

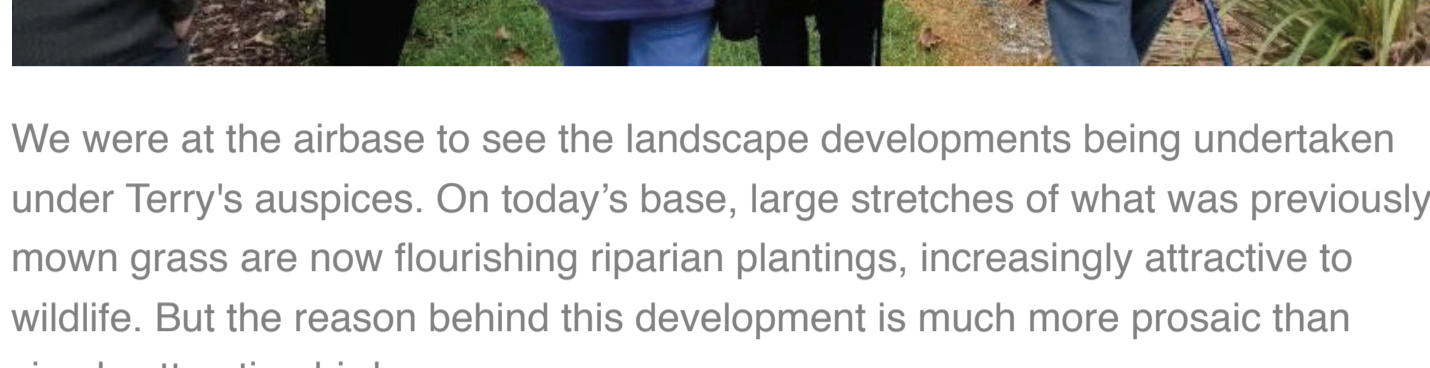


Habitat - North Shore Branch news



How a tractor spawned a wetland

It's hard to recognise this area of burgeoning wetland planting as belonging to the air base at Whenuapai. But this is what a group of our branch members experienced when visiting a few months ago as the guest of Grounds Manager Terry Walker.



We were at the airbase to see the landscape developments being undertaken under Terry's auspices. On today's base, large stretches of what was previously mown grass are now flourishing riparian plantings, increasingly attractive to wildlife. But the reason behind this development is much more prosaic than simply attracting birds.

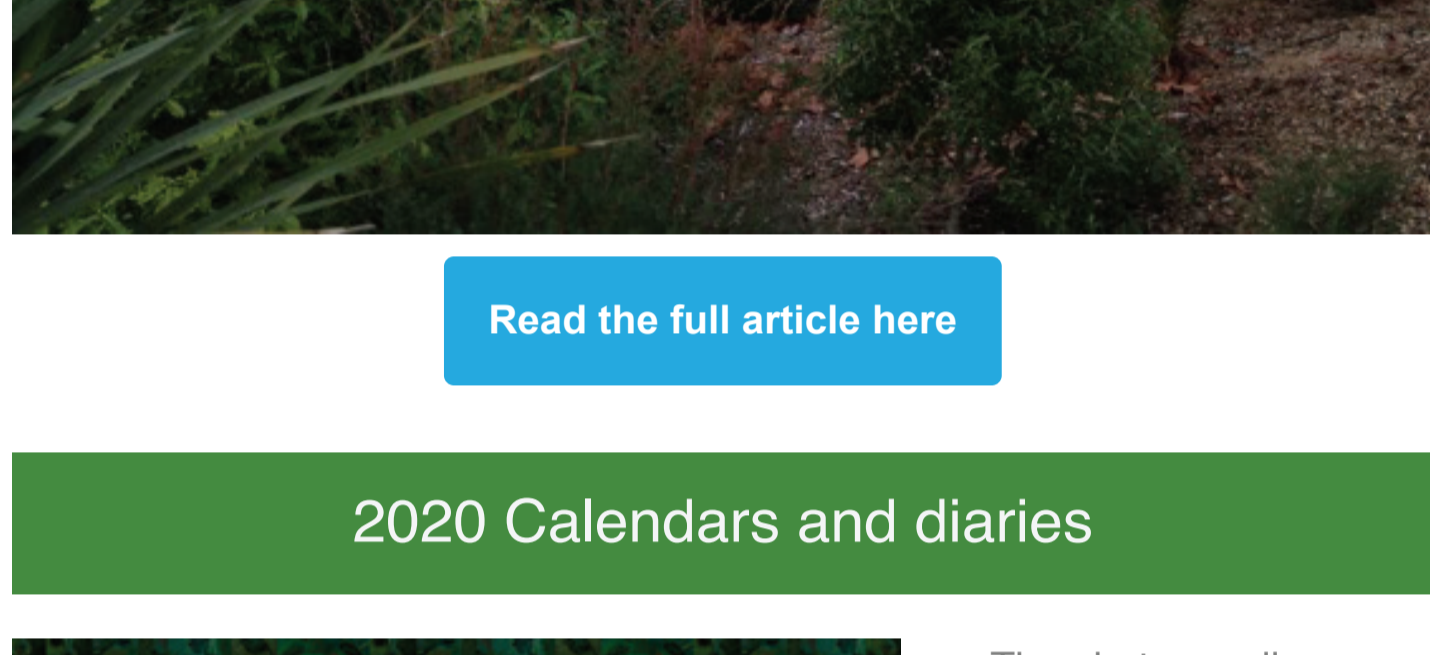
On a wet day in July 2010, Grounds Manager Terry Walker was overseeing a dirty, and at times dangerous, activity - retrieving a tractor and mower that had become stuck in the sodden ground. The grounds of the airbase are crisscrossed with drainage channels; at that time many were concreted, and there was a requirement to mow to the edge of the channel. Unfortunately, this edge tended to be at the bottom of a steep slope.

This was not the first time a tractor had almost toppled over in the slippery conditions of the winter months, and Terry was concerned about the potential danger to his employees, not to mention the cost of the damage to the tractor and the environment.



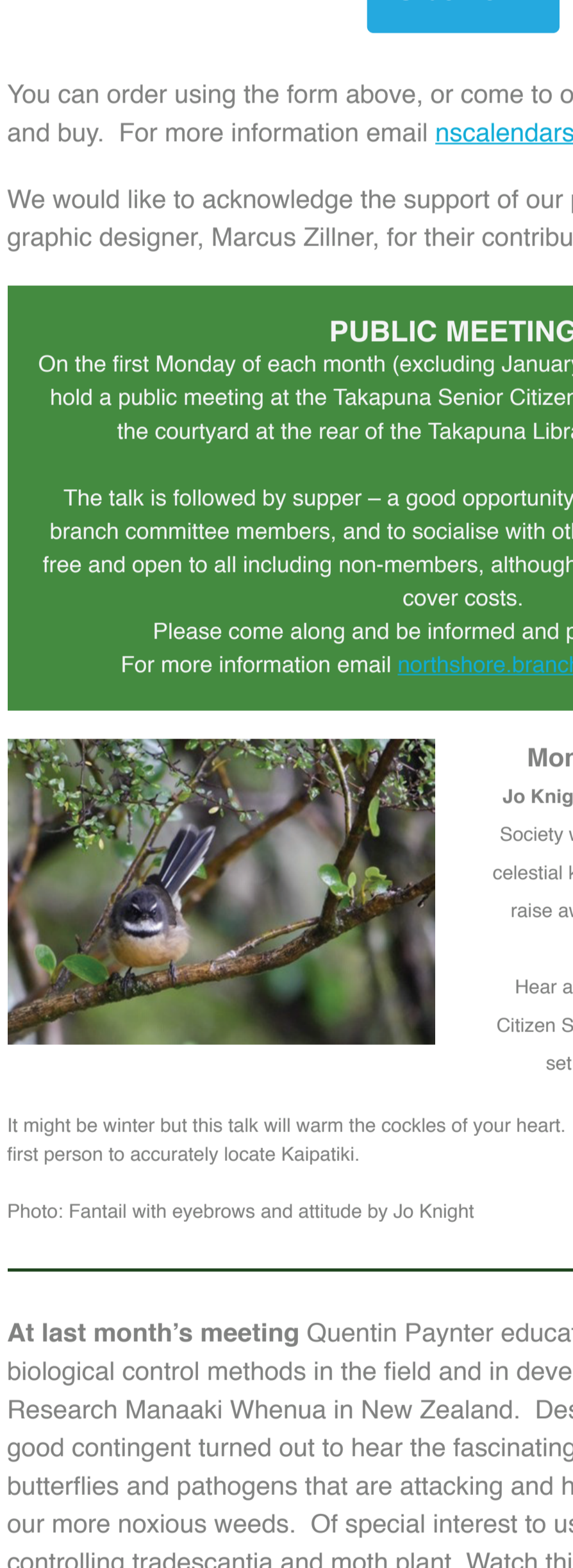
Always looking for ways to improve, Terry realised that removing the concrete that formed the base and sides of the drains and planting the sides with suitable native species would both reduce the mowing area and improve drainage.

The latter would become even more significant as the neighbouring housing developments greatly increased the water runoff onto the base.



[Read the full article here](#)

2020 Calendars and diaries



The photos really are spectacular this year. All profit from the sale of the diaries and calendars goes towards our branch projects. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so please get behind us.

[Order form](#)

You can order using the form above, or come to our monthly meeting to see and buy. For more information email nscalendars@gmail.com

We would like to acknowledge the support of our printer, Benefitz Ltd, and our graphic designer, Marcus Zillner, for their contributions to this fundraiser.

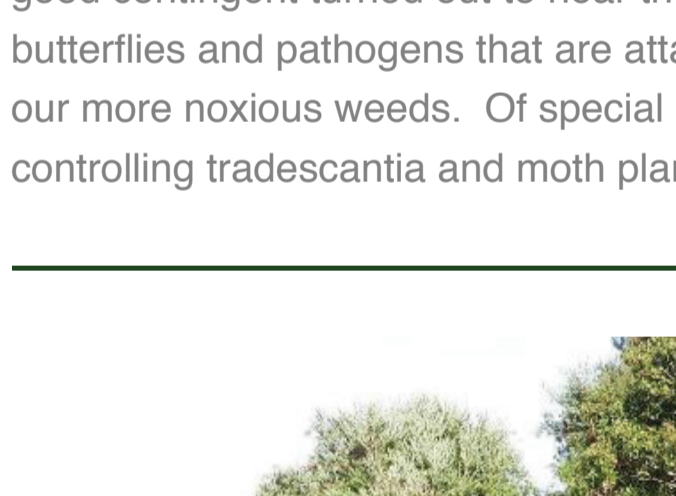
PUBLIC MEETINGS

On the first Monday of each month (excluding January), including public holidays, we hold a public meeting at the Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall, The Strand — through the courtyard at the rear of the Takapuna Library - starting at 7:30pm.

The talk is followed by supper – a good opportunity to meet the speaker and the branch committee members, and to socialise with other attendees. The meeting is free and open to all including non-members, although a small koha is appreciated to cover costs.

Please come along and be informed and possibly entertained.

For more information email northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



Monday 2 September 7:30pm

Jo Knight from Pest Free Kaipatiki Restoration Society will introduce enhanced halo of the non-celestial kind, which are being used in Kaipatiki to raise awareness and protect our precious city kauri – the kaitiaki of Kaipatiki.

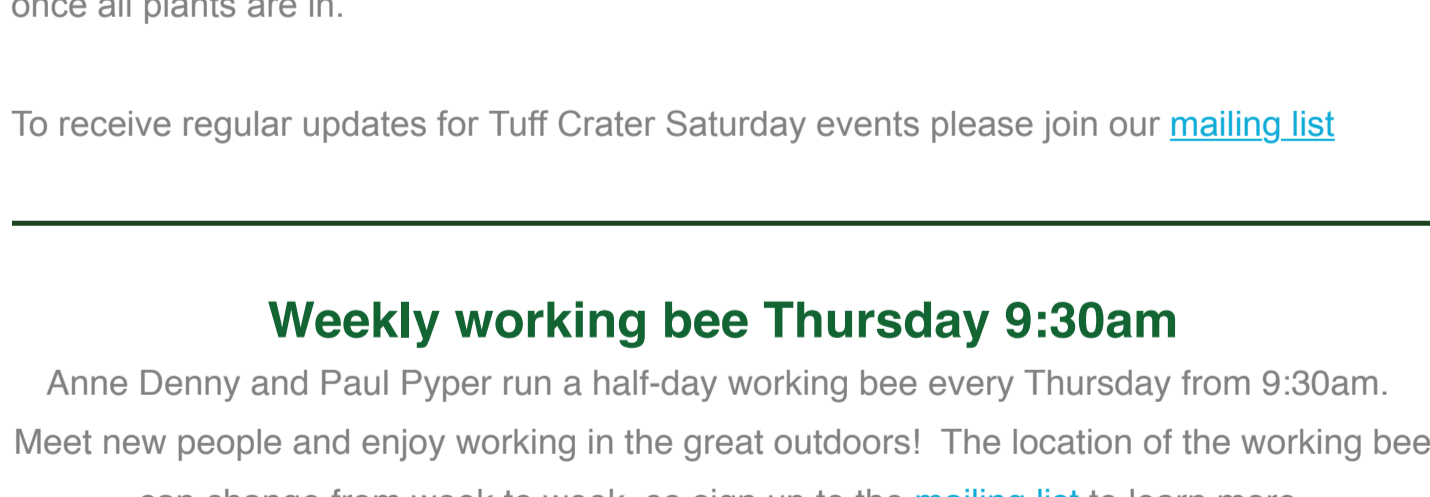
Hear about the challenges introduced by our Citizen Science Month and about the proposal to set up a nest box for Kaipatiki's kaka.

It might be winter but this talk will warm the cockles of your heart. To top it off, there will be a prize for the first person to accurately locate Kaipatiki.

Photo: Fantail with eyebrows and attitude by Jo Knight

At last month's meeting

Quentin Paynter educated us on the latest in biological control methods in the field and in development by Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua in New Zealand. Despite the terrible weather a good contingent turned out to hear the fascinating stories of the beetles, flies, butterflies and pathogens that are attacking and hopefully controlling some of our more noxious weeds. Of special interest to us are the developments with controlling tradescantia and moth plant. Watch this space!



Tuff Crater working bee at St Peters Street

We run a working bee at 9:00 am on the second Saturday of each month.

On Saturday 14 September we will have 400 plants to establish on the St Peters St site. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the restoration of a completely new, but small, area.

Meet at the site on the corner of College Road and St Peters St, Northcote, at 9:00 am.

Equipment will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Morning tea will be served once all plants are in.

To receive regular updates for Tuff Crater Saturday events please join our [mailing list](#)

Weekly working bee Thursday 9:30am

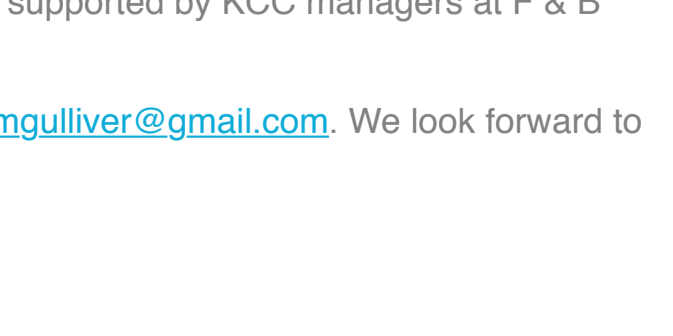
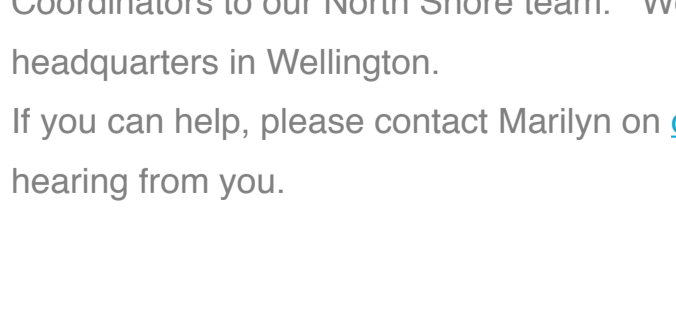
Anne Denny and Paul Pyper run a half-day working bee every Thursday from 9:30am.

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.

For more news and information about Tuff Crater:

Join our Pest Free Tuff Crater Facebook Page [@PestFreeTuffCrater](#)

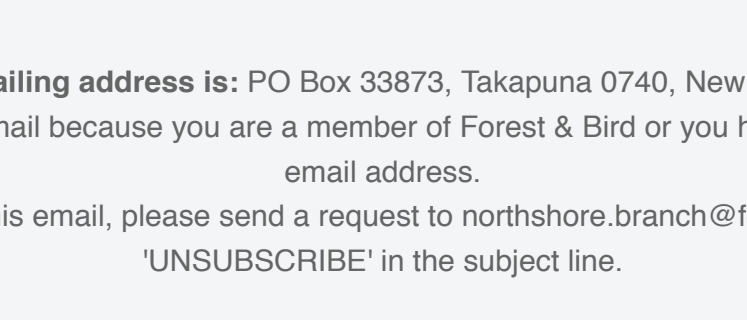
Do you have time to volunteer for Forest & Bird?



Photos: Steve Attwood and Jo Knight

We are looking for volunteers to be our branch **Fresh Water Champion** and our **Marine Champion**. These people will be part of a national Forest & Bird group looking at both national and local issues in these fields; they will then feed back to the branch so that we can keep our membership abreast of what is happening.

Please contact us at northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz if you would like to help with the above, or simply help us in other ways. We are always looking for new ideas.



Come and Join the KCC Team as a co-ordinator

North Shore Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) has around 150 member families for whom we organise monthly events for the children aged 5 to 12 years. To spread the load, bring in new ideas and keep up to date with computer communications, we would welcome new Coordinators to our North Shore team. We are supported by KCC managers at F & B headquarters in Wellington.

If you can help, please contact Marilyn on candmgulliver@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's independent voice for nature. Our mission is: 'To defend New Zealand's wildlife and wild places - on land and in our oceans'

Facebook

Twitter

Website

Our mailing address is: PO Box 33873, Takapuna 0740, New Zealand

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