

ARAC NEWS



The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc

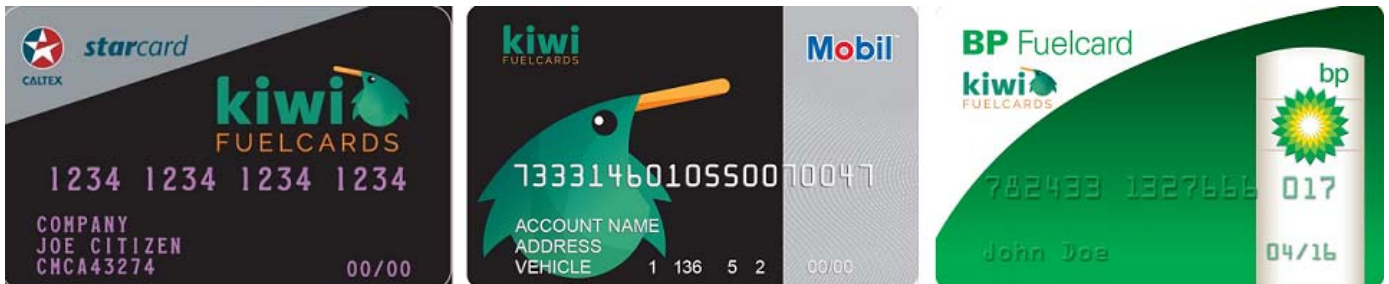
Issue 15, August 2019

ARAC Announces a Great Offer to Members

We have negotiated a new fuelcard arrangement available to all our Members.

Visit the website at <https://arac.org.nz/arac-fuelcard/> for full details of the offer.

Certainly if you use diesel, this opens up access to Truckstops nationwide where diesel can be up to 25 or even 30 cents cheaper than service stations.



Over and above that, we have negotiated additional discounts specifically for ARAC members.

MOBIL (Based on Pump Pricing)

Diesel and Petrol at service stations and truckstops -	10 cents per litre
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CALTEX (Based on Pump Pricing)

Diesel at truckstops -	7 cents per litre
Diesel & Petrol at service stations -	4.5 cents per litre

BP (Based on NATIONAL Pricing)

Diesel at truckstops -	4 cents per litre
Diesel & Petrol at service stations -	8 cents per litre

(Please note there is a transaction fee of .005cpl for Caltex and BP only)

Caltex truckstop diesel is already about 25-30c cheaper than service stations (Old Hutt Road is currently \$1.269 – 1st August 2019) and take a further 6.5c off (after transaction fee) makes it quite attractive (at \$1.204 Old Hutt Road) – how much are you paying now even with discounts here and there?

There is a one off \$10 account opening fee that everyone pays however the usual \$6 card fees are waived for ARAC members.

Visit the website at <https://arac.org.nz/arac-fuelcard/> to read the full details and download the application form. Whilst the form may look complex, it is well worth the effort to print, complete and return. The savings can be quite large.

New Website

After a great deal of effort, we have a brand spanking new website. The address remains the same at <https://arac.org.nz/> but with a new look and feel.

We hope you enjoy the experience.

All the old information is there, together with a few new features. If you do find any problems, or have suggestions for improvement, do let us know at info@arac.org.nz or visit the Contact Us page at <https://arac.org.nz/contact-us/>

Akatarawa Forest

The Forest remains in good condition.

Working bees are planned at the bottom of the Rock Garden to reopen it to 4WD traffic. Although reopened a few years ago with GW funding a round of explosives, it has since seen slippage block the road again. This time work will be mostly manual with some hand-held machinery.



The Rock Garden

One of the usual unexpected hazards to be encountered in the forest are fallen trees, this on the short track at the bottom of Hydro Road between the Orange Hut and the Concrete Ford.



A tree blocking the very bottom of Hydro Road

Other works have taken place to improve the dam supplying the water to the Orange Hut and its sink and toilet.



A waterproof membrane to the dam

GW are still in the process of reviewing the Parks Network Plan (PNP) and you can monitor its progress and get involved in this consultation process here <http://www.gw.govt.nz/parks-network-plan/>

Odlin's Road and Waioatauru Valley

The hut rebuild is now complete and final sign-off by KCDC has been expected for some time. Following that, DOC will visit and give their sign-off as well.

Painting and other improvements about the place will take place when the weather is suitable.



Wellington South Coast

Wellington City Council's Outer Green Belt Management Plan Hearing Sub Committee will be considering an interim report from officers on Thursday 8th August. Barry Insull will be there as our eyes and ears.

Minor digger work occurred in mid-July to "ease" a potentially hazardous spot from a Health and Safety perspective.

Local Club CCVC are involved in a couple of projects around there, with a commitment to Capital Kiwi (details at <https://www.capitalkiwi.co.nz/>) and part of its trapping program. As Barry put it the club sees this as an extension of their "Public Good" work they have been undertaking over a good number of years.

Since late April they have trapped 22 stoats, close to 30 rats and reasonable number of hedgehogs. The work is being undertaken to support the vision of releasing Kiwi into the area. A video of the team establishing the traps can be found on the Capital Kiwi Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=378692762733509>

CCVC also regularly assist Wellington City Council with plantings around the South Coast adding some 400 odd trees and shrubs in the ground recently as part of their revegetation project.



CCVC Planting 3 August 2019

Aaorangi – aka Sutherlands

A lot of maintenance work was done on both ends of the track, and the track remains in the best state many of us can remember.

We still wish to prevent unnecessary damage to the track, so use after extreme weather will be prohibited for the foreseeable future.

Quote from Rod: “Sutherlands is open the track is good but a bit scratchy on the tops”

The Management agreement that ARAC negotiated with DOC over a decade ago is long past its use-by date and negotiations will start on a more modern MoU to cover not only the road but the hut as well.

Manawatu

A small group met with DOC in Palmerston North recently to discuss options for Takapari Road and the A-Frame Hut.



A-Frame Hut Under Discussion

Shaun Ruddle, the senior ranger, was very receptive to the group’s suggestions and further dialogue is expected over the coming months.

Meanwhile the future of the A-Frame looks pretty assured.

Any Other News?

Anything we need to know about? Anything you want to know about? E-mail info@arac.org.nz