



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

TE KARERE - CENTRAL AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER

March 2014 Issue No. 107

Exciting discoveries and sad farewells

I hope you could enjoy the great Kiwi outdoors this summer and kept an eye out for our native butterflies. At this time of the year, wasps are a major pest for butterfly habitats, so try to track down and destroy their nests or report them to your local council.

I have some exciting news. During my recent trips around the country I discovered a type of boulder copper butterfly and copper butterfly which appear to be different to those that carry those names. These particular types of butterfly show distinctions so their names should recognise this. In addition to differentiating each type of butterfly, the name is important to determine the genetic diversity and help protect them. So the committee has agreed to fund some initial DNA testing of these butterflies to accurately identify them and see if in fact they are new undiscovered species. More about this project and an update on the development of a NZ fairy tern nesting site in Kaipara Harbour below.

I also have some very sad news. Steve McCready our environmental activist who has served on the committee for over four years passed away at the end of February. Steve had an energy and tenacity that was an asset to our committee. He was involved in everything from representing Forest and Bird at events like the Big Gay Out and Grey Lynn festival to submitting feedback on infrastructure plans. Steve will be sorely missed, we send our condolences to his partner and family.

Fenella Dennis has resigned her position on the committee because she is expecting her first baby very soon. We thank Fenella for her input on KCC events and compiling our newsletter and wish her well. If you would like to join our committee and you have experience in finance, PR, management or conservation, please contact me on my details below.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday the 4th May at 1pm in the Mt Eden Village Centre and Methodist Church in the Lounge Room at the back. Cnr of Mt Eden Road and Ngauruhoe Street (opposite Circus Circus Cafe.) Following the short 'business' part of the meeting Chris Gaskin, New Zealand storm petrel project field coordinator, will provide an update on this important project. These fascinating birds were presumed extinct until they were rediscovered in 2003.

See you then,

Rob

Rob Jones is Chair of the Central Auckland Forest and Bird committee.

Researching new butterfly discoveries



Brian & Hamish Patrick are conducting a nationwide research programme to determine the genetic diversity and therefore the number of species of our copper butterfly fauna (genus *Lycaena*: family *Lycaenidae*: sub-family *Lycaeninae*). Their recent book (*Butterflies of the South Pacific*, 2012) pictured the nine named coppers and an additional 16 possible species based on their collections. These coppers are grouped into four distinct groups. Each area of NZ has a different mix of species and possible species making them a fascinating group to study. Collectively these coppers epitomise NZ's complex geology and geography.

Different species are found from north to south, east to west and from the coast to the high mountains (1850m). Interestingly, despite a *Lycaenid* fauna of over 140 species in Australia, there are no true coppers of the sub-family *Lycaeninae*. This makes NZ's fauna all the more fascinating. NZ coppers' closest relatives are in fact high up in the mountains of New Guinea, and from there widespread in the northern hemisphere.

With your support, Forest and Bird is supporting research to genetically tracking the four copper groups in New Zealand.

Good Nature Traps make all the difference



This is a big thank you for the Good Nature traps for the Kaipara, where our fairy tern project is underway. The traps will help to keep stoat and rat numbers under control over a large area, with significantly less maintenance than the standard DOC200 traps. As a background, this project to establish a new nesting site for NZ fairy tern is based on work at Waipu where DOC tried this 5 years ago. We know it works as this year (finally) terns successfully nested on the artificial nesting area at Waipu!

Our site doesn't have the people disturbance of any of the nesting areas on the east coast and the base funding for the project is from the ASB Trust.

The Branch is really grateful to be able to support this project. It means the team can get stoat numbers down and prevent pests travelling from the southern part of the island to the nesting area, where the main waders also roost. We're sure it will be a major boost to the penguins that nest on the island too.

This season has been the first season (since fairy tern wildlife management started in the 1970s) that there have been no birds or nests lost to predators. When the terns come back your traps will ensure that record continues!

To volunteer contact Jane Ferguson on newzealandfairytern@gmail.com

Back from the brink – NZ storm petrel



Through your support, Forest & Bird's Central Auckland Branch has helped to fund a team researching the New Zealand storm petrel. They have made some exciting new discoveries - including excitingly, the very first egg! Presumed extinct, the NZ storm petrel was rediscovered in 2003, more than a century after the last sighting. In February last year the birds were successfully tracked to breeding sites on Hauturu, Little Barrier Island.

These small petrels nest in burrows in the forest and fly in and out only at night. So in October 2013 remote cameras and recorders were deployed at the four known nesting burrows. The cameras are triggered by movement and the sound recorders are set to run for six hours a night. "Our aim is to record the petrels calls, and find out when these birds return to their burrows and start nesting," said Chris Gaskin, the project's field coordinator.

"Initially, the cameras picked up kiwi, saddlebacks, robins and the occasional bat creeping across the ground." The recordings are downloaded by the research team once a month and have been mostly of cook's petrels, kaka (it's hard to know when they go to sleep!), kiwi, morepork, bats and even kakapo. Then, early in January, cameras at one nest captured images of a NZ storm petrel visiting the nest site; this was followed by images from several nights, including two more birds. "Analysing the recordings is difficult as we don't know what their call is like. You have to work your way through them listening out for something that sounds different. We can also do it visually using scanning spectrograms. Either way, it is very time consuming," says Chris. "However, we now have calls from several nights near one of the known nest sites. These calls have been the subject of much discussion by the research team, but we're now confident they are New Zealand storm petrels."

In March this year the team is trialling new capture techniques to estimate the population size and will use small radio transmitters to find more nest sites.

Image: Neil Fitzgerald from Landcare Research installs the remote recording devices.

Restore the last of Auckland's urban forests: **Pourewa Valley, Kohimarama**

If you are interested in joining our weekly Wednesday morning group (10am-noon) to do planting or predator control, please contact Jane Email: janef@pl.net

Planting on Motutapu Island:

Motutapu

Planting and weeding days for the coming months are Sundays the 30/3, 6/4, 20/4, 4/5, 18/5, 1/6, 15/6, 29/6, 6/7, 20/7, 3/8, 17/8, 31/8. Volunteers pay for their ferry ticket at a special fare of \$21 for adults and \$10.50 per child (15 years and under). Please book your volunteer day by email to admin@motutapu.org.nz or phone (09 522 0919) or text (0275 570 845).

Your committee needs you!

Do you want to be part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team that is keen on doing something about environmental issues? If so, become a committee member of Forest & Bird Central Auckland! We're involved in many projects around Auckland, all of which are rewarding and a bit of fun. We currently need a newsletter Editor (see attached for more info) and keen conservationists. Just submit a 50 word application to centralauckland.branch@forestandbird.org.nz telling us why you would like to join us and come to the **AGM** on Sunday the 4th May at 1pm in the Mt Eden Village Centre and Methodist Church in the Lounge Room at the back. Cnr of Mt Eden Road and Ngauruhoe Street (opposite Circus Circus Cafe). Afternoon tea will follow at the conclusion.



Rob Jones, Chair

Mob: 021 513 703 rob.jones@xtra.co.nz

Experience area: Business, finance, sales

I'm involved in Forest and Bird because: I want to make a difference to improve the environment in the Auckland region especially for birds and butterflies which are my passion.

What I will bring to the Auckland committee: I am passionate about furthering our success in saving rare birds and reintroducing native butterflies back into our beautiful city through education and conservation. It's all about team work.

Marguerite Pearson, Deputy Chair & KCC

mlp418@gmail.com

Experience area: Planning, environmental knowledge and KCC

I'm involved in Forest and Bird because: My family have always been involved in conservation and looking after the earth. I wish to continue this and foster our children's (and their families) knowledge and joy in the natural world.

What I will bring to the Auckland committee: Experience with organising children's programmes (incl KCC) and committee experience, and knowledge of what's happening in Auckland.



June Brookes, Churchill Park

Restoration carlinz@xtra.co.nz

Occupation: Land Researcher

Experience Area: DOC (Land Admin), Land Researcher (local government).

Involvement with Forest and Bird: I want to bring the knowledge from 30 years of commitment to conservation issues by myself and my husband to F&B. NGOs must take the lead in keeping Govt honest.

What I bring to Auckland Committee: Wide knowledge of conservation issues with a network of contacts with conservation expertise. Personal experience undertaking private conservation land management.

John Hally, Treasurer

Ph : 528-7506

Occupation: Chartered accountant - now retired

I'm involved in Forest and Bird because:

Over the past 15 years, I have enjoyed the monthly field trips with many other members to parts of the country we would not have otherwise seen.

What I will bring to the Auckland

committee: Continued administration of the branch financial affairs.



Charlene Fitisemanu – Secretary

Experience area:

Communications and Sales

I'm involved in Forest and Bird because: I care about Nature and the future of our resources. I want to help out where I can to make a difference.

What I will bring to the Auckland committee: A keen interest to help and learn about conservation. Communications expertise and creative solutions.

Angela Moon-Jones, Calendar and Diary Sales, etc.

Experience area: Business management, Marketing and Sales

I'm involved in Forest and Bird because: I love the flora and fauna of NZ and enjoy photographing and exploring it.

What I will bring to the Auckland

committee: Experience in fundraising, marketing and ensuring that everything runs smoothly and transparently.

Anne Fenn, Facebook, fenn4@xtra.co.nz

Like us on Facebook to get project updates and latest news. Or, visit our website

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/branches/central-auckland>

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

MARCH TO OCTOBER 2014

SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2014

LEIGH MARINE RESERVE AND PAKIRI BEACH

Visit goat Island Marine Reserve at Leigh - the first New Zealand marine reserve created in 1975. Enjoy a walk and a picnic on the beach before travelling North to Pakiri Beach.

COST:\$30.00 BOOK: With Lou on 376 4072

SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2014

MYSTERY TRIP

(N.B. Please note change of day due to Easter holiday) Also an 8.30 am start from Albert Street) Your chance to experience one of Christine's mystery trips. We can promise you an interesting and fun packed day.

COST: \$32.00 BOOK: With Isabel Still on 528 3986

SATURDAY 17 MAY 2014

MATAIA GARDENS & HOMESTEAD

Located on a working sheep and beef farm and private nature reserve on the Kaipara Harbour, historic Mataia homestead is surrounded by 5 acres of gardens and is steeped in family history.

COST:\$30.00 BOOK: With Lou on 376 4072

SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2014

TEA AND A GARDEN IN THE WAIKATO REGION

We will visit the treasured historic estate of Woodlands Gardens in Gordonton. (A café lunch can be purchased). Then see how tea is grown and experience a traditional tea ceremony at Zealong Tea Estate. There will be a guided tour with stunning views.

COST: \$58.00 (This includes entry and guiding fees of \$25.00)

BOOK: With Karen Brown on 828 2680

SATURDAY 19 JULY 2014

MIDWINTER WALK AND LUNCH

After a morning walk at Shakespear Regional Park we shall visit the renovated Silverdale Pub for a delicious light lunch. Explore the Silverdale museum and pioneer village in the afternoon.

COST:\$52.00 (includes lunch and Museum entry fee)

BOOK: With Sally on 528 7506

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2014

ROTARY WALK PAKURANGA

Walk selected parts of this delightful seaside walkway. Take a picnic lunch to eat at Half Moon Bay or buy lunch in one of the many cafes.

COST: \$19.00 BOOK: with Lou on 376 4072

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

ZEN GARDENS - WHITFORD

This is a 20 hectare Zen inspired garden with spectacular views across Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. An amazing fusion of art and botanical knowledge. Our visit will include morning tea and a guided walk. Walk on Maraetai beach in the afternoon.

COST: \$41.00 (this cost includes guided walk and morning tea plus cost of shuttle bus for those who need a ride from the bus park to the garden) **BOOK:** With Isabel on 528 3986

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2014
DISTRICT

TE HANA AND THE WELLSFORD

Please note that this is an 8.30am start and all Auckland travellers are asked to board the bus at Albert Street in the City.

We shall arrive at Te Hana in time for morning tea and a guided walk around the model Maori village. A visit to the Albertland Pioneer Museum is planned for the afternoon.

COST:\$49.00 (includes morning tea, guided walk and museum entry)

BOOK: With Karen Brown on 828 2680

FIELD TRIPS BY BUS: Please tell us where you will board the bus when booking. Lower Albert Street 9am (City), Takapuna Rose Gardens, Harp of Erin (southbound only), or Point Chevalier (northbound only).

Please dress for the conditions.

BOOKINGS: Please forward a cheque payable to Forest and Bird Society to the booking officer after securing your place. Unfortunately we can not do refunds (except for sudden illness or urgent reasons, at the discretion of the committee) unless cancellation is notified by the Wednesday prior to the trip.

Would you like to make a difference and become a Central Auckland branch Forest and Bird committee member?

The Central Auckland branch of Forest and Bird are looking for a new committee member to join our friendly volunteer group with specific responsibility for producing our tri-annual newsletter and e-newsletter.

This is a fantastic volunteer opportunity for anyone eager to contribute existing experience in writing and editing to this valuable organisation, or for a student to gain experience in this area.

The ideal person can commit to attending our monthly committee meetings from 7-9pm in Mt Eden terrace, and has Microsoft Word abilities. A knowledge of the online email system Mailchimp would also help.

Please contact Rob Jones if you're interested on rob.jones@xtra.co.nz

Job description:

What's involved in being the Te Karere editor?

This is a great volunteer opportunity to get more involved with the work of Forest and Bird in Central Auckland.

Through our tri-annual e-newsletter *Te Karere* we share our volunteer activities, branch achievements and passion for nature with all our members.

We're looking for an editor for our newsletter to join our Central Auckland committee team. The position involves attending our monthly committee meetings and compiling our e-newsletter three times a year. Stories are provided to the editor by the rest of the committee. The editor sub-edits stories, sources images and organises the lay-out of the newsletter in the online email system Mail Chimp – and occasionally chases up anyone who is late with their story!

To express your interest in helping Forest and Bird Central Auckland in this way please email: rob.jones@xtra.co.nz. We'll get back to you as soon as we can – although please be patient as we are all volunteers. Thanks for your interest about helping Forest and Bird in Central Auckland.

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing authors, societies or other organisations and are not the opinions or policies of Forest and Bird, nor are they necessarily endorsed by Forest and Bird.

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