**Forest and Bird Society North Island Gathering: 8 - 10th November, 2019**

*After the recently released government stocktake on the environment, Environment Aotearoa 2019, it is clear there is a crisis with threatened species, rivers unsafe for swimming and freshwater degradation, the loss of native ecosystems, marine environment threats and overlaying this is Climate Change.*

*So for our gathering, we decided to focus on*

*# how we can educate our local populations about these threats - changing the future to a more positive, sustainable one*

*# how to engage young people of all ages to act - environmental action*

*# how to use the media to disseminate the message - engage hearts and minds*

**Friday**           4.30 - 6.30pm Registration and Drinks - Ruapehu Lodge

                        Participants organise their own dinner

**Saturday**      7.30 - 9.00am Breakfast - Ruapehu Lodge

                      9.00 - 9.20 Walk down to DOC Conference Centre at Whakapapa Village

      9.20 Welcome and introduction to programme

                      9.30 - 10.30 Sarah Thompson - legal challenge - Keynote speaker

                                 (introduced by Kevin Hague, CEO) plus Q+A

* 1. - 11.00am Morning break

11:00- 11:30 Threatened species - Nicola Toki, Dept of Conservation

11:30- 12.00 Di Lucas - New Zealand landscape architect and environmental planner

12:00-12:30 Bill Vant. Healthy rivers Waikato Regional council

12:30 - 1.00pm Lunch

1:00- 1.30  Dave Bowden –Time to get more native trees in the ground. Using ETS and billion tree programs.

1.30 - 2.30 Youth Groups - How branches can assist young people to set up youth groups in their regions - Sian Moffitt and friends

                      2.30 - 3.00 Register for activities and make preparations

                      3.00 - 5.00 Outdoor Activities –

Sky Waka, Rotopounamu, Silica Rapids, Taranaki Falls, Personal Time, or plan a new conservation project.

                      5.30 - 6.30 Drinks at The Chateau

                      6.30 - 8.30 Dinner at The Chateau

                      8.30 - 9.00 After dinner speakers

  Dr Briar Smith – The amazing world of insects

Julia- Hot of the press- invasive wasps. Another forgotten pest?

**Sunday**           7.30 - 9.00am Breakfast - Ruapehu Lodge

                        9.00 - 9.20 Walk down to DOC Conference Centre at Whakapapa

        9.20 Welcome back

                        9.30 - 11.00 Practical Workshops –

1. Practical hands on workshop for branches on how to use modern communications/social media to communicate with and influence public thinking – Laura
2. How to use Bat recorders to survey bats - Rebecca Stirnemann with Eva Kessels
3. How to do a fish survey- Annabeth Cohen (may also have a night survey in prior night)

                       11.00 - 11.30 Morning break

                       11.30 - 12.00 Plenary - Kevin Hague, CEO Forest and Bird -A Call To Action

                       12.00 Clean up - lodges

                       12.30 Light Lunch and departure with tearful goodbye.