



Habitat - North Shore Branch news

What can we do with weeds?

Of course, the question is facetious. If there were a use for these plants they would not be “weeds”.

The definition of “weed” runs from harmful to the seriously invasive. Auckland’s benign climate encourages many weeds to flourish here, and has led it be called ‘the weed capital of the world’.

Such natural green spaces as still exist in the Auckland urban area are constantly under threat from weeds of all kinds. Some, such as moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*) are so successful that unless outbreaks are kept under control, they will smother regenerating bush.

Council’s contractors working in high value general reserves are required to control many of the more noxious weeds. However, volunteer groups play a major role in keeping these weeds from spreading out of control in significant ecological areas (SEA’s). The effectiveness of their work is being increasingly hampered by the spread of weeds across private property. There is currently no compulsion on private landowners to control a wide range of invasive environmental weeds.

Auckland Council has recently revised the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2019-2029 making private landowners in the vicinity of some high value parks and reserves responsible for weed control on their property. With legally enforceable responsibilities, the work of the volunteers should be reduced in *selected high value reserves*. **But this does not cover many of the areas bounding SEA’s.**

Many Forest and Bird members from the Tuff Crater team and others spend a significant amount of time on weed control activities. One of these volunteers, Keith Salmon says: “Without some constraints on property occupiers and in particular on

absentee landlords over the Auckland region, I anticipate that moth plant, etc will spread explosively over the next 10 years - making the control efforts in high value reserves and their buffer zones a Sisyphean task.”

On behalf of Le Roys Bush & Little Shoal Bay Reserves Charitable Trust, Keith has lodged an appeal against the RPMP. Another group of volunteers led by the John La Roche of Eastern Song Bird has lodged a similar appeal.

Keith asks: If any other people across Auckland are interested in getting together to create a more effective combined representative group to address weed control, we would be pleased to work with you.

You can contact Keith on Keith.Salmon@pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz



This infestation of moth plant was discovered in May in private property in Takapuna, and netted over 30 pods, some of which were ready to burst. The property is adjacent to an SEA.



The prolific growth of this moth plant, found across the road from the above, will produce many more seed pods if it is not removed now.

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 3 June 7:30pm

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

Brian is a specialist in dog handling, and his dogs and his team are trained in finding rats, stoats, plague skinks, argentine ants and kauri dieback. Brian was an integral part of the Antipodes Island Million Dollar Mouse Eradication Programme.

Monday 1 July 7:30pm

Margaret Stanley, University of Auckland Ecologist

Working on urban ecology, conservation, and invasive species

Upcoming Trips

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.

Tuff Crater



Weekly working bee Thursday 9:30am

Anne Denny and Paul Pyper run a half-day working bee every Thursday from 9:30am. Currently we are largely chasing moth plant, following up on areas where infestations were found in the past. It is very rewarding work, especially when you find the seed pod that got away and the carpet of newly sprouted shoots that will now never produce those seed pods. Meet new people and enjoy working in the great outdoors! The location of the working bee can change from week to week, so 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.

Saturday June 8th at 9am Tuff Crater Planting Day

Meet at the St Peters Street cul-de-sac and head south to the planting sites. We will be joined by volunteers from Canon who will put on refreshments. You will need to be on time as the plants will be in the ground in no time. We also have 20 very large trees to plant on the south side - if this is more your thing please sing out.

We will be laying out these plants on Friday June 7th at 2pm. If you would like to help with this please come to St Peters Street.

Sign up to the [mailing list](#) to learn about upcoming events and receive any cancellation emails.

If in doubt please call Richard on 021 216 1296

Join our [Pest Free Tuff Crater Facebook Page](#) for more news and info about Tuff Crater

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.

And if you don't specifically have skills in any of these areas but would like to be more involved, please also get in touch.

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's independent voice for nature. Our mission is

To protect and restore nature in Aotearoa/New Zealand.



Share



Tweet



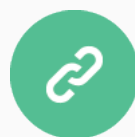
Forward



Facebook Auckland



Facebook Head Office



Website



Email



Twitter

Copyright © 2019 , All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

P O Box 33 873

Takapuna
Auckland 0740

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

Members: Please send any requests to change your email address, or unsubscribe requests, to membership@forestandbird.org.nz and we will update our records.

Non Members: You have received this newsletter from Forest & Bird because you provided us with your email address. Please update your preferences below.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

