

ARAC NEWS



The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc

Issue 12, June 2017

AGM 2017

Traditionally we have been holding our AGM during July/August with plenty of time to get things organised.

However, our obligations under the Incorporated Societies Act 1902 and its regulations, mandate that we must hold our AGM within 6 months of our fiscal year end.

Since our year end is 31 December, we are now obliged to hold the AGM before the end of June.

So sorry about the short notice, but to complete our lawful obligations we have to call the AGM for this coming 29th June. It will be at our usual venue – the Upper Hutt Darts Club, Awakairani Park, Totara Park starting at 7pm.

Make sure your Delegates are advised and the ARAC Secretary is advised of any changes – secretary@arac.org.nz

One agenda item this year will be a constitutional change that will affect how voting is carried out at meetings. The intention is to simplify things and make ARAC run more consistently and smoothly. A document showing old and new constitution alongside each other will be circulated asap.

Akatarawa Forest

A few management topics have been covered off.

Map 20 (now renamed Map 21), a key component of the Regional Council's 10-year plan (the PNP) has been signed off and now forms part of the PNP itself. Map 21 guarantees those tracks and trails that we can use and will be retained even following logging. This doesn't mean a free-for-all access to the tracks – many will still require permits – especially those in exotic forest.

The Memorandum of Understanding creeps inexorably forward. For those who remember, the MoU is required to be developed out of the 10-year plan process, and let's face it, it's only been 7 years to get to this stage. Good things take time!

GW want ARAC to develop a Health & Safety Plan for any volunteer work undertaken in the forest. This is well underway, and will apply to any work undertaken either via ARAC or Member Clubs.

Access Keys should now all be changed to the new electronic locks (scheduled 19th June). Make sure your key fob is coded for all the gates you want to use.

Trip Leader Assessment

As part of GW's requirement that Trip Leaders re-qualify every 3 years, we have set aside two dates for existing and potential trip leaders.

Dates are set for 16th and 24th September 2017. Notices will be sent out soon.

The Ruts

The western end of The Ruts has had remedial work undertaken, so is now much more passable to typical Club Trucks without doing major body damage.

The Rock Garden

Still impassable, a working bee is being worked on to see if we can make it a through route again – even if that means some winching would be involved.

The Causeway

Impassable for some time with a blown-out culvert, approval has finally been given to repair it.

Given that this is in an area of high ecological significance (covered by GW's KNE), this has been quite a mammoth undertaking. Expect work underway quite soon

The Orange Hut

Nothing really to report other than we expect the old hauler to be relocated soon to be adjacent to the barbeque area. Ready then for blasting and painting.

Odlin's Road and Waiotauru Valley

Again, more big news here - ARAC has entered into an agreement with DOC to replace the Waiotauru Hut. We have the funds, and now the consents, so work can begin asap. Probably as the weather improves in spring.

Most notably, this is the first ever agreement where we own the Hut, but DOC will insure it!

Wellington South Coast

Heavy swells and significant localised rain have stamped their mark on the coast over the past year.

Several slips within the first kilometre or so were, from our perspective, fortunately cleared at Council's expense. Thanks guys.

We have also been advised of another potential hit just having taken place – so it is possible the road will be closed pending further machinery work.

As I have commented numerous times a small number have the potential to ruin access for the rest of us. Evidence of driving/riding beyond the legal road without land owner approval still abounds. Only last week word came through of two vehicles (one grey and the other white) ripping up the lower slopes along Long Beach. Tracks are now well established crossing a recorded wahi tapu (sacred) site. Although unmarked it is off the legal road and as such should have been free from vehicles.

Speed and lack of courtesy towards other users crops up also. Bolting along the water's edge running over or ducking under fishing lines is not the way to make friends, yet there are those within our wider community that show little regard for others. To those I say grow up or go elsewhere.

While driveable the track around the Karori Stream bluff remains narrow. Users are reminded to be careful.

Although dates are yet to be confirmed it is likely Council Rangers supported by a couple of volunteers from CCVC will again push sensible driving messages as summer approaches.

As part of their ongoing rapport with Wellington City Council, CCVC have tentatively scheduled their 2017 South Coast planting day for Saturday 15 July. ARAC members are welcome to attend. The morning effort generally finishes with a BBQ at Red Rocks.

Barry Insull

Aaorangi – aka Sutherlands

Sutherlands track is now shut for winter after 3 vehicles went in and destroyed the track from the Hurupi up to the clay climb. Rest of the track fine but will put a digger in come spring

Rod

Manawatu

DOC were preparing a discussion document regarding Takapari Road and the A-Frame Hut – submissions closed April 2015 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