



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

August 2010

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The Mt Cass Saga Lecture

Room C3,
University of Canterbury
Thursday 2nd Sept, 8pm

You are invited to attend a lecture by **Glen Metcalfe** of the Mt Cass Ridge Protection Society to the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society. Covers landscape, ecology and MainPower's proposal to build a wind farm on the Mt Cass ridge.

Forest & Bird

North Canterbury Branch

From the Chair

Although it was another dismal quarter year for the conservation of NZ's unique flora and fauna, locally there were a few wins, so perhaps we should try for a positive start to this report.

Local Good News

Firstly, Phil Ross prepared submissions on the Christchurch City Council proposals to dump more sewerage and urban run-off into the **Heathcote and Avon Rivers**. Phil argued for better monitoring and remediation of these processes, and the Ecan appointed commissioners largely agreed with his views, and have included many of his suggestions in their decision.

Saturday 11th of August was planting day at Forest and Bird's **Calders Green Reserve**, and a good turn-out of members saw a very respectable number of trees planted. A high tide prevented the planting of some salt-resistant shrubs and plants close to the estuary edge. Mulch was spread on 21st August.

Stoat trapping in the area around Boyle Base hut is underway. This activity has involved a small dedicated group which has worked very hard making about 50 trap boxes, transporting them to Boyle Base, and setting them out around the bush edges and monitoring them. And if you think has been cold in Christchurch, spare a thought for those who followed the trap lines up there during this very unpleasant winter.

Of course the decision by the government not to proceed with mining Schedule 4 conservation land was a real victory for conservation, and for common sense.

And finally, we are delighted that at the last AGM the size of our **committee increased** to fifteen. We welcome Marius Adrion, Doug Craig, Denise Ford, Paul Mosley, Peter Shanahan, Zuni Steer, and Jean Tompkins. There is plenty to do, and the new members are already making significant contributions to our work.

Current Issues

Unfortunately that was about all we could be cheerful about. We still have a long list of issues which must be addressed.

- Ecan
- Hurunui River

- Mackenzie Basin
- Mt Cass Windfarm
- Canterbury Water Management strategy
- Two quite new Canterbury conservation issues we are compelled to address

There is not much we can do at present about Ecan and the **Hurunui River**, although on the topic of Ecan, I would draw your attention to the upcoming **Local Government elections**. We are involved in the organisation of an election meeting for mayoral candidates at the end of September, and would urge you to attend and question the conservation credentials (and especially water conservation) of the candidates.

The **Mackenzie Campaign** was launched this month. This campaign seeks to establish a drylands conservation park in the Mackenzie, so that some at least of this wonderful landscape escapes the ever-expanding dairy farms and their intensive, intrusive irrigation.

The **Mt Cass Ridge Windfarm** is exercising much committee time. To simplify the situation, MainPower are applying for resource consent for new elements of the roading and windmill layout. The next round will be fought in the Environmental Court, and we are funding an ecological expert to present our view that this mountain ridge is far too special for this sort of development. It is difficult to get up to the windfarm site, but some excellent photographs of the limestone outcrops, rare old forest and jewel-like grass clearings can be found on the Mt Cass Ridge Protection Society website, www.aridgetoofar.org.nz It is like Castle Hill, only bigger and better and planted all about with old bonsai trees. It's magnificent up there, but it will probably become a windfarm.

The **Canterbury Water Management Strategy** is slowly developing. A number of Zone Committees have now been set up, and a common feature is the wholesale appointment of water users to the committees and the absence of committee members with even moderate environmental and recreational credentials. The collaborative process which saw the establishment of the Water Management Strategy seems to have come to a skidding halt at the power-sharing stage.

continued page 2

Your New Committee Members



Denise Ford

I have always had a great love for New Zealand's flora and fauna and joined Forest and Bird because I believed in what they represent. I have been a member for a few years and felt it was time that I became an active member as there are so many issues affecting our environment. I felt, as a lot of people do, powerless to make a difference but being part of a group like Forest and Bird gives you a voice.

I am in my first year at Lincoln University as a mature student (I think they call us fossils!) doing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Conservation and Ecology. My main aim is to be able to have an informed voice for the protection of our natural environment. I have a great interest in restoration and am involved in Travis Wetland as a Trust member and also actively involved in its restoration.

I think the committee does a great job in its advocacy for the environment and keeping members informed of the issues. I am looking forward to being part of it and making a contribution.

(Report from Chair continued from pg 1)

Finally, the committee is beginning to address two new local conservation issues. However, it is probably best that we do not make these issues public until our opposition is a little better organised. It may be paranoia, but we suspect not everyone who reads our newsletter does so with the aim of improving conservation in the Canterbury area.

BRUCE COLEMAN
coleman.raymond@xtra.co.nz



Zuni Steer

I am currently studying for my Masters in Environmental Science at the University of Canterbury, having just completed a BSc in Geography, taking Ecology as a minor.

I am a firm believer in living simply and sustainably. I was around in the 1950s, so remember what great fun we had with the simple things in life, like watching sunsets, the joys of discovering a waterfall, marvelling at the way a seed grows into a tree and listening to morning birdsong. And this was in London!

I'm passionate about conservation issues, particularly in maintaining and restoring our unique native ecosystems for all to enjoy. I attended university for the first time at a very late age in order to understand the chaos that was going on around me and to try to redress the balance.

As a new committee member, I hope to bring passion and support for the people involved in advocating for the environment, whether it involves writing submissions, organising field trips, sharing knowledge, encouraging active involvement or making the tea. Conservation of our native species and ecosystems is a priority now that we humans have met our basic needs and have sufficient comforts.

'Growing up, my Mum always claimed to feel bad when a bird would slam head-first into our living room window. If she 'really' felt bad, though, she'd have moved the bird feeder outside'

— Rich Johnson



Paul Mosley

Paul has been engaged in water and soil conservation research and management since first coming to New Zealand in 1976.

Starting with the Manawatu Catchment Board, then the Forest Research Institute, and then the Hydrology Centre of Water and Soil Division, MWD, he worked for several years on issues relating to erosion and sediment yield in forested catchments, focusing particularly on the effects of forest deterioration and removal.

Paul then moved into research on the management of rivers for instream uses and was involved with the National Water Conservation Orders for Motu, Ahuriri and Rakaia Rivers, as well as working on management options for many other rivers in both islands – including most of the major rivers in Canterbury.

Career highlights for him were leading the Ministry for the Environment team that prepared New Zealand's National Report to the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and introducing a degree in Environmental Studies at Victoria University in 1995-7. He has been President of the New Zealand Hydrological Society, and received a Rutherford Medal from the Royal Society in 2001, for contributions to hydrological science.

Nowadays, he operates a small olive grove near Tai Tapu, is studying for a postgraduate Diploma in Theology, and spends a fair bit of time tramping and sailing.

(New Committee Members continued pg 3)

'Until man duplicates a blade of grass, nature can laugh at his so-called scientific knowledge'

— Thomas Edison





Doug Craig

My involvement in conservation began in Otago with the Save Aramoana campaign (1988-1990), and my involvement with Forest and Bird began as part of the Save the Otago Peninsula campaign by increasing protection for Yellow-Eyed Penguins, revegetation of suitable coastal bush and increasing protection as the Hokoiraangi Marine Reserve in Jan 2006.

In Auckland, while doing postgraduate study in planning at Auckland University, I became an active member of Waitakere F & B committee, working on RMA consents, reserves and plan issues as well as the Awakening the Dawn Chorus project. The well-supported and successful Ark in the Park in the Waitakere ranges was a part of this. Also founded and co-ordinated Friends of the Whau Inc, a community based catchment restoration programme in West Auckland for 5 years. This programme won a National Green Ribbon Award for urban sustainability in 2002.

My priorities in Canterbury are

- Encouraging youth in conservation understanding and action
- Monitoring and improving health of rivers, waterways and wetlands
- Increasing knowledge and awareness of coastal environments and marine ecology
- Understanding and increasing awareness of climate change and its impacts on native biodiversity

'Water flows uphill towards money'

- Anonymous, saying in the American West, quoted by Ivan Doig in Marc Reisner, Cadillac Desert, 1986

Lees Valley Outing

Members of the committee recently visited a nationally rare alluvial shrubland ecosystem in the Lees Valley.

Recent cultivation of one of the remaining dry flat shrublands has resulted in the Waimakariri District Council issuing a retrospective consent, with no penalties nor any suggestion of protecting the remaining habitat. This rare ecosystem consists of an extensive undeveloped flat valley of about 200 hectares (slightly larger than Hagley Park). The land is now dominated by the introduced grass, browntop, and the native hard tussock and matagouri. There are several threatened plants on the property. Hidden beneath the grasses is the nationally critical (the highest threat category) *Brachyscome pinnata* (daisy with deeply-lobed leaves) which is found only in Canterbury. Also present was the declining flattened-leaved Spaniard, *Aciphylla subflabellata*.

Half the undeveloped ecosystem has been cultivated, and cattle are grazing on the remainder. Cattle are heavy browsers and cause much damage to the native vegetation and increase soil erosion through their heavy trampling hooves.

We were accompanied on the trip by Nick Head, DoC's expert botanist, who helped us with plant identification, and by Wayne McCallum, Regional Biodiversity Coordinator, who is keen to get the remaining land under protection. Check out the website

www.canterburybiodiversity.org.nz.

After exploring the site for rare plants, of which many a photo was taken, we then headed up river to find a nationally endangered (second highest category) plant, *Carmichaelia torulosa*, (Canterbury pink broom), on the steep banks of the river. Fortunately, this was fenced off

from domestic stock, but has limited chance to spread. We returned to the vans for some welcome hot soup. A falcon was spotted in the valley, and two kereru were sighted along the lower Ashley River at Middle Bridge.

What can we do to ensure that rare ecosystems are protected in the future?

ZUNI STEER

There will be a Branch Field Trip to the Lees Valley in November (see Forthcoming Events) to explore this curious and rarely visited area, to look for spider orchids and hopefully to find the Canterbury Pink Broom in flower.



Jeremy Rolfe NZPCN



David Norton NZPCN



Lesley Shand

Above: Some of the Committee in the Lees Valley

Top Right: *Brachyscome Pinnata*

Middle Right: *Carmichaelia Torulosa*



The Forest & Bird Annual General Meeting, Wellington

Local committee members Bruce Coleman, Phil Ross, Andrew Simpson and Lesley Shand attended the AGM.

It opened on the night of Friday 25 June at 7 pm with remarks from the executive. **Barry Wards** (President, F&B) acknowledged the life members and the efforts of the Branches. He noted three major events of the past year: the loss of **Helen Bain** was a significant tragedy for all of F&B; the re-branding and refocusing effort; and the response to government initiatives (mining, tenure review, weakening DoC, etc)

The Honourable **Kate Wilkinson** addressed the meeting and tried to be reasonable and friendly. Some of us felt her commitment to visit all of the conservation areas before opening them to mining didn't feel like a commitment to act on behalf of the conservation estate so much as a statement that the estate would be opened up to mining.

Executive committee reports followed. **Julie Watson**, (Fundraising and Membership) indicated we have almost 70,000 members nationally! **Marina Skinner** (National Communications Manager) reported on the magazine and website, **Kirstie Knowles** (Advocacy Manager), **Quentin Duthie** (Conservation Advocate) **Nic Vallance** (Mackenzie Basin initiative) & **Chris Todd** (Freshwater Issues).

On Saturday 26 June we had the elections for the executive. There were a few changes to the executive committee. **Lindsay Britton, Ines Stanger, Mark Hanger, Jon Wenham, Mark Fort**, and **Alan Hemmings** were elected to the committee.

Working session on strategic issues

The big things we wanted to see some progress on were:

- **Communications and information management**
Specifically, some support for making the Branches more effective in their actions in their own areas. We think this requires better infrastructure for sharing technical information. Some secure methods of collaborating on documents. Some policy on making "official" communications, e.g. a vetting procedure, guidelines on the use of the Brand or logs, etc. We asked for a technical archive that would store and index letters, reports, submissions and indicate good and bad points.
- **Services to members**
Email lists sorted by topic of interest. Contacts across the organization. Bird and Plant guides. Forest guides. Birdfeeders.
- **Community projects**
Activities for schools, students, community groups. Support for environmental education initiatives.
- **More open processes for getting involved and being active**

Several members were very supportive of us speaking up. Finally, in the airport while we were coming home, we met Richie McCaw.

PHIL ROSS

Highlights

- 1. The presentation from Fish and Game.** It was punchy and concentrated on "10 things you need to know". An excellent demonstration of a concise, attention grabbing presentation. We should all be aware of this form of presenting material.
- 2. Quentin Duthie.** Focused and funny talk on dealing with politicians. Quentin is clearly effective for F&B by being clear, direct and very professional. He dealt with issues without getting emotional or carried away. His approach reflects well on F&B and is part of the reason our point of view is being heard.
- 3. Graham Bellamy, Treasurer.** Simple clear summaries of the state of our funds, how they got there and what plans we have for the future. Graham was very grateful for the efforts of the Branch Treasurers.

Low lights

- 1. The Remit System** of passing issues upwards for action from the Branches to the executive. Many of the remits suggested were poorly written and poorly conceived. Given the communication methods available, this is clearly symptomatic of some problems formulating and conveying materials through the organization.
- 2. The interactions with the politicians** (Kate Wilkinson, Phil Goff and Russell Norman) were all one way: they spoke at us and it felt like we were getting the election speeches.
- 3. The 'Strategic Planning' session** was rather disappointing. We were asked to vote on whether the organization should spend more money, the same or less; if we should work more, the same or less and so forth. In response we asked for a process that would:
 - a. Identify issues important at the Branch and Regional levels
 - b. Generate options and collect information on what has been effective elsewhere
 - c. Share information, contacts, ideas more effectively
 - d. Support important initiatives at local levels as much as possible
 - e. Provide a broader range of services to membersPerhaps this did not go over all that well with the executive member running the session but other members were strongly supportive and indicated this approach had been requested before.

'We never know the worth of water till the well is dry'

- Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732



No Site for a Wind Farm: Mt Cass Ridge



There is simply nothing else left like the Mt Cass Ridge in Waipara, North Canterbury.

Over 140 hectares of indigenous shrubland/forest on about 210 hectares of pavement/boulderfield surface limestone landforms, let alone the surrounding forest to pasture–silver tussock grassland.

The proposed Mt Cass Wind Farm by MainPower will cause the clearing of 20 hectares (at the very least) of native vegetation and/or limestone formation destruction for its wind turbine roading and platforms. On the east of the South Island, the other few areas of forested limestone exist in tiny remnants when compared in area and ecological importance to the Ridge. Even the famous Castle Hill limestone formations only contain a fraction of the original vegetation that would have once clothed their slopes.

The Mt Cass Ridge is an Outstanding Natural Feature due to its rich topography and intact sequences of vegetation, from its dry northern faces beneath towering limestone escarpments, flanked on its wetter southern slopes by glades of grass and limestone broadleaf-kowhai-podocarp down to coastal forest. The Ridge is a stronghold for many threatened endemic plants, e.g., the nationally endangered Weka Pass Sun Hebe.

It is a treasure trove for Canterbury's biodiversity, a biological gem yet to be truly discovered by the region's general public. A natural wonderland and vantage point for all to enjoy, it offers spectacular panoramic views of North Canterbury from the Kaikoura Mountains in the north, south across the sweep of Pegasus Bay to Banks Peninsula and Christchurch, up to the Southern Alps in the west and out to the Pacific Ocean in the east.

It is timely to remind ourselves, as debate about the future of wind farms in North Canterbury is heating up, that there are many other less sensitive sites that are being investigated as potential wind farms in the area. The legal process with MainPower's proposed Mt Cass Wind Farm is well advanced, but public knowledge and pressure is still important even at this stage of proceedings.

MainPower has appealed to the Environment Court after its initial land use application (RC070250) was declined by Hurunui District appointed commissioners. The resulting

mediation with interested parties has led to an additional separate consent application that was publicly notified a couple of months ago (RC100059), outside the scope of the initial application. These two applications will now be heard as one application.

If MainPower's Mt Cass Wind Farm is allowed to go ahead, it will deface the Outstanding Natural Feature that is the Mt Cass Ridge. The natural integrity will be ruined by access roads and turbine platforms which will leave permanent scars on a truly beautiful karst limestone landscape. It would be a perfect site for a quiet natural Regional Park for tourism and recreation that could easily be reached in a growing North Canterbury.

For background information, click on: *Mt Cass Ridge Protection Society Homepage and News*

Full information on the original and the supplemental application can be found at: www.hurunui.govt.nz/Services/Planning/MtCass and by expanding the links at the bottom of that page.

ANDREW SIMPSON

Boyle Base Hut

The Boyle Base hut is close to the Lewis Pass, very near Boyle Village, and is available to branch members for \$7 per person per night.

A group of members is conducting a stoat-trapping programme centred on the hut, and any assistance would be welcomed.

For hut bookings or trapping assistance, phone **Lesley Shand, 379 0316**.

Branching out?

The Canterbury Community Trust (CCT) gave the branch \$2,500 for the stoat traps in use at Boyle Base.

One of our committee attended the CCT Annual Meeting, and found herself attributed to the 'Royal Forest and Birth Protection Society'!

The Art of Stoat Trap Box Making



Geoff Mahon (left) and Phil Ross busy in Steve Pitman's garage, making stoat trap boxes for Boyle Base. Note the boxes can be used for both chairs and tables.





We were disappointed that rain prevented us holding a couple of our scheduled events, but we enjoyed our other outings.

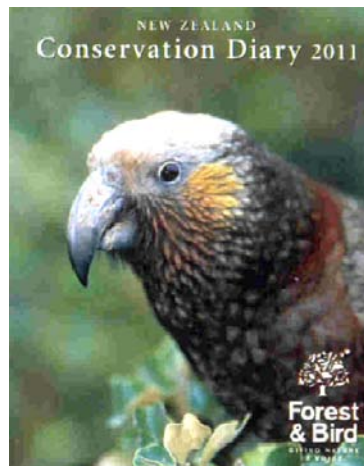
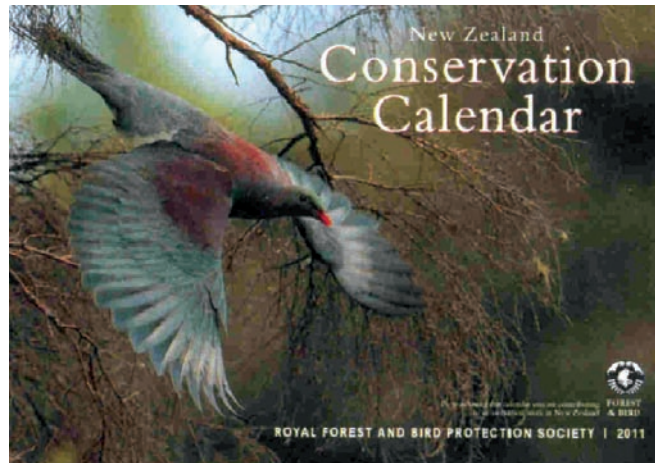
Two separate groups of members visiting the Bromley Sewerage Plant to see what happens when we flush the toilet. We were impressed at the scientific way waste is processed and that research is ongoing at the Laboratory. Good bacteria play an important part in breaking down waste: there was a fair amount of nose holding and gulls were there to consume anything that looked edible!

Some of our members helped release 60,000 salmon smolt from the Montrose Hatchery into the stream that feeds into the Rakaia River. Most kids had been to Deep Stream to see the salmon spawning so the outing filled in the gaps as we saw alevin, the first stage of development after the egg, which we wouldn't see in the wild.

ELEANOR BISSELL

For more info about KCC meetings and outings ph or email **Eleanor** 3371209, bissell@actrix.co.nz

Forest and Bird Craig Potton 2011 Calendars & Diaries



Calendars \$15
Diaries \$23
Postage \$2

**Phone Lesley Shand
379 0316**

Purchase now to send overseas for Christmas

F&B Web Pages

F&B has a number of useful and interesting websites. Give them a try!

- Our main site** www.forestandbird.org.nz
- KCC** www.kcc.org.nz
- Blog** <http://blog.forestandbird.org.nz/>
- Chat Room** <http://forum.forestandbird.org.nz/>
- Facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/forestandbird>
- Twitter** http://www.twitter.com/forest_and_bird
- Youtube** <http://youtube.com/forestandbird>

Attention Students

Looking for monetary assistance for your environment-related project or study?

The **Stocker Fund**, administered by the North Canterbury branch of Forest & Bird, may be able to help.

Each year the North Canterbury branch gives grants to help practical studies with an environmental / conservation basis. The grants are intended to help with, for example, the purchase of equipment, costs of laboratory tests or travel to carry out field work.

Please send a summary of your project including its aims and how you will use any grant from the Stocker Fund. Please also supply details of costings.

Send to **Nick Allen**,
11 Seagrave Place, Ilam, Christchurch 8041
or email nick_allen@xtra.co.nz
by **31st October**.

'In America today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops'
— Paul Brooks, *The Pursuit of Wilderness*, 1971



Save the Mackenzie



Forest and Bird will launch the 'Save the Mackenzie' campaign on 20th August in Wellington at the 'Artists as Activists' exhibition at the NZ Gallery of Fine Arts.

Forest and Bird will be calling for a halt to tenure review in this area until the Government can come up with a clear national vision for the region.

Five properties within the basin are currently under tenure review and we understand this could mean around 32,00ha may be freeholded.

Once the land is freeholded this landscape is under significant threat from land use intensification.

The **Save the Mackenzie** campaign will be a call for the Government to create a 'Drylands Conservation Park' between Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo to protect the unique native wildlife and precious landscapes of this region.

Forest and Bird members will be asked to speak to their local MPs, and write to the Conservation Minister and Minister of Lands to outline their concerns and make submissions on proposed tenure reviews when these are publicly notified.

Mackenzie Basin, 6000ft, between Twizel and Omarama. Note small plane in foreground

Tom Hay Old Blue Award Invitation

Sunday 10th October

Venue to be announced. Phone Bruce 376 4979

Some of you will know the Branch accepted an Old Blue award on behalf **Tom Hay**, an ex-Chair of the Branch and a radical of his time. A morning tea has been organised during which the award will be presented to him.

Please feel free to come along and hear some history of the North Canterbury branch



Post Schedule 4 Mining Decision

Forest & Bird is very pleased with the government's back-down on the proposal to mine in the core conservation estate (those areas in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act).

Forest & Bird led this debate when it released the government's leaked plans in March. The public response to the attack on our most precious natural areas was overwhelming and the government's back-down is a direct result of the many tens of thousands of New Zealanders who made their strong feelings known.

In announcing the back-down, the government claimed that it now has a mandate to expand mining activity in the rest of the public conservation estate (not covered by Schedule 4) and make it easier for this to happen. However, it is clear that there is no such mandate, and Forest & Bird will be campaigning hard to ensure that the rules for mining in the public conservation estate are tightened rather than loosened.



In March hundreds gathered outside Parliament to protest Government plans to allow mining in Schedule 4 Protected Conservation Lands

WANTED

Email Addresses

We are very happy to send a printed copy of the newsletter to our members, but if some of these could be sent electronically we will save time, money and trees!

You will then get the newsletter in **colour**, and if you need a paper copy you only need to press the PRINT button.

If you have an email address and would like to receive your newsletter and meeting reminders by email, please send your name or address or phone number or F&B membership number to: j.mclaughlin@xtra.co.nz with 'F&B newsletter' in the subject line.

Do you know...?

- 1 How much does a grey warbler weigh?**
As much as two 10c coins or 6.5 gms
- 2 How many types of lizard are native to NZ?**
Two – skinks and geckos. The tuatara is a reptile, but not a lizard.
- 3 How many water conservation orders are there in Canterbury?**
Four.
- 4 One of the following categories of protected area is covered by Schedule 4. Which one?**
Scientific reserves.
- 5 What does the term "nudibranch" (the scientific name for a sea slug) translate into?**
Naked gills – Latin nudus, naked, and the Greek brankhia, gills.
- 6 I'm walking with a friend in a North Island beech forest, when I hear this NZ bird call. My friend says she can't hear any bird call. What bird was it (my friend isn't deaf)?**
Rifleman – the call is too high pitched for some people to hear.
- 7 What's our rarest endemic seabird?**
Fairy tern.
- 8 Which is NZ's newest national park?**
Rakiura National Park.
- 9 How many plants did last year's Golden Spade winner – Wanda Tate – plant in a year?**
2400.
- 10 How many plants and animals are illustrated in Forest & Bird's logo?**
41.

From **Nature in Action**,
F&B's August Newsletter

'I just want the world to give nature the opportunity to survive.'

– Freddy Mella



Forthcoming Events



September

Wednesday 8th Sept Monthly Meeting WEA Gloucester St, 7.30pm

Speaker: **Nicola Vallance**
F&B Conservation Advocate

Topic: **Forest & Bird's Save the Mackenzie campaign**

Nicola will be telling us about Forest & Bird's Save the Mackenzie campaign and discussing why we need a clear vision for the protection of this special landscape

Saturday 11th Sept Welcoming back the Waders

Meet at the far end of Rockinghorse Road at 3pm to hopefully welcome back some of the Bar-tailed Godwits that will summer-over at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary after having flown all the way from their breeding grounds in Alaska.

Bring binoculars if you have them. This will be a joint meeting with the Ornithological Society and there will be some telescopes to look through to bring the views of birds up really close.

For those using public transport the eastern terminus of the number 5 bus is at the meeting place. The No. 5 bus with 'Southshore' on front leaves the central bus station, platform B, 1:55 and 2:10.

Contact **Nick Allen** ph 358 5994 or email nick_allen@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 11 September Meurky Walk with Dr Colin Meurk Spencer Park to Brooklands -

along the lagoon and on to Kainga taking in the most extensive salt marshes of Christchurch including wading birds and locally rare plants.

Depart 9am, bring lunch and drink. \$5 shuttle bus return

Contact: **Anna-Marie Barnes**
ph 337 9593 cell 0211096534

Meurky Walks

All are on Saturdays at approx two monthly intervals; begin 9am and finish by mid afternoon. Bring a few dollars for shuttle return fare, sturdy walking shoes, sun and rain protection, lunch and drink.

Local Body Forum

Tuesday 28th Sept, 7.30pm

**F&B North Canterbury
Local Body Forum,
Aurora Centre
for Performing Arts,**

Burnside High School,
Cnr Memorial Ave and Greers Rd

Details to be announced

All welcome



October

Wednesday 13th Oct Monthly Meeting WEA Gloucester St, 7.30pm

Speaker to be announced

Friday 29th Oct – Sunday 31st Oct South Island Gathering, Pudding Hill Lodge, Mt Hutt, Methven

All F&B members are most welcome to the annual South Island F&B Gathering.

This is an important event where F&B members, some Executive members and some National Office staff meet and share their challenges and successes in a very friendly atmosphere.

Field trips included in programme. Come for the whole weekend or by the day. There will be limited transport available by community van, fare \$15 return to cover costs including luggage trailer hire. First in first served.

Ph **Lesley Shand** (03) 379 0316.

North Canterbury Branch Public Meetings

2nd Wednesday, each month,
7.30pm, WEA Rooms,
59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch

**The human spirit needs places
where nature has not been
rearranged by the hand of man.**

- Author Unknown



November

Saturday 13 Nov Meurky Walk with Dr Colin Meurk

**Kainga to Otukaikino/Wilsons
Swamp** – along the lower Waimakariri River and over to this visually prominent landmark at the beginning of the Northern Motorway. Depart 9am, bring lunch and drink. \$5 shuttle bus return

Contact: **Anna-Marie Barnes**
ph 3379593 cell 0211096534

Sunday 28th Nov Field Trip to Lees Valley

Field trip to Lees Valley to see the very rare pink-flowering broom, *Carmichaelia torulosa*, the wonderful tussock grasslands, spider orchids and much much more. **Nick Head**, DoC's expert botanist will attend. Transport by car and community van. Limited numbers for van. First in first served, fare \$10.

Ph **Lesley Shand** (03) 379 0316.



December

Sunday 5th Dec Christmas Picnic Halswell Quarry Park

Happy celebration time! Starting about 11:00am. Everybody welcome, bring something yummy to share. Area in front of old stone house; grass and native plantings around waterfowl ponds. For those using public transport, the No. 77 bus with 'Kennedys Bush' on the front will get you there. More details nearer Christmas.



April/May 2011

30th April - 1st May 2011 Rangitata River trip

Stay overnight in Staveley, accommodation is arranged. We plan to see upland galaxids, fossils, the Rangitata Diversion Race and salmon spawning at Deep Stream.

Approximate cost 16 per person. Bookings next year.



North Canterbury Branch Committee Members

Chair

Bruce Coleman
hm ph 376 4979
wk ph 353 0952
cell 021 376 807
email coleman.raymond@xtra.co.nz

Web & Email Secretary

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email ctimbers.forestandbird@gmail.com

Treasurer

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email j.mclaughlin@xtra.co.nz

KCC Coordinator

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Newsletter

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