelle Ingham.

The Ashburton River is a significant bird habitat for Canterbury's Wading and braided river bird population and there are various projects along its length.

1. Hapua- Track sprayed, Monthly bird counts continue, sign maintenance and replacement as needed.

The river mouth has been closed due to low flows in the river.

2. Trapping- We appreciate the trapping done by our long term volunteers Forest and Bird and Hakatere Hut residents at the river mouth. Trapping done by contractors at SH1 while gulls were there.

Seven members of the public were put through the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology- Predator Trapping Methods course and were subsidized by DOC to attend, with an additional volunteer paying his own way to go on the course. This has been a great help to getting volunteers educated and inspired for their project areas.

ECan is providing traps and equipment to volunteers

Upcoming trap lines:

- Volunteers will take over the SH1 traps
- Chalmers Ave planting group are going to look after traps between William St & Trevors Rd
- Cochrane Rd 4WD club are going to look after traps around the 4WD park
- Volunteers will service traps in bird breeding season between River Road & Wakanui School Rd
- Lake Hood traps pending volunteer availability.
- In talks to start a second line of traps in farmland at Hakatere Huts

3. SH1 Black Billed Gulls- Counts of birds have been done and have photographed chicks to count. Will also do a nest count to try and ascertain fledging numbers.



# Nest Counts SH1

Thursday, 8 February 2024 4:16 pm

| Area   | Nest numbers |
|--------|--------------|
| 1      | 416          |
| 2      | 300          |
| 3      | 933          |
| Totals | 1650         |

1650 x 1.5 survival rate = 2475

Estimated number of adults 4-5000

4. Trapping is funded in the Buicks Bridge Upper Ashburton reach with Terns, wry bills and dotterels funding. A report is being written on the success of the tern breeding. At present large numbers of cats are being caught in the High Country and we will embark on a life capture program later this month.
5. Grey Willows and Lupins are controlled by contractors between road over outlet of Maori Lakes and Hakatere old dump site.
6. The Bridge to Beach Poker run for 4 wheel drives was ran on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. DOC left some vehicles at the hapua and a temporary tape fence was put across at the exit to go to the beach and avoid the hapua. This seemed to be successful at keeping the majority of 4 wheel drives off the important for birds hapua area.
  - **Carters Creek-** Michelle Ingham lead.  
Stream walk of rural and urban reaches have been undertaken. ECan have sent out a follow up letter to landowners adjacent to the creek to communicate findings from the stream walk and actions landowners can take. Michelle is working with the catchment group on next steps.
  - **Hinds Plains Lower-** Michelle Ingham ,Kimberley Dynes  
Final write up on land use being internally reviewed.
  - **Foothills project -**Jess Cochrane  
Working on holding a foothills life style, small holdings information evening on rules, permitted activities , weeds. We will work with Christian on topics ADC may want covered in this space. This will be in June at Mt Somers or Staveley.
  - **Other**  
We continue to work with landowners on improving audit grades and with best practice for on farm.  
  
Winter grazing flights will take place over Hinds area.
  - **Alford Forest**  
Holly control in Alford Forest, focussed around Dan & Sonjias properties, targeting large seeding holly plants

➤ **Staveley Camp**

This project aims to protect and maintain the health of a significant dryland Beech forest by suppressing sycamore and cotoneaster and preventing their spread into the surrounding forest areas. Work has focused on the forest along Bowyers Stream edge and also targeting mother trees throughout the forest, with sycamores being controlled in the autumn.

# Biodiversity Advisory Group

## Terms of Reference

### Purpose and Scope

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

- Facilitate 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
- Be a conduit for the Council relationship building with the landowner and general public where appropriately
- Provide advice to Council on biodiversity related matters e.g. ADC Natural and Built Environments grant applications

### 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.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Ashburton District Council</b>                                      | Mayor, Neil Brown (ex officio)<br>Cr Leen Braam (Chair)<br>Cr Lynette Lovett<br>Cr Richard Wilson<br>Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces)<br>Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager)<br>Dr Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) |
| <b>Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective</b>                             | Angela Cushnie, Janine Holland, Willy Leferink  |
| <b>QEII Trust</b>  | Alice Shanks  |
| <b>Environment Canterbury</b>  | Donna Field, Henry Winchester   |
| <b>Ashburton Water Zone Committee</b>                                  | Adi Avnit   |
| <b>Forest &amp; Bird</b>   | Edith Smith, Val Clemens, Mary Ralston  |
| <b>Foothills Landcare Group</b>  | Gen de Spa  |
| <b>Ashburton Community Conservation Trust</b>                          | Edith Smith, Val Clemens  |
| <b>Federated Farmers</b>   | Mike Salvesen   |
| <b>Awa Awa Rata Reserve</b>  | Mary Ralston  |
| <b>Department of Conservation</b>                                      | Ian Fraser, Brad Edwards  |
| <b>Fish &amp; Game</b>   | Nikki Dellaway  |
| <b>Fonterra</b>  | Lisa Peers-Adams  |
| <b>Synlait</b>   | Nick Vernon   |
| <b>Kanuka Trust</b>  | Kim Wall  |
| <b>Mt Somers Walkway Society &amp; Lake Heron Conservation Society</b> | Barry Austin  |

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.

Members may send alternates in their place or nominate another person from their organisation if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Names and organisations above may change over time as requested by the members without going through formal term of reference review.

### **Meeting Frequency**

Meet four times a year, with the option for one additional meeting if required.

### **Delegations**

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

- Meet to facilitate 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

### **Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Funding**

The Ashburton District Council has an annual fund of \$15,000 available for biodiversity projects. Funding applications are accepted twice annually, in February and August, however if the total fund is distributed in February another funding round will not be held.

Applications for a biodiversity grant are to be referred to the Biodiversity Advisory Group for comment, before going to Council for their decision on the funding applications.

### **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 (*Reviewed 02/23*)