



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Tauranga Branch NEWSLETTER February 2010

Loss of two valued members in the past year

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HELP

The branch committee is a little low in numbers and could do with some assistance.

If you would like to help your local Society, please contact us and consider putting your name forward at our AGM!

(see address and email on back)

The past year - 2009 - saw the passing of two of our branch members who made very considerable contributions to Branch activities and environmental work.

Eric Geddes died in March and will perhaps be best remembered as our "weeds expert" who patrolled the l'Anson Reserve on Loop Road for many years (and organised helpers) chopping out weeds and applying weed-killer. In more recent years he continued this work at the Te Puna Quarry. Eric also was a regular participant in planting working-bees - especially with dune planting along our coastal strip. He served for a period on our Branch Committee and took an interest in making submissions on RMA matters. Additionally, he also endeavoured to pass on his botanical knowledge and interest in our native flora through working with U3A groups.

Before taking up residence in Mount Maunganui, Eric was a very active member with the North Shore Branch and a keen participant in the development and planting of Tiritiri Matangi island bird sanctuary.

Donovon Bell, who died in April, was a key contributor in the organising of many of our Forest & Bird walks. Being a keen tramper, long-time resident in Tauranga and a staff member at Tauranga Boys' College, he was widely ac-

quainted with the district's residents, making possible access to many interesting walking venues. He was assisted by Harry French, Doug Anderson and others and did much to help stimulate interest and participation in excursions into the natural environment.

Donovon regularly reported on the Branches' Thursday walks activities at our AGMs.

Eddie Orsulich

F & B also loses staff member

The sudden death of Forest & Bird Communications Manager Helen Bain on December 29 is a tremendous tragedy for her family, but also for conservation and for Forest & Bird.

Helen joined Forest & Bird almost four years ago, first as our Media Officer, and for the last two years heading up our communications team. During that time Helen and

her colleagues completely transformed Forest & Bird's ability to communicate its conservation message. Helen truly did give nature a voice. Nature and Forest & Bird will really miss her.



Aongatete forest restoration workdays

KEEP THESE DAYS FREE

Feb. 20th & March 6th

This is the time of the year when young possums leave their parent and move around looking for unoccupied space in the forest. The warm dry weather and plentiful supply of

invertebrates and fruits suit rat breeding too. We will knock the possums and the rats back by putting out striker pre-



feeds on the 20th and follow up a fortnight later with toxic strikers on the 6th March.

We will circulate more details of the workdays just prior to the relevant dates.

**Contact Basil on 576-5593
or email him at
basilann@nettel.net.nz**

Tauranga Forest & Bird

Thursday Walks

These are on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Thursdays of the month, meeting at Countdown Carpark, SH2 side, Bethlehem at 9:15am unless otherwise specified, and usually returning by 3:00pm, Bring all own food and gear as for Sat walks. *Note change of meeting point to Countdown Carpark, Bethlehem, entrance is off Bethlehem Road.*

Walks do occasionally change, so if going to alternative meeting points, check with leader the night before, preferably before 7.30pm.

Date	Location	Description	Difficulty
Feb 4	Wharawhara	Beautiful Lowland bush following the Wharawhara River. Leader: Kea 552 6338 / 027 512 0077	Easy/Moderate River crossing at start/finish
Feb 18	Otawa	Track passes an isolated group of mangleo trees and leads to views across the Bay from the trig point, approaching from Upper Papamoa Road. Meet Countdown Cameron Road Eddie 576 1849	Moderate \$7
Mar 4	Welcome Bay: Maungatapu & Johnson Park	Walk the Maungatapu Coastline and collect walnuts in Waipuna Park. Meet Countdown Cameron Road Jaquii & Rex Ake 552 5692	Easy/Moderate \$5
Mar 18	Otanewainuku	Beautiful large rimu and other lowland forest to 360° view. Pest control for kiwi has started to have an effect and the forest is now starting to show re-growth. Can do Rimu walk if we still have energy left afterwards. Meet Countdown Cameron Rd or Mountain Rd Janet 544 5362	Moderate \$10
Apr 1	Matua Salt Marsh, Gordon Carmichael Reserve	Explore the hidden Saltmarsh in the suburbs with this wetland walk. Meet corner Beach & Otumoetai Rds Cheryl Fouche 576 2689	Easy \$0
Apr 15	Te Waihou Walkway	Out to the crystal clear springs and back along the riverbank through rolling farmland. Meet Countdown Cameron Rd Anne Waterworth 576 2338	\$15
May 6	McLaren's Falls	See the various exotic trees with their autumn colour leaves. Enid 575 6146	Easy/Moderate \$5

For activities relating specifically to the Kaimai Mamaku campaign, please refer to: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/projects/kamai-mamaku-restoration-project/-/kaimai-mamaku-events-and-activities>

Guidelines for Safe Walking on Forest and Bird Trips

- We are a conservation focused group rather than trampers, stopping frequently to observe.
- Walking groups need to keep together. Walkers who cannot keep within sight and hearing of the leader need to make special provision for their own safety. Do not drop behind or go ahead by yourself.
- Slow walkers need to arrange beforehand to have a companion who is fit, capable and independent and carries a cell phone, whistle and first aid kit.
- All walkers should have in their pack a whistle and personal medication. Take heed of the "hazards / difficulty" described in the Walks Programme.

If you have any suggestions for walks, or would be happy to lead a walk please contact Kea on

552 6338 or email kea.L@xtra.co.nz with details.

Kaimai Mamaku Events* & Saturday Walks

Saturday walks are held on the **Second Saturday** of the month. Unless otherwise specified, all trips meet at 8:15am at the 12th Ave / Cameron Road corner. Bring stout walking shoes or preferably boots, lunch, drinks, personal medication, warm clothing and wet weather gear. The dollar amount shown is the recommended donation to the drivers for petrol. Ring the leader beforehand for information or changes.

Date	Location	Description	Difficulty <i>Car donation</i>
*Feb 6	Sentinel Rock <i>Kaimai walk</i>	Track leads to a view of Sentinel Rock, an iconic rock outcrop on the eastern flanks of the Kaimai range. Spectacular view on clear day. Meet at road end of Hot Springs Road at 9am Al Fleming 575 8478 (work)	Steep - High fitness required (5 hours return)
Feb 13	Maungakawa & Cheese Factory	Remnant lowland bush in the Waikato then visit the local cheese plant in Waharoa. Enid 575 6146	Moderate / Steep \$20
*Feb 27	Kakarahi & Queen Victoria's head <i>Kaimai walk</i>	Takes in the Tuahu track then a more challenging track to Kakarahi (641m). Meet at road end of Hot Springs Road at 9am	(6.5 hour return)
* SUNDAY Feb 28	Wharawhara Track <i>Kaimai walk with Te Puke F&B</i>	Through native forest mostly following the old tramlines to the headwaters of the stream where kauri logs were chuted. Fit participants can continue up to Cahsmore's clearing for the view. Meet near road end of Wharawhara Road at 9:45am	(4 to 5 hours return)
Mar 13	Bucks Reef, Wairongomai	A moderate climb to this viewpoint over the Waikato Plains, then meander back down through the cutover bush and historic gold mining relics. Kea 552 6338 or 027 512 0077	Moderate/Steep \$15
*Mar 20	Wairere Falls <i>Kaimai walk</i>	Beautiful and diverse scenery including 153m waterfall. Magnificent views of valley and Waikato plains plus pools to wade in! Meet at road end of Goodwin Road (off old Te Aroha Road) at 10am Al Fleming 575 8478 (work)	(3 to 4 hours return)
*Apr 10	Otanewainuku <i>Kaimai walk</i>	Loop track to the summit can be reasonably steep in parts but the reward is the outstanding panoramic view. (640m) Meet at Otanewainuku shelter, Mountain Road at	(1.5 hours return)
Apr 10	Blue lakes & Redwoods	Walk round the Blue Lake then among the exotic redwoods in Rotorua Doug & Eris 579 3620	Moderate \$15

*For more information on the Kaimai Mamaku Campaign and events, see website:

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/projects/kamai-mamaku-restoration-project/kaimai-mamaku-events-and-activities>

Weekend / Overnight Trip / Week

Bring stout walking shoes or preferably boots, snacks & personal food & drinks, personal medication, warm clothing and wet weather gear. The dollar amount for Pureora covers dinner only and accommodation. Ring the convenor beforehand for booking information or changes. Prepayment is essential.

Date	Location	Description	Difficulty/ <i>Car donation</i>
May 1-4 Sat/Sun/ Mon/Tues	Pureora	These cabins are located right in the beautiful Pureora Forest where kaka are often seen and heard. Communal cooking in the fully equipped electric kitchen, flush toilets and hot showers. Share basic hut accommodation (4-6 to a hut). Suitable for children. Walk Leader: Kea 552 6338 Bookings: Diana 543 0668	\$75 plus \$40 travel donation Limit 20 people Easy/Steep/Moderate Take Breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the day walks. Dinner supplied



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Tauranga Branch
PO Box 15638
TAURANGA 3144

Email:
tauranga.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Join Forest & Bird today & help make a difference

Complete the form below & return (with cheque) to:

Forest and Bird
Box 631
WELLINGTON

Name:	Mr/Mrs/Ms.....	Membership category-(circle one)
Address :	Single/Family.....\$57
	Student/Schools.....\$45
	Senior Citizen.....Senior Family..... \$45
Telephone: Email.....	Overseas.....\$95
This is (circle one):	New membership Renewal of membership	Corporate..... \$395

If undeliverable, please return to:

Tauranga Forest and Bird
PO Box 15638
Tauranga, 3144

