

# ARAC NEWS



**The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc**

**Issue 10, February 2016**

Even more updates in this issue.....

## **Akatarawa Forest**

### **Orange Hut Progress – Much Progress Being Made**

Well, we had a huge delay waiting for the weather Gods to provide a suitable opportunity, but at long last work progresses at an amazing rate at the Orange Hut



The barbeque walls went up, followed swiftly by the seating and the roof.





Measuring a cool 6 metres along all three walls, there's plenty of room for all







A new woodshed has been built against the western wall, and it is now stacked to the rafters with wood. It would be great is as well as using the wood, you would try to add to it from time to time.



GW have done a magnificent job on the carpark, and drainage is now excellent



Monitor Orange Hut progress at <http://arac.org.nz/index.php/orange-hut-project/> - you can also sign up as a volunteer via this link.

### **Devil's Staircase**

Much work has been done in the Staircase, and although due to open over Labour Weekend, given all the rain we've had, coupled with a need for the digger to revisit the area again (and unavoidably chew up the surface a bit), the actual opening will not now be until December. Akatarawa Trip Leaders will be advised by e-mail

### **The Ruts**



The Ruts continue to recover well, and the native plantings are kind of coming away. A nice example of money well spent by GW

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

*Remember those impassable Bogs?*

### **Rimu Road**

We've kind of put Rimu Road on the back burner whilst the Orange Hut gets all the attention. Nonetheless, if someone wants to donate some wire rope and repair the missing section it would be appreciated.

Even so, without the fencing, the ground / picnic area at the bottom of Rimu is settling down nicely with little sign of unwarranted access.

## **Odlin's Road and Waioatauru Valley**

The biggest item concerning Waioatauru Valley remains the hut.

Our request for funds to TARH resulted in a pledge of \$6,000 – about 30% of what is needed.

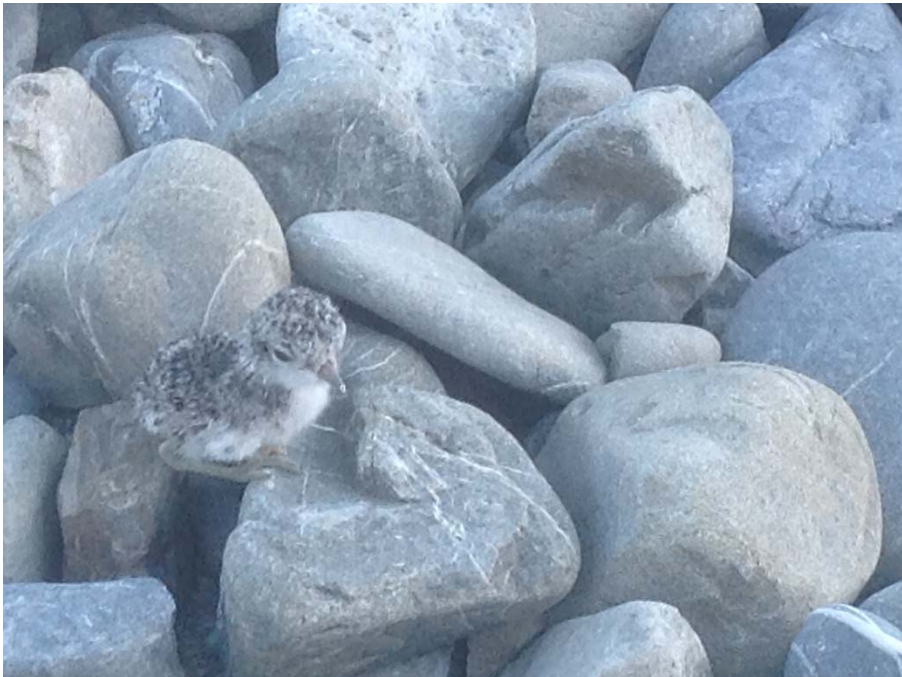
FMC declined our bid on the basis that we had not yet entered into a formal MoU with DOC. For those in the know, we have spent the past several years trying to get such an MoU out of DOC with no success,

It seems that massive and repetitive restructuring is playing havoc with DOC's ability to function at the coal-face. Every time we get close to signing a document, staff change and we have to start all over again,

Continue to monitor this space for updates.

## Wellington South Coast

Banded Dotterel nested in the gravels at Red Rocks this year. These are considered threatened in many areas and deserve a little help.



*Chicks are almost impossible to spot if driving at speed*

Bev, Tony and Barry Insull spotted a single chick beyond Karori lighthouse just a couple of weeks back.

ARAC will again be working with Council and Police with a low level education programme over the Summer months..

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

## Aaorangi – aka Sutherlands

Work has been undertaken on the Hurupi side – especially the clay climb out of the Stream itself. In addition a working-bee combined with Trip Leader training was undertaken last year.

Favourable reports of both the state of the track and the quality of the new Trip Leaders have been received.

## Manawatu

DOC were preparing a discussion document regarding Takapari Road and the A-Frame Hut – submissions closed last April but we've heard not a peep since.

Again watch this space – that is if we hear anything before you do.

## Any Other News?

Anything we need to know about? Anything you want to know about? Email [info@arac.org.nz](mailto:info@arac.org.nz)