



# Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Waikato Branch  
NEWSLETTER  
May 2011

## CONTENTS

- 2 News
- 3 Trip Reports
- 4 Photographic competition results
- 5 Trips and Talks coming up.



Please let us know if you now have an email address and would prefer not to receive hard copy of this newsletter (this saves us printing costs, and saves trees and it will be in colour) Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome. Photos should be at least 300kb. Email to [waikato.branch@forestanddbird.org.nz](mailto:waikato.branch@forestanddbird.org.nz)

For regional events calendar: [www.envirocentre.org.nz](http://www.envirocentre.org.nz)

## Waikato Branch AGM

The AGM was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, at Hamilton Gardens.

The committee seems to have remained remarkably similar to last year's committee.

This year we were lucky to have Alison Ballance as our speaker who gave us a run down on all the exciting places she has been to in the course of her career in film and documentary making, with beautiful photos of encounters with animals and people along the way. Before she started, John Kendrick spoke about Don Merton, his work, achievements and a minutes silence was observed in respect for the man who was the leader of the Kakapo programme from the early days, and did so much for conservation of threatened species in New Zealand. Alison also gave us a lively background



Alison Ballance and John Kendrick (who rates a mention in the book for doing the first sound recordings) at the AGM, with Jon Wenham's photo in the background of Don Merton with his Old Blue award.

to her new book 'Kakapo.' It is the first significant book on kakapo since 1989, and tells the inspiring story of the Kakapo Recovery Programme. Alison's talk reinforced the amazing dedication of the people involved, and with wonderful photos many of which are in the book, illustrated the attraction of these quite amazing birds, which bring teams of people together to undertake seemingly impossible tasks to save them. Don Merton has shown it can be done, but also his passion encompasses the reasons why it is worth trying.

## Visit the Morgan Reserve

At the top of the first steep hill on the Waitekauri Road (behind Waikino), and on the right (clearly signposted), there is a Waikato F&B reserve, gifted to the branch 20 years ago by Jack Morgan.

A working bee has just removed some gorse, planted some manuka, built a new stile, and marked the track across the paddock to the reserve and marked out a track through the bush.

It is not a reserve one can get lost in very easily, but the track goes past the main features, notably several kauri with small plaques commemorating members of the Morgan family. For anyone passing through the Waihi district, the reserve provides a short and easy walk (and possibility of a botanical ramble off the marked track) through the original bush and the replanting, which has grown spectacularly over the past couple of decades.

Well worth a visit.

## Invitation from Kauri 2000 Trust

I'm contacting your branch of Forest & Bird Society on behalf of the Kauri 2000 Trust, a volunteer organisation dedicated to recreating significant stands of kauri on DoC land on the Coromandel Peninsula, to extend an invitation to join us for our 2011 planting season.

To date we have planted over 33,000 kauri on more than 30 sites around the Peninsula, and this year we will be planting at DoC's Matarangi Reserve, which lies between Kuaotunu West and Matarangi, just north of Whitianga.

We are always looking to spread the word about Kauri 2000, and also to attract more volunteer planters. We thought that some of your members might be interested in joining us to plant on either Saturday 11 June or Saturday 18 June (weather permitting).

We're not suggesting a full-on excursion, but perhaps if any of your members have connections to the Peninsula, or might be in the area about that time, they could join us for a Saturday morning through till early afternoon, and spend the rest of the weekend enjoying the walks, food and other attractions the Coromandel has to offer.

No pressure – we realise many Forest & Bird members are already heavily involved in conservation projects and weekends are precious. However if you are interested to learn more please don't hesitate to get back to me – and more information about Kauri 2000 is available at [www.kauri2000.co.nz](http://www.kauri2000.co.nz).

Vivienne McLean  
Trustee

## Branch Contacts

Committee Members	Phone	Email	Responsibilities
Philip Hart	07 856 7992	prhart@waikato.ac.nz	Chairperson, Covenants, Councillor, Trips
Jim Crawford	07 889 7739	j.m.crawford@xtra.co.nz	Treasurer, Trips, Morgan Res.
Jim Macdiarmid	07 849 3438	macd@wave.co.nz	Secretary
Adua Geremia	07 843 3375	adage@xtra.co.nz	Membership, carpooling, Publicity
Anne Lee	07 843 6880	dvann@infogen.net.nz	
Bruce Dean	07 827 2874		Morgan Res, Maungatautari, Walter Scott
Colleen Brimblecombe	07 855 5626		Plant sale, Photography Competition
Dave Lee	07 843 6880	dvann@infogen.net.nz	
Jane McLeod	07 856 2505	jane_mcleod@slingshot.co.nz	Publicity, trips, meeting catering
Jon Wenham	07 855 0808		Conservation grants, publicity
Mary Crawford	07 889 7739	j.m.crawford@xtra.co.nz	Minutes secretary
Steve Brooker	07 850 6017	sbrooker4@gmail.com	Legal
Sue Smith	07 889 5859	slean@xtra.co.nz	Trips
Katherine Hay	07 856 1906	khay@pear.co.nz	Newsletter, Tui 2000
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Please address all correspondence to 'Secretary, PO Box 11092, Hillcrest, Hamilton'			
KCC Judy Van Rossem	07 854 7073	judy.vanrossem@ew.govt.nz	Coordinator

## TRIP REPORTS

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### Sunday 13th March

#### KARETU STREAM WATERFALLS (Cole's Falls), King Country

There was a great turnout for this walk including some family groups, so it was nice to have some young along as well. Keith gave us a rundown on the history of the area before we headed off.

It was easy walking across farmland and then along the stream, gradually approaching the sound of rushing water. The lunch stop was on an open grassy area by the top fall, and most of the party scrambled down through the bush, making sure not to touch the nettles along the way, to the swimming hole and to the other falls, which cascade some 80 - 100 metres down. The scramble was well worth it though, with lovely views of the series of falls from the bottom. A few brave souls even tried out the swimming hole.

A local group were also out on their horses enjoying a trek in the countryside. Fruit were very noticeable on the kahikatea along the way, as well as some juicy blackberries which the young seemed to be able to access quite easily. Keith also took us to see the old water wheel which was used to generate electricity many years ago using water diverted from the stream, and hitched up to a cable running up to the homestead.



### Sunday 8th May

#### RESERVOIR ROAD, PAEROA

Five of us met at the L & P bottle, but despite the lack of numbers we had a really enjoyable walk. Up Reservoir Rd past the water supply dam and followed the stream up onto Old Coach Road.

What was great about this walk were the unexpected little surprises we came across, thanks to our knowledgeable leader, Geoff Foreman, who had scouted the area and discovered such gems as the wonderfully named earthstar



fungi *Geastrum*, a sort of puffball. (pictured left)

Also noted along the way were basket fungi, the lovely ear fungus *Auricularia polytricha*, and not only fungi but we were treated to a

couple of orchids, including *Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*, and in flower, *Acianthus sinclairii* or Pixie Cap orchid. We crossed a few streams, and made our way up to our lunch



spot at Van Woerden's farm boundary. Fantails kept us company most of the way, and even a pair of tomtit came along to see what we were up to. After lunch we returned via the rather lovely little lake, no one in residence at the maimai fortunately. We also passed through pines and by an old hedge, remnants from a country garden from times past.

In all a very enjoyable walk on a lovely day through medium sized regenerating bush, but with plenty of variety, with a bit of history thrown in as well.

# Waikato Branch Photo Competition Results



Colleen Brimblecombe presenting the Overall People's Choice Award to Don Horne.

We received 125 entries this year. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to Peter Drury (Waikato Times Chief Photographer) as this year's judge. Thank you also to the five sponsors who donated prizes - Imageland Kodak Express, Trek'n'Travel, Snapshot Cameras, Noel Leemings and Neville Kane, Good Life Pharmacy.

*(Editors note - Thanks to Colleen Brimblecombe for once again organising the Photographic Comp and getting so many great entries)*

## Native Fauna category

### Imageland Kodak Express

1st Werner Illenberger - Kea's face  
2nd Richard Bowen - Paradise Duck bathing  
3rd Richard Bowen - Kereru, Wood Pigeon  
People's choice - 4 way tie, Noel Taylor, Jenny West, Don Horne and Graeme Crowther.

## Native Flora

### Imageland Kodak Express

1st Don Horne - NZ Red Fungi  
2nd Jenny West - Nikau seed head  
People's Choice - Don Horne - NZ Red Fungi

## Natural Landscape

### Noel Leeming

1st Colleen Brimblecombe - Kerosene Creek  
2nd Kerry Hay - Emerald Lakes  
3rd Paul Brimblecombe - Tarawera Crater  
People's choice - Don Horne - Abandoned house

# Easter Camp - Ruapehu



Morning Tea at the top of The Silica Rapids walk, Saturday.

Thanks to Bob Cuming for the photo

## People in Nature

### Trek n Travel

1st Werner Illenberger - Beach scene  
2nd Anita Pitu - Back view of tramper  
3rd Paul Brimblecombe - Photographer  
People's Choice - Werner Illenberger - Trampers

## Photo Series

### Snapshot Cameras

1st Richard Bowen - Scaup lift-off  
2nd Paul Brimblecombe - Frozen reflection of Mt Ruapehu  
3rd Paula Jelaca - Emerald Lakes  
People's Choice - Richard Bowen - Scaup lift-off

**Under 12 year old** - Annaka Spranger - Bush and Stream (prize from Trek n Travel)

**Secondary School Student** - Matthew Moore - NZ Dragonfly (prize from Noel Leemings)

**Overall People's Choice award** went to Don Horne - NZ Red Fungi (prize from Neville Kane, Good Life Pharmacy)

**The Member's Trophy** went to Don Horne - NZ Red Fungi.

**Overall Competition Winner for his photo of a Kea's face** - Werner Illenberger

## TRIPS, WALKS, TALKS, TRAMPS

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### Thursday 9th June

#### TALK

##### Land use and aquatic resources of the Waikato River - Dr Jacques Boubée

Since completing his master's thesis on the benthic invertebrates of the Waikato River in the late 70s, Jacques Boubée initially observed a net improvement in water quality of the river and then a gradual reversal of this trend throughout the catchment. Over the same period the eel and whitebait fisheries have declined and the traditional fishery for lamprey has all but disappeared. He attributes the losses to human impacts on the river and based on his observations both here and overseas, will discuss restoration options and the urgent need to implement a sea to source catchment management approach.

Chartwell Room, Hamilton Gardens

7.30pm.

6.30 Meal beforehand - contact Jane Mcleod to book by the 2nd June, phone 856 2505.

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### Sunday 12th June

#### PLANTING ON QE11 COVENANT ON KITEMOANA STATION

(Easy/Average)

Leave Hamilton at 8.30, and drive to Rangiriri, where cross river and travel through Glen Murray to top of hill by cellphone tower, where turn right onto Waikaretu Valley Road. At bottom of valley, take Bothwell Loop Road (on right) to junction with Wairamarama Road, where turn right. A few hundred metres along this road, Kitemoana Station (no. 2724) is firsthouse on left; park on lawn in front of the house.

Coffee and muffins provided from 9.30 onwards. We'll then drive across the farm to plant on the covenant by the stream; gumboot and spades needed. BBQ lunch provided. There will be time to explore the covenant and farm.

If anyone wants to spend a peaceful (and free) night at the farm, contact Edgar Hensen at: [et@hensons.co.nz](mailto:et@hensons.co.nz). For catering purposes, could all those coming let Philip Hart know (07 856 7992, or [prhart@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:prhart@waikato.ac.nz))

### Sunday 10th July

#### A WALK ON THE WETSIDE

Wetland Trip in the Waikato . This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar convention. So to celebrate that we will venture out into the Waikato wetlands with wetland expert, Keith Thompson.

Please register with Katherine Hay to get a map and more details, and so we can carpool as there will be a bit of travel involved.

Email [khay@pear.co.nz](mailto:khay@pear.co.nz) or phone 856 1906

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### Sunday 14th August

#### WAIORONGAMAI

Leave Hamilton at 8.30, travel to Te Aroha where turn right and drive past hot springs domain and head for Waiorongomai Valley (5 km from Te Aroha, second road on left). Meet in car park at end of road at 9.30. We'll climb up the pack track to the head of Butler's Incline, and then follow Cadman Track to mines and a water race, returning to car park via the low level drive. Torches needed, as will investigate several mines. Interesting exploration of mining remains suitable for school age children and adults with reasonable fitness; steady climb for first hour, then flat and downhill. Could get shoes wet and trousers dirty. Will be time for wallow in hot pools afterwards.

Leader: Philip Hart 07 856 7992, or [prhart@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:prhart@waikato.ac.nz)  
Average

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### Conservation Week 2011 11 - 18 September

Theme this year: Love New Zealand Arohaina i a Aotearoa

### Sunday 11th September

#### OTANEWAINUKU

Al Fleming will join us for this trip over in the Bay of Plenty. Leaving Hamilton 8.30am. Meet at Memorial Park, River Rd to carpool.

Contact Katherine Hay 856 1906 or email [khay@pear.co.nz](mailto:khay@pear.co.nz)

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### Thursday 15th September

#### TALK Greg Martin, Regional Manager of DoC

Join us for Greg's annual lively roundup of all the Department of Conservation's activities for the past year  
6.30 Meal beforehand - contact Jane Mcleod to book by the 9th September phone 856 2505.

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### Sunday 9th October

#### MAPARA

Average

We are hoping to stay in the area the night before.  
More details to come. Contact Katherine Hay 856 1906 or email [khay@pear.co.nz](mailto:khay@pear.co.nz)

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# Car Pooling

Help protect our planet from the effects of climate change and pollution (and reduce costs) by carpooling when going on Forest and Bird trips and camps.

Anyone seeking or offering transport should ring Adua Geremia by the previous Thursday. The Hamilton departure point is at the Hamilton War Memorial in River Road (south end)

Please do offer the driver a reasonable contribution towards their petrol costs.

If you are unable to make your way to River Road, we MAY be able to organise another pickup point, but please contact Adua in plenty of time.

Phone Adua on 07 843 3375

# Cancellation of Walks

Leaders of walks: to cancel phone 027 417 2346 by 7.45am (Hardley St Radio Network)

To hear about cancellations: 0900 72 346 from 8am (small payment involved)



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