



**Forest & Bird**  
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

[www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)

## NELSON-TASMAN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

June 2010

**Introducing....** the new look trimmed-down Nelson Tasman branch newsletter. As a response to requests, in future the newsletter will be limited to 4 pages - for ease of reading especially on email. If you want to know MORE about what is happening in other branches and nationally contact Marina Skinner at Central Office: <M.Skinner@forestandbird.org.nz> to get an email copy of *Nature In Action* which comes out monthly. Copies should also be available at our monthly meetings.

**How did you celebrate biodiversity on 22 May?** Saturday 22 May was the International Day of Biodiversity. Did you plant any trees? or build a lizard home with corrugated iron? a penguin box? or a weta motel, a predator trap? Never fear... this year is the UN International Year of Biodiversity, so you have the rest of the year to think about and DO something to reduce your ecological footprint, to provide habitat or protect our country's unique biodiversity. You are also invited to join in with our local projects - see page 3 for contacts; as well as planting in Richmond on EarthDay/Arbor Day 5 June (see p. 4)\*.

**The UN says that the case of saving species is more 'powerful than climate change'. A UN biodiversity report due to be released soon says that goods and services from the natural world (such as pollination, medicines, fertile soils, clean air and water, cost between 10 and 100 times the cost of saving the habitats and species which provide them) and should be factored into the global economic system.**

**The report follows a series of recent studies showing that the world is in the grip of a mass extinction event as pollution, climate change, development and hunting destroys habitats of all types, from rainforests and wetlands to coastal mangroves and open heathland. However, only two of the world's 100 biggest companies believe reducing biodiversity is a strategic threat to their business, according to a report released by PricewaterhouseCoopers, UN advisers.**

**For more go to:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/may/21/un-biodiversity-economic-report>

\*The Native Bird Recovery Richmond Group are having an opening ceremony for their birdhide. Meet at the beginning of the Jimmy Lee Track, Hill Street Richmond at 10 am on Tuesday, 22nd June.



*From the Chair:*

*Our Nelson Tasman branch AGM was held on 12 May at Victory Community hall meeting room. We had a good turnout - no doubt more for David Mitchell and Janet Taylor who gave an inspiring presentation on their work in creating wetland habitat at Mapua. Their plans are very exciting with a strong involvement with the Mapua School - very admirable.*

*A very warm welcome to our three new committee members - **Janice Gibbs** from Brightwater, and **Graeme Elliott** and **Queenie Ballance** from Nelson. We are still very keen to have committee members from the wider Richmond wider area - do consider giving some time on the committee - it is not onerous! It is also that time of year when Forest and Bird holds its **annual AGM and Council meeting** in Wellington. Remember, as a member you are entitled to be present at the AGM which starts at 8.30am Saturday 26 June 2010. Our branch councillor for this year will be **Bill Sinclair** and committee member **Julie McLintock** will also be attending as an observer. Cheers, Helen Campbell*

[www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)

June 2010

[www.kcc.org.nz](http://www.kcc.org.nz)

PO Box 7126, Nelson Mail Centre NELSON 7042

certificate of registration: CC26943

## Report from the Regional Field Officer (Top of the South)

Dear friends

As we come closer to the shortest day, we've also come very close to some of the bleakest moments in recent times for the fate of our treasured places. In the last few months government has not only threatened to undermine the cross-party support for protecting land in Schedule 4 from mining, it has also overturned Water Conservation Order protection and legal democratic rights in Canterbury – a scenario that could play out across the country. And although the Department of Conservation have filed an appeal on the Mokihinui decision – their recent advice that they are working with Meridian who “are committed to the Mokihinui hydro project” and “may make new applications”, is worrying at a time when DOC have been directed to become more ‘open to electricity generation on conservation land’.

Thanks to the many of you who joined our 2000-strong rally on Trafalgar St against the mining proposals, and who have since made submissions. Thanks too, to those of you who have offered support, either with your time or financially, to assist with the Mokihinui campaign and appeal. Nationally I am the Wild Rivers campaign coordinator, and represent Forest & Bird at the multi NGO Wild Rivers forum. The Mokihinui and Hurunui river threats are key ones for our society – the flooding of the Mokihinui for hydro electricity generation would be the largest inundation of conservation land ever seen in this country.

On the more local front, work has continued on the Native Habitats Tasman project, and in joint collaboration with Federated Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Friends of Nelson Haven & Tasman Bay, Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council – we have managed to achieve some very positive outcomes with surveys and protection of sites on private land. The appreciation from landowners has been a huge benefit of the scheme.

Finally, I thank the ongoing and generous support of the branch who have provided that much needed link in the community.

Cheers, Debs

215 Akersten St, PO Box 266, Nelson 7040

03-545-8222

**Stop Press:** The Minister of Conservation, Kate Wilkinson, has advised that Meridian Energy has withdrawn its applications for land exchange and concessions. She says: "the department anticipates revised applications will be submitted."

### WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH:

Former Forest & Bird President and Distinguished Life Member  
Gerry McSweeney has written an impassioned letter to asking for support in  
these troubled times for conservation.  
He has launched a Forest & Bird National Conservation Fighting Fund to this  
year raise \$1 million to fight conservation battles on several fronts.  
Please offer financial support by contacting Forest & Bird General Manager  
Mike Britton at [m.britton@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:m.britton@forestandbird.org.nz)

**Waimea Inlet Symposium:** it is good to see progress toward a **strategic management plan** for Waimea Estuary - an issue that your branch committee has been pursuing for many years. About 120 people attended a workshop at the Best Island Golf Club and very ably facilitated by Dr Glen Lauder. This symposium is part of a programme being followed by Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council for a plan for Waimea estuary. Those attending included technical experts who gave brief overviews of the values of the Inlet, recreationalists, local residents, and in fact any members of the public who care for the future of the Inlet. The F&B branch committee was represented by Beth, Helen and Gillian, as well as other F&B members. Other meetings have been held by the group facilitating the project with industry and farming leaders around the Inlet. For more info/or to be involved contact Neil Jackson (TDC) or Paul Sheldon (NCC). As one attendee commented: "It's about time".

**Waimea Water Augmentation Scheme: Lee Valley dam:** another proposal is for a dam in the headwaters of the Lee River. A group has been working on this for about 7 years already and although costly (for irrigators around \$500 per hectare, for Council/ratepayers about \$2m per annum) those involved say that the dam is essential and that ecosystems in the main will be enhanced. For technical reports email [Joseph.Thomas@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Joseph.Thomas@tasman.govt.nz) or access TDC's website. Feedback is welcomed (Helen).

## Trip Reports:

We were blessed with fine weather for the day walk to the new DoC hut at **Redhills**, 6 Mile Reserve (Upper Wairau Valley) on Anzac Day. About 20 members and friends set off through the new route that meets up with the former 4 wheel drive road leading up the hill to the hut for lunch with Helen sharing her cautionary tale on *Cortinarius australensis*.

This track is now part of the Te Araroa walkway that will extend from the North Cape to Bluff, and increasing numbers of trampers are likely to be using the hut - certainly the hut book contains comments from people from all over the world. After exploring the wetland and the "tops" we went back down the hill with Judith finding a lovely green gecko on the track. We admired the old Redhills cob cottage (and mistletoe) and homestead, taking the side trip to the site of the original Top Accommodation House and the plaque installed by the Nelson Historic Society and viewing the Top 2 survey plate. A pleasant day, finished with coffee and cake at Wairau Pass. Helen



**Mapua Wetlands:** About 14, including 2 grandchildren, came on the Mapua outing on Sunday 23 May. The rain held off and we wandered round an interesting wetland project, a Queen Elizabeth II Trust covenant, before walking to the beach and observing graphically how **not** to treat a shoreline. The high boulder wall is increasingly awful.

Some went home from the Tahi St entrance to the estuary while others carried on to the wharf. Here coffee, chips and other delectables were bought from a variety of shops and cafes and we ate at Grossis Point. Thank you **Judy Mitchell** for giving up your morning to show us the wetland. Gillian

***LATEST! Beth and Tony Bryant have been awarded the 2010 Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society's Golden Spade award for their work on the restoration of vegetation at the Raumanukas. They will be presented with the award at the AGM in Wellington at the end of June. Congratulations and thank you both for all the hard work you have put in.***

### Nelson Tasman Branch Contacts

#### PROJECT LEADERS:

Paremata Flats/Delaware Estuary: **Julie McLintock** 545 0989  
julie@vodaphone.co.nz

Bird Life on the Grampians: **Bryce Buckland**  
bryce.buckland@aon.co.nz

Raumanukas/Motueka Sandspit: **Beth & Tony Bryant** 03 528 5212  
tonyandbeth@ihug.co.nz

*A new project for predator control is planned for the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve. You will hear more of this in the coming months.*

#### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Chair/newsletter: **Helen Campbell** 521 1148  
maccam@ts.co.nz

Secretary: **Jocelyn Bieleski** 548 6803  
ael@tasman.net

Treasurer: **Bill Sinclair** 545 7270  
bill.sinclair@clear.net.nz

## Programme July to September 2010

**TALKS:** Please note the talks venue changes from July for the rest of this year - **Tahunanui School Hall, Muritai Street, Tahunanui:** all start at **7:30pm**. Contributions for the sales table are most welcome. **Gold coin** donation please towards hall hire and supper. Car pool to minimise global footprint. **WALKS** - Please wear appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear and gear to cope with weather changes, sun block, lunch, drinks and snacks. Contact the trip leader for more information.

### June

**SATURDAY 5:** (Arbor Day Planting). Meet at **9am** Richmond, Hill Street (Hart Road end) at start of walkway boardwalk to Will's Gully - steepish for a start. Also a guided tour of work in progress in the reserve. Bring: spades, morning tea; native trees provided. Contact **Will Rickerby - 544 2929**

**MONDAY 7:**(Queens Birthday), **LAST CHANCE** for Pohara camp. Takaka Hill Walk (3 hrs) **TUESDAY 8** (and Weds) at daybreak, see the spotted shags (see *In the Field* May F&B mag p. 50) (5000 last winter). Tues walk- Totaranui /Separation Point loop. Book NOW, **Julie 545 0989**

**WEDNESDAY 9:** Winter Treat - **Quiz evening (prizes!) & Film Get-together** - mulled wine and (BYO) nibbles. VENUE: **Victory Community Centre Hall, Totara St, Nelson.** Contact:**Jocelyn 548 6803**

**26 June-4 July: Garden Bird Survey. Survey forms Forest & Bird mag. May 2010 (p.33).**

### July

**WEDNESDAY 14:** Documentary "**PROSPECTS. The story of the first campaign that saved the Coromandel from mining.**" Debs Martin, our Field Officer, will bring us up to date. Venue - **Tahunanui School Hall - 7:30pm** Contact **Jocelyn 548 6803**

**SUNDAY 25:** Explore **The Grampians** with Bill Sinclair and NCC staff. **Meet** at the car park for Kahikatea track - **York Valley Road, Bishopdale** (past quarry). See old forest, re-forestation, and trapping projects. Bring lunch. The walk finishes with a cuppa at Melrose House. Drivers will be ferried back to their cars. **Contact: Bill 545 7270; bill.sinclair@clear.net.nz**

### August

**WEDNESDAY 11** **Maryann Ewers & Bill Rooke** will bring us up to date with the trapping projects of Friends of Flora, Bush & Beyond, and Friends of the Cobb. This combined programme began 10 years ago. Blue duck have returned and great spotted kiwi have been re-introduced. - **Tahunanui School Hall, 7:30pm.** Contact: **Jocelyn: 548 6803**

**SATURDAY 14 - Planting at Paremata Flats** - enjoy the kowhai, kereru, tuis & fernbirds - meet at Flats, Maori Pa Road at 10 am - **contact Julie 545 0989**

**NOTE** - between 10-20 August **Wrybill** arrive at a shell bank in Waimea Inlet. **Willie Cook** will take interested people on a short walk to view them. Register your interested with Julie 545 0989 for the actual date of birds arrival and trip details.

**WEEKEND 20-22 ECOFEST** - F&B will have a stand - please support: contact **Jocelyn 548 6803**

**September Conservation week (12-19)** Theme "*Love New Zealand*", hence "**Love Waimea Estuary**"

**WEDNESDAY 8:** **Martin Rutledge (DoC)** - fish inhabitants of the streams and the estuary AND **David Melville (OSNZ)** on the birds of the estuary. - **Tahunanui School Hall - 7:30 pm.**

**SATURDAY 12:** Explore the estuary - **guided bus tour**. Many stops and short walks to various features along the route. **Bring lunch. Meet:Honest Lawyer, 10 am**, finishes Mapua wharf for coffee. Return by bus to your car 4pmish. **Cost \$10.** Numbers limited, **bookings essential: Julie, 545 0989.**