



FOREST
& BIRD

ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Wishing you a Happy New Conservation Year for 2007 – and hoping you will take time to reflect on the highlights and achievements of 2006.

We had a late AGM because I was overseas at the normally scheduled date, and we had a reasonable turn-out to hear Forest & Bird President Peter Maddison talk. All the committee was re-elected apart from Janet Avery, who chose to stand down after long service on the committee. Our very warm thanks, Janet, for all your contributions over the years.

A very enjoyable outing was made to Clive Paton's South Wairarapa property where he is planting northern rata in conjunction with Project Crimson.

Forest & Bird presented Clive with a Conservation Award for the great work he is doing to help preserve our Wairarapa forest environment. A percentage of the profits of Clive's Crimson wine goes towards Project Crimson – a great excuse to enjoy a fine drop of wine and help the conservation cause.



Another highlight was our annual Christmas dinner, held at Masterton Cosmopolitan Club, well organised as usual by Janet Avery.

Janet was presented with a book on conservation in New Zealand as a token of the branch's appreciation of her valuable contribution. We also enjoyed a talk and slide show presented by our Kiwi Conservation Club co-ordinator Trevor Thompson about his adventures as a volunteer on Codfish Island.

And there is plenty more to look forward to in 2007. First up is the Fensham annual picnic on February 24 and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the BBQ. The more energetic among you can take a walk around the reserve to see the excellent improvements achieved by the Fensham crew – or you can just sit back in the shade of the trees as listen to the birds. Children, grandchildren and KCC members and their parents are most welcome – if enough children attend we could take them on a nature walk. And we will again be hosting Peter Maddison, who will share amazing insights into the insect life of Fensham.

For more upcoming field trips, including outings to Mt Bruce and Mt Holdsworth, check out the summer trip list in this newsletter. We'll keep you updated on a range of further trips and activities throughout 2007. Hope to see you out there soon!

Your Chairman, Geoff Doring

HARD WORK YIELDS RESULTS AT FENSHAM

During 2006 a new section of track was built on the south-western side of the hill block at Fensham Reserve to replace a steep section that had become dangerous in winter and was severely eroded.



Percy Braggins spent a lot of valuable time and effort laying out and forming the new zigzag and placing the timber edging – his work will be greatly appreciated by anyone making the formerly tricky descent!

After this work was done, the “track gang” (Eddie Bannister, Tom Camden, Frank Cody, John Randall, Chris Surman and David Aldersley) barrowed and bucketed metal from a gravel dump site in the bush. The gravel had previously been air-lifted into two dumps in the bush by helicopter from the adjacent farm paddocks, saving the team from at least a bit of back-breaking toil. The second dump provided metal for resurfacing of the Brow track.



2007 began with a planting programme in the wetland. After successful planting of carex down each side of the waterway, further pockets have been planted in the flat area, and a successful result will be ample reward for the hours of back-bending, placing wet newspaper, wires and plastic sleeves to protect the plants.



TERN CONCERN

Concerns were raised at the committee meeting in January about the dangers posed by motor vehicles to terns nesting at Lake Ferry/Onoke.

Geoff Doring and Trevor Thompson went to the spit at the bottom of the lake to look for leg-band terns, but found that where there had earlier been nests of eggs, there was no trace of birds – but plenty of tyre marks. Signs asking visitors not to take vehicles on the spit are frequently pulled down.

Clearly vehicle access to the spit is a major threat to this important nesting site – a concern the branch would like to see addressed before the next breeding season.

FOREST & BIRD 2007 SUMMER TRIP LIST

Saturday, Feb 24, from 11am

FENSHAM BBQ

Bring children, grandchildren, and something to cook on the barbie. See and learn about the insects that live in Fensham Reserve with Forest & Bird President and distinguished entomologist Dr Peter Maddison.

Sunday, March 18

HOLDSWORTH HIGHLIGHTS

Meet at the Holdsworth carpark at 11am to explore the highlights of the area with committee member Chris Peterson. Bring lunch.

Contact Chris, 06 378 9163 or Mike Lynch 06 304 7222.

Sunday, April 15

MT BRUCE SEED SEARCH

Meet at Moore Wilsons, Masterton, at 10am to help gather seeds of native mistletoe at Mt Bruce with Trevor Thompson.

Contact Trevor, 06 372 5870 or Mike Lynch 06 304 7222.



PUT THIS ON YOUR FRIDGE AS A REMINDER!

IF YOU INTEND to join a trip, please phone the leader at least two days beforehand, so they can tell you of any changes or particular requirements. If you can't ring in advance, you are welcome to join on the day.

WHAT TO BRING

Useful - possibly indispensable! equipment on any field trip includes: first aid kit, compass, insect repellent, whistle, water bottle, thermos, pocket knife, camera, binoculars, sunblock, sunglasses, sunhat, water/windproof jacket.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH CONTACTS

Chairman Geoff Doring 021 619 599

Secretary David Aldersley 379 7446

Committee members

Chris Peterson 378 9163

Trevor Thompson 372 5870

Pali Patel 378 6615

Mike Lynch 304 7222

Ray Stewart 378 8681

Bill Peters 377 0464

If you have any news or photographs from Wairarapa you think might be of interest to other branch members, please send them to Forest & Bird's Communications Officer Helen Bain for inclusion in the next Wairarapa branch newsletter:

email h.bain@forestandbird.org.nz
or PO Box 631, Wellington.

**Fungal Network of New Zealand
21st NEW ZEALAND FUNGAL FORAY
MASTERTON
6th – 12th May, 2007**

DEADLINES

Registration and payment of deposit: 28th March 2007

The 21st New Zealand Fungal Foray, 6th – 12th May, will be held at the Mawley Park Motor Camp, Masterton.

The foray will begin Sunday evening 6th May, and end on Saturday morning 12th May.



The programme will involve daily collecting, identification, and provision of display tables of the day's finds, followed in the evening by informal talks.

Wednesday 9th May will be set aside for a *Mycology Colloquium* where participants can present talks or posters on any aspect of mycology. The Colloquium will be held at the Masterton Club, and lunch will be provided at this venue.

Interested participants are invited to submit a title with their registration form or email it to David Orlovich david.orlovich@botany.otago.ac.nz by 20th April 2007.

Accommodation

Accommodation is at the Mawley Park Motor Camp in cabins – double, or 3 or 4 persons to a cabin. The price has been calculated on 3 people in a 4 berth cabin. If you require a double cabin the charge will be a little higher. The cabins at Mawley Park contain beds, mattresses and pillows only – you will need to bring your own towels and sheets, blankets, and pillow cases. There are also sheltered camp sites.



Meals

Breakfasts will be arranged at the Camp. Packed lunches will be made available to all participants at the Camp Kitchen in the morning. Evening meals will be provided at Burridges Hotel, which is opposite the Camp. Please indicate if you prefer vegetarian meals.

Costs

The cost is NZ\$60 per person per day for those staying in the regular accommodation, as a share of actual costs, which include food and accommodation. For fungal foray participants, the cost of the Colloquium day is covered in the fees. If attending the Colloquium day only, a charge of \$35 will be levied to cover costs.

Registration

Please register for the foray by completing the registration form and return it **by 28 March 2007**.

All participants please send the registration form to: Paula Wilkie, Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand. New Zealand participants should also include a deposit of NZ\$60 (cheques payable to 'Fungal Network of New Zealand'). To avoid currency conversion difficulties, international participants (incl. Australian) need not send a deposit with the registration form.

Paula Wilkie, Landcare Research

Phone: 09 574 4156, email wilkiep@LandcareResearch.co.nz



Registration Form
21st New Zealand Fungal Foray
Masterton, New Zealand
Sunday 6th – Saturday 12th May 2007

Name

Address

Tel

Email

Number attending

Please indicate **which** of the following statements is applicable, and complete details:

I will be attending the full Foray (6 - 12 May) and require regular accommodation and all meals.

I will be attending part of the Foray only and require regular accommodation and meals for the following days:

Number of nights accommodation:

I will make alternative accommodation arrangements but require meals for the following days: (Please indicate relevant days and meals required).

I have particular food requirements:

I will be attending the *Mycology Colloquium Day* ONLY Yes / No

I would like to present a talk/slide show/poster at the *Mycology Colloquium* Yes / No

If yes, title:

Please send the completed form and New Zealand participants please send a deposit of NZ\$60: cheques payable to '**Fungal Network of New Zealand**' by 28th March 2007 to: Paula Wilkie, Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand.