



## Habitat Extra - North Shore Branch news

### Okura



#### **A letter to Jim Lewis, North Shore environmental champion, who died in 2013.**

Dear Jim

A lot has happened since you passed away five years ago, but you would be happy with the latest Environment Court decision on Okura.

I know you were involved with two previous huge court battles to save the Okura estuary. Todd Property are determined to impose 1000 houses on the land overlooking the marine reserve. Unfortunately the Weiti catchment is now being developed with massive earth movements, the swamp bulldozed, and tons and tons of mud are washing into the estuary near Dacre Cottage. Despite this, the oystercatchers, dotterels and godwits are still hanging in there at Karepiro Bay.

Forest & Bird and the local community has had to fight again to save the estuary from further development. The first new battle was the Unitary Plan hearings. Despite our submissions, the pro development commissioners approved Todd's plans to build on the land. Fortunately the Auckland Councillors unanimously overturned this decision.

As expected Todd appealed this to the Environment Court. Sally Gepp, our Forest &

Bird lawyer spent two weeks in Auckland attending the hearing and fighting for Okura. The Long Bay Okura Great Park Society raised \$320,000 to cover the costs of lawyers and expert witnesses. The recently released judgement rejects the Todd plan to wreck the estuary landscape. So we are quietly celebrating the result, all the while aware that Todd may take this to the High Court, resulting in even more time and expense for all the environmental guardians.

We will be working to ensure that the RMA and the Marine Reserves Act are changed to prevent a repetition of this repeated assault on the environment and our community.

So, it is a time for celebration but also a time for reflection on the battles we have fought and the battles we have yet to fight. Your work in the early Okura battles is still inspiring us to continue the fight.

Kind regards

Richard

*Photos of Okura Estuary and a resident dotterrel by Philip Moll*

## **Is the tide turning?**

A recent issue of our local community newspaper (North Shore Times, June 12, 2018) contained three articles on environmental issues : the failure of Todd Property's appeal to develop at Okura; Mels Barton and our chair Richard Hursthouse on kauri dieback; and reducing plastic waste in Mt Albert (admittedly not local, but still on topic). Not bad for an issue that was only 20 pages long.

Our branch would like to get more stories on environmental issues concerning the North Shore and the wider region into our local papers and picked up by other media. If you have expertise in this area and would like to help, please contact us at [northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

## **Branch Night**

**Monday 2 July 2018**

### **Bar fights and bad tenants; sexually selected behaviours in New Zealand sheet-web spiders**

**Leilani Walker** is a PhD student at the University of Auckland working with Dr Greg Holwell. She is using New Zealand sheet-web spiders (Cambridgea) to help untangle our understanding of how males compete for access to mates using their

incredibly large jaws.

Leilani will be discussing some of her results.

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Take place on the first Monday of each month excluding January, including public holidays.

**Venue:** Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall, The Strand – through the courtyard at the rear of the Takapuna Library.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Admission:** A koha/donation is appreciated to cover costs. Non-members are welcome. Please join us for supper afterwards. For further information, phone Jocelyn Sanders on 09 479 2107.

## **AGM and Chair's Report**

Prior to our monthly meeting in May, our deputy chair Claire Stevens moved us quickly through the short agenda. The committee remains the same as last year, but with the addition of two new members, Kerry Read and Danny Parker. The [Chair's report can be read in full here](#)



View from Tuff Crater planting site Saturday 16 June.

In these beautiful conditions - albeit a bit slippery underfoot - over 1500 plants were planted by more than 40 volunteers. Many thanks to all the volunteers and to Canon for providing the well-earned morning tea.

If you would like to help with our next scheduled planting, see below.

## **Tuff Crater Planting Day Saturday 14 July**

## Starting at 9:00 a.m., Canon carpark, Warehouse Way

Bring a spade, and as many neighbours, kids and family as you can. We will be planting LOTS of native plants on the slope above Tuff Crater. We will supply a lovely morning tea for everyone as well. If in doubt or if very heavy rain please phone Richard on 021 216 1296. Rain day Sunday.

We hold working bees at 9:00a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. For further details contact Richard on 0212161296.

We also run a weekly working bee on Thursday from 9:30a.m. For meeting place and other information contact Anne Denny on 021 121 4610

## Climate Change Law - submissions due now!

"If we want to help lead the world towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must create a moral mandate underpinned by decisive action at home to reduce our own emissions" says James Shaw, Minister of Climate Change.

Forest & Bird says "A Zero Carbon Act will put us on the path to action by creating carbon budgets that keep us on track to reduce emissions. But climate policy can no longer be kicked around like a political football. We're seeking the long-haul support of every MP in Parliament, and we need your help!"



The Government is inviting the public to help decide new climate change law. To make a submission go to Forest & Bird's website <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/submissions/zero-carbon-act-make-submission>

**Submissions close 19 July 2018.**



Changing temperatures disrupt breeding for some species. Tuatara, for example, produce only male eggs when temperatures are higher. Credit: David Brooks



## Forest has the Blues

14 July - 25 July  
Opening, Saturday 14 July 2pm - 3.30pm

An ecological project, with large-scale print installation and free native plant giveaway.

Celia Walker  
Eile Anderson  
Nicola Ov

Toni Hartill  
Kheang Ov  
Ina Arraoui

Esther Hansen and Pukekohe High School

Depot Artspace, 28 Clarence St, Devonport  
[www.depotartspace.co.nz](http://www.depotartspace.co.nz), 09 963 2331

Opening hours  
Monday 12 - 4.30, Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 4.30, Sunday 11 - 3

Auckland Council  
**creative**  
COMMUNITIES

**Depot**  
Artspace

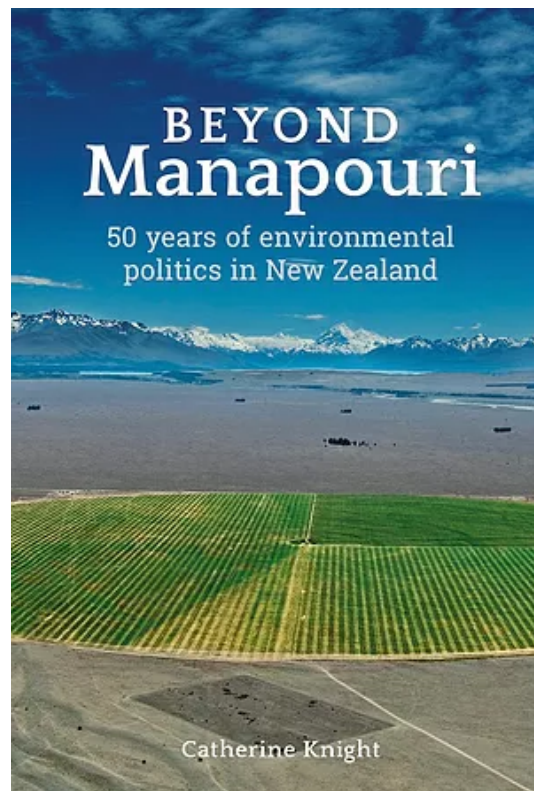
**RESTORING**  
Takarunga Hauraki

Devonport-Takapuna  
Local Board

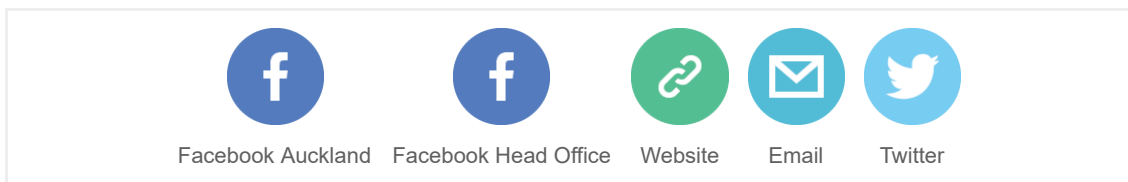


*Beyond Manapouri: 50 years of environmental politics in New Zealand* traces the evolution of environmental administration in New Zealand since the dawn of the 'environmental era' in the late 1960s. By tracing this history, *Beyond Manapouri* seeks to explain why the institutions and legislation that were put in place to improve the stewardship of our environment have failed to halt environmental decline. It also identifies the cultural shifts that will need to take place if we are to live up to the 'clean,

green' image we have constructed for ourselves in New Zealand.



*Forest & Bird is New Zealand's independent voice for nature. Our mission is  
To protect and restore nature in Aotearoa/New Zealand.*



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