



# Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

## Committee Meetings

Held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Contact David or Pam for the venue.

Speakers have been organised for two Committee meetings that all are welcome to attend. See below for details.

## Tauranga Branch News

As mentioned above, it has been decided to have a guest speaker at our committee meetings and invite all Forest & Bird members to attend. These evenings will be at St John's Church hall in Bureta. With the guest speaker from 7.00 pm followed by the committee meeting that is open to those who wish to attend. Two evenings have been organised for the remainder of this year.

- 11<sup>th</sup> August - Peter Maddison. Peter is on the F&B national committee and has an extensive record of conservation work. He is also an entomologist and will talk to us about insects and show his extensive insect collection.
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Julian Fitter. “Awesome Aotearoa” – NZ’s amazing biodiversity and what we can do about its deterioration.

The walks programme is attached to this newsletter. Thanks to those who lead and help

## Tauranga Branch Newsletter

June 2011

Issue No 75

If you are interested, or want to nominate someone (or be nominated) for the local branch committee phone

Pam on 07 571 4222 or

David on 07 571 0974

Or email at

[tauranga.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:tauranga.branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

organise these trips. Ideas for walks and prospective leaders are always welcome.

### Expressions of interest.

If you are interested in spending a few days, exploring and walking at the new Forest and Bird lodge at Ruapehu during the summer months please contact;

- Carole & Ron on (07) 5765698 or
- Eddie on (07) 5761849

### Wairoa River – Wild Rivers Campaign.

A successful event organised by F&B's Regional Field Officer Al Fleming on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. Trust Power provided sponsorship to cover Kayak hire (and a sausage sizzle). Kayaks were provided by Waimarino Adventure. Over 200 people attended the day with 100 taking to the water. Displays by Trust Power, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Forest and Bird covered subjects including native fish passage, the health of the Wairoa River Catchment and the Kaimai Mamaku Campaign.

### **Environmental Defenders Network (EDeN).**

Many people would not usually associate human rights and the environment as connected issues, but they are. In many countries, both environmentalists and human rights activists face life-threatening risks when trying to pursue change through legal channels. Companies and governments often commit human rights abuses when exploiting natural resources, as well as contaminating the water and land necessary to the life of local communities. Battling against such environmental damage can put activists' and their families at risk. In recognition of this the New Zealand section of Amnesty International has set up Amnesty's first *Environmental Defenders Network* (EDeN). At heart it is basic Amnesty work - focusing on individuals facing ill-treatment and persecution for exercising basic freedoms - in this case people who are working for the protection of the environment or on development issues. It also covers the victims of environmental destruction, such as the people of the Niger Delta, who have suffered from decades of catastrophic oil pollution.

What does EDeN do? We identify cases which have an environmental or development aspect to them. (An example might be a community leader who has opposed illegal logging and has received death threats). Then we organise a campaign of appeals on their behalf to try to achieve justice. By defending those people who speak up, we help communities to protect their environment, their way of life and their futures.

New Zealanders have a long and proud history of environmental activism and the achievements of organisations such as Forest and Bird are testament to this. It is up to groups and individuals like you to help ensure that environmentalist in many other countries can speak out without having to risk their lives.

What can you do? Simple - take action on the appeal cases on our website [eden.amnesty.org.nz](http://eden.amnesty.org.nz)

### **Aongatete - Restoration Works**

We have really good rat control at Aongatete. When rats are reduced then invertebrates and birds bloom. Volunteers are now finding large bush weta in the day time. Controlling possums has not been so easy. The possum poison that we rely on – cholecalciferol or vitamin D3 - went off the market for over 12 months. The Trust hired Lawrence Gordon recently to trap instead. Lawrence did a good job at cleaning up the invasive and bait shy possums in our restoration area and around the perimeter forest. He reported huge well fed possums from our restoration block and small skinny ones from outside. This is a dubious reference for our good protection of the restoration area from these forest-munchers over the previous 4 years.

Barry Pethybridge and Tom Strahan are running the perimeter lines of stoat traps. Not a lot of stoats are being caught, probably because there are few rats for them to eat. Interestingly, the few stoats caught have been stuffed full of weta instead of rats and birds. Most of the stoats have been young stoats from the farmland side.

Robins, tomtits, tui and bellbirds are blooming. When we started 5 years ago we had sighted only one robin and the population surviving must have been very low. In contrast, 3 weeks ago Basil, while working on a task, saw 6 robin, heard another robin and two tomtits all in the one day. The Trust is keen to re-introduce Weka. Advice from John Heaphy (DOC wildlife), is that our present protected area is probably too vulnerable to fast moving stoats, so we are about to enlarge the stoat trapping perimeter considerably, enlarge possum control on the perimeter and extend the intensive rat control inside the short loop track. There is no doubt in our mind that the forest will be good weka habitat and that weka would be an exciting

addition to the Aongatete Lodge and forest experience. Al Fleming and the F&B Kaimai Committee are investigating starting off the East to West Kaimai-Mamaku link at the Aongatete Trust Restoration block and finishing at the Wairere Falls. This would make restoration of weka and other birds such as kokako a winner.

Every workday we have from 30-35 volunteers turn out in sun or rain. They are doing a tremendous job. If you would like to volunteer too, or find one for us, ring Basil 576 5593.

**Forest & Bird and Federated Farmers praise report on 1080 – Press release from F&B**

Conservation organisation Forest & Bird and Federated Farmers today praised the report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) on the use of 1080.

Forest & Bird Conservation Advocate Nicola Vallance said Dr Jan Wright's well-researched report showed clearly that 1080 was a lifeline for New Zealand's endangered native birds and forests. "New Zealanders love our native forests and wonderful birds, and we don't want stoats, rats and possums to destroy our forest life. Effective pest control such as 1080 will stop introduced pests driving many species – including our kiwi – to extinction," Ms Vallance said.

Federated Farmers was highly supportive of the PCE's report, not just backing the use of 1080 for conservation purposes, but the beneficial role 1080 plays in controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis (Tb) carried by pests such as possums and *mustelids*, like stoats.

"While the focus of the PCE report is about the conservation estate, farmers, through their rates and the Animal Health Board, fund pest control on the forest margins. It has to be remembered that farmers have voluntarily protected over 111,000 hectares of land under

QEII National Trust covenants," Federated Farmers pest spokesperson Donald Aubrey said. "Conservation and farming are closely aligned because we have a common goal and a common tool. It's about being good neighbours. What is good for the conservation estate in terms of pest control benefits farmers, and the work of farmers in controlling pests on farms benefits the DOC estate in return," he said.

Ms Vallance said: "There's no doubt that New Zealanders love native birds, and the pohutukawa and rata trees that turn our shorelines and forests red in summer. We need more people from every community helping to protect these natural taonga from the stoats, rats and possums that are destroying them. We endorse Dr Wright's findings that 1080 is the best way right now to do this."

1080 was a tool to enhance New Zealand's international reputation for its unique birds and forests. "We share Dr Wright's conviction that we cannot allow introduced pests to kill the forests on which we base our clean green image to the world," Ms Vallance said.

"The great thing about this report is that anyone who has concerns about the use of 1080 can access the information and make up their minds based on the evidence."

Federated Farmers praised the PCE's report as an example of plain English that spells out the facts clearly.

"The PCE admits that she entered her enquiry dubious about 1080 but the more she examined it, the more she realised that it was head and shoulders above any alternative," Mr Aubrey said. "The report is a slam dunk for common-sense. "Federated Farmers is convinced that opponents are attributing the effects of a number of less desirable poisons onto 1080, quite possibly because it's easier to pronounce. The PCE's report starts unravelling the mythology that has been built up around 1080.

“If we don’t use tools like 1080 that have been exhaustively examined, then the cost will be our identity and soul as a nation. Those in high office bagging 1080 need to reflect on their responsibility as New Zealanders for protecting our flora, fauna and economy,” Mr Aubrey said.

Many studies showed how much more practical and cost-effective aerial 1080 was in restoring forest and birdlife in large, inaccessible forest areas, Ms Vallance said. Ground control was simply not an option in many isolated New Zealand forests.

Forest & Bird and Federated Farmers backed Dr Wright’s call for New Zealand to use more 1080 to protect our forest life. “Forest & Bird wants the Department of Conservation funded so it can control introduced pests on more than the 12 per cent of the conservation estate it does now,” Ms Vallance said.

“Given it’s safer to swim in shark infested waters than for a kiwi chick to be born in the wild, Federated Farmers supports moving DOC resources from back office functions to its front line,” Mr Aubrey concluded.

*Contact: Forest & Bird Conservation Advocate Nicola Vallance, 021 558 607*

*Contact: Federated Farmers Pest spokesperson Donald Aubrey, 027 623 7157 [today], 03 696 3747*

### **Mangrove Removal**

Regarding the difficult and contentious issue of controlling mangroves in Tauranga harbour, during January and March, several meetings took place to agree and monitor acceptable methods of clearing and removing mangroves to be used by the Regional council. While it is accepted that the expansion of the mangroves is a symptom of a problem caused by sedimentation of the harbour, the removal by machine was causing another problem. While

the mechanical removal has stopped for now, it could be required again if the sedimentation is not addressed. Mangroves are being vilified by this process rather than the real problem of sedimentation being addressed. For information on what could be done visit Whangaroa Harbour (Raglan) to see what the local community is doing to help land owners and the council to plant riparian edges on land near streams. This is beginning to happen in the Tauranga harbor catchments.

### **Mauao**

Committee members and Marlene Ware have assisted in the Mauao Tree planting project, and the Branch donated \$500 towards the cost of the trees, using the May Densem Fund.

### **National Conference**

Eddie and Cynthia are attending the National conference later this month. See article below for what they can expect and hear more when they return.



*Photo; Craig Mckenzie*

### Impressive lineup for conference

Freshwater ecologist Mike Joy will be one of the prominent speakers at our conference later this month, when he will outline the dire outlook for many of our freshwater species.

Dr Joy's public profile grew significantly recently, when his work on damage to New Zealand's freshwater was cited by BBC interviewer Stephen Sackur when he asked Prime Minister John Key whether New Zealand's 100% Pure tourism marketing was a misleading illusion.

Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson will give the opening address on Saturday at the conference, which is being held at Mercure Wellington Willis Street on June 24 to 26. Corina Jordan, a Fish and Game ranger from Palmerston North, and Meryl Carter of Nga Whenua Rahui, which negotiates the voluntary protection of native forest on Maori-owned land, will also speak in the morning about the importance of freshwater to our cultural and national identity.

After lunch, there will be a focus on economic issues related to freshwater, with speakers including commentator Rod Oram, who regularly writes about the need for New Zealand to adopt more sustainable strategies. Other speakers will address issues including the true costs of current water policies and the need for a broader definition of the economy. In a session on solutions to our water management problems, speakers will include Alistair Bisley, the chairman of the Land and Water Forum, which brought together 58 different interested groups to collaborate on finding a better system.

Our Advocacy Manager Kevin Hackwell will also speak about improving our water, drawing on his experiences as a trustee and member of the small group of the Land & Water Forum.

Emma Parsons, a Sustainability Field Manager from Fonterra will speak about operational solutions for freshwater issues in dairying.

Ecologist and former parliamentary commissioner for the environment Morgan Williams will give the Sanderson Memorial Address on the Saturday evening. He has extensive experience in agricultural, environmental, pest and ecological research and policy and has contributed to several books.

The Friday night will be given over to the politicians, with representatives from the major parties telling us what their vision for nature in New Zealand is. There will also be an opportunity for members to question the politicians.

The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday morning and Sunday will feature presentations on Forest & Bird work, including the strategic plan and plans to ensure conservation is a major issue during this year's elections. There will also be presentations on some of our major campaigns and workshops aimed at helping branches in their

## TAURANGA BRANCH FOREST &amp; BIRD WALKS PROGRAMME

**Tauranga Forest & Bird – Saturday Walks** - (second Saturday each month)

Unless otherwise specified, all trips meet at 8.15am at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave/Cameron Rd corner. Bring stout walking shoes or preferably boots, lunch, drinks, personal medication, warm clothing and wet weather gear. The dollar amount shows the recommended donation to car drivers' transport costs. Phone the leader beforehand for information, changes, or weather cancellations, and alternative meeting places.

Date	Location	Description of Walk	Difficulty/ Car Donation
Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton River Walk & gardens.	Formed pathways to Claudelands bridge and Hamilton Gardens. Leader: Enid 575 6146	Easy/\$20
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rainbow Mountain	Rainbow coloured geothermal mountain; views to Taupo; warm swim in Kerosene Creek. (Bring togs) Leader: Carole & Ron 576 5689	Moderate /\$20
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> (third Sat.)	Miranda Ornithological Lodge	See the godwits and other migratory birds. Warm swim at Miranda Hotpool. Leader: Eddie 576 1849 <b>Note: Change to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. To fit in with suitable tide conditions</b>	Easy / \$20 (plus hire of scopes ?)
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	Henderson Tramway from Whakamarama	Bush walk mainly along old logging tramway track. Leader: Doug & Eris 579 3620	Moderate / \$8
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mt. Ngongotaha	Leader: Cheryl 576 2689	Moderate / \$15
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Maungatautari	From Southern enclosure to Pukeatua Peak – and Southern enclosure; witness the birdlife. Leader: Eddie 576 1849	Moderate / \$15
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Hong's Track and Rotoma Track	Easy historic bush walks – swim in Lake Rotoiti Leader: Eddie 576 1849	Easy / \$15

**Thursday walks** – (First & Third Thursdays each month) Meet at 9.15am at (**Note change**) Foodtown carpark – Christopher St. – (other meeting places via contact with leader). Usually returning by 3 pm. Bring: as for Saturday walks above. Phone leader for changes etc.

Aug 4 <sup>th</sup>	Maketu Spit – From Ford Cut	Dotteral nesting area Leader: Doug / Eris 579 3620	Easy / \$8
AUG 18 <sup>TH</sup>	Looking Glass Gardens	Delightful fun gardens, daffodils & much more Leader: Beverley 578 2879	Moderate/ \$6
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ongare & Tanners Point	Upper harbour views Leader: Jacqui / Rex 552 5692	Easy / \$10
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dickey's Flat to Karangahake	Walk through tunnel – torch required. Leader: Dorothy 576 2726	Moderate /\$12
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ngamuwahine – Farm walk	Access off Kaimai summit road views over BOP Leader: Rosemary 576 3745	Moderate /\$ 6
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wairere Falls	Spectacular scenery; many steps Leader: Cheryl 576 2689	Moderate /Hard \$12
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Inner Harbour – Waipū Bay & Railway bridge	Could be muddy – suitable footwear Leader: Carole / Ron 576 5698	Easy / Nil
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Otawa Trig – from Manoeka guides camp	Local high point - views. Steep climb Leader: Carole / Ron 576 5698	Hard / \$6
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wood's Mill - Mamaku	Off Tirau / Rotorua Road, bush walk, mill site, stream Leader: Eddie 576 1849	Moderate / \$15
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	End of Beach Rd Katikati	Track from end of Beach Rd. <u>Christmas / end of year picnic lunch</u> at Haiku walkway.	Easy /\$8
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Raparapa Kauris	Many stream crossings (weather permitting) Leader: Carole / Ron 576 5698	Moderate / \$8
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Aongatete loop track	Pest control area, bird life, browser enclosure Leader: Doug / Eris 579 3620	Moderate / \$8
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Eliza Mine - off Thompson's Track	Swimming hole. Leader: Fiona 576 7013	Moderate / \$8

**Guidelines for safe walking on Forest and Bird Trips:**

- We are a conservation focused group rather than trampers. We stop frequently to observe.
  - Walking groups need to keep together. Walkers who cannot keep within sight and sound of the leader need to make special provision for their own safety. Do not drop behind or go ahead by yourself. (Notify leader of essential stops.)
  - Slow walkers need to arrange beforehand to have a companion who is fit, capable and independent and carries a cell phone, whistle and first aid kit. ("Out & back" walks only – not one-way or circuit walks – enquire of leader beforehand)
  - All walkers should have in their pack a whistle and personal medication. Take careful heed of the "difficulty" described in the walks programme.
- 

Visit Forest and Bird website: [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)

Visit the Kiwi Conservation Club website: [www.kcc.org.nz](http://www.kcc.org.nz)

If undelivered, please return to :

Tauranga Forest & Bird

PO Box 15638

Tauranga 3144



**Forest & Bird**  
GIVING NATURE A VOICE