



Habitat - North Shore Branch news

Operation Nest Egg

Did you know a kiwi chick is born with a “picnic lunch on board” – a yolk sac which it draws in through its navel shortly after hatching, and which enables it to survive without parental support for the first few days of its life? This period of time is just long enough for the chick to develop the strength to begin foraging for its own food on the forest floor. Young kiwi chicks are vulnerable to predation, especially by stoats, and 95 per cent of those that hatch in unprotected wilderness areas do not live to breeding age. However, those that do reach adulthood are largely invulnerable to predation by stoats.

Michele Impey, CEO of [Kiwis For Kiwi](#) charitable trust, shared these insights with us when she spoke at our monthly meeting in August. Michele explained how this information has led to the development of Operation Nest Egg, a bold plan which aims to increase the population of North Island brown kiwi in the wild by two per cent per year, thus reversing the two to four per cent current annual decline.



Newly hatched kiwi - photo courtesy of Auckland Zoo

How Operation Nest Egg works:

- Kiwi eggs are located and transferred to incubation facilities.

- Kiwi chicks are released in “safe” areas such as Motutapu, where they form permanent breeding populations. These sites are called kōhanga (nests).
- As kōhanga start to fill up, juveniles are captured for relocation to predator-free, or predator-controlled, sites in the wild, thereby increasing the range and diversity of the wild population.

The programme ensures kiwi chicks mature to adulthood, at which point their only significant predators are dogs and ferrets. In the absence of these threats, population growth is possible.

Kiwis For Kiwi collaborates with other organisations to facilitate the Operation Nest Egg programme. For more information visit their website <http://www.kiwisforkiwi.org/>

Come to our monthly meetings to hear more illuminating speakers!

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: 7:30pm.

Admission: **Non-members** are welcome. A koha/donation is appreciated to cover costs.

Please join us afterwards for supper and an opportunity to meet with our speaker and committee members.

For further information, email us at northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or phone Kerry Read 021 764 694.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Monday 3 September 7:30pm - Marine Matters



Snapper – we love to eat it, catch it and export it. Sadly, our fishing activities have reduced Hauraki Gulf snapper stocks to just 20% of their natural abundance. **Karen Field** will be sharing what this means for those who like to fish, those who like to look, and those who would just like our seas to be flourishing. How is this snapper fishery being managed, and will its abundance be rebuilt in your lifetime?

Monday 1 October - Wētāpunga - our giant wētā

Although wētāpunga were originally distributed across Northland, Auckland and Great Barrier Island (Aotea), the species has only survived on Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island. Habitat destruction and predation from exotic pests saw to their demise. It is fortunate these special creatures have survived, even if just in one place. Successful breeding and translocation projects mean that they are also now present on Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora Islands. Learn about their journey back from the brink of extinction with entomologist **Chris Green**.



Monday 5 November - Kauri Rescue

An environmental scientist turned coordinator, campaigner, organiser, networker and environmental advocate, **Mels Barton** works with many community organisations and not-for-profits including Kauri Rescue, who are engaging the public to help fight kauri dieback disease.



Calendars and Diaries

Sale of these is our major fundraiser for the year. Funds raised from the sale of Calendars & Diaries are used locally for North Shore conservation projects. Encourage your neighbours, friends and local groups to buy as well. Great for overseas gifts. Exceptional quality and value, same prices as last year with only a small postage increase. Find the order form [here](#).



[Calendar & Diary Order Form \(PDF\)](#)

NEW ZEALAND Conservation CALENDAR 2019

For more information about our range of calendars and books please visit our website www.forestandbird.org.nz
 *Weight is under 200g with all flowers removed
 NZ \$17.99

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Tuff Crater

Saturday working bees

We run a working bee at 9am on the second Saturday of each month:

- September 8
- October 13
- November 10

On **Saturday September 8**, the working bee starts at 9am. Please park at the Canon building, 28 The Warehouse Way, Northcote, and follow the signs to the meeting point at the green container.

We will be chasing pest plants, and maybe doing some track work.

Morning tea will be at the green container at 1030am.

Thursday mornings

We also run a weekly working bee on Thursdays at 9:30am, supervised by Paul Pyper and Anne Denny.

To be on the email list for Tuff Crater events [please sign up on our website](#) and indicate if you want Thursday or Saturday emails or both

To find out more about Saturday events please call Richard Hursthouse on 021 216 1296

To find out more about Thursday work days please phone Paul Pyper on 021 0842 9255.

Upcoming Trips

Sunday 23 September, 10am to 2pm - Trip to Marunui Conservation Property, Mangawhai



The Marunui Conservation Property is 423 ha of native forest on the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn Hills near Mangawhai. It is collectively owned by a group of 18 shareholders. The area is covered by a QE II National Trust Open Space Covenant. Much of it is within DOC'S Schedule of Sites of Biological Interest and identified as being of High National Importance. Northland Brown Kiwi have been introduced and significant, indigenous, threatened plants identified in the area. More information can be found at [Marunui Conservation](#).

Members of the ownership group will take us on a guided walk to show us some of the special features and impressive views. We will be on bush tracks that may be moderately steep in places. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

For trip details, contact John Brown by Saturday 22nd September by phone: 09 415 2054 (leave a message if necessary) or email: john.alison.brown@outlook.com

Sunday 14 October, 10am - Eskdale Reserve Fish and Invertebrate Monitoring

On Sunday, 14 October, at 10:00 am, we will be 'fishing' in the Eskdale Reserve for invertebrates, testing the quality of the stream and checking to see what Brett (our scientist) has caught in his traps. This time we hope that we aren't rained out the day before, or on the day.

If you wish to join us on this fascinating expedition, then please meet at the entrance by the substation on Eskdale Road. If you turn right into Eskdale Road from Glenfield Road (travelling south), about 1 kilometre along, at the bottom of the hill, is the entrance on the right-hand side.

The trip is suitable for all age groups and a moderate level of fitness is recommended.

Please contact Jocelyn Sanders if you wish to join us: jocsanders52@gmail.com, or 027 290 4826, so she can contact you in the case of cancellation.

Sunday 25 November, 10am to 12noon - Trip to the RNZAF Base, Whenuapai

The environment within the Royal NZ Air Force Base at Whenuapai is rapidly changing. Terry Walker, Regional Grounds Manager, will show us around the impressive work that he and his team are doing, especially the riparian planting along 15 km of stream banks and the planting of large bare areas in native vegetation. The terrain is mostly flat, and walking is easy.

Meet at the front gate next to Whenuapai School, 14 Airport Road, off Brigham Creek Road. If it is raining heavily, the trip will be cancelled. It is not necessary to register unless you wish to receive a cancellation email in the event of heavy rain.

Contact John Brown on 09 415 2054, 021 0229 0040, or john.alison.brown@outlook.com.

The photographer as nature's friend

Depot Sound Manager Dave Rhodes hopes his astute eye for our native birdlife will give us a greater appreciation of how precious they are. All Dave's photos are taken in Auckland's parks and reserves.



Read about the artist and view more beautiful images [online here](#).

More kiwi news ...

Read about the [61st kiwi](#) to be released on Motutapu Island.

*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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If you have any questions about branch matters please email us on northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

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