



## MEETINGS – AUTUMN/WINTER 2009

Meetings are held in the Parnell Community Centre, 545 Parnell Road (formerly the Blind Institute), on Sunday afternoons in the Hobson Room at 2.30 pm. There is plenty of parking behind the Centre. A donation of a gold coin to help defray hall costs would be appreciated.

## TIRITIRI MATANGI – A model of conservation

**Sunday, 15 March, 2009**

Anne Rimmer is a guide on Tiritiri Matangi Island and has written a book about the island from its early day to present time. This is a talk not to be missed!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by Bangladesh – The home of the threatened Bengal tiger

**Sunday, 17 May, 2009**

Come along and hear what your branch achievements have been during the year. The illustrated talk is from Wyn and Dorothy Miskelly who will tell us about this beautiful but endangered animal and the country where it lives.

**Sunday, 19 July, 2009 – speaker to be confirmed**

Our speaker has yet to be confirmed. As usual, we will have someone of interest to everyone.

## Please change to an electronic Te Karere

Sending Te Kerere by email 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 have come after our request last year. We would like to keep increasing this as much as possible. So please update your email details <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/support/membership/changedetails.asp> or send us an email to [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com) with "Email address" in the subject line. **This includes both Forest and Bird and KCC members.**

**New Te Kerere delivery coordinator needed!** Arthur Vivian is retiring after about 12 years as our delivery coordinator of the hard copies of TK. If you are interested in picking up his mantle, please contact us at [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com).

Many thanks to those who continue to assist with deliveries of the Newsletter. There are some areas where we are need help (about an hour, 3 times/year): Sandringham, Hobson, Remuera, Ellerslie, Ponsonby/Grey Lynn/Herne Bay, Mt Eden/Epsom, and St, Johns. If you can help, email us at [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com).

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## Chair's Report

Another year is upon us!! After a nice quiet Christmas and New Year break from routine, we have been slowly resuming the normal conservation workload. Despite having some significant conservation successes last year, our job continues unabated, and so we welcome your continued support.

One recent change you'll notice with this very newsletter issue is that, because our long-standing and hard-working committee member Arthur Vivian, who usually organises the hand-delivery and postal distribution of the newsletter is unable to do this job right now because of personal circumstances, this newsletter is being emailed or posted out directly, meaning there is no hand-delivery this time. Fortunately we had already made significant moves to email the newsletter to as many members as possible, thereby reducing hand-delivery and making today's task a bit less problematic, and we thank members who have made this possible. Arthur's contribution to the success we have seen for years in delivering the newsletter to you is greatly appreciated. The work volunteers do for Forest and Bird has always impressed me a lot!

We have now managed to transfer all of the information from our past branch website on to the revamped central Forest and Bird website. The more often I look at this new website, the more I am pleasantly surprised by how much it continues to improve. Anyone can go to the site ([www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)) and see, for example, all the events that all of the branches around the country are involved with. The staff has established a blog which appears to be in-keeping with the way communications are going now, and it provides an interactive way for people to share information. People can post articles about any topic, and others can comment. Hopefully it will prove a way of letting more young people input into Forest and Bird.

Finally, a reminder during these sunny summer days about supporting Sea Week this

year: Sea Week runs March 1-8, and the events which Forest and Bird branches are involved in across the country are available to see on the Forest and Bird website.

The site also shows where reserves and projects are located in the whole Auckland Region, like Ark in the Park which now has a new staff manager, Maj de Poorter. This information is also available by way of our office or branch (ph 302 3901). For enquiries about the Central Auckland branch only, email [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com), (these emails come to Central Auckland branch volunteers) but for enquiries of a general nature and about other Forest and Bird branches and events, email [office@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:office@forestandbird.org.nz).

Cheers, and make the most of this summer weather to visit some local conservation sites and/or take part in some Forest and Bird events.

Anne

### **Annual General Meeting: 17 May 2:30 pm, Parnell Community Centre**

Please come along to hear the branch's achievements in 2008 and have your say for the branch's future. This is a great chance to see how the committee works and let us know if you want to become more involved with the committee to plan central Auckland's conservation programme with New Zealand's largest volunteer conservation group.

#### **Confusion over Email**

Over the past months, Forest & Bird – central Auckland has received many emails meant for the Auckland office, the national office, or other branches. Emails of a general nature should go to the national office:

[office@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:office@forestandbird.org.nz).

Branches want emails that concern events or issues within their boundaries. Central Auckland's boundaries are from the CBD to Avondale on the west, Otahuhu to the south, and the Tamaki estuary on the east. Email contacts for all branches are on the Forest and Bird website, [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz).



## Recent Bus Trips and Visits

### 25 Oct.: Mahurangi - Zealandia Sculpture Garden

After morning tea, 40 trippers were guided around Zealandia, a garden with sculptures by Terry Stringer and colleagues. Morning tea was followed by a guided tour of the sculptures inside the owner's house which had clever moving walls. We moved on to the outdoor garden and grass areas that also had sculptures. A highlight was the small bush walk via an aluminium stairway leading to a stream and a giant kauri. At the tour's end, we were treated to some Bach pieces played on a pipe organ in the bush. We enjoyed lunch at an isolated but pleasant Opito Bay beach at West Mahurangi.

### 15 Nov.: Whitford – River, wine, & garden

31 of us enjoyed morning tea at Whitford where we viewed the upper reaches of the Whitford River. After tea we visited Prenzels and tasted some of their wines, oils, and other products. Then it was on to Ayrli's Garden, where Bev McConnell, the owner, gave us an introductory talk; we wandered leisurely around the continually expanding area and enjoyed lunch in the gardens. A new wetland area is being developed, which we may visit in the future.

### Dec. 6: Flat Bush and Christmas Lunch

47 Christmas revellers went straight to Flat Bush for morning tea. Christine, our bus driver, treated us to some Christmas fare. We then went on a short walk in and out of the bush, which is definitely flat!! The local plan is to house 40,000 people on the outskirts of the bush.

We then went to the Papatoetoe Cosmopolitan Club for lunch, where Michaels Catering did us a brilliant job. We'd been there for a midwinter lunch. After lunch Santa Claus arrived with gifts for everyone.

***We warmly encourage anyone to join us on our monthly bus trips.*** You don't have to be a member of Forest & Bird – the trips are open to anyone. The above reports illustrate the variety of our activities; for next term's trips, please see page 5 of this newsletter. If you have ideas for future trips, please contact our Secretary, Isabel Still, on 528-3986.

## Forest & Bird sees RMA changes swing against ordinary Kiwis

Forest & Bird believes changes to the Resource Management Act announced February 3 will make it harder for ordinary Kiwis to have a say in protecting the environment from unsustainable development. "It will be a very sad day for the environment and our communities when only those who can afford expensive lawyers can have a say," Advocacy Manager Kevin Hackwell says. "Most of the proposed changes will make the RMA easier for very big, wealthy companies and rich individuals." The first thing many affected individuals or communities will know about a development is when the bulldozers arrive, with the proposal to make it less likely that resource consents will be notified.

"Removing most of the checks and balances and the right of appeal on the development of regional and district plans is also a big concern," Kevin Hackwell says. "Rather than speed up the planning process, the proposals will inevitably lead to poorly constructed and inefficient plans that will create problems for everyone."

Forest & Bird welcomes disincentives for trade competitors to misuse the Act, but ordinary Kiwis and community groups will probably have to raise large bonds as security of costs unless there are robust criteria for how these disincentives are applied. This will be on top of a 900 per cent increase in the cost of lodging an appeal to the Environment Court. By comparison, the increased fines for corporate polluters will rise by just 300 per cent.

The proposal to remove the Minister of Conservation's powers to make decisions on restricted coastal activities is a real concern. "The Minister represents the Crown's ownership of the coast and as the 'owner' the Minister should be able to have the final say," Kevin Hackwell says. The logical next step would be to take away private landowners' rights to say no to someone else's proposed development on their land.



# Kiwi Conservation Club



**KCC NEWSLETTER APRIL TO JULY 2009**

**YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE SIOBHAN, MARIANNE AND SALLY**

**Access our website on [www.forestandbird.org.nz/centralauckland](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/centralauckland).**

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 08 MARCH 2009**

**LEIGH MARINE RESERVE**

Explore the rock pools and watch the fish in the clear waters of this wonderful reserve. Meet at the car park staircase at **11.00 am**. Bring a picnic lunch, suitable footwear, sunscreen, drinks and a hat.

**Book with Siobhan at: [siobhanlatham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:siobhanlatham@xtra.co.nz)**

**SUNDAY 05 APRIL 2009**

**TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND**

Join us on a fun and educational day out to this wonderful conservation island. See and hear Stitchbirds, Saddlebacks, Bellbirds, Takahe and much, much more. 360 Discovery boats leave Auckland at 9.00 am and Gulf Harbour at 9.45 am.

Please **book with Marianne at: [marianne@value.net.nz](mailto:marianne@value.net.nz)** and for more details.

**SATURDAY 13 JUNE**

**TIRITIRI MATANGI TALK AND ACTIVITIES**

Get first hand information about the Tiritiri Matangi Wildlife Sanctuary from Anne Rimmer, a member of the Tiri supporters group and a guide on Tiri. She has written an award winning book about the island. All KCC Auckland Branches are warmly invited.

**Time: 2.15pm to around 4.45pm**

**Place: Kelston Community Centre (corner of Great North Road and Awaroa Road)**

**SUNDAY 26 JULY 2009**

**BUTTERFLY CREEK**

Meet at Butterfally Creek at 10:30 a.m. for a talk from Paul, the Butterfly Man. Learn about the life history of butterflies and their importance for the environment. Special entry fee of \$6.50 for children and \$14.00 for adults gives entry to the butterfly house, the farm, and the train.

**More details on booking with Marianne at [marianne@value.net.nz](mailto:marianne@value.net.nz).**

**For monthly activities for the rest of the year, please join our email tree.**

**The Kiwi Conservation Club in your branch urgently seeks a parent (male or female) willing to help run monthly activities for the club's members. This job is split three ways, so your input would be needed for around three activities a year. This is a rewarding and special post, and you'd be working with two great mums! Please contact Sally Hally on 528 7506 or email [karenhally@xtra.co.nz](mailto:karenhally@xtra.co.nz) if you're interested.**

**Any problems? Any questions? Please phone Sally on 528 7506.**

**Do you receive our newsletter Te Karere as hard copy? Save the trees and fossil fuels by receiving it via email only. Please let us know - via email!**

**PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:  
MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2009****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 28 MARCH 2009 –  
MANUKAU HARBOUR**

Meet at Mangere Bridge Boating Club car park at 10 a.m. for a four hour cruise on the Manukau Harbour. View the Waitakeres and the Awhitu Peninsula from the sea; one-hour stop at Cornwallis for a picnic lunch and a walk.

**Cost:** \$35 (provided we have 40 people)  
Tea and coffee provided on the boat.  
**Bookings:** John Hally, 528 7506 (also for directions)

**SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009 –  
ALPACAS AND PALMS**

**Note:** 8:30 a.m. start  
Visit an alpaca farm on the Kaipara peninsula and a garden centre in the same area.  
**Cost:** \$33 (includes morning tea & tour)  
**Bookings:** Isabel Still, 528 3986

**SATURDAY 23 MAY 2009 –  
WINE AND BIRDS**

Tour a vineyard and then enjoy a picnic lunch and a walk along the Manukau coast line.  
**Cost:** \$25  
**Bookings:** Karen Hally, 528 7506

**SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2009 –  
FOOD AND WALKS**

Explore the Warkworth area and enjoy a hot lunch.

**Cost:** \$35 (includes a two-course lunch)  
**Bookings:** John Hally, 528 7506

**SATURDAY 18 JULY 2009 –  
SHAKEAPEAR REGIONAL PARK**

Spend a day exploring this beautiful Regional Park; see if you can spot any kākāriki or bellbirds that have flown over from Tiritiri Matangi Island.

**Cost:** \$22  
**Bookings:** Isabel Still, 528 3986

**SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2009 –  
POINT ENGLAND WALKWAY**

This is a 'hop on, hop off' walk where you can choose which segments of the walk you wish to do. Includes Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve.

**Cost:** \$20  
**Bookings:** Lou Kokich, 376 4072

**SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2009 –  
GOLDFIELDS RAIL LINE**

**Note:** 8:15 a.m. start  
Ride the Goldfields Rail line from Waihi to Waikino and return. View the Martha Goldmine at Waihi.  
**Cost:** \$40 (includes train fare)  
Option to book a \$10 lunch at the Waikino Café – please advise on booking  
**Bookings:** John Hally, 528 7506

**Forest & Bird Blog Site**

Like Forest & Bird itself, our weblog concerns just about everything native and New Zealand: our native plants, animals, our wilderness areas and environment, whether they are on land, in our lakes, rivers and oceans. We welcome your thoughts and ideas about how we can all contribute to helping preserve our precious – and vulnerable – natural heritage.

Look for opinion pieces, diary-style web-logs, videos of our projects and much, much more; also keep it alive and active by communicating through it. Read or share your thoughts at: <http://blog.forestandbird.org.nz>





## Green School's Community Garden

Wesley Primary School exemplifies on-going success as a winner of the 2007 Green School award from Forest & Bird – Central Auckland. With the \$500 award, they created the garden, as shown in the recent photo. As part of a plan to bring the community into Wesley Primary, teachers and students made it a community garden in 2008. The garden links in with their learning focus of a healthy environment, worm farming, and recycling. Their objective is on healthy eating and nutrition, done partly by encouraging people to eat and grow their own fresh vegetables. Building school gardens will hopefully provide people with a model and a resource to encourage them to grow their own vegetables at home.

They focused on food that the schools' ethnic groups would include in their diet, such as silver beet, spinach, tomatoes, spring onions, cabbages, and cauliflowers. There is also a bed for taro and kumera. Currently only the taro has been planted and is doing well. They planned to complete the raised beds last term and plant them as the dry weather wanes.

With a \$10,000 grant from the Nutrition Fund towards the cost of constructing the gardens, they built the raised beds over a series of Saturday working bees. Bunnings in Hillsborough donated some plants, and others were purchased.

We are pleased with the continued efforts of the Wesley Primary students and staff to which our Green School award contributed. They've earned a huge "Well done!"

## Northland Sea-seasonal Activities

**Feb 28 & Mar. 1: START OF SEAWEEK**

**Eyes on Whangateau Harbour**  
marine life & photo display, snorkelling,  
Glass Bottom Boat, tidal walk

**Whangateau Hall and harbour, 15 mins north of Warkworth on Leigh Road**

Join the Whangateau Harbour Care group to celebrate **Seaweed** & explore one of the region's most outstanding natural and least spoiled places.

### Saturday Feb 28th

8.30am - 4pm photographic exhibition and marine life display at Whangateau Hall

8.30 - 11am Free guided snorkelling sessions and \$2 pp Glass Bottom Boat rides in the harbour

2.30pm Guided intertidal ramble to explore the estuary life around Horseshoe Island (suitable beach shoes – i.e. not jandals)

### Sunday March 1st

8.30am - 4pm photographic exhibition and marine life display at Whangateau Hall

Throughout the day - regatta with Classic Yachts, waka and kayak demonstrations

For more information contact Roger Grace 09 425 5099 [gracer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gracer@xtra.co.nz)

**March 7 Seaweed at the Leigh Marine Reserve Goat Island Beach Adventure Day (booking essential)**

**Free Discovery Sessions will run on the hour at 9.30am, 10.30am & 11.30am**

This was very popular last year - book early to avoid disappointment.

Come and explore the wonders of the Leigh marine reserve with Tony and Jenny Enderby, renowned local natural history writers and photographers specializing in marine life. They will be taking groups along the shore to discover the amazing marine life on the rocks and in the pools. Can you tell a half crab from a chiton? Did you know barnacles are related to crabs and stand on their heads? Spot the octopus. Also included will be snorkelling tips and an idea of what to look for. Come and enjoy this special place.

Families welcome, all children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

No cost, **bookings essential as numbers limited**, shoes or reef walkers are advised but be prepared to get them wet. Also bring sunhats, sunscreen, sunglasses, cameras. **To book** phone Department of Conservation 425 7812.



## Northland Sea-sonal Activities continued

### Tuesday, 17 March: **Dune Restoration workshop – Piha, 7 - 9.30pm** **Surf Life Saving Club, Marine parade, Piha Beach**

Come and learn about dune restoration from experts and discover what Coast Care groups around the region are doing to protect our dunes. A light supper will be provided. **Please confirm your attendance for catering purposes with Natalie Miller at [natalie@dunestrust.org.nz](mailto:natalie@dunestrust.org.nz)** . This event is organised by the Dune Restoration Trust of NZ

**March 22 Dunns Bush walk - Puhoi**  
This beautiful piece of bush, generously protected with a QEII covenant by Val and Arthur Dunn, is now a memorial to Arthur who died suddenly in August last year while doing his bait run in this very forest. Both Arthur and Val were long time Forest & Bird stalwarts and have been hugely involved with work in the Puhoi community. The 3km walk to explore this reserve is hilly – you need good footwear (i.e. boots). The range of plants will surprise you - there are huge kahikatea in the valley and an interesting rocky outcrop covered with carmine rata.

Meet at 703 Ahuroa Road, 7km from the Puhoi Store, at 10.00 am. You will then go in convoy to the start 1.4km up the road (5 minutes by car) at the end of Tolhopf Road.

Tramping boots or similar robust footwear is required; in parts the bush track is fairly steep and can be slippery in wet conditions. Bring: plenty of drinking water; snacks to suit your needs; sunhat and emergency wet gear + any personal medication.

Lunch of your choice will be back in the Puhoi settlement in the early afternoon.

**Phone Warwick on 09 425 9246 to take part.**

### **April 10, 11, 12 (Easter) Journey to Remember - day walks: Riverhead to Puhoi**

### **New Disease Is Killing Our Kauri!**

Commonly known as PTA, *Phytophthora* taxon Agathis is a microscopic fungus-like plant pathogen (a disease causing agent) that affects only kauri. Researchers recently identified PTA as a distinct and previously undescribed species of *Phytophthora*. Formally identified in April 2008, its closest known relative is a chestnut pathogen from Korea (*Phyto*.

*katsurae*). Researchers assume it is an exotic pathogen; however, nothing is known about this particular species overseas.

Affected trees develop symptoms ranging from yellowing of foliage, losing leaves, canopy thinning, dead branches, and lesions that bleed resin which extend to the major roots and sometimes girdle the trunk as a 'collar rot'. PTA can kill kauri of all ages.

The pathogen has been found at Huia and Maungaroa Ridge in the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, at Great Barrier's Department of Conservation reserves, and Northland's Trounson Kauri Park. Symptoms of kauri dieback have also appeared at Cascade Kauri in the Waitakeres and other sites in Rodney, Franklin, Waitakere City and the North Shore, as well as Pakiri, Albany, Okura and the Waipoua Forest.

PTA is believed to be a soil-borne species spread in three ways: soil and soil /water movement, plant-to-plant transmission through underground root-to-root contact, and human and animal movements. Vigilance alone will stop it from spreading; we must:

- Make sure shoes, tyres and equipment are clean of dirt before and after visiting a kauri forest.
- Clean shoes and other equipment that come into contact with soil after every visit, especially if moving between bush areas.
- Keep to defined park tracks at all times. Disturbing the soil around the roots of a tree has the potential to spread the disease.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Dogs can spread the disease if they disturb the soil around the trees.

For more information, or to report any suspect sightings of diseased kauri on public or private land, phone the Kauri Dieback Response Team on 0800 NZ KAURI (69 52874). This information comes from the Auckland Regional Council website <http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/plants-and-animals/kauri-dieback>.



## Members of your committee

Anne Fenn - Chair, [fenn4@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fenn4@xtra.co.nz)  
Isabel Still - Secretary, 528-3986  
John Hally - Treasurer, 528-7506  
Sally Hally - Vice-chair; KCC/Green schools, 528-7506  
Barbara Thomborson, [newsletter.bthomborson@ihug.co.nz](mailto:newsletter.bthomborson@ihug.co.nz)  
Jon Monk - Vice-chair; 379-2629  
Peter Riddick - Conservation, 524-2229  
Arthur Vivian - Newsletter delivery, 630-0533  
Adrienne Molloy - Electronic circulation  
Nanda MacLaren - Newsletter/Website  
John Norris - Walks Programme

**Our Email: [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com)**

**Contact any of us if you are interested in contributing to what Forest & Bird does in the Central Auckland Branch.**

**Auckland Regional Office: ph 302 0203; 302 3901**

## Useful Auckland City contacts:

1. Public Transport Information (incl. bus, train, ferry and carpooling), phone Maxx on 366-6400 or view their website at [www.maxx.co.nz](http://www.maxx.co.nz).
2. Information & Services of the Auckland Regional Council, phone enviroline on 0800 80 60 40 (toll free) or view [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz). The site includes plant and animal pest fact sheets.
3. Pollution Hotline 24-hour: call free in the Auckland area on 377-3107.
4. North Shore Bird Rescue Centre; contact Sylvia Durrant on 478 8819.

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 vehicle through which your committee can keep you informed about the local events and meetings planned, and the local and regional issues which your committee is involved with. Any feedback you have would be welcomed, and may be directed to the postal address on this page, attention Anne Fenn, or by email to the editor at [forestandbird@gmail.com](mailto:forestandbird@gmail.com).

**Any opinions expressed in feature or guest articles contributed to Te Karere are those of the contributing authors, societies or other organizations and are not the opinions or policies of Forest & Bird, nor are they necessarily endorsed by Forest & Bird.**

**TE KARERE**



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**KCC Newsletter  
Enclosed**