



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Upper Hutt Branch Newsletter

January/February 2011

PO Box 40 875 Upper Hutt

February Meeting

'Barbecue at Kaitoke Regional Park'

Date: Wednesday 23rd February 2011

Time: 6.00 pm

Place: Barbecue Area 1 - Kaitoke Regional Park

To Get There: Turn off State Highway 2 to Kaitoke Regional Park. Take the loop road to the left and about half way around there is a large barbecue area on the right hand side.



Bring:

- Your own food and drink
- \$1 coin for the barbecues
- \$1 coin for the raffle
- A friend as it's always a lovely evening and what a way to introduce them to becoming a member of Forest & Bird

March Meeting - New Venue!!

Date: Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Time: 7.30 pm

New Venue: Hapai Club

879-881 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt - Situated on the Northern side of the Upper Hutt Police Station. Parking is available at the rear of the building

Speaker: **Nic Valance** - Forest & Birds advocate for the Mackenzie Basin campaign.

Topic: Water Issues and Landscape Protection in the Mackenzie Basin

April Meeting

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2011

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Hapai Club 879-881 Fergusson Dr
Upper Hutt

Topic & Speaker: To be advised

May Meeting

Date: Wednesday 25th May 2011

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Hapai Club 879-881 Fergusson Dr
Upper Hutt

Speaker: **Paul Swain** - Greater Wellington Regional Council

Topic: This will be a general question and answer forum with a focus on water in our region.

We would really like to give Paul a list of questions prior to the meeting so that he can come to the meeting prepared. It would be great if members could please think of something you would like asked and send your question/s to Roz Brown or one of the committee members.

Thanks



From The Chair

Well, we're over a month into 2011 and the holidays seem but a distant memory. While I've been fortunate to have seen a large part of New Zealand, I took the opportunity to have, what many New Zealanders would refer to as, a "real Kiwi Christmas" in the Coromandel. Since we usually try and fit a tramp or two into these holidays, the car was jammed to the hilt with packs, poles, boots and dehy meals, along with all the paraphernalia that goes with Christmas and lazing around on the beach, including Christmas presents!

Needless to say, it turned out to be a very "unplanned" holiday. The tramping gear never left the car and it sometimes seemed the most I carried was sweet and juicy pipis, dug up in their hundreds from the tidal flats and the extra spare tyre around my midriff from the copious amounts of beer and wine used to wash them down with. But a holiday it was and the beach-fronted campsite north of Colville, sheltered by gnarled and ancient flowering pohutukawa provided the perfect getaway from a very tiring year.

I like to think that much of what we do in our conservation efforts is reflected through the way we enjoy the benefits of it. Unfortunately, that also involves seeing the damage and destruction that we inflict on our environment as well. While eating pipis is a time-honoured Kiwi tradition, bag limits are there for a reason. Accessing the tidal flats in our 4-wheel drives also damages those fragile environments and disturbs the nesting habits of the birdlife that live there. Our predilection for building getaway houses as close to the sea as possible has resulted in the destruction of many of the dune systems that once flourished along the coastlines; in addition, some of these monstrosities can hardly be called "bachs".

Coasts, marine environments, water, wetlands and wild rivers are an increasing focus for the Society, and the Upper Hutt Branch, over the next few years. Already we see the degradation of our own Hutt River through

constant gravel digging, increased water-take, more frequent algal blooms and increasing amounts of adventive plants. Many local residents have had enough - the river is but a remnant of what it once was. While the Branch continues to expand its riparian restoration project near Hulls Creek, we must remember that less than 10% of New Zealand's remain; the opportunities to maintain what is left and create new ones when the opportunity arises should be actively pursued.

Don't be deluded into thinking that the water issues facing Canterbury are only Canterbury's problem; as New Zealanders, and with our own concerns for freshwater, these are everyone's problem. Future decisions on freshwater made by Councils and Government will require significant discussion among New Zealanders over the coming years. To that end, I hope that many of you will make the effort to come to listen to Nic Vallance, Forest and Birds advocate for the Mackenzie Basin campaign. This campaign focuses on water use and the preservation of outstanding landscapes and is an important issue for all New Zealanders to get their heads around.

Never forget that, as members of this great organisation, you are the Voice for Nature. It is our responsibility, and our commitment, to preserve and protect that which does not have a Voice. I urge you to discover more about the environment around us and the plants and animals we share it with. Only then will we be in a strong position to make that Voice even louder.

Barry Wards, Chairperson & National President

Our Condolences to Sue Millar

The Branch extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to Sue Millar and her family, following the death of Sue's husband, Keith, on Friday 4 February. Sue is a stalwart of the Branch and Keith has supported her in these activities over many years. His loss will be felt acutely.



Funding



Mawaihakona Stream, Trentham Memorial Park - South End

Congratulations to Graham Bellamy for the huge amount of work that he has put in to securing funding to cover costs for this project.

As a result of his hard work we have received \$27,000 of funding as per the following:-

Lion Foundation	\$20,000
Hutt Mana Trust	\$ 5,000
Greenwood Environmental Trust	\$ 2,000

These funds will enable us to divert the stream by the Barton Road entrance to its original path. Some curves will be put in and rocks added. An island will be created as a result of the restructure and this will be planted, along with the banks of the stream with suitable native plants to provide a healthier stream environment.

The project will be starting on the week of 7th February, under the ever vigilant eye of Bart Hogan. Getting the funding was a real, but grateful, surprise to us and we are very thankful for the support we have for this project.

F&B Diaries and Calendars

Some stats for our 2010 sales:-



Calendars - Sold 36

Diaries - Sold 24

Profit to our Branch funds - \$234.00

Many thanks to all of those who made purchases 😊

Wellington Golf Club/ St Pat's College

You may have noticed that where the trees have been cleared along the river beside the golf course, that there is a pond, stream and wetland area there. The other weekend Bart Hogan and myself went down and walked the length of this area and have taken photos of this stream and another two that are between the southern end of Trentham Memorial Park and the Silverstream Bridge.

We are putting together a document to present to Greater Wellington Regional Council, UHCC, Wgtn Golf Club and St Pat's to try to protect these streams and make sure that the habitat of the streams and wetland areas are retained and the water quality is improved as these are 3 major outlets that flow into the Hutt River within our area.

East/West Corridor at Silverstream

We have received the Draft Concept Plan document from P.A. Handford & Associates and now need to sit down with branch project group and GWRC and decide what we can manage and how we present this to the land owners, which we hope to do in the next 3 months.

Wild Rivers Day

This will be held on the 19/20 March 21011. The format will be similar to last year but will be located on the Hutt River opposite Whakatiki Street. Please contact Graham Bellamy for confirmation of date and further details

If anyone requires any further information about any of the items on this page please contact Graham Bellamy on ☎ 526 3053

Wellington Golf Club Development Proposals

(This article is in addition to Graham Bellamy's on page 3)

Articles have been appearing in the Upper Hutt Leader about the Royal Wellington Golf Club proposals to develop land which has recently been cleared of pine trees. The clearing has uncovered an area of wetland, raising concerns about whether the development plans incorporate the preservation of this area, the "naturalness" of the open space and preservation of declining environments.

The Societies engagement with the Royal Wellington Golf Club over the years has not been very productive. We objected strongly to their proposal to release grass carp into the Mawaihakona Stream to control weed; these are probably all gone now, most likely carried out to the Hutt River through floods. In our efforts to improve the ecological health of the stream, which also runs through Trentham Memorial Park and St Patricks Silverstream land before entering the Hutt River, some years ago we sought permission (along with Upper Hutt City Council) for a qualified ecologist to access Golf Club land to conduct a study of stream health. This was denied and the Club proceeded with their own planting and landscape enhancement work.

The identification of the wetland, development proposals, further declining of stream health and efforts to improve this in the upper reaches (Trentham Memorial Park) has recently prompted a need to further engage with the Golf Club. The Branch will keep members updated of progress in this area.

Protecting Native Plants, Animals & Habitats

The Ministry for the Environment is currently consulting on a National Policy Statement (NPS) on indigenous biodiversity. Indigenous biodiversity refers to the number of native species, the genetic variation within each species, and the variety and quality of native

habitats (e.g., wetlands and lowland native forests) in NZ.

The NPS sets out how local councils should protect biodiversity in rare and threatened habitats on private land while recognising the rights and responsibilities of landowners and the interests of Maori. It contains a list of criteria for identifying areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous animals that have been recognised as being rare and/or threatened at a national level. Regional policy statements notified after the NPS is released will need to include these criteria, along with ways of identifying any other areas of indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous animals that the council considers significant.

Submissions close on 2 May 2011. You can fill in the online submission form, email a separate submission to biodiversity@mfe.govt.nz, or mail one to Biodiversity NPS, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143. For more, (including information on consultation meetings being held around the country between 21 February and 5 April 2011) go to the following web site:- <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/biodiversity/indigenous-biodiversity/index.html#how>

Proposed Tuhua Mataitai Reserve

The Tuhua Trust Board, on behalf of Te Whanau a Tauwhao, a hapu of Ngaiterangi, has applied to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture for a mataitai reserve for the fisheries around Mayor Island, excluding Tuhua Marine Reserve on the northern side of the Island. A mataitai reserve is an identified traditional fishing ground in fisheries waters established for the purpose of non-commercial customary food gathering.

Submissions close on 1 March 2011. They go to R Bess, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020 Wellington or email Randall.Bess@fish.govt.nz.

For more information go to:-

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en/Consultations/Proposed+Tuhua+Mataitai+Reserve/default.htm>



Barry Wards

Trip to Grand Parks of the North West USA -Sep 2010

My husband, Rod, and I arrived in San Francisco on 10th September 2010 about 1 p.m. and after clearing customs, met our ten fellow Kiwis and leader and travelled a short distance by shuttle bus to where our van and driver, Joey, awaited us. After leaving our baggage at the hotel, Joey took us on a mini tour of San Francisco, where the streets are wide or one-way, with impressive architecture and flowering pohutakawa!!! - gift from New Zealand but now not very welcome because the roots are lifting the footpaths. After a good sleep, we were off at about 8-45 am. to Golden Gate Bridge of which you could see very little except the top as the rest was shrouded in fog. We had a short walk on the bridge which had six lanes of traffic as well as a cycling/Pedestrian lane on each side. Because of the fog, we couldn't see a lot but we enjoyed the small garden at the foot of the bridge which was ablaze with dahlias, roses and erigeron.

We travelled north through a wide valley with pines, gums and later redwoods and vineyards. After lunch, among camphor smelling redwoods, we drove on to Mendocino, an arty place with paintings, pottery and fashion where we spent about two hours browsing on a lovely sunny day. The first night was spent in Fort Bragg.



Then we were off to real redwood country with a stop at the Humboldt Redwood State Park with the hollow Redwood tree which a small car can be driven through, a gift shop and a pleasant picnic spot. On to Redcrest for two nights at some quaint cabins built in the 1930's

with all mod. conns and a porch to sit out on to enjoy the sun. We visited the Founders' Grove of Redwoods which someone had the foresight to preserve. The biggest tree measured 346.1 ft high, diameter 12.7 ft and circumference 40 ft. It was awe inspiring walking through these over 2000 year old trees. Unfortunately, some of us, including me, with bare legs were stung by a hornet which wasn't nice but no worse than a wasp sting at home. The following day, we came out on to farmlands with cows. The area had been old gold-mining country with such names as Fortuna and Eureka. We had a long day, finally arriving at Shady Cove at around 7 p.m. in Oregon for the night.

On to the city of Bend through forest and farmland for the night and then to Silver Falls State Park to walk the track with about seven waterfalls and to pick up rubbish left by careless tourists. Joey's company is very eco-conscious and we were asked to do our bit for the planet.



We collected about four shopping bags but most people had thrown theirs into the bushes out of sight or out of reach. One notable pick-up was a disposable nappie {filled} which got hooked on a bramble. Rod and our leader between them managed to retrieve it. The falls were very pretty with one that you could walk behind and we had a lot of fun. On the way to Silverton, now going north-east, we passed fields of young firs being grown for the Christmas tree trade. Silverton was a pleasant town with murals depicting pioneer times.

The following day, we were travelling through farmland, mainly crops but also cows and horses. Then we beside the mighty Columbia river which is navigable by barges and has several hydro-stations on the sides. We

stopped at Coeur d'Alene which should have been a pretty place with a lake but the weather was drizzly and the lake an uninteresting grey. We had a full free day to do the laundry and look at the art galleries. Rod and I had a walk round Tubb's Hill with views of the lake.

Next day, still travelling north-east in Montana, was another long day looking more and more like Canada with forests and mountains. We stopped at a Bison Ranch where we saw a large number of the ungainly creatures, plus a brown bear in the distance and some deer close by.

We stayed in Whitefish for the night and travelled on to Glacier next morning. It was cold and damp but very scenic in Two Medicine Park. Autumn colour was very apparent - aspens yellow, cottonwoods orange. On the way to a walk the next day, it started snowing, enough to cover the ground and trees. We had a rather soggy lunch standing under dripping trees in Mary National Park and took a short walk beside a lake. There was a very large resort hotel on one side of the lake (closed for the winter). We saw some long horned sheep, some deer and a moose in the distance. Next day was brilliantly sunny so we did a long walk to Iceberg Lake and Ptarmigan Falls. There were still patches of snow on the ground and trees. The area is very spectacular and beautiful.

We travelled south-east next day to Yellowstone in Wyoming through farmland. We visited Mammoth Springs where there were several cream and white terraces, odd bits of steam and one fizzing area but not a lot of thermal activity maybe because of the dryness. We caused quite a sensation by sitting on the side of the carpark having our lunch while the visitors passed by - Americans don't have picnics as we do. There was a herd of bison which stopped the traffic as they meandered over the road on to the area marked "Danger-Keep Off" We went to Artists Point on the south rim of the Yellowstone river which is like a mini Grand Canyon with its coloured rock walls. There we saw the Lower falls which is a perpendicular torrent and walked along the track to the upper falls which are more of a cascade. The next day, we went to the geyser area. Old Faithful was due to blow soon after 2 p.m. There is quite a long stretch of bubbling

geysers to walk along with the really active ones near the end of the track and the hotel. We were within sight when about four of them went off at once.



After that, we travelled a short distance to Jackson Hole, passing the craggy Tetons on our right which reminded me of our Fiordland mountains. Jackson Hole is another pleasant town with chunky log cabin style buildings and a small square with archways made of elks' antlers at each corner. The boy scouts were paid to pick up the antlers which are shed annually and then they had this hoard of antlers which they didn't know what to do with until someone came up with a bright idea. We spent three days there. The first day we took the tramway to the top of Grand Mountain in the Tetons -10,000 ft. It was bitterly cold up there but we soon got very warm walking down Granite Canyon for 18 kms to the end of the trail. We were walking through fir forests and fields of wildflowers (mostly over) though I did see Goldenrod, Michaelmas daisies and wild raspberries. The autumn colours were really brilliant. We were very glad to come to the end of the walk as our water was finished and there was only one small orange for sustenance. The temperature was about 28 degrees. We then had a free day, time to catch up on the chores and have our hair cut as well as seeing the town. Next day, on the way to Lake Jenny, we stopped to look at a herd of bison on the side of the road. We also stopped at a

historic Mormon settlement. It was a beautiful still, sunny morning in a very peaceful spot. We walked around Lake Jenny which was beautiful and took about five hours on another hot day. On a side trip, we climbed to Hidden Falls and then to Inspiration Point for lunch - a room with a view. On our way again, we heard a baby bird crying piteously in an osprey's nest with the mother about 50 yards away, probably trying to encourage it to leave the nest.

We had another long day travelling southwest through mainly flat sagebrush country. We stopped for lunch near the world's first nuclear facility where there were interpretative boards and water and nuclear recording stations. Then on to Craters of the Moon, back in Idaho, in a large sagebrush plain with the remains of one or two old volcanoes. Craters of the Moon looked like a giant colliery and were quite dead with very little vegetation even after 2000 years since the eruption which caused it. The devastated area covers about 900 acres. We walked around the tracks for about an hour, seeing spatter cones and bits of colour in the sides of the craters and visited the interpretative centre before going on to Twin Falls for the night. During the night, some low-life drilled a hole in the van's petrol tank, stealing petrol and spilling a lot on the ground. Luckily, there was a garage nearby which could mend the tank and we were able to carry on just before lunch. We saw one of the falls, much reduced because of the drought - the best time is in the spring after the snow melt. The site of Evel Knievel's motor cycle jump over the Snake River was in this area which we could see from a distance.

We passed into Nevada to stay the night in Elko. At 5 p.m. we went up a gorge to a known beaver dam. After a steep climb, we came to a pond with a beaver sett in the middle. A beaver erupted from the sett but was gone in an instant. By then it was getting dark so we retraced our steps to the van. We were then in casino country with even a service station having a large room full of pokies. I heard that they don't pay taxes in Nevada - just rely on the pokies. The countryside was becoming more populated, passing through a lot of towns, including the outskirts of Reno, and traffic was becoming heavier. Our next stop was at Lake

Tahoe (Taho) in California, a resort town popular with San Franciscans wanting to get away from it all - to condominiums, casinos, shopping and maybe a boat. The lake was beautiful. We were taken to Eagle Point to walk through the forest to Emerald Bay where there is a Norwegian's old house called Vikingsholm, now a museum (not open) and a waterfall.

On the following day, we drove to Yosemite National Park via the Tioga Pass in the Sierra Nevadas which we were unable to do two years ago because of snow. This time it was raining, so instead of walking down from the Toberone meadows to the valley, we drove down instead. It seemed strange to be back in familiar country again but we did see a few different places. Yosemite Falls was quite dry - not even a trickle coming over. After another soggy lunch, we carried on to Mariposa, a small township, for our last night. In the morning, we went through thick mist and drizzle in forest and market gardens to Fishermen's Wharf in San Francisco and watched the activity around there while we had lunch. There was a ferry there named Weta! We walked around the streets for a while before crossing to Sausalito on a ferry. On the way, we could see Alcatraz across the water, now a museum. There were a lot of galleries in Sausalito, some of which we went into. At last we were taken to the airport and said Goodbye to Joey and our leader to travel back to New Zealand.



Jill Murgatroyd

Seaweek
26 Feb - 6 March 2011



Seaweek is an annual event run by the [NZ Association for Environmental Education](http://www.seaweek.org.nz) that allows New Zealanders to come together and, celebrate the sea. It provides a wide range of opportunities for people to learn about our fantastic marine environment and share their experiences of the sea.

Seaweek is about exciting and inspiring all New Zealanders to renew their connection with the sea. It's not just for children or those involved with formal education - it's a time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habits, characteristics and inhabitants.

Seaweek comprises a wide range of events, activities, opportunities and competitions. The theme for 2011 is **Back to the Future! The culture, history and traditions of the sea.** Kia kaha tangata moana!

See www.seaweek.org.nz for more info

Working Bees at Hull's Creek

During the summers months this is the last Thursday of the month from 5pm to 7pm

Please Note - Dinner will be provided 😊

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



Potting Up Days

These are every Tuesday from 9.00am to 11.30am. Please contact Sue Miller on ☎ 526-7440 for further information.

We are looking for new newsletter editor/s 😊

Is there anyone out there who would like to take over producing the newsletter?

Penny and I have enjoyed our time as editors but we both have additional commitments this year and would like to see some new blood on the editorial team. Ideally we are looking for someone to take over the complete compilation of the newsletter.



- The newsletter is currently produced five times per year.
- The editorial job involves seeking articles and information from committee members and Upper Hutt Forest & Bird members and then collating this into a form that can be published as the newsletter.
- Loading up on to the Web Site - you would be given training
- Photocopying and distribution of the newsletter are separate from the editorial job and is done by another F&B member

If you are interested and want to know more please contact Marion on ☎ 5278-692 or Penny on ☎ 5285-303

Thanks and don't be shy we look forward to hearing from someone 😊



Get Ready for 'Global Dimming'

Scientists say that air pollution from the fossil-fuel sector could actually dim the sun's rays and reduce the amount of heat that reaches the Earth, with the sun bouncing back into space off the smoggy haze.

At first, it sounds like an ironic solution to climate-change problems. But not so fast: Scientists say that the reflective "brown clouds" formed by polluted air would simultaneously mask the full extent of climate change, and cause severe droughts by inhibiting rain-cloud formation.

Read more at:-

http://www.enn.com/climate/article/42125?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=f

Climate Change - Plant Shiny Crops?

Another new idea involves breeding crops to be shinier, with broader canopies and waxier leaves, which could potentially offset global warming by 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit or more. The technique, which could be achieved through conventional plant breeding programs, would cause plants to reflect more of the sun's energy back into space, leaving the planet slightly cooler.

Read more at :-

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/reflective-crops-climate-change.html>

Forest & 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

National Wetland Trust
<http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/latestupdates.html>

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is:

4 April 2011.

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



Editors' Note

Thanks to our contributors this month, Barry Wards, Graham Bellamy and Gill Murgatroyd

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 P O Box 40 875 Upper Hutt.

Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Time	Event	Contact
February	Wed 23rd	6.00 pm	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting Picnic Kaitoke	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
March	Wed 23rd	7.30 pm	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting - Hapai Club	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
April	Wed 27th	7.30 pm	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting - Hapai Club	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
May	Wed 25 th May	7.30 pm	Upper Hutt Branch Meeting - Hapai Club	Barry Wards 04 970 4266
Monthly	The last Thursday of each month	5 pm - 7 pm	Working Bee, Hulls Creek,	Sue Millar 04 526 7440
Weekly	Every Tuesday	9am - 11.30am	Potting up, Upper Hutt Depot	Sue Millar 04 526 7440



2009 Branch Committee			
	Phone		Email
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