

ARAC NEWS



The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc

Issue 8, May 2015

Plenty of updates in this issue.....

Annual General Meeting – Formal Notice

It's that time of year again, when ARAC holds its AGM

This year, as well as the more usual mundane issues, we will be voting on an updated Constitution (see below for details)

In addition, progress updates on The Orange Hut Barbeque and Waiotauru Hut will be given.

Delegates need to be advised to the Secretary prior to the meeting

AGM will be held at 7:30pm, Thursday 21st May 2015 in The Upper Hutt Darts Club, Awa Kairangi Park, Totara Park Road, Upper Hutt (Opposite the logging road)

Charitable Status

It's taken since February last year, in a long-winded exchange of letters and e-mails to finally get to the point where ARAC can register as a Charity.

The benefits we expect from this will be easier access to funding from such things as Community Funds, Lotteries and Pub Charities – as well as getting tax breaks.

We had to await a Supreme Court decision instigated by Greenpeace against the Charities Service to deny them Charitable Status due to their political activities – ARAC was viewed in the same light as having significant political activities so was similarly refused registration at first.

Fortunately for both ARAC and Greenpeace, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal and so cleared the way for ARAC to now become a charity.

Even so, we need to make changes to our constitution to be squeaky clean – we will vote on adopting this at the AGM, but in the meantime, you can view the proposed version at

<http://arac.org.nz/index.php/assets/Downloads/ARAC-Constitution-Proposed-Charitable-Status-v2-April-2015.pdf> - or just visit the ARAC website and the link is on the Home Page.

From the Divisions:-

Akatarawa Forest

New Logging Frequency

P F Olsen have decided to change the frequency their logging fleet operates on. This probably only affects a few, and even then only on the rare weekends logging trucks are operating. If you need the frequencies, contact ARAC or GW for details

Trip Leader Assessments – reproduced from last issue

Part instigated by issues like the above, and part by the desire to raise Forestry's game-plan, there are some new rules coming our way.

Just when you thought all was now done and dusted, new criteria for all our Trip Leaders has been called for from P F Olsen, the agents for the logging operations in all of the Akatarawa plantation forests.

It is now a requirement that all Trip Leaders attend a Health & Safety briefing. Two discrete dates will be set aside – after that any Trip Leaders who does not attend one or the other will no longer be able to run trips – irrespective of their passing all other current requirements.

Sorry, but this is the best outcome ARAC has been able to obtain to keep our access into and through plantation forestry open to us.

Orange Hut Progress

Many will have seen significant changes already.

Drainage has been laid in the carpark – the full benefit of which will not be felt until we spread much more base metal around the place.

The water supply has been laid across the carpark, and a new (well very old



recycled) double sink installed. Please note this is the same supply as at the loo, so is not really drinkable quality.

Footings for the Barbeque have been dug and a basic concrete pour completed.

A very successful working bee was held the other week – with a magnificent turn-out despite the opposition of the weather gods!!!



The group succeeded in breaking up the remnants of the rather poor-quality concrete pad in front of the Hut ready for us to pour a single slab covering the whole area from the Hut to Barbeque.

Who knows? By the time you read this Newsletter, the new

pad may have already been poured!

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

This season's work has been completed on the Devil's Staircase – but only to the creek. No reparation has been done to the Rock Garden, so will remain almost impossible for all but the most ardent 4WD to use as a through route.

The Staircase is now officially closed until Labour Weekend, so we do ask all Members to refrain from digging up the very soft surface until it has had chance to settle..



Recognise this??

The Ruts

The Ruts are continuing their recovery.

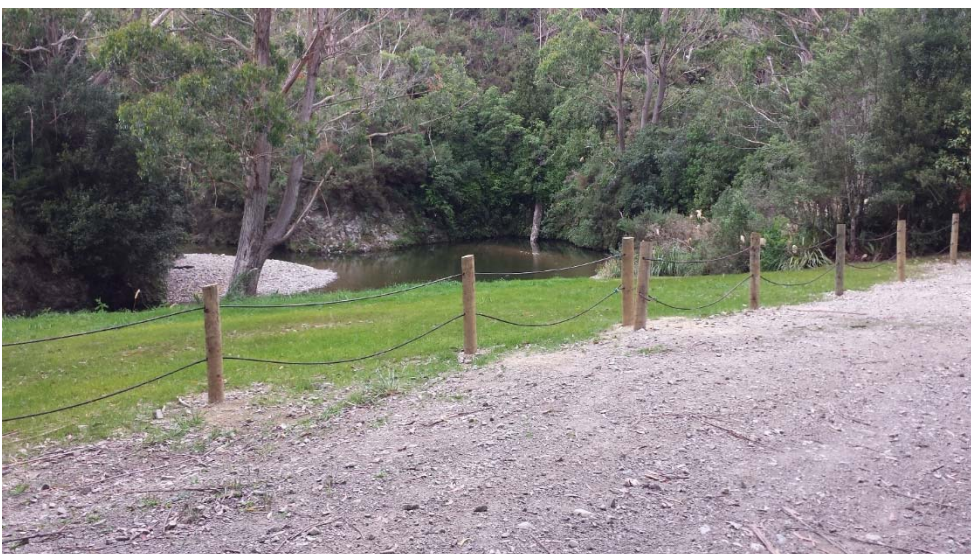
Nonetheless, please exercise restraint when passing over the Eastern End until it has a chance to heal completely



Remember those impassable Bogs?

Rimu Road

Probably unrecognisable now, the new camping ground / picnic area at the bottom of Rimu is settling down nicely.



Rimu Road Picnic/Camping Area 1

In a second incident, someone stole the wire rope in the left-hand string shown here? Go Figure!

The old roof from the existing Orange Hut Barbeque is to be recycled and placed here – you may see it lying by the side of the road! Later as time permits other furniture will be added – but only after the new Orange Hut barbeque is completed.

Odlin's 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 Rimutaka Huts Committee (TARH), who have some funds available. We have been successful in obtaining \$6,000 from TARH.

A further \$1,000 has been offered by the NZFWDA Central Zone – with the possibility of more as ideas firm up.

Our application to FMC for access to the Back-Country contestable fund has been declined – at least for now, pending our signing the formal agreement with DOC. Watch this space for updates

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. ARAC is still waiting for DOC to come up with the MoU – we are in their hands on the matter.

Wellington South Coast

From Barry Insull on 15 April:-

*The access road to Red Rocks and beyond has taken another hit.
Visited around 4.00 pm today (just after high tide). Waves running right up to the toe of the slope just beyond first lot of baches. Exiting the beach may pose problems for a couple of days.
Unable to drive further due to height of waves.*

Wellington City Council staff are likely to implement measures to better protect the Banded Dotterel nesting sites in their region. Please adhere to signage should anything be put in place.

Speed of some users continues to be a problem. Remember the actions of a few can tarnish the standing of a wider group.

Also as a reminder, this is a legal road and as such only registered and warranted vehicles should be used. The local police have been known to operate checkpoints on occasion.

Aorangi – aka Sutherlands

Nothing new to report in this issue. The track is currently in excellent shape.

Manawatu

DOC are preparing a discussion document regarding Takapari Road and the A-Frame Hut

When the final consultation document is available, we will forward to all our Members

Any Other News?

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