

Biodiversity Advisory Group

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Tuesday 8 December 2020
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
1.10pm approx..	Peter Garde (Methven Lions Club) attending to present on Native Tree Planting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Extraordinary Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Previous Minutes & Actions**
 - Confirmation of minutes 6/10/20
- 5 Reports and Presentations**
 - 5.1 Native Tree Planting - Methven Lions Club
 - 5.2 Identification and Protection of Native Vegetation on Private Land – Edith Smith
 - 5.3 Synlait Environmental Initiatives – Michael Edmondson
- 6 General Updates**
 - Insurance Reserves – Bert Hofmans
 - Biodiversity Officer Role – Val Clemens
- 7 Agency Updates**
 - Kānuka Trust
 - Ashburton District Council
- 8 2021 Meeting Dates**
- 9 Terms of Reference**

Biodiversity Advisory Group

6 October 2020



Biodiversity Advisory Group (Unconfirmed)

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 6 October 2020, commencing at 1.00pm at the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present: Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair) Bert Hofmans (ADC); Steve Fabish (GM Community Services); Mary Ralston (Forest and Bird and Awa Awa Rata Reserve); Val Clemens (Forest & Bird and ACCT), Jane Riach (Kanuka Trust), Donna Field (ECan and Whitcombe Landcare Group); Alice Shanks (QEII Trust); Ian Fraser (DOC); Edith Smith (Forest & Bird and ACCT), Jayde Couper (Fish & Game); Mike Salvesen (Federated Farmers); and Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.).

In attendance: Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Lisa Adams (Fonterra) and Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra).

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown, Cr Diane Rawlinson, Janine Holland, Bill Thomas and Gen de Spa.

Austin/Field

Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 4/08/20

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 4 August 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.

Smith/Field

Carried

5 Reports and Presentations

5.1 Fonterra update – Marcelo Wibmer presented:

- Updated on what Fonterra are doing in the Ashburton District.
- Biodiversity is not at top of list as Fonterra has other items that are high risk on farms right now.
- Reports to have seen a mind-set change with farmers in the last 5 years and they want to contribute to the biodiversity.
- Some are planting biodiversity on their boundaries around Canterbury.

5.2 Craspedia “Wakanui” – Val Clemens presented:

- This plant has only 2 individuals left in the wild and one at Landcare Research/Manaaki Whenua, meaning it is one of most endangered plants in the country.
- Pollen was carried between Lincoln and Wakanui, resulting in 104 seedlings from the Landcare plants and about 20 from the Wakanui plants.
- Plan to repeat the pollination this summer to continue to build up numbers.
- Landcare are doing DNA testing on the 104 seedlings to see if they are true “Wakanui” plants as there is a risk they may have been pollinated by other species in Landcare’s glasshouse. Each one is individually labelled and they have been planted at the Harris Reserve, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Ashburton Domain and a QEII covenant.
- Highlights the care that needs to be taken with these and other small dryland plants. An example of how precarious our local biodiversity really is.

Edith Smith presented on dryland vegetation:

- Looked at native vegetation at Ashton Beach as a result of ADC looking to find a safer option for motorbike riders in this area.
- Potentially the dryland biodiversity hotspot of Ashburton District.
- There are a large amount of exotic grasses growing here which is a threat to the native vegetation.
- Explained how NZ fescue is growing in this area.

6 General Matters

Nil

7 Agency Updates

Donna Field, Whitcombe Landcare Group

- Working with LINZ, Boffa Miskill and DOC on weed management programme. \$300,000 Pete Caldwell from Boffa Miskill has taken over the management of the programme from DOC Liz Gunning due to increase in budget funding from LINZ.
- There is also another funding round with an unknown amount of money from LINZ. A meeting is planned for early October to discuss what it will look like.
- Trapping project is up and running for the 2021 season.
- We are waiting to hear from the Trust Powers Rakaia River Biodiversity Enhancement Fund on project funding for the Rakaia Gorge Guardians project. This is a joint project between land owners, ECAN, Selwyn District Council. At this stage ADC is offering moral support for the project via Bert Hofmans.
- Pigs increasing in area exponentially.

Donna Field, Environment Canterbury

- Work in the Ashburton River is in full swing with spraying being done, trapping starting and birds to be found.
- There will be a survey of the Ashburton River on the 21st November.
- Work is continuing to be done at river mouth with walking tack being put in by D and E. There has been some vandalism and we will continue to monitor how to manage it.
- Looking at nest stages for improving the instream habitat for the spring system, continued signage and bird viewing platform developed.

- The surface water team combined with fish and game are going to do a hapua monitoring project looking at water quality and fish species.
- On the land management front we are going to start a campaign on making sure people with winter grazing have consent to farm.

Kānuka Trust

- Since our last meeting we provided our planting equipment for 17 volunteers from the Hinds community to plant 120 plants at Hinds domain.
- Our Hinds School mudfish project has continued with 350 plants being planted by the Piwaka class and some Hinds and district Lions volunteers at the property of Bob Ellis.
- We have rescheduled the Beneficial Bugs field day to Thursday 22nd October, please email kanukatrust@outlook.com for details.

Bert Hofmans, ADC

Ashton Beach

- Met with ECan, DOC and Forest & Bird regarding motorcycle park at Ashton Beach;
- Report taken to Council 24 Sept 2020 to provide feedback on preliminary consultation;
- Council approved additional funding of \$27k for the project;
- Weed control work expected to be undertaken in the next couple of weeks in fenced biodiversity areas.

Wakanui Beach

- Planting day 3 September 2020. Planted approximately 250 plants in areas 'a' and 'b'. School unable to participate. Assisted by volunteers, ECan staff, Forest & Bird members, and Wakanui Beach Crew.

Lake Camp

- 2020/21 work programme has been prepared and circulated;
- Planting day proposed this Friday;
- Pest control organised for the following week (14 October 2020).

Other

- Billion Trees media release completed 30 Sept 2020 – ADC website, social media, District Diary and Councils e-newsletter + Mid-Canterbury Federated Farmers newsletter (TBC);
- Met with SDC staff regarding stock water race and biodiversity.

Ian Fraser, DOC

- Rangitata and Rakaia trapping and outcome monitoring programmes in full swing. 36 cats, 112 mustelids, 175 hedgehogs caught since traps opened in July in the Rangitata. 8 cats, 17 mustelids, 36 hedgehogs in Rakaia.
- Outcome monitoring for wrybills and black-fronted terns in the South Branch of the Hakatere River is underway to support ECan's trapping programme.
- Management of the Braided River Flagship Programme in the Upper Rangitata and Rakaia has passed from DOC to Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of LINZ. This is a result of LINZ's 4-5 fold increase in funding of that programme.
- Restoration planting at two sites in O Tu Wharekai (Ashburton Basin) has continued, with 110 plants at Lake Heron with Ara institute and further planting planned at that site with Mt Somers schools and at Lambies Stream site next month.

- The Governance Group for the Rangitata Restoration Project (part of DOC's Nga Awa project funded through Budget 2018) has been established. The group includes Te Runanga o Arowhenua, ECan, LINZ and DOC. A stakeholder forum, including representatives from territorial authorities, Fish and Game, recreational user groups etc. will be established in the next few months. DOC is working with our key delivery partners – Te Runanga o Arowhenua and the Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group – to support the fencing and restoration bid submitted under the governments' Jobs for Nature programme.
- DOC are in early discussions with ADC forester Terry O'Neil regarding the larch plantation within the Awa Awa Rata Reserve with a view to harvesting the trees and allowing the area to revert to native vegetation.
- Continued and increasing issue with off-road vehicle incursions in O Tu Wharekai which negatively impact on biodiversity and other park users. We are developing a plan to try manage the issue, and are likely to approach ADC for their help with specific issues in the next couple of months.
- As part of DOC's predator-free 2050 project, we are keen to get in touch with volunteer trapping groups in the ADC area to offer our support and help track the efforts of volunteers in this space.

8 Next Meeting

Tuesday 8 December at 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 2:49pm

7. Agency Updates

Kānuka Trust

- **Kānuka Trust Balancing Biodiversity, Beneficial Bugs Field Day**
29 Attendees
Fascinating insights from:
Crop & Food - which natives attract which beneficials
FAR – monitoring the effect of beneficials and adapting farming practice as a result.
Stephen Brailsford - practical planting advice for success, right plant right place, ground preparation, plant protectors and maintenance.
Farmers - using native plantings as farm assets
- Kānuka Trust participated in the Ashton Beach planting day
- Kānuka Trust has employed an educator who will work with schools in 2021

Ashburton District Council

Lake Camp

- Another round of weed control undertaken at Lake Camp by contractor 20 November.
- Planting areas mulched and fenced 20 November 2020.
- Another round of pest control undertaken 15 October 2020– 3 possums, 8 hares and 27 rabbits.

Ashton Beach

- Weed control work undertaken 26 November on biodiversity site by contractors.
- Consultant has been engaged to prepare Lizard Management Plan and Wildlife Permit application.

Wakanui Beach Restoration project

- Volunteer weeding ½ day on 8 Dec 2020.
- Weed spraying to occur before Xmas.

8. 2021 Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Reports Due
Tue 2 February	Tue 19 January
Tue 6 April	Tue 23 March
Tue 8 June	Tue 25 May
Tue 3 August	Tue 20 July
Tue 2 November	Tue 19 October

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
Mat Cullen <u>Marcelo Wibmer</u>	Fonterra
<i>[No person specified]</i>	Kānuka Trust
Barry Austin	Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society
Mary Ralston	Awa Awa Rata Reserve
David Askin <u>Vacant</u>	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 ~~the Community Services Committee-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)*