



MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2011

Meetings are held in the Parnell Community Centre, 545 Parnell Road (Jubilee Building) on Sunday afternoons in the Hobson Room at 2.30 pm. Plenty of parking is behind the Centre. A donation of a gold coin to help defray hall costs would be appreciated.

A NATURALIST IN DARWIN AND 3 NATIONAL PARKS – Nicholas Martin

Sunday, 18 September 2011

Nicholas is an Entomologist, Honorary Fellow at Plant & Food Research, Mt. Albert. He will give an illustrated talk looking at scenery, plants, birds, crocodiles, and insects. This is a meeting not to be missed.

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You will notice there is only one (1) meeting for the remainder of 2011. Your Committee has decided that due to low numbers attending, there will be only two meetings each year – the Annual General Meeting and one other. If numbers increase and other people are willing to organise the meetings and speakers, this could be reviewed in the future.

Please change to an electronic Te Karere! Emailing Te Karere saves on costs and decreases bad environmental effects from printing, saves paper and waste, and reduces our air pollution during the newsletter's hand-delivery. Thank you to the many of you who now receive Te Karere by email!!

Farewell to Lati and Welcome, Oliver! Our hard-copy newsletter organiser, Lati Moodie, is moving to Tauranga. She worked hard and smartly to get our hard-copy distribution system in great shape – much thanks to her, and we'll miss her cheerful disposition, too.. Oliver Hoffmann, however, has graciously come forward to take over from Lati. So welcome, Oliver – we're sure he'll do a great job as he's already asking good questions.

We would like to keep increasing our electronic communication, so please update your email details at <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/contact/update-my-membership-details>.

This includes both Forest & Bird and KCC members.



Chair's Report

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

This past year has seen a mixed bag of successes and threats to the country's conservation. This has mainly been because of the downturn in the economy, and also some initiatives by the government which have been sort of out of our control.

The most memorable of these was probably the protest march in Auckland against government proposals to mine in National parks. I was in Wellington at a F&B executive meeting when the march was on, and they had it on screen to see how it went, and I can say that it was the proudest moment I ever had in all my nine years on the executive for being an Aucklander when everyone saw the turnout up here. We Aucklanders get a very hard time from particularly South Island executive members, but for once I was able to yell out loud "Yeah Auckland".

At a local level, our main conservation campaign here has probably been to do with Pollen Island Marine Reserve area. We have been very involved in lengthy negotiations with NZTA (the old Transit) about the planned upgrade of the NorthWest Motorway through the Pollen Island Marine Reserve. We have worked with Waitakere branch on this because Pollen Island is so close to the boundary between our branch and theirs, and did a lot of negotiating with NZTA and DoC, and the case finally went to the Environment Court early this year. We are now awaiting confirmation of the consent conditions for the resource consents applied for, and will tell you about these in our newsletter.

At the same time we and Waitakere branch have been active in running a pest control programme out on Traherne Island, trapping rats and stoats there, and visiting Pollen island for walks to identify plants and animals living in the area, and to organize weed control plans. These walks have involved F&B branch members, and more are planned for next summer. We have seen there are still fernbirds out there and dotterels and banded rail, and a fair few estuarine plants not common in Auckland City.

We continue to receive enquiries from many people, not all are members, about a whole lot of different matters, including tree protection, the new Supercity, restoration projects like at Shakespeare Park up north and Tuff Crater on the Northshore, and about birds seen in the city here and also being transferred to places like Ark in the Park. Auckland

is getting a wonderful array of birds thanks to pest control and transfers and natural spread. Like someone saw a Royal Spoonbill recently at Tahuna Torea, and there are reports of kaka right here in town now.

Now the serious part of my report. Because we are not having anywhere near enough new members join our committee to spread the workload, and because the same few people who do all the work are getting older, and because of very low turnouts from members to our meetings and trips, then we have decided that we will be reducing the number of meetings down to just two this coming year, and unless anyone comes forward to help organize these meetings and trips, then possibly stopping them altogether. So if you want to see these meetings and trips continue, then we need new people who'll take these jobs on to come onto the committee.

We also need to see people interested in running conservation projects in our branch area. I'd personally love to see us do a lot more planting and other restoration work happening; we are, after all, a conservation group and we should have some practical conservation projects going on. But we need people to organize and run these projects. So if you have ideas about conservation projects with plantings or pest control for example, please offer to help organize and run them.

I'm sorry to say that unless new people come forward, things are getting pretty dire about the continuation of this committee and that probably means this branch too.

As always I'd really like to thank the people who have done some great work on this committee this past year. Particularly: Isabel Still for secretarial work and also for organizing these meetings and trips; John Hally for treasurers' work and also for organizing meetings and trips; Lati Moodi for a lot of work organizing the delivery of our branch newsletters; Barbara Thomborson for editing the newsletter and sending out emails; Marguerite Pearson for her work as both Deputy Chair and for co-ordinating KCC activities. And of course their families and friends for helping them and us a lot with all of these things.

Please consider very seriously joining the committee or taking on a job, so that this branch and its committee can continue. I outlined the jobs available in the last newsletter and we will again in



this next newsletter. I'm sorry to have to be as blunt as I have been, but the "softly-softly" approach so far hasn't communicated to our members what a dire situation we're facing or got people to offer their help.

Thank you for coming today,
Anne Fenn
Chair - Central Auckland F&B.



NZTA's Decision on NW Motorway on Traherne Island/Motu Manawa

The recent decision by NZ Transport Authority had some good news and bad news. The good news is Traherne Island's high status recognition in the report, which is a huge step forward for its management. Also, NZTA is bound in the conditions of consent to perform weed management on it in perpetuity and predator control on the island as well its environs.

With respect to our other requests, looks like we lost out, to varying degrees, on:

- No replacement of Rosebank culvert
- Extension of marine reserve area – ruled outside of Board's jurisdiction
- No improved access to marine reserve
- Holding NZTA to account for past pollution of the marine reserve – board ruled that this did not apply in law
- A fund to provide for mitigation on-site and off-site – Mark Bellingham's proposal was referred to but implicitly ruled out
- Increasing the stormwater filtration for the operating motorway causeway above the proposed 80%

Whether NZTA will consider continuing the current trapping with Michael et al under the Traherne Island Man Plan as part of the consent condition for the total trapping that's required, we can only wait and see.

Forest and Bird 2012 Calendars

If you want to buy your Forest and Bird calendar for 2012, please contact Isabel Still on 528 3986.

KCC RUAPEHU TRIP 13-15 MAY Report from Marguerite Pearson

Seven intrepid families with 12 children attended our first overnight trip to the newly rebuilt F&B Ruapehu Lodge. It was a great weekend where we learnt about and enjoyed the alpine environment, survival skills and dressing appropriately for the weather. My favourite activity was the "non-nature trail" we set up to test the children (and adults) observation skills!

Everyone had a great time and got on well, and we were very well fed! We were rewarded by the sighting of two whio (blue duck) mucking around in the river.

Despite the weather forecast, the skies were pretty good to us. We enjoyed our walk on Saturday which took us through totara forest, alpine swamp (with *my favourite bog pine!*) and alpine vegetation. The sun did shine on us at times, but unfortunately the Mountain was hidden from us by mist all weekend.



The rebuilt F&B Lodge is a great facility and I encourage everyone to stay there, not only because it is warm and well set up for families/groups but also because your branch contributed to the rebuild.



I would like to thank my able support crew of Amanda Luckman, Fidi Jordon, Anne Fenn and Marianne van der Haas (who unfortunately could not come on the actual trip) for all their help before and during the trip. We are definitely planning another trip next year!





KCC NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011 to NOVEMBER 2011

YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS - MARIANNE AND MARGUERITE

Access our website on www.forestandbird.org.nz; www.kcc.org.nz

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 26 June

Planting on Motuihe Island with a Matariki Theme

This will be a day outing organised by Marianne and the Motuihe Island Trust during Matariki (Maori New Year). Traditionally this was a great time to plant crops and vegetation. Please rsvp to Marianne on Marianne@value.net.nz by 17 June so we can book the ferry tickets at a discounted rate. **Booking is essential** for this reason.

Sunday, 31 July

Bird Watching in Cornwall Park

What do we know about our local birds and what they do in winter? Did you know a surprising number of bird species live and nest in city parks with about 25 different species found in Cornwall Park? We will be explaining an easy way to recognise and learn about birds.

Meet at **1:30pm at the Cornwall Park Visitors Centre**. Bring your walking shoes, bird identification books and/or binoculars if you have them. Please book with Marianne at Marianne@value.net.nz.

Friday, 26 August

Night Safari at the Auckland Zoo

Join us for an exciting night time adventure to the Auckland Zoo. We will be the only guests there, so come along to learn about and see the animals at the Zoo and the conservation efforts undertaken by the staff. We will get to look "behind the scenes" and feed some animals! Did you know that some animals at the Zoo are nocturnal and are more active at night?

This event goes from 4:30 pm to 10:00. Cost is \$48 per person (child or adult) and includes BBQ dinner, games and night tour. Friends and family are welcome to come along but note they need to be 5 years or older.

Please book with Marguerite by 25 July on mlp418@gmail.com; payment will be required at that time to reserve your place. Please be sure when you book as the minimum group size is 20 people and we must pay for that number even if they do not all come.

Sun., 11, 18 or 25 September

Visit to Matuku Reserve (Waitakere F&B Reserve)

Date and meeting time will be confirmed later in June.

Walk will start at 10 am. The track goes through mature and regenerating bush, a wetland area and historical tram tracks. The track may be difficult in places so older kids only are recommended. Bring good walking shoes, a jacket and lunch to enjoy afterwards.

Please book with Fidi on fidijordan@ymail.com by 2 September.

Sunday 6 November

Visit to Bird Rescue Centre

Meet at **10:45 am** to visit the North Shore Bird Rescue Centre. Please bring donations and/or old towels and sheets to assist Sylvia in this valuable work. Numbers are strictly limited and one adult per family only.

Any problems? Any questions? Please phone Marguerite on 021 930 440.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES: JUNE – DECEMBER 2011

BUS TRIPS AND VISITS

FIELD TRIPS BY BUS: Unless otherwise stated, the bus will leave from the lower Albert Street bus stop at 9am. All trips pick up at the Takapuna Rose Gardens. Trips heading south also pick up at Harp of Erin, whilst those heading north also pick up at Pt Chevalier. Please advise where you will board the bus when booking your trip. You should be suitably clad and shod for the area and conditions expected.

BOOKINGS: please forward a cheque payable to FOREST & BIRD SOCIETY to the booking officer immediately after booking. Refunds will not be given (except for sudden illness or urgent reasons, at the discretion of the committee) unless cancellation is notified by the Wednesday prior to the trip.

SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2011 TOY AND TODDY DAY!

Visit Bill's Antique Toy Museum at Whitford and enjoy a midwinter lunch at Howick RSA.

BOOK: With John on (09) 5287506

COST: \$36.00 - includes morning tea, lunch and admission to Museum

SATURDAY 16 JULY 2011 MYSTERY TRIP

Christine - our driver - has planned an exciting day out for us - up North. Please note early departure time. Meals are not included in the price but it will be possible to buy lunch on the day if you wish to.

BOOK: With Isabel on (09) 528 3986

COST: \$36.00 - includes entry fee

DEPARTURES: ALBERT ST. AT 8:30AM
AND PT. CHEV. AT 8:40AM

SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2011 BRICK BAY SCULPTURE TRAIL

This is an easy 2km walk - partly through native bush. See the sculptures in a natural setting. There will be a chance to see the famous Glass House and purchase a bottle of wine - for those so inclined.

BOOK: With Sally on 528 7506

COST: \$31.00 (Includes entry to Sculpture Trail)

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2011 KARANGAHAKE GORGE WALK

This walkway has been upgraded since we last walked it. Wonderful views of the river and the gorge.

BOOK: With John on 528 7506

COST: \$30.00

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2011 STEAM TRAIN BONANZA!

We have booked a carriage on the Glenbrook Railway to ride the 11.00am train from Glenbrook to Waiuku and return to Glenbrook on the 1.55pm train. Time to explore Waiuku or grab a coffee. Please note this is the 4th Saturday and Labour Weekend (first weekend the Railway operates for the summer season).

BOOK: With Isabel on 528 7506

COST: \$27.00 (includes train fares)

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011 TAMAHUNGA GARDEN

Explore Brett and Margo Schneideman's large garden at Matakana. Picnic amongst the plants. This garden is a stunning combination of New Zealand plants and old world designs.

BOOK: With Sally on 528 7506

COST: \$35.00 (includes garden entry fee)

SATURDAY 03 DECEMBER 2011 XMAS RAVE!

As usual the destination is a mystery but we can guarantee you a splendid morning tea and buffet lunch and the opportunity to meet up with long standing Forest and Bird friends. Book early to avoid disappointment!

BOOK: With Isabel on 528 7506

COST: \$27.00



Royal Spoonbills at Tahuna Torea

Recently a couple of Royal Spoonbills have been sited at Tahuna Torea Reserve in Glendowie. Speculation is rife that a pair may be nesting there. Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve is at 340 West Tamaki Drive, Glendowie - check out these curious looking birds that like to nap on the sand spit.



Clean-Up of the Whau River

Report by Anne Fenn

Clean-up with Friends of Whau FOW on 26 February went quite well. About a dozen F&Bers came along and Mels Barton (Seaweek co-ordinator) and Lucy Hawcroft and Gareth Hughes (Green Party). A few small craft and kayaks were out on the water plus Phil Warren's larger boat (Waitemata Harbour Care). Most people collected rubbish onshore. Sandra, the organiser from FOW, had printed up some maps of the area highlighting litter hotspots, and everyone dispersed to these – one moment, they were there, and next I looked up they'd all gone - it was a huge area we covered.

We amassed about 30 big bags of rubbish and recyclables plus several tyres, shopping trolleys, etc. Photo showing rubbish collected below was taken well before we finished so it shows about 3/4 of the total by finish (3.00).



This river was chosen because its mouth is directly into the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve right where we are doing restoration work, so whatever litter's thrown in at these upper reaches is carried out to the marine reserve. It is one of the worst polluted waterways in the area.

Watch Release of Whiteheads into Ark in the Park

You can watch the release of 50 whiteheads at Ark in the Park in the Park in the Waitakere Ranges on this YouTube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpnNaud-41g. The release took place on Thursday 5th May and was a concerted effort by Forest & Bird, the Auckland Council, Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, DOC, Te Kawerau a Maki, Ngati Manuhiri and many Ark in the Park volunteers.

The sparrow-sized bird has been locally extinct from the Auckland and Northland region since the 1900s, so this top-up of birds will help to re-establish this bird to the region. Whitehead were released in the

Release of Whitehead into Ark in the Park cont.

Ark in the Park in 2005 and 2008, and small numbers of them have been seen around the Ark in the Park.

Project manager for Ark in the Park, Dr Maj De Poorter, says the release is part of a ten-year plan to restore the whitehead population in this area to its former glory. "Ongoing predator control to get rid of rats, stoats, possums and feral cats allows our native birds to thrive. We couldn't do any of this without our many volunteers though, they are the backbone of our project, putting in more than 8000 hours every year," she says.

Auckland Bird Rescue Centres

The New Zealand Bird Rescue Charitable Trust supports the following Centres and their volunteers:

Dairy Flat: Linda Coster. Ph: 426 8185
Email: www.birdrescue.org.nz

Green Bay: Lyn MacDonald Ph: 816 9219
74 Avonleigh Rd. lyn@birdrescue.org.nz.

Manukau City: Hilary Stollery. PH: 262 2260
28 De Havilland Drive, Manukau
hilary@birdrescue.org.nz

North Shore: Sylvia Durrant. Ph: 478 8819
13 Montgomery Ave., Rothesay Bay

Pokeno: Robyn Sampson. PH: 233 6681
robyns_nest@xtra.co.nz

Whitford: Mandy Robertson. Ph: 530 8283
mandy@wildbirds.org.nz

To see some of Bird Rescue's work, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SK6e2li8q8&feature=player. To donate to this Charitable Trust, please go to www.birdrescue.org.nz.

Moturoa Island Planting Dates 2011 trip dates:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 26 June | 25 September |
| 31 July | 30 October |
| 28 August | 27 November |

For more information, go to www.moturoa.org.nz



DoC Survey Asks Us What Species and Places Define Us as New Zealanders ?

New Zealanders identify with our native species and special places in personal ways. The Department of Conservation (DOC) would like to know which of our many native species that you think help define who we are as New Zealanders and which of our special places help tell the New Zealand story.

Your feedback, along with other information sources, will help us decide how we will manage species and places for future generations and will be captured in conservation management strategies. The weblink is <http://www.doc.govt.nz/features-archive/what-is-quintessentially-kiwi/>.

Questions about species and places

The survey asks you to list up to 10 species and up to 10 specific places that you think are "Quintessentially Kiwi" because they help define who we are as New Zealanders.

Our President, Anne Fenn, starts her list with the fernbird to highlight its importance in not destroying its habitat on Traherne Island with the NW motorway extension (see page 3). We emphasise that this is just her list to provide some ideas to get you started. Anne's list is:



The Fernbird

Species

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. native estuarine wetland birds like fernbird, rail, royal spoonbill etc | 6. Kauri |
| 2. Kiwi | 7. Peripatus |
| 3. Maui's dolphin | 8. Kokako |
| 4. Mangroves | 9. Pohutakawa |
| 5. Mistletoe | 10. Kaka |

Places:

1. Volcanoes and volcanic landscapes
2. Tongariro National park
3. thermal features at Rotorua
4. Lake Taupo
5. Waikato River
6. Poor Knights marine reserve
7. Mt Cook National park
8. Urewera forest
9. Goat island marine reserve
10. Bay of Islands

You Can Still Help Save the Mokihinui River

Over 2600 people emailed a card to Meridian Energy to say that damming the Mokihinui River is unacceptable! It's too late to send e-cards, but you can help by donating to Forest and Bird's Save the Mokihinui campaign.



You can purchase one of 140 limited edition shareholding certificates (featured above) of \$100 each – securing your part in the battle to save the Mokihinui River. Beautifully illustrated, the certificate encapsulates all that is valuable in the Mokihinui – from its enigmatic great spotted kiwi to its earthquake-shattered limestone gorges.

We hope this certificate will be an important piece of Mokihinui memorabilia in years to come as a reminder of battles won! For more information, go to <http://www.savethemokihinui.org.nz>.

Your Ideas Needed to Make Auckland an Eco-city

In the new Spatial Plan from Auckland City, the Councillors propose making Auckland an Eco-city. They want your comments on how to do this best and what issues are important. You can read the discussion document and make formal consultation comments from August through November at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/PlansPoliciesPublications/theaucklandplan/discussiondoc.

To communicate your inspirations on Auckland as an eco-city, go to www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/PlansPoliciesPublications/theaucklandplan/discussiondocument/Pages/environment.aspx. Some ideas are to ask for creating wildlife corridors across the city, protecting areas of high ecological importance (and name them) from development, creating a reliable public transport system, and having an extensive network of parks and open spaces across the city. This is a good chance – maybe your only chance - to influence Auckland's ecological future.



Members of your committee

Anne Fenn, Chair fenn4@xtra.co.nz
Isabel Still, Secretary 528-3986
John Hally, Treasurer 528-7506
Marguerite Pearson,
KCC Coordinator mlp418@gmail.com
Barbara Thomborson,
Newsletter editor bt@bt.gen.nz
Oliver Hoffmann,
Newsletter deliveries. hoki@orcon.net.nz

Useful Auckland City contacts

1. Public Transport Information (for bus, train, ferry and carpooling), phone Maxx on 366-6400 or view their website at www.maxx.co.nz.
2. Pollution 24-hour Hotline, within Auckland: 366 2000
3. Pest information: www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/services/pests/default.asp.
4. Bird Rescue: Lyn MacDonald Ph: 816 9219
74 Avonleigh Rd, Green Bay
Email: lyn@birdrescue.org.nz.

Contact any of us if you want to contribute to what Forest & Bird does in the Central Auckland Branch.

Our Email: centralauckland.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Auckland Regional Office: 3020 203, OR 302 3901

Our website: www.forestandbird.org.nz/CentralAuckland

TE KARERE is your newsletter - if you have any comments on its presentation or the type of information included, please let us know. It is also a way your committee keeps you informed about the local events and meetings and the local and regional issues with which your committee is involved. Any feedback you have is welcome and may be directed to the postal address on this page, attention Anne Fenn, or by email to the Editor at forestandbird@gmail.com.

Any opinions expressed in feature or guest articles contributed to Te Karere are those of the contributing authors, societies or other organizations and are not the opinions or policies of Forest & Bird, nor are they necessarily endorsed by Forest & Bird.

TE KARERE



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**Forest
& Bird**

GIVING NATURE
A VOICE

**KCC Newsletter
Enclosed**