



WE'VE BEEN BUSY

2023 has kicked off in fine style with two Kiwi Conservation Club events and several Forest & Bird happenings, and there are more good things planned for the next couple of months, including our AGM in April. We have many paid up members in our branch but rarely see more than the same old faces . . . why not come to something soon and introduce yourself?

ABOVE: Budding conservationists — two KCC members at the Te Wairoa Great Tradescantia Pursuit in January. See more on page 5.

COMING UP

Everett Park forest walk & Pukerangiora Pa: March 25 10:30–12.00

Meet at the gate at Pukerangiora Pa for a quick peek at this most historic site and the view over Waitara River back to the coast — even when you've seen it before, it's still breath-taking.

We'll then drive to Everett Park Scenic Reserve for a comfortable loop walk through pretty lowland forest along the banks of the Manganui River. We'll drive in to the north gate and park there before beginning our walk. Bring sandwiches to eat on the sandy bend of the Manganui River.

AGM, Saturday April 15th, 2:00–4:00 Tawa Glen Café

We enjoyed a past AGM at Tawa Glen Café so much that we plan to do it again and have booked the side room. We will get through the business of the meeting relatively speedily and after that, it's all great company, sticky buns and cups of tea! Better yet, it's our shout!

Please let us know by 10 April if you plan to come. Phone or text 0274 715 169 or email northtaranaki.branch@forestandbird.org.nz. (And please don't hold back if you would like to join the committee).

F&B's 100th birthday celebration, Saturday May 5th, Pukekura Park

On his return from World War I in 1921, Captain Ernest 'Val' Sanderson was horrified by the state of Kapiti Island's forest. It had been protected since 1897 but cattle, goats and sheep from a farm on the island were damaging the reserve.

Not one to stand idly by, his subsequent campaign to protect the island's forest led to the formation in 1923 of the Native Bird Protection Society that ultimately became today's Forest & Bird | Te Reo o te Taio. Captain Sanderson remained



The 85-ha Everett Park Reserve is the largest remnant podocarp forest on the Taranaki ringplain. It has been protected since 1889, with mature kahikatea and pukatea to rival Northland's kauri.

the driving force behind the organisation until his death in 1945. He was ahead of his time in recognising the damage being done by soil erosion and browsing animals such as deer.

There are all sorts of 100th anniversary celebrations planned nationally, including a cake-baking competition — check out the F&B website for more details.



In 2013, to mark the society's 90th anniversary, we planted a kowhai in Pukekura Park adjacent to the children's playground. It is growing well — albeit on somewhat of a lean — and we hope to follow up with a planting of one or maybe several swamp maire / maire tawake / waiwaka (*Syzygium maire*), followed by afternoon tea at the tea rooms.

We'll let you know more about the place and time once we have confirmed details with NPDC.

Watch this space!

“We have robbed the birds of tremendous areas of bush on the mainland. Are we not patriotic enough to give them a last secure resting place on this small island, seven miles by one mile in area, in order that our children and children's children may see and learn what New Zealand was really like when their daring forefathers first set foot in this land of ours?”
— Captain Sanderson, 1922.



A potential planting area.



Korerū like waiwaka too: Lake Rotokare.

RECENT EVENTS

Rawhitiroa working bee, World Wetland Day, February 2

A small gang of North Taranaki members travelled to Rawhitiroa, East of Eltham, to the wetland behind the school, to help in a South Taranaki Forest & Bird working bee.

The wetland is a series of small ponds in a low-lying bowl, such as would have been typical of the once-much-larger Ngaere swamp, some with waterlogged remains of large



trees lying in them. A range of restoration plantings done recently around the ponds are being swamped by convulvulus, thistles and pasture grasses, so our job was mainly to release them.

Doing their bit: Paul Cooke (left) and Helen Lander (below) making an impact.



Enviro Expo, TET stadium, Inglewood: February 25

Along with a number of other environmentally-focused groups, North Taranaki Forest & Bird had a stall at the 2023 Enviro Expo. Considering the competing attractions on a very sunny weekend, there was a good number of viewers through the doors.

We gave away magazines and brochures, both for F&B and for KCC, and talked to visitors about our branch and what we do in our reserves. Our acting liaison officer, Sarah Lucas, also gave a presentation about the wider aims and activities of the society.



Schools strike for climate: March 3

- What do we want?
- Climate justice!*
- When do we want it?
- NOW!*

On 3 March, 12:30pm, New Plymouth's streets echoed to the chants of Taranaki climate justice protesters, including David and Jackie Cockeram, Janet Hunt, Peter Haines, Anne Collins, and Barbara Hammonds from Forest & Bird.

Perhaps half of those at the ►

Te Pāti Māori MP Debbie Ngarewa-Packer and Labour MPs, Andrew Little and Glenn Bennett, listen to the protesters' concerns.



strike were students, many from the Green School. There was also a small group of anti-Americana protesters, some Save Mangapēpeka Valley people, a number of other concerned citizens and four MPs — Glenn Bennett, Angela Roberts, Andrew Little and Debbie Ngarewa-Packer.

The protest assembled on the Landing to hear speeches and then marched around the block and back again. It wasn't a huge turnout but it was good to fly the flag in the name of climate awareness.



Above: David Cockeram and Glenn Bennett.
Left: returning to the Landing along Ariki Street.

Te Wairoa working bee: March 4

This was just the best! The team tackled a range of tasks including cleaning the signs at the gate, weeding around the stile, chopping back flax along the farm boundary, clearing the wetland track and cutting and pasting the tobacco weed north of the drain. We worked in pairs and all finished well within our time. We also loaded heaps of black bags from the Great Tradescantia Hunt onto Peter Winter's little red trailer for removal.

Well done Anne, Peter, Peter, Jo-Anne, Dawn, Deborah, David, Murray and Janet. And thanks for the banana cake Deborah! It was an unexpected treat, and just what we needed.



Above: Murray recalled earlier days at the reserve as he ate his lunch in the clearing.
Left: Deborah Hitchcock, Jo-Anne Mowat, Peter Winter and Peter Haines.

Who's who at North Taranaki F&B & KCC

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Autumn 2023

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

The Great Tradescantia Pursuit

While we may have been few in number we were big on enthusiasm and team spirit. The five KCC'ers and their support crew picked up 23 bags of tradescantia weighting a whopping total of 345kgs.

Following the big clean up we had some games and a sausage sizzle and other snacks. Family passes to various activities were the grand finale for the KCC'ers to reward their hard work.



That's us on the day of the Great Tradescantia Pursuit. We gathered 23 black bags full!



Healthy Rivers

16 KCC'ers and their support crew visited the Waiongana Stream to investigate how healthy it was. We first of all discussed why we monitor fresh water streams and then learnt how to test them. We enjoyed a short bush walk in to the stream where we talked about the habitat, used a signi tube to test the water clarity (totally clear), took the temperature (10.7 degs – great for invertebrates), considered



the flow of the water and then got into the super fun part of hunting for benthic macroinvertebrates (stream bugs). KCC'ers and parents alike were surprised at just what was living under the rocks of the stream. We found lots of mayflies, stoneflies and dobsonflies plus some other invertebrates too. After our testing and investigations we came to the conclusion that, yes indeed, the Waiongana Stream was healthy!

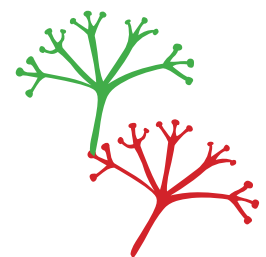


COMING UP

Saturday 25 March @ 1pm - Living with Wild Weather

We will look at the effects of erosion on Onaero Bay and talk to Mike, a qualified Meteorologist about climate change and the weather we experience. Mike will help us make a weather station to take home too.

Link to register is sent to all KCC members.



If you are a Forest and Bird member and have children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews who are not KCC members and you like the sound of what we do please contact me about coming along to an activity to see whether KCC is right for your family member/s. — Lee McCracken | 027 755 6729
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