



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

Waikato Branch
NEWSLETTER
July 2018

CONTENTS

Tribute to Jon Wenham	1
News	2
AGM /Conference	3
Trips reports	4-6
Calendar of events	7

Give us your email!

Please let us know if you have an email address and would prefer not to receive hard copy newsletters. This saves the branch in printing and mailing costs - money better spent on conservation projects.

Also we can update you about date or venue changes easily. Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome. Photos should be at least 300kb. Email to waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



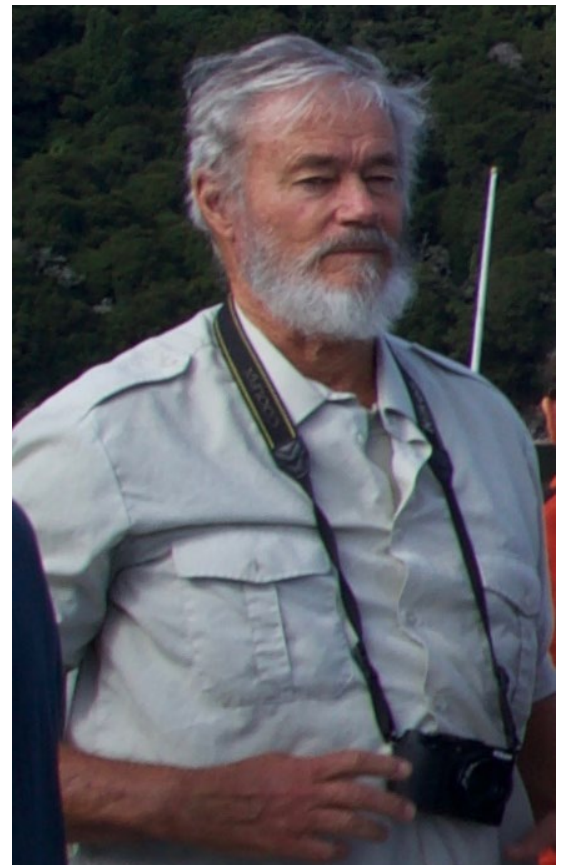
<https://www.facebook.com/forestandbirdwaikato/>

In Memoriam Jon Wenham

Members of Forest and Bird nation-wide were shocked by the sudden and totally unexpected death of Jon Wenham on 26 July. Jon was a leading light in the Waikato branch for the past couple of decades and active at national level in more recent years, notably as a member of the Board for seven years.

In whatever activity Jon became engaged in, he always got on, quietly but thoroughly, doing practical work to 'make things happen'. He became a member of the national executive, as it was then called, shortly before Forest and Bird's Ruapehu lodge burnt down, and it was largely due to his efforts and persistence that a magnificent replacement was erected, to a plan devised by Jon. Typically, shortly before his death he was working out how to improve the landscaping and other issues still requiring action.

As examples of Jon's involvement in other conservation projects, he was a trustee of the Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust, and had recently retired from the Landcare Trust. Within our branch, Jon could be relied on to put his hand up when required. At our last evening meeting, in Katherine's absence, he arranged for a lap-top projector and a sound system and chaired the evening in his usual efficient and relaxed way. Over the years he has assisted with walks and camps and participated in many working bees in reserves and covenants. A wonderful photographer, his iconic photos of Gordon Stephenson and Arthur Cowan were used in the national magazine, and his poetic shots of nature enhanced our display board. In many ways a perfectionist, he



could always be relied on to do whatever he did to the highest level - there was nothing slapdash about anything he did. And most importantly, on top of all this he was always fun to have around, with a quiet wit and an interest in a wide range of issues both local and world-wide.

Some people depart this life without leaving much of a legacy; Jon died leaving a large hole in many organizations and an intense feeling of loss for all who knew him. In Miles Barker's words "constant buddy, steadfast inspiration, wisdom and strength personified, Kiwi to the core ... he ngākau aroha, he totara ataahua i roto i te ngāhere .. auē, auē, auē ..."

Our condolences to his son Robert and siblings Conrad, Michael and Annette.

Waikato Show award for Branch



Waikato Branch was awarded a Best Exhibition Stand 2018 at the Waikato Show- Te Papanui early in April.

Thanks to Julie Dorofaeff for organising our volunteers, and to the volunteers themselves, who looked after visitors to our stand. It was especially noted in the judges' comments how welcoming our volunteers had been.

We were also delighted to welcome Marama Davidson, now co-leader of the Green Party, on the very morning of the election outcome.



And we were at Fieldays again - along with a Tui as part of a DoC activity - which brought lots of potential KCC families to our stand.

And our bird ID game was popular once again. Thanks to the volunteers who came, and interacted with the visitors to our stand.



Regional gatherings dates:

The North Island Gathering will be hosted by Tauranga Branch at Aongatete, Friday 28 September - Sunday 30 September. Expect an exciting weekend at the Aongatete Outdoor Education Lodge. Come and enjoy the restored forest which Forest & Bird has been working on for over 10 years, and spend some stimulating time with your fellow conservationists!

The South Island gathering is scheduled for 26-28 of October in the Catlins. These hui are a fantastic opportunity to go on interesting field trips, hear from conservation experts, network, and gain skills.

Committee Members	Phone	Mobile	Email	Responsibilities
Katherine Hay		021 267 2773	khaypear.co.nz	Chairperson, Newsletter.
Philip Hart	07 856 7992		prhart@waikato.ac.nz	Secretary, Trips
Bill Vant	07 856 2505		vantbill@gmail.com	Treasurer
Adua Geremia	07 843 3375		aduageremia@yahoo.co.nz	Membership, Publicity
Bruce Dean	07 827 2874			Morgan Res, Walter Scott
Jane McLeod	07 856 2505	021 146 7789	jane.mcleod64@gmail.com	Minutes secretary, Publicity, Trips, Meeting catering contact.
Julie Dorofaeff	07 8435430	022 408 2163	jfdorofaeff@xtra.co.nz	Rosters
Miles Barker	07 856 3778	027 673 8660	mbarker@waikato.ac.nz	Valder Grants
Kevin Collins	07 859 2606	021 341 749	kevcollins20007@yahoo.com	Submissions, newsletter
Keith Holborow	07 853 9377	027 698 6514	kjholborow@gmail.com	Walter Scott
Briar Taylor Smith	021 293 4832		briar6@gmail.com	KCC

Please address all correspondence to 'Secretary, PO Box 11092, Hillcrest, Hamilton' or waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Please - Let us know if you have changed your email address!

Forest and Bird Soc. divesting from fossil fuels

In May, we put our money where our values are and divested our own finances from fossil fuels. We made a switch from ANZ to Kiwibank, because we didn't want our (and your money) being used to fund new development of fossil fuels and more carbon pollution. What this means for you, is that you'll have to use our new bank account number 38-9019-0456965-01 in your automatic payments and donations, OR you can simply set up a new "Bill Payer" by looking up "Forest" in your online banking portal. If you have any trouble give us a call.

Welcome to our digital magazine

You can now read your favourite conservation magazine online. We have introduced a digital version of Forest & Bird magazine.

If you would like to receive a digital version of the magazine please contact membership@forestandbird.org.nz and they will change your magazine preference to an online magazine by email every quarter, rather than the hard copy version delivered to your door.

Please contact editor Caroline Wood at editor@forestandbird.org.nz with any further questions or feedback.

Conference and AGM 2018

Last month conservationists from around the country came together for one of our largest conferences in recent memory.

It was standing room only as our new Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage announced plans to make Subantarctic Auckland Island pest-free. Both Minister for the Environment, David Parker and Minister for Fisheries, Stuart Nash acknowledged that the importance of the environment in last year's election, and signalled a change in culture and priorities with the new government. This is good news for our campaign to put cameras on fishing boats, stronger climate action and better protection of our waterways.

2018 Award Winners

At our annual Sanderson Memorial Dinner (named after our founder Captain Edward "Val" Sanderson), we recognise outstanding contributions towards conservation - often decades worth of underappreciated hard work. The recipients of this year's awards are:

- Distinguished Life Member award to Graham Bellamy, Upper Hutt
 - Old Blue award to Neil Eagles, Taradale
 - Old Blue award to Graeme Loh, Otago
 - Old Blue award to Roger Williams, Warkworth
 - Branch Award to Nelson Tasman Branch
 - Te Kaiārahi Rangatahi o te Taiao youth award to George Hobson, Wellington
- We thank you on behalf of our natural environment, which would be much worse off without your hard work.

Congratulations to ex-Waikato member Roger Williams

Before moving to Warkworth, the Williams family lived in the Waikato for 39 years. He and wife Pattie worked on the development of the Maungatautari sanctuary, where he designed and led the building of the 16-metre-high viewing tower.

In Warkworth, Roger has designed and built walkways and cycleways in areas such as the former cement works and Parry Kauri Park. He and Pattie have organised and led weed control and planting efforts at many sites in the area.

Tāwharanui Regional Park has become a major focus for Roger. He has built

walkways in the park, leads a maintenance team and monitors takahē, kiwi and pāteke. Kauri dieback has been a particular focus with the spread of the disease through areas in the north. His hygiene station design at Kauri Park, which requires people to walk through and clean their shoes at the park entrance was a response to the ineffectiveness of other hygiene spray stations.

Forgotten places Campaign

In forgotten corners of New Zealand, nature is disappearing. Government agencies are failing to protect nature on public land. On private land, rules are still allowing destruction of threatened plants and animals, leaving increasingly tiny fragments of intact nature. We have to turn this around, or we will lose more species forever.

Forest & Bird volunteers are assisting with the re-introduction of species to recovering forests today. But overall, we're still losing – there are too many places and too many species simply slipping through the gaps. Over 80% of our land-based birds, bats, reptiles and frogs are in trouble, and climate change is going to make things worse.

A few examples of the forgotten places:

- Forests are collapsing
- Wetlands are disappearing and the ones that remain are often degraded, even some of our internationally recognised RAMSAR wetlands
- Crown-owned land in the high country is threatened by development on an enormous scale
- Riverbeds are choked with weeds, which degrades habitat for native wildlife

What is Forest & Bird doing?

We are shining a light on these forgotten places, and advocating for the care and management they need. We need your help to let us know about your local forgotten places – we'd love to hear from you! Email forgottenplaces@forestandbird.org.nz with your stories and photos.

Together, we can create a fighting chance for New Zealand's unique natural environment.

What can you do-

What you can do in 5 minutes

Send stories and photos of your forgotten places to forgottenplaces@forestandbird.org.nz

TRIP REPORTS

WALK - 11 MARCH

TAUKANI HILL AND PIVOT ROCK AT KARANGAHAKE



Over a dozen enthusiastic walkers embarked on the bushbash off the Windows track via an old hidden route up to the top of Taukani Hill, where we examined relics from past mining days. Bob Jordan and Kevin Montague have made many trips into the area over the past year and had discovered the hidden old track which follows along to old mine shafts, and showed us old cable attachments in rock, high up above the river from where materials were dropped down.

Lunch was eaten in the bush near a lookout site, and then some brave souls stood on Pivot Rock and even attached a pink piece of fabric to the rock so we could later identify where we had been from down below on the track next to the river. It looked a long way up.

An interesting day out, discovering places we would never have found on our own.



Marker being attached to Pivot Rock

25th MARCH

WALTER SCOTT COMMUNITY DAY



Kereru flew past to welcome about 25 people attending the community day at Walter Scott. Quite a few from neighbouring properties came along including Neil Fitzgerald and family who have been involved in organising the pest control in the reserve. Others came who have been helping Neil; Keith Holborow and Jeanette, and Errol Balks and Megan. So it was good for Forest and Bird members to meet those who live around our very attractive and biodiverse reserve, and the people who are involved in maintaining it. We all headed off for a walk round the track before enjoying a relaxed lunch in the sun.

WALK - Sunday 14th April

WAIRERE FALLS

A much nicer day for a walk up to the falls than last time, and a small group enjoyed the walk up through the bush beside the huge boulders strewn along the track, a clear viewing from the lookout area, and were rewarded with a generous amount of water cascading over the falls.

Rhabdothamus solandri Turepo was seen flowering next to the track, and the new growth on the *Dracophyllum traversii* up at the top of the falls was particularly attractive.



TRIP REPORTS

EASTER CAMP 30 April - 2 May LIONS HUT, WAIMANA VALLEY, TE UREWERA

Thankfully the weather was kind this year and we had a very successful camp up the Waimana Valley in the Ureweras. Part of the adventure of the Waimana valley is the road in. It was easy to see the damage from last year's storms with washouts, slips and steep bluffs as you wind your way along, avoiding the odd horse along the way.

Our accommodation was perfectly adequate, newly cleaned and spruced by the local group who look after the Lions Hut. We took plenty firewood to keep the Marshall hotwater heater going, and survived for three days without a fridge. Solar panels supplied power for the LED strip lighting in the kitchen and dining areas.

On the Friday afternoon those who had arrived went for a pleasant stroll along the Ngutuoha Nature Walk adjacent to the lodge. Robin and tomtit were common around the area with tui and bellbirds around as well. In fact the robin serenaded us much of our stay.

Saturday we set off over to the Te Waiiti Stream via Te Pona a Pita Track. This track is well formed and starts from the carpark at the southern end of Ogilvies Bridge. A local hunters' vehicle passing by with dogs on the roof intrigued our party. The good track is not too strenuous and passes up through some beautiful gully areas filled with nikau palms, and luxuriant growth reflecting the high rainfall of the area.

Evidence of successful possum trapping was seen along the track.

After the summit and seat the track sidles down into Te Waiiti Valley, where Te Waiiti Stream flats provides an excellent lunch stop, and the children were very happy playing in the river. Sadly we did not spot any whio (blue duck). There is a possible detour up Ogilvies Ridge which we decided not to take and headed back the way we came.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day, and had to start with



the obligatory easter egg hunt for the younger members. We then drove to the end of the road, and walked over farmland, to the start of the track, stopping to admire the well-shaped matai out in the open in the paddocks. Quite a contrast from forest giants.

Then up the valley track to Ohane and start of the 'six-foot track' to Rua's settlement. There were a number of stream crossings right from the start so wet feet were unavoidable. Some of the party had to turn back late morning but the rest of us carried on and eventually came unexpectedly to a well-kept whareniui, complete with composting toilet and sole resident who we chatted to before heading back the way we had come. It provides a place in the bush for iwi members to stay.

Driving back we called in at the Eight Acre camp not far from Lions Hut, which looked a really beautiful place to come and camp. Sunday night's smoked fish rissoles were the best camp dinner.

Monday was damp, so most were keen to clean up and get home, but we had thoroughly enjoyed our weekend in the wilderness, surrounded by cloud-laden heavily forested hills, no fridge and best of all, no cellphone coverage or screens.



TRIP REPORTS

WALK - Sunday 10th June PUKEMOKEMOKE, TAUHEI



A small group ventured out on a winter's day, for a good walk up Pumemokemoke along with many other runners and dog walkers. We cleaned our boots thoroughly before starting the track as there is a very nice grove of kauri in the reserve. A new boardwalk with many steps is there to help protect trees. The track goes up through forest which has been logged but many largish trees are left including some lovely matai and totara. The view from the top was a typical Waikato winter scene with mist still hanging over the plains. We headed back via the northeast track to the loghauled site. This walk is recommended as a good one to do in winter and not too far from Hamilton.

WALK - 8th July Walter Scott bug walk

Briar took a keen group around Walter Scott Reserve for a bug wander, using her special detector which shows up certain lichens under UV light. Along the way, every hole and cavity in Walter Scott was examined in minute detail, with many critters being added to iNaturalistNZ website as we went. There was a variety of fungi of different colours, assorted spiders and beetles, and we could see the sticky feeding lines of glowworms.



Te Ara Whānui

One of the big announcements at our annual conference was the predator fence being proposed by Ngāti Kuri to protect Te Paki, the northern tip of the country, from pests such as possums, stoats, rats and feral cats. The Far North is home to some of our rarest flora and fauna, and this fence could see native wildlife like the kākā, kākāriki, kākāpō, weka, kiwi, tuatara and various burrowing seabirds that used to live at Te Paki return to the area.

Sheridan Waitai of Ngāti Kuri said it's the same length as the fence that wraps around Zealandia, a protected natural area in Wellington. But Ngāti Kuri's fence will navigate some slightly more challenging terrain.

"The difference with this fence is State Highway 1 access and beach access on either side," says Ms Waitai.

The 8.5km fence will stretch from below the Te Paki sand dunes on the West Coast, across State Highway 1, to the Parengarenga Harbour just south to Te Hapua on the east coast.

She hopes their \$1.2 million fence will offer better protection against threats and predators in the bio-diverse hotspot.

"It's a place that has so many endemic species in it," says Ms Waitai. "It needs to be protected."



* What is this plant?
(not a NZ native) see p 8



TRAP LIBRARY - Coming soon!
Predator Free 2050 is setting up trap libraries in various locations and one is at Go Eco, so if you are in Hamilton and interested in putting a trap in your garden or gully, contact Go Eco to go on the list for more details.

admin@goeco.org.nz

Ph: 07 839 4452

188 Commerce St, Frankton,
Hamilton

GO ECO

www.goeco.org.nz

Mon-Fri: 10am - 4pm

Sat: 9am - 1pm

To our walkers and campers -

Please note: for health and safety reasons we ask everyone coming on trips or camps to let the leader know they are coming and their emergency contact details and any relevant health problems before the trip.

While we do take a PLB and first aid kit we expect that members will take care of their own personal requirements.

Events Calendar

WALK - Sunday 12th August

MAPARA and OAMARU FALLS

Easy +

Meet at the Te Kuiti Toilets, halfway down the main street by the iSite at 9:30am to convoy.

35km (45mins drive) south of Te Kuiti

Part one of the day:

On reaching the reserve we will cross a swing bridge and follow a graded track gently upwards. We will stop and listen for the call of the Kokako that have been established here.

We will return back down by a loop track (walking poles could be useful). This circuit will take us approx 1-2 hours return.

Part two of the day:

We will drive back out to highway 4 and drive south approx 1/2hour to Oamaru Falls.

This track follows a stream, then a nice bush walk across a swing bridge and farmland. We will climb a short way up to a good vantage point to view the spectacular Oamaru Falls.

Returning the same way will take us about 30mins each way. There could be a little mud on the farmland track. Bring usual tramping gear – warm clothes, raincoat, boots, poles etc along with snacks and lunch.

Leader Keith Wilkinson Ph 07 8474399 or 0273666194

WALK -

Sunday 9th September

WAIHI

Moderate - Hard

Turn up at the Waihi Beach north end carpark 10.00 am and we will aim to be back by 3pm

To get there:

Just continue on Beach road until it ends at the sea. The Waihi Beach surf life saving building is in the same carpark.

If the weather is ok there are a few options most of which end at Orokawa Beach and we can walk back via the coast track.

The walk will be hard - most will be on minor tracks, with steep ups and downs, muddy and possibly slippery. If the tracks are muddy then boots will

be needed. It will mostly be on tracks that the locals put in so they're not 'proper' DoC tracks.

If the weather is appalling we will have a shorter walk and just use the new track to the Trig which is up and down on formed track which will take 60 minutes.

Leader Sue Lean 02040924021

TALK

Thursday 11th September

CONSERVATION WEEK TALK

(Conservation Week is 15 - 23 September)

Update on DoC's activities for 2018.

Celebrating 30 years of change in DOC's work with communities.

See box* for meal details prior to the meeting. All welcome.

WALK -

Sunday 14th October 2018 –

OTANEWAINUKU/OROPI TAURANGA

Grade 1

Meet at the Caltex Service station at Turikino on the Tauranga side of the Kaimai Ranges, before the toll road at 9:30 – 10am

Today's walk has two options:

Option One:

Climb up to the summit with a great lookout and return via a loop track.

Approx 2hours.

Option Two:

On the other side of the road we could do a loop track taking us down to a cascading waterfall and come back via the loop track. Approx 2 hours.

On our drive back we pass the Oropi Café and hot pools so some might like to bath there.

Bring usual tramping gear – warm clothes, raincoat, boots, poles etc along with snacks and lunch.

Add swimming togs for those wishing to go to the hot pools.

Leader Keith Wilkinson Ph 07 8474399 or 0273666194

* Join us for a catered meal on Talks nights, 6.15pm. Bookings for dinner prior to the talk to Jane McLeod by the previous Sunday \$15.00 per person, phone 856 2505 or email jane.mcleod64@gmail.com

Labour Weekend Camp

SHAKESPEAR REGIONAL PARK, WHANGAPAROA PENINSULA.

Friday 19th to Monday 22nd October.

We will stay at the YMCA Lodge within the Park. Bed and food for 3 nights will be about \$130 (children \$65).

Saturday: visit Tiritiri Matangi Island - You will need to book the Fullers Ferry: Return from Gulf Harbour (\$60) asap. If you would like to join a guided tour book Ferry and Tour (\$70).

Sunday: There are interesting walks of varying length and difficulty.

Bring kayaks, mountain bikes and kites if you wish.

Deposit for camp \$40 each
Forest and Bird Waikato Branch
06-0369-0036337-00

To book for the camp go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHuuYbwsZandjvOGAQYC32w1WGAZrQrmEbZMoAKxkFY7esYA/viewform> (People not on line can ring Briar.)

Leader: Briar Smith 0212934832; briar6@gmail.com

WALK - November 11th

WAITAWHETA GORGE

Leave Hamilton at 8.00, drive via Karangahake Gorge where turn right shortly before Waikino and drive to Waitawheta Camp (former school) and turn right again, parking at end of Franklin Road at 9.30.

Follow timber tramway for as far as you like through dramatic gorge and ending at the Waitawheta hut.

Will be wet feet from a couple of unbridged river crossings.

Average (flat but full day walk).

Leader: Philip Hart 07 856 7889
prhart1940@gmail.com

TALK

Thursday 15th November

CONSERVATION IN ZAMBIA

Gerry Kessels

7.30pm Hamilton Gardens

Zambia is a country of incredible biodiversity and huge conservation challenges. Come and hear how these challenges are met in a country so very different from ours. A talk not to be missed.

See box* for meal details prior to the meeting.

Car Pooling

Help protect our planet from the effects of climate change and pollution (and reduce costs) by carpooling when going on Forest and Bird trips and camps.

Please phone the leader of the trip a couple of days in advance to organise if you need, or can offer, a ride. Please do offer the driver a reasonable contribution towards their petrol costs.

Cancellation of Walks

Walks will go ahead unless there is a really adverse forecast, but check with the leader if unsure.

* Plant question P6 - it is a *Welwitschia mirabilis*, a desert plant, native to Namibia, and this plant is over 1500 years old - it only grows 2 leaves in its whole life.



Return Address
Waikato Branch Forest and Bird
PO Box 11 092
Hillcrest
Hamilton

