

# Annual Report 2010-2011

## Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, South Auckland Branch

In recent years there was a decline in memberships. Current numbers, as per below, suggest an upturn:

Members for 2010-2011 - 500 F&B and 180 KCC

Members for 2009-2010 - 415 F&B and 148 KCC

Income: As per our Treasurer's report, income for the branch has remained steady since 2009. The committee has, I believe, been a good steward of the branch's funds – using email to save on postage and being frugal with donations and expenses so as to increase our capital base. Interest rates have been low but we have obtained the best rates available and maintained a policy of 90 day investments and reinvesting the total amounts, thereby achieving cumulative rates of interest to maximise returns.

In my view, the branch is generally in good shape and making good progress in rebuilding after a former period of decline.

### People To Thank

The branch is run by a collection of volunteers and there are many people who contribute, some on the committee and some not. I sincerely appreciate all efforts and support and would like to recognise that, being volunteers, your contributions are a reflection of your good will to other members. I would like to thank the following people in particular.

Thanks to Alwyn and Lynn who provided coffee, tea, and suppers at Manurewa and Howick, and also to all those who step in and help out from time to time. Alwyn has had to stop contributing in order to devote time to nursing her husband through a bout of ill health – thankfully Lyn has stepped into the breach to take over duties at both meeting venues!

Thanks to Win Miskelly for looking after our projection needs and being there for technical support.

Thanks to Hanna Aitken and Barbara Garden who, along with Jan, do a wonderful job with the programme. They would appreciate help & ideas for trips/walks etc. so please pass your suggestions along to Hannah, Barbara or Jan.

Thanks to Tony Woodrooffe for his practical contributions and field work.

Thanks to Adrienne Grayson and all those who sell calendars and diaries. This fundraising is an essential part of keeping us financially healthy.

Thanks to Brian Gidley for being Secretary and preparing our minutes and collecting our mail.

Thanks to our John Oates for becoming “de facto” Treasurer and arranging our accounts via his accounts person Christina Barnes.

Thanks to Graham Falla and Jan Riddick for their many valuable contributions – too many to list - and thanks also to our other good, Active Committee members, including Linden Johnson, Colleen Grayling and Carol Bozich. Thanks to Lindsey Britten for her contributions and for agreeing to stand, once again, as a candidate for the Society's Executive.

### Major Issues throughout the Year

We have striven to keep you abreast of the major issues as they arose throughout the year, both at the monthly meetings and in the Sentinel newsletter. Accordingly, I shall not go into a great deal of detail here beyond a quick overview of major issues.

Organisers of the Te Araroa Walking track approached us to obtain our support for a walking track along the paper road next to the Olive Davis reserve. They suggested to us that they have an inalienable right to such a walking track along any paper road by virtue of the fact that a paper road is simply an unformed public highway. The branch opposes the walking track on the grounds of the generally adverse effects it will have on the reserve, and noted that pedestrians have no right to walk along a road unless the road is dedicated to that purpose, which in this case it's not. Also, we have a pre-existing application to Council to have that paper road discharged. Matters are not resolved and the Regional Office has taken leadership on discussions because the reserve is owned by Central office and not the kaitiaki, (i.e. not owned by the branch).

Puhinui Reserve came under threat by a proposal to build permanent horse quarantine and stabling facilities on the reserve for the use of the equestrian fraternity. Any such construction would see an increase in park use and increased adverse impacts on wildlife and flora and fauna of the park. It would also see the facilities becoming a major quarantine centre for international arrivals and departures of horses. The branch stated its opposition and generated newspaper publicity on the matter, also alerting a range of political entities to the adverse nature of the proposal. More to come yet.

Our members have been integral to the support and good management of other environmental groups, such as the Friends of Mangemangeroa and Weka Watch and been involved in plantings, weed removal, pest and predator removal and weka counts!

All in all a busy year.

Dene André,  
Branch Chairman 2010-2011