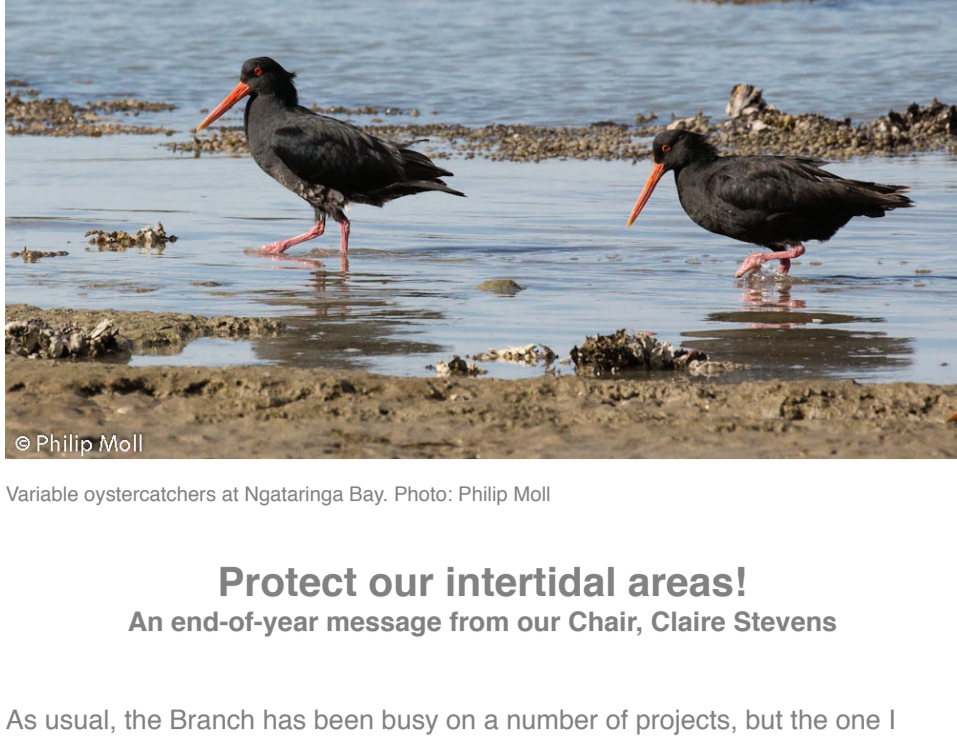


**North Shore Branch news
December 2019**



© Philip Moll

Variable oystercatchers at Ngataranga Bay. Photo: Philip Moll

Protect our intertidal areas!
An end-of-year message from our Chair, Claire Stevens

As usual, the Branch has been busy on a number of projects, but the one I want to bring to your attention as we finish off the year is the importance of our intertidal areas. Our Branch area is surrounded by water. Some of that coastline is dedicated to sandy beaches where we like to go and swim, but there are other places we don't normally frequent which are great places for birds and fish to interact. These are the areas full of mangroves or in the upper reaches of the harbour. And then there is Shoal Bay, our very precious internationally recognised place where our migratory birds spend their summer months after flying 15,000 kilometres south from their breeding spots in the Arctic.

These areas are under threat. We are very concerned that there continues to be encroachment into our precious harbour by the want of humans to continue developing. Encroachment into the harbour for walk and cycle ways interrupts the life cycles of our birds and fishes; it means that they have no place to feed and take time out from our interference. Please take opportunities to join Forest and Bird in saying no to new walk/cycle ways and other forms of encroachment into our precious connections between land and sea.

Please have a safe (and mindful for nature!) holiday season.



Stuck for ideas for Christmas presents? Read to the end of this newsletter for inspiration!

Beachhaven coastal walkway proposal

Please join us in resisting another coastal incursion. **We need to send a clear message to the Council that we strongly oppose encroachment into the coastal fringe. It threatens everything that lives in these areas – the secretive banded rail, the spotless crake, the molluscs and small fish, the mangroves and the saltmarsh plants. Together these form a community which once destroyed cannot be readily remade.**

Feedback deadline
has been extended to 2 December 2019

[Submit here](#)

**Public meeting
Auckland Council Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)**

When: Monday 2 December 2019 at 7:30 pm
Where: Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall, The Strand — through the courtyard at the rear of the Takapuna Library

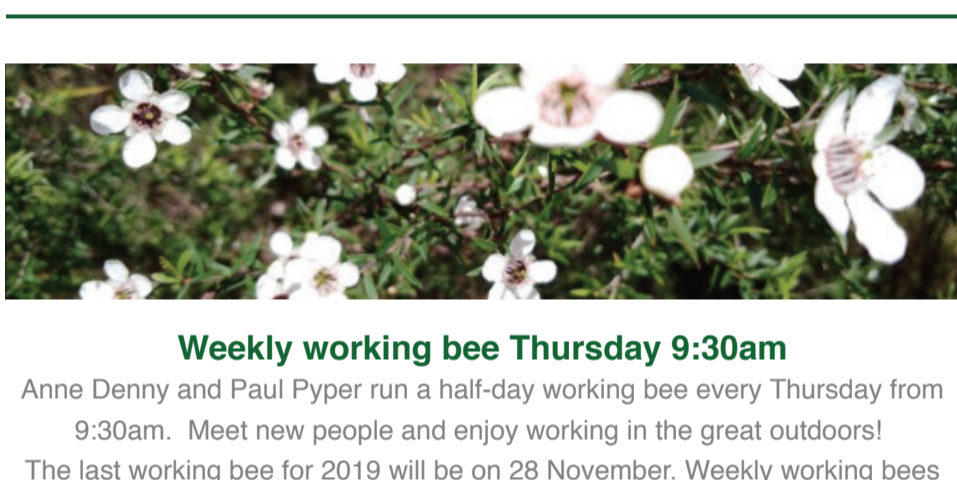
Imogen Bassett, Biosecurity Principal Advisor, Environmental Services, Auckland Council will talk about the new Regional Pest Management Plan.

In the words of the Council: "The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) sets out the pest management priorities for Auckland Council for the next 10 years and describes the pest plants, animals and pathogens that will be controlled in Tamaki Makaurau / Auckland. It aims to control and minimise the impact of those pests and manage them through a regionally coordinated and prioritised approach."

This is our last meeting of the year. We will have an informal end of year get together at the end of the meeting, so if you are coming, please could you bring a plate of food to share?

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



Tuff Crater 2019 in review

This year marks ten years since the expanded Tuff Crater project kicked off. Support is still very strong from our volunteer base and our funders. We continue to run events every month and on every Thursday morning, keeping on top of the constant reinvasion of moth plant, pampas grass, climbing asparagus and the like.

With the support of Auckland Council Parks and Takana Native Tree nursery we held three major planting events. In June we planted south of St Peters with great support from our long-term partner Canon. July saw us planting the remainder of the bank below Canon, and 10 wonderful kowhai in memory of Christine Ovens. In September we planted our restoration site on St Peters Street. Altogether we planted just under 2,000 plants, 25 of which were very large trees.

Our trappers in the reserve and halo amaze me with their dedication, as they persevere with the bait pulsing programme for a month every three months. We now have a private land halo baiting programme in full swing as well. Christine Major monitors the rat numbers, and we are still sitting below 20%, a pretty good result considering the 50-60% we had before we started baiting and trapping.

Bird life at the crater is thriving, with many banded rail heard and spotless crake seen by those who know how. We have installed a new wildlife sign on the eastern side of the crater overlooking the water.

What does 2020 hold? We will celebrate 20 years of work at Tuff Crater in 2020. We have now planted most of what we want to plant at the crater, so our energies will be directed to the private land surrounding the reserve, and engaging the residents to support our kaupapa.

Thanks to all those who have helped out with newsletters, running workdays, moving and planting plants, and most of all thanks to those who tirelessly go after the predators and pest plants.
Thank you.
Richard Hursthouse
Tuff Crater Project Leader



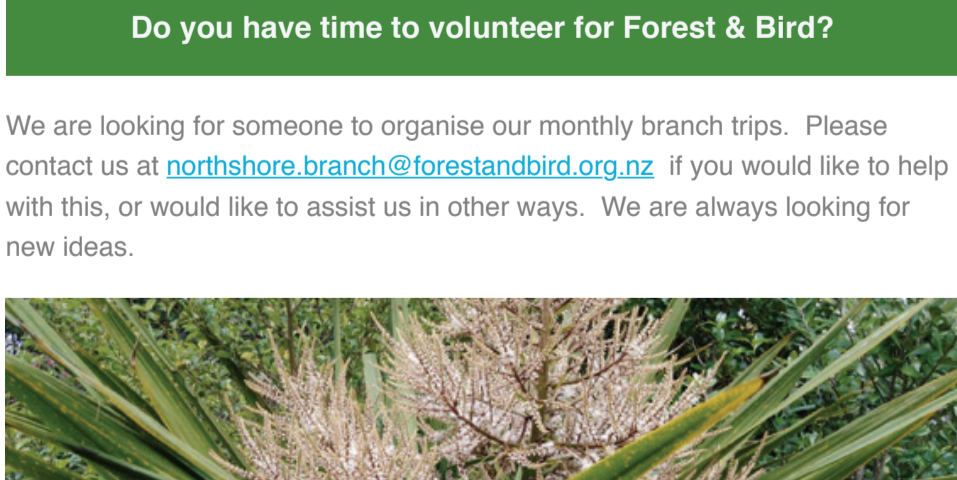
Tuff Crater working bees

Monthly working bee
We run a working bee at 9:00 am on the second Saturday of each month except January. During the summer months the focus will be on pest plant control and track maintenance.

On Saturday 14 December we will meet at the Forest & Bird green container, far end, lower Warehouse carpark, Warehouse Way, Northcote, at 9:00 am.

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 10:30 for coffee and a chat.

If in doubt on the day please contact Richard Hursthouse on 021 216 1296 To receive regular updates for Tuff Crater Saturday events please join our [mailing list](#)

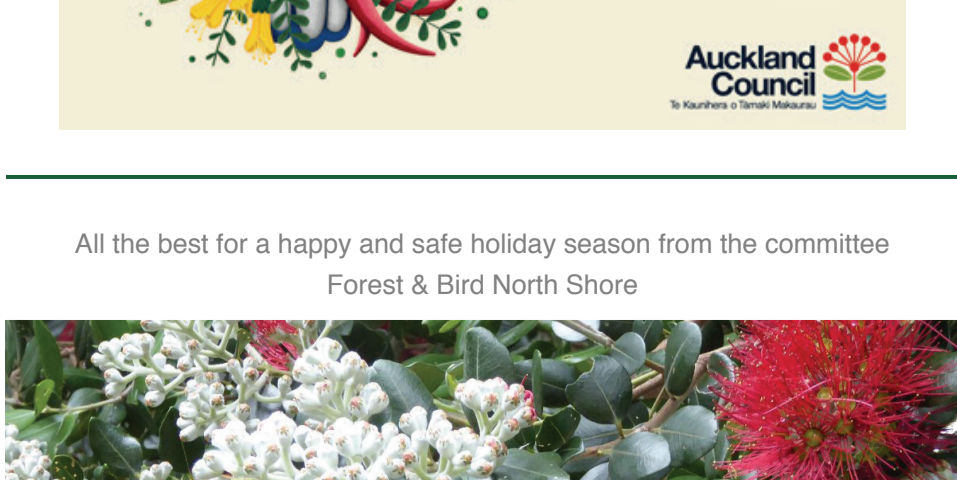


Weekly working bee Thursday 9:30am

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 last working bee for 2019 will be on 28 November. Weekly working bees will recommence on 30 January 2020.
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](#)

Alexander Reserve



The view today across Alexander Reserve to Greenwich Gardens

When one of our members moved into Greenwich Gardens Retirement Village in Unsworth Heights three years ago, she had a beautiful view from her windows of a silver of native bush growing alongside the Alexandra Stream. Except it wasn't so beautiful; amongst the ferns and kanuka she recognised privet, gorse and pampas grass, while a closer inspection revealed tradescantia and other low-growing weeds.

With the help of another member of the village, and the knowledge acquired from many years of working in Centennial Park, Jan set about weeding the bush. Four years later, and what was a muddy, weed-infested excuse for a stream is now a clear, free-flowing watercourse, bounded on both sides by mamaku, amongst an abundance of other natives including kanuka, manuka, ti kouka, titoki, karo, bordered by harakeke, kowhai and taupata.

Looking down to the stream at the reserve

The newly planted garden at Greenwich Gardens

Not content with just weeding, Jan used her contacts to source plants to supplement their work, and also convinced the management at the retirement village to plant out the garden adjacent to the bush in native plants.

Birdlife in the area has increased along with the general good health of the bush. The Westminister Christian School, under the guidance of Auckland Council Parks Dept, have been involved in planting in Barbados Reserve and we expect them to return in 2020 planting season. Sometime in the future the Auckland Council plans to replace the existing degraded track alongside the bush, to link this area to the new motorway underpass bikeway at Rook Place to the north and to the Unsworth Reserve walkway/bike path to the south. Planting on Rook Reserve will be done when the road works on SH 18 are completed.

If you would like to get involved with this project, please email Jan on stan.jan@xtra.co.nz
Note: Alexander Reserve is part of a longer path that runs from Unsworth Reserve just north of Sunset Road through Rosedale Park, and eventually to Burnside or Fernhill Escarpments. Parts of this are still under construction.

Stuck for ideas for Christmas presents? We have a few for you ...

Or give a membership to Forest & Bird ...

Or for the children, a membership to:

Or an artwork, which includes a donation to Forest & Bird ...

On 28/29 November, ADNZ (Arts and Design NZ) are holding their annual art exhibition and auction.
This year, F&B will receive 10% of the sales as a donation.

Do you have time to volunteer for Forest & Bird?

We are looking for someone to organise our monthly branch trips. Please contact us at northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz if you would like to help with this, or would like to assist us in other ways. We are always looking for new ideas.

We would love help with co-ordinating our branch activities, so if this sounds like you, please contact Marilyn on candmgulliver@gmail.com.

And finally, we love this graphic from Auckland Council and best of all, there are some useful tips behind it.

All the best for a happy and safe holiday season from the committee
Forest & Bird North Shore

To contact us about anything you have read in this newsletter please email northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz