



Habitat - North Shore Branch news

Forest & Bird has a new website

We have the same address as before: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/> but a new look, and our [branch page](#) is still a work in progress.

Please bear with us as we work our way through the content to ensure everything is working correctly. If you have any questions about branch matters please email us on northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Tuff Crater

On Saturday 7 July a large group of volunteers turned out to plant the sloping bank behind the Canon building on Warehouse Way. The weather was fine (mostly) and the ground was a mud slider's dream; more than a few oops! heard as feet started sliding downwards. Over 800 plants were planted; a special thanks to the students helping for the first time, and the group from Forest & Bird Youth who planted 10 large (2m+) trees in very difficult ground conditions.





Our Thursday morning working group and our monthly Saturday working bees can always use more hands.

Volunteer opportunities

We run a working bee at 9am on the second Saturday of each month:

- August 11
- September 8
- October 13
- November 10

We also run a weekly working bee on Thursdays at 9:30am, supervised by Paul Pyper and Anne Denny.

To be on the email list for Tuff Crater events [please sign up on our website](#) and indicate if you want Thursday or Saturday emails or both

To find out more about Saturday events please call Richard Hursthouse on 021 216 1296

To find out more about Thursday work days please phone Paul Pyper on 021 0842 9255.

Obituary - Rona Wark

Rona was on the North Shore Branch committee for many years and was the keeper of the Branch Library, where she oversaw many books related to plants and animals. When she retired from that job, well after she left the committee, the Branch donated the books to the Awataha Marae.

Rona, along with another committee member and friend, Eric Geddes, was very involved in planting and weeding. They used to go to Tiritiri Matangi Island in Eric’s little outboard boat to assist with the work that Eric and another stalwart, Ralph Sylvester, were undertaking on



Rona Wark at Kauri Glen Reserve

the island.

Rona and two other retired teachers, Dorothy Wernham and Muriel Fanselow, started the Kiwi Conservation Club on the North Shore and they jointly received a coveted Old Blue Award for their work. They visited every primary school on the North Shore at the time to gather members. That formed a great base from which the Club grew and has been sustained with good numbers ever since. At Rona's funeral, her grandchildren talked about her taking them on Club outings and the other places she took them to enhance their appreciation of nature.

Rona lived to the wonderful age of 93 and packed a great deal into her life. The family kindly asked that people make donations to Forest & Bird in lieu of flowers, which is greatly appreciated. Rona also very kindly left the Branch a bequest. Thank you, Rona.

Calendars and Diaries for 2019 are now available

[Calendar & Diary Order Form \(PDF\)](#)

Funds raised from the sale of Calendars & Diaries are used locally for North Shore conservation projects. Encourage your neighbours, friends and local groups to buy as well. Great for overseas gifts. Exceptional quality and value, same prices as last year with only a small postage increase.



Our Trip to Botanic Gardens

It was a cold, wet Sunday and few people took up the opportunity to have a guided tour of the Botanic

Gardens with Bec Stanley. However, with some extra people from Meetup and others who had come because of the Open Day at the Gardens, we ended up with a nice-sized group where everyone could see and hear.

There was a wonderful exhibition of intricately detailed paintings of native plants and animals in the main entrance building. Bec showed us some rare species in one picture.

The key message we took away was the importance of, and effort expended by, Botanic Gardens staff to ensure their nursery is kept clear of organisms that could have a detrimental effect on trees and plants, many of which leave the gardens destined for replanting in different parts of Auckland, like our regional parks.

After the walk, some of the group stayed on to hear a talk by Chris Green about wētāpunga. The Branch can look forward to a talk on this topic in October.

Claire Stevens

What's On ... meetings, trips & activities

Public Meetings

Public meetings take place on the first Monday of each month (excluding January), including public holidays.

Venue: Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall, The Strand — through the courtyard at the rear of the Takapuna Library.

Time: 7:30pm.

Admission: **Non-members** are welcome. A koha/donation is appreciated to cover costs.

Please join us afterwards for supper and an opportunity to meet with our speaker and committee members.

For further information, email us at northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or phone Kerry Read 021 764 694.

Speakers: August to November 2018

Monday 6 August 7:30pm - Kiwis for Kiwi

"Saving our national icon - an ambitious plan to grow the kiwi population" - Michelle Impey, Executive Director, "Kiwis for Kiwi"



Amidst the constant barrage of doom and gloom news around the environment, there is a positive story in the making with kiwi conservation. Kiwi for Kiwis is a national charity that protects kiwi and the places they live by supporting community conservation projects. It has recently launched an ambitious strategy to grow kiwi by harnessing this network of community and Māori-led conservation projects. Michelle's talk will focus on this strategy, including informative background and information about kiwi.

Monday 3 September 7:30pm - Marine Matters



Photo: Roger Grace

Snapper – we love to eat it, catch it and export it. Sadly, our fishing activities have reduced Hauraki Gulf snapper stocks to just 20% of their natural abundance. **Karen Field** will be sharing what this means for those who like to fish, those who like to look, and those who would just like our seas to be flourishing. How is this snapper fishery being managed, and will its abundance be rebuilt in your lifetime?

Monday 2 October - Wētāpunga - our giant wētā

Although wētāpunga were originally distributed across Northland, Auckland and Great Barrier Island (Aotea), the species has only survived on Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island. Habitat destruction and predation from exotic pests saw to their demise. It is fortunate these special creatures have survived, even if just in one place. Successful breeding and translocation projects mean that they are also now present on Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora Islands. Learn about their journey back from the brink of extinction with entomologist **Chris Green**.

Monday 5 November - Kauri Rescue

An environmental scientist turned coordinator, campaigner, organiser, networker and environmental advocate, **Mels Barton** works with many community organisations and not-for-profits including Kauri Rescue, who are engaging the public to help fight kauri dieback disease.

Trips: August to November 2018

Sunday 5 August - Motutapu Island Planting



Join us on magical Motutapu Island to assist with planting out trees. This is a great activity for family groups, as it is easy digging due to the rich volcanic soil. An average level of fitness is recommended. There is time to explore Home Bay, and have a well-earned cuppa and sausage sizzle at the end of the planting, perhaps also getting a glimpse of the kākāpō.

The Rangitoto ferry leaves Pier B Downtown at 9:15am; Devonport approx. 9:25am. The ferry returns to Devonport/Downtown at approx. 4:30pm. The ferry cost is \$24.50 for adults, \$11.90 for children (5yrs–15yrs). Book early to avoid disappointment, as numbers are limited.

Please email Jocelyn Sanders at jocsanders52@gmail.com and she will send you the information you require, or telephone 09 479 2107 evenings.

Sunday 23 September, 10am to 2pm - Trip to Marunui Conservation Property, Mangawhai



The Marunui Conservation Property is 423 ha of native forest on the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn Hills near Mangawhai. It is collectively owned by a group of 18 shareholders. The area is covered by a QE II National Trust Open Space Covenant. Much of it is within DOC'S Schedule of Sites of Biological Interest and identified as being of High National Importance. Northland Brown Kiwi have been introduced and significant, indigenous, threatened plants identified in the area. More information can be found at [Marunui Conservation](#).

Members of the ownership group will take us on a guided walk to show us some of the special features and impressive views. We will be on bush tracks that may be moderately steep in places. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

For trip details, contact John Brown by Saturday 22nd September by phone: 09 415 2054 (leave a message if necessary) or email: john.alison.brown@outlook.com

Sunday 14 October, 10am - Eskdale Reserve Fish and Invertebrate Monitoring

On Sunday, 14 October, at 10:00 am, we will be 'fishing' in the Eskdale Reserve for invertebrates, testing the quality of the stream and checking to see what Brett (our scientist) has caught in his traps. This time we hope that we aren't rained out the day before, or on the day.

If you wish to join us on this fascinating expedition, then please meet at the entrance by the substation on Eskdale Road. If you turn right into Eskdale Road from Glenfield Road (travelling

south), about 1 kilometre along, at the bottom of the hill, is the entrance on the right-hand side.

The trip is suitable for all age groups and a moderate level of fitness is recommended.

Please contact Jocelyn Sanders if you wish to join us: jocsanders52@gmail.com, or 027 290 4826, so she can contact you in the case of cancellation.

Sunday 25 November, 10am to 12noon - Trip to the RNZAF Base, Whenuapai

The environment within the Royal NZ Air Force Base at Whenuapai is rapidly changing. Terry Walker, Regional Grounds Manager, will show us around the impressive work that he and his team are doing, especially the riparian planting along 15 km of stream banks and the planting of large bare areas in native vegetation. The terrain is mostly flat, and walking is easy.

Meet at the front gate next to Whenuapai School, 14 Airport Road, off Brigham Creek Road. If it is raining heavily, the trip will be cancelled. It is not necessary to register unless you wish to receive a cancellation email in the event of heavy rain.

Contact John Brown on 09 415 2054, 021 0229 0040, or john.alison.brown@outlook.com.

*Forest & Bird is New Zealand's independent voice for nature. Our mission is
To protect and restore nature in Aotearoa/New Zealand.*



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