

Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

Waikato Branch
NEWSLETTER
September 2019

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**Vote
for Nature!**

Give us your email!

Please let us know if you have an email address. This will be the last hard copy newsletter in this format. An events page will only be mailed to those without emails from now on. Trips reports will be on our branch page on the Forest and Bird website. Contributions are always welcome. Photos should be at least 300kb. Email to waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



<https://www.facebook.com/forestandbirdwaikato/>

AGM 2019

Several members attended the AGM in Wellington in June, and we were treated to a variety of panel discussions and youth presentations to encourage us all to get out there and advocate hard for the environment. Eugenie Sage spoke about the extra funding and staff for DOC, the levy for tourism, and extra funding for monitoring compliance of concessions. Annabeth Cohen ran a great workshop on freshwater using a quiz theme to get the message across about how little we all know about our freshwater species. Once again we oldies were inspired by the youth of today presenting on their wonderful activities in their Youth Hubs



- run entirely by youth, and we should be supporting a Waikato youth group. They are involved in conservation projects and climate change activism as well.

New science confirms warming climate bad for forest birds

Kiwi, kākā and whio are just some of the native forest birds at risk of being wiped out as introduced predators increase with climate change.

New research from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research has found that predator-vulnerable native forest birds are becoming more restricted to higher, colder parts of remaining forests.

The main reason for what the scientists are calling ‘thermal squeeze’ is likely to be more relentless pressure from higher numbers of introduced predators in lower, warmer forests.

The situation is likely to worsen with climate change, which will reduce the extent of cooler refuges where predator numbers are lower for much of the time.

“Warming temperatures make life easier for introduced predators like stoats, rats and possums and this is bad news for our

forest birds. This is another reason why we need to take action to reduce global warming and also continue to ramp up pest control,” says Forest & Bird spokesperson Geoff Keey.

The forest bird species most imminently endangered by thermal squeeze in New Zealand are larger-bodied, and include some of the rarest forest birds remaining on the mainland such as kiwi, whio, weka, and kōkako. “It’s vital that the Zero Carbon Bill has strong, binding targets to cut emissions and recognises the role of nature in our response to climate change. As well as cutting emissions, we need to help make nature more resilient in face of unavoidable climate change,” says Mr Keey.

Notes:

The authors of the paper are Susan Walker, Adrian Monks and John Innes of Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research.

Celebrating the life of Anne Lee.

A fulfilling life with Dave, including their earlier time in England and we remember some of those happy tales of their Yorkshire lives as were told to us by them both after they came to NZ. The other day at Summerset, before Anne passed away, I noticed an early photo of that young vibrant couple and I was taken with what a "good looking lass," as Dave would say, that Anne was. Back then their lives held so much promise which was then fully realised when they made the decision to immigrate to NZ all those years ago.

People met Dave & Anne in many varied ways over the years and became firm friends. It was a love of native ferns that bought myself in contact with Anne and Dave but others will remember them through their passion for the conservation enthusiasm they held with a number of organisations benefiting from tireless hours of volunteering and the compassion for others reflected in their charitable values when helping & supporting worthy causes.



Anne in Walter Scott Reserve with Adua, 2016, deciding where Dave's memorial seat will go

With their ECO burials they had given us an example of the values they held so dearly. Ann has come to join Dave and we are here to pay our last respects to Anne knowing that they have both left this world in the unselfish way in which they had lived.

Rest in peace Anne.

Bob Cuming.

Whangamarino Restoration Project

A call for Volunteers

To assist in setting / maintaining predator control bait stations in the Whangamarino Walkway area, Oram Road, Meremere.

Please phone Spencer 826 4599 if you would like to join the team. Leave your name and number and he will be in touch.

There will be some tree planting and weed control required also. This is a long term project to look after an attractive area of native bush.

Spenser L Drinkwater

Changes to our newsletter format

This will be the last time that we will be printing a newsletter in this format as we have decided that the dollars will be better spent on conservation projects rather than printing.

Our next printed newsletter will only go to those few who do not have email, and will only be an upcoming events page and AGM notification. Our trip reports and photos will go on our branch website for anyone wanting to read them. Notices and reminders will go to the email list.

So please ensure you notify membership@forestandbird.org.nz of email or address changes.

Committee Members	Phone	Mobile	Email	Responsibilities
Katherine Hay		021 267 2773	khaypear.co.nz	Chairperson, Newsletter.
Philip Hart	07 856 7992		prhart1940@gmail.com	Secretary, Trips
Bill Vant	07 856 2505		vantbill@gmail.com	Treasurer
Adua Geremia	07 843 3375		aduageremia@yahoo.co.nz	Membership, Publicity
Bruce Dean	07 827 2874			Morgan Res, Walter Scott
Jane McLeod	07 856 2505	021 146 7789	jane.mcleod64@gmail.com	Minutes secretary, Publicity, Trips, Meeting catering contact.
Julie Dorofaeff	07 8435430	022 408 2163	jfdorofaeff@xtra.co.nz	Rosters
Miles Barker	07 856 3778	027 673 8660	mbarker@waikato.ac.nz	Valder Grants
Kevin Collins	07 859 2606	021 341 749	kevcollins20007@yahoo.com	Submissions, newsletter
Keith Holborow	07 853 9377	027 698 6514	kjholborow@gmail.com	Walter Scott
Kristina Barnes		022 436 0646	kristina.barnes.kb@gmail.com	website/FB page

Please address all correspondence to 'Secretary, PO Box 11092, Hillcrest, Hamilton' or waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

Please - Let us know if you have changed your email address!

KCC Co-co-ordinator wanted!

We are needing a person to step up and help run our KCC group. Briar who was our previous coordinator is happy to help someone, so if you think you would like to do this, with others, please contact our branch email waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



TRAP LIBRARY

Now open - contact Go Eco if you would like to get a trap for your property in Hamilton
admin@goeco.org.nz

Ph: 07 839 4452
188 Commerce St,
Frankton, Hamilton

GO ECO

www.goeco.org.nz
Mon-Fri:
10am - 4pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm

To our walkers and campers -

Please note: for health and safety reasons we ask everyone coming on trips or camps to let the leader know they are coming and their emergency contact details and any relevant health problems before the trip.

While we do take a PLB and first aid kit we expect that members will take care of their own personal requirements.

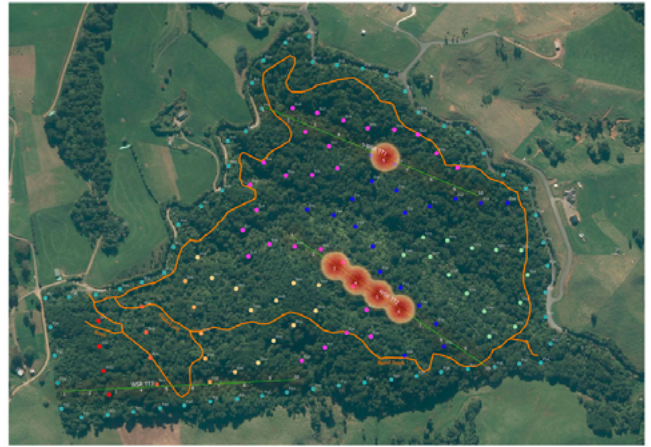
Waikato Reserves Update

Walter Scott Reserve

282C Pekanui Road
Puketotara

We are extremely fortunate to have local people (especially Landcare Research scientist Neil Fitzgerald) doing a great job of predator control in Walter Scott. Soon this year (when the weather settles) strikers will go on the trees for rats and possums, to hopefully knock them down to allow birds to breed in the reserve. We had a patch in the centre of the reserve last year (see pic) where rats persisted, but hope we get rid of them this year. The rat tracking numbers

Walter Scott Reserve bait stations (ship rats and possums)



are high at present.

It is a beautiful piece of bush and well worth a walk around if you haven't been there.

Morgan Reserve

Waitekauri Rd, Waikino

Our 13ha Morgan Reserve has been closed due to Kauri Dieback, but the committee has held a couple of working days at the reserve recently to plant some infill trees and shrubs down the fenceline where a couple of large macrocarpa have been removed. Our thanks go to Brian Habberfield and Waihi group HELP (Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership Waihi Inc)



for providing plants and members coming to help us plant.

Waikato Show in April and Fieldays in June - We were there!

Waikato Show



Katherine Hay and Susan Jenkins at the Waikato Show

Fieldays

We had a lovely new display for the public about diversity in your backyard, including a bug B&B made by Keith Holborow, and a touchy feely experience for children thanks to Keith and Krissy.



NGĀROTO, ROTOPIKO WALK
10TH MARCH 2019



Twenty of us, ranging in age from 8 to 80-ish enjoyed the walk around Lake Ngāroto, (with numerous others). A little girl with us, scared of dogs, learned some are friendly. A little boy (new to NZ) was interested in the reason for pest traps, and how they operate, spider webs, and piwakawaka flitting around. The WRC, WDC and DoC have a trapping and planting partnership with volunteers. Some areas already have established native trees but much of the route is pretty ragged – many of the 14,000 plants in since 2018 are yet to beat the weeds. We then lunched at Rotopiko, a peat-lake formed at the end of the last ice age. It is a wildlife sanctuary (bittern, fernbird, black mudfish, long-tailed bats, copper skinks, spotless crakes), protected from pests by a 3km pest proof fence. A ruru flew from a nearby tree – I followed and when it landed we enjoyed several minutes of eye contact; a highlight of the day.

Jane McLeod

WAIORONGOMAI GOLDFIELD
14TH APRIL



The trip began with a fine example of extreme carpooling. Five robust adults in a Rav4. Pity the poor person in the middle of the back seat. And the trip ended with a huge, wonderful surprise, but one that carried with it a burden of secrecy that will handicap this writer. My apologies in advance.

It was a cold start and the bush stayed cool for most of the day. We were headed for the New Era incline so we walked the Low Level track at first then climbed off it onto an old roadway that Te Aroha locals have been restoring. By doing so we gave up formed, drained track surfaces and modern bridges but we gained the chance to pass through an area of vigorous regrowth that included tanekaha, lancewoods and young kauri. It was a raw glimpse of the original conditions that miners experienced too. The Diamond Gully crossing was especially dramatic.

The New Era incline is the steepest at Waiorongomai. There are no sleepers or rails but there are plenty of roots and small trees in just the right places. We ascended wisely rather than quickly and paused for lunch at the top.

The tramway through to the top of Butler's incline was a welcome gentle downgrade and it even had warm patches of sunlight.

Now for the secrecy. We did travel back to the carpark but



I won't say how. We did pause on the way to explore a mine or two, we saw some portals, drives, shafts, stopes, rails, sleepers, mud, water races, timbers, seams and rock falls. (I'm not so keen on that last one, actually.) But I won't say which.

We also saw wetas, glow worms and, amazingly, a Hochstetter's frog. But I won't say where. It was just a little frog

**EASTER CAMP 19 - 22 APRIL
OHAKUNE**

Another successful camp at Station Lodge in Ohakune with a good number of families including members' grandchildren. The facilities at the Lodge are good for children, with a safe trampoline on the lawn to use up excess energy and a relaxing hottub at day's end for all ages.

Friday afternoon we walked the always beautiful Rimu and Mangawhero walk, noticing the giant rimu, the spiralling trunks of the Kaiwaka, and red speckled bark of matai.

Next morning we were transported to the start of the Old Coach Road, and on a beautiful sunny day enjoyed the changing scenery, berry-laden Coprosma, our favourite mountain cabbage trees, marvelling at the engineering feats of yesteryear, and eating lunch on the meccano set viaduct. They used a lot of rivets and bolts building those viaducts back in the early 1900s.

Sunday was a little more overcast but we drove up the Ohakune road, enjoying the mountain cabbage trees along the way, and then past the twisted cedars to Waitonga Falls where children scared the leader by scaling the falls' cliff face, but everyone returned unscathed. Then a quick trip up to the top of the road where a pipit was flitting around the carpark.

After lunch we headed south to Lake Rotokura, 12 km from Ohakune, which is surrounded by ancient beech forest. By the carpark there I was able to find an example of *Botrychium australe*, hidden in the bushes, which I knew about from on a previous visit. I don't think the others were particularly impressed with my special find.



All the troops at the Station Lodge above, Hapuawhenua Viaduct below



Unfortunately Monday was definitely a duck weather day, so after clearing up everyone was happy to head home, but I was sad not to visit the lovely reserve at Owhango to check out the whio - another day.

Katherine Hay

WAIORONGOMAI

continued

but it was sure full of beans. Those critters can hop up a storm when they want to and ours did. Finally it took refuge under a rock and we took the hint and went away. Thrilled.

We had a wonderful day. Lots of climbing and scrambling, lots of exploring, lots of healthy regenerating bush, lots of sobering history and a new appreciation of the huge effort that went in to winning almost no gold. And to top it all off - that little frog, to remind us what F&B is all about.



Keith Holborow



Waitonga Falls



KARIOI ASSAULT 12TH MAY

At 756m Karioi is not as high as some of its Waikato neighbours but its location gives its summit unequalled views of the Raglan coast from Albatross Point in the south to the Waikato River mouth.

It is a mistake, though, to regard the Wairake Track on its southern slopes as a pleasant walk to a panoramic view. This track is much more than that.

After about twenty minutes the turn-off is clearly sign-posted and the path steepens markedly. Ten minutes later the last grassy clearing is reached.

With dense cloud shrouding the summit above us we thought this might be our viewing highlight for the day. Rain was forecast for the afternoon. Mist reminded us of the threat. We didn't pause long.

The track climbs steadily so you have to pause for a breather sometimes but there is always something interesting. The gradual change in vegetation to higher altitude species, fungi thriving in an environment that is moister than the Waikato Plains and bird life supported by regular predator control. The walk up was a delight.

The Wairake's last flourish was a succession of sturdy ladders that delivered the whole party safely, even in very low visibility, onto the summit helipad and into a gusty northerly that was being deflected up the south wall of the crater.

The view was like the inside of a ping-pong ball. Half of the party soon departed, looking for shelter from the wind, somewhere to sit and, of course, food. Just a few of us remained. We headed cautiously along the south crater ridge to look at the SAR base and the coms aerials. Trying to wring every last point of interest as payment for our morning's effort.

Slowly the clouds parted. They were a wind-driven swirling grey mass one moment then a hint of bush line showed through way below. Next the coast appeared. The patchwork of farmland gradually emerged. Raglan, Aotea and Kawhia harbours all came into view and for a few precious minutes we were on the summit with the world laid out at our feet. Descents are often treacherous yet the Wairake is not that sort of track. On the way down the vegetation was more plainly in view and we foolishly lingered for botanical discussions. That was a good climb, a safe track, delightful bush and a remarkable view. Well worth a final wetting.

Keith Holborow



MT TAUPIRI TRIP. SUNDAY 9TH JUNE

It had been a while since I had been on a Forest and Bird trip but I had never been up Mt Taupiri. I guess I was unsure of the access. Mt Taupiri is on Tainui land but access is open to all. At the entrance to the track was some gorse, totara, manuka, akeake, pampas and titoki.

As we left the scrubby entrance vegetation we started to encounter mamaku tree fern and mahoe and then got into the forest proper. The forest between here and the summit was mainly silver fern with emergent rewarewa and kohekohe. Kohekohe is quite susceptible to possum browse. Most of the trees were in good shape. Further up the track we saw nikau and in the understory kawakawa.

There was one small patch of *Rhabdothamnus solandri* which has leaves like sand paper.

At roughly 200 metres we saw our first tawa.

At the top there was a trig station which was at 228 metres above sea level. We enjoyed great views of the river, Huntly, Lakes Waahi and Waikare. You could also get a good view of the progress of the Taupiri – Huntly motorway bypass.

After a rest and smoko we started down the return track.

On the way down I spotted a *Coprosma arborea* tree – our only coprosma to make into a tree the rest of our coprosmas only manage shrub status. *Coprosma arborea* occurs from about Pirongia northwards. Again at about the 200 metre contour we encountered tawa and at the 160 metre contour I saw the only maire of the trip.

At the 140 metre contour line we hit a piece of drier forest containing kanuka, soft mingimingi, hangehange, porokaiwhiri and mapou.

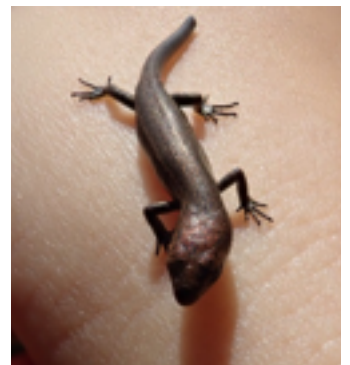
A bit further along the track I saw the only turepo bush of the trip. The leaves are sort of shaped like a violin.

We arrived at the bottom of the track and everyone stopped for lunch by the Mangarawa River but I couldn't resist a look at the small wetland by the road – a nice patch of *Carex geminata* with pukatea, kahikatea and cabbage trees.

For those that missed the trip and want some more details on access etc please visit this web site.

<https://mowalknz.com/2017/07/29/taupiri-mountain-summit/>

Thanks Katherine for organising a great day out.
Kerry Jones



Events Calendar

WALK - Sunday 8 September

OTANEWAINUKU

KCC Easy

Beautiful bush walk with the possibility of hearing lots of birds - robin, kokako, and the rest.

Meet at the carpark in Mountain Rd at 10am

(It is about 1hr 40 mins from Hamilton East.)

On road to Tauranga, Take Oropi Rd south from SH29A, and turn onto Mountain Rd just past Oropi.

If you are intending to come please let me know, or wanting to car pool - Katherine Hay 0212672773

Forecast is for a little bit of rain so come prepared.

TALK

Thursday 19th September

Conservation Week - Kauri

7.30pm

Chartwell Room, Hamilton Gardens

* See box for details for ordering a catered meal beforehand.

We have a new short movie which a Forest and Bird film maker has recently produced **Mauri o te Kauri** (even featuring our own Catherine Kirby)

And we have a our local DOC lead for Kauri Dieback, Ray Tana, in the Waikato coming to update us on what is happening.

WALK - Sunday 13th October

HINEHOPU/HONGI'S TRACK ROTORUA

Meet opposite BP station by I site in Tirau at 9.15 - 9.30.

This is a lovely easy walk, taking approximately 2 and a half hours total, through some amazing bush and ancient native forest with huge trees of rimu, tawa, pukatea and rewarewa.

We start our walk from Lake Rotoiti (Korokitewao Bay) and walk the undulating track through to Lake Rotoehu (Te Pohue Bay) for a nice lunch stop.

We retrace our steps with a diversion to the "Wishing Tree" (a Sacred Matai) and then make our way back to the cars. This significance in the areas lies

in its important historic and scenic value. The history dates back to 1620.

If there is time we will stop for coffee/ice cream on the way home so bring extra money if you wish.

Leader Keith Wilkinson ph/txt 027 366 6194 or 07 8474 377.

CAMP

19 - 22 October Labour Weekend

PUREORA

Register now for our Labour weekend camp. Situated out in the most beautiful bush - an unlogged part of Pureora, close to Pureora village, the lodge is a great base for a range of walks around the Pureora area.

Next to the lodge is the easy Waipapa Walk, which follows through original beautiful mature tawa/podocarps, with amazing bird life due to intensive pest control in that area, including kōkako. Near the village is Forest Tower and Totara walk, and further afield are various longer day walks, including up Mt Pureora, Bog Inn Track, Waihora Lagoon.

As per usual, we will get there Friday afternoon, take your own meal that night, and the rest will be catered.

Leader and Bookings to Jane McLeod 856 2505 or email jane.mcleod64@gmail.com

Deposit of \$40 per family to be paid to the branch account to confirm your booking, ref LW Camp:

Forest and Bird 38-9020-0198000-00 (Note - this is a new Waikato Branch number not the national organisation)

WALK - Sunday 3rd November

MOKAIHAHA

Moderate

9.30am. Meet at the corner of Mossop Rd and SH1 in Tokoroa, outside the sportsground.

The walk is relatively easy, following baitlines, but there is no track as such so a walking pole is a good idea.

We always see robin, tomtit, kaka, fantail, tui, and sometimes hear cuckoo, and if you are lucky kokako and whitehead.

Mokaihaaha is a 2000ha Ecological Reserve, with beautiful old Mamaku Plateau mixed

*** Join us for a catered meal on Talks nights, 6.15pm. Bookings for dinner prior to the talk to Jane McLeod by the previous Sunday \$15.00 per person, phone 856 2505 or email jane.mcleod64@gmail.com**

podocarp forest. We do have a species list if anyone is very interested.

870ha are under intensive annual ground control for rats and possums, and it has had 2 cycles of 3 yearly aerial 1080 application. The Kokako population is original and genetically distinct. There are over 100 birds at last count so we have a good chance of hearing them.

The leader is Keith Holborow ☎027 698 6514. Let him know if you are coming.

We ask that everyone gives us an emergency contact number.

TALK

Thursday 28th November

Freshwater Mussels

7.30pm

* See box for details for ordering a catered meal beforehand.

Michele Melchior

'The complex life-cycle and reproductive ecology of two kakahi (freshwater mussel) species that coexist in Waikato streams'

Michele Melchior, is a PhD student at the University of Waikato.

8 - 10th November

North Island Gathering

Will be held at Forest and Bird Ruapehu Lodge this year.

The booking form will be available on the F and B website shortly, but if you are interested in going put those dates in your diary. It is a good opportunity to meet members from other branches.

Valder Conservation Grants

Forest and Bird's Waikato Branch awards grants annually in memory of Lilian Valder for conservation projects.

Each grant is usually \$1000 - \$2000 and can be awarded to individuals or group projects.

Closing date for applications is September 30.

For more information and application form, email waikato.branch@forestandbird.org.nz, or download a form at Waikato Branch page on www.forestandbird.org.nz, or write to Secretary, Waikato Branch Forest and Bird, PO Box 11092, Hamilton 3216.

Car Pooling

Help protect our planet from the effects of climate change and pollution (and reduce costs) by carpooling when going on Forest and Bird trips and camps.

Please phone the leader of the trip a couple of days in advance to organise if you need, or can offer, a ride. Please do offer the driver a reasonable contribution towards their petrol costs.

Cancellation of Walks

Walks will go ahead unless there is a really adverse forecast, but check with the leader if unsure.



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