

Kapiti-Mana Branch Newsletter Oct 2011

Branch Barbecue

The annual Branch Barbecue will take place on Sat, Feb 25th 2012 at Greendale Reserve. It will give members a chance to see the restoration work undertaken by the Greendale team of volunteers over the past fourteen years. Directions to the reserve can be found at: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/kapiti-mana/reserves-projects/greendale-reserve/directions-to-greendale%20reserve>

Further details will be provided in January.

Kapiti-Mana on-line

Kapiti-Mana Branch web pages can be found at: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/kapiti-mana>

They provide information on our monthly branch meetings, a summary of recent events, details of our restoration projects, the Regional events Programme, a summary of KCC activities and much more.

Our email policy

To reduce communication costs, all members with an email address will receive future newsletters and programmes by email unless otherwise requested.

If you prefer to receive hard copies (black and white), please email our membership secretary, Lore Leseberg at: hleseberg@clear.net.nz and include the words "**Hard copy please**" in the subject line.

Kapiti-Mana Branch wins Heritage and Environment Award



Winning this years Heritage and Environment Category of the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for our support of the Raumati South School Bush Walk project came as a great honour to the branch. It was even more pleasing to learn that a group of children from the school were the driving force behind the nomination.

Our involvement with this project has been a winner for all concerned. The children have derived an enormous sense of achievement and have greater appreciation of the natural world around them. To quote from their nomination "They help us to become a more environmentally aware school. We are helping the birds by making good habitats for them to live in."

The branch members involved have also derived pleasure in passing on their knowledge and advice and by providing encouragement to the children.

We are very proud that the school has gone on to win a Bronze Enviroschools award followed by both the Gold Award and the Peoples Choice

Award for their garden project at the 2011 Sustainable Home and Garden Show.

In our view, the Raumati South School Bush Walk project stands as a demonstration of the huge benefit to the environment and the community that can be achieved by such partnerships and we hope it provides encouragement to others contemplating similar projects.

How do they remember?

I have lived in Tui Crescent since 1971. Each year, just three days before the shortest day, one female and two male Shelduck have arrived and settled on the top high tension line cross arm near my home. They always arrive before 8 am, much loud cackling takes place then they quickly fly away. This is repeated for three days then a day or so later one pair returns earlier and makes a beeline for a tall, dead, Totara tree well back in the bush on Hemi Matenga where they subsequently nest. This year two pairs arrived, on time, repeated the performance, and after three days headed for the Totara. How do they remember? They reportedly live about 7 years so I conclude that the knowledge of this site has been passed through at least six and probably more generations. Bill Moore

Chairman: John McLachlan 04 904 0027

Deputy Chairman: Ian Corder 04 905 0388

Secretary: Judy Driscoll 04 904 2049

Treasurer: Hans Leseberg 04 904 1232

Membership Secretary: Lore Leseberg 04 904 1232

Committee: Tony Ward, Alison Pearce, Graham Petterson

Kapiti-Mana donates \$3000 to eradicate Stoats on Kapiti Island



The importance of Kapiti Island to Forest and Bird cannot be overstated.

It was Captain Val Sanderson's campaign to see

Kapiti secured as a wildlife reserve in the early 20th century that led to the creation of the society that we know today.

Since the island became pest free in 1997 it has become a safe haven for many endangered or rare species of birds such as the, Kokako, Hihi, Tieke, North Island Black Robin, and Little Spotted Kiwi. The discovery of a stoat in October 2010 poses a serious threat to their safety. If the island's value as a pest free sanctuary is not to be undermined, any remaining stoats must be eradicated as soon as possible. Kapiti-Mana Branch has therefore made a donation of \$3000 to the Forest and Bird appeal fund to assist the Department of Conservation in this critical task.

Stoats however are very elusive and can travel large distances so it is also important, to appreciate the difficulty of the task ahead. With 1965 hectares of largely rugged terrain to cover and an elusive enemy this will not be easy.

Fortunately, examination of the three stoats caught so far suggests that one is the mother of the other two and implies that the current population may be quite small. It also provides fresh hope that the ongoing intensive D.O.C. campaign will successfully eradicate any remaining stoats without too much delay.

D.O.C. estimates that \$200,000 will be needed to continue the task in the coming year, with a further two years to declare the Island pest free.

It is a sobering thought that stoats took only ten years to kill off the complete kakapo population on Resolution Island. **It must not happen on Kapiti.**

Calendar Sales

This year we sold 480 calendars and 111 diaries, resulting in a profit of just over \$3311, a slight increase on last year. Denise Watts stands out as our top seller with 45 calendars and 14 diaries, closely followed by John McLachlan.

Many thanks go to everyone in our hard working sales team and in particular to Lore and Hans Leseberg for their time and commitment in organising the sales campaign.

Certificates of Appreciation

Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding work have been presented at recent branch meetings to:

Sharyn Gunn, Janet Hollows and Donna Sherlock for the commitment and leadership they have given to Kiwi Conservation Club.

John Lancashire and the Friends of Queen Elisabeth II Park for their extensive restoration work.

Brent Buckler for his organisation of the community service workers and other work carried out for the Kapiti Ecological Restoration Maintenance Trust.

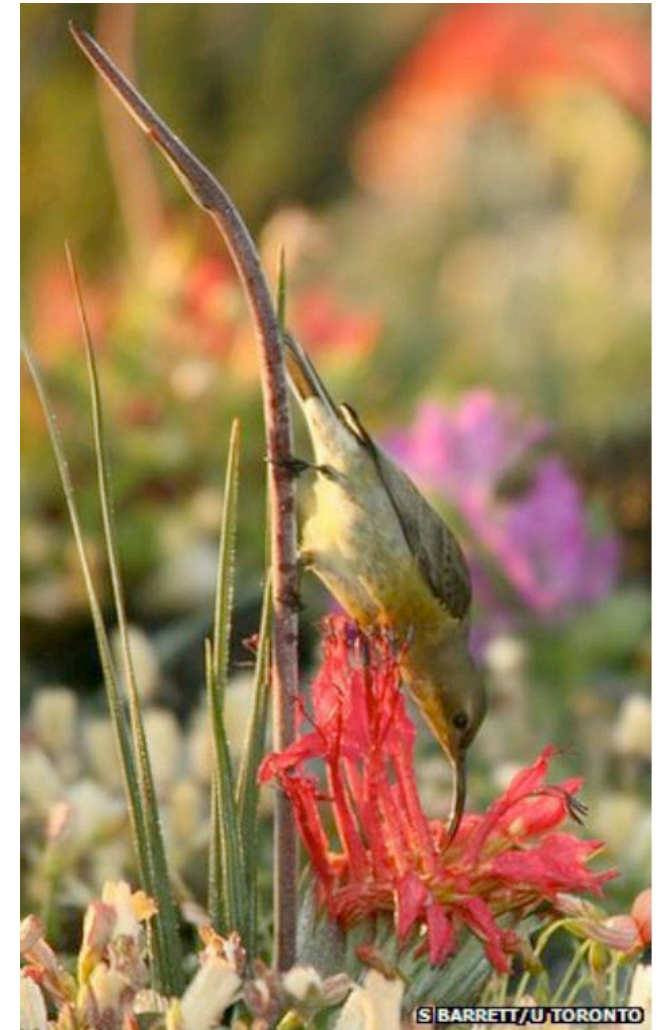
We congratulate them all on their success.

Editor: Ian Corder, Tel: 04 - 905 - 0388
Contributions for the next newsletter to
Ian.Corder@clear.net.nz by 20 January

Plant grows perch for pollinating birds

Researchers in Germany believe that a South African plant, locally called the Rat's Tail, has evolved its vertical, branchless stem to encourage pollinating birds to visit its flowers.

The birds hang upside down from this perch and fertilise the plant when they thrust their beaks into the red flowers to drink nectar. - BBC News



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