

North Taranaki Forest & Bird + Kiwi Conservation Club news

P.O. Box 1029 New Plymouth 4340

September to December 2018

COMING UP

Byways & High Teas: Christmas get-together 2018, Sunday 2 December

It's been five years since we celebrated Forest & Bird's 90th anniversary with a planting in beautiful Pukekura Park followed by kai in the historic Tea House On The Lake, so we are going to stage a repeat.

We plan to gather at the Bellringer Pavilion beside the lower lake at 10.30 and visit the plantings before a ramble around some lesser-known tracks, ending up at the Tea House for High Tea (a pre-set menu of sandwiches, savouries, cupcakes etc for \$25 per person). If you don't want to do the walk, you can take an easier lower track and meet at the Tea House.

Bookings are essential by 29 November: email NorthTaranaki.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz



The 90th anniversary planting, 29 September, 2013. L to R: Dave & Jackie Cockeram, Margaret Lovell, Peter Haines, Helen Broad, Kara Pranker, Carolyn Brough (then Chair, North Taranaki), Janet Hunt, Carol Digby, Rex Hartley, Marion Adlam, David Medway, Dave Digby (then Chair, South Taranaki).



The Great Kererū Count, 21–30 September

Kererū seem to be everywhere at the moment — and it's great!

The Great Kererū Count is a citizen science project that aims to keep tabs on this most important forest bird—the only one able to swallow and spread the large seed of trees such as puriri and tawa. Join the count at <https://www.greatkererucount.nz>



F&B North Island Gathering 2018, 28–30 September

This weekend, held in the Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre, Katikati, is open to all members.

You mix and mingle with other conservation enthusiasts, hear a number of speakers and go on field trips — including a possible day trip to Motiti Island. As befits the setting, there is a maritime flavour to the programme this year.

Find out more on the Forest & Bird website: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/events/north-island-2018-gathering>

More coming events 

Coastal Hazards & Sea Level Rise: Monday 1 October,
7.30–8.00pm Puke Ariki foyer



Dr Rob Bell (NIWA), Dr Judy Lawrence (Victoria University) and Emma Lemire (MfE) will present a talk about the latest science and preparing for climate change.

Further info: thomas.mcelroy@trc.govt.nz.

SOS on the road: can you help?

Anyone who has visited Te Waikoropupū Springs near Takaka knows they are a gem beyond price. They are under threat, however, from proposed land use changes in their catchment.

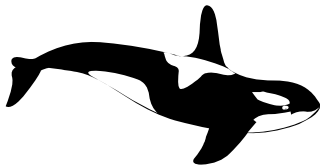
Writer and photographer Kevin Moran, from the Save Our Springs campaign, hopes to be in Taranaki from 14 to 28 October and is



The Waikoropupu Springs are unequalled for clarity and vibrant colour.

looking for people interested in water protection who can find or host venues. If you can help contact Kevin: saveoursprings2018@gmail.com or phone 021 236 1195.

RECENT EVENTS



Last Ocean movie afternoon, early July

This afternoon was our first use of the Cue theatre as a venue. We combined with the New Plymouth Friendship Force who stayed around for afternoon tea.

It was a success with a good turnout and a thought-provoking movie with fabulous photography of that very special place, the Antarctic.

Our thanks again to Peter Young of Fisheye Films for permission to show the movie, to Dawn and Rob Mills for the use of their projector and to Peter Haines for setup.

Whale Sharks with Dr Simon Pierce

We were delighted with the turnout for for Simon Pierce's Whale Shark talk on 16 August. We counted 155, from the very young to the rather more senior. The numbers totally justified our decision to hire the auditorium at the Baptist centre.

We were also experimenting



Saving Earth's Largest Fish: the audience was spellbound.

with an early evening event on the supposition that in winter people may prefer to go out before tea rather than after, and numbers seem to bear this out. Please let us know if you have any or strong thoughts on the matter!

Simon gave us a fascinating insight not only into his life as a marine biologist and his years of study of these amazing creatures but also a glimpse of what it can mean

for communities in countries such as Mauritius as they transition away from fishing to eke out a living to taking pride in the presence of whale sharks in their waters.

Question time evoked a range of interesting comments and queries and a number stayed on afterwards to chat with Simon. Fabulous!

Thanks so much to Simon for his time and also to Martien Kelderman from the centre, for his assistance.

Legends of Conservation Mountain Adventure Race

On the first day of Conservation Week, Saturday 15 September, the Department of Conservation ran an adventure race at Dawson Falls. Teams were given maps with locations and clues and had a couple of hours to find all the checkpoints and 'legends'.

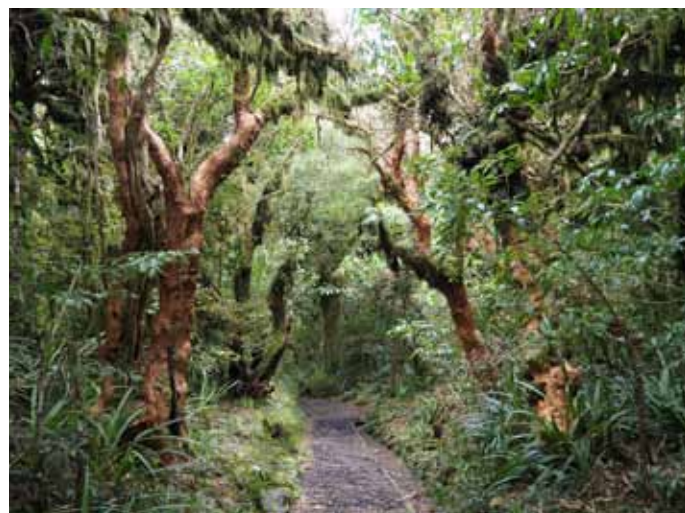
The day was ideal, warm and sunny, and what a treat to be looking up at the Shark's Tooth in snowy profile above us. A number of organisations, Forest & Bird



included, positioned themselves on the grass above the information centre so that returning groups could stop and find the answers to their questions.

There was a barbecue to feed hungry runners and a huge range of excellent spot prizes to complete the day. Perfect. Lots of smiles.

BELOW LEFT: ready to race. BELOW: kotukuku trunks in the goblin forest.



FROM THE EDITOR

1080

You will have seen the anti-1080 protests in the news lately. While I know many have genuine concerns about its use, there is also a huge amount of misinformation out there.

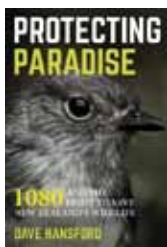
I recommend that anyone interested in this debate gets hold of a copy of Dave Hansford's *Protecting Paradise: 1080 and the fight to save New Zealand's wildlife*, Potton and Burton, 2016. It's clear, logical, thoughtful and thoroughly researched.

Here's Dave's concluding paragraph:

The world isn't short of red deer, brushtail possums, goats, weasels or ship rats. They abound, not least in their native lands. But we are down to the last three dozen fairy terns. Some plant species are in single figures.

Having endured for millenia, species are set to vanish on our watch. The last South Island brown teal slipped away some time in the last couple of years, eaten by stoats. Now it's up to you and me to step in, because we're the only generation with time left to intervene. If we don't, we condemn our children to a deathbed vigil. It's that urgent.

You can also find a series five short videos by Dave on YouTube: *Myths about 1080*.



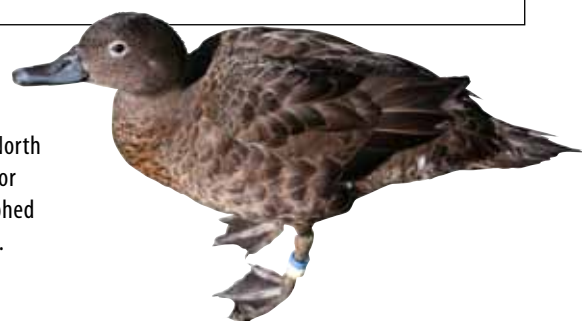
We now have 4000 species at some kind of risk in New Zealand
—The Endangered Species Foundation

Forest & Bird National Office advise:

Pushing back on 1080

Forest & Bird staff (alongside other independent experts) have been working hard to ensure there is solid, evidence-based information in the media and social media regarding the crucial role 1080 plays in saving our forests and wildlife.

You can help by writing to your local papers, phoning talkback and speaking up on Facebook and other online platforms – thanks to branch members who are already doing this. If you need additional facts and resources to support your arguments, see our 1080 FAQs page and 1080thefacts.co.nz.



Still hanging on: North Island brown teal or pateke, photographed on Tiritiri Matangi.

I have just read two recently published books related to climate change that I believe are essential, must-read documents for anyone concerned with the rapid changes occurring in our environment. Both are well-written, factual, unemotive accounts.

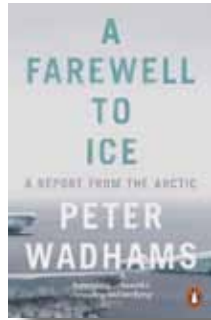
***A Farewell to Ice* by Peter Wadhams**

Peter is a recognised expert on the Arctic having spent many years studying there.

The area of Arctic summer sea ice has at least halved since the 1970s (and is predicted to disappear completely in the next decade).

There are a number of negative feedbacks associated with the loss of ice. For example: -

- ▷ Ice reflects most of the incident solar radiation whereas water absorbs it.
- ▷ As Arctic ice melts in summer it maintains a steady 0C temperature in the immediate environment. Water just keeps heating up once the ice has disappeared.
- ▷ The important ocean currents (eg the Gulf Stream) will be slowed or modified.
- ▷ The Greenland ice sheet is rapidly melting (the ice sheet is losing 300 cubic kilometres a year).
- ▷ The Antarctic ice sheet is losing 84 cubic kilometres a year and all the main land-based glaciers are retreating.
- ▷ To add to our woes, the Siberian Arctic tundra is melting resulting in the release of trapped methane (a strong global warming gas).



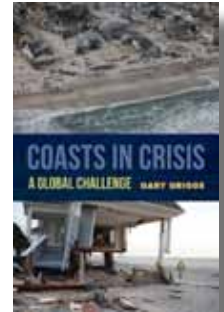
Peter is concerned that the result of these changes is that the climate changes are now at the tipping point and may not be containable.

***Coasts in Crisis* by Gary Griggs**

Gary points out that about half the Planet's population live in the coastal zone and that all shorelines are experiencing rising sea levels causing erosion and flooding and increasing storm surges. He covers the impact of industrial, agricultural and domestic discharges, plastic debris accumulation, impact of oil and groundwater extraction and the impact of subsea noise on marine animals.

Other topics include over-fishing, sand mining, the impact of power plants and earthquakes, desalination, ocean acidification, renewable energy and so on. The book is illustrated with photographs and diagrams.

Both books are available in the New Plymouth library and also from Book Depository (NZ\$15 & NZ\$45 respectively).



BELOW: Taranaki's very own coast in crisis. This is Back Beach but the scene is typical and ongoing all along our shoreline.



AROUND THE RESERVES

Te Wairoa Dorothy Baker Memorial Reserve

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Big thanks as always to everyone who contributes to this reserve, especially Bill Lofroth, Tony Collins and the TRC team of Quin Amooore and Matt Kyle.

Predator control: We had a spike in rodent numbers this year, possibly associated with an exceptional kohekohe flowering. (In fact, the flowering itself may be a consequence of our efforts!). Numbers are down again thanks to a redoubled effort from our trapping team — there were no catches in the last two rounds. However, we will need to keep the foot on the pedal, especially when those flowers become fruit in about 15 months.

New lawnmower: We are about to purchase a more robust, efficient mower for the reserve. We are immensely appreciative of Tony Collins who mows the lawns in his own time and makes such a great job that the least we can do is have a better machine for him to use.

Boardwalk: We plan to put a small section of boardwalk over the roots of trees on the path from the Clearview Road stile to the clearing, both to protect the roots and to make access easier.

Weed control: Our working parties are keeping the *Tradescantia* under control in the upper reserve as well as tackling regrowth in the sprayed area in the lower reserve. Paul McDaid has put his hand up to spray the worst of the remaining thickets this season and after that, it will be up to us to keep it that way. Thanks Paul.

What th'?

In early August we found that someone had attacked the plants in the carpark area with a machete. No finesse and no obvious reason to do so. Maybe someone is being 'helpful'? Do you know anything about it? We'd love to hear from you!

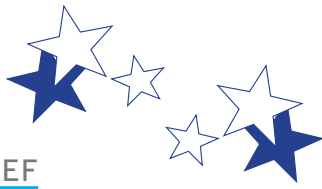


Small, delicate fungi in Te Wairoa Reserve, 2018. From TL: Red pouch fungus, June; yellow stag horn fungi, July 2018; earthstars, 4 August; an unidentified tiny needle fungus, 4 August;

Tom & Don's Reserve

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Tom & Don's Reserve has been closed for the calving season and will not reopen until the end of September. At that time we hope to get out there to meet the new sharemilker, check the fences, plantings and traps. If you are interested in being involved, please contact a member of the committee (see 'Who's Who').



KCC are getting into the Great Outdoors by going tramping for the rest of the year, with Take A Kid Tramping (TAKT). The first, on 30 September, is a Pukeiti Adventure aimed at primary and intermediate-age students, to find answers to clues. Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome. Contact Sonya for more detail: sonyabates@googlemail.com | 0210674751

Coming up:

- ▶ Pukeiti Adventure, 30 September
- ▶ Harakeke Weaving Workshop, Tuesday, 9 October
- ▶ Off-track on the mountain, Sunday 28th October
- ▶ Whitecliffs to Pukearuhe walk + picnic tea to follow Saturday 24th November
- ▶ Overnight trip to Leitch's Clearing in the Piopio area 15 & 16 December.

WHO WILL BE BIRD OF THE YEAR 2018?

Who, me? OK, so what if I won in 2016 – that doesn't mean I can't do it again! Check out our profiles on the Bird of the Year web page

Support Bird of the Year — with your vote, your voice, or a donation.

Voting opens on <https://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz/> at 9 am on Monday 1 October and closes at 5 pm on Sunday 14 October.



The Mahood Lowe reserve from the farmland below seen in summer this year.

MAHOOD LOWE RESERVE

Just to be clear, this is not a Forest & Bird initiative or a Forest & Bird reserve, so we are not making financial contributions in the society's name.

However, it is a very exciting initiative, right on the Taranaki ring plain and you may wish to make a private donation. We certainly plan to take a field trip or two to the reserve.

This 133-hectare regionally significant wetland forest is at the top of Alfred Road adjacent to the Egmont National Park. It is identified as a Key Native Ecosystem by Taranaki Regional Council and a Significant Natural Area by New Plymouth District Council. It is being purchased by the NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust for \$500,000. As of August, over \$465,000 has been raised, almost half by donation from the Lowe family. Not far to go!

To donate visit <https://www.nftrt.org.nz/taranaki-wetland-appeal/>



Who's who at North Taranaki F&B & KCC

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