

KAPITI-MANA

Branch of Forest & Bird

June issue 2019

Interim Editor: Alan Froggatt, Email a.froggtt@xtra.co.nz. Phone 04 2936366. Items of a non-political nature are most welcome but, if accepted, may be edited to fit available space

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm 26 June 2019 in the library meeting room, Iver Trask Place, Paraparaumu. Archaeologist Mary O'Keefe will be speaking on her work on the Kapiti Expressway. All members and non-members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings and should feel free to bring a friend.

Contents this month: Chair's report, Mega Mast Event, Global warming and biodiversity, Kaitawa Outdoor Classroom, First ever moa footprints found in the South Island, Kiwi Conservation Club, Young People Making a Stand for Nature; and 2019/2020 Committee.

Chairman's Report

Forest and Bird is an interesting organisation because it has a multitude of activities

John McLachlan of Paraparaumu and a Friend of Kaitawa, thought of the idea of establishing an outdoor classroom in the Kaitawa Reserve in Paraparaumu because we have got to influence the younger generations and cannot do that if they cannot learn about the natural world. This project is nearing completion and Kapiti Coast District Council intend to formally declare it open later in June. More follows in the item provided by Alan Froggatt.

Another side of Forest and Bird is advocacy. This is the area I have been most active in. Most recently, and mainly as a friend of Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP), I have been fighting for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to stop farming in this park where the wetlands have been drained, peat has dried and is oxidizing to carbon dioxide.

More insidiously, as part of the GWRC plan to turn the land into productive pasture, the native reeds which form an integral part of the wetlands have been wiped with a herbicide to kill them off. I informed them this activity is illegal under the Reserve Act which says flora and fauna must be protected. GWRC are now seeking an internal legal opinion.

Given the impacts of global warming all this is not good. If farming ceases, the drains blocked, and the peatlands re-wetted they would quickly return to wetlands.

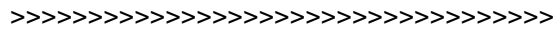
Forest & Bird have supported the Friends of QEP in their submission to GWRC planners to stop farming in QEP.

At the Whareroa Collaboration Meeting where I represented the Friends of QEP, GWRC Parks Manager announced GWRC had decided to stop farming in the park. As the current farm license allows farming for a further six years the outcome could be interesting. When farming in the park ceases F&B will need to convince GWRC to re-wet the wetlands.

All these F&B activities provide opportunities for people to explore and practise their talents whether they be reasoning, writing, presenting, publicity or more creative activities. That is how I began in F&B and the rewards have been fantastic.

It is with regret that I must let you know that John McLachlan, Alan Froggatt, Graeme Joyce, Margaret Latimer and Lore Leseberg have stood down from the Committee after many years of dedicated

It's time for all of us to do what we can, however trivial it may seem, to help offset this growing global disaster.



Kaitawa Reserve and Outdoor Classroom

Ed (Kapiti Mana Branch project leader)

Forest and Bird volunteers have been working at Kaitawa Reserve since 1995. In 2017 John McLachlan, Team Leader of the Friends of Kaitawa sought support from the Kapiti Mana Branch to establish an 'Outdoor Classroom' at the reserve. His idea was to install signs around the reserve describing the native flora, fauna, and aquatic life contained within the reserve and the Wharemauku stream so that all visitors and particularly children and visiting school groups could better appreciate and understand the ecosystems involved and how they should be preserved for future generations.

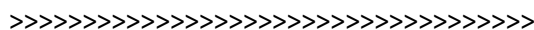
Members of the Kapiti Mana branch eagerly supported the plan and provided seed funding. The Friends of Kaitawa, Tangata Whenua, Kapiti Coast District Council were keen to support the project as was GWRC, but none could assist with funding.

Visitors will be greeted by an explanatory panel showing the locations of 22 informative panels telling the story of the native birds, endemic birds, introduced birds, self-introduced birds that nest or visit the reserve, the plants that cling and creep, the tiny but mighty insects that make it home, the many species of native fish that swim in the stream, the importance of wetlands, the pests that are trapped, the weeds that threaten everything and the glory of the native ferns and trees.



This project has been achieved through the support of KCDC staff, F&B volunteers and the Friends of Kaitawa Reserve. All this would not have been possible without the encouragement of Enviro – Schools, the Kapiti Sustainability Trust, the help of Dr Jean Fleming and two of her colleagues, and generous funding from the:

- Wellington Community Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Ron and Edwa Greenwood Trust
- Valder Conservation Trust
- Council intends to formally open the "Classroom" at 11.30 am on 14 June.
- Valder Conservation Trust
- The Kapiti Environmental and Restoration Trust
- Kapiti Lions



Some define modern society by our disconnect with the natural world. This is particularly prominent in the younger generation due to their over-whelming interest in TV, smart phone, computer or tablet - anything with a screen. However, many young people are making an active stand for the natural world. Individuals and groups are defying stereotypes and consistently surpassing the pessimistic expectations of the 'older' generation.

Social media such as blogging are the new communication norm for them. They are using these to come together, to plan ways for conservation in their neighbourhoods.

Hands-on, informal, self-initiated exploration and discovery in local familiar environments are often described as the best ways to engage and inspire children and cultivate a 'sense of wonder.' It is the combination of multiple experiences and influences of nature, rather than one single life-changing experience that helps produce environmentally informed and active citizens.

The Kaitawa Reserve in association with its Outdoor Classroom and the F&B Kiwi Conservation Club effectively engage young people with nature.

Ed: The Kaitawa Reserve and Outdoor Classroom are open for to visit, learn, watch birds, enjoy, relax, meditate, use their camera, picnic, feel good- but please, dogs on a lead (and a 'poo' bag in your pocket).

2019/2020 Kapiti Mana Branch Committee

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Other Conservation and Restoration Organisations on the Kapiti Coast

Waikane Estuary Care Group-Contact Pam Stapleton. Telephone 04 9046845. I

Friends of the Waikanae river. Contact Ferial Falconer Telephone 04 904 3579

Nga Manu Nature Reserve. Contact Matu Booth. Telephone 04 293 4131. Email admin@ngamanu.co.nz

Nga Uroa Escarpment Project Group, Contact Peter Kentish. Telephone 04 298 1255 Email PK2003_595@hotmail.co

Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park. Contact Russel Bell. Telephone 04 972 5081

Kapiti Environment Restoration and Maintenance Trust. Contact , Tony Ward. Telephone 04 293 7203. Email kotareg@xtra.co.nz

Kaitawa Reserve and Outdoor Classroom. Telephone KCDC 04 296 4700 for bookings. To offer help with restoration or to guide visitors contact Tony Ward. Telephone 04 293 7203. Email kotareg@xtra.co.nz

Waimanu Lagoons Care Group. Contact Dennis Thomas. Telephone 04 293 6490