

NEWS RELEASE



30 iconic huts to be restored this summer thanks to new partnership between Fletcher Building and the Back Country Trust

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Fletcher Building has entered a five-year partnership with the Back Country Trust, a volunteer organisation focused on preserving Aotearoa's iconic back country huts and tracks. As part of this collaboration, Fletcher Building will provide building materials at a significantly reduced cost to support the renovation efforts, ensuring these huts remain safe and accessible for backcountry explorers.

"This partnership with the Back Country Trust is a natural fit for us at Fletcher Building," says Thornton Williams, Chief Executive of Fletcher Building's Concrete Division. "We believe in building better futures for New Zealanders, and Back Country Trust is driven by that same purpose. It's ingrained in the Kiwi way of life to explore the outdoors, and through this partnership, we can play our part in making sure the huts remain accessible, safe and preserved for future generations to enjoy."

Established in 2017, the Trust funds and supports volunteers to maintain remote huts and build tracks for outdoor enthusiasts including trampers, hunters, mountain bikers. This summer, thanks to Fletcher Building's support, the Trust plans to transform 30 huts across the country, tackling everything from minor repairs to major overhauls such as recladding and window replacements.

"For more than a century, these huts have provided adventurous Kiwis and travellers with shelter during their journeys," says Rob Brown, National Operations Manager at Back Country Trust. "With roughly 400,000 people per year depending on these facilities, maintaining them is essential to ensure they remain reliable and welcoming resting spots for those exploring our backcountry."

In addition to providing materials, Fletcher Building employees will have the opportunity to volunteer to help restore the huts. "The Back Country Trust is dependent on volunteers, and with our businesses covering New Zealand, this provides the perfect chance for our people to help support their local communities by giving their time and expertise," says Thornton Williams.

Fletcher Building and the Back Country Trust invite other like-minded organisations to join the effort. "Every bit of support helps," said Rob Brown. "We'd love to see more sponsors like Fletcher Building come on board to make an even bigger impact on protecting New Zealand's backcountry treasures."

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