

Report: Tautuku Hut renovation.

On 21<sup>st</sup> Febuary 2020 five people, Alastair, Matt, Lois, Ant, and, Duncan choppered into Tautuku Hut in the Catlin forest near McLeans Falls off the Chaslands Highway.

We were in there for three full days and did about 110 man hours

The hut is a converted Skyline garage set on a terrace above a small clearing. In preperation for the renovation we had, three months prior, cleared the



encroaching bush round the hut back by 3 meters to bring more light onto the hut. We also cleared a small track behind the hut and cut a toilet clearing and enlarged the clearing below the hut as a chopper landing pad.

Once we arrived on site we cleared more bush away from the toilet site and started on digging the toilet hole and removed the roof from off the hut. The rats nests and the old tar based building paper was also removed. We the placed a lining on the ceiling as a sarking above the roof frame. This was done using just under half the sarking with Hardboard that was stored in the hut and finished off with 7 mm treated ply.

Building paper was placed over the sarking and the tin roof was refitted. While the roof was off we replaced one sheet of tin with a sky light that was underlaid with a sheet of clear PVC to facilitate the removal of condensation, this was placed over the cooking bench. All the roof rust was then wire brushed and painted with Cold galv paint.

Once the toilet hole was dug we constructed the toilet with a 19 mm treated ply wood door and a sheet of skylight for the roof.

The tin on the walls of the hut did not come down over the join of the floor bearers with the with the piles so we took the screws out of the bottom of the tin and slipped up under the tin a skirt so that rain is directed down over the top of the piles. The roof had just a 50 mm overhang above the walls so we made up some flashings and flashed the roof out to 300 mm out from the walls. We then placed a tin flashing on the door sill.



We painted any rust on the walls with cold galv paint after wire brushing. We then trenched around the hut to facilitate the extraction of roof water from round the hut.

We built two small 2 man forms and a small table out of 19 mm treated plywood, added two bunk ladders, and changed the door so that it now opens against the wall and not out into the hut. We then strengthened the hut steps and added more netting for grip and added a flashing above the door to protect it from wind blown rain.

We then widened the chopper pad cutting off the tall red tussocks and some scrub to expand the pad to facilitate it's use by the bigger squirrel helicopter.

Unfortunately the paint arrived the day we returned back home so another trip in will be needed to paint the toilet and hut.

Thanks go out to Alastair, Matt, Ant, Duncan, and Lois for their work, to High country Helicopters for the lift, DoC for allowing us to do the job and Backcountry Trust for financing the whole project.





