

ARAC NEWS



The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc

Issue 6, November 2014

Plenty of updates in this issue.....

Akatarawa Forest

Trip Leader Assessments

The resits for those Akatarawa Trip Leaders caught out by the rigour of the previous held during April and May. This years' assessments were significantly more stringent than previously at the behest of GW.

We were very glad to see that all but one candidate succeeded in achieving Trip Leader status at the resit – well done all.

Under agreement with GW, every Akatarawa Trip Leader will be expected to re-qualify every 3 years. This means that the next set of Assessments will be held sometime during first-quarter 2017. Again it is planned to hold 2 sessions one month apart, with a resit 6 months later.

Orange Hut Progress

We have discovered that the roof to the new barbeque is so large as to warrant a building consent. The actual barbeque and its surround do not.

Plans for the roof have been submitted to Upper Hutt City Council for approval, but have so far been rejected in that we need an engineer's report to support the planning application. A local engineer has therefore been approached, and is in the process of getting all the calculations completed and the plans formally registered with UHCC.

Given that even then, it may be well after Christmas before the plans are approved, we intend to carry on with building the barbeque and leave the roof to be completed as and when building consent is obtained.

Work will begin on the drainage work for the car park shortly, and the water supply across to the hut will likely be installed at the same time.

Watch for calls for working-bees over the next few months as various stages of the barbeque building works are undertaken.

Monitor progress at <http://arac.org.nz/index.php/orange-hut-project/> - you can also sign up as a volunteer via this link.

Devil's Staircase

Negotiations are underway for reparation to the Staircase. For those who don't know, the track at the bottom leading to Martin's Creek and the Rock garden is severely eroded and in danger of being washed away altogether. Even quads could have difficulty at present.

GW are investigating the possibility of taking machinery down to the bottom to deal with a more permanent repair. In doing so, the top few bogs en route will be drained and filled.

The Ruts

The Ruts are at the point of being impassable at the Orange Hut end, but fiscal constraints on GW mean that this popular track cannot see major repair work in the immediate future.

Nonetheless, a digger has gone in to even up the entry so that access for Club working-bees is much easier. But this is the extent that GW will be going to this fiscal season!



Remember those impassable Bogs ?

All users are requested to keep out of the area until Christmas to allow the track to settle, and a working bee to add some metal in much-needed places.

Rimu Road

Finally – after over 10 years of requests and promises, the picnic area at the bottom of Rimu Road has been scraped clear ready for seeding.

Thanks to all the many Clubs who responded favourably to GW's survey about the viability of this work.

Given that we want to get this seeded asap, and that the area is still strewn with lots of rocks, we will call an urgent working-bee for volunteers to bring rakes etc to help get this looking like a pristine camping site before Christmas.



Rimu Road Picnic Area

Odlins Road and Waiotauru Valley

The biggest item concerning Waiotauru Valley at present is the hut itself.

DOC have agreed in principle to ARAC taking over the maintenance of the existing hut, with a view to replacing it with a new structure in the not too distant future.

ARAC is a member of the Tararua Aorangi Rimu Huts Committee (TARH), who have some funds available for us to bid for. Hopefully we can obtain sufficient funding from TARH – with perhaps top-ups if needed from local Clubs etc. to get the job done.

Again working-bees will be needed at various stages as the project progresses – watch this space for details.

A more detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will have to be entered into for both the Hut and the Track down to it. We expect to become owners of the Hut, with DOC as landlords at a peppercorn rent.

Wellington South Coast

The South Coast is surviving well, although damage is reported beyond Windy Bay.

A clean-up was undertaken mid-November and thanks to all who participated. Thanks especially to Barry Insull for organising the whole event – including the trip beforehand

Aorangi – aka Sutherlands

Work has been undertaken on the Hurupi side – especially the clay climb out of the Stream itself. In addition a working-bee combined with Trip Leader training was undertaken mid-November.

Favourable reports of both the state of the track and the quality of the new Trip Leaders have been received. Although offered, apparently there were no takers to stay overnight at Sutherland's Hut

Any Other News?

Anything we need to know about? Anything you want to know about? Email info@arac.org.nz