



MEETINGS – NOVEMBER 2010 – MAY 2011

Meetings are held in the Parnell Community Centre, 545 Parnell Road (Jubilee Building) on Sunday afternoons in the Hobson Room at 2.30 pm. Plenty of parking is behind the Centre. A donation of a gold coin to help defray hall costs would be appreciated.

SOUTH AFRICA AND BOTSWANA – Alison Wesley Sunday, 21 November 2010

Alison Wesley spent time last year visiting South Africa and Botswana. She will give an illustrated talk about her visit to both of these wonderful countries. A talk not to be missed.

McKENZIE COUNTRY - SOUTH ISLAND – David Relph Sunday, 20 March 2011

David Relph is a long time member of Forest and Bird and a well known author. Earlier this year he and his wife, Claire, toured the scenic McKenzie Country. David will share his photos and stories about this trip with us. The McKenzie Country currently features large in Forest and Bird activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 22 May 2011 (Please note this is the fourth Sunday, not the usual third of the month)

Please note the date of this important meeting in your diary now. It will provide an opportunity for every Branch member to have their say on the running and activities of the Branch. Our guest speaker for this occasion is yet to be confirmed. Please see the next newsletter for details.

Please change to an electronic Te Karere! Emailing Te Kerere saves on costs and decreases bad environmental effects from printing, saves paper and waste, and reduces our air pollution during the newsletter's hand-delivery. Thank you to the many of you who now receive Te Karere by email!!

*A big **THANK YOU** to all the distributors and deliverers who give up their time and energy to help our branch save on postage. They both coordinate the system and drive/tramp the streets to make hand deliveries to those members who still receive newsletters in their mailboxes. Some deliverers who cover large areas have to drive to members' homes, which seems to defeat Forest and Bird's purpose. Lastly, posting newsletters adds considerably to our costs. Your member ship fees do not cover newsletter costs [next page].*

Deliverers are needed for Remuera - the area between Victoria Ave / Orakei Ave /Komaru St / Manawa Rd and 406 to 504 Remuera Road (1 or 2 people for this area would be great) and for Eastern Suburbs in the Tripoli Rd/ Queens Rd / Pilkington Rd areas.

We would like to keep increasing our electronic communication, so please update your email details at <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/support/membership/changedetails.asp> .

This includes both Forest & Bird and KCC members.

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Chair's Report

At last, summer weather is beginning to show itself. The end of one year and into another means that it is time for some spring-cleaning and adjusting of different things.

One is our regular public meetings. Due to low attendances, sometimes as few as 10 people out of a branch with 1200+ adult and 340 KCC members, holding these weekend meetings beyond those already advertised will be reviewed. What happens depends on attendances to these next few meetings, and also availability of people to run future meetings. If anyone wishes to volunteer to help organize meetings, please contact us at forestandbird@gmail.com or telephone the secretary on 528 3986.

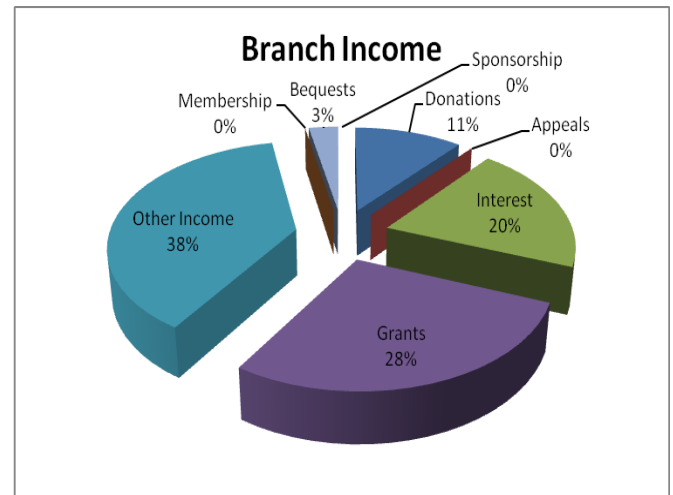
Another important issue is the delivery of these newsletters. A large number of members receive their newsletters in the mail, by hand-delivery. A big thank you to all the distributors and deliverers who give up their time and energy to both coordinate the system and tramp the streets. Some deliverers who cover large areas actually have to drive to members' homes to get the newsletters out on time. This not only is increasing in costs to them because of fuel hikes, but also raises questions about reducing our branch's collective carbon footprint. You may not realise that your membership fees do not contribute to newsletter production or delivery and that our local branch receives **no** funding for providing this service. So please opt to get your newsletter by email if you don't already do so. About 55 % of members already get their newsletters by email, and your committee would love to see this percentage increase substantially. It is easy to do if you have email – just update your email contact here <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/contact/update-my-membership-details> or email membership@forestandbird.org.nz asking to change to email and give them your membership number or address so they can find you in their records.

Finally, some quick feedback about an active conservation project going on at Motu Manawa (Pollen Island) Marine Reserve right now. Waitakere branch has joined with us to run a joint project aimed at restoring the ecology of especially the islands, Pollen and Traherne, in this marine reserve near Waterview. We are

currently organizing with a group of branch members who have kindly offered to help in a programme to record and trap pests on Traherne Island with Te Ngahere and AMA. Rats, stoats and mice have been tracked on the island. Ridding the island of these pests should safeguard the banded rail seen there, and possibly encourage fernbird to recolonise from neighbouring Pollen Island. Work is also being done with DoC to eradicate the mature weeds on both Traherne and Pollen Islands. Last week we submitted to the Board of Inquiry set up by the Ministers of Conservation and Environment to address resource consent applications made by NZTA (ex Transit) to widen and lift the NW motorway where it passes across this marine reserve. If anyone wishes to register an interest in getting involved with this project, please contact us at forestandbird@gmail.com or ph 302 3901 for information.

Have a wonderful summer, and don't forget about our reserves and lodges including the newly-opened lodge at Ruapehu if you're looking for somewhere to visit. Their locations and details are available on our website. Closer to home you or your family may want to check out the KCC website and its games and quizzes - very educational and lots of fun.

Anne



The above chart of average branch income for 2010 emphasises our plea that more members opt to receive Te Karere by email and not by post or hand delivery. We receive no money from your membership fees – the Branch pays all newsletter costs.





Great Day for Kids and Grownups Planting on Motutapu Island

Combined efforts of about 70 from local Forest and Bird/KCC members with Auckland Tramping Club resulted in a great day on Motutapu Island. They braved nasty weather in the city to enjoy better island weather and do about 1500 plantings. The Motutapu Restoration Trust thanked us for these efforts. It's good to see Forest and Bird trips with children and adults working together for the environment. Much thanks to Marguerite, the KCC coordinator, who organised the trip. For more pictures, go to the Forest and Bird website and find forum.forestandbird.org.nz/topic/central-auckland-branch-planting-on-motutapu?replies=3#post-1934.

Your Help Needed to Reintroduce Kokako for Ark in the Park

Ark in the Park, a partnership between Forest and Bird and Auckland Regional Council in the Waitakeres, urgently needs your help with their re-introduction of kokako: Enjoy walking some of the tracks in the Cascades at the same time. You have two ways to volunteer here, and all training is provided.

- 1) Tracking 12 kokako that wear radio transmitters. Training is brief, and the procedure is simple and requires 3-4 hours weekly or fortnightly. Please ring Laurence on 837 8537 or email her at bechet.laurence@gmail.com.
- 2) Finding territories and nests of 22 kokako released last season. This has four parts:
 - a) Listening to kokako recordings. No level of physical difficulty.
 - b) Deploying recorders. Physically variable – moderate to easy.

Volunteers: Ark in the Park's Kokako cont.

c) Listening/finding kokako on track. Moderate physically; training and powerful playback equipment provided.

d) Finding kokako off track. Physically demanding but very rewarding as this is what all the above is really about. We need to identify the territories of the established kokako and their nesting success or otherwise.

To help with any of the Option 2 activities, contact: Andy Warneford, Ark in the Park Field Coordination officer on (w) 810 813, cell 021 644 853, (a/h) 810 7220, or email andywarneford@orcon.net.nz.

For more info on Ark in the Park go to www.arkinthePark.org.nz or contact Maj De Poorter: m.depoorter@forestandbird.org.nz.

Branches Join Forces to Protect Motu Manawa Marine Reserve

Central Auckland and Waitakere branches of Forest and Bird recently joined to care for the entire Waterview Inlet of the Waitemata Harbour as a single, naturally defined ecosystem. This area covers Pt Chevalier and the Te Atatu Peninsula, including the Motu Manawa/Pollen Island Marine Reserve, Pollen Island, and Traherne Island. The venture is the Forest and Bird Motu Manawa Restoration Group (FBMMRG) and promotes this ecosystem as worthy of unified and perpetual environmental protection, ecological restoration and ongoing conservation management.



FBMMRG made a group submission on NZ Transit Authority's plans to widen SH16 over Traherne Island. To see the submission, go to [http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/files/file/F&B%20Submission%200015\(1\).pdf](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/files/file/F&B%20Submission%200015(1).pdf).





Kiwi Conservation Club

KCC NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2010 TO APRIL 2011
YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS MARIANNE AND MARGUERITE

Access our website on www.forestandbird.org.nz; www.kcc.org.nz

PROGRAMME

21 NOVEMBER 2010

MIRANDA SHOREBIRD CENTRE

Meet at the Shorebird Centre at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch, warm clothes, walking shoes and binoculars (if you have them), raincoat, sunhat etc. A staff member will give us a talk before we walk down to the shell-banks. There is a cost of \$4 per child for this talk – toward covering their costs. This fee will be paid for KCC members.

Please allow approx 1.5 hours to drive to the Shorebird Centre as it is located on the Firth of Thames at 283 East Coast Rd, RD3, Pokeno. Check out the map on their website <http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz/location.html> or phone 09 232 2781 for directions.

Book with Marian O'Brien: mariandob@gmail.com by 16 November

12 DECEMBER 2010

BEACH CLEAN-UP AND END OF YEAR BBQ

Join us for our end of year trip - a ferry trip out to Motuihe Island to see the results of the restoration planting, undertake a beach clean-up and share a yummy BBQ lunch.

Meet at 360 Discovery Ferry Building (near Pier 4) at **9.40am** to purchase our volunteer tickets (cost \$17 pp). Please bring warm clothes, a raincoat, snacks and something to drink. We will provide gloves and plastic bags for the beach clean-up and sausages, bread and sauce for the BBQ. The ferry will return from Motuihe Wharf at 3.40pm.

Book with Marguerite by 5 December: mlp418@gmail.com *It is **essential** to book to pre-arrange the volunteer fare on the ferry.*

6 MARCH 2011

ARK IN THE PARK WALK

Meet at **10am** at the carpark for a guided walk around Auckland City walk and check out where bats roost, bait stations, the giant totara tree and (hopefully) we can spot some friendly robins and other bird life! We may even be lucky enough to see a Kokako – a second release has recently occurred!! The walk is fairly easy but walking shoes and a sunhat are recommended.

For more information about the project check out - <http://www.arkinthe park.org.nz/>. Bring your lunch and enjoy a picnic on the grassy knoll above the carpark area with us after the walk.

Please book with Marian O'Brien: mariandob@gmail.com by 27 February 2011.

3 or 10 April 2011

UNDERWATER WORLD AT LEIGH MARINE RESERVE

Date to be confirmed. Book with Marguerite: mmlp418@gmail.com by 27 March

Any problems? Any questions? Please phone Marguerite on 021 930 440

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES: NOVEMBER 2010 – APRIL 2011

BUS TRIPS AND VISITS

FIELD TRIPS BY BUS: Unless otherwise stated, the bus will leave from the lower Albert Street bus stop at 9am. All trips pick up at the Takapuna Rose Gardens. Trips heading south also pick up at Harp of Erin, whilst those heading north also pick up at Point Chevalier. Please advise where you will board the bus when booking your trip. You should be suitably clad and shod for the area and conditions expected.

BOOKINGS: please forward a cheque payable to FOREST & BIRD SOCIETY to the booking officer immediately after booking. Refunds will not be given (except for sudden illness or urgent reasons, at the discretion of the committee) unless cancellation is notified by the Wednesday prior to the trip.

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2010 KUMEU GARDENS

An opportunity to explore two beautiful gardens - Totara Waters and Willows Reach.

BOOK: With Lou on 376 4072

COST: \$30.00 - includes entry to both gardens

SATURDAY 04 DECEMBER 2010 XMAS RAVE

Morning tea and lunch included in cost. Get together with old friends to celebrate the season.

BOOK: With Sally on (09) 528 7506 (please note change of booking officer)

COST: \$30.00

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2011 HAPPY DAYS LUNCH

Bus departs Albert Street at 11.15am and Harp of Erin at 11.30am. North Shore pick up will operate as usual. We hope that many of our past day trippers can come along and join us at this special lunch.

BOOK: With Sally on (09) 528 7506

COST: \$33.00 (includes a buffet lunch at Happy Days Restaurant at Manukau City) Drinks from the bar are extra.

SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

SAIL ON THE RESTORED JANE GIFFORD

(This is the 4th Saturday not our usual third Saturday as sailings depend on tidal conditions)

We have booked a one hour trip on the Jane Gifford on the Mahurangi River. We shall return to Warkworth for a picnic lunch and a walk along the river. Please wear soft soled shoes for the boat trip and bring a warm jacket.

BOOK: With John on (09) 528 7506; **COST:** \$40.00

SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2011 EARTHTALK AT AWHITU

A return visit to Charmaine Poutney's garden on the Awhitu peninsula. A talk and guided walk are included in the cost. After lunch we shall drive to the Awhitu Lighthouse to see the spectacular views.

BOOK: With Lou on (09) 376 4072

COST: \$46.00 (includes entry fee to Garden)

SATURDAY 21 MAY 2011 WAIATARUA WETLANDS AND ORAKEI BASIN WALKWAY

An opportunity to see how the wetlands are developing and to explore the completed Orakei Basin walkway.

BOOK: With Sally on (09) 528 7506

COST: \$20.00

Garden Bird Survey Results

1300 returns from this year's garden bird survey of Landcare Research, in collaboration with Forest & Bird and the Ornithological Society, show that the three most common birds are the silvereye, house sparrow, with starling and blackbird tied for third. Despite the poor showing of native birds in the survey, wild kakariki have been seen on the North Shore. Please report sightings of kaka in the city to aucklandosnz@gmail.com for The Ornithological Society. Feel free to report your interesting bird sightings to forestandbird@gmail.com

A Tribute: Betty Bockett (2/12/1918-25/5/2010)

By Nancy Payne

Older members will remember Betty for the trading tables she ran firstly at Central Auckland and West Auckland (Waitakere) meetings and at shows all over the district.. She made the most amazing jams and pickles. She raised hundreds of dollars for Forest and Bird from the sale of these and from cuttings and potted plants, too. For this Forest and Bird awarded her an Old Blue of which she was justly proud.

Gardens were a special part for her on the Forest and Bird trips. She would always return to the bus with seeds or cuttings and even quite large plants that had been given her. As a very loyal supporter of these trips, always laughing and smiling, she was a friend to us all, but to our driver Steve (he was "my boy") and Christine Paxton and me, she was very special.

We are very grateful to Christine and Steve for organising a bus so that many of us could attend her funeral. She would have been tickled pink to think we came in and over bus to farewell her.





A VERY SPECIAL DAY TRIP

On our September day trip we visited Tawharanui Regional Park with twenty nine passengers plus Christine Paxton - our Forest and Bird bus driver. Christine skillfully negotiated the unsealed, narrow and very windy road into the Park and out again (a large, fallen tree branch had to be removed from the road on the return journey - the winds were very strong that day!). It was a very windy day but the sun shone brilliantly all day (apart from a heavy shower of rain while we were undercover eating our sandwiches) and thanks to Lynette Jolicouer (one of our North Shore Branch travellers) we were met at the Park entrance by a friend of hers from the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI) called Steve, who along with Alison and Sharon (also TOSSI members) and the Park Ranger for the day Colin guided us into the Woolshed - known locally as the TOSSI Conference Centre.

After generous lashings of hot tea and coffee to wash down our lunch we were treated to a power point presentation showing the development of the park and the work being done by the enthusiastic TOSSI volunteers. After question time we were escorted on a guided walk of part of the Ecology Trail (out of the wind for the most part) and although we didn't see any Koromiko or Kakariki we did hear their song and a Kereru landed in a tree right next to us.

So we owe Lynette, Christine and the TOSSI volunteers a big vote of thanks for making our day such a memorable and pleasant one. Our Branch approved a donation to the project in recognition of the enthusiasm and hard work of its supporters.

Green Schools Award Update

Waitoki School is making good progress with their Green School Award from our branch while working under challenging circumstances in building the shade house. Their first parent who was going to build it last April got blood poisoning after stepping on a steel peg. This caused him total paralysis for months, but he is recovering now, still in hospital. Another parent eventually agreed to do the job. With his work commitments and wet grounds, however, building probably started in October. Tougher economic times mean few parents can spare time for school activities.



Despite these serious setbacks, they've made good progress, including starting seedlings in pots despite the lack of a shade house. They planted most of 100 trees donated to them; they cleaned up a large area to plant a woodlot and had a large fire to get rid of the burnable debris; they have a bathtub and plans for a worm farm; they have running water to the site; they collected a huge pile of manure and compost; and they have an organic garden club run by a parent for one lunch hour a week. We look forward to photos of the shade house when it's up and hearing the next instalment of their progress. Good luck with it!

SPECIAL EVENT

We have organised a lunch in February 2011 at Happy Days Restaurant in Manukau City. There are many members who no longer feel able to join us on our monthly field trips, and we also have a couple of members with 'big' birthdays coming up - so it seemed like a good excuse for a get together. Christine Paxton has agreed to do bus pick ups at Takapuna, Albert Street and the Harp of Erin. Everyone is welcome so please come along and make this a very special occasion. See page 5 for details.





KCC Trip to Learn about Native Fish

On 25 July KCC members went to learn about our native fish from Paul Woodard, a native fish expert. Hannah Westgaard, aged 8-1/2, wrote the following story of the experience.

On Sunday morning at 10 am we went down to Tangiwai Reserve in West Auckland where we met the rest of the group from the Central Auckland KCC. Paul, the fish man, gave a long, interesting and informative talk with us about the types of fish we could see and others found around NZ.

Paul wore waders ... made of neoprene (wetsuit material), he took his nets and a chilly bin to hold any fish he caught, so that we could see them!

We found Inanga, Bully's and lots of fresh water shrimp, they were the most common! Paul's helper, an older boy, fell in and got soaked!!

We all walked the river edge as Paul showed us how to look for and catch the fish. We checked traps that he had placed in the river earlier, but there was nothing in them.

I went exploring and found an extremely deep pool with fish in it. I called Paul over and he caught 2 whitebait, he was very pleased indeed!

Back at the car park we looked closer at a few of the fish and shrimp that we found. We had a lovely morning and we thanked Paul for showing us around and he invited us out to help him catch more native fish that he has to relocate. We learnt that there are fewer NZ native fish today because of pollution and destruction of their habitat from construction and building sites.

Use Forest and Bird Reserves and Lodges This Summer

Take advantage of your Forest and Bird membership by visiting our reserves and staying in our two local accommodation offerings.

Tai Haruru Lodge at Piha is a seaside haven set in a large sheltered garden. It enables visitors to explore the bush reserves and tracks of the Waitakere Ranges and the wide expanses of Auckland's west coast beaches. Just a short walk to the local store, the lodge has a double bedroom, three singles and a large lounge with open fireplace, dining area and kitchen. A separate unit has sleeping space for four others in single beds. Linen is not provided. Please bring fuel for fire and BBQ. It's only 38 kms from central Auckland. Rates are \$65 - \$85 a night for the lodge and \$45 for the flat.

For bookings, please contact Jean and Peter King, 10 La Trobe Track, Karekare, Waitakere City. Phone (09) 812 8064 or email them at hop0018@slingshot.co.nz.



Waiheke Island Cottage (above) is the other option. It's situated next to 49-hectare Onetangi Reserve's Taraire-Pohutakawa forest, one of the largest areas of intact forest on the northern coast of Waiheke Island. The lodge has a large lounge, a well-equipped kitchen and a separate toilet, bathroom and shower. It sleeps 8. Pillows and blankets only are provided. No pets. Ferries take 35 minutes from Auckland to Matiatia wharf. It costs \$50 – 90 a night except for special rates on Easter and three day public holiday weekends.

For bookings, please contact Robin Griffiths, c/o The F & B Cottage, PO Box 314, Ostend, Waiheke Island. Phone:(09) 372 7662 or email br@slingshot.co.nz.

Maps for lodges and reserves are on the website www.forestandbird.org.nz/, and under the right-hand menu click Visit.



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Useful Auckland City contacts

1. Public Transport Information (for bus, train, ferry and carpooling), phone Maxx on 366-6400 or view their website at www.maxx.co.nz.
2. Pollution Hotline 24-hour, in Auckland area: 377-3107.
3. Information & Services - Auckland Regional Council, view www.arc.govt.nz; ph. Enviroline on 0800 80 60 40. The site has plant & animal pest fact sheets.
4. North Shore Bird Rescue Centre; contact Sylvia Durrant on 478 8819.

Contact any of us if you want to contribute to what Forest & Bird does in the Central Auckland Branch.

Our Email: forestandbird@gmail.com

Auckland Regional Office: 302 0203; 302 3901

Our website: www.forestandbird.org.nz, refer "What's On in Your Area" and then "Events"

TE KARERE is your newsletter - if you have any comments on its presentation or the type of information included, please let us know. It is also a way your committee keeps you informed about the local events and meetings and the local and regional issues with which your committee is involved. Any feedback you have is welcome and may be directed to the postal address on this page, attention Anne Fenn, or by email to the Editor at forestandbird@gmail.com.

Any opinions expressed in feature or guest articles contributed to Te Karere are those of the contributing authors, societies or other organizations and are not the opinions or policies of Forest & Bird, nor are they necessarily endorsed by Forest & Bird.

TE KARERE



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