



Forest & Bird[®]
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Annual Report

2014/15





Tēnā koutou

In 2014/15 Forest & Bird achieved some notable success advocating for and protecting our natural environment and also took important steps to strengthen and focus the organisation to address the conservation priorities of the 21st century.

Partnerships between national office and branches were an important feature of our work in 2014/15. In the Auckland region branches and national office developed a major submission on the Auckland Unitary Plan, and supported the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan process. In Hawke's Bay, local branches, national office and our allies from the Environmental Defence Society and Fish & Game achieved notable success in ensuring enforceable water quality standards have been set for new irrigation projects, a decision that has national implications.

Partnerships within the Society, and with our supporters and allies are an important part of our future direction. Working together we are able to leverage the passion and local knowledge of branches with the legal, technical, marketing and financial resources of national office to achieve significant outcomes to protect natural values.

Elsewhere we supported initiatives that will help protect our natural heritage, such as Predator Free New Zealand and the Department of Conservation's Battle for the Birds. After many years of advocacy it is pleasing to at last see significant extensions of pest control across public conservation land, although a faster and larger expansion would be ideal.

Within the national organisation significant changes were made to focus the professional structure on growing our income, effectiveness, influence and support for branches. Consultation and development of a revised strategic plan was undertaken to develop a road map to focus our energies where they are most needed and ensure the best outcome for nature and New Zealand in the 21st century.

Achieving positive financial outcomes remains a priority of the Board and management. After some years of constraint a strong financial outcome in 2014/15 allowed the Society to recruit staff in key areas to help us achieve our goals and better support branches in the work they do in their communities.

Working and advocating for nature at both the national and local level is what makes Forest & Bird unique in New Zealand. Our success is due to the commitment of members, dedicated staff, our supporters and the Board, all of whom share a vision of a New Zealand where nature is respected and protected as the source of our unique identity, our wellbeing and our prosperity, as well as for its own intrinsic value.

We can face the future with confidence and a clear vision of what we need to do. New Zealand is and will continue to be a better place because of Forest & Bird.



Andrew Cutler

Andrew Cutler
President



Hone McGregor

Hōne McGregor
Chief Executive



Forest & Bird conservation directions

Securing nature beyond protected areas

Freshwater quality is one of the most important environmental issues for New Zealanders and for Forest & Bird. Staff and the Hastings-Havelock North and Central Hawke's Bay branches stepped up our campaign in 2014 to ensure water quality is maintained in the Tukituki River catchment.

A proposal to build the Ruataniwha dam and water storage lake and the associated irrigation scheme would lead to an intensification of agriculture in the area, including large scale dairy conversions. The efforts of our lawyers, other staff and branches, along with allies Fish & Game and the Environmental Defence Society will lead to enforceable water quality standards being set for the project.

Staff and branches worked together to protect water quality and freshwater habitats in Canterbury and other regions from the effects of inappropriate development. Ensuring the environmental protections of the Resource Management Act are maintained remained an important part of our advocacy work throughout the year.

Our marine environment is an important focus in Forest & Bird's work, especially as so little is protected compared with our land.

In May 2014, years of work culminated in the release of our report on Important Bird Areas for New Zealand seabirds. A third of all seabirds spend at least some of their lives in our waters and more seabirds breed exclusively here than in any other country in the world. The report identifies important feeding and breeding sites to help plan better seabird protection.

Seabed mining became an important concern with proposals from Trans-Tasman Resources to mine iron sand off the Taranaki coast and from Chatham Rock Phosphate to mine rock phosphate on the Chatham Rise. We submitted evidence in the Chatham Rise hearing and welcomed the Environmental Protection Authority's decisions to turn down both consent applications because of the damage they would do to the marine environment.

Another sign of our growing marine focus was the setting up of a Facebook page for members to debate these issues.

Projects aimed at helping private landowners to make space for native wildlife and plants expanded in 2014. Staff and local branches are working with the Auckland Council on the North-West Wildlink to create a green corridor between the Waitākere Ranges in the west to the Hauraki Gulf islands in the north and east. The pilot Land for Wildlife project in the Bay of Plenty grew to include 30 owners of larger blocks of land such as farms, orchards and lifestyle blocks by the end of the year and more were set to join.

Working with others is important to achieving our conservation goals and during the year we were active in collaborative groups such as the Land & Water Forum, Kākāpō Recovery, the Kiwi Recovery Group, and the Central North Island Blue Duck Trust.





Supporting and expanding protected areas

We drew attention to the government's decision last year to log wind-fall trees from conservation land on the West Coast. Urgent legislation was passed to overturn one of the Conservation Act's core principles – putting conservation before commerce on our conservation estate.

The logging issue highlighted the limited protection given to DOC's stewardship land, another key area of our advocacy work during the year. This category of land, which offers lesser protection than other DOC land categories was intended to be temporary, pending the assessment of these areas' conservation values. In the vast majority of cases, after nearly 30 years this assessment has never been done, although many of these areas have very high conservation values. The proposal to mine the Denniston Plateau, which was approved but is yet to be implemented, is an example of inappropriate development in a stewardship land area with high conservation values.

A welcome development was the government's increased predator control work on conservation land in the Battle for the Birds programme. The increase was a response to a mast, or heavy seeding year, in the beech forest leading to a surge in mice, rat and stoat numbers. We urged the government to maintain the increased predator control in future years to ensure gains for native wildlife are not lost as predator numbers build up again.



Unfortunately, on most public and private land, the predators and pests are winning. That's why we got right behind the Predator Free New Zealand initiative launched in November. The long-term goal is to remove introduced predators everywhere in New Zealand through increased effort and new technology. This would secure the future of our many threatened native species and dramatically reduce the cost burden of predator control and monitoring work.

Expanding protected areas in our Exclusive Economic Zone seas remains a priority. Less than half a percent of these waters are protected and we need a network of marine reserves to protect biodiversity. During the year we continued working with the Pew Foundation and WWF NZ to create an ocean reserve around the Kermadec Islands to protect forever a unique and near pristine environment. The implementation of a marine reserve in Kaikōura last year followed years of close involvement by our Kaikōura branch in a group developing a consensus among different local interests.



Conservation in Urban areas

Our Auckland regional branches and staff continue to have the Auckland Unitary Plan as a major focus, along with the Hauraki Gulf Spatial Plan. The unitary plan will be the key resource management document for the Auckland region and we want to ensure there is appropriate protection for Auckland's biodiversity and environment. During the year we started presenting parts of our submission to a hearings panel.

Our Kiwi Conservation Club for children ran an extremely successful nationwide Great Kererū Count event in September. Participation tripled from 2013 and the event gained national media coverage.

Forest & Bird branches are bringing nature back to towns and cities with their restoration and pest control work in reserves in both urban and rural areas, submitting on planning issues affecting ecosystems and biodiversity in their regions and promoting conservation to their communities.

We continued to support the Garden Bird Survey, which encourages people to count birds in their gardens as a way of monitoring long-term trends in the populations of native and non-native birds in developed areas.

Climate change

Climate change poses a particular threat to our native biodiversity. As part of the election campaign, we joined other organisations in the Climate Voter initiative aimed at highlighting how political parties were addressing this crucial issue.

A carbon forum for members on Facebook was established to help our members share knowledge and ideas about limiting climate change and adapting to it. Climate change is now incorporated in much of our work. For example, our planning submissions stress the need to consider climate change impacts.

Forest & Bird organisational directions

Strong branches and active members

Forest & Bird's branches are the key to our continuing success because they are the voices for nature within our communities. More branches are starting to adopt a more regional focus, banding together to enable bigger scale projects to be undertaken and to tackle issues that cross local boundaries.

Forest & Bird's greatest strength is its combination of national and local advocacy and action. During the election campaign, a large number of branches organised meetings where members and the public could quiz political candidates about their parties' environment and conservation policies. Branches also were deeply involved in the Climate Voter initiative during the campaign.

The Ark in the Park unfenced sanctuary, a joint venture between our Waitakere branch and the Auckland Council, made good progress in 2014, with another 100 whiteheads released and permission gained to release another 30 kōkako from 2015 onwards. Ark in the Park won a Ministry for the Environment Green Ribbon award in the stewardship category. All over the country, there are examples of our branches expanding their ambitions and their effectiveness.

KCC grew strongly in the year to 37 KCC branches from 29, and now with 71 coordinators and a Facebook page underway since early 2015.



Financially independent

Our financial situation continued to strengthen during the year, with the books ending with a surplus. We added 2370 regular givers during the year and our most successful fundraising was the stewardship land appeal which raised over \$92,000.

Forest & Bird would be unable to be the voice of nature without these generous supporters of conservation and the environment and we are also grateful to the funders of grants to our projects and work.

Forest & Bird's sponsors also play a crucial role. Revenue and services from our sponsors remained steady during the year as we focused on strengthening existing relationships. Forest & Bird's largest supporter is Honda New Zealand, which has been supporting us for over five years and is currently providing seven vehicles free of charge. Other sponsors include Kiwi Camping, Heritage Expeditions, Simply Pure, Co-operative Bank, Little Genie, Healthpak and Kiwi Karma.

Effective and united

A new management structure was implemented in September, with the aim of positioning Forest & Bird for growth. This was followed by recruitment in several of our teams to ensure the momentum is maintained. The aim is to enable us to fund more conservation initiatives, achieve even greater unity and to be more effective.

Work was done to revise the strategic plan to be adopted before the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The main focus was to set a long-term vision to 2040, with five and 10 year stepping stones towards these long-term goals.

KCC has also been working on its strategic vision and in recognition of KCC's importance in nurturing the next generation of conservationists, two KCC coordinators will serve on the Council at the AGM each year from 2015.



Helping our rarest bird

The Bird of the Year contest became Seabird of the Year for the first time in 2014. The fairy tern was the winner, highlighting its plight as New Zealand's rarest endemic bird with around only 40 individuals left.

We've been helping the fairy tern in other ways too, with work continuing in 2014 to re-establish a nesting site on the eastern side of Kaipara Harbour. Only four other nesting sites remain and they are under threat from coastal development and predators. We hope the pest and weed control and habitat improvement being done will attract the birds to this new and safer site.

2014 numbers

43,599

Facebook likes



7,100

reports in the KCC's Great Kererū Count



19

general election candidate meetings held by branches



\$92,000

raised in our Stewardship Land Appeal



2,370

new regular givers



100

whiteheads released in Ark in the Park

Financial Summary

Group Financial Report

For The Year Ended 28 February 2015

	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
INCOME		
Membership	464	523
Other Supporter Income	3,289	3,290
Bequests	1,049	952
Grants	781	827
Other Income	965	1,075
Total Income	6,548	6,667

EXPENDITURE		
Conservation	2,478	2,474
Organisational Support & Governance	1,157	1,299
Membership & Fundraising	2,446	2,399
Branch Operating	154	108
Total Expenditure	6,234	6,279

Net Surplus	314	388
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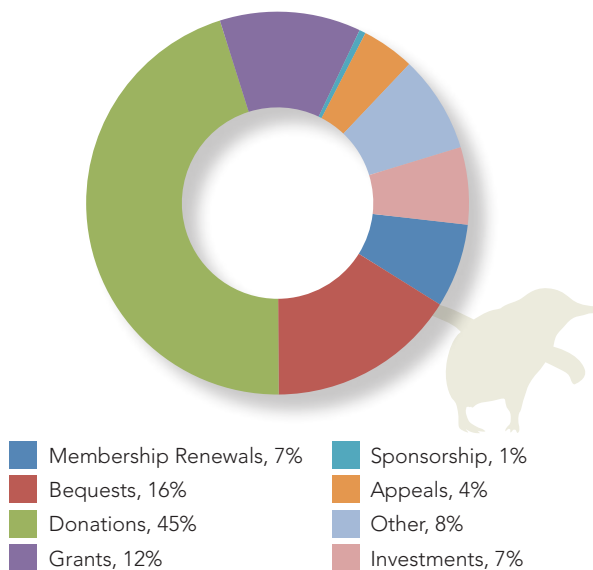
Summary of F&B Financial Position as at 28th February

Current Assets	4,718	4,531
Non Current Assets	3,865	3,630
Property, Plant & Equipment	2,491	2,586
Total Assets	11,074	10,748
Current Liabilities	1,478	1,538
Non Current Liabilities	609	535
Total Liabilities	2,087	2,073
Equity	8,987	8,675
Total Equity & Liabilities	11,074	10,748

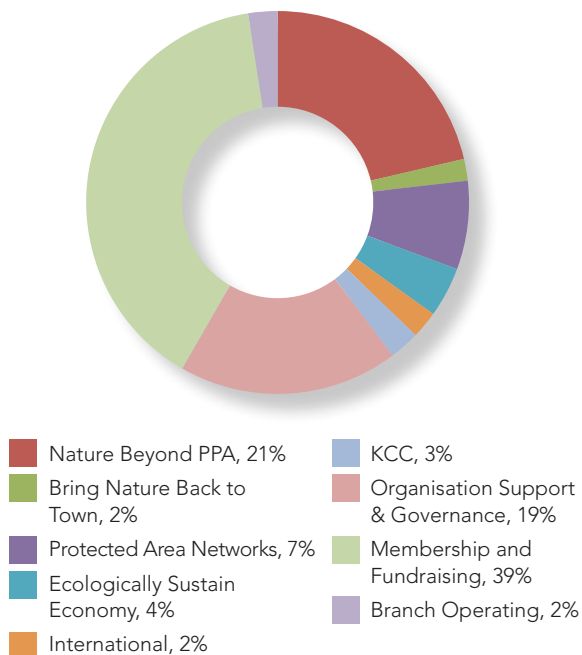
The information in this report has been summarised from the annual accounts of Royal Forest & Bird Society of NZ Inc., and its branches for the year ended 28 February 2015 and the Forest & Bird Endowment Fund for the year ended 31 December 2014.

The full financial statements have been audited by BDO Wellington. Further information relating to the annual accounts including our audit report, statement of financial performance and position, movements in equity and our accounting policies is available to members on request. The full accounts can be viewed on the Forest & Bird website.

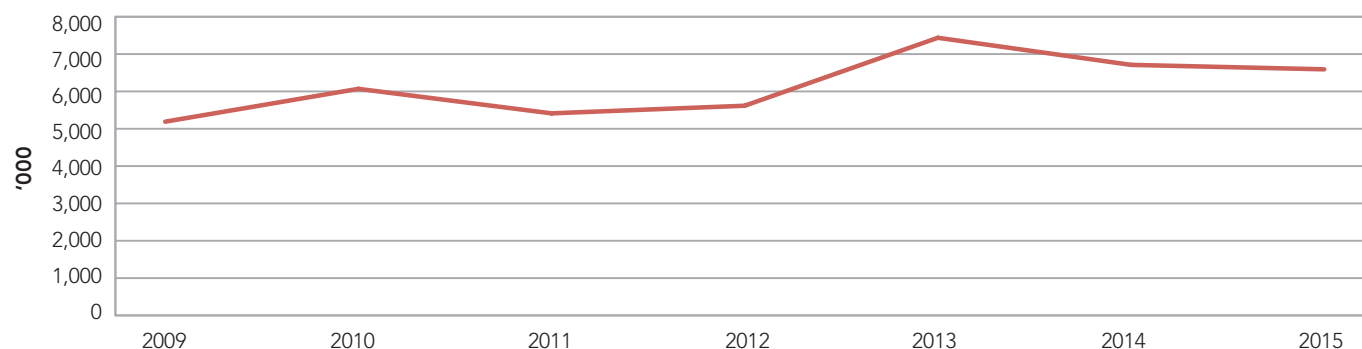
Group Income



Group Expenditure



Group Income





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Forest & Bird would like to thank the following organisations for their support.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

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Antarctica • Western and South Pacific
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

 **FOUNDATION NORTH**
Te Kaitiaki Pūtea o
Tamaki o Tai Tokerau

 **THE TRUSTS
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FOUNDATION**

Auckland Council
Te Kauhāro o Tāmaki Makaurau

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RARIFIED SPIRITS

 **HEALTHPAK.**
NEW ZEALAND

The
Cooperative
Bank

 **DLA PHILLIPS FOX**

Biodiversity
OUR LIVING TREASURE
HE KURA TAIAO

Ogilvy & Mather
New Zealand

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CHARITABLE TRUSTS

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INTERNATIONAL
PARTNER

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