



Forest & Bird

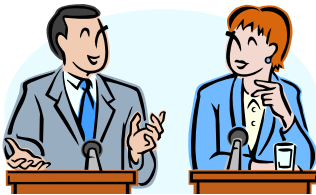
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Upper Hutt Branch Newsletter

August/September 2010

PO Box 40 875 Upper Hutt

August Meeting



Topic: Come and listen to a forum by our Mayoral candidates and what they have to say about Upper Hutt. We would like members to contribute to these discussions so please think of some questions that you might like to ask the candidates at the meeting.

Speakers: Wayne Guppy, Hellen Swales and Adrian Sparrow

Date: Wednesday 25th August

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Heretaunga College Staffroom

Bring:

- A gold coin donation for the hire of the College Staffroom
- \$1 for the raffle
- A friend who hasn't been to one of our meetings before

To Get There: Heretaunga College, Ward St, Wallaceville, Upper Hutt. The staffroom is opposite the main entrance to the college and will be sign-posted. There is parking in the college grounds or on Ward Street.



September Meeting

Topic: Forest & Bird - Past Present and Future

Speaker: Barry Wards

Date: Wednesday 22nd September

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Heretaunga College Staffroom

We deliberately didn't include the speakers for the latter part of this year into the Speaker Programme because it's often difficult to pin people down so far in advance and we also have the ability to notify members fairly quickly of upcoming events, using the technology available to us. However, we haven't been able to confirm the intended September speaker at the time of sending this newsletter to print so we're falling to the backup.

And the backup is Barry Wards, Chair of the Branch and National President. The topic of the talk will be, "Forest and Bird - Past, Present and Future". At a time when the organisation as a whole is identifying and weighing up the considerable range of local and national issues confronting it, both from a conservation and from an organisational perspective, it's important that all members, and supporters of the Society, are kept informed of what this may mean for the Society in terms of it being more effective in achieving its objectives and aims.

The Executive of the Society is actively leading the development of the Strategic Plan to incorporate those "future" aspects. While the Branch committee has already had a chance

to discuss some of the issues, the September presentation will try and put the overall thinking of the Strategic Plan development into context - particularly taking into account the local work that Branches, such as Upper Hutt, do so well and is deemed to be critical for both identifying who we are, as well as contributing to the environmental wellbeing of Upper Hutt and its environs. Please come along and be prepared to contribute to the discussion - this is Your Society after all and You are the Voice for Nature.

From The Chair

The Voice for Nature Has Been Heard

What a month! What a year! It's a great feeling to be able to start off a newsletter with good news - the Governments decision not to progress plans to mine schedule 4 land is the very success the Society was after. All members who lodged submissions, marched down Queen St, signed petitions and wrote to ministers and MP's should feel proud that the Voice for Nature has been heard - Loud and Clear!

I encourage all members to now write to the Prime Minister and the National Government, showing your appreciation and thanks for listening to that Voice and making a decision that means something for conservation - that Protection is not conditional. There are no But's! Our predecessors and forebears made the decision to preserve and protect in perpetuity those lands and places that are valued for their intrinsic value, something that rises above their value as an economic, trade or commercial resource. The Government deserves to be thanked.

The mining issue has highlighted to me the potential exposure of other valued places to activities that do not always have suitable regulatory protection; where decision-making on the loss of intrinsic value and biodiversity rests with a narrow band of decision-makers and where the public consultation process is virtually non-existent. A case in point is the

potential commercial ventures currently being considered for deep-sea mining, as well as existing harvesting of mineral resources on sea beds in the closer New Zealand coastal environment. We have the technology to "dig deep", kilometres below the sea surface - China is already considering doing so around deep sea fumaroles in the Indian Ocean. These unique environments are virtually unexplored; we have little idea of the nature and ecology of their unique biodiversity, yet here we are toying with the idea of destroying them to haul out precious metals to put in our cell phones and swanky flat screen TV's!

So, while celebrating our success, remember that, while "the battle may have been won, the war certainly hasn't been."

Barry Wards, Chairperson & National Preside

AGM & Conference Report

Forest & Bird held its Annual General Meeting & Annual Conference on the weekend of 25 - 27th June in Wellington.

On Friday night we were addressed by Hon Kate Wilkinson (Minister of Conservation) who spoke about NZ "being blessed with iconic landscape, fauna and birdlife". She said we would not always agree on all issues but she encouraged the conservation to keep connected and to meet regularly to discuss issues. The community has a duty of stewardship. She raised the question of whether New Zealanders should have an informed say in what happens on their land. It is critical that we continue the discussions. She pointed out that business and conservation are compatible, but business should not be at the expense of conservation.

Mike Britton (F&B General Manager) then introduced the management team who spoke about their areas of business and what the society has been involved in over the last year and particularly the current advocacy matters regarding mining, water and MacKenzie Basin.

On Saturday morning the Annual General Meeting was held and Barry Wards spoke of the contribution the Society has made to NZ conservation over the past 9 decades and how it has earned the respect among New Zealanders as a fearless advocate for nature. F&B has led the drive to protect national parks with the recent advocacy to stop mining on our Schedule 4 protected land forcing the Government to backtrack on it's original proposal. We have continued to focus on pest control to help protect native birds and other species and forests. Natural New Zealand needs F&B now more than ever and we have been proud to be "The Voice of Nature". He pointed out that our grass root members are key to the society and we do need to increase our network of supporters and donors.

The Council meeting started after morning tea and the following were elected as the executive: Barry Wards (President), Andrew Cutler - Wellington (Deputy President), Graham Bellamy (National Treasurer), Lindsay Britton - (South Auckland), Mark Hanger - (Dunedin), Alan Hemmings - (Australia), Peter Maddison - (Waitakere), Craig Potton - (Nelson), Ines Stager - (South Canterbury), Jon Wenham - (Waikato).

Hon Phil Goff (Leader of the Opposition) spoke on Labour Parties perspective of conservation in NZ and the need for responsible environmental decisions and need to have good scientific support to any such decisions. This was followed by an address by Russel Norman (Co-Leader of Greens) also speaking about their issues relating to NZ conservation and the need to live within our resources.

We had a very interesting address from Dr Hazell Thompson (Asst Director of Network Development, Birdlife International) and the value that F&B can make to this world wide organisation. Our General Manger is a member of their governing body and they value his contribution. The international protection of migratory birds is important and global network is key to this.

Andrew Cutler then presented on the work that the executive have been doing on the society's strategic plan which will lead us forward in a structured and planned manner. With the changes in Government policies and the issues facing conservation, we need to structure the organisation to face the challenges ahead and plan our resources to effectively handle these challenges.

In the evening we had a dinner and the Sanderson Memorial address by David McDowell (Former Director-General of UICN) who spoke about his international experience as a spokes person for international conservation.

On the Sunday we had a series of panel discussions on the new membership database, website, mining, freshwater and running events.

The weekend was packed with all sorts of issues facing the society, but it does show that the society is in a good shape with a very successful year on a number of major advocacy issues. The staff are working extremely hard and also the branch members are achieving a lot in their own areas.

However the time has come to seriously consider how we move forward in a very different society and political climate to the last 9 decades.

Graham Bellamy

Working Bees at Hull's Creek

Dates for the working Bees at Hulls Creek are as follows:-

Saturday 28 th August	9am to 12pm
Saturday 25 th September	9am to 12pm
Thursday 28 th October	5pm to 7pm
Thursday 25 th November	5pm to 7pm

Please Note - Dinner will be provided on the two Thursday Evenings ☺

Please contact Sue Miller on ☎ 526 7440 if you would like any further information.



Planting at Moehau



Last month two groups of Weltec students and their tutor along with 6 Forest and Bird members and Richard from the Regional Council planted 1,480 plants at Moehau. Thirteen Horticultural students and 10 Landscape and Design students got stuck in planting over a period of two fine days.

There are now two species of carex, giant umbrella sedges, two varieties of flax, toe toe and cabbage trees half way down the stream. Hopefully one more working bee should see the whole area planted.

Twenty bags of rubbish were also picked up. However more downpours have since brought more rubbish down. The idea is that once the stream is confined to its bed the rubbish should pass through quickly and gather on the grill under the stop bank. This is kept clear by the council.



Above, an example of the wildlife currently found at Moehau. ☺ Also found were roller blades, boots, shoes, \$5, balls, pencils, and of course fast food wrappers, plastic and bottles of all descriptions.



Lynne McLellan

New Ruapehu Lodge Open for Bookings



On the weekend of 31 July, Rosemary and I had the pleasure of "testing out" the new Forest and Bird lodge at Whakapapa Village, Ruapehu, built to replace the previous lodge destroyed by fire several years ago. We stayed in the Wardens Room, happily dubbed "The Presidential Suite", complete with inner sprung mattresses and ensuite - there's nothing like "roughing it" I tell you!



Bunkrooms

The new lodge is a class apart from the old one - warm, spacious, cosy and multifunctional. It has a variety of bunk sleeping-room sizes, suitable for couples, families and larger groups. There are 3 "breakout" areas for lounging, relaxing and simple blobbing-out but these can also be used for formal meetings, presentations and so forth. The kitchen area is large, airy and spacious and has a good flow into the dining areas as well. In terms of structure, the building is very low maintenance, extremely well insulated (the walls and ceiling are about 300-

400mm thick) and windows are double-glazed throughout. Heating is supplied by heat pumps and energy-efficient wall panels.

Simply put, however, the new lodge is a very peaceful and enjoyable place to stay. Postcard scenery of Ruapehu, forest and Whakapapa challenge that offered by Chateau Tongariro at a fraction of the cost. Previous patrons of the old lodge will see a price increase (the Society website has all the details) but this is reflective of the improved facilities and comparable to other accommodation in the area. The price structure also recognises the benefits of being a member of the Society.



Kitchen



Dining & Lounge

We encourage you to book a weekend or several nights away to enjoy the new lodge - you won't regret it. We have to finish paying for it now so, if you like what you see, I encourage you to dip into your pocket and help us clear the \$200,000 left to clear the debt.

Barry & Rosemary Wards

KCC Report

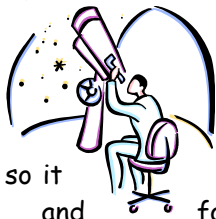


KCC Report to Upper Hutt Forest and Bird Society

At present KCC Upper Hutt has combined with the Wellington Kapiti Mana Club and also Lower Hutt. Although the district is quite large it means the coordinators of this area are able to get together and share ideas, trips, talks and plan two or three outings, per month. The number of active member's pool is also larger with a chance of having the trips booked with a decent amount attending.

On Saturday 31st of July Juliet Cooke took a group to the botanical gardens in search of glow-worms.

Saturday 24th of July was very successful with a trip to the Carter Observatory. Bookings were essential for this and 84 were confirmed and the Observatory very kindly put on an extra show for us at the earlier time of 5pm. Alas just 48 came so it was somewhat disappointing and fortunate at the same time as it would have been very busy. The show was terrific and a little overwhelming for some of the smaller members; but with the skies clearing we were also able to observe the setting up of the telescope and a view of the planet Venus in the western sky. Perhaps this will trigger life choices for budding astronauts and astronomers.



The next trip I am involved with is a huge beach clean up on the South Makara Coast Saturday 18th September, this is part of Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week.

As access is across private farm land I have sought permission to cross the farm tracks to the beach with a loop track return. The Cross Country Vehicle Club (CCVC) will be helping us out with transport; this trip is limited to 60 KCC people and will be an all day affair.

This area of the coast acts as a collection for flotsam as the currents swirl down the New Plymouth/Kapiti Blight. Previously this area produced over 5 tons of rubbish when last cleaned up. Two hire companies are donating the use of dual axle trailers and the Happy Valley Landfill are not charging for rubbish collected.

Please feel free to come on any of these trips first in first served and we hope to see you.
Bye for now -



Georgie Dobson 5265119

Natural Resources in the Wellington Region - Have Your Say

What are your views on our region's natural resources - our air, waterways, soils, coasts, and native plants and animals?

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is holding workshops around the region to develop a regional plan for our natural resources. Join us at Pipitea Marae on Tuesday 17 August for a discussion on their use, development and protection.

Please note there will be a public meeting held on Tuesday 17 August from 7pm - 9.30pm at Pipitea Marae - nau mai haere mai!

For a full list of workshop locations and dates go to www.gw.govt.nz/valuing-our-environment and click on "Community workshops"

Forest and Bird Local Branches

F&B Lower Hutt Branch meeting:
Meets 1st Thursday of the month

F&B Wellington Branch Meeting
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month

Kapiti Branch Meeting
Meets 4th Wednesday of the month

Other Groups

Wellington Botanical Society
Meets 3rd Monday of the month 7.30 pm
www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz

Web Watch

Forest and Bird has a great website with heaps of interesting information. It now includes past copies of our newsletter.

www.forestandbird.org.nz

Also check out:



Kiwi Conservation Club www.kcc.org.nz

NZ Ecological Restoration Network

www.bush.org.nz

NZ Plant Conservation Network

www.nzpcn.org.nz

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is:
1 October 2010.

Please send any items to Penny or Marion, preferably by email (so we don't have to wear our fingers out typing!) **Thanks** 😊



Frosty morning, Hutt River



Frosted spider web, Hutt River

Editors Note

Many thanks to our contributors this month, Barry Wards, Graham Bellamy, Lynne McLellan, and Georgie Dobson. Many thanks also to Allan Sheppard for the great photos taken at Moehau Park and Marion Callus for the lovely photos of the frosty morning and spider web taken at the Hutt River.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Forest and Bird as a whole. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions are regretted. Correspondence should be addressed to PO Box 40 875 Upper Hutt.



Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Contact
August	Wed 25th	7.30	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
September	Wed 22nd	7.30	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
October	Wed 27th	7.30	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
November	Wed 24th	7.30	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
Monthly	The last Saturday of each month.	9am to 12pm	Working Bee, Hulls Creek,	Sue Millar 04 526 7440
☺	On hold over winter	☺	Potting up, Upper Hutt Depot	Sue Millar 04 526 7440



2009 Branch Committee			
	Phone		Email
Barry Wards	04 970 4266 (hm) 04 894 0475 (wk)	Chairperson	barry.wards@maf.govt.nz
Graham Bellamy	04 526 3053	Treasurer	gbellamy@slingshot.co.nz
Fred Fowler	04 569 7187	Secretary	Fred.fowler@ontrack.govt.nz
Marion Callus	04 527 8692	Newsletter/committee	callus@extra.co.nz
Penny Madsen	04 528 5303	Newsletter	penny.madsen@ihug.co.nz
Lynne McLellan	04 526 7775	Newsletter Distributor	lynne@letterlinks.co.nz
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Gill Murgatroyd	04 970 3042	Committee	
Richard Northmore	04 526 2572	Committee	
Stella Watson	04 971 5076	Membership	stellaw@paradise.net.nz
Adam Langford	04 973 7302	Committee	
Heather Blissett	04 526 3668	Committee	
Georgie Dobson	04 526 5119	KCC	ralph.georgina@extra.co.nz

