



BACKCOUNTRY TRUST
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage



2020-21 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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Topsy turvy and excitedly challenging are probably the words that come to mind as I consider the past year. The climb back from the restrictions of lock down has been lumpy and changing levels of alert, along with the creation, and then recent closing, of the travel bubble with Australia, have left some bewildered and feeling like they have little control over their lives.



This is a new experience for most of us, but nothing previous generations have not already faced, so we draw strength from the tenacity of people to get on and get done what they can. Life goes on and we have to accept things change and continue too.

I reported last year on the quick resumption of volunteer work after the lock down and many groups did indeed take to the hills in the rest of 2020 to complete projects that had been delayed with Covid. For many it must have been a huge relief to just be able to get out and do the work and we are grateful to those who indeed did head for the hills.

For the Backcountry Trust, the opportunity to contribute to support some of the people suffering from the lack of tourists through the Kaimahi for Nature programme was one we considered very carefully. Not because we did not wish to help these businesses, but because of our limited capacity to support this work.

On a fresh September morning, I travelled in with the then Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage with new snow on the hills to visit with our first team of Kaimahi For Nature contractors on site at East

Matakitaki Hut south of Murchison. Our project manager Rob Brown was also on site with the local group from Ultimate Descents – a rafting company in Murchison. The program was launched that morning across media and its been all go since, with Ultimate Descents going on to complete six hut renovations in their area. We are tasked with completing a list of backcountry projects over two years with a total spend of \$2 million.

Being present here grounded me to the circumstance under which our work in organising, supporting and funding work for local people, who through no fault of their own, found their sources of income removed. While the people on site were glad to have work to do, they also exhibited all the characteristics of people who undertake volunteer work, and gave us all confidence this would work and we would get good outcomes. In some cases our contractors have been able to integrate some skilled people with keen volunteers as part of this programme to increase our volunteer capacity as well.

Further into this report are details of the work that has been completed by both volunteer groups and Kaimahi for Nature contractors this year.



Permolat West Coast volunteers outside Nolan's Hut in the Whataroa (from left: Tom Hayes, Jane Morris, Geoff Spearpoint, Andrew Buglass)
Cover: Volunteers Graeme Stretch and Chris Milne painting



Volunteers painting Sunrise Hut, Ruahine Forest Park



Dave and Wae at Te Ao Tūpare, Ruahine Forest Park

The contribution to both outdoor recreation and the health of local communities from this work is significant. Many facilities overdue for maintenance are getting good restoration work completed on them, and that extends to tracks and other facilities as well. To see the likes of the Wangapeka track and facilities drastically improved at a time when New Zealanders are seeking additional places to visit and enjoy is very satisfying and knowing that has kept food on the table for some families in small rural communities ensures that when things change those communities will immediately be able to resume the level of activity present prior to the Covid-19 crisis.

While the mechanism for Kaimahi for Nature is slightly different, the alignment of outcomes to the Backcountry Trust's core objectives is consistent. Every facility repaired, completed or maintained is an achievement in itself to ensuring all of our facilities are well cared for.

Of all the projects that have been completed in this past year, some are worthy of extra mention. Of course singling out any one project is somewhat dangerous as each comes with unique challenges. The renovation of A-Frame or Traverse Hut into the structure now known as Te Ao Tūpare was epic. Led by the efforts of Cherry Peeti-Tapurau, and supported by members of her hapu, it seems many people were inspired by Cherry's commitment and vision of what could be so pitched in to get the work done. Our new North Island project coordinator – Megan

Dimozantos – was there also lending her carpentry skills to support the group in realising their goals. One can only marvel at the transformation that took place. Thank you to all who supported Cherry on this great project.

The smaller jobs of repainting, never a small job really, are crucial to conserving many of the older huts. There were several painting jobs completed as part of an effort to mobilise more people into those tasks as a lead into further involvement. Rangipo Hut is a great example of the kind of work the trust is driving. These entry level projects are a key part of our strategy to ensure our volunteer army continues to expand to keep people doing great work in our back country.

Another project I need to mention is the dedicated effort of Peter Alspach and a group who wanted to give back into our back country in memory of a special person who loved the outdoors. Lucretia Biv is a two bunk structure nestled in the heart of the Lewis Pass that had sat a bit neglected for many years. It is now a tidy well maintained example of an authentic S186 biv complete with a traditional open fire and a decent woodshed also. For the team that completed the work a special thanks and we hope the memories created there will encourage you to pursue the activity further in the future.

More recently, I attended the Permolat Trust's AGM and it was good to hear the efforts of many people

still involved with one of the grassroots organisations that started this journey we are all on. Permolat was the genesis of most of what we do and while the trust continues to financially support some of their work, it was also good to hear many are still continuing to do work at a basic unsupported level for no other reason than they are keeping the tracks open to the places they love.

Over the course of the last year our Trust has had some changes to trustees and two of those who have stepped down have been key parts of this movement since the inception of the Outdoor Recreation Consortium (ORC) that provided the proof of concept for the creation of the Backcountry Trust. The significant contribution of both Peter Wilson and Nessa Lynch over an extended period (since 2014) as representatives of their parent organisations, Federated Mountain Clubs and Trailfund NZ, is acknowledged and appreciated by all. It is difficult to quantify the contribution in a meaningful way, except to say that Backcountry Trust would not have emerged and would not be what it is today without the contribution of these people. Similarly, Guy Wynn-Williams contribution behind the scenes (since 2017), both as representative of Trailfund NZ interests and as our Treasurer – refining and overseeing our financial management – has been huge. We are all very grateful for their commitment and we wish them all the very best for future endeavours.

This past year has seen volunteers and contractors alike contribute on a level we have not seen before. Our spending on volunteer projects reached \$463,000 delivering 33 huts and 120km of track maintained, while two new huts were completed and 7500 hours of volunteer time delivered by 252 volunteers. That is staggering really, and while material costs and helicopter charges continue to increase, we

Hugh van Noorden preparing windows for painting, County Hut



still consider what is delivered to represent a great investment for the country. The increased commitment of time from our manager, Rob Brown, and North Island project coordinator Megan Dimozantos, to enabling the volunteer crews and assisting to get projects underway and completed has clearly paid dividends. We have increased hours and channelled further resources into our administration as we could. The success of the early ventures quickly confirmed the model would work but changes to the way we needed to work have taxed our contractors and the board for the past year. Some matters have taken time to address and required external assistance but we are now in a much better position to support the completion of projects and that crucial role of supporting people facing uncertain futures. As of 31 May there had been 9 huts renovated, an additional 43 km of track re-cut to standard and this was all achieved by 18 workers employed to deliver 2500 hours of field work. That work is really only just getting started as the bulk of the projects that have been settled on are in the final planning stages with many set to start in the spring. We are looking forward to seeing the continuing results of that work in the communities close to where they are being completed.

Our perennial groups such as Permolat Southland continue to contribute strongly and are very adept at self managing so working closely with the local DOC staff are achieving huge things in the deep south also. Other groups have projects either ready to go or progressing paper work to allow them to be completed.

Our relationship with DOC continues to strengthen and we are continuing to address sticking points in enabling groups and streamlining approval processes and communications with the department. We

John McCann and his exNZFS crew outside the new Winchcombe Biv



believe it is good for all back country users to have people who spend long periods in the field indicating where and when things can be done better or where users may need to modify their behaviour to protect our precious spaces. Some of those people are within DOC and some are not. We have a good dialogue with DOC and increasingly find relationships being built through interaction and desire for shared outcomes that benefit all. Our nation's well being is linked to our places and the Trust's commitment to people and places as the crucial connection that underpins why we all contribute is what gives me confidence the Backcountry Trust will continue to deliver outstanding results to all into the future.

I cannot conclude this report without acknowledging the investment, belief and trust that has been the cornerstone of enabling our work in the field. Lou Sanson has been the Director General for Conservation for eight years and is now retiring from the role. Without the willingness of both Mike Slater (DDG Operations) and Lou Sanson in supporting a different approach to maintaining and restoring our back country facilities, the concept of the Outdoor Recreation Consortium would never have been tested or transformed into the Backcountry Trust. All recreational users should be eternally grateful for this initiative and as expressed to me recently, "I would never have thought we would get our facilities back to this state and in such a short time".

We expect to see Lou out on the job somewhere as he has already indicated his willingness to do some mahi with a volunteer project in his semi-retirement. We'll see you in the bush Lou!

To all our wonderful contributors, be they volunteers, paid employees, contractors or "hangers on", I thank you on behalf of our trustees for all you have done in a stand out year that has delivered so much in the face of some serious restrictions. Our trustees continue to contribute to the objectives of the trust, and with some new faces round the table there is fresh energy and ideas to ensure a bright future for adding to everyone's enjoyment of what New Zealand has to offer in the back country.

Craig Benbow
Chairperson, Backcountry Trust



Hiking NZ crew outside Bob's Hut after cutting the track to East Matakitaki Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park



Financial Performance

Backcountry Trust (Aotearoa | NewZealand)

For the year ended 31 May 2021

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Income - DOC Funded Projects		
DOC Project Funding	315,000.00	315,000.00
Total Income - DOC Funded Projects	315,000.00	315,000.00
Costs - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects		
Projects 2015-16	560.00	-
Projects 2016-17	10,093.84	8,256.69
Projects 2017-18	17,390.06	9,993.06
Projects 2018-19	57,303.75	130,290.28
Projects 2019-20	192,004.71	175,152.23
Projects 2020-21	182,408.50	1,920.00
Deferred DOC Volunteer Funding	(144,760.86)	-
Total Costs - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects	315,000.00	325,612.26
Surplus (Deficit) - Volunteer-Led DOC Funded Projects	-	(10,612.26)
Income - DOC KFN Projects		
DOC Project Funding - Kaimahi for Nature	386,500.00	-
Total Income - DOC KFN Projects	386,500.00	-
Costs - DOC KFN Projects		
DOC Project Costs KFN	254,821.06	-
Deferred DOC KFN Funding	131,678.94	-
Total Costs - DOC KFN Projects	386,500.00	-
Surplus (Deficit) KFN Projects	-	-
Income - Tagged Projects		
Donations - Tagged	4,105.00	-
Total Income - Tagged Projects	4,105.00	-
Costs - Tagged Projects		
Project Costs - Tagged	7,853.76	-
Deferred Tagged Funding	(3,748.76)	-
Total Costs - Tagged Projects	4,105.00	-
Surplus (Deficit) - Tagged Projects	-	-
Administration Income		
DOC Administration Funding - Volunteer-led	135,000.00	135,000.00
DOC Administration Funding - Kaimahi for Nature	107,500.00	-
Donations - Bivouac	2,616.30	1,446.03
Donations - General	6,332.32	5,167.37
Interest	9,899.03	14,724.22
Total Administration Income	261,347.65	156,337.62
Administration Expenses		
Office, Travel & Admin Overhead	246,670.28	128,448.23
Total Administration Expenses	246,670.28	128,448.23
Surplus (Deficit) - Administration	14,677.37	27,889.39
Surplus (Deficit)	14,677.37	17,277.13

Financial Position

Backcountry Trust

As at 31 May 2021

31 MAY 2021

Assets

Bank

Cheque Account	51,228.07
Savings	250,962.01
Total Bank	302,190.08

Current Assets

Term Deposits	490,001.36
Total Current Assets	490,001.36

Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation	(114.00)
Equipment	3,527.50
Total Fixed Assets	3,413.50

Total Assets	795,604.94
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	22,911.92
GST	(1,217.81)
PAYE Payable	742.50
Rounding	(0.18)

DOC Funds

DOC Projects - Unallocated Funds	185,835.57
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 5 (2016-17)	6,915.15
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 7 (2017-18)	11,848.25
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 10 (2018-19)	9,350.00
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 11 (2019-20)	86,520.32
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 12 (2019-20)	39,152.20
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 13 (2020-21)	83,149.54
DOC Projects Unspent - CCPF Round 14 (2020-21)	69,189.45
DOC Projects Unspent - Year 2021-22	21,464.81
DOC Projects Unspent - KFN 2020-21	197,513.17
DOC Projects Unspent - INVESTIGATIONS	(3,595.02)
Total DOC Funds	707,343.44

Business Visa	442.29
Total Current Liabilities	730,222.16

Total Liabilities	730,222.16
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Net Assets	65,382.78
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Equity

Retained Earnings	83,279.34
Prior Year Funding Adjustments	(32,573.93)
Current Year Earnings	14,677.37
Total Equity	65,382.78

Trustees at 31 May 2021:

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association: Craig Benbow (chair), Dave Keen
Federated Mountain Clubs: Geoff Spearpoint (deputy chair), Kevin O'Connor
Trail Fund NZ: Steve Peters, Nessa Lynch



2020-21 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

At the very start of the new reporting year, Mike Lagan organised contractors and volunteers to remediate the 4WD access road in the Havelock Valley of the Rangitātā catchment. This joint project with DOC solved the issue of 4WDs churning up the nearby airstrip, which was causing problems for local recreational pilots.

In late January Mike was back in action again, this time successful installing a new toilet he had built for Broderick Hut, as well as a meat safe for Huxley Forks Hut (both in Ruataniwha Conservation Park).

In spring, Geoff Spearpoint's team was also pretty quick off the mark. They restored the open fireplace back into Thomas River Hut, after the hut had been hauled back from the side of the encroaching river. Now completed, this hut can continue to provide shelter at this increasingly popular destination for fishing and hunting in South Westland.

In late winter, Grant Timlin's exNZFS braved some miserable weather to complete stage two of the renovation of Renata Hut (Tararua Forest Park), which involved re-piling and subfloor work. Its completion has met with widespread public approval and reignited interest in this weekend circuit, which

had seen its popularity fall away because of the hut's previously poor state.

The trust was a major contributor to the Canterbury Mountaineering Club's rebuild of Lyell Hut, in the headwaters of the Rakaia Valley. The new Lyell Hut replaces what was one of the oldest club huts in the South Island and will serve well as a base for trans-alpine trips, and hunters seeking Himalayan tahr in the area.

In November 2020, Bill Barnett and his team of tradesman carried out a major round of maintenance at Roaring Lion Hut in the Karamea River (Kahurangi National Park). This work included re-roofing, re-piling, a new woodshed and the construction of a new deck and verandah, which will no doubt please rafters needing to dry out wet gear.

Canterbury builder Colin Morris led a team into Top Waitaha Hut (West Coast) and completed a re-roof of this hut as well as installing new windows. This older S70 6-bunk hut was the first built in the valley, and over the years the louvre windows had proved leaky. The renovation leaves this solid hut set for another 50 years.

Rider on the new Kaitearu Mountain Bike Track, Kaikoura



Around the same time, Bob Chittenden's crew from the Nelson Ski Club finished the renovation of Connors Creek Hut in the Rainbow Valley (Marlborough), while the Mt Somers Walkway Society installed boardwalks across an extensive section of tops between Woolshed Creek and Pinnacles Hut (Hakatere Conservation Park).

Our partnership with the Rotorua Trails Trust to fund the day rides on public conservation land near Rotorua continued with a contractor upgrading the Grade 3 Western Okataina Track. Another major mountain bike project funded by the trust was stage 1 extension of the Whareroa Farm trails on the Kapiti Coast. This recreation reserve, managed by DOC, has

become a popular mountain biking destination and seen a lot of volunteer work by the Kapiti Mountain Bike Club to maintain the trail network.

Three major volunteer groups busy with track work over the year were Permolat Southland, Permolat West Coast and the Green Hut Track group.

Permolat West Coast tackled a number of tracks including Gerhardt Spur and the long-forgotten Crane Creek route into the Rochfort Basin. Permolat Southland cut the Teal Bay to Hump Ridge route with hand tools as well as the Poteriteri Track in southern Fiordland.

Volunteers for the Mt Somers Walkway Society installing track rafts near Pinnacle Hut, Mid Canterbury



On the renovated Western Okataina Mountain Bike Track, Rotorua



Volunteers for the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust outside Mototutapere Hut, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park

The Kaimai Ridgeway Trust continued to work towards achieving its ambitious recreation plan for the Kaimai Ranges. They completed a much-needed round of maintenance for Motutapere Hut, as well as installing track rafts on the Mangaputa Swamp section of the route into the new Te Whare Okioki Hut.

The Backcountry Trust funded a significant new mountain biking opportunity near Kaikōura. The Kaiterau Trail makes use of the existing 4WD track that climbs to Fyffe Hut before diverting onto a new downhill section of track that descends nearly 400 meters back to the start. Opened late 2020, the new trail has proved very popular.

The flagship project in the North Island was the restoration of A-Frame Hut in the southern Ruahine Range. This hut, situated among the leatherwood on the Takapari Road (a 4WD and mountain biking route), had been vandalised and not maintained for years.

A local group led by Dannevirke artist Cherry Peeti-Tapurau adopted it with a visionary plan to restore it. What followed was a labour of love, interrupted by the Covid pandemic and problematic weather, over 18 months as Cherry, her husband Wae and cousin Dave Barber worked over many weekends, also helped by other volunteers. The result is Te Ao Tūpare – a beautifully restored hut that not only provides welcome shelter, but is a work of art in itself.

Mullins Basin Hut in the West Coast’s Toaroha catchment was another major re-build project undertaken by the Trust. Richard Shields of Queenstown led a talented group of seven volunteers to complete this project over eight days of mixed weather in late February. DOC Hokitika builder Miquel Dijkstra had earlier built the frames and Permolat West Coast purchased a new Wagener Sparky log-burner for the project. The cost was a very modest \$16,000.



Volunteers standing up the new frames rebuilding Mullins Basin Hut, Toaroha Valley, West Coast



Cascade Hut renovated by the Sika Foundation, Kaimanawa Forest Park

Fine weather across the North Island in February allowed many groups to get through a lot of mahi. Mike Main's group from the Sika Foundation did a superb job restoring and re-cladding Cascade Hut, and by the time they had finished, it looked like a brand new hut.

David Middleditch led a team in to Tarn Biv, continuing a steady programme of catch-up maintenance for the bivouacs of the Ruahine Range.

In late April 2021, John McCann and Paul Gush from exNZFS finished the installation of Winchcombe Biv

in Tararua Forest Park. This was a long-term dream project for exNZFS and it was great to see this critical shelter reinstated on the Neil-Winchcombe Ridge – some 30 years after the last Winchcombe Biv was removed.

Derrick Field continued his work in the Tararua's getting a team together to paint Cow Creek Hut as well as working away at trimming some of the tracks in the area'.

In the North Island a successful 'paint-a-hut' programme saw Shutes Hut and Sunrise Hut (both



Derrick Field painting Cow Creek Hut, Tararua Forest Park



Rebuilding Lake Roe Hut, Fiordland National Park

in Ruahine Forest Park) getting fresh, clean looks.. A first-time volunteer team led by Niki Carling also did a great job on Rangipō Hut in Tongariro National Park. Kendall Templeman led a team into Mitre Flats Hut (Tararua Forest Park) and completed the painting. This was the first step of much-needed maintenance on this facility.

In late March, a break in the Fiordland weather allowed the Trust to send a team of builders into the Pleasant Range to complete a major renovation of Lake Roe Hut, which provides essential shelter on the Dusky Track. This standard Lands & Survey-designed hut, unique to Fiordland National Park, had suffered badly repeated snow damage over the years, causing structural problems in the roof. Retired Te Anau ranger Ken Bradley assembled the materials and prepared everything, allowing builder

Clint Jarvis and his team to completely rebuild the roof to modern standards. They also re-lined it in ply for added structural strength. The result of their 10 days work is a hut that should last another 50 years.

Autumn 2021 was a busy time. Permolat Southland renovated Ashton Hut and Lincoln Biv in the Eyre Mountain / Taka Rā Haka Conservation Park. With some keen new members, Permolat Southland also maintained one of the Lake Poteriteri access tracks and renovated Tautuku Hut in the Catlins.

Peter Alspach led a team of nine people to complete the long-planned renovation of Lucretia Biv in Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve. The team built a new woodshed, re-roofed the hut and replaced the rusted-out chimney.

BCT deputy chair Geoff Spearpoint also led a group into the Waitaha Valley to re-pile and renovate County Hut. This followed on from work done by Justin Venable, Keith Riley, Al Ritchie and Phil Palzer to renovate Moonbeam Hut and DOC Hokitika builders Nigel Schroder and Miquel Dijkstra renovated Scamper Torrent Hut. This largely completed all the overdue mahi in the Waitaha Valley – which previously was on ‘minimal maintenance’ – and represented a superb example of several groups working together to restore an entire hut-and-track system in one significant Westland Valley.

Later in April, Ross Cullen and his team of volunteers installed a new stainless steel bench and carried out some subfloor maintenance work on Ellis Basin

Hut (Kahurangi National Park). This followed their previous efforts renovating Larrikins Creek Hut (also in Kahurangi) during November 2020 .

One of the last volunteer projects for the season was the ongoing work on the Silver Peaks tracks near Dunedin. The Green Hut Track Group has an excellent working relationship with DOC. Taking advantage of the warm weather at the end of May, a team of 11 volunteers teamed up with five DOC rangers to power through another seven kilometres of track over a day. This group has a monthly meet-up to work on tracks on Dunedin’s backdoor, and a good example of a successful partnership.

Photos Next Page L-R: Permolat Southland team at Ashton Hut, Lucretia Biv after restoration, Bob Chittenden’s team outside Connors Creek Hut, the Tarn Ridge restoration team, restored Kylie Biv, Shutes Hut with fresh paint job.

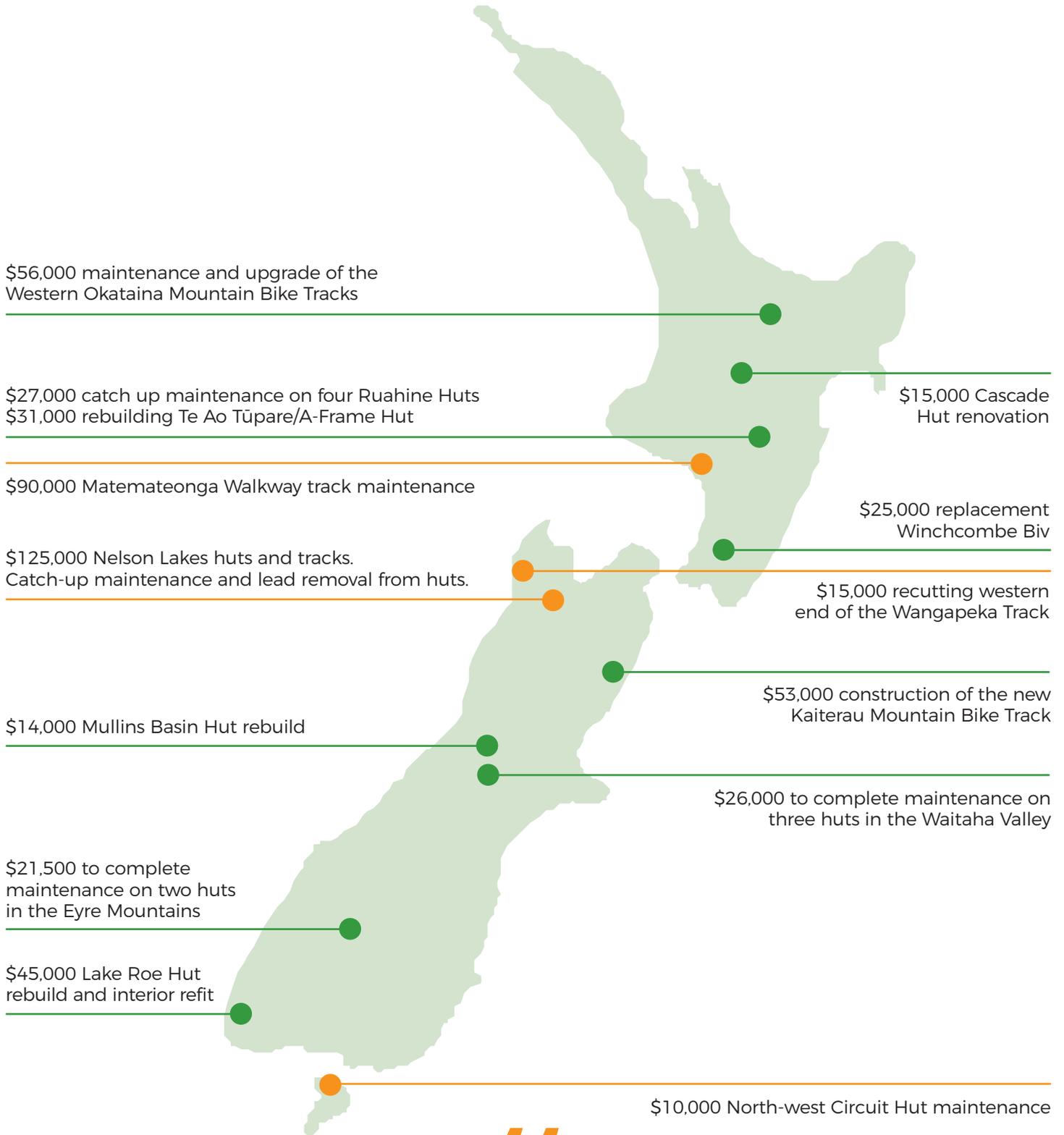
Permolat West Coast crew restoring County Hut, Waitaha Valley



Green Hut Track Group working with DOC cutting the Silver Peaks Tracks, Dunedin



WHERE WE INVESTED



Since 2014 the Outdoor Recreation Consortium/ Backcountry Trust has funded a total of 295 projects that have delivered maintenance on 195 huts and 1,145 km of track for a cost on the ground of \$2.5 million.





VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

- > 252 volunteers
- > 7,500 hours contributed
- > 120 km tracks maintained
- > 33 huts maintained
- > 2 new huts completed



KAIMAHI FOR NATURE

- > 9 huts renovated
- > 43 km track cutting
- > 18 paid workers
- > 2,500 hours of field work



HUTS AND TRACKS

- > 38.6K members
- > 4.9 million views
- > 230K reactions to posts
- > 95% New Zealanders
- > 33% between 25-34



Ultimate Descents working on clearing the western side of the Wangapeka Track West Coast

2020-21 KAIMAHI FOR NATURE

In 2020 the Backcountry Trust Board applied to the Jobs for Nature fund and was successful at securing \$2 million over two years towards a programme of catch-up maintenance on huts and tracks. This was part of the Government's Covid-19 response package and was primarily aimed at employing people that needed part-time work because of a down-turn in the tourism industry caused by the ongoing border restrictions.

The first project started in September 2020 when a group of rafting guides from Ultimate Descents in Murchison re-roofed and renovated East Matakaitaki Hut in southern Nelson Lakes National Park. Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage took a rare break from her busy schedule and visited the hut to witness the work we do.

Over the following summer, the Ultimate Descents crew also renovated Bob's Hut in the same catchment, before moving over to the Rainbow Valley and completing work on Lees Creek Hut (Raglan Range).

In December, the Ultimate Descents crew re-cut the western side of the Wangapeka Track (Kahurangi) as part of a multi-year programme to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Ita some years ago. Belltown Hut will be shifted to a new site.

As the Kaimahi for Nature programme has evolved, the Trust is undertaking more joint operations with DOC rangers. This encourages skill and information sharing, helps form connections and significantly scales up the amount of work that is possible. For example, in November 2020 a crew from Hiking New

Renovated Bob's Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park



Maintaining Lees Creek Hut



Renovating Begley Hut



Hinerua Hut renovated by Joe Eagles crew, Ruahine Forest Park.



Ultimate Descents track cutting team in the Robinson Valley, West Coast.

Zealand worked with DOC rangers from St Arnaud to cut tracks the east and west Matakaitaki Valleys. This track team later worked on the Fyffe, Upper D'Urville and Lees Valley tracks in the St Arnaud area, as well as the Scamper Torrent track on the West Coast.

Palmerston North builder Joe Eagles was contracted to re-roof Hinerua Hut as well as install a new wood burner and complete other maintenance on this popular Ruahine Forest Park hut.

In late March 2021, Wanaka builder Clint Jarvis and Paul Chinn worked with DOC rangers to complete maintenance on Big Hellfire Pass and Long Harry Huts on Stewart Island's North-west Circuit. Big Hellfire Hut was painted and a new woodburner installed,

while Long Harry Hut was also painted by the Winton Rotary volunteers and the woodburner flue replaced.

The largest KFN project completed in the financial year was a month-long effort by Ruapehu WorX on the Matemateāonga Walkway. This operation involved flying in a digger to rehabilitate parts of the old benched track that had slumped as well as a clearing overgrown sections of the track.

Just before the end of the financial year, the Ultimate Descents team were in action again track cutting in the Robinson Valley (Victoria Forest Park) as well as building some new toilets in preparation for installing them at several West Coast locations over this coming summer.

THANKING THE TEAM

All of the mahi conducted by the Backcountry Trust programme happens because people get together and collaborate to complete work in backcountry places they know and love.



We want to thank all the people in our BCT operational team that support all those volunteers and workers in the field, as well as the DOC staff that also have contributed time and effort as part of their work programmes to help deliver the work.

Behind the scenes we also get backed up by Jodi Baillie who makes sure all the accounts get recorded and paid as well as completing numerous other administration tasks to ensure our efficient little ship stays on course. Keeping the website running has been Shaun Barnett and Jo Kinley and we've benefitted from Shaun bringing in his unique has skills to tell the stories of these inspiring projects on the Trust's website.

And of course to all the volunteers, contractors and DOC staff who contributed to the field work. Without them there would be no stories to tell.

ROB BROWN - MANAGER

MEGAN DIMOZANTOS - NORTH ISLAND PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Kaimahi for Nature crew working with DOC Rakiura ranger Andrew King to paint Big Hellfire Hut



Renovating Top Waitaha Hut



Ross Cullen's team after maintenance work on Ellis Hut, Kahurangi National Park

LIST OF APPROVED GRANTS FOR 2020-21

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT APPROVED (INCL GST)
VOLUNTEER PROJECTS		
Winchcombe Biv	exNZFS	\$25,000.00
Cascade Hut (Kaimanawas)	Sika Foundation	\$15,000.00
Ellis Hut	Ross Cullen	\$8,334.00
Mt Somers Track	Mt Somers Walkway Society	\$2,500.00
Arete Forks Hut	exNZFS	\$2,500.00
Poutaki Hut rebuild	Adam Greville	\$25,000.00
Freeman Burn Historic Hut renovation	NZDA Southern Lakes	\$45,000.00
Mullins Basin Hut rebuild	Richard Shields	\$25,000.00
Hump Ridge-Teal Bay track cut	Permolat Southland	\$436.00
Jolliebrook and Coldstream Huts	Geoff Speirs	\$14,660.00
Spey Hut painting	NZDA Southern Lakes	\$5,000.00
Wairoa Gorge Bike Park	Nelson Mountain Bike Club	\$4,100.00
Top Waitaha Hut	Colin Morris	\$15,000.00
Mid-Greenstone Hut	NZDA Southern Lakes	\$3,500.00
Western Okataina Track stage 2	Rotorua Trails Trust	\$37,500.00
Poteriteri link Track	Permolat Southland	\$1,886.00
Tautuku Hut	Permolat Southland	\$2,900.00
MacKenzie Basin Horse Paddocks	High Country Pleasure Riders	\$2,326.00
Martins Bay-Big Bay Track	Hollyford Conservation Trust	\$2,330.00
Toka Biv door repair	Josh Murray	\$2,500.00
Blythe Hut re-roof	Paul Carr Ruapehu WorX	\$25,000.00
Sunrise Hut	Sally Neal	\$5,000.00
Tarn Biv	David Middletich	\$8,000.00
Cameron Hut (Kawekas)	BCT Paint-a-hut programme	\$5,000.00
Rangipo Hut	Niki Carling	\$5,000.00
Sutherlands Hut	Emma Gregg	\$5,000.00
Leitch's Hut	BcT Paint-a-hut programme	\$5,000.00
Mitre Flats Hut	Kendall Templemann	\$10,000.00
Ashton Hut	Permolat Southland	\$14,100.00
Shutes Hut	Jason Cheetham	\$5,000.00
Upper Nina Biv	Peter Alspach	\$2,000.00
Lake Roe Hut Interior	Rob Brown	\$15,000.00
Motutapere Hut	Kaimai Ridgeway Trust	\$3,500.00
Otukota Hut	BCT Paint-a-hut programme	\$5,000.00
Leon Kinvig Hut painting	BCT Paint-a-hut programme	\$5,000.00
Temple Basin Historic Bridge	Temple Basin Ski Club	\$20,000.00
Roaring Billy Hut Maintenance	Geoff Spearpoint	\$1,000.00

PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT APPROVED (INCL GST)
KAIMAHI FOR NATURE	
East Matakitaki Hut	\$13,000
Aspiring Hut design and consenting	\$20,000
Matemateonga Walkway	\$92,000
Bob's Hut renovation	\$20,000
Nelson Lakes track cutting	\$52,000
Wangapeka Trak maintenance	\$20,000
Begley Hut renovation	\$28,000
Larrikin Creek Hut re-roof	\$35,000
Lees Creek Hut	\$20,000
Leon Kinvig Hut renovation	\$35,000
Hinerua Hut	\$25,000
Robinson Valley track work	\$10,000
Cupola Hut re-roof	\$6,500
Cone Creek Hut renovation	\$25,000
Lake Stream Hut toilet	\$8,000
Belltown Hut toilet	\$8,000
Scamper Torrent Track cutting	\$12,000
Long Harry Hut maintenance	\$6,000
Big Hellfire Hut maintenance	\$6,000

ExNZFS volunteers repiling Renata Hut



Bill Barnett's team building the new verandah on Roaring Lion Hut



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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai





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

