



## Te Puke Branch – November 2010 Newsletter

### Indoor evening meetings

**Monday 15th November**

#### *Mauao, Wildlife at the Mount*

There's plenty of wildlife right on Mt Maunganui's back doorstep. Presented by Mark Ray, TCC Park Ranger.

7.30 p.m. at Masonic Lodge, Oxford Street, Te Puke

### Events

## Annual Street Stall

**Friday 5 November** is our annual Street Stall outside the Te Puke Post Office.

It's a great opportunity to buy native trees and shrubs, and get your veg garden under way. Home baking

and other goodies on sale as well. Have a chat with us about Forest & Bird, field trips, family camps and conservation stuff.

If you would like to help man the stall, please leave your name & number with Bev. ph 533 4247.

To donate baking and other goods, please drop them off at:

**John's Organic World**, 27 Queen St (behind Med Lab)

**Carole Long**, 20 Simpson Rd, Papamoa, ph 542 0224

**Dorothy Mutton**, 3 Strathaven Way, Te Puke, ph 573 8152

**Bev Nairn**, 580 Pukehina Parade, Pukehina, ph 533 4247 or bring them on the day.



### From the ashes....

The newly rebuilt Ruapehu Lodge was officially opened in October. The original 32 bed lodge (destroyed by fire two years ago) was built by F&B volunteers and opened in 1967. Visit the Forest & Bird website to book your next holiday at the new lodge.



### 2011 January Camp

It's time to book for next year's January Camp!



**7th to 11th January (Friday to Tuesday)**

**Staying at Kaueranga Forest Education Camp**

**Kaueranga Valley** is in the Coromandel Forest Park 14 km east and behind the town of Thames. The Camp is an excellent base for a great variety of walks including historic features such as kauri dams. The DOC Visitor Centre at the entrance to the Park is open seven days in the summer from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are some great swimming holes, easy walks and more challenging tramps to suit all levels of fitness. Families are most welcome, we have a proud record of three generations in one family attending our recent camps!

**Book with Carole Long 5420224 – [carolelong@xtra.co.nz](mailto:carolelong@xtra.co.nz)**  
**Accommodation fees and other costs to be advised.**

Once adorned with magnificent kauri trees, this valley was extensively logged for its kauri from the 1870s to the 1920s. At first easier slopes near Thames were logged and the kauri milled locally.

During the 1890s the kauri timber industry slumped and many local mills closed down. Around 1910 the industry revived and plans were made to extract the remaining stands of timber in the rugged area above the

Kauaeranga Gorge, in the area now traversed by the Kauri Trail. The Trail traverses steep and rugged country along pack tracks built by kauri bushmen, and walking and tramping trips from 20 minutes to three days' duration are available. The landscape is spectacular with pinnacles, bluffs and gorges – ancient features formed by volcanic forces.



## Recent Rambles

### Wingspan Rotorua Sunday 25 July



Photos by Dorothy Mutton and John McDonald.

### Wairoa stream - to view Ananui falls Saturday 21 August.

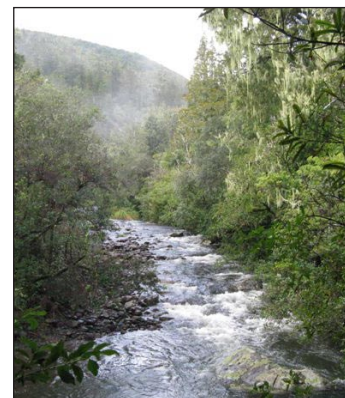
A window of opportunity opened up in the weather for our much enjoyed trip to view the Ananui Falls. A great walk in perfect tramping weather – not too hot, no icy wind, and a reprieve from the August rain.

Leaving the car at 10am at the end of Woodlands Rd we crossed a fairly full stream a little way in, encountering blue & white pouch fungus and small kauri dotted along the way. We walked until 12am when we had lunch



beside the stream. Petra and Matt went back after lunch to get the car and come around to Lindemans Rd so the rest of us could enjoy the loop walk. We crossed the stream twice more and walked on for 30 minutes before starting the climb up the ridge to view the falls and meet the Lindeman route.

Dorothy found an interesting large orange toothed fungus and we saw some lovely big kauri, heard tomtits and saw kereru. The view of the Ananui Falls at the top was pretty spectacular across the range. We passed another fall on the way out, which was looking particularly good due to the recent rain events. John hurried back to meet Matt so he would not call search and rescue, while Dorothy and I enjoyed the spectacular views out to Mayor island, Bowentown, Matakana Island, Katikati and Kauri Point on the home leg. It was a lovely day out with an afternoon tea treat at the Balcony Cafe in Katikati afterwards.



As I walked it occurred to me why I was doing it – I was outdoors, in the fresh air, enjoying the peace of the bush, seeing new things, and keeping fit, with my family. WHY WOULD ANYONE JOIN THE GYM?

*Cathy Reid*

### Manawahae Kokako block Sunday 26 September

On this lovely walk we heard several lots of kokako, and managed to see one pair at close quarters just seconds after the call. The Manawahe care group show immense passion and pride in their rescue efforts and have nurtured an increase in birds from 7 to 41 over thirteen years. The numbers peaked at 58, then took a hit by an active stoat population, but after removing 50 of these pests, they hope for a boost in numbers with this year's breeding season. Hawks also appear to be predated the kokako.

We had to deploy the rescue team when Karen had a nasty slip and badly injured her ankle. Murray rigged a makeshift splint and she had to slide 100 meters up the steep trail to the

truck to avoid weight or movement on the joint. Karen shows a bright & brave face in circumstances which were clearly very painful. As at 2.00pm she had still not seen the doctor, so have no update, but I do hope she recovers quickly. [Editor's note: Karen broke a couple of bones in her foot and is laid up for the next few weeks]

After enjoying kokako, tui, pigeon, clematis, grey warblers and fantails, we retreated to the field and had a chat over BBQ sausages and a cuppa. Our group of 17 included several guests including a Paengaroa woman interested in setting up a local care group adjacent to Rotoehu forest.

*Bev Nairn*



## The hills are alive....

### ... with the sound of kokako.

The first stage of the kokako capture programme has been completed and 10 kokako have been released into Otanewainuku forest. The birds include two existing pairs; the others comprise 4 females and 2 males.



Dave Wills (right) setting mist net for kokako. Photo - Donna Watchman

Sound anchoring song tapes are being played to encourage the birds to remain in the area and settle into their new home. The good news is that all the birds have stayed in the vicinity and our two pairs are singing full song and dueting with each other. This means that they are becoming territorial and thinking about mating/nesting, so we have high hopes for them this year.



Photo - Moana Bianchin



John Heaphy & friends.

Photo - Moana Bianchin

The winter pest control operation was undertaken by a licenced contractor and the early signs look good for an effective kill of rats and possums.

Now the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust are looking for some help with monitoring these birds over the next six months or so, and help with monitoring rat and possum numbers. There is a good chance of hearing the kokako while helping with these tasks and it's a great excuse for a day in the forest!



Maartje Houthuyzen, Carole Long & Dave Edwards.

### Possum Monitoring – November

Monitoring must be carried out on fine days so we need a list of people who can be contacted during a window of good weather to see if they are available. Previous monitoring experience is not necessary: we work in pairs so you can learn on the job. Possum monitoring involves setting and checking leg-hold traps & the humane killing of any possums or rats caught in the traps. We require 4 fine days with 8-10 people per day to cover 2 lines each person/pair. Please let us know if you are willing/available to help, if you can do weekdays or only weekends, and if you need training.

**Contact: Dave Edwards 544 0885**

### Kokako Monitoring – ongoing for 6 months

The transmitters on the kokako will be active for about another six months and there is an opportunity for some people to get involved in the monitoring of their whereabouts over this period. Please let Dave Wills know if you are interested in training for this task or have any questions on what is involved.

**Dave Wills 573 7322 (a/h) – [dwills@clear.net.nz](mailto:dwills@clear.net.nz)**

## Monthly Walks

You don't have to be a Forest & Bird member to join in on our walks – or super-fit either. We walk at *botanical speed*, so there's plenty of time to take in the sights and to puzzle over the correct botanical name for that fascinating fern...

Meet 8:45 a.m at Boucher Avenue carpark by Te Puke Woolworths to car-pool, but check with the contact person, as some walks have a different start time or meeting place. The contact person will also advise if trip is cancelled.



### Friday 26 November. In Sky And Stream - Ottawa night life

Look for bats at dusk. See the abundant life of a stream. Wet feet are likely, but not necessary. Meet **7.30 pm** in the evening at Woolworths carpark.

**Contact: Red Charles 573 8151 / 027 2234 991**

### 7th to 11th January. JANUARY CAMP (see first page)

#### Sunday 27 February. Aongatete falls & swim

Drive to Wright's road Aongatete. Walk the short loop 1 hour, then explore the swimming holes and enjoy a refreshing swim in the river. 2 hours walk. Easy grade.

**Contact: Carole Long 542 0224 / 027 274 7642 Car \$12**

## Want to develop new skills?

**The Kaimai Mamaku Campaign** could use some helpers. Here are a just few examples of what you could do:

#### Education:

Adopt a local school near the Kaimais and help organise activities & events.

#### Raising public awareness:

Write an article for a magazine or newspaper, or organise a walk in the Kaimai Mamaku forest.

#### Website manager:

Maintain the [www.kaimaimamaku.org.nz](http://www.kaimaimamaku.org.nz) website. It's easy to input information and does not require any previous website abilities.

#### Please contact Al Fleming for more information:

07 544 4987 – [A.Fleming@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:A.Fleming@forestandbird.org.nz)

Here are the latest walks and activities for KCC kids. Due to the popularity of these walks you must book beforehand, and KCC members will be given preference over non-members. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



### Friday 21st November

#### Lake Okareka Board Walk

**Meet:** 10am at the corner of Boucher Ave, Te Puke to car pool.

**Bring:** Lunch, snacks, drink, sunhat, raincoat & walking shoes.

**Contact:** Sharyn Heayns 542 1789

### Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December

#### Daly's Clearing

Join Kea for an overnight trip to Daly's Clearing Hut in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park. A gear list will be supplied and some gear may be available for loan/hire.

**Meet:** 9:30am Farmlands carpark, Te Puna (Mindin Rd corner).

**Bring:** All equipment & food, which will need to be carried both in & out! (2 to 3 hours each way)

**Contact:** Kea Lippiatt 552 6338

## Xmas ideas

### Blank greeting cards for any occasion

The KCC kids have been having fun creating these cards with a distinctive New Zealand flavour.

Help support your local KCC branch by purchasing greeting cards, all drawn by members of the KCC. The cards come in mixed packs of 8 and are blank inside so they can be used for any occasion. Cards retail at \$12.00 per pack. If you would like to order any of the above, please send cheques payable to Forest and Bird to;

Tauranga Forest and Bird  
PO Box 15638  
Tauranga 3144



## Your Forest & Bird Committee

Position	Name	Address	Email	Phone	Mobile
Patron & Treasurer	Dorothy Mutton	3 Strathaven Way, Te Puke 3119	dotmutton@clear.net.nz	07 573 8152	
Chair & KCC Coord.	Cathy Reid	139 Alley Road, RD3, Te Puke 3183	cathyreid@orcon.net.nz	07 573 9566	027 223 4991
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Newsletter editor	Neale Blaymires	586 Te Puke Quarry Rd, RD3, Te Puke 3183	neale@orcon.net.nz	07 573 4157	
Conservation Coord.	Chris Butlin	51 Forrester Drive, Welcome Bay, Tga 3112	macsatglengyle@hotmail.com	07 544 8540	027 204 8802
<b>Branch Committee:</b>	Joyce Bates	51.A Topaz Drive, Papamoa 3118		07 542 2989	
	Alasdair Munro	636.b No.1 Road, RD2, Te Puke 3182	damunro@eol.co.nz	07 573 9212	
	John Singleton	110 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke 3119		07 5739 730	027 711 2442
	Carole Long	20 Simpson Road, Papamoa 3118	carolelong@xtra.co.nz	07 542 0224	027 274 7642
	Red Charles	114 No.1 Road, Te Puke 3182	bayroadster@clear.net.nz	07 573 8151	