



### Two items in this very brief issue:-

#### 1. Sutherland's Track

We have been successful in securing \$15,070 in funding to help with major repairs to this magnificent track in the Southern Wairarapa.

Serious water damage has been done to the Te Kopi end as the track climbs a steep clay slope up from the Hurupi Stream. This will require some quite major works to be done.

At the northern Waikuku end, track grooming will be undertaken that will hopefully ensure the whole length of the track remains stable and secure for many years to come.

A major feature of all the works will be the addition of water management in all places that have previously been subject to severe water damage.

#### 2. ARAC Akatarawa Trip Leaders

Akatarawa Trip Leader re-assessments have been completed, so we now have a complete list of all our trip leaders going forward for the next 3 years or so.

Anyone thinking of becoming an Akatarawa Trip Leader should begin training with their Club now so as to capture a good knowledge of the forest. These tests are a significant factor in Regional Council entrusting ARAC with its volunteer capacity within forest management.

#### 2. New Health & Safety Requirements

As of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, new Health & Safety requirements are being introduced by GW that will impact every Akatarawa Trip – and the Trip Leaders.

New Application Forms are being introduced, and will include not only changes to the way trips are described (ie name your actual route not just the “whole forest”) – but will include signing a new Health & Safety clause. It is hoped that these will be available online soon.

As of the same date, all trips are expected to have VHF communications to be able to talk to commercial forestry operations within plantation forests.

Many Clubs already have such radio comms available. For those without, ARAC has provided two handheld units available for loan from the Upper Hutt Depot.

#### 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)