

Forest & Bird North Island Gathering 2018 Programme

Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre, Katikati. 28-30 September

Enjoy a weekend of talks, walks and stimulating conversation at the Aongatete Outdoor Education Lodge, set in the beautiful Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. This is the site of the Aongatete Forest project, initiated by Forest and Bird, which has been working for over ten years to restore the forest and its wildlife.

Conservation is not just about forest and birds. This year we have a marine theme. Our speakers will talk about new developments and opportunities for marine protection, specifically at Motiti Island, the site of the tragic Rena disaster, and beyond in the Bay of Plenty. We'll also find out how the fisheries quota management system works (or does it?). There will be off-shore and estuary field trips as well as opportunities to enjoy the Aongatete forest and find out about its pest control.

Costs: Whole weekend - \$160, Saturday only including lunch and dinner \$100, Optional Motiti Boat Trip Sunday \$50.

Friday afternoon /evening 28 September

Arrive from 4:30pm and register. Eat beforehand or bring your own dinner.

6:30pm - Welcome.

6:45pm - Aongatete Night Walk with Peter Madison looking at Invertebrates. Bring torch.

Friday Optional Boat Trip - Explore the Motiti Natural Environment area to see the sea birds, marine mammals and other attributes of the area. Depart 10:30am Tauranga Marina. Return to Tauranga marina around 3pm. Boat trip is weather dependent and dependent on minimum bookings. Cost \$50 per person.

Saturday 29 September

7am - Breakfast.

8:45am - Welcome.

9am - Karen Field: Introduction to Fisheries Management.

9:40 am - T.A. Sayers: New developments for marine protection at Motiti and their wider implications.

10:20 am - Morning Tea.

10:50 am - Karen Field and T.A. Sayers host a Q&A panel and audience discussion on what people would like to see in the marine environment.

11:30am - Dr Phil Ross – University of Waikato : Learning from the Rena 5 years on. Marine Science and Research: The Future.

12:30pm - Lunch and the Presentation of the F&B Kotuku Awards to the Motiti Rohemoana Trust.

- 1:30pm - Paul Warren - Toi Ohomai: Learning from Tuhua Marine Reserve.
- 2:10pm - Afternoon tea.
- 2:30pm - Kauri Point Harbour Walk. Seagrass, Stingray pits, Mangroves. Forest & Bird education resources.
- 6pm - Dinner, Te Kouka award presentation to Warwick Massey and Quiz.
- 7pm - Basil Graeme: Climate Change - the future of high tide roosts.
- 7:10pm – Movie (*to be confirmed*)

Sunday 30 September

- 7am - Breakfast and make packed lunches – pack away gear.
- 8:45am - Update from Board and staff.
- 9:45am - Morning tea and clean up.
- 10:30am - Aongatete Field Trips.

Field Trip Option 1: Aongatete showcase of the good and the bad.

A showcase of the pest controlled Aongatete forest and the reality of the rest. 3 hours moderately strenuous.

Field Trip Option 2: Nature loop and waterhole track

An easy walk around the nature loop to see the new interpretative signs and on the new waterhole track. Nature loop 30 mins easy. Waterhole track 1 hour moderate.