



Habitat - North Shore Branch news

A big thank you to our retiring Chair, Richard Hursthouse

We'd like to dedicate this edition of Habitat to Richard Hursthouse, in recognition of the untiring effort he has put into the role of Chair of our branch for the last eight years. As Claire Stevens said at our recent AGM, more has been achieved by the branch during this time than ever before. Among many other successes, Richard has been instrumental in making Tuff Crater into the wildlife refuge it is today. He will continue his involvement as a member of our committee, as an integral part of the Tuff Crater team, and in other areas of Forest & Bird that he enjoys.

Thank you, Richard!

We need to stand up for our trees, because we need them to stand up for us



Auckland is experiencing unprecedented urban growth and a corresponding unprecedented loss of urban trees. The fact that this is happening is apparent to all of us – from large scale developments where areas are cleared of all vegetation, to small subdivisions where significant trees are cut down. We saw a heart-wrenching example of the latter recently in Hurstmere Road, Takapuna, where two stately, aged pohutukawa were removed by the “developer”.

We should be concerned about this. Why? Because trees are the lifeblood of our cities, and without them our environment will be poorer – in both monetary and non-monetary senses.

- Trees soak up carbon dioxide and improve the quality of the air we breathe - without large numbers of trees our cities become increasingly polluted.
- Trees provide shade, which dilutes the effect of the sun and reduces the costs of cooling in our ever-hotter summers; their root systems take up large quantities of water, reducing the harmful and costly effects of stormwater runoff.
- The presence of trees has proven mental health benefits – nature in the city is a natural and free stress reducer.
- Birds and insects need trees, for habitat and food.
- TREES ARE BEAUTIFUL!



Pohutukawa trees of The Sacred Grove, Takapuna

The Landcare Research Policy Brief of July 2015 found that without some form of tree protection, large scale tree removal was inevitable. The researchers found that “Tree protection rules are a critical method for protecting the urban forest and are effective in helping retain the urban forest for future generations.” With the changes to the RMA enabling the removal of tree protection in Auckland, their predictions have become reality. The loss of 4 hectares of bush at Northcross, subdivided into more than 30 sections, is just one such example.



Bush destruction underway at Northcross Bush, February 2018. Photo by Shirley Jones.

There is no going back. Misnamed replanting programmes use seedlings, often plants that will never grow into “trees”. It takes at least 30 years to grow a decent sized tree – and maybe an hour or two to cut one down.

So why are we letting this happen? Property rights rule over community benefit. And these rights are being exercised daily across the city. Auckland Council is dragging their heels over tree protection; they have evidence of the extent of tree loss but are seemingly reluctant to divulge this. Many cities around the world have progressive policy on trees. Not Auckland. Yes, we have an urban tree strategy, but without good law it is just words.

Forest & Bird is working locally and nationally to influence decision makers, pushing for the law to be rectified as soon as possible, so the community, wildlife and the Hauraki Gulf can continue to reap the benefits of trees. But the issue needs more public attention. So, if you feel strongly about this and have ideas on how to bring Auckland’s tree loss to the attention of the wider public and by inference, to the Council, please get in touch on northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

extinction risk for threatened species and safeguard key biodiversity areas, very far from the current flows of funds to conservation estimated around USD 52 billion per year.”

The full document can be found at the link below. It makes interesting reading.

<https://www.iucn.org/files/iucn-views-post-2020-biodiversity-framework-august2018pdf>

Committee - Thanks

At our recent AGM we said farewell to two long-standing members of our committee.

Helene Wills has been on the committee for 13 years, and has admirably fulfilled the role of membership secretary, visiting many schools and helping out at community promotions during this time.

Elaine Conway has had the role of selling calendars and diaries for the past five years, raising much needed funds for our branch.



Volunteers Needed

Do you have time to volunteer for Forest & Bird?

We need enthusiastic new committee members and helpers. It is not always necessary to attend every committee meeting, although involvement is encouraged! The committee meets on the third Thursday evening of every month to plan our events and projects.

Specifically we are looking for:

A fundraiser - someone keen to help out putting in funding applications to further the goals of our branch.

Community promotions - one or two people to arrange and help out at community events, promoting Forest & Bird.

Please contact us at northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or call Claire Stevens on 09 4191233 if you would like to help.

Many thanks to Suzanne who has offered her services as membership liaison.

Also, for our Kiwi Conservation Club

We would welcome new coordinators to our team. North Shore KCC has around 200 families for whom we endeavour to organise monthly events. To spread the load, bring in new ideas and keep up to date with IT communications, we would welcome young and enthusiastic helpers in the team.

For information please contact Marilyn Gulliver candmgulliver@gmail.com

Public Meetings

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 - starting with Native of the Month and environmental updates, followed by our guest speaker.

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, phone Kerry Read 021 764 694

Monday 6 May 2019 7:30pm

Katrina Goddard, Marine Conservation Advocate, Forest & Bird



Our precious Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana/Te Moana Nui a Toi is in trouble. Over two lifetimes, the health of these waters has been severely degraded by overfishing, bottom trawling, pollution and climate change. [Sea Change/Tai Timu Tai Pari](#) is a plan that could reverse this damage and rebuild the health and mauri of the gulf; it is the product of many voices, including mana whenua, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, communities, scientists, and conservationists. Forest & Bird's marine advocate Katrina Goddard was on the plan's working group.

Monday 3 June 7:30pm

Brian Shields, Biosecurity Advisor - Hauraki Gulf Environmental Services Unit, Auckland Council

For further information, phone Kerry Read 021 764 694

Tuff Crater



The Tuff Crater Restoration Project on the North Shore commenced in 2000 with the planting of the Millennium Forest and has continued with major pest plant control, planting and predator control ever since. A major part of the work involves finding and removing threats from noxious alien invaders such as moth plant and wild ginger. It also includes releasing of new native plants so they do not get smothered by growth such as kikuyu grass or morning glory. Planting occurs in the winter months and the more energetic may get involved in path and drain maintenance.

No previous experience is required. If you do not know your plants, you will be guided by, and learn from, other team members..

To get involved, join our [mailing list](#).

Weekly Thursday working bee

Anne Denny and Paul Pyper run a half-day working bee every Thursday from 9:30am. Sign up to the mailing list to learn more.

Saturday working bees

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

The next working bee is Saturday 11 May 2019.

We will be carrying out vital pest plant control at Tuff Crater to ensure our native plants are not suffering from being smothered. Join our mailing list for up to date details on this and other working bees at Tuff Crater.

Saturday June 8 and Saturday July 13 will be planting days. Details to come.

Upcoming Trips

Sunday 26 May 10am – 12pm Whenuapai Airforce Base

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 15km of stream banks and the planting of large bare areas in native vegetation.

The terrain is mostly flat and walking is easy.

Meet: Front gate next to Whenuapai School, 14 Airport Road, off Brigham Creek Road.

Cancellation: If it is raining heavily, the trip will be cancelled. An email will be sent at 8:30am on the day of the trip to all people who register.

Registration: It is not necessary to register unless you wish to receive a cancellation email.

Contact John Brown:

- Landline: 09 4152054
- Mobile: 02290040
- Email: john.alison.brown@outlook.com

There are no trips planned for June and July. Planting days at Tuff Crater on Saturday June 8 and Saturday July 13 will be held instead. Join our [mailing list](#) for up to date details.

Trip Report

Alice Eaves Reserve, Orewa

On 17 March 2019 eleven Forest and Birders explored the Alice Eaves Reserve, situated at the northern end of Orewa. The reserve was gifted to the public in 1960, after Alice Eaves cared for it until her death in 1955.

The walk took us up the top of the hill, and back down again, where we saw many kauri rickers, plus a great number of mature specimens. All were flourishing, despite the threat of disease and unseasonably warm weather, which doesn't appear to have affected this area. Many of the other native trees have labels on them, and these included totara, kahikatea, puriri, rata and taraire. Several parts of the walk had beautiful views of the ocean.

The walk down took us through a nikau grove and to the highlight of the walk, a hollow 800-year-old kauri tree. The lower area showed a marked increase in the bird life, and tui and fantail kept us company for the rest of the walk.

Altogether the walk took us one and a half hours, which meant it was time to get some lunch at one of the nearby cafes, or go for a swim at Orewa beach. A recommended walk for everyone, as you can choose tracks to suit your ability.



Most of us sitting on the seat by the memorial to Alice Eaves, and standing beside the 800-year-old hollow kauri.

Enviro Hui North – 25 May

A day of workshops, sharing skills and experiences

Forest & Bird is partnering with Kaipatiki Project to bring you a combined Festival North and Sustainability/Climate mini conference.



**Inspiration and Activation.
Working Together to Increase Our Impact.**

For the first time, we present Enviro Hui North. All environmental groups and interested individuals from across Auckland's North are invited to come together, to share projects, hear what others are doing, and see how we can work together to increase our impact.

For Restoration Networks, there will be a Festival North workshop, for sustainability groups, there will be Live Lightly workshops, Then we'll bring it all together at the end to plan next steps and keep the momentum going throughout the year.

Join environmental leaders and committed conservationists from across the North.

Everyone welcome. Free event. For the detailed programme visit <http://kaipatiki.org.nz/courses/envirofest-north-hui/>

*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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Our mailing address is:

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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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