

# Minutes: Ruahine User's Group Meeting (RUG)



Date:	08/11/2021	Chair:	Dan Tuohy
Time:	19:00-20:45	Minute taker:	Demelza Low
Venue:	Teams Meeting		
Attendees:	Janet Wilson (RWP, PNTMC), Megan Dimozantos (BCT/FMC), Jean Garman (MTSC/Access), Lisa Whittle, Phil Hansen (Mauri Oho J4N), Julia Mackie (NTC), Peter Daly (Kawhatau Community Group), John Beech (MTSC/Access/FMC), John Vruink (NZWFDA), Rod Smillie, Ian Peterson (NZDA MA), Eleanor Arnst, Dan Tuohy (DOC), Demelza Low (DOC), Moana Smith-Dunlop (DOC)		
Apologies:	Chris Dolley, Joe Nawalaniec		

19:00

Topic – Welcome, Karakia, Introductions & Apologies

Topic – Review actions from previous meeting

Colour key:

Covered elsewhere

Action open

Resolved

- Takapari Road – Action from July: “Gain a better understanding of costs/considerations to fix and maintain the road – Demelza to discuss with DOC roading Engineer”.  
⇒ Nov: Refer Nov Heritage and Visitors (H&V) update.
- Work completed by groups in the Forest Park - Action from July – “If work is being done please send your photos, let’s promote!” Action for all.  
⇒ Nov: No further action needed
- Aranga hut – Action from July – “RUG group to be kept informed of progress” – Demelza.  
⇒ Nov: Refer Nov H&V update.
- Poads Road – Action from July “Action: Dan to discuss with Walking Access”. This was put forward as an option for developing a carpark at Rangitane Road end to get people away from Clint’s sheds. When we start looking at the Kawhatau access, we will present this option if required.
- Shutes – Action from July “Action: Janet said to check trees growing” –  
⇒ Nov: Dan. DOC staff have not been here recently. Megan has sent photos to Dan for review and comment.



Shutes hut email  
from Megan.msg

- Route from signboards at Daphne carpark to the bush/scrub entry.  
⇒ Nov update: the early track section was remarked and had vege cut in Oct 2021.
- Waipawa Forks hut, broken axe.  
⇒ Nov update: pending replacement by DOC.

Topic – Community Group Update

- What have the various groups been doing?

John Beech

With the new comms platform now in place we only have email functionality, hence we’ve been looking into using Facebook as a

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replacement online forum. John is happy to set this up a private group, if RUG would find this useful.

Decision: The RUG group agreed that a Facebook page would be beneficial and would be great for promoting/photos etc.

Discussion held on possible names for the page, e.g.: RUAHINE USER GROUP FORUM, RUAHINE COMMUNITY GROUP, RUAHINE FOREST PARK COMMUNITY GROUP

**Action: John/Julia – to decide on name and start up the Facebook page.**

Ian

Bait stations at Heritage were refilled in October.

Graffiti was tidied up.

Dog access issue over easement. **Action for Dan: Dan to follow up with Anthony Moul.**

Ian is working with Dave at DOC to update the Hut Maintenance Community Agreements for Forks and Te Ekaou.

Ian is in the process of getting Forks dimensions for Megan/BCT.

Megan/BCT:

Colenso hut – work recently completed included a new roof, woodshed, woodburner and an interior and exterior paint.

Otukota hut – work recently completed included a new roof/sarking, woodshed, windows, tank and stand. This hut will also get an exterior paint soon.

Toka biv – work recently completed included swamp rafts.

Stanfield hut – renovation work due this weekend (weather dependent)

Gold Creek hut – renovation work scheduled. Will include new roof/sarking, woodburner.

Iron Bark – pending approval. New roof.

Other huts/bivvies with work pending include: Kiritaki, Leon Kinvig, Piripiri, Taruarau and Triangle.

Info: the track between Ruahine hut and Shutes hut is “unfollowable in places”. **Action for Demelza: review.** Phil/Lisa also mentioned traplines in this area, for possible consideration.

Peter:

The base is now unlocked.

It was -8 degrees overnight last time there, very glad of the fireplace!

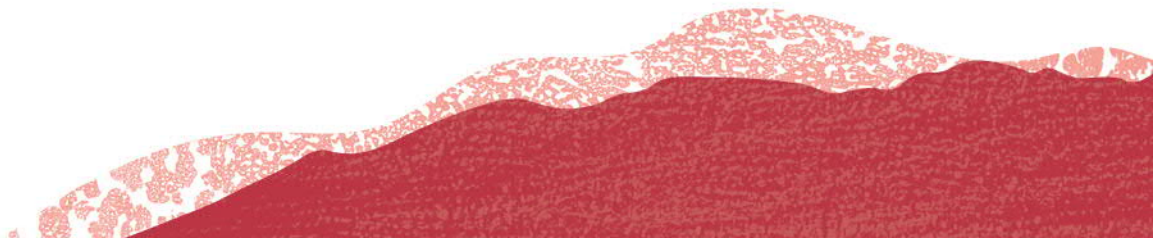
Roof work needed – scope unknown at this stage, TBC.

Peter happy to work with DOC re access, appreciating access here is a challenge.

The new track cut by Jean and co. down river is a big improvement.

Update from Demelza – Kawhata Base shows as closed on DOC website due to a technical issue. Working through this, which will involve a

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transition from booked accommodation to a Standard hut. **Action: Demelza to ensure this piece of work is completed.**

Lisa Whittle & Phil Hansen:

New traps to be installed from Sunrise to carpark

Upcoming work: Masters Shelter to Crown Range, Sentry Box trapline, 16km RFP boundary – Farm tracks to be utilized.

Working with DOC on a new Agreement for Herricks hut. Masters Shelter to be added to hut maintenance Agreement. Keen to work on a new track to the cave.

Janet Wilson/Whio protectors - Hui was in September at River Valley. It was enjoyable with many topics covered, and the key players in attendance. Everyone is getting ready for a new year of trapping. Refer Appendix I for minutes.

Query on whether Sparrowhawk is in scope for BCT upcoming work.

Megan advised that is it, though no group has yet been identified.

Julia advised she may be able to help in finding assistance if needed.

Megan advised the scope of work will need builder or similar.

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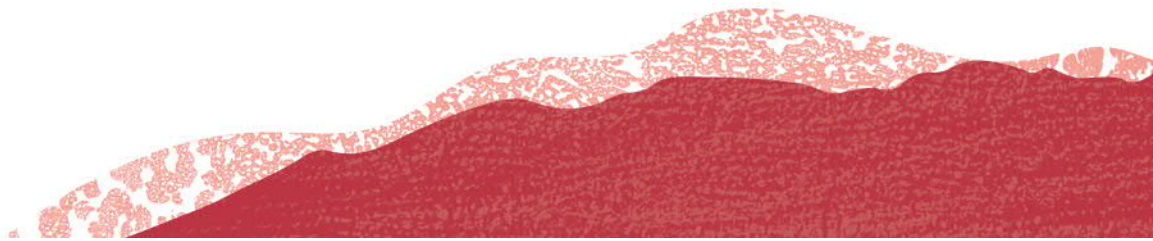
Topic – DOC Heritage and Visitor (H&V) Update

Personnel updates:

- H&V Supervisor: Shaun has moved to the DOC Hawkes Bay Office to assist there for 6 months. Mike Christie taking Shaun's place.
- Jo has moved to a new role within DOC. Ed has left DOC.
- Stuart Rice and David Middleditch have started as new rangers. Stu's is ex Navy/electrician/carpenter – brings lots of skills and is passionate about conservation. Dave has 20 years' experience as an environmental consultant in the UK. He arrived in NZ in 2017 and worked at Massey University as a Project & Relationship Manager. Dave volunteers with Whio protectors and on BCT projects (i.e. Kylie biv and Tarn biv).

Updates for Aug, Sep and Oct, work completed:

- Hut servicing: Longview, Sunrise, Rangiwahia, Triplex
  - Triplex: moved toilet, repaired deck
  - Sunrise track: cleared windfalls
  - Daphne track: start of track. Track marking, vege cut.
  - Kashmir Road/Daphne Road: Oct, inspection, grade, 6m3 gravel
  - Driveovers at Renfrew Rd, Limestone Creek Rd, Petersons Road, No 1 Line – working on contracts for vege and road maintenance
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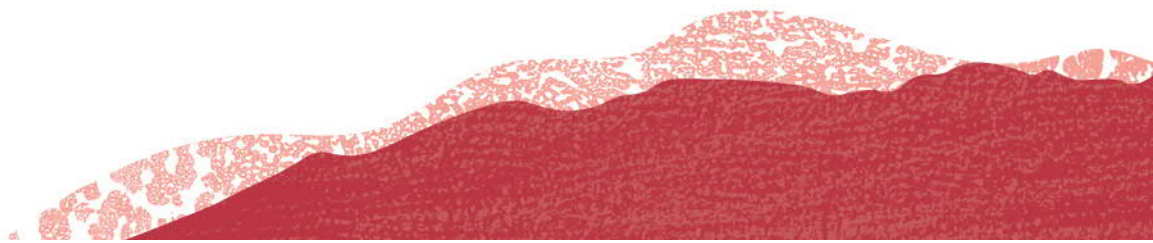
- Aranga hut: engagement process with Megan/BCT, John Beech/FMC, Lisa Whittle, Awarua O Hinemanu – all confirmed. Pending decision from final group.
- Takapari Road: The DOC roading engineer has engaged a contractor for a drive-over, which is taking place this week. There is no NZTA funding available. Signage to go up shortly. Working with Manawatu 4WD and Marcus. .
- Prep for Sunrise and Rangiwahia (firewood and empty hut containment tanks).

Updates on Capex projects:

- Bridges – funding approved for Crow, Pourangaki, Kelly Knight, Swingbridges (infill mesh install). Tentatively scheduled for late summer.
- Umutoi bridge – New barriers, deck repair. Tentatively scheduled for late summer.
- Sunrise carpark – There are funding challenges that we're working through. DOC Works Officer are working through these challenges, more updates to follow.
- No Mans Road – Remedial work is planned on the first 2.5km of track. Tentatively scheduled for late summer.

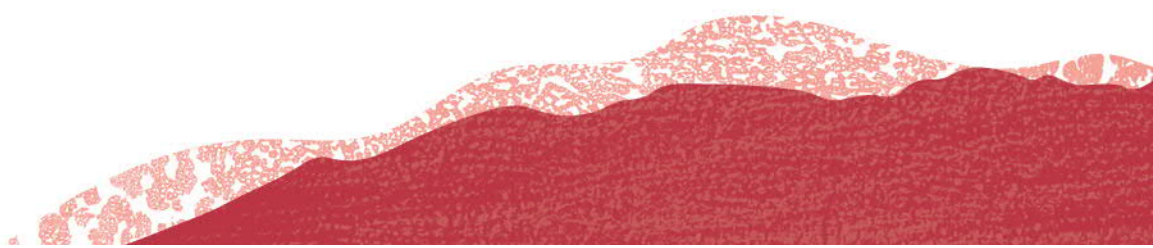
Topic – Biodiversity Update

- Te Potae trapping – mustelid trap checks. Supposed to start Oct, but delayed with weather. Due to start 20-21<sup>st</sup> Nov.
- No Mans contorta – last week annual ground search. Found some, but not as many as expected. HB work making a difference.
- Gwavas barberry – annual work starting
- Old Mans Beard control – working with regional council. Privately funded J4N working with farmers/landowners on private land. Combined effort. 3x parts on NW side that has OMB, will be dealt to in Jan 2022. **Action for all: if anyone sees OMB in the RFP take a photo and GPS and send to Dan. If anyone knows any contractors for this type of work, please let Dan know.**
- Annual whio hui – Action: Dan to share minutes for interested parties.
- Goat control – contracts to be signed up this month, ground control with dogs. Southern (Wharite/Coppermine/Ruahine/No Mans (plus Gorge and Simpsons)). Less of an issue Northern. **Action for all: if you see any goats, please let DOC know.**
- Fencing – some reports of stock trespassing. Ruahine Station on the eastern side of Forest Park, had an open gate by the old Kaumatua track and stock had been through there and right up to the old hut site. Visited farm manager and fences had all been repaired
- Planning annual whio survey. Whio dog planned for Jan/Feb 2022.





	<p>Rod Smilie advised that there may be the option for volunteers to help with Te Potae trapping during weekdays if weather on the weekend is not possible.</p> <p>DOC biodiversity staff updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stephen Robson – temporary secondment to Chathams, Peter Bird is covering.</li><li>• Ruby is cover Peter’s Ranger role on a temporary basis.</li><li>• Jack Beveridge – retired in Jun/Jul.</li></ul>
	<p>Topic – Access to Forest Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kelly Knight: Pending with Maori land court. Information is limited due to it being in front of the Maori land court. DOC will continue to work on this. Alternative access is not currently being considered.</li><li>• Mokai: DOC has access for biodiversity work. DOC is working with the landowner towards public access. The legal paper road runs through the station (not via the poled route, which was agreed with the late farm station manager).</li></ul> <p>Action for Dan: review agreement with legal team and report back and discuss with working group.</p> <p>Action for Dan: Add Megan (BCT) and Rod Smilie to be added to the Access Working Group - done (other members are Dan (DOC), Kevin Ross (WAC), John Beech (FMC), Jean Garmin, Gwyn Thurlow (NZDA).</p> <p>Action for Dan: set meeting with Access group to discuss next steps. Access working group set for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kawhatau</li></ul> <p>Makopua Road through Colenso station an option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eastern side: Nicola Henderson from WAC is retiring. We acknowledge the great work she’s done on the Eastern side. Action: Dan to meet with Nicola and download her head of all her eastern access gems – meeting arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> November</li></ul>
	<p>Topic – General Business</p>



	<p>Tiakina Nga Manu - Battle for the Birds – Pete is organizing this for the end of 2022.</p> <p><b>Action for Dan: provide update at next RUG meeting.</b></p> <p>Elly – commenting that having spent a lot of time in the forest park in recent times, the huts and tracks are looking very well loved. Great work all!!</p> <p>Teams Meeting forum: the consensus at this meeting was that the online forum was very good and saved travel time for many people. Brief discussion held on whether this should be used more frequently, with support voiced (recognition given to the fact that individuals attending this online meeting may be skewed towards those happy to attend such meetings). Future meetings may alternate between online and in person to cater for all views. Preferences to be fleshed out further, perhaps by Facebook survey.</p> <p>One option for future meeting is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July meeting – Dannevirke Deer stalkers clubrooms</li> <li>• October meeting – Virtual over Team</li> <li>• February meeting – DOC office, Palmerston North</li> </ul> <p>During the face-to-face meetings, a Teams link will be included, so people can join virtually if they prefer.</p> <p><b>Action for RUG Members, what do you think of the above option?</b></p>
	<p>Next RUG meeting to be held Feb 2022, at the DOC office in Palmerston North (Covid permitting) TBC</p>
<p>20:45</p>	<p>Meeting finishes</p>

## Appendix I: Minutes from the Ruahine Whio Protectors Trust Hui, September 2021.



Ruahine Whio  
Protectors Trust Hui

