Agenda: Ruahine User's Group Meeting (RUG)

Figure 1 - Tim and Beth and the new picnic table on Tawa Loop Te Apiti

Date:	5th October 2026	**Chair:**	Dave Middleditch
Time:	18:30-20:30	**Minute taker:**	Dan Tuohy
Venue:	NZDA Clubrooms, Dannevirke		
Teams Link:	**Join the meeting now**		
Attendees:	**In Person** - Dan T and Dave M (DOC), Ian P (Manawatu Deerstalkers), Gordon K, Gary T, Mike C, Sim (Dannevirke Deerstalkers), Janet W (PNTMC / RWP), Steve B (Kelly Knight) **Online** – Chris W (WAM), Julia Mackie, Megan D (for 5 mins)		
Apologies:	Rod Smilie		

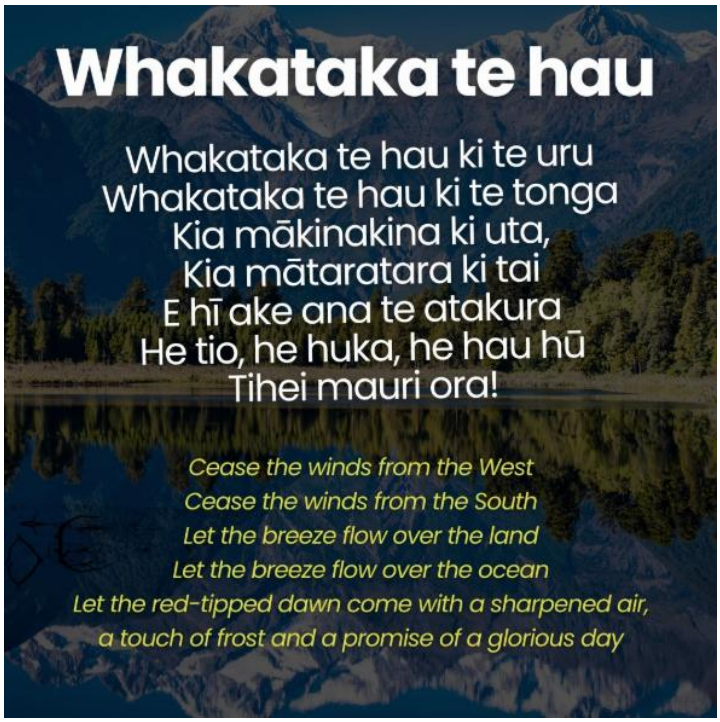
Actions from this meeting

- Ian P to send some photos to Dan of their club's work on the deck of Forks Hut
- Janet to talk to Megan about the work planned for the Takapari road to Pohangina river track.

Follow up Actions:

- Action - Local NZDA branches to discuss and decide if they want to put forward people to be on DAG instead of national NZDA reps. 2 in person meetings + 4 online catch ups. Gordon K has the support of the Dannevirke Deerstalkers to represent them on the Deer Advisory group (DAG), Chris to check with Mike P. The Manawatu Deerstalkers also put forward a name with Gwynn Thurlow. Chris to make contact with these new people to get them onto the DAG.

- Action - Look at attending catchment care group meetings on eastern side (eg Tukituki). – The current focus has been attending the catchment group meetings on the western side of the range. We are using these meetings as a trial on how well they are populated and the feedback we get back from its members. The catchments groups around Pohangina are looking into a hunting competition that focuses on hinds and a drone survey of private land.

18:30	**Welcome, Karakia, Introductions & Apologies** 

18:40	**Community Group Update** • Manawatu Deerstalkers – Ian P – They replaced the deck at Forks Hut (Action – Send photos to Dan dtuohy@doc.govt.nz). The access is still by way of phone call to the adjoining farmer but is currently closed for lambing. • PNTMC – Janet W – Hut agreements have reached their 5-year milestone. Working with Kelly at DOC to get these renewed for Mid Poh and Ngamoko huts. • RWP – Janet W – First Te Potae trap check planned for October, there has been lots of Whio sighted in the park and Whio calendars are for sale again, $20 each • BCT – Dave M – There is lots of work planned in the Ruahine this year by the BCT. Waikamaka, Crow, McKinnon and Makaretu huts are all getting some work done to them. BCT are looking at investing over 270k this year in the park. Some work is to be done on various tracks; The Apiti – Longview track, Takapari to Pohangina track (Action – Janet to discuss this track with Megan), Stanfield to Takapari Road track. Hapi Daze hut will also be replaced with the aid of BCT and community groups like Manaaki Ruahine. The BCT did a renovation on Sparrowhawk Biv and are not happy with it will be rebuilt. The RUG has asked for more input into what the BCT maintains – how can we ensure that they can input into the list of BCT work for the Ruahine Gordon asked what would actually get done for 20k on tracks, what is the hourly rate these days for track maintenance ($1000/km?) • **Southern Ruahine Kiwi** – Janet W – A quick update about the deployment of some cameras around their pest control area, Robert Gibb will know more - ruahinekiwi@source2sea.org.nz • **Herataunga Tramping Club –** Julia M – Helped with the trapline from Parks Peak hut and track looks good for the moment.
19:00	**DOC Biodiversity Update** • New fence along the Pettersons road easement to the Alice Nash / Oroua track • New rangers (Pania and Gavin) getting into catching monkeys and filling bait stations in Te Apiti

19:20	**DOC Heritage & Visitor update** • Te Apiti branded signage at Ashhurst end, new furniture and carvings back on the Waharoa. • The NZDF came out and did some track maintenance with us on the Deerford Loop • Completed the finishing touches on the TripleX hut renovation. **Upcoming work** • Barlow hut re roof and Rangiwahia grey water system upgrade
19:40	**Ruahine Deer Management** • All information relating to the Ruahine Deer Management can be found on the DOC website - Wild deer management in Ruahine Forest Park: Managing introduced wild animals • One question that was asked by the group is, how many deer get shot by recreational hunters? • There were suggestions of getting hunters to keep track of what they kill and see • Chris gave an online presentation of what happened last year and what is planned for this year. Any questions, please email Chris Wootten on cwoottem@doc.govt.nz 2025-26 Annual Report Ruahine Dee Ruahine Deer Operational Plan 20
	Public Access to Forest Park **Current Priority Sites** • **Makaretu River** – access to Hapi Daze. – Currently closed for lambing until 1st November and then the trial will continue. Main issues from landowners are around users not sticking to the rules, walking off the route and hunting on private land. DOC has approached members of the Dannevirke Deerstalkers to ask for suggestions on how we can apply peer pressure to people who break the access rules and potentially ruin it for everyone • **Mokai Road End** – DOC has replied to FMC over the easement vs ULR decision. The final obstruction on the ULR has been removed and replaced with a stile. So, DOC will now begin the process of surrendering the

	easement and working with the landowner and other parties to make the ULR easy to stick to. • **Mid Pohangina access** - Gorge section surveyed, and it was determined that if people stay in the river, access is good but in this section it might be quite hard to keep people in the river • **Kelly Knight / Purity Access** – Landowner wants a generic email address for enquiries for Purity Access and DOC are keen to approach the new owner of Kohunui farm to talk about an access route up the northern boundary to avoid the landlocked trust block • **Kawhatau Access** - No progress yet as the Mokai access was the priority before this one

	Future meetings for 2027 • 6.30pm – 8.30pm Monday 8th February 2027 – Palmerston North DOC office (with Teams option) • 6.30pm – 8.30pm Monday 7th June 2027 – NZDA Dannevirke (with Teams option) • 6:30pm – 8:30pm Monday 11th October 2027 - NZDA Dannevirke (with Teams option)

	Karakia whakamutunga 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
20:30	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

and ask to be added to the email list

Figure 2 - New Look branded signs at the Ashhurst end of Te Apiti

Figure 3 - Easement fence at Peterson road, Alice Nash track start

Figure 4 - New seats and table maintenance in Te Apiti

Figure 5 - reinstalling the carvings

Figure 6 - Catching monkeys and baiting in Te Apiti

Figure 7 - Working with the NZDF