

Kārearea

Protecting a southern land

Oct–Nov 2018



Image: Craig McKenzie

An Open Letter from Kaitieki regarding the use of 1080 poison in Aotearoa ngaherejustice@gmail.com

We are a collective of kaitieki Maori actively engaged in the care and maintenance of our ecological taonga. We are researchers, practitioners, activists and hapu/iwi advisors on taiao who hold many years of active service to our people, ngāhere, waterways and coastlines.

In writing this letter we reaffirm our commitment to Papatūānuku, Ranginui, me a rāua tini mokopuna. As descendants of this land and these waters, we are privileged to carry the legacy of our ancestors in caring for all native and endemic species, for the enjoyment of all mokopuna. We also understand that our distinct and precious taonga is currently under extreme threat from invasive species. We are losing our endemic species at unacceptably high rates, and a failure to act falls short of our responsibilities to our ancestors and future generations.

To these ends, we make the following statement regarding the use of 1080:

We support the involvement of mana whenua in making the best decision for their ecological taonga.

We affirm that full and undisturbed possession of all taonga is secured through Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and recognize that many hapū and iwi have been wrongfully dispossessed of their ecological taonga which now rests in possession of the Crown, and is under the care of the Department of Conservation. We strongly advocate for the inclusion of manawhenua in the decision making about pest control strategies on all conservation estate. We also recognise the diverse range of topographies and ecologies across Aotearoa. For some tangata whenua 1080 is not a viable option, and for others, it is



The use of 1080 has been important for the protection of South Island mohua/yellowhead populations Image: Craig McKenzie

the only option. In line with tikanga we oppose a call for a national ban on 1080, as this would undermine the ability for all mana whenua to make the best decision for their region, and respective taonga.

We support full access to robust science to inform the best decision making.

We are greatly concerned with the amount of mistruth surrounding the use of 1080, which is unhelpful and distracting for those charged with making decisions. We acknowledge the significant level of research already carried out under strict guidelines to develop 1080 to what it is today. We also acknowledge that our ngāhere are in crisis, and require urgent assistance to avoid ecological collapse. Time is not on our side, and if we continue the current trajectory of species decline in search of the perfect alternative, we will be failing in our duties as kaitieki. We therefore support the appropriate use of 1080, informed by current scientific evidence, while research continues for alternative measures of pest control.

We denounce any and all hate speech or acts of violence in relation to 1080.

Death threats, threats of violence, incitement of violence, acts of violence and acts of vehicle sabotage have all been carried out against DOC staff and iwi/hapū kaitieki and this is absolutely unacceptable. No Department of Conservation worker, helicopter pilot,

An Open Letter cont

volunteer or kaitiaki acting in protection of their taonga should have to carry out their duty with fear in their heart. We completely refute that any acts of violence such as these is in alignment with kaitiekitanga, or is in the interests of our people, or our ngāhere.

We promote the wellbeing and maintenance of native species above introduced species.

As kaitiaki nō Aotearoa, we reaffirm that our primary responsibility is the wellbeing of native species. Deer, goats and pigs are all introduced species that contribute to the decline in rākau Māori, and in particular the decline of our understory that is vital to the ecological wellbeing of the ngāhere. Kaitiekitanga is first and foremost about the protection of the legacy of our ancestors, and this includes the control of all pest species, edible or otherwise. We therefore support measures of pest control that prioritise the wellbeing of our taiao Māori above that of introduced species.

Finally, we acknowledge that for many of our whānau, this is a provocative issue, filled with mamae and concern for our whenua, waterways, and mokopuna. In that sense, we stand united. We urge all of our whānau to place fear and riri aside, come together in the spirit of kotahitanga, and seek a pathway that upholds the inherent rights of Papatūānuku, and our mana as her kaitiaki.

For the full list of signatories go to:

<https://ngaherejustice.wixsite.com/letter/english>



Pig damage at Forest & Bird's Lenz Reserve

Southern birds



Juvenile kaki (black stilt) Craig McKenzie

South Otago Forest & Bird presents
the 2nd edition of:

Catlins Birds - A pocket guide

- **What to see**
- **Where to see**
- **How to ID**

\$10


**Forest
& Bird**
TE REO O TE TAIAO
Giving Nature a Voice



If you've ever bought a copy of *Catlins Birds*, used a Forest & Bird calendar, or admired the winning entrants in the Otago Wildlife Photography competition, then you'll be familiar with Craig McKenzie's stunning bird photographs. People in South Otago will have the chance to see more of Craig's work at two local events:

"A conversation with southern birds"

Exhibition at the Owaka Museum starting Wednesday 17 October

"Comparing human and bird behaviour: a non-scientific approach"

A not-too-serious public presentation at the Tautuku Education Centre 7:30 pm Saturday 27 October during Forest & Bird's South Island Gathering

Forty years on Forest & Birders share their memories of South Otago Branch's early days

Peter Gardner

I remember the challenges regarding conservation and protection of forest and birds back when the South Otago Branch was first formed.

The Forest Service was clear felling beech forest by burning it and planting *Pinus radiata*. Farmers were able to clear fell native forest for farming without any controls. The Scenic Reserves in the Catlins were being used by some farmers as winter grazing. The few underfunded Rangers who checked these areas could do little to protect the Reserves

The Japanese were establishing a chip mill to chip Southern Beech for cardboard; this threatened all the native forest areas of South Otago and Southland.

Rimu was still the main framing timber for house building in South Otago and Southland.

These were battles that have been won, and I remember those founders of the Society – Nancy Strang, Mona and Haddon Taylor, Brian and Jan O'Callahan – and many others who worked so hard to improve conservation in these areas.



Tawanui 1997

Rona Millar

I have wonderful memories of my time with Forest & Bird. My late partner Buddy Jarvie and I spent many happy hours in the Catlins and further afield, where we were able to source young, native plants from roadsides and cut-over forestry blocks. Buddy would bring his truck and Ian McDonald would supply a trailer-load of good potting mix. A group of energetic men dug out the plants with a good root ball attached and brought them, often up steep banks, to the trailer where the ladies would be kept busy potting them up. I remember one very cold day working in snow in the Blue Mountains when we brought home several hundred plants for Ian and Wilma to care for until the next sale day.

The very first branch outing that Buddy and I had with Forest & Bird was to Waituna Lagoon in Southland, a very interesting place with its wealth of bird life. There were many more outings such as an overnight one at Arrowtown where we were taken to Macetown on Buddy's trailer pulled by his International Cub Tractor. [But did they have a health & safety plan? ed]



Replanting after the Te Rere fire 1995

Carol & Ken Botting's grandchildren

We remember:

- Carol sorting into species all her plants behind their Kaka Point crib and watering them.
- She had all the grandkids signed up as KCC members and paid their membership each year.
- Helping put gravel on the walking track at Shanks Bush with a wheelbarrow.
- Granddad Ken sitting in the car with the radio blaring watching the Forest & Bird ladies working.
- Ken falling asleep at meetings.
- Always taking a big Tupperware container of sandwiches along to working bees.



Awakiki Bush 1992



Sutton Salt Lake 1992

Latest warning from the IPCC isn't just "some sort of report"

Jane Young

Pacific Island countries have long been pleading for a 1.5 degrees cap on temperature rise, in order to try and give their countries a chance of surviving the stronger storms and rising sea levels delivered by climate change. Consequently, the Paris 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP 21) agreed to the aim of keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and driving efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Truth to tell, even in 2015 most environmentalists would have considered that there wasn't a snowball's chance in hell of achieving this target. And in 2018 there seems little cause for increased optimism. The world has already warmed by one degree, and has reached a new all-time high for CO₂ emissions (an average of 410ppm in May). If these rates of emissions continue, we could be on track for as much as a 4.5 degree rise by the end of the century. Even if all countries honoured their Paris Agreement emissions reductions targets, by 2100 the world is still likely to be 3.2 degrees hotter and largely unsuitable for habitation by humans, not to mention by millions of the species of living organisms with whom we share this planet.

The release of the most recent IPCC report, however, makes it abundantly clear that meeting a 1.5 degree target is not just an aspirational goal – a nice-to-have – it is vital if we are to have any hope of avoiding the worst effects of climate change.

The report warns that in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide must fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050. The actions needed would include phasing out coal power by the middle of the century, plus making fundamental changes in transportation, agriculture and housing. And much of this would have to be accomplished by the

time today's toddlers reach high school.

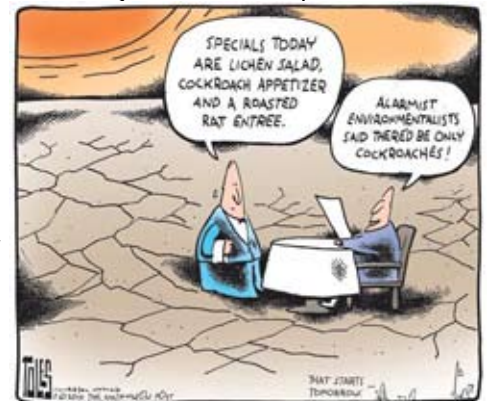
Global responses to the report have not been encouraging. An article in *The Economist* describes "an odd mixture of alarm and apathy". President Trump was visiting Florida, then in the path of Hurricane Michael, when his attention was drawn to the report: "It was given to me. And I want to look at who drew it ... Because I can give you reports that are fabulous, and I can give you reports that aren't so good."

Australian deputy PM Michael McCormack stated that his country should 'absolutely' continue to exploit its coal reserves, and that the government wouldn't change policy "just because somebody might suggest that some sort of report is the way we need to follow and everything that we should do." (The 'some sort of report' had more than 200 authors, who referred

to more than 6,000 scientific papers, and responded to 42,000 review comments. So, not exactly back of an envelope stuff.)

What about New Zealand? Are we on the path to climate change righteousness? Embarrassingly, our greenhouse gas emissions are still ticking upwards, and PM Jacinda Ardern has acknowledged frankly that it's impossible to say when this will be reversed.

There are some positives. The One Billion Trees project. Moves to restrict oil and gas exploration. A commitment to Zero Carbon by 2050. But we still have a long, long way to go, and very little time in which to change direction. ■



Tom Coles

Effects on:	1.5 degrees of warming	2 degrees of warming
Arctic summer ice	Ice-free once per century	Ice-free once per decade
Amount of Arctic permafrost that will thaw	4.8 million square km	6.6 million square km
Percentage of world population exposed to severe heat waves at least once every 5 years	About 14%	About 37%
Increase in global populations exposed to severe drought	271 million	388 million
Average reduction of maize crop yield	6%	9%
Estimates of financial damage	\$US54 trillion	\$US69 trillion
Species losing more than half their range	6% of insects 8% of plants 4% of vertebrates	18% of insects 16% of plants 8% of vertebrates
Coral reefs	Decline by 70–90%	More than 99% lost
Amount of sea level rise by 2100	0.40 m	0.46 m
Decline in marine fisheries	1.5 million tonnes	3.0 million tonnes

Southland events

Chris Rance & Jenny Campbell



Ecofest Invercargill

Invercargill Eco Fest brought in people who have a commitment to the theme 'Climate Change: You Make the Difference' as well as those who were inquisitive and wanted to find out more.

The number of stalls rose to over 40 with new participants bringing innovative ideas such as how to make bees' wax sandwich wrappers, using eco/keep cups instead of single use coffee cups, reducing waste to landfill, and mental health services with the theme of engaging with nature for health and well-being.

The regulars included Forest & Bird, KCC, worm breeders, bee keepers, insulation providers, and people involved with water use and quality issues. There were various forms of transport to try such as a donkey, reclining bikes, adult trike and electric car rides. Political parties explained their policies, while Department of Conservation staff explained various aspects of predator control with the support of local groups which monitor traps in their areas. A variety of workshops gave opportunities for more in-depth discussion.

People had time to talk about their aspirations and actions in committing to a more sustainable lifestyle such as moving off the electricity grid, thinking about buying an electric car and investing in a beehive to ensure our plants can continue to be pollinated.

Another feature was using some of the skills our grandparents practised: crochet, knitting, making rag rugs, growing herbs for teas, growing our own vegetables and working in a community – as is being practised by South Alive in South City. These are all ways of reducing our impact on the earth.

People were appreciative of the chance to talk about their passions, exchange views, and to enthuse and empower others to make a difference.

The event was marked by a positive, friendly atmosphere and lots of conversation between stall holders as well as members of the public.

Thank you to the stall holders, volunteers, Southland Forest and Bird, and the supportive group from previous Invercargill Environment Centre Trustees for continuing to make it happen.



Tautuku working weekend

On the weekend of 22 September, a keen group from Southland Branch stayed at Tautuku Forest Cabins for the branch's six-monthly working weekend. The jobs included trackwork, removing combi-guards from red tussock, cleaning the ID signs on the track, cleaning all the inside walls of the ablutions blocks, sweeping the outside of the Lodge building in preparation for painting, repairing furniture and cleaning inside the building. There are always lots of different jobs, it's a lot of fun and the accommodation is free in exchange for a little work.



29,000 plants in the ground - so far!

On Saturday 8 September, 85 people including Forest and Bird and KCC members, came along to Bushy Point in Otatara to help with the annual Otatara Landcare Group (OLG) planting project. In the Year 2000 (you remember, the year that everything electronic was going to stop!) Barry Smith came up with the "2000 in 2000" project. The idea was that every resident of Otatara would plant a native tree at Bushy Point.

Now, 18 years later, we are onto our 29,000th tree! It's a big community effort and it seems to go from strength to strength. The aim of joining up two areas of bush (the totara forest and the regenerating kahikatea forest) has largely been achieved, and a big area of former paddock is now a flourishing regeneration area. Under the banner of the 2011 Rugby World Cup, the project got a big boost from the Tindall Foundation, which supported the purchase and maintenance of native plants. That resulted in an extra 10,000 plants for Bushy Point.

The large turnout of people in September meant that the 1000 locally grown plants were in the ground by lunchtime – snug under their combi-guards (to prevent rabbit browse) – and we were all tucking into a well-earned BBQ sausage. Planting days are great for their camaraderie and fun – it's a family day and it is gratifying to see so many children who will remember planting here and visiting in years to come.

Bushy Point is DOC land where the OLG has a 30 year lease to convert the paddocks back to nature. It is open space, available to everyone and has walkways, a pond, native planting, tracks and interpretation – check it out, access is from the end of Bryson Road, Otatara.

South Otago KCC trip to Awakiki Bush



Contact Details

South Otago Forest & Bird

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South Otago KCC

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Conservation Volunteers Coastal Otago

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Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

New Zealand Sea Lion Trust www.sealiontrust.org.nz

Kārearea: protecting a southern land

Contributions welcome. Copy for Dec is due on 30 Nov.

Editor Jane Young: janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz

Southern Events

**Sat 20 Oct 9am–1pm South Otago Forest & Bird
Stall at Owaka Market Day**



**Sat 20 Oct 3–5pm South Otago KCC
Our big marine friends: seals and sea lions**
Park at the pull-in past Short Beach 304 Nuggets Road.
Contact Catriona: 0223 914 698 catlinsbats@gmail.com



**24–25 Oct
Otago Museum's Far From Frozen Climate
Change exhibit and Lab in a Box is visiting
Balclutha at the Cross Recreation Centre.**
School sessions on the Wed & Thurs, and a Public
Session 4.30–6.30pm on the Wednesday



**26–28 Oct Forest & Bird
South Island Gathering at Tautuku**
<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/events/south-island-2018-gathering>



**29–30 Oct South Otago Forest & Bird
Volunteer work days at Lenz**



**Sat 03 Nov Southland Ecological
Restoration Network (CERN) www.sern.org.nz
Spring field trip Bookings: Sheryll Ashton
027 310 3606 petesheryll@yahoo.com**



**03–04 Nov Southland Forest & Bird
Painting the buildings at the Lenz Reserve**
Contact Dawn Patterson: dpatt@extra.co.nz



**Sun 04 Nov 1–3pm Southland KCC
Eco-Fun day at Bushy Point and Southland
Community Nursery** Park at 183 Grant Rd car park
and pick up your eco-pack from the Education Centre.
Leaders: Chris and Bronwyn



**Sat 10 Nov 8pm The Catlins Bat Project
Bat spotting in Tahakopa Valley**
Meet outside Our Hut then drive together to
Harrington Mill Rd Area (Weather permitting)



**Sun 11 Nov (approx 2–4pm) The Catlins Bat Project
Bat chat at the Owaka Community Centre
8pm Practice Survey Walk from Purakaunui Bay**
Contact Catriona: 0223 914 698 catlinsbats@gmail.com
All welcome to come along and find out more about
bat conservation, and bat surveying in the Catlins.



**Sun 25 Nov 1pm South Otago Forest & Bird
Weeding & revegetation at Otanomomo**



Telford
Te Whare Wānanga o Pūerua

Our thanks to Telford for
sponsoring the printed
version of this newsletter.