

NEWSLETTER

Lower Hutt Forest and Bird



Baring Head

Lower Hutt Branch was intimately involved with the purchase of Baring Head as a regional Park. We were one of the few groups who worked together, presented to Greater Wellington and Hutt City, wrote letters and emails to councilors, asked our membership to share their views on the purchase with their representatives, pledged money towards the purchase, and finally asked the Mayor of Hutt City to contribute the \$200,000 needed to finalize

the deal. The property has landscape values, wetlands, coastal cliffs and beaches, the lower reaches of the Wainui River, rare plant communities and some rare insects. This is a huge achievement for Wellington Region and the branch. We acknowledge Kelly Crandle and Colin Rider in this achievement.

We thank Hutt City Council for their significant contribution. We also thank the private contributor, who did not want to be named, for their substantial contribution.

Wainui Valley Corridor Forest and Bird have asked Hutt City Council if it can establish a corridor alongside the Wainui landfill to ensure the continued connection between East Harbour Regional Park and the Rimutaka Forest. In principle, the Council has no problem with our proposal and we will be meeting with them shortly to see if we can make this corridor a reality.



PEOPLE FOR PROJECTS

Contact

To discuss those items below, please contact Russell 380,6130 or rbell@slingshot.co.nz.

Waiu Wetland project

Waiu wetland is a growing project close to Lower Hutt and Wainui. If you can spend some time there,

or want to do some of the organising, contact Russell.

Other projects

There are other potential projects, such as working with DoC to plant estuaries in our region so if interested, contact Russell as above

UPCOMING EVENTS

17/11 Queen Elizabeth park 4.5 hours Sally 04 904 1260
24/11 Orongorongo track 4.5 hours Dave 970 2327

1/12 MT Bruce bus trip Trevor 478 8132
2/12 Presentation by Murray who spent nights minding Kakapo during breeding at 7.30 p.m. at Tramping Club rooms Birch Street Lower Hutt

RESTORING WAIU WETLAND



Waiu Wetland is in a valley in Wainuiomata surrounded by protected native forest. It represents the wetlands that used to exist before we drained and constructed our houses on the land. Part of the wetland that once existed remains. It is infested with weeds and has some drains that have changed its hydrology. Nonetheless, it is a very valuable wetland because wetlands are the natural

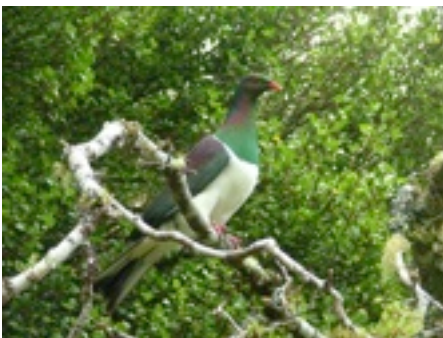
land type most lost through development because it is generally flat and fertile.

In September, we started planting trees on cleared areas near the entrance. Forty people, young (22 months) and old, planted over 400 plants. This was a combined effort between F&B, Hutt City, Botanical Society and Wainuiomata Trail Project (A Mountain bike group

that has trails through the forest around the wetland.

This project will pay ecological dividends when weeds are substantially gone, the wetland is better quality, and after we understand the hydrology, perhaps the wetland will be more extensive. Further plantings will occur this year and weeding will start in summer.

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS



Work continues on this now regional project. Ecological corridors are accepted by councils and Wellington region F&B branches. Greater Wellington's recent consultation on regional parks and forests included many of the ecological corridors that we thought we would have to fight for. These included a corridor along the eastern side of Belmont Regional Park and a corridor from Queen Elizabeth Park to the Akatarawas. This month, a corridor presentation was made to Friends of Tawa Bush and two Wellington City Councillors. Friends of Tawa Bush want to establish a corridor from Tawa Bush to Korokoro.