



Photo Bushy Park Forest

Editor: Russell Bell, Email russelljamesbell@gmail.com. Phone 0212266047. Your feedback on this newsletter would be most welcome as would contributions to future newsletters.

March meeting

Speaker

Our March meeting speaker is Matu Booth of Ngā Manu. He will tell us of the exciting changes that are happening in Nga Manu and its contribution to the biodiversity of Kāpiti and the Wellington region. The meeting is in Waikanae Presbyterian Church 43 Ngaio Road Waikanae on Wednesday 25 March at 7.30pm.

AGM

This meeting is also our AGM. We are keen to recruit some new committee members. It is inspiring to work with like minded people, and for such a great

cause. The committee runs well but there are only six of us.

If you are young, this is a great way to develop your skills in a safe environment. Forest and Bird is determined to be part of the changes required to beat climate change especially because climate change is such a large part of biodiversity loss, but this time humans as a species are included. We would also love to have a representative of the Mana/ Porirua area that we represent.

But at the AGM you will not be pressured to join the committee so don't let that put you off coming to a great presentation.

Members and Non Members welcome

Contents

Chairmans Opinion Piece - Vines
Two quick actions for you for biodiversity
Conservation News
Climate disruption

Our Barbecue
Local Restoration Group - Friends Mana Island
February Speaker Ghost Fishing NZ
Branch contacts

Chair's Opinion Piece

To celebrate 20 years of marriage, Pene and I stayed in the Bushy Park homestead. Forest and Bird retains ownership of the forest but moved ownership of the homestead and paddocks to a trust. The trust leases the homestead to a company that operates it as a place to visit and stay. The trust raised the money to restore the homestead and build the predator proof fence. Saddlebacks (tieke) and stitchbirds (hihi) have been introduced and are plentiful. Bushy Park is well worth a visit or stay but that is not what I am writing about.

The thing that struck me in this forest that has never been logged, was the number and density of vines and the use of them by native birds. Supplejack (Kareao) is the most common. You can see in the above photo just how prolific the vines are. Birds flit through them almost as if they were a continuous surface. Not only does it provide a convenient scaffold for birds, it flowers from October to

May, produces fruit throughout the year with the fruit falling 12 to 15 months after flowering. It is a valuable source of food for birds and available over a large part of the year.

For some of us of course, vines are not well liked. To walk anywhere outside of the tracks without cutting the vines would be very difficult indeed but in Bushy Park, I think it helps. You don't walk off the tracks.

I am involved in a few restoration efforts on the coast and it seems to me that generally vines are not propagated and planted. We generally concentrate on trees, and wetland species. This produces an incomplete habitat, and incomplete habitats may result in an incomplete fauna component.

I am glad to report that the Queen Elizabeth Park restoration projects have both supplejack and kiekie growing but as yet not planted out.

Two quick actions you could take to help save our biodiversity

Whitebait Submission

Closing date 1 March 2020

Support the F&B submission. Just follow the link, <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/petitions/stop-unlimited-fishing-endangered-fish>, read about a page written by F&B, insert your details and hit "Make a submission". All done.

If you want to read the full document, go to meetings, etc. and write your own submission then follow this link <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2020-consultations/consultation-on-changes-to-whitebait-management/>

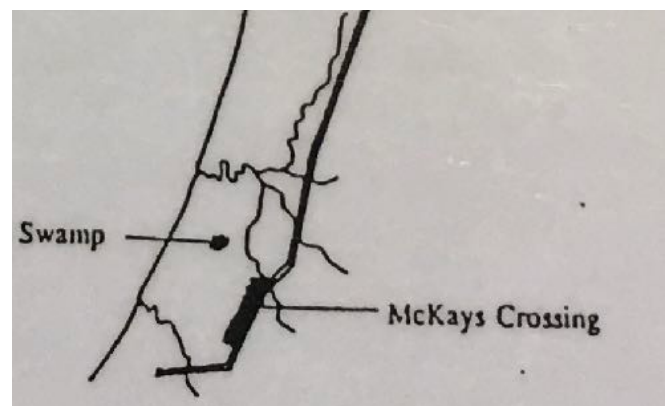
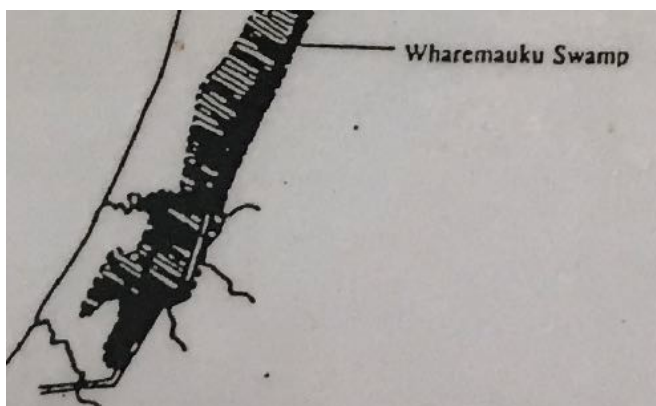
National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity Submission

Closing date 14 March 2020.

Support the F&B submission. Just follow the link, <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/petitions/protect-our-indigenous-biodiversity>, read about half a page written by F&B, insert your details and hit "Make a submission". All done.

If you want to read the full document and write your own submission then follow this link <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/biodiversity/draft-national-policy-statement-indigenous-biodiversity> download the document etc. Note this is not an easy document to read and understand and is 103 pages long.

Conservation News



These two images are where Queen Elizabeth Park is located today but they are drawings of the swamps that existed in 1840 and 1966. Black areas are permanent wetlands and shaded are seasonal wetlands. This clearly shows the areas of wetland that we want to preserve. You will be able to identify the wetland, that we call the Raumati wetland, alongside state highway one north of McKays crossing. That wetland, even though not shown on the left-hand drawing still exists as a occasionally flooded peat land.

Beverly Clarkson, a wetland expert from Land Care Research, was taken to look at the Raumati wetland late last year and a recent tour of it by Daran Ponter - Chair GWRC, councillors Penny Gaylor - Chair Environment, Thomas Nash - Chair Climate Change, Josh van Lier, Roger Blakeley and staff Al Cross - GM Environment and others took place earlier this year.

We are advised that GWRC will be signing off on its Draft Parks Networks Plan (the plan that determines what happens in the regional parks for the next ten years) in about May this year and we understand that they will do that at Ramaroa in QEP.

GWRC has also said that it must take definite actions to become carbon zero now that they have declared a climate emergency. The restoration of the Raumati wetland would significantly reduce their carbon footprint.

We also obtained an economic analysis written, within and for, GWRC that concluded GWRC would save money if farming was retired and the community would reap \$millions/year in ecosystem services.

These are the signals that we are reading that tell us that the wetlands will be restored. So the question (probably) is no longer if, it is more a question of when, how much and, to some extent, how.

Climate disruption

Irene Thomas.

For quite a while I have been involved with the local group Low Carbon Kapiti. Look us up at lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz or our look for us on facebook. From time to time we thought it would be useful to share information about happenings that are relevant to both organisations. Here are some things I've been involved with.

Takutai Kapiti Climate Change and Our Coast Summit 2020

I have attended some of the planning meetings for the Kapiti Coast Climate Summit 2020 staged by Kapiti Coast Council on March 8.

Their promotional material says:

This is a one-day community event to kick-start a conversation with you on the challenges climate change will bring to our coastline. The potential impacts will lead to changes for all of us and it is vital you are part of the conversation about how we respond.

*The Summit is an opportunity for Kāpiti to hear from national and local leaders and climate experts about the challenges ahead. This will be followed by a community event that combines entertainment, food, and interactive opportunities to learn more about how to be involved. There will also be a **free shuttle service** to get you to and from the event.*

Speakers include James Renwick, Bruce Glavovic, Mahina-A-Rangi Baker, Aroha Sphinx. They will cover the science of climate change, indigenous and community issues.

Coastal Adaptation is the focus of the day. Fortunately, the organisers of this event see that without mitigation, efforts for adaptation will largely be wasted.

Low Carbon Kapiti would like to see the community loudly advocate for mitigation as a priority and for it to be funded. (*Mitigation will benefit the people and native flora and fauna of all continents whereas Adaptation will benefit some individuals and temporarily at best. Ed.*) This is a call for like-minded F&B members to come along and have your say. A website has been developed for the coastal project – see link on KCDC main website. This will provide information as it comes to hand.

Submissions to the RMA Comprehensive Review

The Ministry for the Environment recently asked for submissions for its review of the Resource Management Act. One aspect of this is that **it has prevented consideration of climate change in many planning decisions.**

I found it impossible to believe when I heard that, but it's true: Sections 70A and 104E of the RMA clearly state that a decision maker cannot have regard to climate change when preparing rules to control discharge into the air of greenhouse gases (S.70A) or when considering resource consent applications for a discharge permit or coastal permit (S.104E). These clauses have been interpreted by planning authorities and the Supreme Court as meaning that the warming effect of any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from or prevented by a proposed development cannot be considered at all in any resource consent decisions.

So, when permits for any new development are given by councils, they legally cannot require controls on GHG emissions. We hope everyone that submitted spoke up about this.

For more details our submission is on-line.

<http://lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/V3-LCK-Submission-on-the-Comprehensive-Review-of-the-Resource-Management-Act-1-2-20-v3.pdf>

Our Barbecue



We had a branch barbecue at Kaitawa Reserve. Afterwards we walked the length of the reserve to see the out door classroom project signs. This was a large F&B project, stage one of which is now

completed. Stage two is producing the learning material is needed by schools to use the signs. The signs look very professional and John McLachlan is honoured in one of them, near to where he loved to sit and maybe dream of more of his many contributions to the branch.



Restoration Contribution To Kapiti and Mana

Magnificent Mana Island

Since 1998 Friends of Mana Island and other groups have transformed a bare, mouse infected, farmed landscape into a natural wonder, and a sister to Kapiti Island. It's a great place to visit, and a great place to volunteer. There is always maintenance and monitoring to do, and the Friends aren't short of projects - such as lizard and bird relocations.

The contribution to biodiversity made by Mana is impressive. Over 500,000 plants have been planted and the following birds and lizards now call it home - Korora/Blue Penguins, Pateke/Brown Teal, Cook Strait Giant Weta, Kuaka/ Diving Petrel, Duvaucel Gecko, Titi Wainui/Fairy Prion, Pahaka/Fluttering Shearwater, Takapu/Gannet, Gold Stripe Gecko, Green Gecko, Kakariki/Yellow crowned parakeet, Pukupuku/Little Spotted Kiwi, McGregors Skink, North Island Robin, Spotted Skink, Takahe, and Fernbird.

This month they hope to introduce another 100 white-faced storm petrels to re-establish this species back to our area and help the Island function better as a "typical Cook Strait island ecosystem".

If you haven't visited, put it on your to-do list, or better still, why not volunteer? Opportunities are in hot demand so preference is given to FOMI members for volunteering. To find out more, visit their website <https://manaisland.org.nz/>



Fluttering Shearwater

February Speaker - Ghost Fishing

Our February speaker was from an organisation called Ghost Fishing New Zealand. Ghost Fishing International was set up because it was realised that huge nets and long lines "lost" at sea continued to catch and kill fish and seabirds until they finally disintegrate. They significantly decrease the vitality of the seas. Other human waste found in the sea pollutes and poisons the sea. Ghost Fishing decided that we have a responsibility to remove these long lasting destructive things from our seas. Ghost Fishing NZ has been active in the Wellington region including the harbour and Kapiti Island. The amount

of rubbish removed including toilets, bicycles (electric as well) is astounding. Dumpers don't see it and fishers soon forget it. Its out of sight and out of mind once below the waves. But its effects go on. This is a link to a TED talk made by Ghost Fishing Location Wellington.
<https://youtu.be/oGoE3ZqNpQk>

Their next cleanup is at Frank Kitts Park on 29 February at 9 am. Its a family friendly event. The divers need a shore crew. Some to spot divers coming up and others to sort, stack and carry stuff to garbage trucks. Gumboots and gloves are the uniform for that job.

Branch Committee Contacts

Chair: Russell Bell Phone: Mobile 021 2266047 Email: russelljbell@gmail.com

Secretary: Irene Thomas Phone: 04 293 6490
Mobile: 021 1802545 Email: thomasi@xtra.co.nz

Sue Boyde Phone: 0211198085 Email: sm.boyde@gmail.com

Treasurer: Peter Kentish. Telephone 04 298 1265 Email PK2003_595@hotmail.com

Pene Burton Bell. Telephone 021 1592409

Tony Ward. Telephone 04 293 7203 Email kotareg@exta.co.nz
