



MEETING AND ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

All of our talks are open to the public – everyone is welcome. Talks are followed by supper and chat. A gold coin koha is welcomed.

We encourage families, particularly Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) members to join us on field trips and outdoor activities, as well as friends of members, and, where there are no group limitations, non-members are also welcome. Please book in for field trips and other outings in advance, as it makes organisation so much easier and more enjoyable for us. Always let the trip leader know if you have any relevant medical condition, and always come prepared for unpredictable weather.

Prior to each activity/meeting we send out a reminder email to members. As our activities do not occur at the same time each month these reminders can be very timely. If you do not receive these emails and would like to, or have changed your email address, please email rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

All members are welcome to become involved with the Tikitapu pest control project, to lead field trips, assist in promoting the branch, and the writing of letters to MPs or the newspaper.

If you have any ideas for guest speakers or activities, please let us know by contacting a Committee member. Phone numbers are on the back page.

Rotorua Branch 2017 -2018

Rotorua Branch held its AGM for the 2016-17 year in May and we can report that the branch is in good heart. All sitting committee members were re-elected and we also welcome Tania Heasman to the committee. Jim Rofe is standing down from his role as Treasurer and we give him grateful thanks for all his efforts on the financial front over many years. Jim will continue to manage the Violet Bonnington Reserve and the Treasurer position has been taken by Tania (thank you Tania). We thank all those people, both members and non-members, who have contributed to branch activities in any way. A special thank you to the Committee who have worked hard and accomplished much.

Financial Report: Financially the branch is doing well. The financial year ended on 28th February and the Branch had a comfortable surplus after meeting all expenses. Our main source of income is interest derived from Violet Bonnington's bequest and our Bank term deposits, and our main expenses were producing and posting our newsletter, Tikitapu and Violet Bonnington Reserve costs and supporting KCC.

Communication: We communicate with our members through our twice-yearly newsletter which is printed or emailed. Prior to each scheduled event in the programme we send out an email reminder with information about the activity. If you do not receive these emails and would like to, or have changed your email address, please email rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz. Events are also published in the Daily Post. If you are not receiving the Forest and Bird magazine (published quarterly), it is likely that F&B National Office does not have your current address or your membership has lapsed. We can check your new details and notify National Office of any changes on your behalf, if you provide us with your current address (email rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz with details).

Facebook: We have a new Branch Facebook page. "Forest and Bird - Rotorua Branch" The user name is [forestandbirdrotoruabranch](https://www.facebook.com/forestandbirdrotoruabranch). At the moment it is mainly an informative page with posts and photographs of recent news items and details of our own activities. Please have a look at it and "Like" so that we can get some idea of how many people have seen the page. The national website and Facebook page for Forest and Bird carry many interesting items - don't forget to check them out too. Also view the dedicated Facebook page for our Tikitapu pest control project. Our local page is still being "fleshed out" as we assemble more local information. Any ideas for content - and any items, articles or photos - will be much appreciated! Please send them in to Heather (heathers@xtra.co.nz) or rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz.

Pest Fest: In April, in conjunction with DOC and BoPRC, Mike and Sandra Goodwin organised and ran a pest control display and workshop at the Blue Lake Top 10 Holiday Park. Attendees were able to see, discuss and manipulate a range of pest control devices and systems. This was a popular event with many people taking away information on how to kill their particular problem pests

Guest Speakers: We had some great speakers in the first part of 2018

Kevin Hackwell – F&B group manager for Campaigns & Advocacy talked to a large audience on “Predator Free NZ 2015 – how realistic is this goal”

Sarah Orton – Chairperson, Rotoehu Ecological Trust outlined the kokako recovery project being undertaken in the Pongakawa Ecological Area

Betty Shepherd who has been following the behaviour of falcons in the Rotorua area for many years shared her passion for the birds, illustrating her talk with wonderful photographs.

Reports

Violet Bonnington Reserve (VBR)

The VBR, under the able care of Manager Jim Rofe, provides access to the Mt Ngongotaha Bush and is well used by the public. The Nature Walk in the bush has become a very popular short excursion and the Jubilee Track provides a longer walk up the mountain. Following the wet summer and the recent storms some track maintenance in the VBR has been required. We are pleased with the growth of the trees (planting began in 2007) that are transforming this bare pasture into bush.



VBR plantings in 2018

Tikitapu Care Group (Manager – Frankie Blakely)

Working bees to check and clear the bait lines commenced again in May and a good start was made in preparation for the actual pest control. Also, over the past few months some of our volunteers have been busy removing the base plates from the bait stations, adapting them with a baffle to keep the possums out, and then taking them back and replacing them in the bait stations. This is a result of research carried out by



Dave Edwards (Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust) trialling various adaptations to the base plates and we are grateful to him for sharing his findings and for his advice. It will be interesting to see what results are achieved if we succeed in reducing the rat population without interference from possums.

Monthly checks have been done on the Nature and Mistletoe tracks and any trimming or clearance of windfalls attended to. The Good Nature traps have also been checked monthly and any kills found, or counter strikes then recorded. There has been little activity reported which hopefully will mean the monitoring in July will also show less activity than in previous years.

This project is dependent on volunteers and I wish to thank all those who have been involved over the past months. It is always good to have some new people involved in the project and new volunteers are most welcome. Working bees start at 9am and normally finish by 12noon at the latest. There is a “cuppa” and something to eat when you get back to

base. I would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved with this project. Working bee dates are included in the programme of events for the year.

Frances Blakely Ph 362 8480 email jandfblakely@gmail.com

Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC)

The Rotorua Branch of KCC is currently in recession. The goal of KCC is to connect Kiwi kids to New Zealand’s amazing wildlife and wild places. This junior branch of Forest & Bird has great support from the national organisation. Members receive *Wild Things* magazine which has a range of articles, cartoons, games. The volunteer coordinators arrange adventures for members to explore their nearby environments, get involved in local conservation projects, and much more. If you think you would like to be a part of KCC please contact Judy Gardner on 345 7477 or 021 109 3808 email judypeteg@gmail.com

EVENTS CALENDAR February – June 2018

Documentary film and talk – Monday 6 August

“On the Shoulders of Giants”

Catherine Kirby - Waikato Tree Project
and Andrew (tree climber)

Venue: Eric Bridgeman Room, The Arts Village,
Hinemaru St., Rotorua

Time: 7:30

In 1978 conservation activists occupied Pureora Forest to try and stop the felling of native trees. They built platforms in the trees, sat on the ground in front of the trees and on the tracks, and hid under logs. This documentary captures the amazing natural and human history of Pureora Forest. It is a story of forest discovery, degradation and then protection. Catherine and Andrew will give their perspective on the historic events and the outcome.



Forest walk – Pureora – Saturday 18 August Follow up to Monday's Film

Pureora Forest Park is one of the largest intact tracts of native forest in the North Island. There are a number of walking tracks where we can enjoy the tall trees and birds that were saved by the activists of the 1970's. We will include the forest tower which takes you right up into the forest canopy.

Meeting place and time: for carpooling from Rotorua meet at Tui House, Te Ngae Rd (opposite Countdown) at 8.30 am

Grade: Medium

Contact: Please book in with Margaret (Ph: 3572024 or 0274202022) or email rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Bring: Suitable clothing, good walking shoes/boots, lunch, drink, petrol money etc.

Cost: \$15.00 to drivers

Bird call course – Saturday 11th August

Paul Cuming - Western Bay Wildlife Trust

Venue: To be advised

Time: 2 pm

Have you been out walking in the bush and heard a bird song but had no idea which bird made it? Did it ruffle your feathers, even just a little or spark an interest in knowing which bird it was? Well, come along to this indoor training session with bird expert Paul Cuming and smooth out those feathers as you hone your bird calling ID skills. This session aims to cover the most commonly observed birds in the Bay of Plenty, and also answer your tricky questions. This talk is sponsored by Envirohub Bay of Plenty.

Later in the year we will have a session in the bush at Tikitapu with Rotorua expert Carmel Richardson

Tree Planting – Tikitapu Scenic Reserve Saturday 25 August

Meet: Okareka Loop Rd, opposite Benn Rd

Time: 9am

We have 500 trees and shrubs to plant in an area that has been cleared of shrub weeds in a joint project with the Rotorua Botanical Society and Landcare Okareka.

Bring: A spade and good footwear, gardening gloves, and good strong footwear. The ground will be damp in the area to be planted.

Morning tea and drinking water will be provided. For further information contact Sandra Goodwin, 073628865 or email slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

Bush walk - Saturday 8 September Violet Bonnington Reserve and beyond

This trip will visit the one remaining giant rata on Mt Ngongotaha, follow the Nature Walk and detour up the Jubilee Track to near the top of the mountain. There is an easy grade on the Nature Walk (3.2 km) but there are some steep sections on the Jubilee Track. We should be back at carpark by noon.

Meet: Meet at Tui House, Te Ngae Rd at 9.00 am, or the carpark at Violet Bonnington Reserve, Paradise Valley Rd 9:20 am.

Grade: Easy.

Contact: Judy Gardner Ph: 345 7477 or 021 109 3808

Bring: Good footwear, a drink and snack

Cost: \$2 to driver

Talk – Friday 5 October

“Understanding the role of insects in ecosystems”

Bryce McQuillan

Venue: - Rimu Room, Scion, 47 Sala St, Rotorua

Time: 7:30

Rotorua-based Bryce McQuillan is an ecologist and passionate wildlife photographer specialising in extreme close-ups of insects. This meeting and talk is a prelude to the field trip on the following Saturday evening.



Takahe at Oroknui

Field Trip – Saturday 6 October 7:45 - 9:15 pm

Tikitapu Scenic Reserve

led by Bryce McQuillan

Come out at dusk and explore the world of insects in the bush at night. In particular we will be looking at velvet worms and stick insects. It is preferable, but not essential, to have attended the Friday night talk.

Meet: The grass area on Tarawera Rd at the start of the F&B Nature Walk (opposite the Blue Lake recreation area).

Grade: Easy

Bring: Warm clothes (cancelled if raining) must have head torch (bring spare batteries) and wear good walking shoes

Bookings essential: Book with Judy 021 109 3803 or 07 345 7477 or email judypeteg@gmail.com before 6 pm on Friday 5 October

Talk – Wednesday 10 October

“Orokonui – The story of a southern ecosanctuary Alyth Grant

Eric Bridgeman Room, The Arts Village, Hinemaru St., Rotorua at 7.30 pm

Orokonui Ecosanctuary, near Dunedin, is the flagship biodiversity project for the South Island where multiple species of plants and animals are protected from predators. This talk will be an overview of the establishment and development of Orokonui. Alyth, who has been involved with the project for many years, will cover the trials and triumphs of a community project, and a view of the optimistic flow-on it has helped generate in surrounding conservation projects around Dunedin."

Bush walk - Saturday 3 November

Brush up on your bird identification and bird-call recognition

Local bird specialist Carmel Richardson will lead an early morning session, of approximately two hours, to identify the resident birds and their bird song.

Meet: The grass area on Tarawera Rd at the start of the F&B Nature Walk (opposite the Blue Lake recreation area).

Time: 8 am

Bring: Binoculars, favourite bird identification book – if you have one.

Numbers will be restricted: so please contact Margaret Dick on 07 3572024 or 0274202022 to secure a place

Tikitapu Scenic Reserve

Working bee dates for Pest control project

Bait laying – Pindone bait

Pindone bait out – Sunday 29th & Monday 30th July
Top up – Sunday 12th & Monday 13th August

Put out prefeed baitbags and check amount of Pindone remaining

Sunday 26th & Monday 27th August

Feratox® baitbag laying and removal of prefeed

Sunday 2nd & 3rd September

Feratox® top up

Sunday 16th & Monday 17th September

Clear stations of remaining Feratox® and Pindone

Sunday 30th September & Monday 1st October

Forest & Bird Calendars and diaries

Annual Fundraiser

The 2019 New Zealand Conservation Calendar and the Conservation Diary which are produced in association with Forest & Bird will soon be on sale

The calendars and diaries present images of both wildlife and wilderness habitat from New Zealand's extraordinary natural heritage and conservation areas and make great gifts. The calendar weighs less than 200 g for economical postage and there is an envelope included. Rotorua Forest & Bird committee members will be selling the calendar for \$18.00

The beautifully produced diary includes wonderful photographs of New Zealand landscapes, plants and wildlife. It has 'week to view' pages and is spiral bound so it will lie flat when open. It will be available from committee members at \$25.00.



New Zealand's Zero Carbon Bill – Public Consultation

In 2015 NZ signed the Paris Agreement which set a world target of net zero emissions by the second half of this century. NZ needs to set goals to achieve this - and to plan transition towards them. A Zero Carbon Act will put us on the path to action by creating carbon budgets that keep us on track to reduce emissions. Our two big polluters are agriculture and transport. Key elements are:

- renewable energy
- afforestation
- using new technologies
- electric vehicles and public transport

Three different options are being considered and the first part of the consultation is to choose which path to pursue. These are:

1. Net Zero Carbon Dioxide 2050
2. Net Zero Long lived and stabilised short lived gases (nitrous oxide and methane)
3. Net Zero - all greenhouse gases

Public submissions on the this first step – the content of the Bill - are due by the 19th July. Get involved in the Ministry for the Environment's Zero Carbon consultation by making a submission. You are invited to have your say online through the following sites

<https://mfe.govt.nz/have-your-say-zero-carbon> and signup.ourclimateyoursay.nz/

or through the Forest & Bird website

<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/submissions/zero-carbon-act-make-submission>

New Forest & Bird campaign "Forgotten Places".

The Forgotten Places campaign aims to shine a light on forgotten corners of Aotearoa where nature is disappearing. In these places, government agencies are failing to protect nature. Forests without pest control are collapsing, wetlands are degraded, riverbeds are grazed by cattle and choked with weeds, and our high country is threatened by development. We have to turn this around, or we will lose more species forever. If you can identify an area in the region that you think is neglected in terms of conservation please send information and photos to the Rotorua F&B committee. Photos of the area in the past and today are particularly helpful.

There is a link to this campaign on the Forest & Bird website. Information can also be sent to "forgottenplaces@forestandbird.org.

Rotorua Forest & Bird Committee
P.O. Box 1489, Rotorua 3040

Email address: rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz
Facebook: Forest and Bird - Rotorua Branch

Tania Heasman (Treasurer) ph. 3502021

Nell (Helen) Ranson ph. 347 7819

Frances Blakely ph. 362 8480

Margaret Dick ph. 357 2024

Mike Goodwin ph. 362 8865

Judy Gardner ph. 345 7477

Heather Sayer ph. 3323352

Brian Pickering ph. 0273020057

Jim Rofe ph. 348 6636

