

# Forest & Bird North Shore Branch

## Annual Report May 2016 – April 2017

### Officers and Committee (May to April)

Chair: Richard Hursthouse  
Deputy Chair: Claire Stevens  
Secretary: Jocelyn Sanders  
Treasurer: Ray Simpson  
Committee: Helene Willis (membership), Anne Denny (Tuff Crater), Philip Moll (Naturespace, photography, dog control), John Brown (kauri protection), Elaine Conway (calendar & diary sales), Roger Clifton (Long Bay, website) resigned Nov 2016, Connor Wallace (on line material), Anne-Elise Smithson, joined late 2016, Peter Hassell RMA.

### Monthly talks

Pat Baskett arranged our speakers until she retired from this position late 2016. The role has now been picked up by Christine Ovens.

The meet and greet role is shared by committee members with help especially from Nola Ovens.

Christine Ball continues the supper roster coordinator role.

John Brown and Joe Greig are continuing the role of native plant of the month

Richard Hursthouse continues the weed of the month, and Alan Emmerson entertained us with moth of the month until moving to the UK in early 2017.

May 2016	AGM and Mel Galbraith – Birds of the South Kaipara Dune Lakes
June	James Russell – Predator Free NZ
July	Sandra Coney – Open Space for the next generation
August	Philip Moll – “Big” Shoal Bay birds
September	Bernard Michaux – Saving NZ’s biological heritage
October	Sean Freeman – A liveable city needs trees
November	Robert Hoare – Marvellous moths of NZ
December	Ben Goodwin – Breeding for a weta future
February 2017	Pest Free Kaipatiki team
March	Mark Orams – Ecotourism – benefits and dangers
April	Simon Fordham – Birds of the Galapagos

### Field Trips

Trips co-ordinator – Richard Hursthouse

May 2016	Long Bay Regional Park – Roger Clifton
June	no trip
July	Smiths Bush – Richard Hursthouse & Steve Cook
August	Motutapu planting – Jocelyn Sanders
September	Warkworth Kowhai Cruise – Jocelyn Sanders
October	Motu Manawa – Richard Hursthouse & Michael Coote
November	Matuku Reserve – Richard Hursthouse & John Staniland
February 2017	Miranda overnight – Helene Willis
March	Paremoremo Reserve – Richard Hursthouse
April	Goat Island Marine Lab – John Brown

### Membership

	Members	Financial memberships
April 2017	1478	1167
April 2016	1413	1233
April 2015	1495	1291
April 2014	953	751
April 2013	1179	953
2012	1032	787
2011		735

Our membership secretary is Helene Willis.

We pay for Kaipatiki Project to belong to Forest & Bird.

## Newsletters

Rachel Lees-Green has continued to do a great job as volunteer editor of *Habitat*.

Katie Catchpole has continued as our volunteer designer of *Habitat*.

*Habitat* and the KCC newsletter are sent to all members of the branch and KCC members.

Richard Hursthouse compiles *Habitat Extra*, our monthly email newsletter. This is normally sent to volunteer Ross Arnold who designs the newsletter in mailchimp and sends it to an updated email list of approximately 1000 – a not insignificant role!!

In addition we have continued our branch blog which is updated with an article each month linking off *Habitat Extra*.

*Habitat* printing has been fully sponsored, thanks to Garry Browne of Print Advisor Ltd, Kale Print in Tauranga, and Action Mail who fold our KCC newsletters.

Roslyn Norrie has the role of *Habitat* mailing – yes we still post out about 250 newsletters.

## Media/Advocacy

Roger Clifton has maintained the content of our web pages, events calendar, Eco-events, and Meet Up sites, until he resigned late 2016. Connor Wallace, probably the youngest committee member ever, has taken on this role.

Philip Moll continues to update Naturespace, a website for community restoration groups, adding many new photo-point monitoring photos of Tuff Crater.

We get 100 of each issue of the F&B magazine four times per year for distribution to various waiting rooms and café's.

Press releases result in numerous articles in the local press quoting Forest & Bird, raising our profile.

## Finance

Ray Simpson has continued in the valuable role of treasurer. Ray is retiring from this role after 6 years in the role. I would like to thank Ray sincerely for the fabulous low stress way he has managed our significant bank accounts.

Elaine Conway, with the support of Jocelyn Sanders, has again done a wonderful job of selling calendars and diaries earning about \$2500 for the branch.

Epson very kindly donated a new projector to our branch so we now have high resolution slide shows!

## Strategic Plan

Your committee developed a revised Strategic Plan based on the new Auckland Regional Plan which is in turn based on the National Strategic Plan. We have recently measured our performance against this plan, which can be found on our website.

## Community Displays and Talks

Helene Willis held several more stalls at local markets in Glenfield, and at the Kaipatiki Project Ecofest. Helene manages our sponsorship of KCC memberships for primary schools. We now have 18 schools members of KCC.

## **Tuff Crater**

Our Tuff Crater Restoration Project continues to attract considerable support from volunteers, funders and Auckland Council.

Contractor Steve Cook continued to work on the southern headland area (MU2), the area below McBreen/Exmouth Road (MU3) and "St Peters" (MU5) until October 2016.

Contractor John Barber has now taken on these areas as well as the *Arundo donax* giant reed grass below Deuxberry Cres and the "Willow Flat" area (MU4) on the south-western end.

We negotiated for the council contractor to take on MU6, 7 and 8 on the north side but are holding our breath as the new council contracts take effect in July.

All eight management units are now under comprehensive weed control.

Last year we held three significant planting days in June, July and August. We put in about 2000 plants in MU4 between St Peters St and Bayleys Reserve. In June 1000 plants were moved by numerous trailer loads from Kaipatiki Project the day before and then planted by about 45 people followed by a BBQ arranged by Canon. In July we moved another 1000 plants and 50 people helped plant them. In August a further 400 plants including 10 large grade trees were planted in various locations on the north side.

The Warehouse Group continue to allow our storage container in their car park.

Volunteer work days have been held monthly on Saturdays;

Anne Denny and Paul Pyper have shared leading the very effective Thursday morning working bees.

Total volunteer hours in 2016 were approximately 1000.

Volunteers continue to monitor a comprehensive rodent pest control programme for the area, with six volunteers managing about 65 bait stations, Timms and DOC 200 traps. Data and monitoring are coordinated by Christine Major. Data shows a consistent low rat presence.

We received a further \$23,000 grant from ASB Community Trust and continue to spend about \$30,000 per annum. We also received free herbicide, 400 plants and equipment from council.

Kate Hursthouse designed a new entry sign to replace the three which are aging. Katie Cathpole and others are working on three interpretive signs.

## **Shoal Bay**

We continue to monitor the Seapath/Naturepath plans in conjunction with NZTA.

Philip Moll has continue the momentum behind the protection of Shoal Bay. He carefully researched and approved 35 dog bylaw signs for the entry points to Shoal Bay. Philip has closely monitored the bird life of Shoal Bay. He has also worked with a band of locals and council to design a comprehensive predator control network on the north and east side of the bay. This is continuing to expand its coverage thanks to Phil's dogged determination.

## **Kauri Protection**

John Brown has coordinated the volunteers who carry out our branch's Kauri Protection Programme in conjunction with council at Kauri Park, Kauri Glen Reserve, Leigh Reserve and now Three Streams.

## **KCC**

KCC is in very good heart with four KCC Coordinators - Marilyn Gulliver, Ann Brabant, Christine Thompson and Sharon McGaffin. They have led interesting trips (see separate report) and provided lively regular updates at monthly branch meetings.

KCC Members	Financial memberships	
April 2017		225
April 2016	376	219
Feb 2015	380	220
April 2014	275	169
April 2013	342	210
2012	346	229

Our branch is also encouraging schools to sign up to KCC. We are paying for one year of membership for six schools per annum.

### **Resource Management Act/Tree Protection**

Peter Hassell is still leading the RMA work. We have submitted on the Ryman development in Devonport to strengthen stormwater requirements but failed.

Tree protection continues to be a major concern with most trees now unprotected due to RMA changes. One major event was the illegal felling of coastal pohutukawa forest on Clifton Rd. Despite pressure from us, Auckland Council failed to prosecute.

The Unitary Plan has been activated with many appeals underway. Okura was protected by councillors at the last minute but is now under appeal by the Todd Property subsidiary. We persuaded our head office legal team to assist Long Bay Okura Great Park Society oppose this appeal.

Despite all this work destructive development continues behind Karepiro Beach at Dacre Cottage.

A major breach of the RMA was a major spill of at least 300 litres of diesel into Lake Pupuke causing the death of several swans and coots.

### **A new Youth Committee**

Connor Wallace, the winner of the national F&B Youth award 2016, has joined our committee at the age of 17. Richard and Connor have developed a F&B Youth strategy. Connor is leading the first ever F&B Youth committee, comprising student members from all over Auckland. They are developing an online presence, a project or two, a plan and a logo. This has been a most rewarding development. Watch this space!

### **Climate Action Group**

We now have new Climate Action Group, led by Frances Palmer. A small group of highly energetic people are working with other climate groups, local board members and councillors to raise awareness of climate issues. They have already held several Climate Action public stalls.

### **Other Meetings**

Richard Hursthouse has continued to attend meetings of regional branch chairs (about five times per year) to facilitate communication and conservation in the Auckland and Northern regions.

Richard is also an active member of the Kaipatiki Restoration Network meetings. Richard and others have developed a Pest Free Kaipatiki strategy which aims to make Kaipatiki Local Board are pest free by 2026. Richard leads the "Action on the Land" and "Data and Monitoring" subcommittees of PFK and sits on the Steering Group.

Richard and Claire Stevens attended the annual meeting in Wellington last June and the North Island meeting at Shakespear Park in November.

Richard has also attends a new restoration group in the Hibiscus & Bays area.

Philip Moll attends two new groups in Devonport Takapuna and John Brown is attending the Upper Harbour Ecological Network in the Upper Harbour area.

## **Weed Control Guide**

Over the last two years Richard has worked with council officers, weed busters, weed contractors and others to compile a 6 page weed control guide. Beautifully put together by our designer Katie Catchpole, we have now printed 50,000 of these guides and are busy distributing them as far and wide as we can.

## **National Policy**

Richard and Claire are on a national policy committee looking at revising and creating conservation policy. So far the committee has put together draft dog and mangrove policies

## **Thank you**

I sincerely thank our hard-working committee, and the many members who are not on the committee, who continue to put so much work in to ensure our branch functions well. Thankyou!!

Richard Hursthouse  
Chair  
April 2017