



# Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

## PROGRAMME JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2018

Talks are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **Tahunanui School Hall, Muritai Street, Tahunanui** at **7.30pm**. Contributions for **sales table and raffle** are most welcome. Gold coin donation towards hall hire please.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>JUNE</b>	13	NMIT trainee ranger presentation
	17	Weedbusting at Ronga Reserve, Rai Valley
	29	Hon Minister Eugenie Sage talk on conservation
	30	Pearl Creek planting 9am
<b>JULY</b>	6-8	Weekend camp at Mangarakau Lodge
	11	'Flying into an uncertain future' by David Melville
	14-15	Community planting at Orphanage Stream delta
	20-22	Spotted Shag spectacle in Golden Bay
<b>AUGUST</b>	8	Penny Wardle will explain public walking access
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	1	Ronga Reserve planting day
	7-9	Weekend camp at Ngarata Homestead in Totaranui
	12	Zac Milner will talk about Gough Island in the south Atlantic
<b>OCTOBER</b>	10.	Update on Project Janzoon

**The winter riparian planting of 7,000+ trees at Paremata Flats Reserve has now been completed** and the regular Tuesday restoration effort will soon be underway again. Keep up to date at the Paremata website <http://www.paremataflats.co.nz/> or contact Ian Price at [ian.price@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ian.price@xtra.co.nz)

### JUNE

**Wednesday 13** In June 2017, Forest and Bird awarded an Andy Dennis scholarship to two students doing the **NMIT Trainee Ranger programme**. The successful recipients of this scholarship, Caitlyn Kilner and Tyla Porteous, are now set to graduate and enter the conservation work force. Caitlyn and Tyla are keen to present some highlights of what they have accomplished this year and where they hope their new skills will take them as they apply for jobs. The NMIT Conservation Coordinator, Beth Endres, will also talk about how the Trainee Ranger programme strives to produce graduates that add to our overarching capability in New Zealand conservation.

**Sunday 17 Weedbusting from 10am to mid-afternoon.** This weedbust is our fourth outing to this magnificent podocarp treeland, where F&B have been underplanting trees for five years. The weedbust is to support the restoration of the reserve where longtailed bats have been recorded. We are targeting Chinese privet seedlings and old man's beard. Our busts here have been well attended. Hopefully we can keep up such enthusiasm. Our efforts are also our contribution toward securing contractor weed control at the reserve for which we have been awarded \$60,000 over three years from the DOC community fund - but only so long as we make a sufficient voluntary effort to complement it! So please come if you can. Meet on the road beside the reserve at 10am if you already know where to go, otherwise 9.45am outside the Brick Oven Cafe in Rai township. To ensure we have adequate tools, and to share rides please let us know if you are coming, email Michael at [totara@ts.co.nz](mailto:totara@ts.co.nz). Bring your lunch & drinks. Tools and gloves provided. If the weather is poor, phone Michael and Debs on 5452431 around 8-9am on the morning of the weedbust for a recorded message of possible postponement.

**Friday 29 Hon Minister Eugenie Sage talks about conservation post-budget** and her trip to Sub Antarctic islands. She will introduce Kath Walker and Graeme Elliott who will talk about the latest research following their work in Sub Antarctica. This meeting will be held at the Nelson Yacht Club at 7pm.

**Saturday 30 Pearl Creek planting day** from 9am to midday. Meet at the end of Cotterell Rd, Appleby. 400 plants to go in the ground. Help also needed to assemble and position plant protectors. Bring gardening gloves and planting spade and wear sturdy footwear. Contact Jo Kay 544 9666 or 0211169877 or [robjokay@xttra.co.nz](mailto:robjokay@xttra.co.nz)

## JULY

**Friday 6 to Sunday 8 Weekend camp at Mangarakau Lodge** north-west boundary of Kahurangi National Park. There is some firewood to be moved, walks to be taken or books to be read. Contact Julie at [nikau48@gmail.com](mailto:nikau48@gmail.com)

**Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 Community Planting at Orphanage Stream Delta** organised by Forest and Bird with support from Nelson Nature. Your chance to help restore a coastal habitat in Nelson City. Volunteers will meet at the back of the carpark at Annesbrook Church, 40 Saxton Rd, Stoke at 9 am. Bring a spade if you can and wear solid footwear and gloves. A snack and drink may be available. Contact Julie for more info 5450989.

**Wednesday 11 'Flying into an uncertain future' a presentation by David Melville.** David has, for most of his life, worked to ensure the needs of waders and other coastal birds, both migratory and local, are adequately looked after by councils and governments in their decision making. In recent years David has worked with Chinese authorities to stop the in-filling of shorelines in the Yellow Sea where thousands of migratory birds feed on their flights to Alaska and Siberia where they breed.



**Friday 20 to Sunday 22 View a natural spectacle at Tata beach in Golden Bay.** Before sunrise hundreds of spotted shags will dive in the shallow water to swallow pebbles which they then regurgitate in piles on the beach. Within ½ an hour the shags are all gone again. Accommodation at Pohara Motor Camp, so book ASAP with Julie 5450989 or [nikau48@gmail.com](mailto:nikau48@gmail.com) Watch a video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srEvJm0djtM>

## AUGUST

**Wednesday 8 Penny Wardle is NZ Walking Access Commission regional field advisor** for the Top of the South. She will tell us what the job involves, introduce Walking Access Maps which identify where there's public access and talk about some cases in the area.

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 1 Ronga Reserve planting day.** We'd love to have your company as we plant more trees into the fabulous alluvial forest DOC reserve at Ronga in the Rai Valley. The trees from previous plantings have had a great year (despite our worries of a drought early on!) and our next year's plants are waiting to go in. This very special little forest has giant totara and matai, and is home to NZ's long-tailed bats. It is surrounded by the Ronga and Opouri Rivers and access is normally difficult. Forest & Bird have been planting and weeding in this reserve for 5 years now. Many have contributed their time and energy – some also donated \$s for trees. We have received generous support from the DOC Community Fund, and work in partnership with Nelson-Tasman Weedbusters. The ground will be pre-prepared for planting this year, as last year the ground was a bit hard! Join us for planting followed by a BBQ with our DOC crew on Saturday 1st September. Bring gloves, your own spade and a salad to share. BBQ food kindly provided. Meet at the Brick Oven at Rai Valley at 9.45am or on site if you've been before. Postponement date to 2nd September. If you'd like to share transport please contact Jenny [jennym.easton@gmail.com](mailto:jennym.easton@gmail.com)

**Friday 7 to Sunday 9 Weekend camp at Ngarata Homestead.** We will be planting and doing plant maintenance at Hadfields Clearing near Awaroa in Abel Tasman National Park. You may see pateke as they are now breeding here. We plan to work on the Friday afternoon and on Saturday with a walk on Sunday. Book with Julie [nikau48@gmail.com](mailto:nikau48@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 12 Zac Milner will talk to us about his work on Gough Island.** Zac works for Kaitiaki o Ngahere, an ecological restoration and biosecurity company and recently travelled to Gough Island in the south Atlantic Ocean to help with the management of the invasive pest plant *Sagina procumbens* – a small herbaceous ground-cover plant that has the potential to smother large areas of ground and out-compete the native vegetation. Zac was training the field team in weed control methodology, assessing the feasibility of eradication, and making recommendations for future management.



## OCTOBER

**Wednesday 10 Update on Project Janszoon's** efforts to restore the Abel Tasman National Park after 6 years. The talk will focus on progress in managing the threats to biodiversity in the park, the opportunities and challenges of restoring key species and ecosystems, and the Project's approach to securing the gains being made in the park.

## **REGIONAL MANAGER'S REPORT – DEBS MARTIN**

Aotearoa New Zealand is a diverse land of contrasts. Yesterday I travelled home from my little bach at the Ashburton Lakes and drove through high country tussocklands, dripping wet rainforest, beech-clad hillsides, kahikatea swamp forest, river valleys streaming with norwest rain – back to my little QEII block in North Nelson. I'm always struck by the fact that no matter where we go – its weeds, pests and habitat protection that are the paramount issues. I saw broom-covered hillsides, predator traps, toxin operations, wilding pines (many sprayed!), and warning signs to watch out for kea, kiwi, and weka. I saw swamps still being drained, and yet others proudly in the throes of restoration.

So it was great news to hear of the biggest boost in the Department of Conservation's funding since the early 2000s. More will be done for predator control – and although we pride ourselves on getting out and about the traplines, we are only the icing on the cake. We need landscape scale predator control, and we need it urgently. I was just reviewing the threat status report of long-tailed bats, and without intensive conservation management, and habitat protection, their population is predicted to continue to decline at an alarming rate – greater than 70%! This story rings true for many other species as well – our birds, our lizards, and our freshwater fish.

This year we're going to see a strategic alliance covering Councils, DOC, iwi, as well as other agencies, looking at how we can tackle our very big issues in the top of the South Island. I'm pleased to be able to contribute to that process and I hope we will see even more activity – building on the work we already do, and identify where we can – and should – do more. Our work as Forest & Bird is essential advocates, as well as pest trappers and plant tenders. Your local branch have supported me with submissions on the Tasman and Nelson Long Term Plans, the Regional Pest Management Strategy, and have written submissions to protect places like Te Waikoropupu Springs.

I urge you to put the South Island gathering in your diaries for October, come along to a branch meeting, or a planting day – go to the AGM in Wellington. Get involved, and be another voice for nature. We're all needed.

### **2018 South Island Gathering**

This year's South Island gathering will be on the 26 – 28 October at Tautuku Adventure Camp in the Catlins. Mark your calendars for another great gathering in yet another amazing location. All are encouraged to attend. Details will follow nearer the time.