



Forest & Bird

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

PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

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

OCTOBER	4	Hector's & Maui dolphin. Talk by Gemma McGrath
	10	Project Janszoon. Talk by Bruce Vander Lee
	26-29	South Island Gathering
NOVEMBER	14	Ours Not Mine: making no new mines on public conservation land a reality! Talk by Debs Martin
	16-18	Camp at Farewell Spit
	17	Pearl Creek working bee
JANUARY	25-28	Camp at St James Station
FEBRUARY	13	Philip Simpson will discuss Abel Tasman ecology from his book <i>Down the Bay</i>

OCTOBER

Thursday 4

7 pm Tasman Bay Cruising Club, 8 Cross Quay, Port Nelson

In the upcoming **Hector's and Māui** dolphin talk, Gemma McGrath will discuss some of the mātauranga (traditional knowledge) associated with this species, the history, as well as the science.

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.

Friday 26 – Sunday 28

This year the South Otago and Dunedin branches are hosting the **South Island Gathering** at Tautuku, which is nestled in the heart of the **Catlins**, home to Forest & Bird's largest reserve. It is a region of incredible diversity, and the last substantial tract of rainforest in the eastern South Island, and a focus of our Tautuku Ecological Restoration Project.

In addition to the core weekend programme, members of the South Otago branch are also arranging additional activities outside of the Gathering to provide an even greater incentive to come south and discover or rediscover this fascinating corner of Aotearoa.

Come and join the team for a weekend packed with stimulating discussions and challenging presentations focused on community based conservation, citizen science and the realities of conducting meaningful landscape-scale pest conservation. Register on the F&B web page or to share transport contact Julie at nikau48@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 14

Ours not mine: making no new mines on public conservation land a reality!

In November last year the Speech from the Throne announced the Prime Minister's intent that there would be "no new mines on public conservation land". Since then we've seen a backlash from the industry, the release of more permits for mineral exploration across the country, and several attacks on stewardship land as being of minimal value.

Join Debs Martin, our Regional Manager and leader of the Society's work to stop new mines on conservation land. Hear about the proposals, what land is potentially still up for grabs in the wider Nelson region, what values it holds, the importance of stewardship land – and, most importantly, how your voice can be heard.



The Red Hills in Mt Richmond Forest Park was opened up in July for applications to prospect for minerals like nickel and cobalt.

NOVEMBER (contd)

Friday 16 - Sunday 18

Camp at the **Farewell Spit** lighthouse. We leave on the bus from Puponga at the beginning of the Spit at 9 am on Friday and return on Sunday. Book with Julie at nikau48@gmail.com

Saturday 17

Pearl Creek working bee 9am start for weeding in the new planted area plus a sweep for blackberry. Meet at the end of Cotterell Rd. Bring gardening gloves, planting spade, weeding tools, water and sunblock. Wear sturdy shoes - gumboots recommended. Morning tea provided. Contact Jo Kay at robjokay@xtra.co.nz 0211169877 or 035449666

JANUARY

Friday 25 - Monday 28

Camp at **St James Station**, a former high country sheep and cattle station. The station was purchased by the government in 2008 as a means of protection from intensive farming and development as well as guaranteeing public access. It is now referred to as the St James Conservation Area and is managed by the Department of Conservation. We will stay at the Homestead. Activities planned; removing wilding pines from Molesworth Station, a walk/climb to the Princess Bath and a visit to Lake Tennyson. Book with Julie at nikau48@gmail.com

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 13

Philip Simpson will talk on the ecology, forest, and birds that are present in the Abel Tasman National Park and his new book 'Down the Bay'.

OTHER INTERESTS

Purchase a 2019 **Calendar** \$15 or **Diary** \$20 at an evening meeting or from Jo at jlecroyd@gmail.com

If you have taken photos at a local F&B event and would like to share them, feel free to download them on our Nelson/Tasman Branch Facebook page.

Paremata Flats Restoration Project

Come and join us from 9 to 3 Tuesday's for our regular forest restoration effort.

Our aim is to give our native trees the best chance of reaching maturity and to achieve this we need to clear out invasive plants and bush to enable the canopy trees to reach the light. Come and have a bit of fun while restoring a little bit of New Zealand. If you would like to get involved or if you need more info contact Julie 5450989

Update from the Regional Manager's desk

Mention the word 1080 and you're likely to set off a maelstrom of misinformation, amidst clear scientific research for its ongoing use. For those who avoid social media, you've probably been spared the worst of it. But at a time when the use of 1080 in the upcoming beech mast year is going to be even more vital than before, it is imperative that every member of our Society is armed with the facts. Good references include the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's 2011 report "Evaluation the use of 1080" – and an update in 2013; visit the webpage <http://www.1080facts.co.nz/> or read Dave Hansford's 2016 book, *Protecting Paradise*. Amidst the vocal, often angry naysayers, there are people who are genuinely unaware of the facts, and have been fed misinformation. Where you can do safely, help to provide them with the real information and encourage them to do their own research. And when you're next in a room with a DOC staff person – as a counter to the abuse many are receiving, say "thank you" for what they are doing to protect our native flora and fauna.

Switching from forests to the sea - did you know Hector's dolphins in the top of the South may provide a vital genetic link with the South Island Hector's, and the North Island Maui's dolphins? Did you also know that they are the only place in New Zealand where there is no protection for them from the indiscriminate killing in set nets? In March this year a Hector's dolphin was found on Rabbit Island, and the report showed it died from drowning in a net. We must do more. In early October, Gemma McGrath a student studying the top of the South Island population, will be giving some public talks throughout our region. Watch out for more information on her talks as it comes to hand. If you are out on the water you can also record your Hector's dolphin sightings on an app downloadable from Google Play and the App Store.

Strategy helps inform some good work as we've seen with Nelson Nature OR it can become a dustbound brochure parked on a council shelf. Forest & Bird aims for the former, and it's great to see the intention across the top of the South Island to better plan for the protection of our biodiversity through an alliance stretching across Councils, DOC and iwi. Both Marlborough and Tasman Councils have indicated they will be developing a strategy in the upcoming year to help guide funding and action on protecting our special places and species. Opportunities will be available for all to engage.

That's all from me this month – I'll be out pulling the weeds growing vigorously, writing evidence for plans, and keeping an eye out for the future. I hope to see many of you at my talk about the proposal to stop any future mines on public conservation land – we can't take anything for granted!

Debs Martin