

ARAC NEWS



The Newsletter of the Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee Inc

Issue 14, January 2019

AGM 2019

Notice is hereby given of the ARAC AGM 2019 to be held at the Upper Hutt Darts Club on Thursday 21st March 2019 at 7:30pm.

The Agenda as defined by constitution is:-

- Call for Quorum (optional by Chair)
- Roll Call of Members
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Matters arising
- Confirmation of Minutes
- Correspondence
- President's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Subscriptions
- Sub-Committee Reports
- Press Officer Report
- Election of Officers
- Recording of Sub-Committee Chairs
- Matters of which Notice has been given
- General business

Current office holders are:-

Chair	Ken McAdam
Vice-Chair	Karl Palamountain
Secretary	Marcus Steeneken
Treasurer	Stu Barton
Press Officer	Andi Cockroft
Additional Officer	Peter Gernett

Sub-Committee Chairs are as confirmed last AGM:-

Akatarawa	Ken McAdam
Waiotauru	Dave de Martin
Sutherlands	Rod Lonsdale

The new constitution can be downloaded from <http://arac.org.nz/index.php/assets/Downloads/ARAC-Constitution-2018.pdf>

Akatarawa Forest

The Forest remains in good condition.

A new (yes NEW) track has been opened linking “The Pines” with Whakatiki Forest and so avoiding the wetlands and manufacturers challenge site.



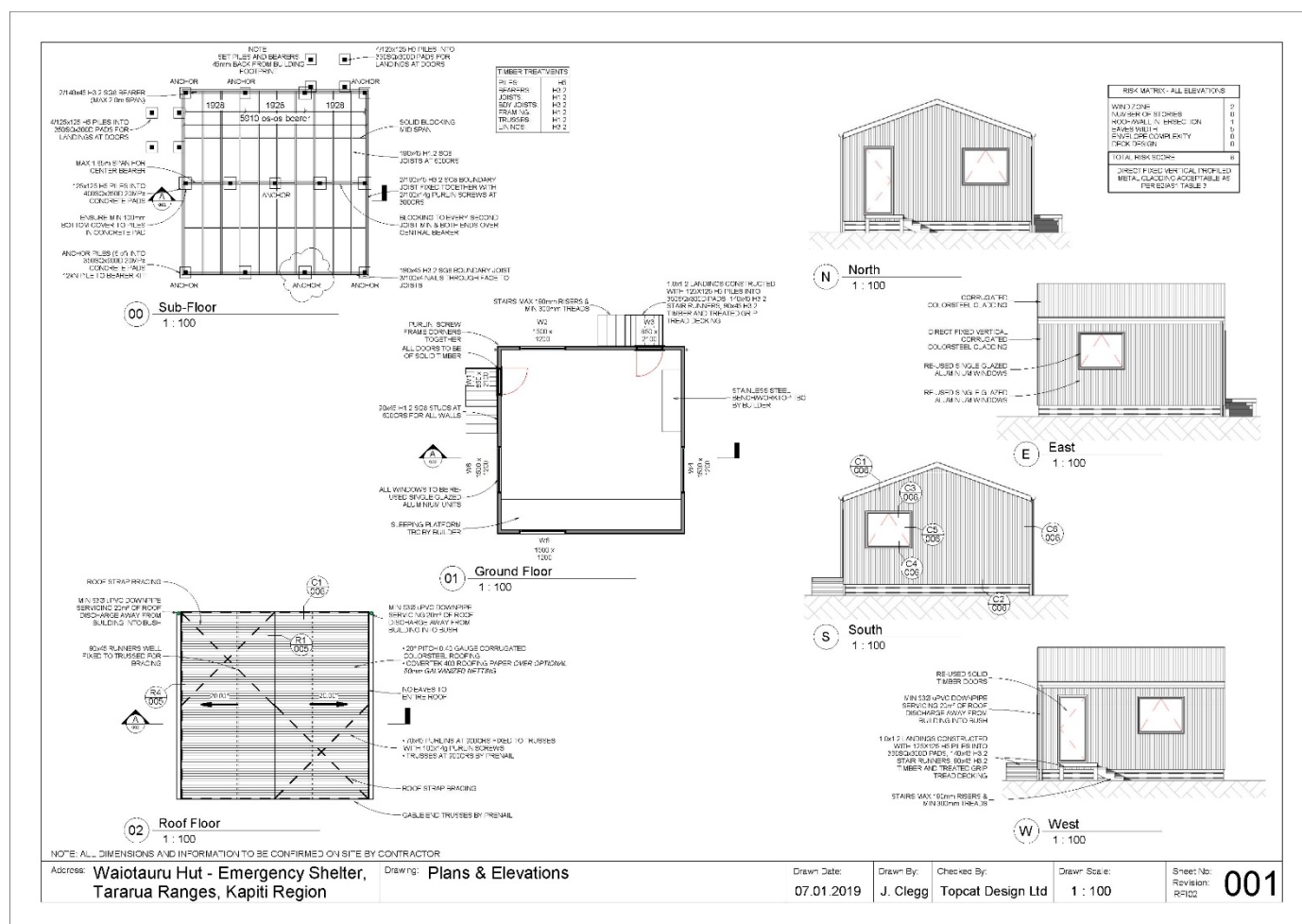
Access is from The Pines just beyond the Clay Banks.

GW are still in the process of reviewing the Parks Network Plan (PNP) and you can monitor its progress and get involved in this consultation process here <http://www.gw.govt.nz/parks-network-plan/>

Odlin's Road and Waiotauru Valley

It's been a turbulent time on Odlin's Road and Waiotauru Valley. With the focus being on the Hut replacement.

Significant progress has been made since then:-



- Plans have been drawn up, together with a Producer Statement
- These plans have been approved and authorised by DOC
- The plans have received building consent from KCDC
 - Inspections of pre-piling is required
 - Post-Build sign off required
- An approach to Back Country Trust has seen our allocation of \$16,500 reinstated – but only till end March 2019 – so deadlines are tight.

- Orders have been placed for the frames and trusses to be fabricated, although delivery may be several weeks away.
- Arrangements are being made with DOC to demolish the existing Hut and prepare the ground for its replacement.

We are also very pleased to announce an offer from a building contractor to actually build the Hut. Their team will be undertaking this well before the new expiry date of our funding of 31 March 2019.

If you want to help out, contact us via info@arac.org.nz and we'll put you in touch with the area co-ordinator.

By way of update, the old hut has gone !!



KCDC have undertaken their first inspection and given a sign-off so all ready to proceed. Watch this space for updates.

As an additional STOP PRESS, changing the subject completely, DOC's Wellington CMS has just been published. This is their 10-year plan for the entire Wellington Conservancy.

It is great news that DOC have taken on board much of our submission, and 4WD access is now approved all the way down to Waiotauru Hut – it previously was technically banned beyond Renata Saddle. This means we can't readily be locked out of the area, although access beyond the Hut is still prohibited and DOC could move to block the road beyond that point.

The new CMS came into effect on 20th January 2019.

Wellington South Coast

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

As some will be aware, Wellington City Council have been reviewing their Draft Outer Green Belt Management Plan. This plan sees significant change to the manner in which the South Coast is managed.

Instead of having its own management plan, the proposal is that the existing Outer Green Belt Management Plan be extended all the way to the South to embrace not only the cliffs, but down to the high water mark. This inevitably means that the legal road running around the South Coast would be inside what is technically a reserve.



ARAC, together with PANZ and CORANZ made a submission in favour of extending the Management Plan but cautioning against its inclusion of the road. After all, once a road is in a reserve, WCC could begin overtures to further inhibit access.

Then again, part of this movement is in response to numerous complaints of the foolish and wonton behaviour of a few bad apples.

This note from Barry:-

As some of you will know Wellington City Council is reviewing the management its reserves via an “Outer Green Belt Management Plan”. An initial draft was considered by Councillors prior to Christmas. The community, that’s you and me along with groups such as ARAC, will have a

period of perhaps 2 months to make submissions. Those sufficiently motivated can also seek speaking rights at the appropriate meeting of Councillors.

The draft that I have viewed includes the following statements.

“Coastal road: A number of issues are associated with the unpaved legal road along the coast. Issues include; incompatibility between walkers, mountain bikers and drivers of motorised vehicles including motorbikes; vehicles unsuited to the unformed surface getting stuck; vehicle damage to vulnerable coastal ecology; effects of coastal erosion; and risk of rock fall from the unstable faces of the former Owhiro Bay Quarry.

The user conflicts were reduced some years ago by closing the road to vehicles on Sundays but still remain, especially in high use periods such as public holidays. Other options include restricting vehicle use to more days a week but that option would significantly impede access for the people who regularly go further around the south coast beyond the marine reserve for fishing and food gathering and people who otherwise might not be able to reach the seal colony at Red Rocks. Separating walking, biking and motorised use is another option but would involve widening the roadway or creating separate parallel tracks on the higher, more stable parts of the coastal flat, with potential to damage the natural character and vulnerable shore ecology.

In the short to medium term, increased enforcement of shared use rules is proposed and options to increase vehicle closure times to public holidays and night time will be explored. Night time closure could be managed with an electronic gate that would allow access by permit to property owners beyond the gate (eg bach owners) and allow other vehicles to exit the road after dark. In the longer term, viability of maintaining a route suitable for private vehicle use is likely to be increasingly doubtful due the effects of climate change.”

Andi Cockroft has already taken the opportunity to address councillors on behalf of both local and National Organisations.

Over the coming weeks ARAC will form its stance and prepare submissions.

Members are encouraged to take a keen interest in this issue.

The discussion document is scheduled for release on 23/1/19 and will be available on the Wellington City Council web site. <https://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/outer-green-belt-management-plan-review>

Should individuals have a strong point of view they are encouraged to make an independent submission direct to Council.

On more routine matters it is disappointing that I again have to comment a small number of idiots continue to put your use of the unformed legal road at risk. Just two weeks ago a Honda was trashed just a few hundred metres beyond Spooky Creek (Hape Stm.) Inappropriate speed and silly behaviour continues.

Barry Insull

Aaorangi – aka Sutherlands

A lot of maintenance work was done on both ends of the track, and the track remains in the best state many of us can remember.

We still wish to prevent unnecessary damage to the track, so use after extreme weather will be prohibited for the foreseeable future.

Quote from Rod: “Sutherlands is open the track is good but a bit scratchy on the tops”

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 from DOC – that’s nearly 4 years ago.

However, we do know that the future of the A-Frame is being discussed by the Ruahine User Group with consideration being to look at limited renovation. It does not seem under immediate threat since it’s the only survival hut up there.

The DOC operations manager responsible for the Ruahine Range (and hence the Hut), Shaun Ruddle, is moving to a new role within DOC so we await his replacement.

Nonetheless, a few Members of Manawatu 4WD Club have made contact with DOC and we do understand a working bee will be organised to help rectify some of the worst ravages it has suffered.

Any Other News?

Anything we need to know about? Anything you want to know about? E-mail info@arac.org.nz