

# NEWSLETTER KAPITI-MANA

## Branch of Forest & Bird

August 2019

Interim Editor: Alan Froggatt, Email [a.froggtt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.froggtt@xtra.co.nz). Phone 04 2936366. Your feedback on this newsletter would be most welcome as would a contribution or contributions to future newsletters of the branch.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room of the Paraparaumu Library, Iver Trask Place when Russell Bell will be speaking on climate change issues. Come learn about how some practical things you can do to help make a difference. Members should feel free to bring a friend.**

### Contents this month:

- ✓ **Chair's Report**
- ✓ **Report on 2019 National Forest and Bird Conference.**
- ✓ **Pest trapping on the Kapiti Coast**
- ✓ **Youth conservation is alive in Kapiti**
- ✓ **Birdwatching for Beginners**
- ✓ **Attracting wild birds to your garden**
- ✓ **Call to help clean-up the litter from the Fox Glacier Landfill**
- ✓ **Bereavement-Special notice**
- ✓ **Conservation and Restoration groups in the Kapiti Area**

### Chairman's Report

Courageous conservation was the theme of the National Forest and Bird Conference. The theme was picked because of the climate disruption and biodiversity collapse we are experiencing.

Tonight, as I watched the news, five of the events were related to climate change. A tornado in China, Floods in Japan and India, Councils in NZ needing financial help to deal with climate change and vineyard expansion in the UK and Wales made possible by climate warming. We are in an emergency. It has been unfolding for tens of years. Every week, we are seeing unprecedented weather events in the news.

Recently I read the UN report on biodiversity. It said Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely. One million species are threatened with extinction.

The current farming method, practiced in Queen Elizabeth Park, is to kill all farmland plants with herbicide, follow that with insecticides, then add fertilizer to grow a monoculture. This industrial agriculture destroys life in the soil, the water retention properties of the soil, water quality, native flora and fauna, including instream fauna. Because of the high fuel cost of industrial inputs spread by tractors compressing the soils and the low carbon content of a monoculture, it also makes climate change worse. I heard one person call it ecocide and it is happening on DoC owned land that is administered by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The three above paragraphs show we need courageous conservationists. We must take action to lower our use of fossil fuels. We must take action to allow land to sequester more carbon dioxide. We must protect our biodiversity and, I have to say it, we cannot continue with our destructive farming methods.

But that is not all. A shift in our thinking is required. First, we need to believe that all is not lost. What can we say to our children and grandchildren if the situation was irretrievably lost on our watch? We need also to realize that there is no magic bullet that will make this go away, but there are practical solutions which all of us can take. And, if enough of us take them, after about 30 years of getting worse, climate degradation will slow, stop and then slowly improve.

If we don't adopt those solutions urgently, the weather events and biodiversity losses will become so severe and affect our lives so badly that we will be forced into change. By then it may be too late.

Russell

**Telephone 04 972 5081**

**Friends, we need someone to take on the role of editing our monthly newsletter (10 annually). This can be done outside the committee. If you can help, please call Russell on 04 972 5081.**

**Item by Pene Burton-bell**

## **Report on national F& B Conference**

The annual Forest and Bird conference and AGM was over the last weekend of June 2019. The theme was Courageous Conservation, and we heard from some amazing conservationists (of course, more are always needed). It's impossible to capture all we learned about but here are a few themes that stood out...

1. Youth arrived! It's not just about the school strike, F&B youth hubs - by youth (14-25), for youth, their way - are popping up around the country and building energy into the organisation. Despite what one speaker called the "silver caps" in the audience, there were 30 youth at conference, and they made their presence felt - it was inspiring. One of them was a Kapiti local - Sophie Handford, from Paekakariki, who also won a parliamentary youth award recently for her efforts leading the school strike for climate, and she will be standing in the upcoming local elections.

2. There's a climate crisis - and there was quite a bit of discussion and debate about this and actions that have, or need to be, taken - such as supporting the Zero Carbon Bill. Many of us might be gone before the nastiest effects occur, but we aren't the only ones who need this planet to stay liveable.

3. Water is a big issue. There will be lots of opportunity, soon, to fight for a better deal for freshwater fish, and to support the zero-bycatch pledge by Forest and Bird.

4. Predator control and the need for more funds to combat the upcoming pest invasion as a result of the super mast (mass fruiting) this year. We particularly heard about the plight of small birds, and of long-tailed bats. There just aren't enough dollars available.

5. Supporting and including our Treaty partners. It was good to hear Te Reo so often at the conference, and to hear about the battle on indigenous lands, in particular the Raukumara ranges which, with adjoins Te Uruwera, the Kaimanawa, Kaiweka, and even the Ruahine and beyond - the largest contiguous forest in the North Island. With no significant predator control since 1990 it was devastating to see the damage caused, but what an opportunity exists for improvement! The biggest take homes on this were - that DOC isn't getting enough predator control funding, and that we need to keep inviting engagement with iwi.

Finally, I suppose I should mention a few big wigs - the Sanderson memorial lecture was delivered by Jeanette Fitzsimmons (CNZM), The Keynote address was by Minister Sage, and other politicians participated in debate panels - Erica Stanford (National), Angie Warren-Clark (Labour), Sarah Dowie (National), and Gareth Hughes (Greens).

**Survey on backyard pest trapping on the Kapiti Coast.**

On behalf of the Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project Bernard Smith has conducted a short survey of backyard pest trapping on the Kapiti Coast. This ran for three weeks from 26 June to 17 July 2019. The focus of this survey was on enhancing pest control along the Kapiti coast and what methods would be best suited to achieving this goal. Hopefully, I will be able to let you have a summary of the results in September.

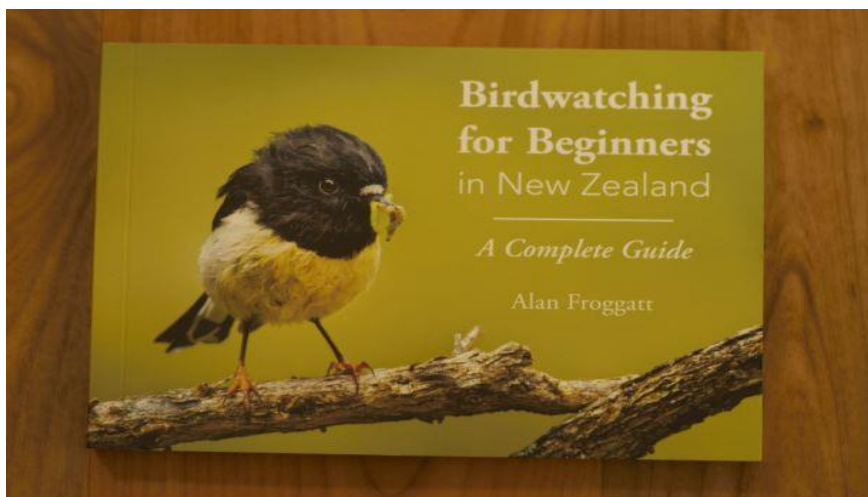
### **Youth conservation is alive on the Kapiti Coast**

Over the last year a group of children at Paraparaumu Beach School calling themselves “Paraparaumu Bird Savers” have been developing a predator free programme. Their aim is to help save native birds in their local environment. This group is being led by Zoe, a student with the support of one of the teachers.

They have been awarded a \$1000 grant from the Kiwibank Predator Free Programme to pay for the costs of the trapping programme and provide 100 trees to start the programme. Now they have started fundraising in the hope they can plant 640 trees on the school grounds.

If you would like to support this wonderful initiative or have questions, please call Zoe on 0277 223367 or 2982180.

### **Birdwatching**



\$19. 95. Published by New Holland and available from all good bookshops including Paper Plus and Whitcoulls in Coastlands Shopping Town. Paraparaumu.

Of this book Nikki McArthur from Wildlife Management International wrote in part “ this will fill an important gap in our local ‘Birding’ literature -we badly need an accessible and easy-to-read for beginners such as this, that not only provides the basics, but directs the beginner on to other resources as their skills and interest progress.”

### **Wild Bird Guide- Attracting wild Birds to Your Back Yard**

If you are buying seed to feed the birds in your garden ( Don't feed them bread, it's bad for them) you may see a free copy of the above very useful “Wild Bird Guide” which I recommend to you. For more information phone 800 109 244 or see [www.topflite.co.nz](http://www.topflite.co.nz). For tips and advice try [www.topflite.co.nz/tips-and-advice](http://www.topflite.co.nz/tips-and-advice).

We have several plants and trees in our garden that they like. We also have a strategically placed bird bath beneath a tree offering good perches and shelter. As a result, I need to scour the bath out and refill it three times a week year-round. While we don't feed them here's a list of the species that visited our garden in July.

Bellbird      Tui      Song thrush      Warbler      Silver Eye      Black Bird  
 Kereru      Fantail      House sparrow (only four and that's good as they discourage warblers)  
 Common Chaffinch, European Goldfinch, Starling, European Greenfinch, and Eastern Rosella

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**Help recover litter from the Fox River Glacier Landfill**

DOC has issued a plea for anyone that can to give some time with this critically important clean-up of litter from the riverbanks before spring tides arrive. For further information as to transport, accommodation and meals etc see <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/west-coast/operaton-tidy-fox/>. Or telephone Steve Bielby Community Ranger DOC 027 235 6563.

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**Special Notice**

The Branch notes with great that great conservationist, John McLachlan passed away on 15 July 2019. Not only was he awarded the F & B Old Blue for his conservation efforts, he also chaired the Branch Committee for many years and on standing down from that role remained an active committee member almost to the end. With John Topliff he was a founding member of the Kapiti Environmental and Restoration Trust and ditto for Friends of Kaitawa the Reserve in Paraparaumu where he led a handful of volunteers who worked tirelessly for 20 plus years in turning a wilderness into a forest wonderland. When not working in the Kaitawa Reserve he could be found on most Thursdays working with John Topliff restoring the forest along the south bank of the Waikanae river corridor.

His dream was that Kaitawa be developed into a free outdoor classroom so all who visit can learn something they didn't know about the natural environment and appreciate it even more, with a special focus on school groups.

Knowing he was not well the Branch worked hard with KCDC to turn his dream into a reality and the classroom was formally opened by His Worship the Mayor of Kapiti on 14 June 2019.

This wonderful reserve with its many informative panels is open to all. School groups should book a day and time with the Kapiti Coast District Council on 04 296 4700 CH.

Any groups wishing a free guided visit should contract Tony Ward on 04 293 723 or 027 551 4443 or Email [kotareg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kotareg@xtra.co.nz).

The Friends of Kaitawa, in association with the branch, are now looking at ways in which Teacher Guides can be developed for pupils from year 5 to year 13 to help teachers interpret a visitor experience and tie this into the school curricula for their class age group. If you could help with this Tony Ward would love to hear from you.



## 019/2020 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](mailto:admin@ngamanu.co.nz)

Nga Uroa Escarpment Project Group, Contact Peter Kentish. Telephone 04 298 1255 Email [PK2003\\_595@hotmail.co](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kotareg@xtra.co.nz)

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

Waimeha Restoration Group. Contact Coordinator Pryor Rowland Email [pryorrowland@gmail.com](mailto:pryorrowland@gmail.com).

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