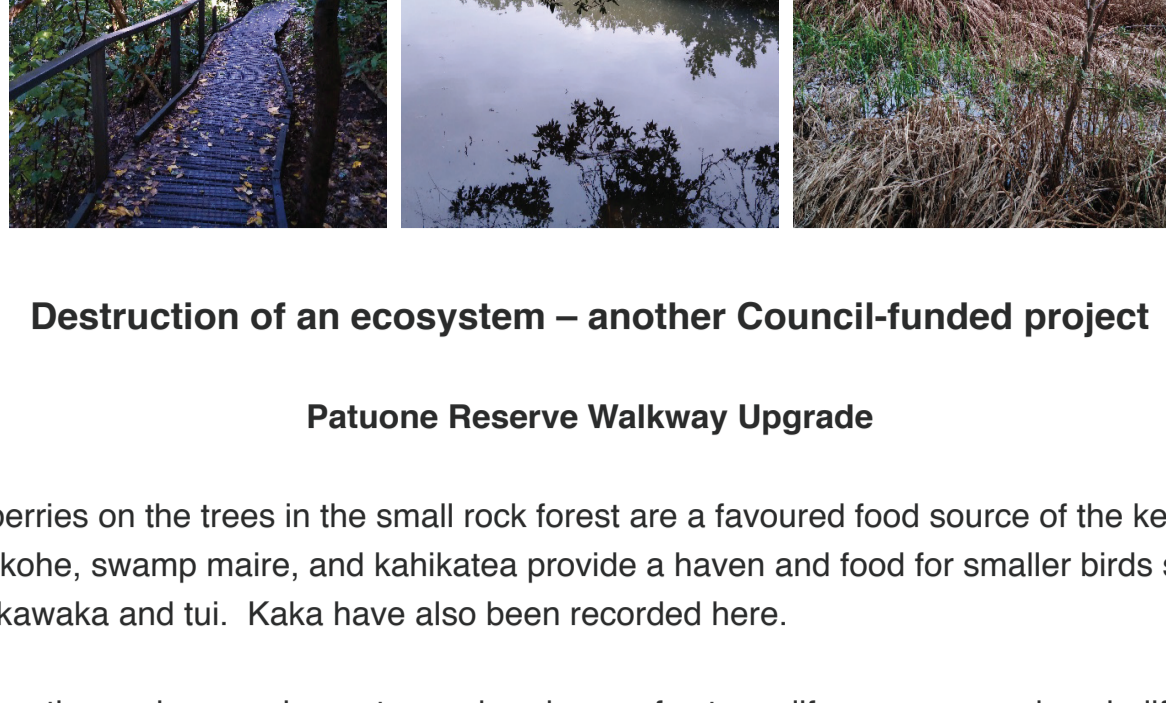


Habitat - North Shore Branch news



Destruction of an ecosystem – another Council-funded project

Patuone Reserve Walkway Upgrade

Karaka berries on the trees in the small rock forest are a favoured food source of the kereru, and the kohekohe, swamp maire, and kahikatea provide a haven and food for smaller birds such as the piwakawaka and tui. Kaka have also been recorded here.

Mangroves themselves are home to an abundance of estuary life – worms, crabs, shellfish, fish, eels, and birds – while the shoreline is home to native plants such as reeds and saltwort.

Mangroves, rushes, and tall grasses in the upper reaches of estuaries – these are the habitat of the rare mioweka or banded rail.

All these individual parts comprise the ecosystem that is Patuone Reserve, and all are under threat from the [Patuone Reserve Walkway Upgrade Project](#).

This project was originally conceived as a joint cycleway/walkway linking Seapath/Naturepath to the Takapuna town centre and the Devonport to Takapuna Green Route. At present it does not link to any of these routes and there is no plan to make this happen.

It consists of an upgrade of the existing path comprising gravel and boardwalk, which is in a deteriorating and unsafe condition. The path does need an upgrade. What the ecosystem does not need is incursion on a grand scale – \$2.6 million worth of 2.5-metre-wide concrete path, with new boardwalks bisecting the mangroves, the rushes, and the small rock forest. It will mean the removal of numerous trees, including 20 karaka.

The project will effectively destroy this fragile ecosystem.

There has been no public consultation on this proposal. Final approval for the spend was forced through at a recent meeting of the Devonport/Takapuna Local Board, despite half of the Board opposing the expenditure. It is unlikely that the application for consent to the plan will be publicly notified.

Note: this path runs along the back of Barrys Point Road in Takapuna, from Esmonde Road north to the top of Como Street.



On a more positive note, it seems that the plants and the bees think that spring has arrived on the North Shore. One of our members volunteering at Saddleback Rise Reserve in Murrays Bay photographed this busy foraging bee, who was so intent on his job he took no notice of the closeness of the lens.

The area covered by our North Shore branch includes a large number of small reserves, often pockets of land considered unsuitable for development back in the 1970's. Saddleback Rise Reserve is one such place, half a hectare of gully that until recently was the repository of weeds and rubbish. On a recent visit we spotted a relatively rare hinau or New Zealand olive. One of our members has written about its transformation into a beautiful haven for local wildlife.

Saddleback Rise Reserve – Murrays Bay



This is a small reserve on Saddleback Rise in the middle of Murrays Bay which is largely ignored by passers-by as they drive up and down the hill to the three local schools. However, during the past three or four years, a small group of neighbours have slowly cleared the usual pest plants – including acmena, wattles, tradescantia, agapanthus, and honeysuckle – and removed rubbish such as old bikes, endless takeaway cartons, dumped household garbage, and car parts to reveal the true beauty of this small reserve.

If you have time, do stop and check out the magnificent tree ferns, rimu, titoki, karaka, totara, putaputaweta, kumarahou (especially when in flower), rewarewa, kawakawa and other natives. Joe Greig has confirmed at least 23 different species are quietly growing naturally in the heart of Murrays Bay, and with fewer weeds more seedlings are emerging.

With Council assistance from the Volunteer Coordinators, local volunteers have learned how to trap and bait for rats and possums. They have been given the tools needed as well as several hundred plants to fill in the gaps during the past two autumns. Planting days have been very successful with between 15 and 20 adults and children involved in the fun. Two weta boxes have been installed, and a bait line of four stations and two possum traps with, more importantly, a person to monitor them. The next step is to encourage neighbours to trap in their own sections. Bird life is obvious and encouraging with tui, piwakawaka, rosella, just one heron noted and the odd shag. With rat numbers under control, hopefully these will increase.

If you would like to get involved in this project, please email kathyfarquhar@gmail.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS

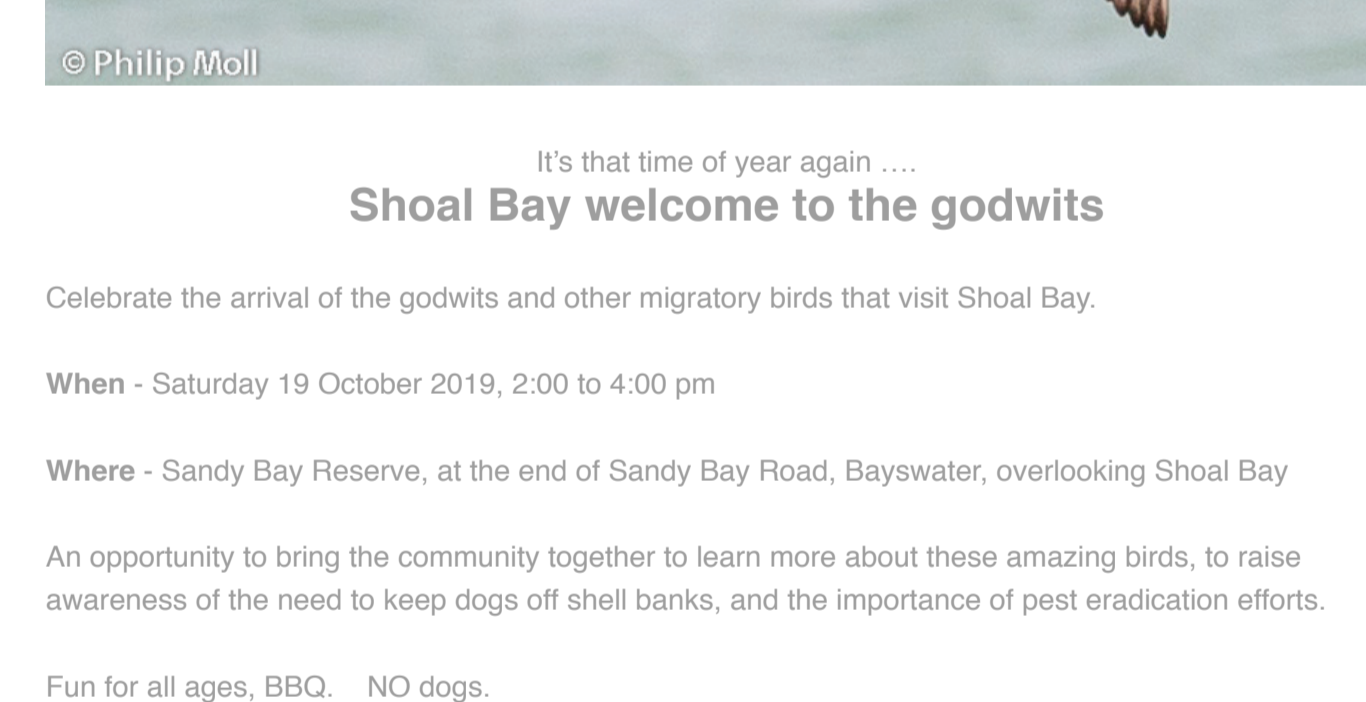
On the first Monday of each month (excluding January), including public holidays, we hold a public meeting at the Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall, The Strand – through the courtyard at the rear of the Takapuna Library - starting at 7:30pm.

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 7 October 7:30pm - Mauri o te kauri

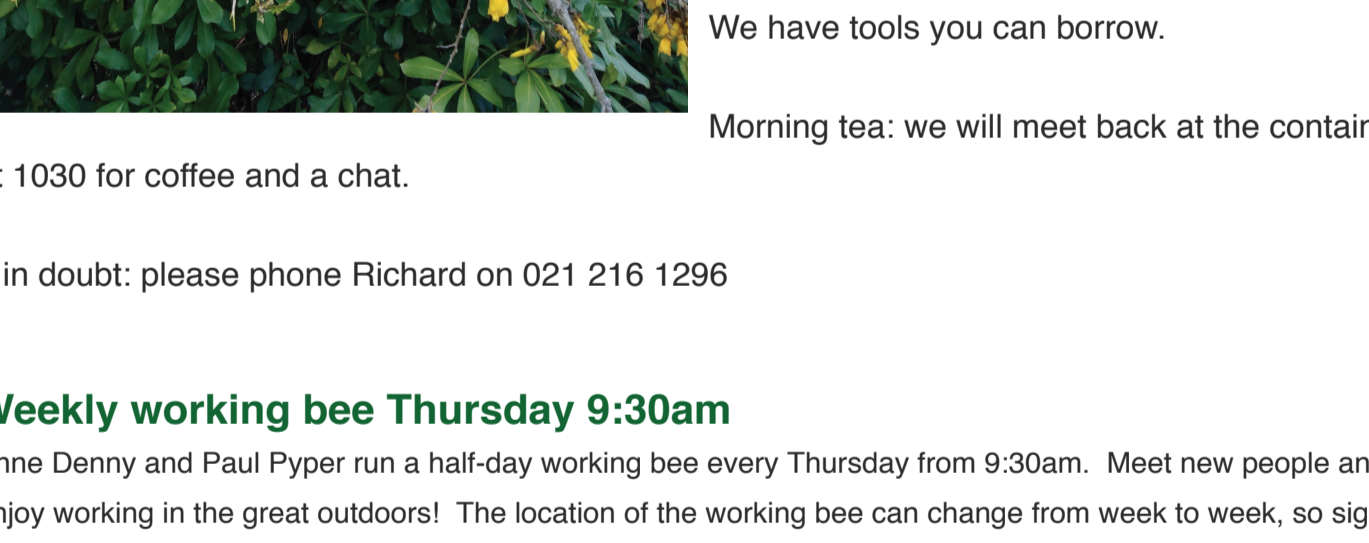
We will be showing a film about the plight of our iconic kauri by a local filmmaker, James Muir.



Weaving stories from Māori and Pakeha Scientists, mingling the concepts of cultures to show how they complement each other and shape our understanding of the environment, this film takes us on a journey through the Kauri lifecycle and exposes the imminent threat from the rampant disease that is wiping out the last remaining forest giants.

The film is followed by supper – a good opportunity to meet 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.

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



Shoal Bay welcome to the godwits

Celebrate the arrival of the godwits and other migratory birds that visit Shoal Bay.

When - Saturday 19 October 2019, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Where - Sandy Bay Reserve, at the end of Sandy Bay Road, Bayswater, overlooking Shoal Bay

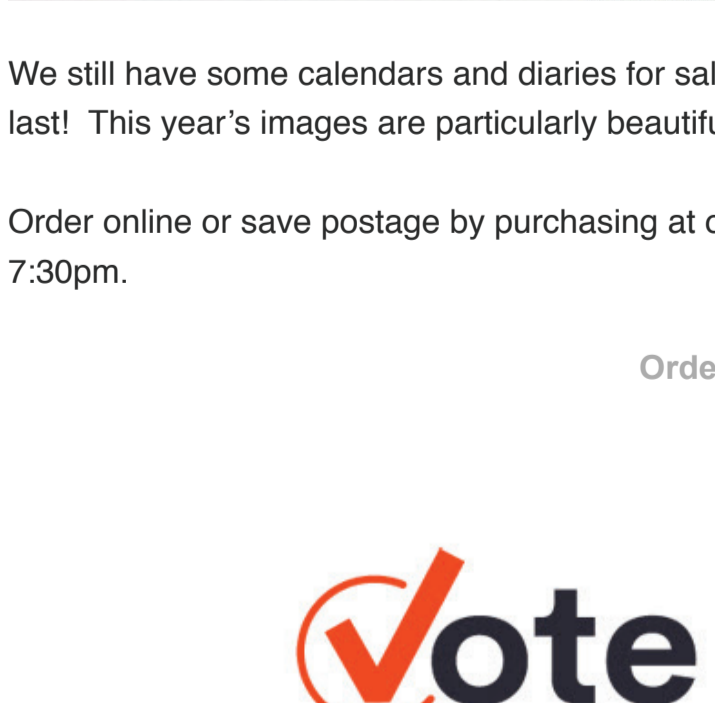
An opportunity to bring the community together to learn more about these amazing birds, to raise awareness of the need to keep dogs off shell banks, and the importance of pest eradication efforts.

Fun for all ages, BBQ. NO dogs.

Accessible. 801 bus stops nearby. No parking in Sandy Bay Rd or top end of Beresford St.

Hosted by Bayswater Community Committee

Spring at Tuff Crater - Saturday October 12, 9:00 am



We have finished our planting season with three huge and very well supported planting days. Thanks to everyone involved and to Auckland Council, Canon, Pest Free Kaipatiki, Takana Tree Nursery, and Kaipatiki Project for your support.

This month we are back to dealing with pest plants and track maintenance. We have work for all capabilities.

Meet at the Forest & Bird green container, far end, lower Warehouse carpark, Warehouse Way, Northcote.

Bring: sturdy footwear, protective clothing, a hat, some water, and gloves if you have them. We have tools you can borrow.

Morning tea: we will meet back at the container at 1030 for coffee and a chat.

If in doubt: please phone Richard on 021 216 1296

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



2020 Calendars and diaries

We still have some calendars and diaries for sale. Buy at less than retail; get in while stocks last! This year's images are particularly beautiful.

Order online or save postage by purchasing at our monthly meeting on Monday 7 October at 7:30pm.

Order form

And lastly, with the local body elections upon us, don't forget to vote for the candidates that support "giving nature a voice"

If you would like further information on anything in this email, please contact us on northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

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'

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

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