



## Habitat Extra - North Shore Branch e-news

### Obituary - Christine Ovens, died 12 April 2018



Christine was a very keen conservationist and a very important member of the Forest & Bird North Shore Branch, a wonderful dedicated person who quietly made a substantial contribution to our organisation and to restoring the environment.

As one of the most loyal volunteers at the Tuff Crater project in Northcote she rarely missed a Saturday event, turning up with John to plant and latterly with some fantastic home baking as well. Rain or shine.

Over the last two years Christine organised excellent speakers for our public meetings, which she did with great but modest competence.

An excerpt from an article Christine wrote for our branch newsletter about a trip to Paremoremo Reserve last year shows Christine's flair with words and her obvious love for our native flora and fauna:

"We met three and one half tree ferns; Mamaku, silver tree fern, rough tree fern or Wheki and miniature tree fern.

There were abundant nikau, I was enchanted by a grove of them, growing tall around the track and forming an apse-like canopy above us. One nikau we saw had a 'waist', a narrowing of its stem due to poor year's growth in its youth.

Even though it is late summer, some plants were flowering. Puriri grows flowers and fruit almost all year round so we saw flower and fruit remains on the forest floor. Tree daisies had tired-looking bracts of flower, Gania grass had grey drooping seed heads. Kahikatea had its tiny bead-like fruit and seed, an attractive orange and black pairing. Delicate dark purple fruits of dianella hung from fine stems, these fruit were used to make moko ink. The exotic willow-leaved hakea held its nuts up to the sky.

We heard tui and grey warbler. In some areas cicada noise was the dominant sound. An attentive fantail flitted around us on a steep descent, staying in full view until cameras were brought up to eyes."

Darryl and John, Nola and Paula - our Forest & Bird team will deeply miss Christine and we extend our love and support to you all.

Christine's family have asked for donations to Forest and Bird North Shore branch in lieu of flowers. If you would like to donate, please deposit into our bank account 12-3026-0006893-00 with reference Christine. Include your name and if you would like a receipt please email [northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz). Your support is appreciated.

## Trees in Auckland

How many trees are we losing? A lot, if anecdotal evidence is anything to go by. Photographic evidence, as shown by our committee member Philip Moll, also shows some indiscriminate removals. Fourteen trees, including a puriri, were lost recently from this Takapuna section, all compliant with Council regulations.



Before



After

Many more sizeable trees will be lost with the Hillary Crescent development, which includes the reconfiguration of Northboro reserve for recreational use - in other words, flattening the reserve and removing all trees. For more on this, read this article



in the Devonport Flagstaff : [Trees and birdlife always compromised when development occurs.](#)

It seems that Auckland Council may know the extent of tree loss in the city, through a comparison of LiDar 3-D maps of urban trees done in 2013 and again in 2016, but the analysis won't be completed until August – by which time it will be two years out of date. For more on this read [Is it true Auckland has lost a third of its trees?](#) from the Herald.

## Pest of the month – Moth Plant (*Aurujia hortorum*)

Moth plant flourishes in Auckland, and with a particularly benign summer growing season it been more like a rampage – across our verges, sections, and into our bush reserves.

One recent morning's weeding by a group of our Tuff crater volunteers reaped three containers filled with seed pods, cut from moth plant vines on private land bordering Tuff Crater. The work is both rewarding and depressing – rewarding to stop the harvested seed pods from spreading and depressing to know that for every seed pod collected there are likely to be tiny seedlings in the ground from earlier split pods. Moth plant has been particularly prolific in the areas surrounding Tuff Crater this year and, much to our dismay, the weed has recently reappeared in the crater itself.



You can help us in our fight to control this pest by reporting any sightings to us at [northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz) and by joining our Thursday morning weeding team. Read more at [Tuff Crater Restoration Project](#).

For more information on moth plant and other weeds that threaten our bush, you can [download our Weed Guide](#).

## Branch Night

Monday 7 May

### Pest Free Peninsula - preceded by the branch AGM

The Hibiscus Coast Forest & Bird branch have the ambitious aim to make the Whangaparāoa Peninsula completely pest free. To succeed they need at least 1 in 3 households participating in the project. **Pauline Smith** will talk about the project's difficulties (so we can learn from them) and its successes so far (so we can celebrate).

The 2018 AGM for the will be held before our speaker's presentation. Richard Hursthouse has agreed to put himself forward for nomination as Chair of our branch for another year, for which the committee is very grateful. Nominations are called for Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members. If you would like to join our committee and have the time to get involved, please contact us with a brief CV and your reasons for getting involved at [northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz).

### Branch Trip - Auckland Botanic Gardens

Sunday 27 May, 10.30 a.m.

Join us for a trip to the Auckland Botanic Gardens in Manurewa. Our visit will be led by Rebecca Stanley, known as Bec, who is a Curator at the Botanic Gardens. With her expert knowledge as a botanist specialising in native flora, Bec will be able to provide us with an insight into her workplace from a personal perspective.

Meet at the entrance of the main building at 10:30am. This will proceed rain or shine. Contact Claire Stevens at [claire.stevens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:claire.stevens@xtra.co.nz) or phone 419 1233.

## Tuff Crater Work Day

Saturday 12 May 9am til 12 midday

Work includes pest plant control, and releasing last year's planting. Bring a spade, grubber, small saw, long sleeves and long trousers and eye protection.

Please park in or near St Peters St. We will meet at the end of St Peters St near the crater. We will be working south of the road. Signs will show you the way.

If in doubt please call Ann Denny on 021 121 4610

We hold working bees at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. For further details and updates see our [website calendar](#). To be on the separate email list for Tuff Crater news and events go to our [Tuff Crater page](#).

### Motutapu Island: The Dual



There is just one day a year when mountain bikes are allowed on the Hauraki Gulf's Motutapu Island and, as a consequence, the annual Partners Life Dual Motutapu-Rangitoto Traverse offers an opportunity to take part in a sporting event that is truly unique.

[Read more](#)



## In the media

- New research findings on [how birds navigate](#)
- Saving the yellow-eyed penguin – [a photo essay](#)
- [What is biodiversity and why does it matter to us?](#)
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [meeting in Christchurch](#)

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