

Seasons Greetings

Wishing all our members best wishes for the festive season. A time to spend with family and friends.

Holidays bring opportunities to enjoy New Zealand's forests, parks, beaches, mountains, and inland waterways. Check the F&B website for ideas: forestandbird.org.nz

We are organising an interesting calendar of evening meetings and field trips for 2012 and hope to meet many of you at these events.



The Political Landscape - prospects for the next three years

Robert Woolf - Chairperson

With the wonderful prospect of long sunny days and relaxing holidays I decided to mull over the consequences of election for conservation and see if this was just as uplifting. Sadly what I found did not fill me with glee.

New Government

The government which will include National, ACT, United Future and the Maori Party.. The opposition parties consist of a markedly diminished Labour Party, a significantly expanded Green Party and New Zealand First. The results mean that government policy on conservation and the environment is likely to continue in much the same way as it has over the previous three years. Labour's policies, sometimes seemingly pinched directly from the Greens are definitely more positive for conservation than the National Party. However, their influence will not be great in the new Parliament.

Climate change

Anthropocentric climate change is not likely to be dealt with adequately. There has already been a slowing down of the phasing in of the Emissions Trading Scheme for transport, electricity and industrial sectors while agriculture continues to be excluded from the scheme. At least the Government is continuing to work with the Land and Water Forum. However, they view fresh water as an 'economic resource' rather than something that can enable our natural biodiversity to be maintained and enhanced, provide appropriate recreational opportunities and ensure that communities have adequate supplies of safe, clean water to use.

DOC restructuring

The National Government's axing of over 100 jobs from the Department of Conservation earlier this year will undermine its effectiveness in protecting New Zealand's natural environment and heritage, This followed significant job losses at the Department's National Office and Conservancies after \$54 million over four years was slashed from DOC's budget in 2009. More job losses are tipped for 2012. While the Government claimed that the cuts were just to 'support services' staff these include technical advisors and scientists, lawyers and planners - people with important expertise and knowledge. Contrast this with the creation of the "New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals Business Unit" in the Crown Minerals division of the Ministry for Economic Development, where staff will almost double in the near future. It seems clear that despite the huge negative reaction to proposed mining on Schedule 4 land, National is still determined to encourage mining on land with important environmental values with the Denniston Plateau remaining under threat.

National ominously intend to review sections 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act, on the grounds of more efficiency. They also have policy that challenges the Conservation Act.

United Future

It is telling that United Future do not have a policy on Conservation - rather only on 'Outdoor recreation and conservation'. This is strongly influenced by the outdoor recreation wing of the party. Peter Dunne said recently that: "DOC needs to be investing in the future of conservation by actively encouraging the recreational use of our backcountry." Among other things, Dunne wants DOC to be split into two divisions - one for conservation and one for recreation and for DOC's advocacy and legal powers to be significantly curtailed. United Future wants 1080 use to be completely banned and the possum fur industry to be promoted.

Game Animal Council

Unfortunately as part of their agreement with the National Party after the 2008 election, United Future was able to have legislation introduced to create the 'Game Animal Council'. This council would take over DOC management of herds of deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs which would mean that hunting rather than pest control has priority. This is in direct conflict with DOC's activities in national parks or other public conservation land. Thus pest animal populations would be sustained rather than reduced or eliminated.

1080 use

United Future now has an ally in parliament to oppose the use of 1080 - NZ First. This party has an extremely negative view on the use of 1080. They are quite unscientific in their policy comments and like United Future, have accepted uncritically the line taken by opponents of 1080 (like the Graf Brothers). They claim that: "Possums are primarily vegetarians, and even DOC research shows their stomachs rarely had birds eggs or fledglings in them" They also claim that: "Demonisation of "pests" has provided a good empire-building living for the Government agencies exterminating "noxious animals" since the 1930s'. They further state that: "Possum trapping needs to be allowed, in preference to aerial 1080."

Further inroads are likely to be made on conservation now that Peter Dunne has been appointed Associate Minister of Conservation.

Maori Party

The Maori Party will be in coalition with the National Party. It is not clear where they stand on most environmental issues. In Forest & Bird's Ecopoll, they consistently say that they will be guided by the views of local iwi and hapu. For instance, on requiring recovery plans for all threatened species they say that they fully support "a proposed recovery plan [sic] for threatened species, so long as the interests of local Māori are considered on an equal basis to the interests of everyone else and any recovery plan is developed with a tikanga Māori approach in consideration." Again, on resourcing more pest control as recommended by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, they comment that: "we would like to investigate the possibility of trapping operations which will keep poisons out of our rivers, lakes and streams and would provide employment and business opportunities for our local people."

Green Party

One positive result for conservation is a significant increase in the Green Party's vote and the concomitant increase in MPs. This should provide them with at least some leverage for their policies. It is likely that National and the Greens will, as before, have a memorandum of understanding. This could include more than just a continuation of the home insulation programme. There are various things that I hope the Greens will raise with the Government. These would include the creation of significantly more no-take marine reserves starting with a Kermadecs 'Ocean Sanctuary'. This may have some effect given National's commitment to revive and pass marine reserves legislation in the next three years, and to focus on oceans and marine. Unfortunately the Greens are rather lukewarm about 1080, wanting to set limits on its use, possibly because of the anti-science thinking that sometimes permeates some of their other policies (such as complementary medicines).

Conservation jobs initiative

One issue that I would really like to see the Greens push with the Government is something that appears in their Jobs initiative booklet, '100,000 Green jobs for New Zealanders'. They want to put a team of 3,000 paid people to work on conservation. A pilot scheme based on this idea could work very well in Waitakere especially if targeted at the young unemployed. The Government might find such a prospect attractive given the emphasis they are placing on dealing with this group.

Birds

Morepork or ruru

Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae

John Stewart

For this edition, our featured species is the morepork. The morepork is our only native owl (though barn owl may soon join the list). It is a common native and was found in 42 % of the North Island squares surveyed for the Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand (1999-2004). The Australian sub-species is known as the Southern Boobook.

The photograph shows an adult with a recently fledged youngster. Morepork are about 29 cm long and weigh around 175 g.

Observed perching, they appear to have a darkish brown back and wings, with mottled brown and white on the chest and belly, and a dark head with bright yellow eyes in a flattish face. They can turn their heads round through 270 degrees. In flight through the bush they often appear a warm brown colour. They have strong feet with sharp talons. They usually only call at night, when the 'more pork' call is very distinctive. Other calls include a repetitive 'more' and a vibrating 'creeee' sound.

Morepork prey on large insects, mice, young rats, lizards and small birds. They eat their prey whole and regurgitate pellets of indigestible material. They are adapted to feed at night and have very soft plumage so their flight is almost silent. They have acute binocular vision, large asymmetric ears and their flat facial disk is believed to help direct incoming sounds. One bird was recently observed on Tiritiri Matangi repeatedly swooping on a Little Spotted Kiwi – probably a bit too ambitious if it was trying for its supper!

Morepork's main egg laying season is October to November and they lay two (sometimes one or three) white eggs in a tree hollow, a broken punga trunk, among epiphytes or even on the ground or in a seabird burrow. The female incubates the eggs for 20 to 30 days and then the chicks fledge after another 35 days.

They are found in forests, including on offshore Islands, and in open country or parkland as long as there are mature trees for nesting and for resting during the day. Heather and Robertson (Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand) report that fossil remains of morepork are all within the last 1,000 years, suggesting they were rare in pre-human times. The arrival of rats and mice may have helped to increase their numbers. It is often possible to see morepork during the day, especially when their location is given away by other small birds 'mobbing' them. They are common around forests, parks and golf courses in West Auckland.



photographs by Kay Milton and John Stewart



KCC members Claire and Hannah doing their fundraising to raise \$1200 for Operation Nest Egg. They did lots of activities including getting sponsorship to ride the Otago Rail Trail (rode 77 kms), having stands at school with information on the kiwi, selling cupcakes at the

Ponsonby Primary School BBQ, and doing some extra work around home. This all started because they visited the kiwi encounter at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua and had a behind the scene look at egg incubation etc. They knew they had to do something to help save our kiwi.

Our Beloved Kiwi

Hello my dear kiwi friend
It's sad you are coming so close to an end
Pecking so loudly at the start of the night
The way we have treated you is just not right

The ferrets and rats
The stoats and cats
The people and dogs
We destroyed your home for food and logs

At one year, less than 5% of chicks survive
Now, Operation Nest Egg will help you stay alive
With special attention to your natural home
Once again, in thousands you will roam

Poem by Claire MacLennan

Branch News

A warm welcome to our new members

July

Atalina Aolele, Jennifer Blankley, Ashleigh Brabant, Chelle Cook, Arlene Easthope, Jo Greaves, Marlene Griffiths, Pauline Hannah, Emma Hawcridge, Sam Hopewell, Cassandra Ihimaera, Midiana Kaitamaki, Elizabeth Karina, Vishal Lal, Denise Maxwell, James McDermott, Kerry Mills, Lynette Newby, Rochelle Phillips, Jessica Reaburn, Norman Robinson, Stephanie Rockwell, Shirleyanne Stewart, Jeremy Tarry, the Davis Family, Rebecca Tuttle, Tapu Viliamu, Rachel Watkinson, Tamara Yeablsy, Allan Yorke

August

Stefan Andrew, Lisa Berry, Ken Billot, Pina Bond, Matt Byrne, Janine Clayton, Patricia Deveraux, Rick Earl, Shona Fitness, Kristy Hall, Warren Happy, Mark Hayes, Kim Holt, Letitia Howarth, Natasha Johns, Sonya Kent, Ellen Laan, Tania Makani, Brian Marshall, Philip McFarlane, Marian Pellegrom, Matthew Reece, Joanne Richdale, Dougall Rolland, Petra Shamrock, Errol Shand, Karen Smith, Karen Stewart, Martha Tane, Taina von Blaramberg, Michael Westgate

September

Deborah Cooper, Deborah Dunn, Martin Gardiner, Ricki-Jane Griggs, Tania Gulliver, Mike Hosking, Gary Hunt, Kevin Johnson, Caroline McCartney, Catherine Michiels, Samantha Neilson, Dana Shanmugam, Tracey Sharp, Kay & Roger Sims, Marcella van Straaten, Shaun Wood

October

Suzanne Armistead, Jacqui Baigent, Rachel Bell, Leyland Bottomley, Barbara Bree, Lynn Brown, Allison Burnett, Julie Cosgrove, Justine Dillon, Daryl Diruitt, Dotti Donald, Allanagh Donegan, Robin Donnell, Mary Edwards, Dave Erson, Lisa-Dean Gallagher, Murray Gallagher, Diane Galley, Ewan Godward, Hugo Goldbaby, Vanda Karolczak, Pete Griffin, Tania Hankins, Ros Heathcote, Laura Henry, Kushette Jelley, Catrine Jenner, Christine Lewis, Michelle Maddren, Mike Mason, Caroline McArthur, Lynton McInnes, Chris Middleditch, Lance Midwood, Wendy Moore, Toni Plant, Simon Power, Jay Queenin, Penelope Smith, Amy Tansell, Rima Taraia, Bruce Tasker, Benno Tissi, Sascha van Rooyen, Janne Wallace, Iris Watson, Amy Wilmhurst, Keith Winteringham

Election candidates meeting 20 October 2011

A special Meeting organised by Branch Chair, Robert Woolf, to meet some of the candidates standing in the 2011 Election. With Phil Twyford (Labour), Jackie Blue (National), Stephen Tollestrup (Green), David Seymour (Act), Sue Bradford (Mana) and Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse as guest chairperson. Each speaker gave a short introductory speech, followed by their views on a range of questions supplied in advance. There was also time for additional questions (and opinions). A very interesting and informative evening enjoyed by about 70 members of the public.

Thursday 15th September Lake Wainamu, Graham Surrey

Lake Wainamu and Biological Control.

Graham described the procedures taken by Auckland Council to eradicate weeds and exotic fish from this lake.

The choice was between mechanical, chemical or biological weapons and it was decided to use biological in the form of grass carp. These fish are used specifically for weed control and in particular for eradicating Egeria. One of the benefits of this species is it is unable to breed in NZ waters. The weeds were monitored each 6 months and at first there seemed to be little result, but by March 2011 the only egeria in the Lake was behind the net where the carp were unable to access it. The grass carp are starting to get hungry now and will be removed in the future having done a great job!



Over 13000 exotic fish have been removed. Eels are present and native fish will reintroduce themselves when the predators have been removed. With the weeds and exotic fish removed the turbidity is reduced and Lake Wainamu, one of the 12 best lakes in the Auckland region, is a great example of what can be achieved by intense management with community support. You can also view grass carp and eels from the bridge at Western Springs.

A big day out in the Ark

Robert Woolf



Photo by Mandy Herrick
President Andrew Cutler high-fives with a young newbie

On 27 November on a fine Sunday morning a 'New Member Event' was held in the Ark. This was for people and families from all branches in the Auckland Region who had recently become members. The event was organised by Phil Billbrough, F & B's Project Manager for Marketing and Promotions with the aim of reaching out and engaging with new members in a fun and informative manner. Around 110 people came along, including a wide range of ages and plenty of kids. The event was based around a big grassy area just up from the Auckland City Walk car park. Ark Project Manager, Maj DePoorter and Ark Volunteer Coordinator Jane Ferguson were on hand along with other volunteers

to provide help as well as Lindsey Britton and Lee O'Leary from South Auckland Branch and Oliver Hoffman from Auckland Branch.

After an introduction by National Volunteer Coordinator, Heidi Quinn, we had a welcome from National President, Andrew Cutler and some comments by Ark Chair, John Sumich. Then people were divided into two groups - those who wanted to go on a short walk and those who preferred a long walk. Before the walk children were given a 'Bingo Quiz' sheet with questions about what they would see on the walk with prizes for winners. Julian from Body FX was on hand to do face painting which proved very popular. There were also giveaways such as poster rolls, stickers and fake tattoos. All the feedback that I got from everyone was positive. It shows that events that combine Forest and Bird's national and local resources can work very well.

Pollen Island Walk, 13 November

Kent Xie

A group of about 22 people completed the 4 hours walk around Pollen Island. The weather held up well and it was a beautiful day out there in the harbour. The highlights: we heard many fernbirds calling loud and proud along the island, a group of spoonbills feeding in front of us only about 150m away, plus a flock of New Zealand dotterels were seen at the western end of the shall bank next to oystercatchers' nests near the remnant of Dr Pollen's shell factory. The group also examined the 150 million years old fossilised shrimp burrow casts, the shapes being the result of iron oxidization. There are remains of the train tracks, once running from Patiki Road for the factory established by Dr Pollen.



photo by Kent Xie

Traherne Trappers

The Central Auckland and Waitakere branches of Forest & Bird have officially banded together to form the Forest and Bird Motu Manawa Restoration Group (FBMMRG) as a joint venture conservation project. The Traherne Trappers co-ordinate volunteer teams to control predators on Traherne Island in partnership with the Auckland Motorway Alliance. Bait traps for stoats and rats are regularly monitored and baited.

Kumeu Just Gardening Show 24th September

Waitakere Forest and Bird regularly have a stall at Oratia Farmers Market and attend Viva Waitakere each year. The display of predators: stoat, weasel, and ferret fascinate the visitors, especially the children. Brochures about F&B activities are available. Diaries and calendars are sold from October.

If you feel you could spare even a couple hours occasionally at one of these events, then please contact Chris Bindon giant.weta@xtra.co.nz or 0274 305 407 for more information and Chris will happily explain further what this entails.



News from Ark in the Park

A great cause for celebration, or *kia kaha kokako*.

Christine Rose



On September 10 many of those with a love for the wonderful New Zealand environment came together to celebrate another great achievement, the successful reintroduction and breeding of kokako in the Waitakere Ranges. Those present included all ages, enthusiastic children, hardworking volunteers, contractors, scientists, ecologists, Forest & Bird members and leaders, supporters of Ark in the Park, Kokako recovery experts from DoC, WaterCare representatives, the Mayor Len Brown, Councillor Sandra Coney, Board Members and local left wing MPs. Iwi from both Ngati Rereahu and Te Kawerau a Maki brought a special mana to the day.

The cause for celebration were our kokako, the most beautiful songbird of the New Zealand forest, once at the brink of extinction due to habitat loss and predation, but now in our sights with a target for 1000 breeding pairs by 2020. The efforts of Ark in the Park are a really important contribution this target, especially with at least three birds fledged last season, improving genetic diversity and population resilience. . . . Restoring our forests to the diverse and beautiful complex ecosystems of the past.

Many present at the celebration shared personal stories of what kokako mean to them, especially the pleasure in seeing a bird so rare and so beautiful, in its natural but threatened environment. To a degree, kokako reflect the damage done to the forests which once covered New Zealand, the damage done to our endemic species, but also the amazing progress and recovery that can be made by collective action and hope.

Sharing this hope, holding onto a vision of a better world, a world shared by enigmatic species is what motivates so many modern conservationists. It's a happy combination of science, faith, hard work and physical resources. It's a good reason to take stock, and to celebrate New Zealand's conservation restoration successes such as the kokako recovery project nationwide and more locally in the Waitakeres Rainforest.

Kia kaha kokako, Kia ora Ark in the Park. (photo Christine Rose)

Whiteheads Monitoring day

White heads were conspicuous everywhere in the Waitakere Ranges on whitehead monitoring day although there were several younger volunteers also! The first whitehead monitoring organised by John Staniland had several senior Ornithological Society members paired up with Ark volunteers so that each team had at least one person skilled in distinguishing birdcalls. With translocations from Tiritiri Matangi Island in 2004 and 2007, the release this year came with a proviso that a monitoring system be developed and tested. This survey would of course have to be far beyond the Ark boundaries as whitehead are not especially territorial and even after the first translocation, reports surfaced within weeks of sightings at considerable distances from the release site.

Having instituted some tomtit surveys throughout the Waitakere Ranges some 20 years ago, John Staniland organised that the whitehead survey be on the very same tracks with tomtits to be counted this time to compare with those historical data. Robins were to be counted also for good measure as although these had not been present since the 1890s our translocations in 2005 and 2009 to the Ark had led to some dispersal. The whitehead monitoring technique finally approved by the Department of Conservation was that the tracks were to be surveyed at much the same time on one day. Stopping at intervals along each track the monitors were to listen for robin or tomtit calls then using playback calls of whitehead, await any response. Showing that the survey technique was workable, one group heard a single whitehead and another on a different track heard a group of two. As well, tomtits were seen on every one of the survey tracks indicating they were also more established than 20 years ago. A robin noted on one track meant that this first survey was a great success.



White head searches for whitehead
(photo: Karen Staniland)

Noticeboard

Tai Haruru Lodge

A seaside haven set in a large sheltered garden, Tai Haruru lodge gives visitors the chance to explore the bush reserves and tracks of the Waitakere Ranges and the wide expanses of Auckland's west coast beaches. For bookings and any further information email Jean and Peter King: hop0018@slingshot.co.nz

Pre loved F&B magazines & KCC magazines:

Your Branch is active in being represented behind various stalls, attending different sorts of shows and various other events in the promotion of F&B and the good work we (especially Waitakere Branch) locally do in our conservation efforts, selling fund raising F&B Calendars & Diaries for the Branch and also in efforts to sign up new members. Any F&B magazines or KCC magazines in good condition no more than 5 years old and that you no longer require would be much appreciated to use in these efforts. Please contact Margaret Bol, margbol@xtra.co.nz or 0276 288 807

Forest & Bird 2012 Calendar sales

These are great promotional and fund raising items for Waitakere Branch. To buy calendars please contact Chris Bindon giant.weta@xtra.co.nz or 0274 305 407 for further details..

Big Black Bags

If you are doing a little spring cleaning around your garden its not too late to think of big black bags. These huge weedmatting sacks are carefully designed for those intractable weeds you wouldn't normally try to put in your compost. The black composting bags are especially good for properties with plenty of bush. Set up the big black bag some where in the shade and well out of the way because it will be a permanent "black hole" that will swallow weeds for years. You can add wandering jew, ginger, plectranthus, in fact, just about any fleshy green weeds and forget about them. Over a few months the moisture comes out of the weeds and the amount in the bag reduces. Then you just top it up with your follow up weed out. Eventually, say a year after your last addition, you will have useable compost for your garden. Try to keep seed heads out as well as sharp sticks and thorny plants that might perforate the bag and allow light in.

These bags are made locally for the Weed Free Trust and are becoming a very popular way of dealing with weeds onsite. They are particularly useful if you have a property that has Kauri Dieback. Rather than drag weeds (and possibly PTA spores) across your property and then out into the community, the black bags can be set up in amongst the trees to minimise the movement of soil.

To find out more about sizes and prices for the black bags call WeedFree at 09 8264276

New Zealand Bird Rescue Charitable Trust

We have a passionate group of supporters who generously give up their time to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned, sick and injured birds. Our centres accept and care for all New Zealand birds and wildlife whether they are native, non-native or pet. We assist thousands of birds each year, many being the victims of cat attacks, road accidents, pollution (such as fishing line and nylon entanglements and botulism) or human cruelty.

We need more volunteers to help care for the birds at our Green Bay centre! Volunteers assist with the care and cleaning of the birds and other general duties at the centre. To volunteer or for more information, contact Miriam Whelan - Volunteer Coordinator - on (0274) 720 038 or email volunteer@birdrescue.org.nz

Forest & Bird Waitakere Committee Members

Chairperson - Robert Woolf

Vice Chairperson - John Staniland

Treasurer - James Smith

Secretary - Jan Edmonds

The Committee: Chris Bindon, Michael Coote, Glenys Mather, Raewyn Michael, Jonathon Spring, John Sumich, Janie Vaughan, Annalily van den Broeke and Andy Warneford

Contact us at waitakere.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

2012 Evening Meetings and Field Trips

Members, please support your Branch and come along to the evening program. We have a mix of insightful, entertaining, topical, backyard, eye opening, political and a high calibre pictorial journey for your enjoyment. Meetings are generally held at the Kelston Community Centre, Great North Road at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of the month. The 2012 meetings and trips are listed but there are sure to be changes; check with the website first.

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| 16 | February | John Staniland, Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness, (part 2 of a journey around the South Island) and "What are the best books on NZ native plants and birds?" |
| 15 | March | Christine Rose, Maui's dolphins and other ocean inhabitants |
| 19 | April | Nick Waipara, Kauri Dieback |
| 17 | May | AGM |
| 21 | June | Which bird is that?, ID and quiz |
| 19 | July | Kristy Hall, Wetlands in NZ and the importance of these often undervalued areas |
| 16 | August | Mark Bellingham; Local projects |
| 20 | September | Native bees |
| 18 | October | Ark news and results of the whitehead count |
| 15 | November | Native fish and eels restoration |

Field Trips

Please wear strong nonslip shoes or boots and bring rainwear, jersey, lunch (for full day trips) and a drink. Trips are usually held wet or fine but if in doubt phone the trip leader.

Car Pooling: Please meet at Kelston Community Centre about 30 minutes before the start. If you are interested please contact waitakere.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Tahuna Torea freshwater/saline wetland

February, Saturday 25th World Wetland Day celebration

Meet: Reserve car park, end of West Tamaki Rd, Glendowie

Time: 9.30am

Tahuna Torea introduces you to 25 hectares of unique wildlife sited on a long sand bank extending out into the Tamaki Estuary. It is rich in Maori history as well as a variety of endangered native birds and vegetation.

Time spent weaving through the network of tracks and the various habitats offer a peaceful sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Wetland walk, Matuku

March, Sunday 4, Meeting place and time to be confirmed.

A chance to explore the extensive wetland at Matuku with John Sumich

BUS Trip to Maungatautari

When: 8.30am Saturday 24th March 2012

Return: No later than 6pm from Southern Enclosure, Tari Rd, Pukeatua, Maungatautari

Cost: \$24 per person (based on 24 people participating) or \$32 (based on 12 people participating)

Met at: Swanson Railway Station

RSVP at: waitakerebranch@forestandbird.org.nz by Sunday 15th February 2012

The goal for the trip is to provide participants with two options; the first allows people to explore the smaller enclosures where robin, kaka, kiwi, stitchbirds and whiteheads have been released. The second option allows trampers to walk the mountain's ridges and assess the general health of the sanctuary. For both options you need to organize both lunch and dinner.

Check http://www.maungatrust.org/Over_Mountain.cfm for further details.

Meet: contact waitakere.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or check the website for details

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| April 28 or 29: | Pollen Island |
| May 20 or 26: | Miranda |
| June 23: | private or public garden to do bird survey and look at native plants |
| July 21 or 22: | Bailing Station and the truth about recycling |
| August 19 or 25: | Mangere Mountain |
| September 22: | Tupare Wetland |
| October 21 or 27: | Bus trip Shakespear Park |
| November 18 or 24: | Browns Island |