

## Repair report for Army Hut.



*Before and after, Army Hut, Snowdon Conservation Area*

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018 six people with all their gear flew into Army Hut on the Upukerora River in Snowdon Conservation Park East of Te Anau, they were Alastair Macdonald, Carl McHaffie, Gavin Sinclair, Stanley and Belinda Mulvany, and John McDonald. Later in the week we were joined by Fraser McRae and David and Trudie Pope who tramped in.



*Rotting floor boards*



*Beech log bearers*

Thanks to the kindness of Takaro Lodge we staged at the Lodge and flew to Army hut. We got all the gear unloaded and set up camp. That first evening after tea we gutted the hut taking out all the bunks, benches cupboard and shelves, nearly all riddled with wood borer. There were a few scraps of carpet and lino that we tossed also and that revealed the true state of the floor.



*New floor laid*

The next day we removed the floor which revealed the state of the hut sub structure. The hut was resting on rotted beech logs which we replaced with piles and treated 100X100 beams, we also cut the rotten parts out of the joists and replaced them with treated 100X50 joists and the whole hut jacked up back to level.

All existing timber in the hut was sprayed with a borer treatment before covering. The new floor was then laid with 19mm treated plywood. We then replaced the sky light and laid a sheet of clear PVC under it to mitigate and condensation.

We then set about lining the walls and ceiling with 7 mm treated plywood which when up was painted white. We clad around the sky light to give it full benefit.

A flashing was then inserted up under the wall tin that came down past the top of the piles. The walls were painted with cold galv and the roof painted green.



*Flashing in place.*



*Ceiling round the sky light*

The old chimney was removed with the intention of replacing it but a combination of its very poor condition and lack of spare timber meant it was not replaced, it basically fell apart when we pulled it down, we removed about 2 cubic meters of rocks and ash from the fire place and then framed and clad the end wall.

The wood shed was removed off the wall which was giving access to mice and rats into the hut and was moved just a meter away from the hut and painted.

We dug a soak hole for the sink and piped that with PVC. The old sink drain pipe just flowed onto the ground under the hut.

We dug a drain across the front of the hut and made a clean entrance way out of some of the stones removed from the fire place.

The old fire box was removed along with the flue and cap, ( it



was only a two skinned unit), the new, (second hand) fire box was installed with the *End wall framed and braced* correct three skins and framed up to the new ceiling.



*Window meshed and flashed*

The old table was so badly borer ridden that two of the legs broke when we dropped it outside, it was replaced by another table and three forms were constructed for seating. A bench was placed under the sink unit and shelves and a coat rack placed on the wall.

We constructed a new set of bunks and reinstalled the original two sets, the hut now sleeps six.

The back window was painted, framed, and meshed and then flashed. The louvers now open fully and the hut is now fully sandfly proof.

The door was replaced using the old original hinges and painted. We refitted the DoC signs (hut name, fire exit, rubbish and asset number), but the hut needs a DoC “Welcome” sign and a new hut book.



*The crew on the last day.*

*Belinda, John, Trudie, Stanley, Alastair, Carl, Fraser, David, Gavin.*

This was a 6 day trip, we had 6 volunteers for 4 days and 9 volunteers for 2 days and a total of 525 hours were worked. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made this project a success.



*Before and after of the fireplace end of the hut*