



## WARKWORTH AREA BRANCH NEWLETTER

**Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand**

**Warkworth Area Forest & Bird, P.O. Box 552, Warkworth 0941**

**May 2018**

### **From the Chair**

I was delighted to hear recently of a plan to begin a trapping and monitoring programme on the bush block across the river from Mahurangi College.

More than 100 students signed up, interested in being part of the initiative. Maybe some will be hoping that the work will be done during school hours, but I believe the majority have a vision of what the area could be like in five or ten years' time with predators removed and birds returned. The college will be in partnership with Auckland Council and I hope skills learned will encourage young people in our area to branch out and do more towards "Predator Free NZ by 2050". Every bit counts.

The planting season has started. See further on in this newsletter for details of when and where you can be involved. Many hands make light work. Over 1000 trees have been planted in the Heritage Lane area already.



The weeding team in Kowhai Park really need more helpers on the first and third Wednesday morning of each month. It's easy but rewarding work as long as you can dodge the sandflies.

Nesting boxes for little blue penguins are being constructed. Thanks to Matakana ITM for donating the materials. If you know of places that these birds come ashore, please contact me so that we can provide comfortable accommodation. Similarly, if you would like to help with a trapping programme for them, let me know.

Welcome to Jenny Enderby, our newest committee member. Her experience and knowledge is much appreciated.

The Conference and AGM will be held in Wellington in late June. Details on the website. A remit is being put forward which suggests that people might earn their membership by doing a certain amount of voluntary work instead of paying an annual subscription. This might provide for lively discussion. Raewyn and I are attending.

The winter talk series has started with two great speakers already and pretty good attendance. Details of future speakers are later in the newsletter. I urge you to come along to be entertained, educated and to meet other members.

Keep warm  
Sally Richardson

## A moment to recognise our successes

Sometimes, our wins for the environment are big ones, and sometimes they're smaller stepping stones along the campaign journey.

I'd like to take a moment to recognise several smaller but significant wins we've had recently, and to thank you for helping making them possible. **The truth is, we couldn't do it without your support.** Over the last few years, our collective efforts have put the fishing industry under real pressure to clean up their act. Our relentless demand for change has forced the industry to take a look at their practices, and begin to address them.

Just this week, the industry organisation for commercial fishing, Seafood NZ, publicly said they now [support both a zero by-catch goal](#), and [cameras on boats](#). They are also promoting a code of conduct. **These are significant changes in their position, and we welcome them.** We will hold them to their promises.

In the same week, the Ministry for Primary Industries builds on quiet changes to their compliance team by [announcing a more independent structure for their fisheries management team](#). For years, we've told MPI they need to do a better job of policing the fishing industry, **and that change has now started.**

And today, the [Waitakere and Hunua Ranges](#) have been largely closed to the public. Sad though this is, Forest & Bird has worked with local iwi and other NGOs to push the Auckland Council, Department of Conservation, and MPI into taking this urgent action. It will buy our kauri forests some time while a solution for Kauri Dieback disease is found.

In all these areas, there's still a long way to go before we can say New Zealand's environment is properly protected, and we'll need you there with us on that journey.

But in the meantime, let's recognise that our network of passionate volunteers, supporters, and staff **are a formidable voice for nature.** With determination and time our small wins will add up to big victories.

Kevin Hague



Chief Executive, Forest & Bird

## **Warkworth Area Forest and Bird Branch Activities 2018**



**Getting the children**



**and everyone else engaged with Nature  
KCC Trip on Jane Gifford 08/04/2018**



## **Motuihe Trip 25/03/2018**

Three Warkworth Area members joined some North Shore Branch members on a trip to Motuihe Island on 25<sup>th</sup> March. This island, just 30mins from Auckland, lies between Motutapu and Waiheke and has a varied history which includes being extensively settled by Maori, and farmed by Europeans for more than a century. It was the site of Auckland's quarantine station for 50 years, a prisoner of war camp, and a naval training base.

Motuihe – run by DOC and the Motuihe Trust has been predator free since 2005 and has undergone extensive planting. Most of us worked in the Nursery run by the moving plants and then potting up Manuka seedlings into small bags. Some people went out planting with a large group of Kings College pupils and some did track maintenance. As a couple of us work at Tawharanui Nursery we were interested in the differences in management. While the potting mix must be brought in other things like bags and pots are constantly re-used. A wide range of plants are grown from eco sourced material. They can plant directly in among the grass which protects them to some extent, whereas the thick Kikuyu grass at Tawharau must be sprayed out which then leads to a big weed problem later.

Species that have been released on the island include Little Spotted Kiwi, Saddleback and Tuatara.

We were invited to share in a Sausage Sizzle lunch and then had time for a pleasant and interesting walk round some of the tracks before relaxing by the beach on a lovely still, sunny day.

Ferry services have been curtailed markedly in recent years, but a ferry runs fortnightly on a Sunday. There is good mooring for private boats near the excellent beaches

Elizabeth Clarke



## Forest and Bird trip to Motuora Island 15/04/2018

Highlights included:

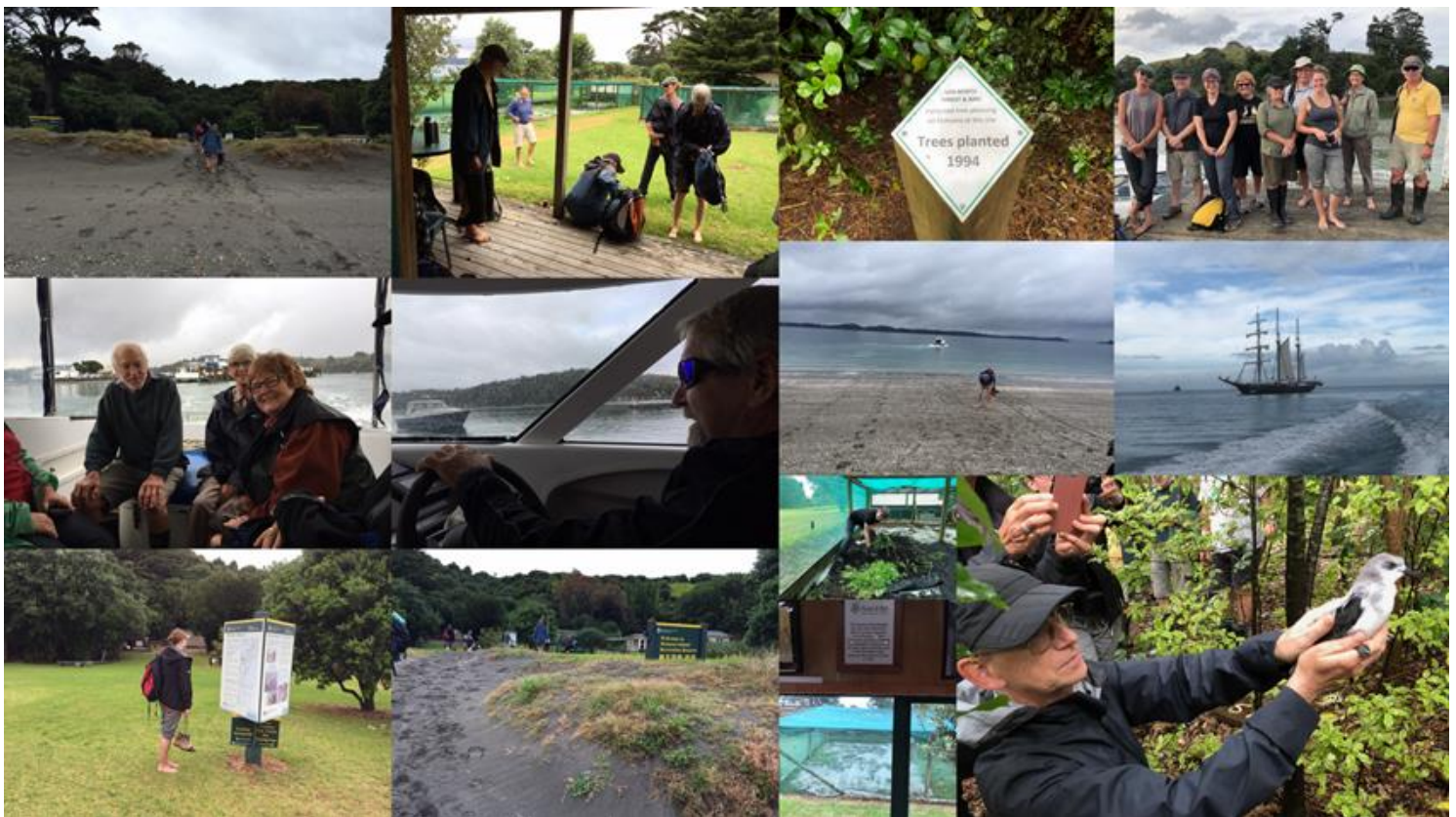
The trip over and back by water taxi – calm sea and a painted ship on a painted ocean to set off the day.

The trees, they have GROWN.

Down in the deep dark forest to see the Pycroft's Petrel chick. If you go down to the woods at night beware the plummeting chicks! (They climb trees when they fledge to practice flying before they fly away)

A little weeding, some penguin box planting and eating too much.

A very satisfying trip for all of us.





## Notes from F&B Northern Branches Regional meeting – Warkworth 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018



Topics discussed included:

- The current governance structure of Forest and Bird
- Membership
- Democracy
- Election of Board members
- Complementary Membership
- Many people associate with several other environmental groups but may not wish to be members of them all.
- There are volunteers who give time in lieu to F&B rather than money. They might also be recognised in some way
- Establishing 'Interest Networks' adds value to supporters
- Board is to provide governance, not day to day management
- Board should appoint the CEO
- Board should confirm appointments of top staff.
- There is a need to up the profile of F&B. Many projects initially start under F&B and then turn into Trusts in their own right
- Signage could be improved clothing etc, labels as 'Forest and Bird Projects' or as 'In association with Forest and Bird' to hold up with F&B logo when group photos taken

## Iwi Relationship Workshop - Melanie Nelson

- Asked to consider various levels of understanding and involvement as a continuum. Most people considered they were only third involved in most issues.
- The Maori approach is quite different from Pakeha seeing all living things, including ourselves, as a whole Biodiversity and a Resource.
- Maori see a strong relationship with their ancestral land as a whole, not just Maori Land.

Discussion groups looked at:

- Forests – What NZ was originally.
- Concerns over weeds and pigs and pig hunting. Need for iwi participation in tourism and sharing. Partnerships should be encouraged.
- Climate Change – Implications need to be understood and addressed.
- Freshwater – Conservation needed Maori should be an ally
- Marine – More understanding of the length of the lifecycle we are dealing with required.

## Resource Management Act – Nick Beveridge

S104 Resource Consents –

- Overview then Discussion of Rules and Activities. Submission Form 13 needs to be addressed. Facts rather than opinions needed. Submissions need to be clear on the actions being required of the council. Submissions should be coordinated with Branch office.
- Branches should be receiving the Planning Alert to address local issues.

## Lobbying – Helen Tickner

To MP's

- issue Briefing paper one page only (longer is counterproductive) when requesting appointment.
- Before and After photos valuable.
- Extra info should be as an appendix.
- Be clear on what Action you are asking for.
- Follow up on Action.
- Mid- range officials are worth nurturing as they do the real work.
- Questions to be asked in the house useful but need to be very carefully worded to comply.
- Petitions need to be very carefully worded (always ask the advice of the Clerk of the House).
- Lobbying on National Issues a role of Head office.

## Hygiene Stations at Parry Kauri Park. Merv B for the Kauri and Bushman's Association



At long last we have our first Kauri Dieback preventative hygiene station in operation (See photos) Silvia and Janine were the first visitors thru the station.

A big thank you to the Warkworth Area Forest and Bird branch for financing the project  
Thank you, Roger, for the design and all the hard work involved in costing and negotiating prices with Timber World and indeed your help involved in the build.

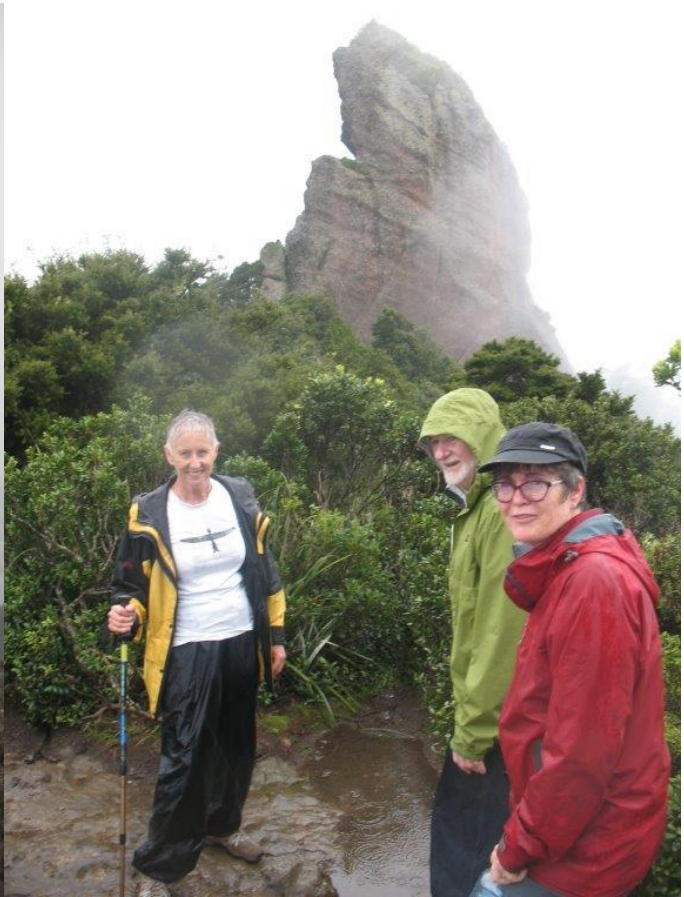
Thank you to Timber World Warkworth for coming up with a generous discount on materials.  
Ray, Noel and Clive your time and help with the construction of the station.  
The tray and brushes were supplied by Auckland Council.

A second station is being constructed so that both entrances to the park are covered.



## Committee Trip to Whangarei Ocean Beach. 11-13 May 2018

Well the intrepid climbed Mount Manaia – What's a little wet to a Forest and Birder?



But goodness there really are LOTS of stairs  
And some wonderful Kauri – on an amazingly well-maintained track.  
Congratulations Doc Northland, the Mountain is a credit to you.

## **Submissions**

So far this year the indefatigable Roger Williams has written submissions on Warkworth Area Branch's behalf to the:

- Auckland Council Rates Remission and Postponement Policy Consultation.
- Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan 2018
- Warkworth Structure Plan
- Te Arai regional Parkland Management Plan and the
- Kohuroa Track Matheson Bay - Stage 2B

## **EVENTS.**

### **Planting**

Parry Kauri Park 27th May 10am to 12pm

Tawharanui Planting Days 9am – lunch catered

Sunday 3rd June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Mill Stream Planting Hepburn Creek Road Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July Chris Floyd

<https://millionmetres.org.nz/open-project/restoring-mill-stream-a-tributary-of-the-mahurangi-river>

### **Winter Talks 2018**

**Third Thursday of month at Totara Park Village hall 5 Melwood Dr, Warkworth 7:30 pm**

Winter talk series:

21 June - Colin Christie, Doc Conservation Dogs. Their training and what they do

19 July - Kevin Parker - recent bird trans-locations

16 August - Karen Field - how the marine environmental campaigns are going

20 September - to be confirmed

### **Warkworth Area Branch committee**

May 2018:

**Chairperson:** Sally Richardson

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**Secretary:** Raewyn Morrison

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**KCC co-ordinator:** Jo Rodgers

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### **Committee**

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