

# Agenda & Actions: Ruahine User's Group Meeting (RUG)

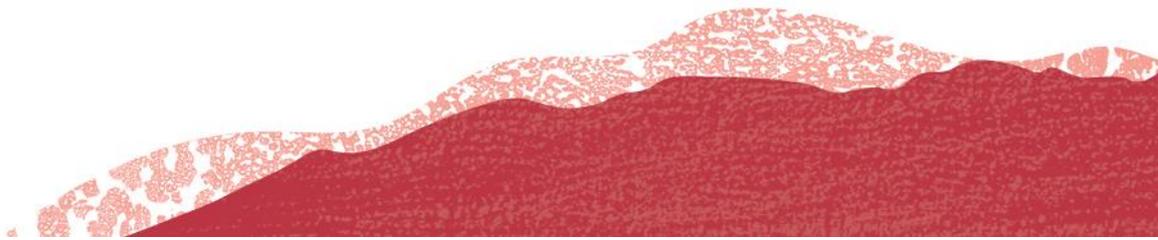


<b>Date:</b>	24/10/2023	<b>Chair:</b>	Dan Tuohy (DOC)
<b>Time:</b>	19:00-21:00	<b>Minute taker:</b>	Demelza Low (DOC)
<b>Venue:</b>	Dannevirke NZDA & Teams Meeting		
<b>Attendees:</b>	Megan Dimozantos (BCT,FMC), Peter Daly (Kawhatau Maintenance Group), Glenda (HTC), Gordon (Deerstalkers), Ian Paterson (Deerstalkers), Mike Charlton (Deerstalkers), Lisa Whittle (Mauri Oho), Janet Wilson (PNTMC, Ruahine Whio Protectors), Dave (HTC, Deerstalkers), Bill Veale (Tamaki West volunteer), Gary (Deerstalkers), John Beech, John Montgomery (HTC)		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Emma Gregg, Vince (Deerstalkers), Arapera Paewai (Mauri Oho)		

Agenda

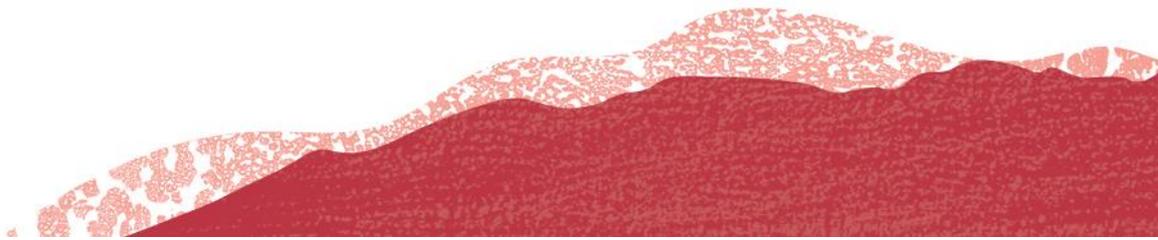
- Welcome, Karakia, Introductions & Apologies
- DOC Heritage & Visitor updates
- DOC Biodiversity updates
- General business
- Set next meeting
- Closing Karakia

19:00	<p>Welcome, Karakia, Introductions &amp; Apologies</p> <p><b><u>Karakia</u></b></p> <p>Kā toro ki runga, kā toro ki raro          Kia mārangī mai ngā māramatanga          Ā kui mā, Ā koro mā          Hei aratakina i a tātou kia manawatīī          Ki ngā mahi katoa</p> <p>Draw strength from above          Draw strength from below          Let the knowledge and understanding of our predecessors wash over us          So, we may Follow their spirit of perserverance and apply it to our work today          Acheiving great things</p>
-------	--





*Figure 1 - Whio in the Ikawatea*





*Figure 2 - Whio pair in the Ikawatea*

---

### Community updates

**Janet Wilson, PNTMC:** Nothing to report over winter. Working with DOC regarding installation of a woodburner at Mid Pohangina hut.

**Janet Wilson, RWP:** First Te Potae trip went ahead successfully. First time in a few years that have been able to get in in Oct, so a good start to the season.  
Iron Gate track closures have slowed things down there. This will ramp up as the track is reopened.

**Lisa Whittle, MO:** Planning two trap deploys - one on Lower Makaroro with Peter Meredith (F&B) to replace half the traps that were washed away. And a second to replace 40 traps in there lost during Gabrielle.

Two things for recent trips:

Dead Dog - exit triangle and route out of the stream - down from Dead Dog hut - to Herricks hut , is not clearly marked.

And Upper Makaroro hut - coming down form Parks Peak, the last bit of route down to stream is not clearly marked, the slip and old route down to the stream is not clear now - leads straight towards the slip.

**Glenda, HTC:** A working bee at Howletts hut took place last month: cleaned soil away from the tin, replaced 5 mattresses (6 left to do) and did a general clean up. Met up with DOC.

**Megan, BCT:** Triangle, Kiritaki, Iron Bark, Awatere hut work planned for this season. Leon Kinvig hut – working to relocate in November, possibly onto temp piles.

**Megan, FMC:** Requested updates on access (Masters Shelter, Makaretu, Mokai Patea) – see “Access” section.

Megan has created a spreadsheet where helicopter flights to the Ruahine Forest Park can be entered, with the hope to share flights. Ask Megan if you would like access to the spreadsheet.

---

### DOC Heritage & Visitor update

#### a. Recent work

- Stanfield hut – fixed toilet door, added seismic restraints to tank stand, fixed pipe under sink etc.
- Sentry Box hut – Service, added chimney cap.
- McKinnon hut – added tiedowns, installed meatsafe.

- Poh Base – monthly service and mow, repaired oven elements, working with MDC and community towards making Poh Base a Civil Defense Emergency Centre.
- No 1 Line – replaced wooden ladder with a s/s ladder.
- Sunrise hut/tk – regular servicing, cleared windfall tree, volunteer hut warden stays, i.e., Labour Weekend. Reminder that the road is open to residents and essential services only, and bookings are closed for this reason.
- Sunrise carpark toilet – contractor pumped out.
- Swamp tk – vege clearance
- Longview hut – regular servicing. Replaced missing water tank lid. Cut some of the track, need to continue.
- Rangī hut – flew in firewood, regular servicing, fixed toilet locks etc.
- Opawe Road tk – markers across the farmland. Stile repairs.
- Ellis hut – felled large conifers near hut to let more light in. Installed table with fireproof top and back.
- Mid Poh/Takapari Road tk – closed due to a large slip down to river. Alternative route identified and currently being cut, hope to reopen soon.
- Coppermine tk – closed to large slip. Alternative route identified and being cut, hope to reopen soon.
- Apiti tk – Ngamoko Roadend to Te Pohatu – non-compliant hand line removed. Feedback from locals received that hand line is missed. DOC to apply for funding to replace with a fit for purpose hand line.
- Knights-Toka tk – assessed reports of cracking on track, 1m. Warning signs were put up. Flagged a 250m reroute, but needs to be cut. Track is open, but use caution.

**b. Cyclone updates:**

- Leon Kinvig hut. Geotech reports completed. DOC has funded BCT to relocate hut. DOC and BCT working to move hut asap.
- Iron Gate tracks x2 – were closed after Cyclone damage. New routes found and flagged. DOC will return in Nov to cut new tracks.
- No Mans Road – closed due to Cyclone damage. DOC have done a drive over with a contractor to obtain cost. Funding to be applied for to repair.
- Smiths Stream/Hinerua tk – BCT flagged new route some time ago. Volunteer team to cut track, planned for Dec.
- Yeomans tk – nearly all bridges have gone or been completely upended. DOC will remove the damaged bridges early next year and reopen the track.

**c. Updates**

DOC Service Standard update:

Spark guards being added in huts with open fires

Ash buckets with lids being installed

	<p>FENZ new requirement: Heat/smoke detectors required in huts/public accommodation with 6 or more bunks (heat detectors in the room with the heat source, linked smoke detectors in any other rooms).</p> <p><b>d. Cost Pressures</b></p> <p>There is national recognition that funding is inadequate to support the asset base. Assets to be reviewed, criteria pending. More information will be shared as it becomes available.</p> <p><b>e. Aranga hut</b></p> <p>No updates to report. Suggestion made that a toilet at the hut site would be helpful for those camping there, as an interim measure.</p>
--	---

19:40	<p><b>DOC Biodiversity Update</b></p> <p><b>Goat control</b> - Southern Ruahine goat control planned for this summer.</p> <p><b>REMEMBER:</b> If you see any goats in the park, please let DOC know. National Goat hunting competition is coming to an end next month and by all accounts this was well received.</p> <p><b>From the Wild Animal Team</b></p> <p><i>"We have one month remaining in the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition with over 3400 goats removed from the motu. In the LNI Region there has been 275 goats removed with 78 alone from Palmerston North. Our Napier office is an entry location as well, and we would love to encourage more hunters to get out in the Hawkes Bay.</i></p> <p><i>Our next big event is this weekend 28 &amp; 29th October, where will have a goat competition stand at the Sika Show and have Dariush from Cazador in Auckland doing a goat cooking demonstration on the main stage at the show."</i></p> <p><b>Deer Control</b> – Chris Wooten <a href="mailto:cwooten@doc.govt.nz">cwooten@doc.govt.nz</a>, Wild animal regional advisor to give an update on the work he has been doing towards deer control.</p>
-------	--

**Te Potae trapping** – Te Potae replacement traps bulk lifted into Ruahine Corner by Airforce. First trap check of the year was completed this month.

*Figure 3 - Whio pair in the Ikawatea*



VID-20230908-WA0  
001.mp4

**Weed Control** – Darwins Barberry (Rangi/Kaikawaka and Gwavas)

**Annual Whio survey** – Two Whio surveys happened last year – Ikawatea / Apias with Lisa and Geoff Whittle, Max Smart and dog and Mangatara with Pete Bird, Glen and dog. A big reduction in ducks was observed, especially in the Mangatara catchment.



Northern Ruahine  
Post Cyclone Gabrie

**National Predator Control Programme (NPCP)** – This could happen at anytime. Prefeed will happen and then toxic afterwards. Any questions can be directed to Pete Bird on [pbird@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pbird@doc.govt.nz)  
There were 2 operations scheduled before the Ruahine, Southern Ruapehu and Taranaki. They have now been prefeed and toxic will be happening soon. Then we are next cab off the ranks.

Gordon queried whether bird surveys would be done and whether prey birds would be impacted by the toxin. Lisa advised that Chris Tuffley has been collecting bird data that possibly could be used. DOC Manawatu is not doing surveys relating to this operation, but can share this information from past studies done on prey birds:

**Morepork**

A total of 47 radio tagged Morepork have been radio tagged and tracked through six 1080 operations, none have died from 1080 poisoning.

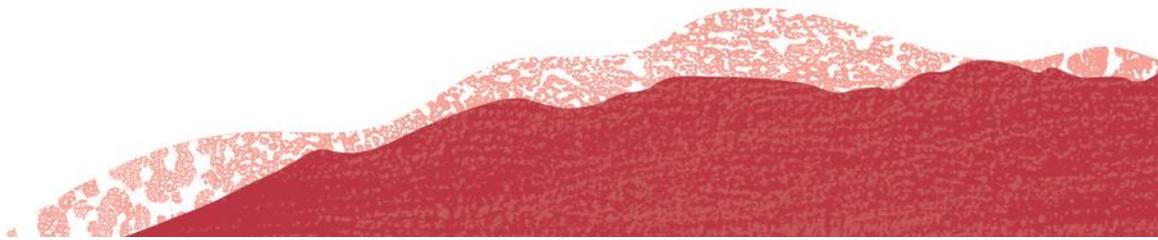
**NZ Falcon**

21 NZ Falcon were monitored through three operations in Kaingaroa Forest in 2013-14, all falcons monitored survived the operations.

During a study in Kaingaroa Forest between 2003 and 2006, productivity data was collected from 87 falcon nests during aerial and hand laid 1080 operations. During the study, the number of falcon pairs increased by 16 pairs.

**Harrier Hawks**

	<p>Harrier have not been monitored at an individual level. The limited amount of monitoring that has been done has seen no decrease at a population level after operations.</p> <p>In conclusion it is possible that there could be a risk to individual birds, but this will have little or no effect at a population level. The reduction of introduced predators should see an increase in nesting success and chick survival, which in turn will see an increase in birds at a population level.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Northern Ruahine Slideshow 2023.ppt:</p> </div>
<p>20:10</p>	<p><b>Access to Forest Park</b></p> <p><b>Masters Shelter</b> – The landowner on the eastern side of the Masters Road has locked the gates as people (the 1%) were not leaving them as they found them and her horses were getting out on the road. Not good when you have race horses. DOC is working through getting a fence built along her paddock with the road, so potentially gates may not even be needed.</p> <p><b>Mokai Access</b> – Public access to the Ruahine Forest Park has been open since Christmas last year. A reminder that the access on to the Otukota hut track only. There is no public access to Iron Bark Hut, anyone caught walking over the farm to Iron Bark will be trespassed. DOC is currently working through the process of getting this access route surveyed and registered against the title. Once this has happened, we will have a maintenance trip to tidy up the marking and erect new signs. Mokai legal team have been approached again to urge them to get some agreement from the landowner to try and get this access sorted by Christmas.</p> <p><b>Mid Poh</b> – Further work needed on this access. Will be picked up after current high priority sites resolved.</p> <p>The RUG Access sub-group continues to work on access issues, further updates will be provided as they come to hand.</p>
<p>20:30</p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>Next meeting will be February 2024.</p> <p>Bill Veale advised that there had been cat sightings at Stanfield hut and Tamaki West.</p>



	Brief discussion on spraying lupin, query on what the advice from technical experts regarding this was.
20:55	<b>Karakia whakamutunga</b>  Ka whakairiia te tapu Ki a watea ai te ara Ki a ruruki whakataha ai Ki a ruruki whakataha ai  Haumi e! Hui e! Taiki e!  Clear the obstacles So the path is clear To return to everyday activities
21:00	Meeting finish

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/481888953257892>

Find us on Facebook @ Ruahine User Group

Join the email discussion list by emailing: Ruahine User Group via rug [rug@tarhc.org.nz](mailto:rug@tarhc.org.nz)

and ask to be added to the email list