



**BACKCOUNTRY TRUST**  
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage



# 2018-19 PERFORMANCE REPORT





*It gives me great pleasure to present The Backcountry Trust's first Annual Performance Report to all. We are delighted to report on an extremely successful year of "delivering the goods in the backcountry" and hope you will find our report enlightening and satisfying.*



The Backcountry Trust brings together the combined resources of Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC), New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA), Trail Fund and the Department of Conservation (DOC).

2018-2019 has been a much more agreeable year to our volunteers in terms of getting work done throughout the county with much more cooperative weather and determination to get out there and get it done. Through that determined effort we continue to track towards exceeding the initial goals of 200 huts maintained, along with 850km of track created or maintained and 1693 volunteers contributing 44,000 hours of labour. You will find further detail in this report that demonstrates the value of funding work volunteers do maintaining and enhancing everyone's backcountry experiences. They are impressive statistics and the Board and our Manager are very pleased with the outcomes being delivered.

This past year three rounds of funding applications have been processed and that has resulted in 48 projects being approved to a value of \$411,000 excluding GST. Twenty eight of those projects are hut projects with the remainder being track oriented work. There is a momentum of work that is being undertaken and there is clearly potential for further expansion of operations utilising our volunteers enthusiasm and commitment for taking care of the spaces they recreate in.

2019 is a watershed year for the Backcountry Trust as we reach the end of our funding allocation from the Community Conservation Partnership Fund. Since the creation of the Outdoor Recreation Consortium our projects have been funded through this mechanism. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all those responsible for negotiating, securing and providing funds that have seen our volunteers restore and maintain so many facilities and tracks through tens of thousands of hours of work donated to the nation and in particular those who visit our backcountry.

To enable our ongoing work, additional new funding has been secured directly from DOC for the Trust's charitable work to continue growing and expanding more fully into areas of the country that we have not yet touched. We will be further engaging with community to seek suitable groups of volunteers to grow our work portfolio and begin to address some of the issues around facility location and the state of repair in areas we have not yet reached.

Our work with DOC requires an open dialogue that can at times be challenging to both parties, and while we may differ in our approach to things we are together achieving outcomes the New Zealand public approve of, and receive with appreciation. We continue to work with the Department to streamline processes and enable our volunteers to work in the



Carkeek Hut had further maintenance from the exNZFS volunteers.



The Horse Trails South Trust volunteers outside Slaty Hut, West Coast on the Amuri Pass Pack Track project.

manner they wish to while ensuring obligations under legislation are respected. At all levels of DOC we sincerely appreciate the commitment to our purpose and thank those who help us get things done.

We also wish to thank those who have contributed financially through our 'givealittle' initiatives and those who have donated directly for a specific facility or facilities in general. While not all can contribute directly completing work in the field, the provision of donations allows others to fill that role and we welcome others who may wish to contribute also.

Our Annual Meeting this year will see our founding member from NZDA, Bill O'Leary, stepping down from the Board and we would all like to acknowledge Bill's contribution to enabling this project and wish him well in future endeavours. We will welcome Dave Keen onto the Board as the nominated representative from NZDA. Dave brings with him a career of building activity and a passion for time in the mountains, as well as considerable experience undertaking volunteer restorations of huts in alpine areas.

BCT Manager Rob Brown has worked extremely hard to manage both volunteers and their projects this year. The demands on his time continue to increase so an additional Administrator is being engaged to ensure Rob can continue to contribute in the most effective manner enabling, encouraging and assisting volunteers across the country.

Exciting new initiatives are being developed for the coming year with joint projects being negotiated in Marlborough, and BCT initiated and led hut rebuild projects being planned in the Ruahine Ranges to introduce new volunteers to the tasks required to

maintain some of our rarest hut stock, the crawl-in bivouacs colloquially referred to as "dog boxes".

Our Board operates efficiently and effectively across all of our governance roles. Those also involved in volunteer work continue to put in the hard yards in the field, while others contribute through their parent organisations or professional roles to assist us with financial, legal and regulatory support. Our treasurer Guy Wyn-Williams continues to deal with the ongoing financial transactions, planning and systems work that he excels at and is invaluable to the organisation. Likewise, Nessa Lynch's purposeful advice and guidance across negotiations must be recognised while Peter Wilson and Geoff Spearpoint continue to contribute strongly across many fields of interest, always adding additional dimensions of value we are grateful for.

We continue to be amazed by the community support and buy-in to the operations we engage in. The recent, and ongoing, Facebook "Name the Hut" post that Rob started resulted in our administrators being overloaded and our group membership going from under 3000 to 6800 members in a bit over a month. The power of engagement social media can create is something we have a greater appreciation for now. I am sure we will utilise it as a tool to engage further with another generation of volunteers who are just as interested in their heritage and being involved with our lands, but come across their information in another manner.

*Craig Benbow*  
*Chairperson, Backcountry Trust*

Mike Lagan and friends after the rebuild of Stoney Creek Hut, Shotover River.



# Financial Performance

Backcountry Trust (Aotearoa | NewZealand)

For the year ended 31 May 2019

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
<b>Income - DOC Funded Projects</b>		
DOC CCPF Funding	455,000.00	505,326.09
From NZDA	-	47,617.69
From Trail Fund	-	71,755.47
DOC Previous Years Funds b/fwd	-	117,326.13
<b>Total Income - DOC Funded Projects</b>	<b>455,000.00</b>	<b>742,025.38</b>
<b>Costs - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects</b>		
Round 1 (2014-15)	-	8,715.00
Round 3 (2015-16)	-	28,419.54
Round 4 (2016-17)	15,627.48	5,566.21
Round 5 (2016-17)	32,505.77	45,913.37
Round 6 (2017-18)	74,234.32	43,223.41
Round 7 (2017-18)	31,760.70	15,919.96
Round 8 (2018-19)	79,857.72	-
Round 9 (2018-19)	71,857.97	-
Round 10 (2018-19)	10,177.61	-
<b>Total Costs - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects</b>	<b>316,021.57</b>	<b>147,757.49</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects</b>	<b>138,978.43</b>	<b>594,267.89</b>
<b>Income - Tagged Projects</b>		
Donations - Tagged	4,036.49	580.87
<b>Total Income - Tagged Projects</b>	<b>4,036.49</b>	<b>580.87</b>
<b>Costs - Tagged Projects</b>		
Project Costs - Tagged	868.60	-
<b>Total Costs - Tagged Projects</b>	<b>868.60</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) - Tagged Projects</b>	<b>3,167.89</b>	<b>580.87</b>
<b>Administration Income</b>		
DOC Administration Funding	70,000.00	26,196.00
Donations - General	1,290.00	-
Interest	13,598.56	3,516.72
<b>Total Administration Income</b>	<b>84,888.56</b>	<b>29,712.72</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>		
Office, Travel & Admin Overhead	43,926.93	50,412.33
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>43,926.93</b>	<b>50,412.33</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) - Administration</b>	<b>40,961.63</b>	<b>(20,699.61)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>183,107.95</b>	<b>574,149.15</b>

# Financial Position

## Backcountry Trust As at 31 May 2019

31 MAY 2019

### Assets

#### Bank

Cheque Account	5,826.96
Savings	26,871.63
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>32,698.59</b>

#### Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	201,250.00
Term Deposits	545,463.01
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>746,713.01</b>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>779,411.60</b>
---------------------	-------------------

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	6,003.00
GST	15,787.67
Rounding	(0.11)

#### DOC Funds

DOC Projects - Unallocated	439,973.43
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 4 (2016-17)	2,344.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 5 (2016-17)	26,480.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 6 (2017-18)	19,407.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 7 (2017-18)	22,218.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 8 (2018-19)	80,888.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 9 (2018-19)	53,067.00
DOC Projects Unspent - Round 10 (2018-19)	54,086.00
<b>Total DOC Funds</b>	<b>698,463.43</b>

#### Tagged Donations

Tagged Donations - Dunns Creek & Kiwi Flat Huts	227.17
Tagged Donations - Dusky Track Project	2,670.66
Tagged Donations - Lucretia Hut	869.57
<b>Total Tagged Donations</b>	<b>3,767.40</b>

<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>724,021.39</b>
----------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>724,021.39</b>
--------------------------	-------------------

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>55,390.21</b>
-------------------	------------------

### Equity

Current Year Earnings	183,107.95
Retained Earnings	14,428.58
Projects Liability Transfer	(142,146.32)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>55,390.21</b>





“

Maintenance was completed on 27 huts involving over 100 volunteers who contributed in excess of 6000 volunteer hours and more than 50 volunteers were involved in track work...

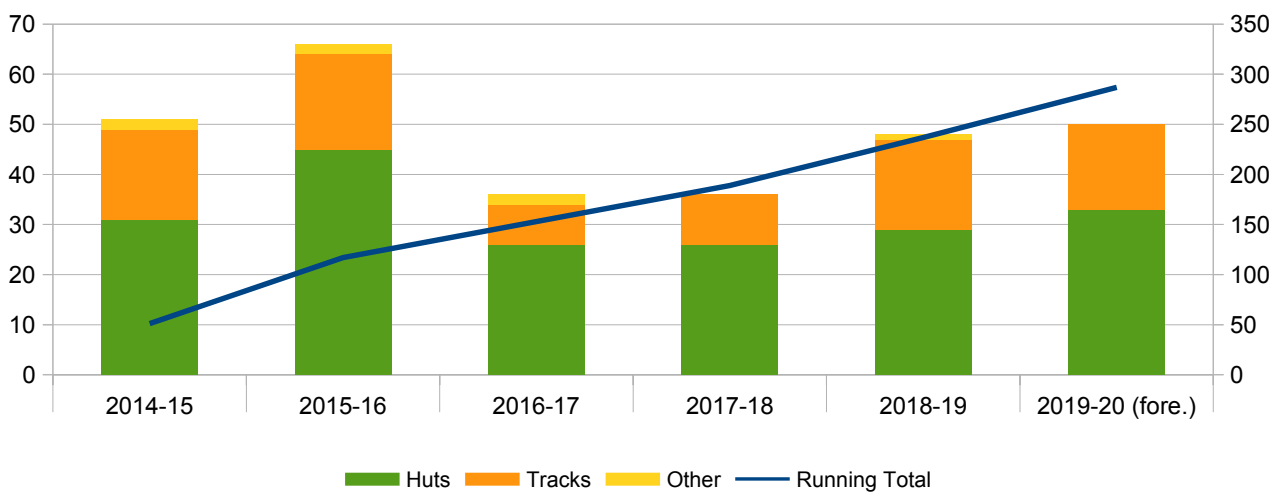


# VOLUNTEER PROJECT MILESTONES

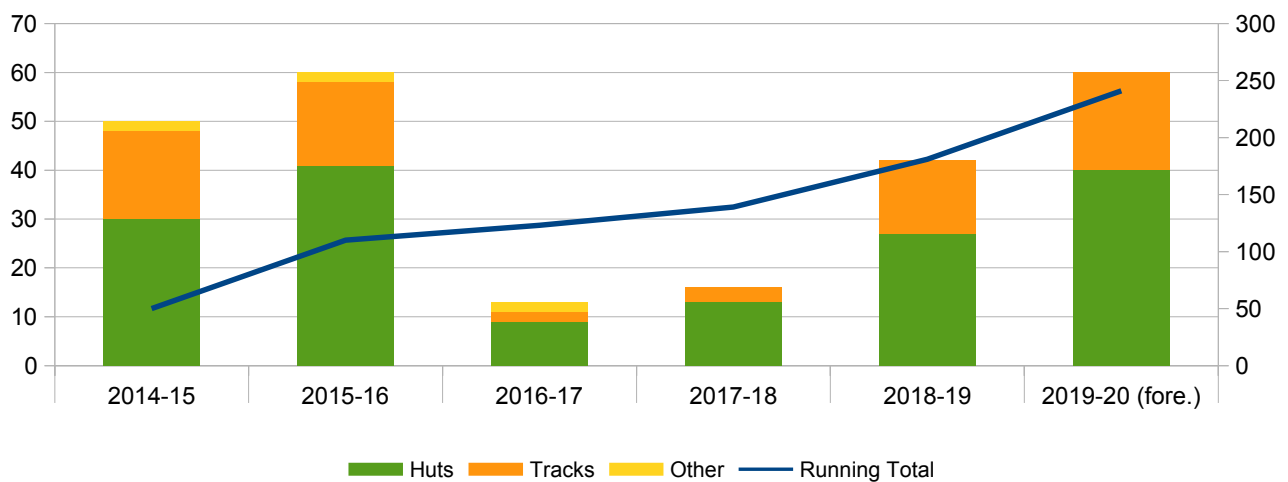
## THE 2018/19 YEAR FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY TRUST SAW MANY GROUPS COMPLETING HUT AND TRACK PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Overall maintenance was completed on 27 huts involving over 100 volunteers who contributed in excess of 6000 volunteer hours. Track work was carried out by a mix of contractors (where a digger is required) and volunteers. Over 50 volunteers were involved in track work, primarily on the mountain biking trail maintenance or construction projects.

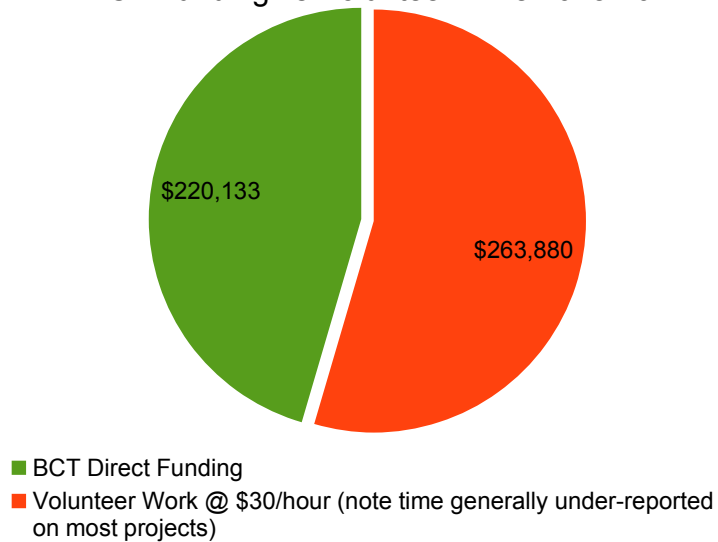
Projects Approved



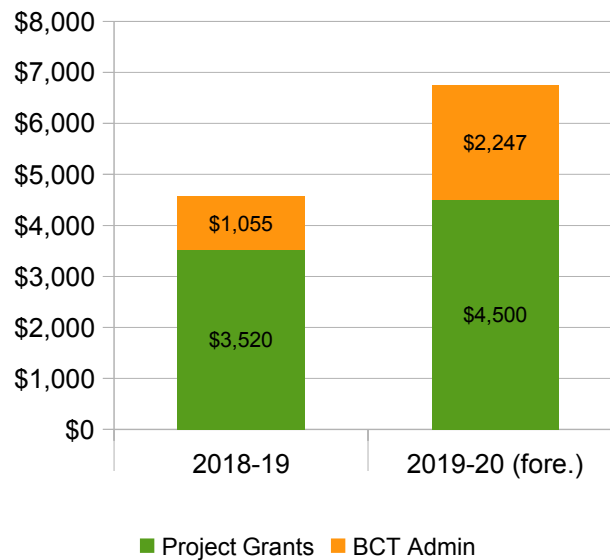
Projects Completed



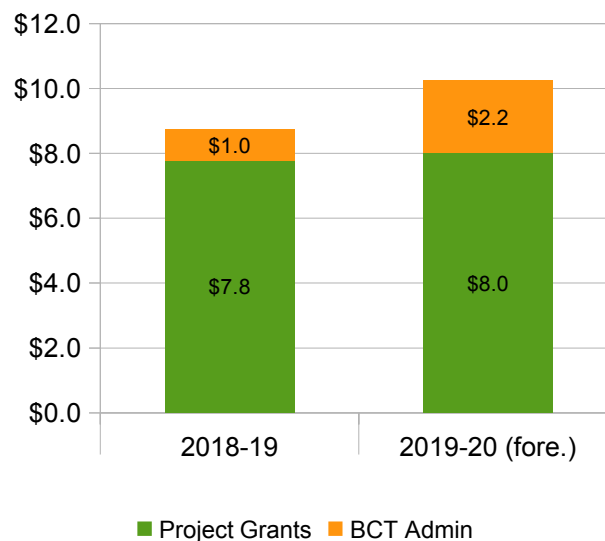
### BCT Funding vs Volunteer Time 2018-19



### Average Cost per Hut



### Average Track Cost per Metre





Permolat Southland kicked off the 2018 spring season with an excellent restoration of **Army Hut** in Snowden Forest Conservation Area. Alastair McDonald has been a driving force in getting the Southland version of Permolat up and running. This

was their first major renovation. Details on their website [www.permolatsouthland.nz](http://www.permolatsouthland.nz) plus the many other projects planned for 2019/20. Thanks Alastair for all your hard work in making Permolat Southland a happening thing.



Army Hut after restoration by Permolat Southland

Also early in the season, Sam Newton and Nick Ross with a regular group of NZAC volunteers went in to **Broderick Hut**. As well renovating the interior and painting the exterior, they also shifted the old toilet. In the course of doing this it was found that the toilet was past the end of its life. It is planned to replace it in the 2019/20 season.

The following month a team working under the guidance of builder Eric Saggars completely renovated **Nina Biv**. This work was prioritised to work in with

the excellent biodiversity work undertaken by the Hurunui College Nina Valley Restoration Trust. Students from the College have been checking this trap line for over 10 years and slowly pushing their work further up the valley. The biv was used to store their camping gear, and was increasingly pushed for space. The team built a new woodshed with room for the camping equipment, installed a toilet, re-roofed and relined the biv.



Nina Biv being restored by a team led by builder Eric Saggars



In the Taramakau catchment on the West Coast, Graeme Jackson and his crew continued their good work maintaining **Kiwi Hut**. This hut on the Te Araroa track was slated for removal 15 years ago but has been getting steadily more use as the Te Araroa numbers increase.

In late December a group from the Malvern Branch of NZDA commenced a complete rebuild of **Mingha Biv** on the popular Mingha-Deception route in Arthur's Pass National Park. This biv had been let go over the years to the point that most of the basic structure had to be replaced. It was rebuilt over a couple of weekends to the original specifications under the guidance of builder Colin Morris. Mark Jones project managed the logistics, and this keen young team humped some of the timber up to the site in the traditional way to save on helicopter time.

The high fire risk at the top of the South Island over summer held back progress on a number of mountain bike projects. By autumn the risk eased and a number of tracks were completed. The Golden Bay Mountain Bike Club started work on the **Canaan Downs Loop Track** in November 2018 but was not able to complete this until the autumn. This track had been badly affected by Cyclone Gita and this joint project with DOC (who also donated staff time and digger hire) will hopefully ensure this classic track is better able to withstand these extreme weather events.

Early in 2019, Mike Lagan got a team together to renovate **Stoney Creek Hut** in the Shotover catchment. This rare Dexion framed design was originally built for goat culling and the team fully restored the hut as well as building a new toilet and woodshed.



Restoring the Stoney Creek Hut fireplace.



In February a group from the Wapiti Foundation headed in to Fiordland National Park to renovate **Lake Hankinson Hut**. This facility on the George Sound Track is the oldest surviving hut in the Park. The piles and subfloor of the hut were in poor condition - most of the piles, bearers and joists had to be replaced. Repairs were also made to the cladding and roof. Further work will be needed to repair the internal sarking which has been badly affected by borer in places.



Lake Hankinson Hut being restored by the Wapiti Foundation

Also taking advantage of the pleasant conditions in late summer was the Mount Cook Residents Association who completed maintenance work on **Sefton Biv**.



Group from the Mount Cook Residents Association painting historic Sefton Biv.



Further north an experienced group working with retired builder Bill Barnett renovated **Helicopter Flat Hut** on the Wangapeka Track. The team installed a new woodshed and made numerous repairs to the exterior of the hut, as well as installing new cooking benches inside.



Helicopter Flat Hut on the Wangapeka Track being maintained by Bill Barnett's team.

Around the same time, a group from Permolat West Coast completely rebuilt and re-roofed **Crystal Biv** over four days. The biv had significant leaking issues. It was necessary to strip the building right back to the frame and largely rebuild it. Mike Lagan and Jeff Hitchcock later went in on a hunting trip and completed some tidy up work and repiling to finish the job.



Crystal Biv being restored on the West Coast



Permolat West Coast continued to storm through their backcountry work program. Hugh van Noorden led a party to finish renovating **Otehake Hut** in Arthur's Pass National Park. Paul Reid and friends did a fantastic rebuild of **Campbell Biv** and over Easter Andrew Buglass led a party to recut the tracks and access routes at the head of the Mungo River. Tom Hayes from Christchurch organised two work parties to catch up on the maintenance on **Healey Creek Hut**. This involved installing a new water tank, re-roofing and extensive repiling of this NZFS 4-bunk hut. A small group also recut the track to Waikiti Hut on the West Coast.

Elsewhere on the West Coast, Justin Venable and friends completed the final interior parts of the restoration of **Ivory Lake Hut**. This iconic West Coast Hut was a multi-year project with multiple parties participating in the work including members of Trevor Chinn's family who have a strong connection to the hut from the time it was built for glacial research.



Repiling Healey Creek Hut on the West Coast.



Ivory Lake Hut after restoration.



The Trust also funded the Canterbury Mountaineering Club's catch-up maintenance on **Barker Hut** and **Waimakariri Falls Hut** in Arthur's Pass National Park. The work on **Barker Hut** included replacement of some old windows that had started to leak.



Installing new windows on Barker Hut

The Backcountry Trust continued its support of the Rotorua Trails Trust. While the Trails Trust mostly focuses on the shorter 'park' trails in the Redwoods and other nearby forests, the BCT supports some of the volunteer work they are doing on longer day rides over conservation land near Rotorua.

Other track work that was completed last year included a track realignment on the Mt Somers Walkway, further work on the Craigeburn mountain bike tracks and the completion of work on the **Waihaha Track** by Bike Taupo.



Further work was funded on the Craigeburn network of mountain biking trails



In the Tararuas, groups continued to do great work looking after many of the huts in the Park. The exNZFS guys repaired a leaking window on the north side of **Carkeek Hut**. The NZDA Kapiti Branch did an incredible job repairing, recladding and relining **Kapakapanui Hut**. A great overnight trip from Wellington, they transformed an old run-down hut into one that will give many years of future service.



Kapakapanui Hut during renovation

Elsewhere in the Wellington region the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee built a new **Waiotauru Hut** in Tararua Forest Park. Over a number of weekends they did an outstanding amount of work to build a useful facility for a modest investment.



Construction of the replacement Waiotauru Hut



Further north, the Kaimai Ridgeway Trusts project to reopen a multi-day trip in this park took another step forward with the completion of the **Te Whare Okioki Hut**. It's been a real community effort with Tony Walton from the Auckland Tramping Club doing a fantastic job of project managing along with many volunteer hours from the local NZDA branch. This 12-bunk hut will be a useful new asset in an area short on backcountry opportunities.

In the same area, the BCT also part funded a bridge near Thames on the **Karaka-Waiotahi Track**. This bridge opens up access to some great day rides around the Thames area in Coromandel Forest Park.

Other mountain bike projects completed included some trails in the **Hokonui Hills**, and further work on the Coronet Peak trails.

Near the end of the summer season, Peter Alspach and Robyn Ritchie carried out the long-planned maintenance of **Lake Man Biv**. Many of these small two person bivs in the Canterbury region have had very little maintenance in the last 25 years and it has been a pleasing feature of the last 12 months that many have been adopted by interested groups who have done the required work on them.

Andrew Pereira also pulled together a team to renovate Cass Saddle Hut on the popular **Cass Saddle-Lagoon**

**Saddle** trip. The team stripped part of the hut back to the frame to make the necessary repairs, installed a new wood burner and a new water tank.

While on the West Coast over Easter, Ted Brennan and Annie Hughes painted and sealed the **Mikonui Spur Biv** – a classic flat tin roof biv.

The Horse Trails South Trust volunteers also completed a major project reopening the **Amuri Pack Track** between Canterbury and the West Coast to horse trail standard. This involved a big effort over many months with horses being used to transport volunteers in to clear the track with hand tools. Contract arborists cleared out some pretty big old windfalls and a contract digger driver did some careful route realignment. A big thanks to Pete Hurst from Horse Trails South for pulling all these bits of the puzzle together to complete this major project.

Late in the season the busy BCT board chair Craig Benbow got some more work done on the long term project to renovate and maintain all the huts in the long forgotten northern part of Arthur's Pass National Park, including the huts in the Esk Valley.

*Rob Brown*

*Backcountry Trust Manager*



Kapakapanui Hut during renovation



# LIST OF APPROVED GRANTS FOR 2018-19

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT APPROVED (INCL GST)
<b>ROUND 8</b>		
Wanaka Faces Hut	NZDA Upper Clutha	\$3,000.01
Broderick Hut	NZAC - Sam Newton	\$5,652.20
Canaan Downs Loop	Golden Bay Mountain Biking Club	\$26,629.00
Snowdon Forest Mtb Trails	Te Anau Cycling Inc	\$18,285.00
Hankinson Hut	Adam Fairmaid - Wapiti Foundation	\$15,000.00
Carkeek Hut	ex NZFS Derrick Field	\$4,749.99
Wharfedale Track	North Canterbury Cycling Club	\$11,040.00
Craigieburn Trails	Castle Hill Community Assoc	\$4,812.00
Sharlands Bush Track	Nelson Mountain Bike Club	\$4,995.00
Poolies Hut	Keith Dekkers	\$8,199.99
Luge Bridge	Castle Hill Community Assoc	\$3,105.00
Spey Hut - Dusky Track	Rob Brown/Ken Braddley	\$16,800.01
Hackett Track	Mountain Bike Trails Trust	\$20,000.00
Mt Freeth Ridgeline Track	Marlborough MTB Club	\$8,740.00
Centennial Hut	NZAC - Richard Wesley	\$20,000.00
Porter Lodge – Fox Glacier	NZAC - Richard Wesley	\$2,000.00
Barker Hut	Canterbury Mountaineering Club - Robin Muirson	\$5,850.00
Amuri Pack Track	Peter Hurst	\$6,000.00
<b>ROUND 9</b>		
Old Top Forks Hut	Rob Brown	\$16,486.00
Top Hut, Ahuriri River	Upper Clutha Tramping Club	\$7,000.00
Mt Fell Hut	Nelson Tramping Club	\$500.00
Hump Ridge Track	Permolat Southland	\$862.01
Stoney Creek Hut	Mike Lagan	\$9,133.37
Bull Paddock Creek Hut	Permolat - Kerry Clapham	\$8,828.00
Ivory Lake Hut	Justin Venable	\$3,800.00
Helicopter Flat Hut	Bill Bennett	\$11,000.00
Kapakapanui Hut	NZDA Kapiti - Mike	\$16,000.00
Evangeline Biv	Richard Janssen	\$4,350.00
Woolshed Creek to Maidens Relief Track	Mt Somers Walkways Society	\$10,707.60
Cattle Creek (Evans) Hut	NZDA Rakaia Branch	\$13,339.00
Awakino Hut	Awakino Alpine Charitable Trust	\$5,100.00
Rainbow Summit Mountain Track	Rotorua Trails Trust	\$6,726.35
Lucretia Hut	Dave Hodder	\$5,000.00
Karaka-Waiotahi Track	Thames MTB Club	\$20,000.00
Army Hut	Permolat Southland	\$5,830.50



## LIST OF APPROVED GRANTS FOR 2018-19 CONT.

### ROUND 10

Amuri Pack Track	Horse Trails South Trust	\$12,345.25
Upper Mungo Track	Permolat - Andrew Buglass	\$2,800.00
Te Whare Okoiki Hut	Kaimai Ridgeway Trust	\$30,000.00
Crystal Biv	Mike Lagan	\$2,147.83
Caroline Hut, Fiordland National Park	Permolat Southland	\$6,610.00
Whareroa Farm Bike Trails, Kapiti Coast	Kapiti Mountain Bike Club	\$20,000.00
Mataketake Hut	Andy Dennis Estate (hut build)	\$20,000.00
Benmore Hut	NZDA Malvern Branch	\$3,000.01
Missing Link Trail, Ben Lomond Reserve	Queenstown MTB Club	\$10,752.50
Kylie Biv, Ruahines Forest Park	Andrew Mercer – Milson Scout Group	\$7,475.00
Piripiri Hut	Andrew Mercer – Milson Scout Group	\$5,000.00
West Okataina Trails	Rotorua Trails Trust	\$19,200.00
Tutu Hut Helipad	NZDA - Dave Hodder	\$3,500.00

Restored Mingha Biv







We are passionate about outdoor recreation  
and preserving Aotearoa's rich inheritance of  
remote huts and tracks