



# Gisborne Branch Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

HELP US TO HELP NATURE | GISBORNE NEWSLETTER | MONTH DECEMBER 2017



## Happy New Year

Another year has flown past, they do seem to get faster and faster.

A few of us were lucky enough to visit the Puketitiri Reserves a few weeks back.

The above photo is a view of the Kaweka Ranges from the end of the Hot Springs Road.

Forest and Bird have sold their lodge there to the Department of Conservation, who at this stage is still renting the building out, a nice place to base yourself to visit the several small reserves in the area. Contact the Department of Conservation in Napier re the rental of the William Hartree Memorial Lodge.

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## Grays Bush

### A Big Thank You

to all our supporters who so kindly donated to the new traps in Grays Bush.

We received \$760 in donations, thanks so much every one of you.

The new traps have been installed in Grays Bush



We are going to organise a visit to Grays Bush so you can see for yourselves the traps and how they work.

We wont do the whole trap line but just show you how these wonderful traps will help clear Grays Bush of pests.

We will advise the date soon.

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Richard, one of our long time supporters recently passed away.  
Richard kindly left a legacy to Gisborne Branch of Forest and Bird.

It was his wish that half of the amount is to be used on a project at the Wherowhero Lagoon and the other half on a project of the local branch's choosing.

We will ensure Richards wishes are followed and decide on suitable projects during next year.



## Ecosystems Under Threat

Did you know, eighty percent of our trees, ferns and flowering plants are only found in New Zealand and are vital parts of our native ecosystem.

But climate disruption is causing increased drought, extreme winds and higher fire risk, contributing to forest collapse and threatening wildlife.



## 2018 Calenders

We still have about a dozen of these to sell.

Ask your friends, have you one yourself yet?

Please contact Peter on phone number 8675362, or call into Touchstone Garden Centre to collect a copy.

They cost \$15.



## Balls Clearing

This is a great example of a lowland forest in the Hawkes Bay region. This outstanding piece of virgin podocarp forest is best seen from the network of walking tracks that vary from 10 to 40 minutes.

The forest escaped the widespread forest milling which was prominent in the area in the 1930's as well as the extensive nearby fire in 1946.

The dense stands of straight boled trees are dominated by rimu, matai, miro and kahikatea.

It is an awe inspiring piece of bush and well worth the trip.

You will find the reserve 5km from Puketitiri along the Hot Springs Road. A picnic shelter is provided at the Reserve entrance as well as toilets and water



Translate ▼

## Chairmans Report

One of my recent highlights was attending the Forest & Bird National AGM and Council Meeting in Wellington. Always well run, with lots to inspire your sometimes flagging chair to keep the conservation fire burning in the belly! Always a boost to catch up with other Forest & Birders from around the country.



I missed not having Andrew Cutler (our past President) there but Mark Hanger has ably stepped into the position of leading the Society. Another well qualified person stepping up to the plate for his first AGM and Council Meeting was our new Chief Executive Kevin Hague, taking over from Hone McGregor who served us well for the previous 3 & 1/2yrs. Looking good for the future, you'll have read about both Mark and Kevin in recent Forest & Bird magazines and their wealth of experience and passion for being voices for nature.

Special moment was the presentation of an "Old Blue" award to the outgoing Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr. Jan Wright for 10 years of championing environmental issues by issuing significant reports on complex issues such as; climate change; 1080; protection of stewardship land to name just three and not to forget the latest one; "Taonga of an island nation; saving New Zealand's birds". She paid tribute to her dedicated staff. She received a well deserved standing ovation. Not to forget the other six "Old Blue" recipients who you may have already read about in the latest Forest & Bird magazine - its always amazing to see what other people have been up to and actually see them and hear them speak. Salt of the earth, dedicated people.

Another highlight was seeing a number of young people attending thanks to a new initiative (Forest & Bird Youth) started by Auckland branches to encourage 13 - 25 year olds in conservation activities, an age group often lost to Forest & Bird but judging by their comments and enthusiasm things are looking good.

I met Rebecca Stirnemann, our new Central Nth Is Regional Manager. With a PhD in ornithology and Masters degrees in bats and climate change she'll be an asset to the Society and I hope to get her to here for a meeting early next year.

Many other things at the AGM/Council meeting but that's all for now, just to say that the Society is in good heart with much happening all around the country.

Grant Vincent

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Forest & Bird Protection Society



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Kiwi Conservation Club

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