

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



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| <b>Date:</b>      | 19/02/2024   | <b>Chair:</b>        | Dave Middleditch (DOC) |
| <b>Time:</b>      | 19:00-21:00  | <b>Minute taker:</b> | Dan Tuohy (DOC)        |
| <b>Venue:</b>     | Dannevirke NZDA & Teams Meeting  |                      |                        |
| <b>Attendees:</b> | Janet W, Dave M, Aaron Trow, Vince Payne, Bill Veale, Lisa Whittle, Ian P, Dave Middleditch, Dan Tuohy |                      |                        |
| <b>Apologies:</b> | Marcus Steeneken, Demelza Low  |                      |                        |

## Actions from the meeting

- DOC to organise a chat with the iwi involved to create a maintenance regime.
- Dave M to ensure they get a shout out on social media, etc.
- Chris W to send out document he wanted to share to Dan for sending out the group.
- Megan and Mike C to catch up over the phone.
- Dan to extend an invite to Alice.

## Agenda

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

19:00 | Welcome, Karakia, Introductions & Apologies

### Karakia

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 manawatīti

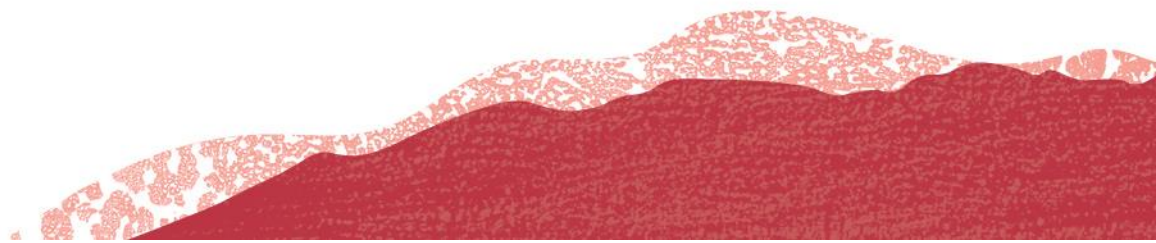
Ki ngā mahi katoa

Draw strength from above

Draw strength from below

Let the knowledge and understanding of our predecessors wash over us

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So, we may Follow their spirit of perserverance and apply it to our work today  
Acheiving great things

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### **Community updates**

**PNTMC** – Working with DOC to look at a woodburner into Mid Poh hut – early March. DOC to provide woodburner, BCT helping - **Completed**

**RWP** – Been 3 Te Potae trap checks this year, some traps replaced after Cyclone Gab. Seen 3 lots of ducklings in Poh river, traps are all good

Dave M - Made contact with whio group who help with trapline up Apiti track and Awatea to give them a hand.

Kumeti road end needs a lot of TLC – long grass, broken glass. Work with local iwi to find a solution to the problem. – **Action for DOC to organise a chat with the iwi involved to create a maintenance regime.**

**Mauri Oho** – In December they dumped a load of traps at Taruarau area / No Mans and Ikawatea area. 5 trips into that area for maintenance. Elly has been in and done a 6-day trip into Ruahine corner maintaining traps. Planning to get into the Upper Makaroro A24 line to maintain those traps. Sighted 1 whio in the Apias, maybe they have gone into early moult or into the side streams. Kiwi prints seen at Ruahine Corner. Kiwi calls at Hinerua from adjoining landowners. MO team been working on flood relief for the Hawkes Bay flood relief.

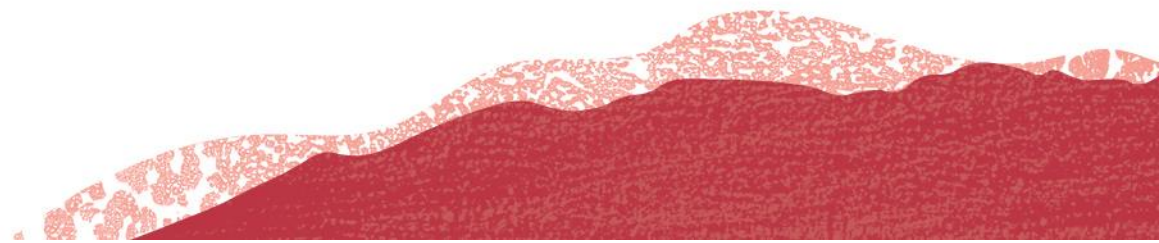
**MTSC - John Beech** – Need to finish off a few jobs Gold creek Hut. FMC offered to find some helpers for this maintenance. John has a few DOE people.

**FMC / BCT** – Replaced roof and other bits and pieces at Triangle hut. Awatere hut have had a new roof, woodshed, etc. Dave Eaton has worked with DOC at Smiths stream hut and track work. Worked with roofing companies for roofing supplies. **Action for Dave to ensure they get a shout out on social media, etc.**

Leon Kinvig – cut the site but hut could not be positioned on that site, so a new site needs to be located. Working with DOC to look at new site and for the big helicopter. Moved Comet hut to its new home in the Kaweka. New site will be announced in a couple of weeks.

May be some issues with the EPRO aerial op in Southern Kaweka.

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Had a meeting with Minsters about access they both mentioned Ruahine access. Hopefully this means more support for the local DOC office

Lisa mentioned that Ngaire has maintained the road over her property. Raniera from Mauri Oho to handle the initial conversations.

**Julia – (Waipawa Forks Hut)**, DOC have dropped the materials in last weekend and Julia is taking some DOE students into do the maintenance. Planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> of March for an overnight. FMC will be funding mileage.

**John M (Howletts Hut)** – Thanked for ash buckets for their huts. Planning to get them to Howletts hut. Heat detector in at Howletts. Dug out the perimeter of Howletts hut. Window at western end will be replaced with aluminum one. Waikamaka hut roof has significant rust, may need to be replaced at some stage.

**Peter Daly (Kawhatau Base)** – Fair bit of people walking up the river to the hut. The track down to the river off Rangitane road is being used. Needs some big orange triangles at river end and at the track by the cable way. Talk to Clint about wasp control up the Kawhatau.

**Elly (Ruahine Trampler/Trapper)** – Sent notes through to Demelza about what she has been up to. Looks like a bit of traffic to Aranga Hut. Looking at moving the current Kelly knight track to the river. Completed some track work down centre creek, very steep and loose in places.

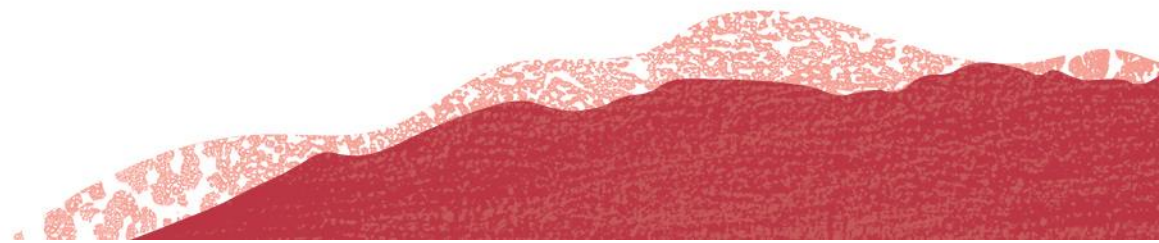
**Rob B (BCT)** – Its good to see where the park is now in terms of H&V and Bio work. BCT funding is tight but we do what we can.

**Chris Wootten – (Wild Animal Management team)**, looking at the forest park for deer management. They are funding the surveying and marking of the Makaretu easement. Working on connecting NZDA about what connections they have with other deerstalkers. Looking at managed huts. Looking at landing sites to fly into. 5 sites have been identified. Managed hunts are about connecting the hunting groups. Rob B talked about what is happening down south. Suggested we talk to Rob Witherspoon. Mike Ch suggested using the Thar ballot.

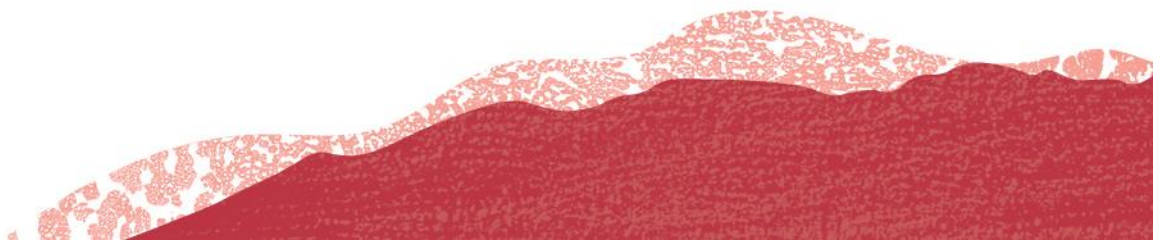
Action for Chris to send out document he wanted to share to Dan for sending out the group.

Teir 1 ungulate monitoring has been completed and shows a change for the Ruahine. Action for Chris to put the link into the chat and send to Dan for

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|  | <p>circulating to group, Dan will attach to the minutes when they are circulated.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>DOC Heritage &amp; Visitor update</b></p> <p><b>a. Recent work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunrise hut – Replaced the water tanks with 2x new larger tanks, as the hut ran out of water each summer. Pumped out hut toilets.<br/>Reminder: Sunrise hut is back on the booking system as Wakarara Road has been reopened to the public. Note that weight limits apply to temporary bridge. And access is via Makaroro Road.</li> <li>• We welcome a new volunteer hut warden, Peter Davies. Peter works alongside our other volunteer hut warden, Brett Gillies, to regularly do maintenance work at the Sunrise, Longview and Rangiwahia huts.</li> <li>• Longview tk – Recut track.</li> <li>• Top Maropea hut – general maintenance, recut track from hut to river, installed meatsafe.</li> <li>• Cattle Creek hut – replaced skylights, painted, polyurethaned floors, repaired woodburner, cleared windfall trees, rerouted track around small slip near river.</li> <li>• Waipawa Forks tk – Rerouted track around slips.</li> <li>• Ikawatea Forks hut – general maintenance (painted toilet, replaced broken window frame, installed chimney cap, installed steal fire shroud, re-cemented hearth etc.) Recut track to Apias stream.</li> <li>• Te Ekaou hut – limb hanging hut removed.</li> <li>• Waipawa Forks hut – flew in paint and supplies to Waipawa Forks hut for a volunteer/DOE group to paint etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Cyclone updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Leon Kinvig hut</u>. Geotech reports completed. DOC has funded BCT to relocate hut. DOC and BCT working to move hut asap.<br/><b>Update: Initial site unsuitable. Working to finalize alternative site.</b></li> <li>• <u>Iron Gate track</u> – closed due to Cyclone damage. New routes found and flagged.<br/><b>Update: Pending weather window.</b></li> <li>• <u>No Mans Road</u> – closed due to Cyclone damage. DOC have done a drive over with a contractor to obtain cost. Funding has been applied for.<br/><b>Update: pending final outcome of funding.</b></li> <li>• <u>Smiths Stream/Hinerua tk</u> – BCT flagged new route some time ago. Mixed DOC/volunteer team to do work at Smiths Stream hut, Hinerua hut and the track work.<br/><b>Update: Pending weather window and availability.</b></li> <li>• <u>Yeomans tk</u> – nearly all bridges have gone or been completely upended. Damaged bridges to be reopened and track can then be reopened.</li> </ul> |

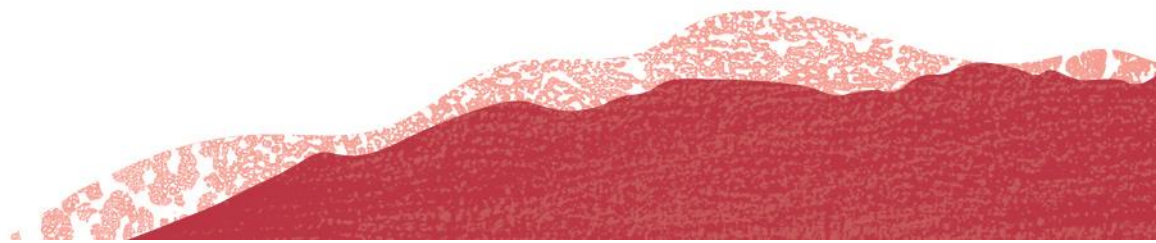


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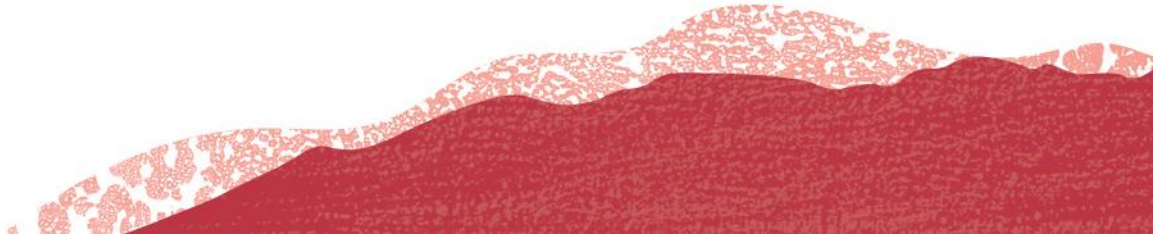
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|  | <p><b>Update: Working with army who may remove the damaged bridges, pending confirmation of their availability.</b></p> <p><b>From Lisa W - Mauri Oho may be able to help with this as they have traps in the vicinity.</b></p> <p><b>Track still usable for bikes</b></p> <p><b>c. Updates</b></p> <p>FENZ new requirement:<br/>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).<br/><b>Currently on hold.</b></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.<br/><b>No update.</b></p> <p><b>e. Aranga hut</b></p> <p>Suggestion made that a toilet at the hut site would be helpful for those camping there, as an interim measure.<br/><b>No update.</b></p> |
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| 19:40 | <p><b>DOC Biodiversity Update</b></p> <p>No Mans Contorta – ground control completed around the Ruahine hut / No Mans Road area. Aerial contract started for the Taruarau faces.</p> <p>Goat Control – Southern Ruahine (Forest Park and private land) 135 kills so far, Rangitikei Reserves 77 kills</p> <p>Deer Management – Chris from the Wild Animal team working on this</p> <p>Northern Ruahine 1080 Operation – Looking at doing this operation in April and May. Only prefeed will be laid in April, NO TOXIN. This will be planned for May. Comms to come out to all permit holders.</p> |
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| 20:10 | <p><b>Access to Forest Park Update</b></p> <p><b><u>Priority 1 - Mokai Access</u></b> – Still waiting for Mokai station to respond through the lawyers about next steps</p> <p><b><u>Priority 2 - Makaretu Access</u></b> – Planning to peg and mark this easement towards the end of March. Signage will be erected to instruct people to stick to the marked route.</p> <p><b><u>Priority 3 - Mid Poh Access</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Priority 4 - Kawhatau Access</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Priority 5 - Kelly Knight Access</u></b></p>   |
| 20:30 | <p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>Mike C – Kiritaki hut when it is going ahead. Is it the airforce? Harry Mcdonald and Hawkes Bay crew. Work commitments before he can do the work. Hopefully within the next week. Will the Sea Mac sign remain after the repairs. DOC has asked to keep the cupboard and the sign.</p> <p>Action - Megan and Mike C to catch up over the phone.</p> <p>Next meeting will be <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the DOC office in Palmerston North</b>. A Teams link will be available for those who want to join remotely. Lets see if we can get a really good turn out for this one as the new Lower North Island Director, Alice Heather is coming along.</p> <p>Action for Dan to extend an invite to Alice.</p> |



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| 20:55 | <p><b>Karakia whakamutunga</b></p> <p>Ka whakairiia te tapu<br/>Ki a watea ai te ara<br/>Ki a ruruki whakataha ai<br/>Ki a ruruki whakataha ai</p> <p>Haumi e! Hui e! Taiki e!</p> <p>Clear the obstacles<br/>So the path is clear<br/>To return to everyday activities</p> |
| 21:00 | Meeting finish  |

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

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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

