



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Waikato Branch
NEWSLETTER
March 2011

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Have you got
your photo
entries in yet?

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@forestandbird.org.nz

For regional events calendar: www.envirocentre.org.nz

Tell Meridian to save the Mokihinui

We have launched a campaign to encourage members and other New Zealanders to urge Meridian Energy to withdraw its proposed 85-metre-high dam on the pristine Mokihinui River.

People are being asked to send a Forest & Bird e-card to publicly-owned Meridian, asking the company to live up to its stated environmentally-friendly ideals by leaving the West Coast river alone.

A giant-sized postcard was delivered by Forest & Bird representatives to Meridian's Wellington head office on February 2 to kick off the campaign. The e-cards can be sent through the Forest & Bird website or Facebook page.

Forest & Bird was joined by MPs, including Labour's Chris Hipkins, Peter Dunne of United Future and the Greens' Kevin Hague, and representatives of organisations representing kayakers, rafters and trampers, who also want the river to remain in its natural state.

"We are asking Meridian to do the right thing and enhance its reputation as a generator of renewable energy by leaving this non-renewable river in its wild state," Forest & Bird General Manager Mike Britton said. "Our plea to Meridian is to walk the talk on their brand and save this magnificent river."

Kevin Hague said saving the Mokihinui would be a flagship Greens policy and his own number one campaign priority. "If we are unable to save this fantastic river, then what rivers are we going to be able to save?"

Meridian's proposed dam would create a 14-kilometre-long reservoir covering 330 hectares of rainforest and riverbed along the Mokihinui River gorge in New Zealand's largest ever drowning of conservation land by a hydro project.

The dam would threaten 16 endangered bird species, including the blue duck or whio, as well as at least two unique species of giant land snails, the critically endangered long-tailed bat and longfin eels and other native fish.

Forest & Bird, the Department of Conservation and others are appealing the resource consent Meridian received last year. But the company also requires the permission of DOC as landowner to drown public conservation land, or to privatise the gorge by swapping it for other land.

Documents obtained under the Official Information Act have revealed that DOC intended to decline Meridian. After receiving the draft responses from DOC, Meridian withdrew its applications but it remains committed to the dam and presumably intends to reapply.

We are also planning to launch a Mokihinui shareholding certificate in February, allowing supporters to "buy" a \$100 stake in the wild river. This will help fund our legal battle to try to stop the dam.

The link to the e-card page on our website is: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/freshwater-/wild-rivers-/send-e-cardmeridian>

New Branch email

Forest & Bird branch email addresses have been set up and are now in use. Ours is waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz. The Forest and Bird contacts on the website will be updated soon.

Funding for restoration

Branches can submit applications to the Biodiversity Condition Fund (BCF) - a nationwide fund provided by the government to protect and enhance New Zealand's flora and fauna.

BCF funding has been used to purchase fencing materials, weed control chemicals, bait stations, traps, eco-sourced plants and planting materials, such as weed mats, stakes and fertiliser tablets.

The Biodiversity Condition Fund is limited to projects that are located on privately-owned land - including Forest & Bird properties. Applications due April 2011.

Korokoro Manu



Bittern on the Environment Centre

By Adrienne Grant, this is a sound based work installed at 12 locations around the city, using trigger sensors installed in shop awnings, to trigger 12 different species, giving voice to some of our most endangered native birds, to the surprise of passing pedestrians. Accompanying the sound works are plaques identifying the bird species as well as its current conservation status. Posters and stencils also appear on walls and bollards throughout the city. (The bittern is on the Environment Centre, and its boom can be heard at our entrance) The installation has been sponsored by HCC, Wintec and Spark.

Akaroa marine reserve petition

Members can sign a petition urging Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson to reverse her decision to turn down a new marine reserve for Akaroa Harbour by going to <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/akaroa-marine-reserve/>

We were dismayed in August last year when the minister turned down the application for a marine reserve near the harbour entrance, citing the interests of recreational fishers. The reserve would have covered 530 hectares – about 12 percent of the harbour – and would have included spectacular volcanic cliffs, sea caves and sea stacks.

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	stephenb@mlc.co.nz	Legal
Sue Smith	07 889 5859	slean@xtra.co.nz	Trips
Katherine Hay	07 856 1906	khay@pear.co.nz	Newsletter, Tui 2000
Helen Ranson	07 825 8555	helen.ranson@wintec.ac.nz	
Please address all correspondence to 'Secretary, PO Box 11092, Hillcrest, Hamilton'			
KCC Judy Van Rossem	07 854 7073	judy.vanrossem@ew.govt.nz	Coordinator

Chairman's Report

Another year, another lot of conservation issues. Of particular note this past year was the government's imagining that New Zealand could catch up with Australia economically by producing yet more gold and coal. This meant meeting with politicians to explain why mining on conservation land was undesirable environmentally and of dubious economic merit; we also discussed concerns over proposed 'development' in the high country, especially the Mackenzie Basin, and the unnecessary and completely undesirable Mokihinui dam. Submissions have been made on various matters, and Jim Crawford represents the branch on the committee discussing the renewal of consents for the Huntly power station.

We have continued to provide a wide variety of walks and evening meetings and camps in attractive locations. A film evening was successful, and will be repeated. The May plant sale continues to be popular, and will be back at the Pak'n'Save site this year. There have been working bees at the Walter Scott reserve, mostly to control pest plants (in particular, jasmine, dumped on the roadside) and also to complete the steps around the big slip. Nearby Ngutunui School had a planting day in the reserve in August. Ian Bradshaw of the Waihi Section keeps a friendly eye on the Morgan reserve at Waitekauri, where we will soon erect a new stile and mark tracks. Our annual Valder Conservation Grants have gone to a variety of worthwhile projects.

The Kiwi Conservation Club continues to have a large membership, and was ably led by Judy van Rossem during 2010. Pressure on her time has meant that she has stood down as the co-ordinator, but she will continue to assist other parents run it. In future, the Forest and Bird committee will assist some activities and will produce the KCC newsletter. All KCC members are most welcome on our walks and camps, some of which are especially geared for families (the Labour Weekend camp was very popular with children because of the chance to explore thermal areas and wallow in hot pools, including Kerosene Creek by starlight). The branch offered free one-year memberships (providing class sets) for low decile schools, an offer taken up by four, and to mark Seaweek primary schools in Hamilton received gifts of an appropriate book and DVD.

Although our branch is not directly involved in the running of the Maungatautari mainland island, several members are volunteers, and Bruce Dean has for many

Reminder - 12th April 2011 Waikato Branch AGM

Kakapo and other story-telling adventures

Guest speaker: **Alison Ballance**
7.30 Hamilton Gardens Pavilion

years been a trustee. We are very concerned about the ructions of recent months, and hope that calm and common sense will prevail and that the emphasis will return to protecting the forest and reintroducing species long absent from the mountain.

Planning for the Kaimai-Mamaku project has been continuing quietly, with pest control as part of creating a river-to-sea 'Kaimai Connection' likely to get under way this year, with our branch's assistance.

A particular feature of the past year was the rebuilding of Ruapehu Lodge, overseen by Jon Wenham, without whom this would not have happened (significant financial contributions from our branch were also important in ensuring the rebuilding went ahead). Although roughly the same size as the old building, the new one is a vast improvement; everyone who has stayed there has been most impressed, and it can be highly recommended as a place to stay at any time of the year. It is a great asset to the society, and our branch will have the first Easter camp there so that members can experience it at first-hand.

The functioning of the branch relies on the work of many people, and I'd like to thank all committee and branch members for their input. The newsletter under Katherine Hay's editorship is of excellent quality, and especially attractive if received electronically in full colour. Efforts are being made to improve the branch page on the Forest and Bird website. As always, we welcome new members to the committee, and anyone willing to join is guaranteed a warm welcome.

This being election year creates an opportunity to encourage at least some politicians to think about the needs of the environment. As usual, a candidates' meeting on this topic will be arranged, with our involvement, and members are encouraged to attend and discover which party or parties have the best policies.

Philip Hart

TRIPS, WALKS, TALKS, TRAMPS

Sunday 13th March

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

Grade: Easy +

These amazing falls cascade some 80 - 100 metres down several levels of rockface.

They are nestled on private land in the Mairoa District (Te Kuiti).

We walk across farmland a little down hill to start.

Lunch stop is on an open grassy area by the top fall. A scramble down through the bush to the swimming hole is an option. To return we will retrace the way we came approximately 1 hour each way.

Usual gear - parka, good footwear, lunch and a smile.

Leave Hamilton Memorial Park River Road at 9am or meet at junction of Opurure/Mairoa Road and Main South Highway opposite Te Kuiti airfield at approximately 10.30.

Leader: Keith 07 8474 399 or 027 3666194.

Sunday 10th April

TAURANGA KOHU - Korakonui District east of Te Kawa Crossroads.

(average)

(This is the trip that was postponed from last year.)

Meet: 9.00am Te Kawa Crossroads (turn left into Wharepungu Rd and park just after turn). Te Kuiti group will meet you there. It will take approx 45mins from Hamilton. Carpool from Hamilton: meet River Road 8am, phone Adua 07 843 3375

Description: Tauranga Kohu is a prominent hill on a property farmed by the Kay family. It is a climb that requires average fitness. The walk both up and down will follow farm tracks so is well graded. Once at the top there are spectacular views of the farming district. Those wanting the extra challenge can climb to the trig where there are views out to the Panetapu and Wharepungu district. Some scattered bush remains, mainly rewarewa, and recent reports indicate that there are plenty of kereru. On the climb down there will be good views of the Mangatutu Stream.

We will also be trying to find a Maori fort and hoping to visit a remnant Rata tree planted by early Maori settlers. If people want information on the tramp they can phone me (07) 873 6131

Nancy Jensen email: eric.nancy@xtra.co.nz

12th April 2011

Waikato Branch AGM

Kakapo and other story-telling adventures

Guest speaker: Alison Ballance

7.30 Hamilton Gardens Pavilion

Broadcaster and writer Alison Ballance talks about her latest book 'Kakapo: rescued from the brink of extinction', and about some of her recent adventures in natural history story telling. Meal beforehand - contact Jane Mcleod to book by the 5th April, phone 856 2505.



22 - 25 April

EASTER CAMP - RUAPEHU

We'll be staying at the Forest & Bird lodge just above the Whakapapa village.

Variety of walks and tramps are possible, depending on weather and fitness.

The new lodge sleeps 32. Please send \$20 pp to Sue Smith, 89 Coronation Rd, Morrinsville 07 889 5859 to confirm your booking.

You can see details about the lodge at <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/lodges/ruapehu-lodge>.

Contact Sue 07 889 5859 or SLean@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 7th May

ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE 8am

Pak'n'save carpark - Mill Street

Contact Colleen Brimblecombe 855 5626 if you are able to help.

Sunday 8th May

PAEROA - Old Coach Road- Taraiki Stream Valley

Average

Up Reservoir Rd (The Old Coach Road) at Paeroa. This was access to Paeroa's first water supply (1895), also the first road access from Paeroa to The Waitekauri, Golden Cross and Waikino Goldfields through the Taraiki Stream Valley. Follow the track beyond the current Reservoir Rd, (sections of which are the Old Coach Rd), crossing Taraiki Stream, up the hill through bush and past a lake come out to the farmland at the top where we'll have lunch overlooking Komata Reefs in the distance and make the return trip probably the same way. If we get back in time people may like to visit our QEII bit of regenerating bush nearby up Goldfields Rd.

Leaders: Geoff and Raewynn Foreman 07 889 4228.

Meet at Paeroa Bottle 9.30am or Memorial Park, River Road at 8.30am to carpool. (Phone Adua to carpool, 843 3375)

Thursday 9th June

TALK

'State of the Waikato River, water quality and scoping report'

Jaques Boubee, NIWA

Chartwell Room, Hamilton Gardens

7.30pm.

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

Sunday 19 June

Planting at Kitemoana

Details later

Sunday 17 July

Wetland Trip in the Waikato . This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar convention.

Sunday 21 August

Wairongamai - Leader Philip Hart

Thursday 8th September

Conservation Week TALK

Greg Martin from DoC

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

TRIP REPORTS

Labour Weekend Camp, Waiotapu, October 23 – 25 2010

This Forest and Bird camp was different in a number of ways. Firstly, the 'forest' part. Although we relished the delicate shaded beauty of the indigenous forest in the Ngongotaha Reserve, with its carefully encouraged northern rata and its kamahi and rewarewa poised to burst into flower, it was the exotic forest which dominated. From



Lady Knox Geyser

the summit of Maungakakamea (Rainbow Mountain), high above our Waiotapu Forest School Camp, the vast Kaingaroa forest stretched across the plains in the afternoon sunshine to the great ancient uplift of Te Urewera on the skyline and, further south, to the massive snowy bulk of Mount Ruapehu. Secondly, the 'bird' part. The visit to the 'Wingspan' raptor rehabilitation centre in Ngongotaha reminded us that not all our bird species are small furtive forest dwellers: those magnificent jet-fighters and gliders, the falcons and harriers, fascinated us. Thirdly, forests and birds rely on Mother Earth and she was the focus as we explored the Waiotapu thermal area, and in the evenings we luxuriated in the beautiful warm waters of Kerosene Creek, just down from our camp. Fourthly, from 8-month-old Bianca upwards, this was a camp for people of all ages. Nine-year-old Charles Hartmann had a great time ...The best thing for me was climbing Rainbow Mountain. At the end there was a really good view and I was exhausted. I could see mountains in the distance and we looked down onto forest. It would be really cool to have



Lake Ngakoro at Waiotapu

a humungous flying fox down the mountain. Joe made me a pointy walking stick. The visits to the creek were a winner for Charles: When I was drifting down Kerosene Creek I almost went over the waterfall. Fun and scary and really noisy. The water was warm and kind of felt soapy like you'd added dishwashing liquid to it. The biggest downer was ...when I brushed against some ongaonga. The Lady Knox geyser at Waiotapu was fascinating: I didn't know it was going to have that cone thing at the bottom or that it was going to go that high. I didn't know they put chemicals in to make it go. The best meal for Charles was ... two helpings of cereal, milk, peaches and yoghurt ... and for his eight-year-old brother Robert it was ... sausage, potato, kumera, peas, coleslaw and Danish pastry. The boys traded interesting sounds they had heard: the morepork when we were at the fireplace, pine cones exploding, that lamb all day, some guy playing guitar (Charles: That was me!), showers turning on and off, my sister April sighing in her sleep ... And they certainly would want to return to Waiotapu: Come back to Kerosene Creek, go up Rainbow Mountain and take a drink bottle, walk across the Waiotapu boardwalk again and see all those colours (blue, yellow, red), do the flying fox if it's working, go to Echo Lake and the glow-worm caves ...

Thanks to Miles Barker and Charles and family.



Verne sporting new headgear - Karearea or NZ Falcon at Wingspan

RUAKURI AND KOROPUPU

On Sunday 13th February, Me, Samantha, Mum and Katherine went on two bush walks. They were lots of fun. The first was in bush at Ruakuri but it had lots of waterfalls, and we had to go through a little cave. When we got back we had lunch. I saw a tui. After lunch we went to Koropupu Stream. Everyone parked on farmland, then we all walked down to the stream, hopped into the stream and walked in it. It was a bit cold but then I got used to it. We walked and walked. Then we came to a fallen tree, we had to go under it. We came to a dark cave, we walked in. It was so dark we had to turn our torches on, and then we came to an underground lake. When we looked up there were lots of glow worms, it was a beautiful sight. On the way back I saw some limestone which was all wavy. It was an awesome day thanks Forest and Bird. Thanks to Sami (aged 8)





Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Environmental Photography COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Attach completed form to the back of every photo entry

name: _____

address: _____

phone number: _____ email address: _____

Are you a member of Forest&Bird or KCC yes no

CATEGORY *select one*

- Native Fauna (Animals, insects, birds, fish, shells etc.)
SPONSORED BY SNAPSHOT CAMERAS
- Native Flora (Trees, flowers, fungi etc.)
SPONSORED BY IMAGELAND KODAK EXPRESS
- Natural Landscapes (seascapes, sunsets etc)
SPONSORED BY NEVILLE KANE PHARMACY
- People in Nature
SPONSORED BY TREK NTRAVEL
- Photo series (more than one photo mounted together)
SPONSORED BY NOEL LEEMING, HAMILTON

SECTION *select one*

- Adult
- Secondary School Student
- 12 years and under

Entries to:
Colleen Brimblecombe
39 Pulham Crescent
Queenwood, Hamilton
Ph.: 07 855 56 26

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
10am, Saturday 9 April, 2011

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

*By entering this competition
you agreed to these conditions*

- Photos should not have been entered in any previous competitions.
- Photo prints can between 6x4" and 8x12".
- All photos must be printed on photographic paper and mounted, but not framed.
- The photographers name must not be displayed on the front of the entry.
- Each photo entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form, which should be attached to the back.
- The photographer must be the originator of the image entered and own the copyright.
- The photographer will retain the copyright and when the image is used by Forest and Bird the photographer will be credited.
- Forest and Bird reserve the right to the free use entries for publicity and publication.
- Entries are limited to four per person, per category.
- The Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Peoples choice will be judged and all winners announced at the Forest and Bird AGM, Tuesday the 12th of April from 7pm at the Hamilton Garden's Exhibition Hall.
- Selected entries will be on display at the Hamilton Central Library and other possible locations.



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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)



Return Address
Waikato Branch Forest and Bird
PO Box 11 092
Hillcrest
Hamilton

New Zealand
Permit No. 217448

