

TE KARERE

FOREST AND BIRD – CENTRAL AUCKLAND

ISSUE NUMBER 94 – OCTOBER 2009

MEETINGS –SPRING 2009 – AUTUMN 2010

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

THE NEW K.C.C. WEBSITE – Mandy Herrick

Sunday, 15 November, 2009

As communications Officer/Website for Forest & Bird, Mandy Herrick is now based at the Auckland office. The Central Auckland branch helped fund the new KCC website, and Mandy will bring us up to date with this exciting new site for KCC children and their families. This meeting should be of special interest to our KCC families.

In This Issue

<i>Chair's Report</i>	p. 2
<i>2010 Calendars</i>	p. 2
<i>Bird Poll</i>	p. 3
<i>No. Island Gathering</i>	p. 3
<i>KCC Programme</i>	p. 4
<i>Activities Programme</i>	p. 5
<i>Kokako to Ark in Park</i>	p. 5
<i>F&B's New Logo</i>	p. 6
<i>20th Anniversary of</i>	
<i>Field Trips</i>	p. 6
<i>KCC to 'Bird Lady'</i>	p. 6, 7
<i>Pollen Island</i>	p.7

MOTUTAPU AND RANGITOTO ISLANDS – Nanda McLaren, Motutapu Restoration Trust

Sunday, 21 March 2010

This year a pest control project has started for Motutapu and Rangitoto Islands through the Motutapu Restoration Trust. As a volunteer with the Trust, Nanda is very involved with work on Motutapu Island. Come to hear what these volunteers are doing with Department of Conservation to restore Motutapu's native life.

HOW TO CATCH A RIFLEMAN – Simon Fordham; our Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 16 May 2010

Simon has been very involved with the translocation of 31 Riflemen, New Zealand's smallest bird, to Tiritiri Matangi Island. He is a brilliant wildlife photographer and this is definitely a talk not to be missed.

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 carbon footprint during the newsletter's hand-delivery. Thank you to the many of you who now receive Te Karere by email!! We would like to keep increasing this as much as possible, so please update your email details at <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/support/membership/changedetails.asp> or email us with "Email address" in the subject line at forestandbird@gmail.com. **This includes both Forest & Bird and KCC members.**

ORGANISER FOR HAND DELIVERIES NEEDED. We have the volunteers who do the hand deliveries and the system for parcelling out the bundles, but we don't have anyone to organise the bundles and their delivery to the coordinators and deliverers. Hand delivering the hard copies of Te Karere annually saves us hundreds of dollars in postage. If you're interested in helping Forest & Bird this way, please contact Barbara Thomborson on 585-1370 or email at bt@bt.gen.nz .



Chair's Report

People have asked me what's the difference between the local branch and the Forest and Bird Auckland office. The branch has only volunteer members who live locally, in our case Auckland City. The branch addresses local conservation issues. The Central Auckland Committee communicates with our branch's members only, primarily through this branch newsletter. Newsletters vary markedly between the branches throughout the country because of things like the availability of volunteers and money to cover the costs of producing them and sending them out. We produce three newsletters a year. If we posted them all and didn't email some, the cost would be approximately \$5-6,000 yearly. The branch is essentially responsible for covering the costs of the newsletter. The more members who receive the newsletter by email, obviously the less this cost will be and also the less work for volunteers to fold them and stick stamps on them. *Newsletter costs are not covered by membership fees.* Your membership fees go directly to our national body.

In contrast to the local volunteers, the office in Auckland currently has three paid staff. They are Mark Bellingham, North Island Conservation Manager; Nick Beveridge, Auckland Field Officer; and Mandy Herrick, Communications Assistant. Their work is set by the national Society's conservation priorities. Their manager is the society's General Manager, Mike Britton, based in the Wellington office. The Auckland office staff is accountable through him to the executive which is elected to represent the Society members. Membership fees, bequests and commercial sources from the central body pay staff salaries.

In a nutshell this describes the main differences between the local office and the branch. Basically, we are all volunteers and look at issues occurring locally; we run local trips, meetings, projects, and displays. The office staff, salaried through the Society, focuses mainly on national issues or on local issues related to national Forest & Bird priorities. So saying, the employed staff includes local and regional field offices, whose jobs include liaising

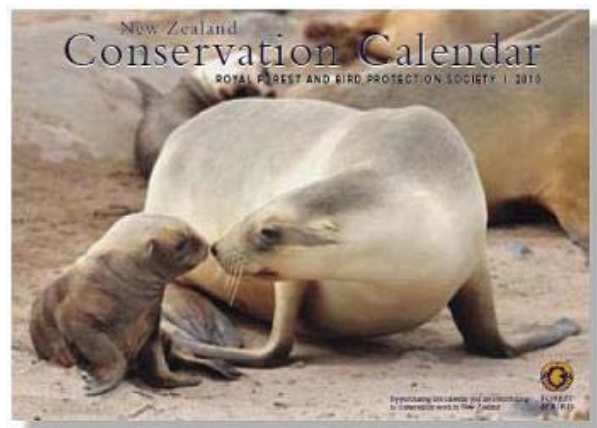
with and helping the local branches to do work of significance to achieving our Society's goals.

Communications with members made by the office staff is directed to many and often *all* the members in the country or region. The branch communicates mainly with members living within that branch only. Increasingly communications are becoming website and email based, although the glossy coloured national Forest & Bird magazine will remain as hard copy; the majority of your membership fee funds this award-winning publication.

As a closing comment; the newly-revamped KCC website, funded mainly by our branch, should be launched next month. The staff member responsible for getting this job done, Mandy Herrick, is giving a talk about it at our next meeting on Sunday, 15th November. We would like to see a good turnout of members and KCC members to this meeting, so come and find out about what the new website offers and how to get the most out of it.

Anne

Conservation Calendar 2010



Forest & Bird calendars (\$13) and diaries (\$22) are out. If you want any, contact Isabel on 528 3986. They're also available on the monthly bus trips and Committee meetings.





BIRD OF THE YEAR POLL

Help raise the profile of your favourite native bird by voting in the Bird of the Year poll. Forest & Bird's poll runs from Sept. 14 – Oct. 14. Vote at www.forestandbird.org.nz.

Waitakere Forest & Bird members Kent Xie and Michael Coote are keen to see the fernbird do well in the voting. Here's their submission:

We strongly advocate for the **Fernbird** (*Bowdleria punctata* to science, Kotata or Matata to Maori, and swamp sparrow to early European settlers) to be elected Forest & Bird's Bird of the Year. Voting for the fernbird is about raising public awareness of the unique conservation values of the fragile wetland environments the fernbird lives in. Putting the spotlight on the fernbird could attract much needed attention to wetland protection and restoration. So let the fernbird have a go at becoming Bird of the Year and the mascot for wetland conservation.

Fernbirds live in pairs and from their dense scrub habitat typically call out to each other in a duet, making a high-pitched, metallic "u-u-u tic, tic" sound. "It's one of the most beautiful bird calls I can ever imagine," recalled Matuku Reserve's Ranger John Staniland (also chairman of F&B Waitakere) of his experience from the Bethells Swamp boardwalk. "I stood right ... between a pair of fernbirds calling out to each other," he said. "It was such a sensational synchronised duet!"

Although given to hiding, fernbirds are naturally curious and when you click small stones together or mimic their high pitched calling sound in their habitat, they will often poke their heads out of the scrub to have a

look and then quickly disappear again. Maori knew the fernbird as "the wise bird" because of its ability to warn them about impending troubles or foretell good fortune depending on how its cry changed (nzbirds.com).

We owe the fernbird a huge debt of gratitude because when government land was being transferred to the then new Department of Conservation, fernbird presence was often the one criterion that allowed wetlands to be conserved. Nearly 90% of New Zealand's wetland area has been lost since the early 1800s, and many remaining lakes and wetlands are degraded from the effects of farming: burning, wetland drainage, chemical spraying, and fertiliser runoff from surrounding farmland.

From Kaitaia to Stewart Island, every Forest & Bird branch surely has threatened wetlands or low scrublands in its area, meaning every branch likely has fernbirds dwelling on its patch. **Vote the fernbird for "Bird of the Year"** so we can honour this distinctive endemic species, attract more attention to wetland restoration, and save the threatened fernbird's habitat before it's too late! [See Pollen Island, pg. 7]



The fernbird, about 18 cm in length

20-22 NOVEMBER: NORTH ISLAND GATHERING, BLOCKHOUSE BAY

The Waitakere branch is hosting the annual North Island gathering where the society's conservation priorities will be considered. It will be at Motu Moana Scout Club, 90 Connaught St., Blockhouse Bay on 20-22 November. Daytime registration is \$70, including food for both days. To register, contact Nick Beveridge, Northland/Auckland Field Officer, on (09) 302 3901 or at n.beveridge@forestandbird.org.nz.





KCC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009 TO MARCH 2010

YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE SIOBHAN, MARIANNE AND MARGUERITE

Access our website on www.kcc.org.nz/aboutkcc.asp.

To join our email tree to receive up to the minute news on conservation topics, please email Siobhan with "KCC email tree" in the subject line.

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2009 WATERCARE WALKWAY, Mangere Bridge Shorebirds

We will walk along the shoreline at Ambury Park and see shorebirds, both local and some who have migrated from Siberia and China. We will finish with a picnic at Ambury Park.

Please wear walking shoes and suitable clothing. Bring sunscreen, hats, a coat, drinks, snacks, and food for a picnic afterwards. If you have binoculars, bring these, too.

Meet at **11 a.m.** at the Coronation Drive entrance to Ambury Park.

Book with Siobhan by email: siobhanlatham@xtra.c.nz

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2009 NEW KCC WEBSITE LAUNCH

Join our parent branch of Forest & Bird in being amongst the first to see the new KCC website. KCC members are warmly invited to attend.

Meet at **2:30 p.m.** in the **Hobson Room** (upstairs front meeting room), the **Parnell Community Centre**.

SUNDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2009 CHRISTMAS PENGUIN PARTY

Come to our Penguin Party. to learn about the different kinds of penguins in New Zealand, their habits and habitats. Please dress in black and white as much as possible. Bring your togs and a towel, sunscreen, a sunhat, and warm clothes.

Please also bring one wrapped present per child for our Santa sack and a contribution towards the BBQ meal. Bread, sauce, and a sausage will be provided.

Venue is **Tai Haururu**, the Waitakere Forest & Bird House – 92 Garden Rd., Piha, from **2 p.m. to 4:30.**

Book with Siobhan by email: siobhanlatham@xtra.c.nz

SUNDAY, 14 MARCH 2010 EXPLORE THE UNDERWATER WORLD

We will explore the rocky shore on foot and with masks and snorkel (for confident swimmers). You will need warm clothes, sturdy shoes, flippers and/or sand shoes, togs, towel, mask and snorkel and/or swimming goggles, a hat, and sunscreen. And a picnic, drinks, and snacks. There will be a small charge per person for snorkel hire and guiding.

Meet at the Leigh Marine Reserve, under the **big pohutukawa tree** to the left of the staircase down to the beach, at **11 a.m.**

Book with Siobhan by email: siobhanlatham@xtra.c.nz.

Any problems? Any questions? Please phone Marguerite on 376 1149.



PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES: SEPTEMBER 2009 – APRIL 2010

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 17 OCTOBER 2009 GARDENS GALORE

Visit three gardens in the South Auckland area - Atarangi, Amesbury Park and Quarter Acre Paradise (Dale Harvey's Mangere East.garden).

Cost: \$37 (includes 3 entry fees, morning tea)

Bookings: Sally Hally on 528 7506

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2009 WAIHEKE ISLAND

Travel on your Gold Card to Waiheke Island then board a special bus for a tour of the island. Meet at the Assembly Point at Fullers Pier 2 at 9.40 am to catch the 10.00 am ferry. Purchase your boat ticket using your Gold Card. Bring a picnic lunch or buy on the island. Tea and coffee available for purchase on the ferry. Return to Auckland on the 3.00pm ferry (journey takes 35 minutes)

Cost: \$12.50 - for bus tour on the island

Bookings: John Hally on 528 7506

SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER 2009 XMAS RAVE

Join us for a special Christmas morning tea and buffet lunch. An opportunity to catch up with all your Forest and Bird friends. Walking optional!

Cost: \$25.00

Bookings: Isabel Still on 528 3986

SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2010 ARK IN THE PARK

Here's your chance to visit this wonderful piece of Waitakere bush where native robins, kokako, and stitchbirds have been released in recent years. We hope to have a talk from one of the volunteers and enjoy a relaxed day walking some of the tracks.

Cost: \$20.00

Bookings: Lou Kokich on 376 4072

SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2010 AYRLIES IN THE AUTUMN

We return to this amazing Whitford garden - see it in its Autumn regalia.

Cost: \$33.00 (includes garden entry fee)

Bookings: Isabel Still on 528 3986

PROPOSED EASTER TRIP 2010

Unfortunately we have not received enough definite responses to justify running a Paihia trip in 2010. Many thanks to all who responded.



KOKAKO FOR ARK IN THE PARK

Up to 30 kokako will be released into the Waitakere ranges over the next month. Once found throughout much of New Zealand, this wattlebird is now restricted to a few forested patches in the northern part of the North Island. The only bird known to pair with a male partner, the kokako once had researchers stumped when several hundred pair bonds failed to produce chicks. Naturally civil unions weren't going to produce offspring. Since then, control of introduced pests has led to a good recovery of the female population, with a numbers sitting around 1700 birds. As well as being part of the kokako recovery programme, Forest & Bird has re-introduced these songbirds into the pest-free sanctuary Ark in the Park in the northern Waitakere Ranges. You can hear their call and that of five other native birds by accessing Forest & Bird's Restore the Dawn Chorus website.



FOREST & BIRD'S NEW LOGO



Forest & Bird is heading into the next decade with a renewed mission to promote the organization and attract more members to the conservation movement. We are highlighting our role as the only independent organisation in New Zealand that gives nature a voice, and we have a contemporary, new logo that makes this clear.

The logo features a "tree" with a range of animals and plants for which Forest & Bird speaks. Speech marks above the tree reinforce the idea. They are meant to be bird song, and when the logo is shown in animated detail, the logo 'explodes out' to individual components – clicking on these commas sets off bird song.

Staff will be presenting the logo and branding at the North Island meeting at Blockhouse Bay in November and will answer any questions that members might have about it then.

Please contact Communications Manager Helen Bain if you have questions about the new logo: 04 801 2763 or h.bain@forestandbird.org.nz.

20th YEAR FIELDTRIP REUNION

On a beautiful sunny Sunday at the beginning of September a group of Forest and Birders from several Auckland Branches met together to celebrate a twenty year association with Bayes Coach Lines and more particularly with Christine and Steve Paxton - our intrepid drivers. From 1989 to 2008 they have driven us over 87,124 kilometers of roads, tracks and hair raising routes - 213 trips in all. Long weekends, Christmas holidays and every third Saturday have seen a sadly ever decreasing number of Forest and Birders climb aboard a Bayes coach, for an

exploration of some wild and wonderful place in our beautiful country. We have learnt so much about the New Zealand flora and fauna from each other and especially from Nancy Payne who ran the trips for most of the twenty years.

The opportunity to show our appreciation for Nancy, Christine and Steve's contribution to Forest and Bird was welcomed by all who attended the luncheon. It was wonderful to see several members who, although now unable to join in our monthly trips, were happy to be able to reminisce with their long time friends.



Nancy, Steve, and Christine

Thank you, Christine, Steve and Nancy for your expertise, your knowledge and your friendship - so gladly shared. Thanks, too, to Jazz at Franatalia Restaurant in Panmure who provided a great venue for our reunion.

KCC EVENT OF 13 SEPTEMBER BIRD RESCUE CENTRE

A September visit to the Rothesay Bay Bird Rescue Centre on Auckland's North Shore enabled KCC members to learn about the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned birds.



KCC to Rothesay Bay Bird Rescue (cont.)

Sylvia Durrant, also known as 'The Bird Lady', welcomed the members to the centre. For the past 20 years she has dedicated herself to caring for needy wild, garden and pet birds. The centre provides birds with a haven for regaining good health before being released back into their natural environments. Sylvia presented the KCC members with 23 orphaned ducklings, a gannet injured by fishing lines and hooks, a little blue penguin with a deep cut to its neck, a kingfisher that had flown into a window, orphaned blackbird fledglings, and a Barbary dove with open wounds.

Sylvia believes good food, warmth, linen-based enclosures, and aloe vera gel for open wounds are the remedies for most of the injured or orphaned birds. To keep up with the demands at the centre, volunteer involvement is important. People aged 12 and over help Sylvia prepare bird food and clean enclosures daily. Donations are always needed to help fund the expenses in voluntary bird rescue. Weekly food bills are high, as Sylvia provides green peas, cat biscuits, jelly meat, mince, chicken mash, egg yolk, fruit, bread and calcium and vitamins for her birds. Weekly, Sylvia spends between \$300 and \$500! With expenses aside, Sylvia enjoys her job and encourages those who are interested in bird rescue to sign up for voluntary work at their local rescue centre.

POLLEN ISLAND HOTS UP

Pollen Island is located within the Central Auckland branch area and is one of the only remaining bits of undisturbed marine estuarine areas left in central Auckland. It is some years since Forest and Bird was active here; however, time has come for us to be so again.

Pollen Island became a scientific reserve surrounded by the Pollen Island/Motu Manawa marine reserve following extensive lobbying by Forest and Bird over several decades. Forest & Bird leased the island from Ports of Auckland until June 2005 when title was then transferred to DoC and it was gazetted as a scientific reserve. Its immediate neighbour, Traherne Island, is not protected and has a serious problem with weeds.



Are Michael and Kent just cleaning up the island, only to have more motorway on it? [See pg. 3.]

We hope that by raising the public profile of this entire area, we might influence decisions about road-widening, planned for next year, which would likely adversely affect the marine reserve. We'd also to see Traherne Island protected in perpetuity like Pollen Island is now. With this end in mind, we have recently supported a letter sent to the Minister of Conservation asking for public signage about the marine reserve; both Kate Wilkinson MP and Auckland DoC have agreed to do the public signage.

As another step in this strategy, we have nominated the fernbird for Forest and Bird's Bird of the Year competition [see pg. 3] because fernbird live on Pollen Island and can be considered an iconic bird symbolizing the need to further protect this wetland area. We ask that members seriously consider going to www.forestandbird.org.nz and voting for fernbird to show their support for this local branch campaign.



Pollen Island: perfect fernbird habitat [See pg. 3.]



Members of your committee

Anne Fenn - Chair, fenn4@xtra.co.nz
Isabel Still - Secretary, 528-3986
John Hally - Treasurer, 528-7506
Marguerite Pearson - KCC, 376-1149
Barbara Thomborson - newsletter editor,
bt@bt.gen.nz; 585-1370
Peter Riddick - Conservation, 524-2229
Mark Winter m_winter14@hotmail.com

Our Email: forestandbird@gmail.com

Auckland Regional Office: 302 0203; 302 3901

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 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.

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TE KARERE



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& Bird**
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**KCC Newsletter
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