

# NEWSLETTER KAPITI-MANA

## Branch of Forest & Bird

July 2019

Interim Editor: Alan Froggatt, Email [a.froggatt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.froggatt@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 24<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm in the Presbyterian Church Hall, 43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae when Helen Nettles from DOC will be speaking on “ Blue carbon ecosystems, which include seagrass, saltmarsh and mangroves. Come learn more about these extraordinary carbon sinks and this win win climate change solution, restoration credits and opportunities close to home. Members should feel free to bring a friend.**

**Contents this month: Chair’s Report, Opening of Kaitawa Outdoor Classroom, KCC, Pest control and bird counts in the Field Reserve. New Zealand’s icon the tui. Kiwi night viewing at Nga Manu.**

### Chairman’s Report

Dear Forest and Bird Members

This month, I represented F&B in the issue of residential housing by the Taupo Swamp catchment along the eastern (SH1) side of Taupo Swamp. This is a collaboration of organisations and is led by Friends of Taupo Swamp with others who have similar views including Queen Elizabeth 2 Trust who own Taupo Swamp.

We are not opposed to urban development and accept that this land will become residential over time. We are concerned the Porirua City Council has asked to fast track the proposal using the previous government’s Streamlined Planning Process. We believe there are significant areas of wetland and wetland fingers with surrounding bush throughout the development area and are concerned the developer, Gilles Group, plans show that some of the swamp fingers will be buried and bush privatized.

An old map showed that the smaller wetland to the east of Taupo Swamp, that we call Taupo-Iti, was once part of Taupo Swamp. State Highway 1, the flat land behind the police pull off bay and the industry jutting out into the swamp are a reclamation on top of the once much bigger Taupo Swamp.

The Gilles plan shows retention dams will be used in the valleys to smooth the flow of water from the hard surfaces of the houses and sections, yet an independent environmental survey of the area has not been completed. This means if the fast track process is used, there will only be the developer commissioned environmental assessment to rely on.) In this case it seems likely vast amounts of spoil will be transported around the site leading to siltation and ruination of these protected wetlands.

Greater Wellington is obligated under the RMA to protect Taupo Swamp and its catchment, so we are asking for an independent peer review on the biodiversity and wetland/freshwater connectivity of the entire site and the hydrological impacts of the proposed development, and we oppose the fast track procedure.

Another issue is that GW has just approved its Porirua Whaitua programme. This is a public consultative process to find out what water quality people want in their streams and rivers, estuaries and harbours. It has implications for the development.

We may have a problem with not enough housing but almost every assessment of the natural world says it is in crisis. If we don’t protect, increase and improve what we have left of the natural world any

human problems we currently have will become small compared with the problems we will face with nature. We cannot accept any further diminution of the natural world.

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. We also need some kind person to occasionally help with suppers at our monthly meetings. In both cases any direct costs will be reimbursed. If you can help, please call Russell on 04 972 5081.**

### Kaitawa Outdoor Classroom

The Kaitawa Outdoor Classroom in the Kaitawa Reserve, Kaitawa crescent, Paraparamu is now open to visitors. School and other large groups should book with the Kapiti Coast District Council. Telephone 04 296 4700. Others, or smaller parties, seeking a guide from the Friends of Kaitawa are invited to contact Tony Ward. Telephone 04 293 7203.

This project was made possible through the support of the Kapiti Coast District Council, The Friends of Kaitawa and funding from the Kapiti Mana Branch of Forest and Bird, the Kapiti Lions Club, The Wellington Community Trust, The Lions Foundation, the Ron and Edwa Greenwood Trust, The Valder Conservation Fund, the Kapiti Environmental Restoration and Maintenance Trust and an anonymous donor.

The following are samples of the 24 informative panels that tell the story of what grows, lives, swims, flies, nests, creeps and crawls in this wonderful important reserve. They support the Rongoa panels already that explain how Iwi used the medicinal properties of the plants found there.





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### Kiwi Conservation Club. (KCC)

See what they do at <https://kcc.org.nz/activities/>.



The next generation of conservationists/scientist ? Children from the Kiwi Conservation Club.

### Item by Jean Fleming

Field Reserve April 2018 – March 2019

Sue Boyde and I visit the Field Reserve roughly every month, to rebait a series of traps and do a travelling bird count as we go. We have two Timms' traps, three "Menzshed" tunnel traps (one Snappy rat and one mouse trap), two Doc 200 traps and one Goodnature A24. This tiny patch of nikau and kohekohe forest is special. The understory of young nikau makes bush bashing difficult and there are no real tracks. DoC does an annual prebait and bait here to keep possum numbers low. Our trapping numbers are relatively low, and we have only ever caught one possum in a Timms' trap. Bird species seen or heard vary considerably through the year, but include tui, tauhou (silvereye), Eastern Rosella, riroriro, piwakawaka, kereru, korimako, kotare, blackbird and chaffinch. In general, numbers are low.

### Ed

Jean and Jean are authorised rangers for this important Forest & Bird reserve in Parararamu.

Tui (Other names-Parson bird, Koko, Tute, Tuuii, koko, mockingbird.



As the dominant New Zealand honeyeater, it is courageous, aggressive and pugnacious and will chase other birds, especially kereru, tui and bellbirds and from its feeding territory and has been known to attack swamp harriers and magpies but will feed with others on a tree outside its territory. It will also eat fruit and take large insects on the wing. Some have been seen to jump around in a bush and beat it to disturb stick insects and cicadas. Older, male dominant tui have notched wingtips. These allow it to beat the air heavily thereby announcing itself as a heavy weight thus achieving control of sour food.

Possessing a dual voice box, it is famed for its mimicry and is thought, to have hundreds of sounds at its disposal. It can exactly re-create sounds such as a telephone ring, glass shattering, car alarms, beeps, whistles and other sounds. It can also remember some words and short sentences. Some of its sounds can be too high for the human ear to hear so if you see an apparently silent bird with its beak open and chest puffed out its singing.

#### Item from Nga Manu



### 2019/2020 Kapiti Mana Branch Committee

Chair: Russell Bell  
Phone: 04 972 5081  
Mobile 021 2266047  
Email: [russelljbell@gmail.com](mailto:russelljbell@gmail.com)

Secretary: Irene Thomas  
Phone: 04 293 6490  
Mobile: 021 1802545  
Email: [thomasi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:thomasi@xtra.co.nz)

Sue Boyde  
Phone: 04 902 0858  
Email: [sm.boyde@gmail.com](mailto:sm.boyde@gmail.com)

Pene Burton Bell. Telephone 04 972 5081

Treasurer: Peter Kentish. Telephone 04 298 1265  
Email [PK2003\\_595@hotmail.com](mailto:PK2003_595@hotmail.com)

Tony Ward. Telephone 04 293 7203. Email [kotareg@exta.co.nz](mailto:kotareg@exta.co.nz)

### 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).