



BACKCOUNTRY TRUST
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage



2022-23 PERFORMANCE REPORT



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FROM THE CHAIR

In 2022-23 the Backcountry Trust (BCT) spent \$1.3 million on the backcountry hut and track network across 60 projects. This included the final stages of our work under the Jobs for Nature programme, which together with the volunteer programme delivered significant maintenance and restoration on over 150 kms of track, 30 huts and one bridge.

This fantastic work was only possible with the great support of over 200 enthusiastic volunteers, the impressive contribution by our national operations manager, our North Island project manager and our other talented contractors. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our current and past board members, including our previous chair Craig Benbow who has made an enduring contribution to the work of the BCT and continues to contribute in his role as the current president of the NZ Deerstalkers Association.

The demands for the type of work BCT undertakes are increasing significantly, particularly as DOC reorganises its work in the context of challenging financial demands and other resource constraints. The funding DOC is providing to the BCT is inadequate to enable and empower communities to restore, maintain and enhance the breadth and diversity of huts and tracks that the New Zealand public are clear they want retained for future generations. In addition, DOC is no longer able to commit to maintaining many of the huts and tracks on public conservation land, and thus the non-maintained list is growing.

The BCT volunteer work currently operates on a budget of around \$450,000 per annum. The additional funds that were provided over the three years of Jobs for Nature, which has now finished, have shown us that the critical cash required to be more effective, including the ability to access the right skill sets to deliver the range of work, is around \$1.2 million. This would provide realistic support for the community who want to get involved in this valuable conservation work.

Securing additional funding is therefore critical to the BCT's future success if it is to deliver its mission:

'To enable and empower communities to restore, maintain and enhance our backcountry huts and tracks, as a living heritage, for the benefit of all.'

We are clear as an organisation that BCT is not wanting to be another DOC. It is all about focussing on the huts and tracks that will otherwise deteriorate, resulting in the community losing special heritage values and opportunities for recreational enjoyment and for engagement in important biodiversity programmes. The work BCT does on the huts and tracks network directly contributes to supporting our communities right across Aotearoa, where many hunters, trampers, bikers, skiers, climbers and other groups are continuing to make progress on improving the ecological health of our special places through their volunteer efforts.

Over the next three years, the BCT will therefore be focussed on continuing the core work in the backcountry, and on raising awareness around the value that this work adds to everyday New Zealanders' lives. To support this, we will have a big drive on fundraising. This will include reaching out to our more than 60,000 followers across the country who are clearly interested and supportive of the work of the BCT and wanting to grow their contributions.

BCT will also be focussing on developing partnerships with commercial and other sponsors who want to be part of the action. We will of course continue to work closely with DOC to find innovative ways to complement their role. DOC is keen to work with BCT to develop a more sustainable cash contribution arrangement than is currently in place, and the goal is to put this in place in the next 12 months.

The BCT team is very optimistic that along with the community we can deliver on BCT's vision and mission. We know it will take time and some hard work, but with the great interest and support from our community we are confident that we will all be able to restore, maintain and enhance our backcountry huts and tracks, as a living heritage, for the benefit of all.

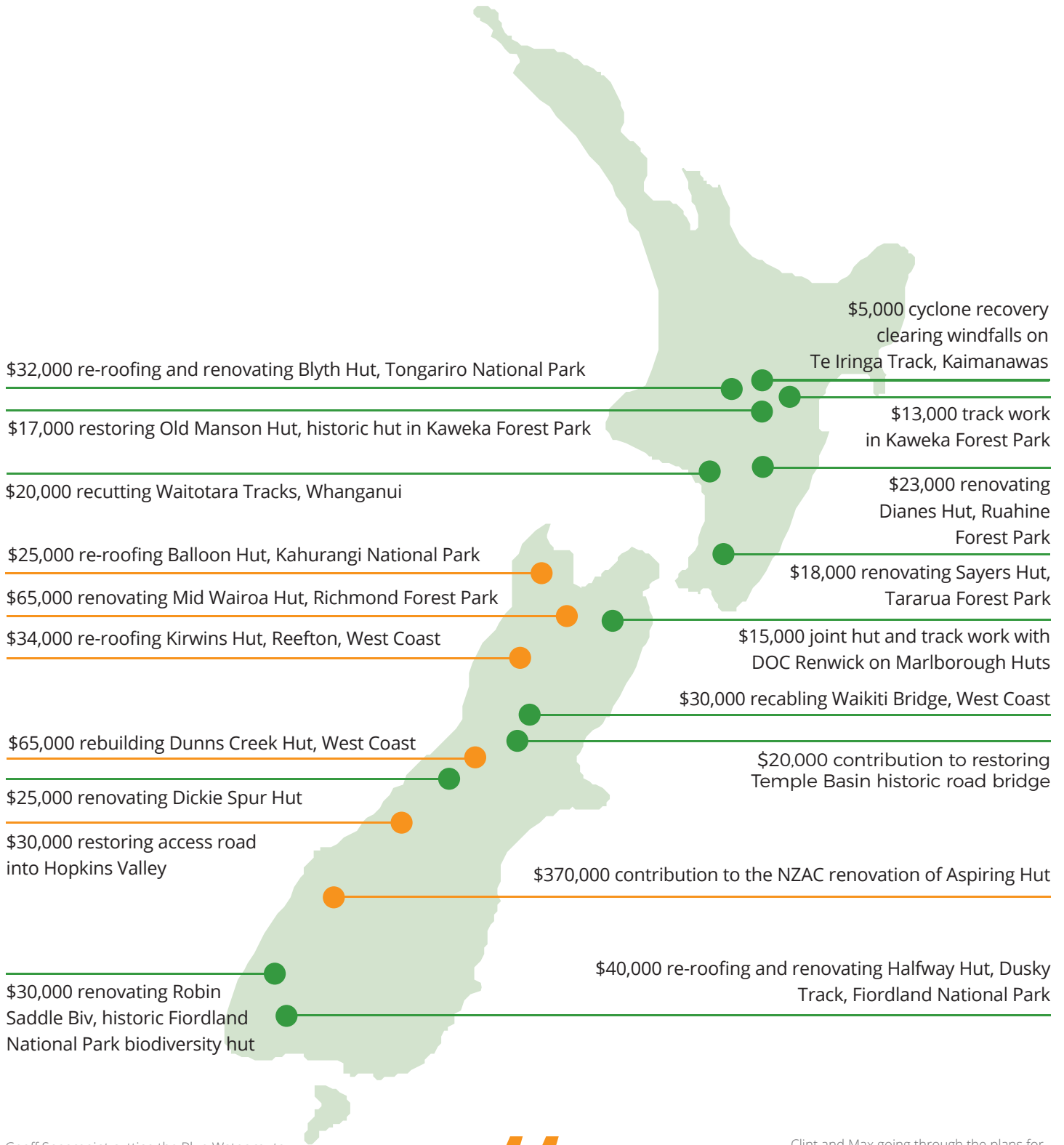
*Ngā mihi,
Kevin O'Connor (Chair)*



OUR VOLUNTEERS & CONTRACTORS



WHERE WE INVESTED



Geoff Spearpoint cutting the Blue Water route, Copland Valley, West Coast



In 2022-23 the Backcountry Trust delivered nearly \$1.3 million into the hut and track network across 60 projects. This delivered maintenance on over 150 km of track and maintenance on 30 huts.

Clint and Max going through the plans for Dunns Creek Hut in the DOC Hokitika workshop





Retired Te Anau ranger Ken Bradley painting Freeman Burn Hut, Fiordland National Park



VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

- > 200+ volunteers
- > 9,300 hours contributed
- > 150 km tracks maintained
- > 22 huts maintained



JOBS FOR NATURE

- > 8 huts renovated
- > Aspiring Hut rebuilt
- > 32 paid workers
- > 8 km of access road reinstated
- > 8,800 hours of field work



HUTS AND TRACKS

- > 61K members
- > 4.6 million views
- > 140K reactions to posts
- > 92% New Zealanders
- > 35% between 25-34
- > 13k average daily views

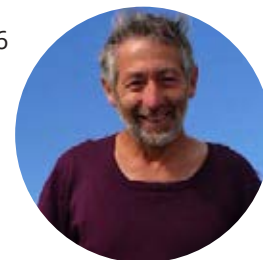
KEVIN O'CONNOR (CHAIR AND FMC NOMINEE)

Kevin started work as a ranger trainee and studied Parks and Recreation at Lincoln. He joined DOC when it started in 1987 and his roles included District Conservator Taupō, Operations Manager Nelson/Marlborough, Conservator Southland, Deputy Director General (DDG) Science and Technical and DDG Operations. Kevin left DOC to lead the National Rural Fire Authority and to help create the new Fire and Emergency NZ. He has been involved in a variety of management and governance roles, working closely with iwi and communities on a wide range of initiatives. Kevin is a keen user of the backcountry and is recently retired.



GEOFF SPEARPOINT (FMC NOMINEE)

Geoff began tramping in the Tararua Ranges, spending his first night in a hut (Cone) during 1966 when he was 15. He joined the Hutt Valley Tramping Club and later the New Zealand Alpine Club following a passion for transalpine tramping and climbing trips. He has authored a number of books on New Zealand's wild places including *Waking to the Hills* (1986), *Moirs Guide North* (2005) and *The Great Unknown* (2021). His other books include major works on New Zealand's backcountry hut network with Shaun Barnett and Rob Brown, *Shelter from the Storm* (2012) and *A Bunk for the Night* (2015). In 2017 Geoff was awarded a QSM for services to outdoor recreation.



GORDON GEORGE (NZDA NOMINEE)

Gordon is a semi-retired North Islander whose family recently moved to the South Island (North Canterbury) and is on a steep but enjoyable learning curve about farming. He has a BSc (Physics) from Victoria University, spent some time with an army reconnaissance unit and has spent the past 24 years managing industrial waste waters (trade wastes) along with resolving a wide range of stormwater management and quality issues in an urban environment. Gordon is a keen hunter, primarily of deer and tahr. He is a life member, committee member and former president/secretary of the Hutt Valley branch of the NZDA and is currently president of the Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation (a collective of hunting clubs). He is also a passionate advocate for the sustainable management of game animals and our backcountry network of tracks and huts.



STEVE PETERS (VICE CHAIR AND TRAIL FUND NOMINEE)

Coming from an extensive background in public land management, Steven spent 15 years as a Parks Land Manager with Wellington City Council and the Department of Conservation as a recreation advisor. He has been involved in developing the Mountain Bike Trail Design and Construction Guidelines with Recreation Aotearoa. Steve has his own business, Paper Trails NZ, with a vision to help deliver a consistent MTB trail grading system across NZ. He is a keen volunteer trail builder and trail building educator and works as a youth mountain bike instructor with WORD.



LOU HUNT (TRAIL FUND NOMINEE)

Lou has been in public sector roles since her first DOC ranger role in 2004 in the sub-Antarctics. She's worked in policy leadership roles at the Ministry for the Environment, DOC, and is currently at the Ministry for Primary Industries managing the International Environment team.

Lou represents Trail Fund and the interests of the mountain bike community on the Trust Board. She's also a mountain bike instructor, and an active member of Revolve women's mountain bike club. Lou lives in Wellington and loves to load bikes and dive gear into the camper and get away as much as possible.



JOSH MCBRIDE (NZDA NOMINEE)

Josh is a practising barrister, originally from Timaru but based in Auckland since 2004. He has a long-standing passion for the outdoors and the environment, as well as contributing time, advice, and energy to the not-for-profit sector. He enjoys (in no particular order) boating, fishing, biking, tramping, hunting, and skiing. He is a strong supporter of the backcountry hut network and free and open access to public land. His wife and four children all enjoy getting into the outdoors and exploring New Zealand, from Aotea/Great Barrier Island in the north to Rakiura/Stewart Island in the south. Josh represents the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, the home of recreational hunters in New Zealand.



WHO WE ARE

ROB BROWN (NATIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER)

Rob Brown manages the day-to-day running of the Backcountry Trust at a national level on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Rob has had over 25 years' experience advocating for backcountry recreation management in New Zealand, is the co-author of several books on huts and tramping, and was a member of the West Coast Conservation Board between 1999 and 2007.

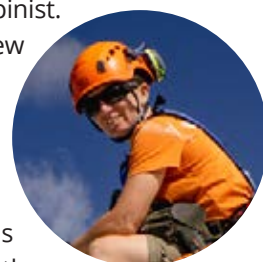
For many years he worked in publishing and photography, but 10 years ago he transitioned into project management roles through working in logistics and location work for the film industry. He is based in Wānaka with his family and in his spare time has been involved in many projects to maintain and restore backcountry huts.



MEGAN DIMOZANTOS (NORTH ISLAND PROJECT MANAGER)

Based in Rotorua, Megan is a keen pack rafter, mountain biker, tramper, climber, skier and alpinist. Megan is an Aussie import from about 14 years ago and has developed a strong affinity with New Zealand's wilderness and a fondness for our unique hut and track network.

Megan's varied professional life means she brings a range of skills to the Backcountry Trust, having worked in leadership, project management, event management, sales and technical services across a broad range of industries from retail to media, to industrial gases to construction. She has experience working with charitable trusts and community and government organisations and was recently elected President of FMC. Her other volunteer work includes being a current member of the LandSAR board.



OLLIE CLIFTON (SOUTH ISLAND PROJECT MANAGER)

Ollie started his interest in the outdoors during his high school years in Palmerston North, growing and diversifying across mountaineering, rock-climbing, ski-touring (essentially anything fun in the mountains!) once at university. These days his mountain fun is a bit more relaxed and socially focused, but no less rewarding and satisfying.

Professionally, Ollie has had the good fortune to work in areas like volunteer management, community development, and project management for the last 25 years. Most recently he worked for NZAC at their national office, where managing the club huts network was one of his primary responsibilities. This was followed by a 7-year stint following the Canterbury earthquakes in commercial project management for a small consultancy, Sidera.



DENNIS PARKER (TREASURER)

Dennis is our Treasurer, has a MA (Cant) in the Sociology of Organisations and is a Chartered Member of the NZ Institute of Directors. Introduced to the outdoors at a very young age, he has tramped all over New Zealand and overseas but is now more likely to be found in the outdoors on a road bike. He took up competitive cycling and in recent years has twice been the NZ champion and the World Masters champion for his age group.

He was Financial Controller of Macpac in Christchurch in his early 30s. He worked there for 17 years in a critical role as part of the management team developing Macpac as a leader in the outdoors sector. He followed this with a 12-year stint at the University of Canterbury in a management role. He now works in governance roles for various clients in the charity, not-for-profit and volunteering sector.



JODI BAILLIE (ADMINISTRATION)

Jodi handles the administration for the BCT, working in the background to support the managers and trustees. She is currently based in Taupō-nui-a-tia/Taupō and grew up in National Park, in the central North Island, which offered multiple opportunities for experiencing the outdoors at a very early age, and developed her love for skiing/snowboarding, mountain biking, tramping, and general adventuring in the beautiful spaces of Aotearoa.





THE BIG PICTURE

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION

How the BCT prioritises work on huts and tracks is a complex formula. Like all conservation work, there are always financial constraints and more than enough work to do.

Conversations between the community and DOC are the key to deciding what are the urgent maintenance priorities, and some communities are more advanced with this discussion than others.

We are reminded of our lack of money most days and, strategically, we always look to do the work in a way that will reduce ongoing maintenance costs. We are interested in quality catch-up maintenance work rather than endless cycles of inefficient patch-up maintenance.

There are many priorities that feed into the big picture. One we have focused on in the last few years has been the removal of old lead nails and lead roof ridging from the huts of the Southern Alps. It is well known that the presence of lead is a health risk to kea, who can pick away at nails and old flashings.

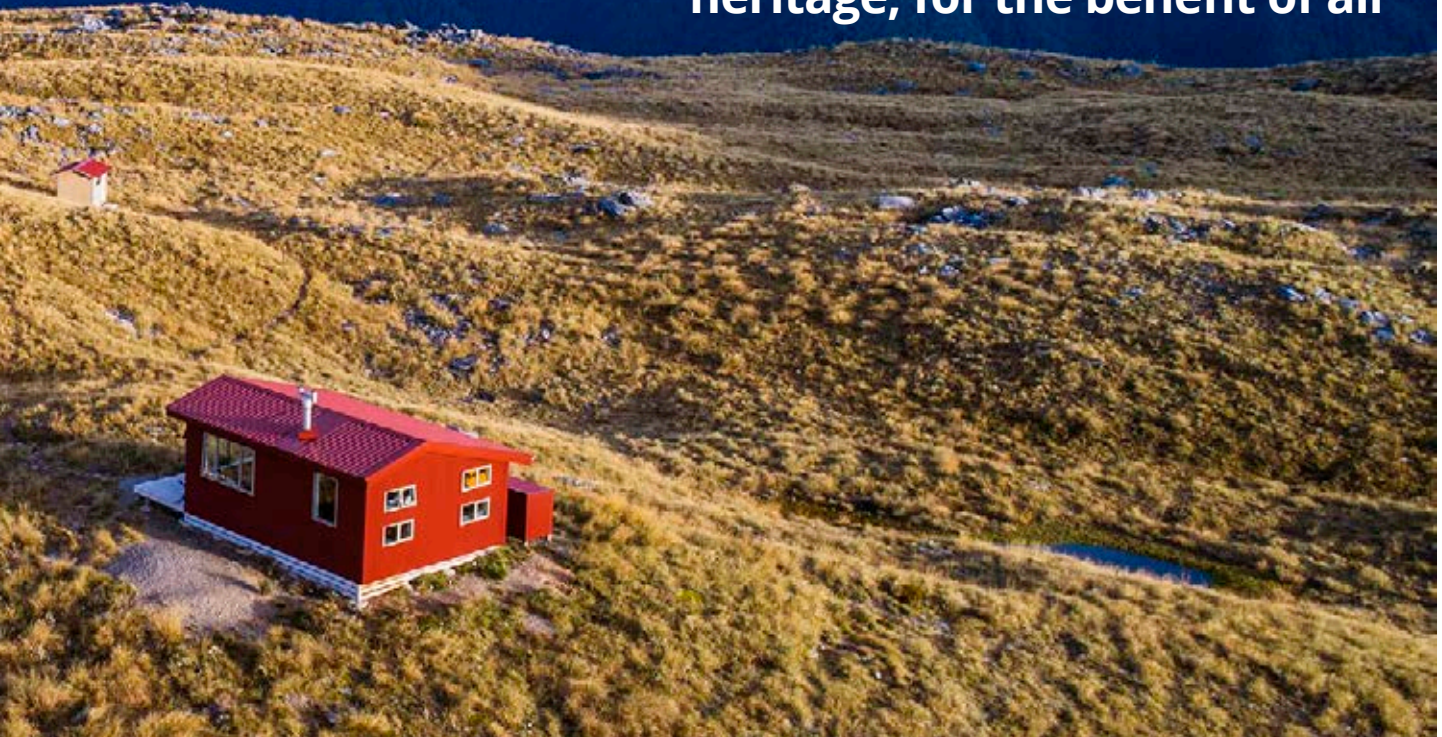
This, however, is not the only issue. In some cases, these huts have old, corrugated iron roofs that have been painted with lead-based paint, which presents a risk to kea and also to humans if there is water being collected off a roof. In most of these huts the roof underlay is no longer waterproof, and condensation ends up seeping into the structure of the building.

OUR VISION

People's lives are enriched by experiencing the wild places of Aotearoa/New Zealand

OUR MISSION

To enable and empower communities to restore, maintain and enhance our backcountry huts and tracks, as a living heritage, for the benefit of all



Some time ago we decided the best strategy for many of these huts was to go the extra mile and re-roof them in coloursteel. This approach costs a bit more in the short term, but the long-term benefits for conservation are substantial with multiple issues resolved in one hit.

The health of the environment, and the health of these places for the living things that call them home, will always come first, otherwise what values would be left for recreation?

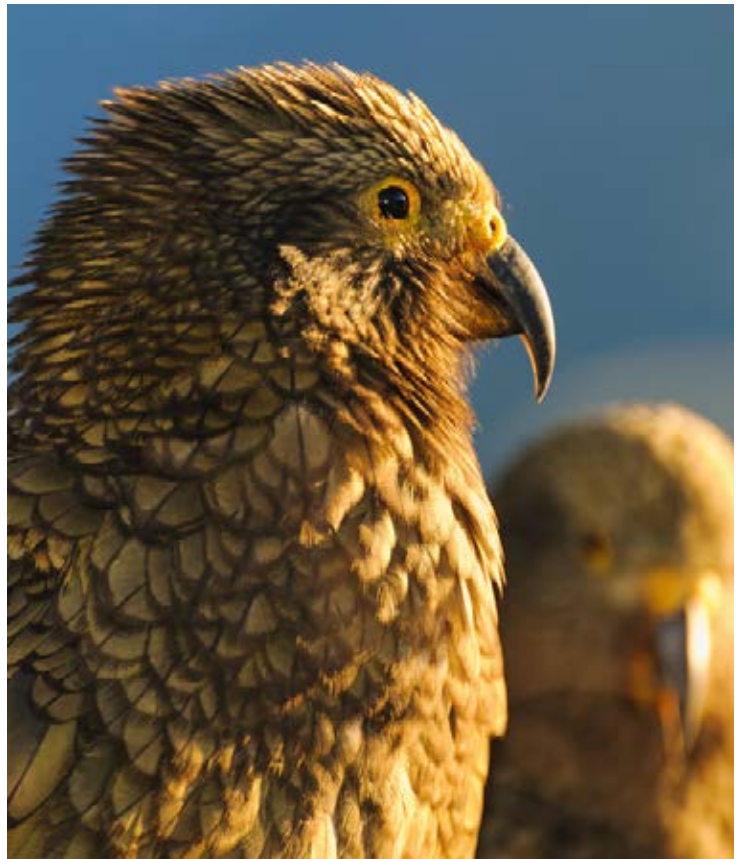
In prioritising work, we also need to keep in mind which places need shorter maintenance cycles. In wetter places like the West Coast, Fiordland, the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges, tracks need to be cut more regularly and huts need more regular attention than in the dryer eastern climates.

Through all those priorities for biodiversity support, heritage protection and urgent repair work, there is also the consideration for the communities that have relied on the BCT for financial support for the last few years. We want to encourage new people and new projects to get up and running, but we can't do this at the expense of neglecting those communities that have been looking after the hut and track network in their backyard for anything from five to twenty years now.

These are just some of the strategic and operational philosophies that sit in the background when we are trying to make a small amount of funding do as much good as possible. We constantly think through how the work is going to fit into a bigger picture and how these benefits will flow down through generational improvements.



LEAD
REMOVED TO
PROTECT KEA



41 HUTS
RE-ROOFED IN THE
LAST THREE YEARS



Aspiring Hut under construction, 1949

HUTS ARE A LIVING HERITAGE WITH VALUES TO PRESERVE



Volunteers rebuilding Robin Saddle Biv, originally built by volunteers in 1961 for the Takahe and Wapiti research

BIODIVERSITY

RUAHINE WHIO PROTECTORS

While much of the Ruahine Whio Protectors' (RWP) work takes place on the rivers that 'our' whio live on, most of the work we do is on tracks and ridgelines throughout the Ruahine Forest Park. From the hard-to-reach Pohangina River in the south of the park to the even harder to reach Te Potae trapping network in the northern range, we service about 2000 traps. Most of our traps are rebaited monthly, with the northern traps only being serviced over the six months between November and May when weather allows. Access is a constant and expensive battle. Many of the tracks and the huts we rely on are only accessible by chopper or multi-day tramps.

Access isn't only important for getting to our work – we also need it to get home. Chopper flights out are never guaranteed, and a long walk to the carpark is always on the cards.

Track closures, bridge removals and farm access difficulties are ever present. Global warming and the increased frequency of storms aren't helping matters.

Because most of our work takes place in the inner Ruahine Ranges, huts are vital. Our work is hard and our workers are often exposed to extreme elements.

A dry and hopefully warm hut at the end of a long day is a necessary part of our work. We have dozens of huts in our existing network, some of which, like Colenso Hut, have recently been renovated.

Recently Leon Kinvig Hut suffered severe storm damage. Plans are afoot for BCT to repair and fix it. The hut sits on the banks of a particularly hard-to-reach and challenging stretch of the Pohangina River where the North Island's southern-most whio population lives.

RWP has a core group of about 100 volunteers and many more ring-ins. We aim to protect 50 pairs of whio. The greater project manages about 2000 traps, but there are thousands more being maintained by two recently established kiwi recovery projects in the north and south of the ranges.

While RWP is focused on whio protection, there are plenty of other species that benefit from our ground work and a regular dusting of 1080 in the Northern Ruahine. We're noticing an increase in indicator species like titipounamu (rifleman), toutouwai (robin) and mātātā (fernbird).

Anthony Behrens
www.rwp.org.nz

Volunteers carrying traps in Ruahine Forest Park





NZDA Marlborough and DOC re-piling Penk Hut, Ferny Gair Conservation Area

MARLBOROUGH GOAT CONTROL

The Marlborough Branch of the NZDA has an MOU agreement with our local Renwick DOC office for the Ferny Gair and Glazebrooke Conservation Areas. As part of this MOU we undertake twice-yearly animal control trips for our members in this area. More recently, we have been able to combine hut and track work into our club trips.

Having a good relationship with our local DOC senior ranger Ray Bennett, we have been able to undertake some big and small Backcountry Trust-funded projects. This year, as part of doing work on Penk Hut, our team was able to shoot a combined tally of 49 goats, 11 deer (including nine hinds), one pig and one chamoix.

The second and third Backcountry Trust projects last year were at Lake Alexander Hut and Black Birch Bivvy. After the work was complete, we then

spent the rest of the week hunting goats and cutting down all the wilding pines we encountered in the area. At the end of the week we cleared the track as we walked out down the valley. A second trip a few weeks later saw more goats taken out of the area.

We know this regular control is starting to reduce the number of animals, and we are starting to get on top of the problem.

By combining hut and track work with hunting, our branch has no problem getting a volunteer crew together for this combined conservation work. In some of these more remote areas, extra goat control undertaken by the club has had a noticeable improvement on the environment, and any wilding pine removal is a huge future benefit.

Simon Wyatt

HERITAGE

ASPIRING HUT REBUILD

The original Aspiring Hut, spearheaded by Bob Craigie, was built in the late 1940s by the Otago Section of the NZ Alpine Club. In those post-war years, with petrol, transport and material shortages, this was no easy task for volunteers based in Dunedin. Their vision and hard work created an iconic mountain hut much loved for its stone walls, location and wonderful views of Tititea/Mt Aspiring.

However, 70 years on, new building and earthquake code requirements left the hut in limbo and engineers recommended major remedial work to give it a long-term future for recreation. Much of the subfloor timber had dry rot and the windows and interior were starting to look past their best.

The NZAC began exploring possibilities, but gaining permission to carry out the work on conservation land took years, with differing views on the site suitability for the hut being the major sticking point. Finance for such a large project was also a big issue. In 2020 the Backcountry Trust, through the Jobs for Nature programme, secured \$370,000 funding for the project and through its manager Rob Brown, also contributed advice and support. An ambitious plan was put in place to completely deconstruct the wooden interior, leaving the historic stone walls in place, and rebuild the hut using innovative and strong cross-laminated timber panels. The estimated cost of this mixing of historic with the new was estimated to be \$1.3 million. The Otago Community Trust granted \$100,000 to the project, the Forest & Mountain Trust

\$25,000 and the Tupiki Trust (John Nankervis's estate) also contributed \$370,000. The balance was made up from the NZAC and personal and other donations, as well as the deferred maintenance money in the long-standing Matukituki Agreement that sees the huts in the valley run in partnership with DOC.

The project was lucky to secure the services of a dedicated collection of local Wānaka builders led by Karl Boomsma, and local architecture company Red Gecko had NZAC members Kat West and Bruce Dowrick, who had a great understanding of the original architecture and history. Early on, the building inspection found that the original stonework was good condition and could be kept, conserving a significant heritage aspect of the original building.

In BCT we are absolutely about looking after our cultural heritage in the hills, but we are also pragmatic. It needs to be a living heritage, fit for now and the future as well as looking after the past. We respect that people form deep attachments to these places.

Project management and governance was ably organised by Derrick Crombie and John Cocks of NZAC. The Aspinall Family of Mt Aspiring Station, who helped with the original build, put in a huge effort transporting material to and from the site and were critical to bringing in the project close to budget. The rebuild was completed in March 2023, and the hut opened on 31st March 2023.

Geoff Spearpoint

NZAC's Aspiring Hut after the 2022/23 rebuild





FREEMAN BURN HUT REBUILD

The original Freeman Burn Hut was built over the summer of 1928/29 by Les Murrell and his brothers to support the opening of a new tourist track from the head of Lake Manapōuri to Bradshaw Sound. The shoestring budget of this venture meant the hut was built out of lower-grade sap rimu and sash windows, which were salvaged from other buildings and fixed into place without the sash frame to allow them to open.

Three other huts built as part of this venture were even more basic in their construction, but none of these have survived. The track was never as popular as the route over Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound, and when Les Murrell died in the 1950s, Les and Olive Hutchins bought the hut off the estate. In 1958 they gifted it to the newly formed Fiordland National Park Board along with Shallow Bay Hut.

Nearly 100 years on, the the hut was in poor shape. Borer had gone right through most of the sap wood flooring and framing, vandals had smashed up some of the interior lining in 2018 and this had been covered over with plywood. Structurally the whole building had started slumping 100mm to the south and it seemed to be on the way to the ground. A heritage report confirmed that Freeman Burn Hut was an important example of an early New Zealand tourism hut but gave no solid building advice on how to preserve it.

These are the sorts of management challenges that often confront heritage hut projects – to rebuild or to let nature take its course and allow the building to continue to fade away. The hut clearly still had a lot of use value so allowing it to simply fall down was not really an option. It was on a well-selected and safe

site, getting frequent use, and was one of a number of actively managed historic huts in the Fiordland National Park Management Plan. Elements of the building were savable. Much of the original corrugated iron cladding was in good condition, as well as parts of the subfloor.

Red Gecko came up with a design to restore the hut back to its original look with its traditional chimney, and in 2022 the NZDA Southern Lakes branch decided to take on the project. Over many weekends in early summer they worked their way through getting the new pile foundations in place, replacing the rotten timber frame and building the new chimney for the replacement wood burner. To complete the project, builders from Wānaka finished the roof, replaced the floor, and fixed the original cladding back onto the hut.

As with many historic renovations, it is always a balancing act to try to remain faithful to the original building but carry out the work in a way that leaves a functional building for the environment. Compromises are inevitable. Ply was removed from the original interior and replaced with the more original-looking timber sarking that was sourced locally from a mill in Tūātapere. Historic gains like this are often offset by things like having to replace the rusted roof with a newer coloursteel one that will give many years of protection to the rebuilt hut.

As time goes on there will be more decisions to make around how best to retain the historic hut heritage as a living heritage. The key to making the right decisions will be to get the right mix of building and heritage professionals to work out the best way to restore these older buildings.

Rob Brown

COMMUNITY

KAIKŌURA MOUNTAIN BIKING

Spearheaded by mountain biker Dwayne Fussell, who moved from Queenstown to Kaikōura assuming the hills were laden with mountain bike trails 23 years ago, the Kaiterau Trail was a true community effort to improve mountain bike access into the mountains.

With a view to remedying the access situation, Fussell helped found Kaikōura Cycling Club (KCC) to bring the local mountain bikers together.

KCC attracted a loyal crew of volunteers and developed a network on trails on the flats, but the club's sights were always set higher – specifically on nearby Mt Fyffe.

The concept of the trail gained momentum when Al Gilchrist moved to Kaikōura and joined the club in 2018. Together, Fussell and Gilchrist approached DOC on behalf of the club to see whether the 'dream' could go ahead. The following two years were spent developing a relationship with DOC and the local iwi, as well as doing a comprehensive environmental impact assessment of where the club was keen to develop trails.

And then, everything came together at once. The \$73,000 project received final approval in April 2020 and, shortly after, secured a grant for \$46,000 from the Backcountry Trust and \$12,000 from a local trust started by tourism operator Dolphin Encounters. In addition to money the club had raised through local

donations, and some help from the council, KCC had enough to start building.

Built on public conservation land, construction of the Kaiterau Trail started in May 2020 and was completed by the end of the year. The mostly intermediate trail climbs about 7km and 400m in elevation to a view point – Kaiterau Plateau – about one third of the way up Mt Fyffe.

From there, the downhill trail swoops and winds through bush for 3.5km. According to the club, it has proven to be a real attraction to people travelling through the region as well as those who live there, and increased KCC's membership tenfold!

The club's sentiment is echoed by Cameron Bissett, who runs D&E Track and Trail, the company hired to work on the trail specifically thanks to his experience working with native bush on DOC land.

"It is built in 60-year-old regenerating bush and on the side of some pretty steep terrain, and riders get a pretty sweet panoramic view of the Seaward Kaikōura Range, and the coast out to the Pacific Ocean, once they pop out at the top of the climb," said Bissett.

He commends Fussell and Gilchrist for their pivotal role in getting this project off the ground, saying it took a lot of hard work and perseverance from them both as well as all the volunteers from the Kaikōura community.

Meagan Robertson, Trail Fund NZ

Mountain bikers enjoying the new Kaiterau Trail





TWIZEL FAMILY TRAMPING

The Backcountry Trust is committed to helping as many small communities as it can to look after recreational opportunities on their back doorstep.

The Hopkins Valley near Twizel is used by a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts. It's a popular hunting area for deer, chamoix and tahr and has relatively easy 4WD access. There are numerous climbing opportunities, from the easy snow climbs like Mt MacKenzie through to more technical routes on the Dasler Pinnacles.

The Huxley Valley, which branches off the main Hopkins, also has one of the best overnight family tramping experiences for young kids, with the right mix of open views and challenges.

New backcountry sports have also discovered the Hopkins. The packrafting trip on the Huxley is a great day out, and people looking for a harder challenge have been traversing Broderick Pass and descending into the Landsborough catchment.

The area is a local gem and offers more diverse opportunities than the higher mountains of Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park. In the past few years we've invested in this magnificent high-country area with renovations of Monument Hut, Broderick Hut,

Dasler Biv and Erceg Hut. As well as this we completed a major upgrade of Huxley Forks Hut in 2022 and funded a group for the ongoing maintenance of the NZAC's Elcho Hut.

The road into Monument Hut had been progressively going backwards, so in late 2022 we also put \$30,000 into remedial maintenance on the road, and hope to keep it at a standard where most light 4WD vehicles can get in to Monument Hut.

This work has been done by the Backcountry Trust because we are conscious that smaller communities often miss out on recreational funding in their part of the network because allocations are frequently related to numbers of people visiting a place. This doesn't take account of the wider perspectives of how important a place might be to a local community for everything from weekend walks with the kids through to the local school running outdoor camps. When working out priorities for where it should best apply its limited funding, the trust considers the positive impact a small amount of funding can make to a local community with limited resources to fund backcountry opportunities.

Rob Brown

2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME



Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and contractors around the country, our backcountry hut and track network continues to look better than ever. We are now 20 years on from the Recreational Opportunity Review which saw DOC and the community take a hard look at how to make the network sustainable. It is in a better place today than it was 20 years ago. Some of the volunteers and DOC staff involved in the Backcountry Trust's work started their efforts long ago and can look back on a successful record of progress.

This summer proved to be a challenging one for keeping the momentum going on hut and track maintenance. Most of our work is set up with the flexibility to work around the weather, but this season repeated storms in the North Island frustrated some efforts to get through the work programme.

Cyclone Gabrielle put an end to most forward plans in the North Island, and for the last couple of months the work programme had to be realigned around cleaning up the resulting damage.

The flow of funding also held up progress. We had several teams around the country that we were not

able to get going on projects because of delays in securing a new funding agreement with DOC. The Backcountry Trust board was constrained in granting any new projects from August 2022 onwards, and although we had enough work in the system to keep going, saying no to people who were keen to roll up their sleeves and get work going in their area was a difficult part of the job.

But challenges are what the outdoors community love, and the nature of the people involved in the Backcountry Trust is that for every potential problem, people tend to see ten different potential solutions. Challenges drive creativity and broader thinking.

The restored Temple Basin Historic Bridge, Arthur's Pass National Park





Dunns Creek Hut after restoration, West Coast



Painting Ellis Basin Hut, Kahurangi National Park

Where we had funding programmed in, most groups were able to get through much of the outstanding list of projects, and throughout the country we delivered maintenance on another 31 huts and 150 km of track. We also made contributions to contract work that repaired two bridges, including the historic Temple Basin Road Bridge that is part of the infrastructure to important opportunities in Arthur's Pass National Park.

This season also marked the end of our Jobs for Nature Covid recovery programme. Over three years this has seen over \$1.6 million go into the backcountry, principally to deal with deferred maintenance on huts and tracks. This money renovated 30 huts in total including large projects like completely rebuilding Belltown Hut (Wangapeka Track) and making a significant contribution to the NZAC's rebuilding of historic Aspiring Hut.

More importantly, it enabled the Backcountry Trust to access some highly skilled people with building or track cutting skills who had been working in tourism and needed to 'go back on the tools', and people working in the building and construction industries who had delays to building projects because of supply line issues early in the Covid crisis.

Many of these people we did not know before the Jobs for Nature programme started, and they brought new skills and knowledge to the Backcountry Trusts' work – skills that we hope to retain into the future. The quality work they delivered over the three years worked hand in hand with equivalent work being delivered by volunteer groups and it points to how we can keep working together to get the whole job

done.

We continued to get great support for the fieldwork from transport operators and sponsors around the country. The helicopter operators we work with are constantly looking for ways they can improve the efficiency and safety of operations as the scale of some of the BCT work has grown. The professionalism with this part of getting a project completed has greatly contributed to how well we can get through the work programme. Sponsors from the building industry have also come onboard to help get the work done to the highest standard. We've been grateful to Kingspan/Thermakraft for the supply of their excellent building wrap and roofing underlay, and Dulux has continued to supply all the paint we have needed for hut restorations. Many local suppliers have also given us good deals on products, and every cent has been appreciated to help with this all-of-community effort.

The relationship with DOC continued to grow at a local level, and some of the joint operational projects yielded positive results. These models continue to show how to get the maximum conservation work delivered on the ground. Local relationships and working together are the engine room of getting most of the conservation work done in New Zealand. The backcountry network is starting to look like a great example of how this works in practice.

Rob Brown
National Operations Manager

TE IKA-A-MĀUI / NORTH ISLAND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME



“

Just before winter 2022 there was time for one last project. Gary MacDonald and two others went into Blyth Hut in Tongariro National Park and completed stage one of the renovation of this hut by putting on a new roof.

Then, after a series of volunteer roadshows and planning meetings with DOC throughout Te Ika a Māui over the winter, the season kicked into action in September with a comprehensive restoration of historic Sayer Hut in the Tararua Range. This gem of a project was initiated by Kane Sayer, great-grandson of the original builder of the hut, Richard “Dicky” Sayer.

Alongside other whānau, Barry Sayer (Kane’s uncle), Paul Sayer (Barry’s uncle), Rex Pender (grandson of Kane’s aunty) and the Wairarapa NZDA, the team did

a character-filled restoration of the hut to address water-tightness issues. It was fitting way to begin the summer of work.

In early October, the Te Araroa Manawatū Trust completed a re-route of Burttons Track in the Tararua. This track work ensured enduring access by moving the route onto public conservation land, and addressed safety concerns by eliminating an unpredictable, and sometimes treacherous, river crossing.

Left: Members of the Sayer family strip back the cladding to reveal the original tōtara slabs on Sayer Hut, Tararua Forest Park
Below: Rex Pender, Kane Sayer, Barry Sayer and Paul Sayer in front of the refurbished Sayer Hut, Tararua Forest Park



Also in October, we held a significant backcountry track working bee in the Kaweka Forest Park. Seventeen volunteers, led by local DOC Ranger Malcolm “Locky” Lock and myself, worked our way through the eastern side of the range, clearing just under 60km of tracks in four days. Coming in at the modest cost of \$13,000, it was an exceptional example of the sort of efficient outcomes that can be gained from the community working alongside DOC on backcountry track maintenance.

November saw a small team consisting of Damon Wise, Emma Martindale and Robin Oliver complete the unenviable but very urgent job of relocating the toilet at Mackintosh Hut in the Kaweka Forest Park, as well as completing some small maintenance tasks and track work.

At the beginning of December, a team from the Packrafting Association of NZ did some work along the banks of the Ngaruroro River on Rocks Ahead biv and hut. Over five days, and in between rain showers, Aj Esler, Illona Keenan, Corine Pontbriand, Brian Miracle and I undertook numerous bits of maintenance including painting and lining the biv, installing a new window and door and, on the other side of the river at the main hut, installing a new woodshed and doing some maintenance on the open fireplace. The team then relocated to the Ngawaapurua Hut to complete trackwork before packrafting back to civilisation.

Some volunteers choose to combine their holidays with volunteer work, and this New Year, Mike Main, Karen and Tessa the dog put the finishing touches on Black Birch Biv, getting a couple of fresh coats of paint on and completing the spouting.

January 2023 started with a chunk of work done clearing windfall on the Waitotara Valley tracks. Last year, teams went through and completed hand clearing of these trails in preparation for a final chainsaw sweep to clear windfalls. Over four days, a team of seven, including three chainsaw operators, cleared windfall from 43km of tracks in a point-to-point mission that required the crew to carry their gear with them from hut to hut as they worked. An estimated 150 to 200 windfalls of varying sizes were cleared from the track. Making up the BCT team for this one was David Eaton, Nick Powis, Corine Pontbriand, Julia Collins, Mark Robbins and Taylor Waddell.

In early February, our all-women crew began prep work for the relocation of Comet Hut, a run-down and poorly treated road-end hut. A site was cleared a short walk from the river and a brand new track cut between Komata high point, the new hut site, and the Ngaruroro River in preparation for the re-siting of the hut. The relocation of the hut itself was delayed a year due to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle. The rest of the work has now been postponed till 2023-24.



Nick Powis removing a large old man pine from a track in the Waitotara Valley



Illona Keenan preps Rocks Ahead Biv for painting, Kaweka Forest Park

Fitting a deck and new water tank to Black Birch Biv, Kaweka Forest Park





Diane's Hut after a full renovation, Ruahine Forest Park

Also in February, Steve Wilman lead a crew consisting of Fiona Burleigh, Anthony Behrens, Tina Christie, and Richard Wynyard to complete a significant restoration of Diane's Hut in Northern Ruahine. The team got the larger portion of the work complete in trying conditions, including a new roof, new fireplace, woodshed, meat safe, repairs and levelling to the concrete floor, but weather conditions meant a return to complete the work was going to be required. Little

did the team know at the time that only a couple of weeks later, cyclone Gabrielle would destroy the access road they intended to use to walk in and complete the work, and facilities closures would mean that it was nearly two months before they were able to return (via helicopter) and complete the work. As with other projects this crew has undertaken, the transformation of Diane's Hut was almost as remarkable as Diane Tresidder herself.

Fiona Burleigh fitting beading to the internal lining at Diane's Hut, Ruahine Forest Park





In a final push, through Jobs for Nature, RuapehuWorX completed the mahi they had begun in early winter on the Burn Hut loop track in Tararua Forest Park. Louie Galloway, Dayle Brooks and Rene Beelen were on the tools for the project, with David Kereti and John Richard helping the team to position their gear.

It would be impossible to comment on the events of the past year without mentioning the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle in the central and upper North Island. The cyclone had a significant impact on communities, including our working partners and volunteers, and it also had a significant impact on some wild places. Rivers changed, tracks were washed away in places, but overall the network of

backcountry huts held up remarkably well. After this event it was clear we would not be returning to business-as-usual for some time and that a reassessment of priorities needed to occur.

Some areas escaped the worst of the cyclone, and in those places, work with volunteer groups continued. ExNZFS continued their work programme in the Tararua Forest Park, with Steve Elgar and Bart Guckert completing a full repaint of Penn Creek Hut, returning it to its heritage DOC orange colour. An ExNZFS crew consisting of Paul Gush and Dave Jordan also completed some maintenance on Mid King Biv, and gave it a fresh coat of paint.





Meanwhile, a bit further north, efforts have begun on assessing and clearing cyclone damage. An initial team of five were deployed to Te Iringa track in the Kaimanawa Forest Park. This was work planned for the summer of 2023-24, but given the damage we brought this programme of work forward to keep the opportunity open. Corine Pontbriand, Tony Walton, Geoff Mead, Lisa Mead and I worked our way from Clements Mill Road through to Oamaru Hut over the space of four days with a chainsaw and hand tools. The condition of the track was initially very good, with the team clearing a windfall approximately every 500m or so. About three kilometres from Oamaru Hut, we came across an isolated stretch of track a couple of kilometres long covered in back-to-back windfall. We made our way through to Oamaru Hut with the intent to return and complete the job.

Two weeks later, we returned with David Eaton, Corine Pontbriand, Jason Cheetham and Taylor Waddell to clear the remaining track to the hut over five days. Part of this work involved building corduroy bridges through the bogs near the hut, and we pushed on doing another five kilometres of track between Oamaru Hut towards Boyd Hut.

In April, a Sika Foundation crew consisting of Brett Stokman, Anton Stokman, Joseph Turner, and Bevan Liddle headed into Boyd Hut. They painted the hut, installed a new woodshed, replaced the table top, and did some repairs to the concrete hearth. They'll be returning in June to replace the deck around the hut, which is currently a bit worse for wear. This is part of the Sika Foundation's ongoing commitment to huts in Kaimanawa Forest Park.

The only hut to sustain significant damage in Cyclone Gabrielle was Leon Kinvig Hut in the Ruahine. This had only recently been restored using Jobs for Nature funding, and the hut was lifted off its piles by floodwaters and deposited about ten metres downstream where the heli pad used to be. The hut was in remarkably good shape despite this unintended move, and the intention is to find a new site nearby and relocate the hut in the spring.

In May, a BCT team of Steve Wilman, myself, Ron Davies, Dan Mapp, Sam and Kato Davies went to tidy up the last remaining bits of work on Upper Matakuhia Hut. The hut now has a new roof, new ridge beam, a new Wagener Cooktop fireplace and a woodshed. The hut is in good shape to support those people like Ron who have been in here for years trapping to protect whio.

The planning for cyclone recovery work alongside DOC is ongoing and will most likely dictate a large amount of our work for the next 12 months. Even at the time of writing this report, the full extent of the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on backcountry tracks is still not comprehensively understood, and the Backcountry Trust continues to work alongside DOC to identify priorities and direct resources to places where they are needed most for recovery efforts. For all the damage caused by the cyclone, it has been an enlightening reminder of just how important the mahi aroha done by our community is, and how effectively the BCT can mobilise resources to complete work in the backcountry.

Megan Dimozantos
North Island Project Manager



Mike and Paul painting Dickie Spur Hut, West Coast

TE WAIPOUNAMU / SOUTH ISLAND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The first hut project for the season was the deferred maintenance work to Dickie Spur Hut. This hut on West Coast stewardship land has become increasingly popular as the standard route into Ivory Lake Hut via the Tuke River. At 1,260m, the hut had done well in the alpine environment since it was built in the early 1960s but needed a substantial amount of work to bring it up to a suitable engineering standard for the exposed tops. A team of six, including Clint Jarvis' Wānaka build team, as well as volunteers Tom Hayes and Mike Sheridan, put in a solid four days of work to replace piles and tie downs and re-roof the hut.

The NZDA Marlborough Branch had a good programme of work scheduled for the summer and

got started in late October 2022 with maintenance work on Penk Hut. Coordinating their efforts with local DOC ranger Ray Bennet, the group of keen volunteers organised by Simon Wyatt re-piled the hut, installed a new stainless bench and tidied up a few other routine maintenance jobs.

Just before Christmas two teams got underway with projects in Fiordland National Park. Clint Jarvis' Wānaka build team of Mark Williamson, Paul Chinn and Vitek Kocendrie spent four days re-roofing Halfway Hut on the Dusky Track. This was the third hut to be re-roofed as part of the BCT programme to catch up the deferred maintenance on the Dusky Track.

A member of Permolat Southland painting Halfway Hut, the Dusky Track, Fiordland National Park





At the same time, retired Fiordland ranger Ken Bradley and Beatty Wiggerhauser finished painting the Freeman Burn Historic Hut in perfect weather.

Just before Christmas, the Marlborough Branch of the NZDA completed work on two further huts in the Marlborough area. Lake Alexander Hut had a new 2000 litre water tank installed, again working in with DOC Renwick, and in the same operation carried out some more work on Black Birch Biv. The team finished off the work with some more goat control in the Ferny Gair Conservation Area.

In early January a team from the NZAC working under builder Paul Maxim completed another Fiordland project with a renovation of Robin Saddle Biv. This hut was originally built by volunteers in the 1960s for the takahē programme and has been identified as an historically significant early biodiversity hut. There was a lot to get through over eight days. This hut had sat on its exposed site for more than 60 years

and been battered around by the Fiordland weather. The work involved re-cladding the hut, including fixing an ecobarrier shell to the frame before the cladding went on, and removing the old pipe foundations before replacing them with concreted in piles. A small library of books from the late John Nankervis's estate was left in the biv.

The Wapiti Foundation went in over a weekend to carry out the final bit of tidy-up work on the tie downs, and this group is looking to manage this facility as part of its overall management agreement with DOC for the huts in this area.

We were unable to fund Permolat Southland to undertake any of their larger projects for this summer, but they still enthusiastically got involved to help complete a couple of other projects. Halfway Hut on the Dusky Track was one such project, and after Clint Jarvis's build team had re-roofed it in late December, a team of five people from Permolat Southland went



The NZAC team re-piling Robin Saddle Hut

NZDA Marlborough and DOC installing a new water tank at Lake Alexander Hut





Newton Range Biv after work by Bruce McLelland and Permolat West Coast

in to complete the painting. They flew in on a perfect February weekend, painted the hut, and then walked out down to Lake Hauroko.

In April Permolat Southland teamed up with DOC Rakiura rangers to paint Big Bungaree Hut inside and out. The combined team got through all the catch-up maintenance jobs to leave another hut on the North-west Circuit in great condition.

Clint and Fiona installing the new wood bins at Mataketake Hut, West Coast

Late in February, a Permolat West Coast crew of Bruce McLelland, Hokitika builder Marty Bisdee and two others completed a round of maintenance on Newton Range Biv. The old louvre window that had been leaking was replaced, new tie downs fitted and the hut given a fresh coat of Dulux Rescue Orange.

In late summer, Ross Cullen's Nelson volunteer group completed their project on Ellis Basin Hut by finishing





NZDA Ashburton renovating Lawrence Biv, Canterbury High Country

the painting. Another Nelson volunteer group also finished the painting at Roaring Lion Hut in the Karamea.

Right at the end of the season, the NZDA Ashburton Branch renovated Lawrence Biv in the Clyde River catchment. Over a weekend the team of six put together by Kelvin Williams stripped the biv back to the frame and repiled and reclad it. The tie downs were also redone and these renovations should see the biv set as a great base for tahr hunting.

Trackwork also continued around the South Island. The Green Hut Track Group were active every month in the Silver Peaks area near Dunedin. Like a lot of retired high country areas, the vegetation

is continuing to grow back faster than ever. The Permolat West Coast track team was a little quieter this year, but there were still the odd groups getting out and doing work on the remote tracks. Andrew Buglass was working as hard as ever in his retirement and cut and marked tracks, and Andrew Barker did a mammoth solo effort to recut the track between Kakapo Hut over Kakapo Saddle and into the Wangapeka Track.

Once again we can't thank the volunteers enough for their work in the South Island, and hope next year we are in a position to enable more people to participate in giving something back to the hut and track network.



JOBS FOR NATURE

The final year of our Jobs for Nature programme saw all projects on the work schedule completed by the end of April 2022.

The major portion of this funding went to paying the builders who started work on the rebuild of Aspiring Hut in September 2022. Karl Boomsma's Wānaka builders got started with this mammoth task in the spring and had an unusually settled period of

weather to get into the deconstruction of the old hut. By early summer the foundations were in, the structural panels in place and by Christmas the roof was on. The build went as smoothly as could have been expected and the six-month project was within the expected time frame for such a complicated task. The end result is outstanding new accommodation in the valley open to all, which respects the NZAC heritage and links with the Matukituki.

Karl and Geoff thinking through the next moves on the Aspiring Hut rebuild, Otago





Re-roofing Balloon Hut, Kahurangi National Park

In the northern part of the South Island, Jobs for Nature teams completed a number of deferred maintenance projects. The Golden Bay Track team linked in with DOC Motueka to do a week's worth of track cutting in the Leslie-Karamea-Wangapeka area, and in January a team of five re-roofed Balloon Hut and tidied up a few other maintenance jobs.

Ollie Clifton's build team picked up where they left off the previous summer and completed their remaining projects. Rocky Creek Biv and Top Olderog Biv were both renovated, including replacing their windows with low maintenance modern joinery and re-roofing both huts in coloursteel.

Christchurch builder Matt Hewat and three others did an extensive renovation of Upper Deception Hut. This hut on the popular Coast to Coast race route had fallen into disrepair and needed an extensive amount of work around the open fire subfloor, new windows, and the chimney for the fire needed extensive repairs. The hut was also re-roofed and new stainless steel benches fitted to the interior.

Renovating Rocky Creek Biv, West Coast





Above: Top Olderog Biv
Right: Tony Newton building Top Olderog Biv in the early 1970s



Ruapehu WorX team at Burn Hut after the finish of cutting this track.



In February, Kirwins Hut received a much needed round of maintenance. The roof had been leaking and this was removed and replaced with coloursteel. The old iron clad a new woodshed and the wood burner flue was replaced.

Later in summer, Ruapehu WorX completed the track cut on the Burn Hut loop in the Tararua. The

leatherwood had got a little overgrown on this track and this project took a couple of good trips to recut through the sub-alpine zone.

The final two projects for Jobs for Nature were both extensive rebuilds of existing huts. The work on Mid Wairoa Hut on the Te Araroa Trail in Richmond Forest Park completely transformed this hut from an old



Finishing Mid Wairoa Hut renovation, Richmond Forest Park



Mid Wairoa Hut renovation, Richmond Forest Park



S70 6-bunk NZFS hut that had been built around the wrong way with its windows facing south, into a near new 8-bunk hut. Windows were added to let more light in and the old open fire was replaced with a woodburner. The work was completed by a team of five over eight days.

At the same time, a team of four completed a rebuild of Dunns Creek Hut on the West Coast. This hut had

been inspected a couple of years ago and was found to be in poor shape. It had been poorly repaired back in 2004 and rats had managed to eat their way into the hut. An incorrectly fitted woodburner had only contributed to the problems with water leaking in through the north wall. In the end the hut had to be taken right down to the foundations and redone as a like for like replacement.

Right: Waikiti Bridge, West Coast after re-cable and renovation work.



Lewis finishing Dunns Creek Hut rebuild.



Financial Performance

Backcountry Trust (Aotearoa | NewZealand)

For the 13 months ended 30 June 2023

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Income - Funding for Projects		
DOC Funding for Volunteer Projects	113,000.00	315,000.00
DOC Funding for KFN Projects	123,244.00	1,038,737.50
Funding for Tagged Projects	30,749.96	9,577.39
DOC Contracts	17,862.00	-
Total Income - Funding for Projects	284,855.96	1,363,314.89
Less Funded Project Expenses		
Volunteer DOC Funded Project Expenses	367,423.94	593,110.37
KFN DOC Funded Project Expenses	560,355.29	806,712.28
Tagged Project Expenses	30,749.96	12,811.15
Deferred Project Funding	(673,673.23)	30,569.02
Total Less Funded Project Expenses	284,855.96	1,443,202.82
Surplus (Deficit) - Funded Projects	-	(79,887.93)
Administration Income		
DOC Administration Funding	112,000.00	135,000.00
DOC Administration Funding - Kaimahi for Nature	30,811.00	311,125.00
DOC Contract Administration	3,000.00	-
Mataketake Hut Fees	9,000.00	7,793.71
Donations	25,853.12	36,807.38
Interest	10,892.95	17,681.58
Total Administration Income	191,557.07	508,407.67
Administration Expenses		
Contractor Expenses	293,609.89	362,198.21
Honoraria & Salaries	29,832.50	32,000.00
Administration Expenses	42,966.06	45,427.03
Contractor KFN Direct Project Cost Charge	-	(35,878.21)
Total Administration Expenses	366,408.45	403,747.03
Surplus (Deficit) - Administration	(174,851.38)	104,660.64
Surplus (Deficit) - Backcountry Trust	(174,851.38)	24,772.71

Financial Position

Backcountry Trust

As at 30 June 2023

	JUNE 2023	MAY 2022
Assets		
Bank		
Cheque Account	21,451.70	18,560.31
Savings	166,186.88	400,535.25
Total Bank	187,638.58	419,095.56
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	62,813.05	536,925.22
Term Deposits	-	153,581.17
Total Current Assets	62,813.05	690,506.39
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	6,327.50	6,327.50
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,011.00)	(523.00)
Total Fixed Assets	5,316.50	5,804.50
Total Assets	255,768.13	1,115,406.45
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	23,038.13	105,213.11
GST	1,327.14	54,748.69
PAYE Payable	742.50	825.00
DOC Unallocated and Unspent Funds	80,433.26	754,106.49
DOC Funding 2023-24	123,419.00	-
Business Visa	1,356.52	210.20
Total Current Liabilities	230,316.55	915,103.49
Total Liabilities	230,316.55	915,103.49
Net Assets	25,451.58	200,302.96
Equity		
Retained Earnings	(637,710.68)	65,382.78
Current Year Earnings	663,162.26	134,920.18
Total Equity	25,451.58	200,302.96

LIST OF APPROVED GRANTS FOR 2022-23

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT APPROVED (INCL GST)
VOLUNTEER PROJECTS		
Dickie Spur Hut	BCT Volunteer	\$13,000
Mataketake Hut woodbin/lightening aerial	BCT Hut maintenance	\$12,500
Silver Peaks Track Maintenance	Green Hut Track Group	\$15,000
Burtton's Track Re-route	Te Araroa Manawatu Trust	\$1,369
Newton Range Biv	Bruce McLelland/Permolat	\$2,500
Mackintosh Hut	Damon Wise	\$2,000
Freeman Burn Hut rubbish removal	BCT Volunteer	\$2,500
Freeman Burn Hut finishing	BCT Volunteer	\$5,000
Kaweka Trackwork	BCT Volunteer	\$13,000
Diane's Hut	Steve Wilman	\$20,000
Lake Alexander Hut Water Tank	NZDA Marlborough	\$4,837
Robin Saddle Hut	Paul Maxim	\$25,000
Tripp Creek Thunderbox	Dave Keen	\$2,500
Huxley Forks Window repair	BCT	\$1,500
Big Bungaree Hut Painting	Permolat Southland	\$2,500
Golden Bay Huts Rifle Racks	NZDA Golden Bay	\$1,000
Halfway Hut Painting	Permolat Southland	\$2,500
Comet Hut Restoration	BCT Volunteer	\$16,909
Te Iringa track cyclone recovery	BCT Volunteer	\$2,500
Hinemaia Track cyclone recovery	BCT Volunteer	\$2,500
Te Iringa Stage 2	BCT Volunteer	\$2,500
Ranger Biv and Turnbull Biv	Craig Benbow	\$8,000
Winchcombe Biv maintenance	exNZFS	\$3,675
Upper Matakhuia Hut	BCT Volunteer	\$10,000
Mid King Biv painting	exNZFS	\$2,500

PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT APPROVED (INCL GST)
JOBS FOR NATURE	
Kirwins Hut re-roof	\$25,000
Tararua Tracks (alongside NZFS 6-wire work) / Increased to \$25,000	\$5,000
Aspiring Hut Design & Engineering funding increased to \$30,000	\$15,000
Mid Wairoa Hut design	\$2,500
Mid Wairoa Hut	\$40,000
Wangapeka-Karamea-Taipo Trackwork	\$15,000
Aspiring Hut rebuild	\$325,000
Balloon Hut re-roof	\$28,000
Top Olderog Biv	\$18,000
Dunns Creek Hut (KFN/VOL)	\$50,000

PARTNERS



SPONSORS

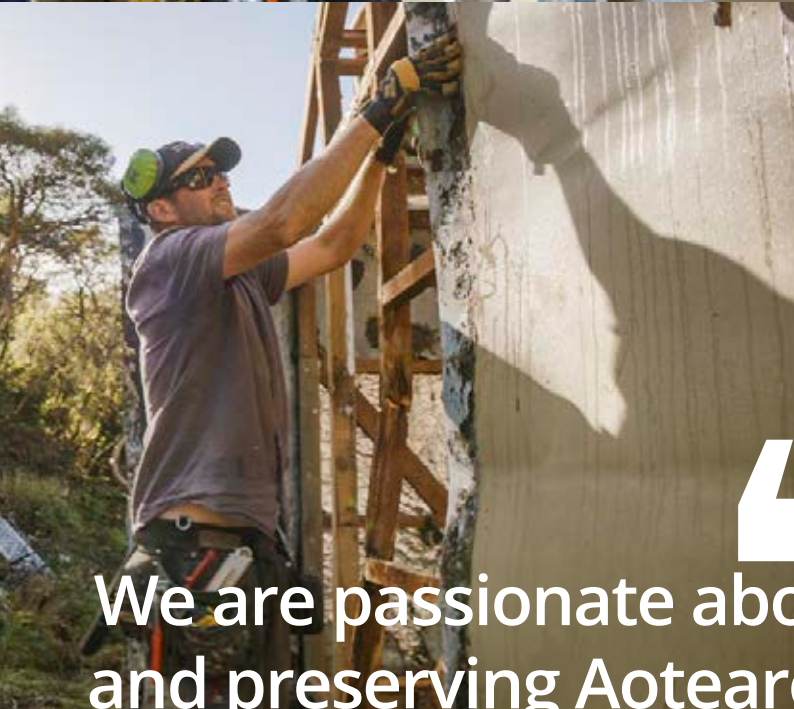


Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



SUPPORTERS





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

