



# Forest & Bird

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

## NELSON TASMAN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY - JUNE 2020

TALKS ARE HELD ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT TAHUNANUI SCHOOL HALL, MURITAI STREET, TAHUNANUI AT 7.30PM.  
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SALES TABLE AND RAFFLE ARE MOST WELCOME. GOLD COIN DONATION TOWARDS HALL HIRE PLEASE.

#### PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

**FEBRUARY 12**

**'Tasman Bay Guardians'**  
Stew Robertson

**MARCH 11**

**'The Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project'**  
Jean S Fleming ONZM CRSNZ

**APRIL 8**

**Te Hoiere Bat Recovery— Gillian Dennis & Debs Martin**

**MAY 13**

**'Killing paper wasps'**  
Richard Toft

**JUNE 10**

**'Puangiangi Island'**  
Peter Gaze

#### FEBRUARY

**'Tasman Bay Guardians'** .  
Stew Robertson. Stew Robertson is founder and director of Abel Tasman Eco Tours and Tasman Bay Guardians. He spends his days out on the water in Tasman Bay, observing the natural world through an ecological lense and communicating that to his clients. In recent years, his work has led him to found Tasman Bay Guardians, leading a dedicated team of professionals delivering marine and freshwater experiential education, co-ordinating clean up events, reef restoration projects and native plantings. Stew is involved in the regional and national biodiversity strategies and has pushed for the implementation of an integrated marine spatial plan for Te Tai o Aorere Tasman and

Golden Bays. Stew will be giving a fascinating visual overview of the current ecological state of Tasman Bay, potential solutions and how we can work together to achieve these. This work comes from peer reviewed science, firsthand experience and a growing knowledge of the needs of our ecosystems and communities. Tasman Bay Guardians are committed to conservation, education and collaboration to meet their vision. For more information visit [tasmanbayguardians.org.nz](https://tasmanbayguardians.org.nz)



#### DID YOU KNOW

Based on a news story on TV 1 News.

All the shore line skinks are going extinct due to sea level rise. The claimed last populations of skink, from an area on the SI west coast, are being housed at the Auckland zoo.

In the world we now live in, their only hope is for humanity to go extinct before they do.

#### Message from Rob Schuckard, Birds New Zealand.

We are asking for your help in counting Bar-tailed Godwits during February 2020. The count will be held over the spring tide series **8-14 February**. In August 2019 our Alaskan colleagues, led by Dan Ruthrauff, completed a successful aerial survey of post-breeding Bar-tailed Godwits, covering the entire Yukon-Kuskokwin Delta and the Alaska Peninsula – the first such survey since 1997.

This provides a unique opportunity to compare the Alaskan aerial survey with non-breeding counts in the southern hemisphere. The continuing shortages of food at the major staging ground used by Bar-tailed Godwits in China is placing stress on the population and accurate information is urgently needed.

## MARCH

**Jean S Fleming** ONZM CRSNZ Professor Emeritus of Science Communication, talks On **"The Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Project"** - restoring habitats and bringing people together in nature.

The original project was funded from 2015 to 2018 by the Ministry for the Environment. Three environmental groups came together under the leadership of the late John Lancashire, to trap predators, monitor birds, lizards and weta and to restore wetland, bush and riparian strips along the streams running through Queen Elizabeth Park. Six teams of volunteers helped restore rare dune ecologies, plant thousands of trees, line creeks and drains with Carex grasses, and monitor native fish, weta and bird numbers, including kororā (little penguin). The group is now incorporated and beginning to look for funding for new projects, in collaboration with environmental groups throughout the Coast.



## APRIL

**Pot luck dinner** at 6 pm (bring food to share, mains or dessert, a plate to eat off and something to eat with) Wine will be supplied. **AGM** at 7.30 followed by **Te Hoiere Bat Recovery Project** Gillian Dennis and Debs Martin at 8pm.

This project has been running for 10 years with the support of Forest & Bird Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough branches and is set for a big funding boost. The past two years we have been monitoring bat numbers through a catch and radio tracking programme within the Pelorus catchment. These efforts will help us support bats through the predator cycle. They will also touch on the varieties of predator control used to keep numbers down through the beech mast years.



Our conservation land is often the last refuge for many native species that are in serious trouble. Publicly owned land has been plundered for its gold, its coal, and other minerals which may have led to localised, and even national, extinctions.

In 2017, the Prime Minister said there would be no new mines on public conservation land but mining interests are pushing back. They want to keep vast tracts of conservation land open for mining into the future.

Even those small remnants that once were subjected to burning, logging or previous mining are precious.

It's time to move on from plundering our conservation lands, to ensuring they are protected forever. We need your help to ensure this plan for protection is made into law. [Sign up to become one of our rapid responders](#)

### [Andy Dennis F&B Memorial Scholarship](#)

Members are reminded that they can contribute to the scholarship by forwarding designated contributions to the branch bank account. Payment may be made by direct credit 389011-0211437-00 Account name RFBPS Reference 'scholarship'  
The winner of the 2019 scholarship awarded annually to a student doing the NMIT DOC ranger trainee course was **Antoni Manning**

**Wanted:** Keen branch members to stand up for whitebait. !!! You've probably heard about F&B's concerns that proposed regulations barely move us forward to protect whitebait. A meeting is being held in Nelson on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb (11.30 – 1.30 at Old St Johns Hall. Branch members who are interested in protecting whitebait should attend.  
Further information at : [F&B petition](#)

**MAY**



The speaker **Richard Toft** is the company founder and Managing Director of Entecol Ltd. Richard is an Insect Ecologist and is working on a bait to kill paper wasps.



## It's 2020, and it's all action!

Welcome to the new decade – a chance, I hope, for us to cement some very strong gains ahead of the General Election. The government has delivered on some issues – including issues like boosting DOC funding and returning to DOC's advocacy role, as well as starting to tackle the gnarly issues of freshwater and biodiversity. The jury however is still out on too many issues :- the NPS on Biodiversity waiting for submissions, no further implementation of the “no new mines on conservation land” announcement in 2017, and inaction in the marine environment – including much needed cameras and observers on boats. ... And we're still waiting on the outcome of the Hector's and Maui's dolphin consultation back in August last year. There is still a lot that can be done, and this year, you can play a vital role. Not only can you plant, weed, and trap our way through the biodiversity crisis that still sees 4000 plants and animals threatened with extinction, but you can become a valuable desktop warrior. There will be submissions on all sorts of biodiversity issues as the government heads into the next election.

Your submissions, your thoughts, and your spreading the word will all be incredibly valuable. Right now we have the Whitebait Regulations (closes 2<sup>nd</sup> March) and NPS on Biodiversity (closes 14<sup>th</sup> March) out and awaiting your input. We'll be providing more detail on those over the next while to assist you with your submissions. I have finished a review of the Crown Minerals Act, and the National Plan of Action for Seabirds which closed this week. The Biodiversity Strategy is still making its way through the lengthy governmental processes.

This year will also see more work from local government on biodiversity with the Tasman Bio Strategy; and some action on climate change by both Councils. Action where biodiversity responses will be at the core.

So this year I call on you to “plant AND engage, weed AND engage, trap AND engage”. And if you don't know how to, or what to engage on – check in with your branch at the branch meetings, or email me if you want to know more.

Let's make this year, and the election – a huge shout out for nature!

Debs Martin

Great willowherb has been found in Canterbury for the first time. It is one of the weeds that we should eliminate, before it comes impossible to get rid of. It is aggressive like Himalayan balsam.

If you see any, it might be tempting to pull out, instead take a photo and call **0800 80 99 66**



The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Working Group are inviting the community to the launch of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum on Saturday 29th February, at the Annesbrook Church, 1-4 pm.

The Forum working group has worked with both Councils to finalise the wording of the Charter that will underpin the work of the Forum.

You will also be asked to contribute your thoughts on how we should respond to climate change.

RSVP to the luncheon [NTClimateForum@gmail.com](mailto:NTClimateForum@gmail.com) giving name, email, post code.

Julie Nevin

Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council are co-hosting an Urban Restoration workshop with researchers from the People, City and Nature programme on Fri 13th March at the Trafalgar Pavillion

Researchers will present the latest science on urban ecology and connecting urban New Zealanders to nature. With presentations and discussion about urban restoration in Nelson and Tasman. Presenters will include Professor Bruce Clarkson (2017 Royal Society speaker) and other leading national researchers, likely including restoration planting, urban lizards, urban predators and Māori values research projects. RSVP [peoplecitiesnature@gmail.com](mailto:peoplecitiesnature@gmail.com). Free entry. All day programme, lunch provided.

## JUNE

### Peter Gaze 'Puangiangi Island '

There are very few privately owned islands around Aotearoa. This month's talk is about one of these, Puangiangi - in the Outer Sounds, and the current efforts to manage it for the benefit of flora and fauna.



Looking N along Puangiangi to Wakaterepapanui with a tip of Tinui to the west, D'Urville in the distance.

## OTHER DATES TO DIARY

**Paremata Flats Restoration Project.** Join us from 9 to 3 on a Tuesday as we clear out any invasive plants that arrive in the native bush. Contact Ian [ian.price@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ian.price@xtra.co.nz) or ph Julie 5450989

**Pearl Creek working bees.** These will now be regular on 2nd sat of month but because of Easter

April will be 3rd Sat

February Saturday 8

March Saturday 14

April Saturday 18

May Saturday 9

Meet at the end of Cotterell Road, Appleby at 9am. Morning tea supplied. Bring your garden gloves and spade, secateurs/loppers or hand saw if you have them. For more info contact Malcolm 5473906 [m.hugman@hotmail.com](mailto:m.hugman@hotmail.com)

[www.Forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.Forestandbird.org.nz) [www.kcc.org.nz](http://www.kcc.org.nz)

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