

# FOREST & BIRD

## ROTORUA BRANCH

### NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Members

I am a new committee member of the Rotorua Branch of Forest & Bird. It is my pleasure to help a busy committee by writing the newsletter. With Margaret's help, this newsletter is to update you prior to one before the end of the year. It is then proposed to do quarterly newsletters during 2021.

At this time of the year volunteers are regularly out on bait lines and as a newbie I have discovered I have much to learn! Frankie has all the requirements for the bait lines and stations well organised, and Mike has covered all areas necessary for our health and safety when we volunteer.

Sue McGrath

#### Events coming up

**Tuesday 15 September**  
**Candidates meeting**

**Saturday 26 September**  
**Tree planting**

**Sunday 18 October &**  
**Sunday 01 November**  
**Canopy Tours**

**7 - 8 November**  
**North Island gathering**

#### Speakers coming up

**Robin Black – archaeology**  
**within the NI forests**

**Dale Williams – wallabies**

**Bryce McQuillan**

**Night-time insect walk**

#### Royal Society speakers

**Marc Gaugler/Micah Scholer**  
**Plastics and tropical birds**



#### **Meet the Election Candidates** **Environmental Issues**

**Tuesday 15 September 2020**  
**RLC Council Chambers, 5.30-8.00pm**

An opportunity to meet local candidates and hear their responses to prepared questions about the environment and sustainability in a post COVID-19 world. As we will be at L2 numbers are restricted to an audience of c.70 and sorry, no refreshments!

The panel will be filmed and available live on Facebook (go to Green Drinks Rotorua page). It will be available for later viewing on that page and on YouTube (The Westwoods).

Run by Green Drinks, Rotorua

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and Forest & Bird, Rotorua,

([rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz))

Tree Planting

Saturday

26 September



Forest & Bird and Landcare Okareka

This will be infill planting in the area planted in August 2019. The trees are donated by DOC.

Meet at the end of Benn Rd & Lake Okareka Loop Rd by 9.00am

No check-in required. Bring own spade. Morning tea supplied.



New Zealand –  
like you've  
never seen it



Please think of the environment before printing this email.

## CANOPY TOURS

### Canopy Tours - Early Morning Visit Sunday - 18th October and 1st November

Canopy Tours offer a repeat of the visit in March 2020, to learn about Predator Control at their Dansey Rd. Reserve site. The visit starts at Canopy Tours Base on Fairy Springs Rd. and includes transport to and from Dansey Rd for a guided tour of the reserve. Sunday 18th October is full - booked by our Youth Hub group.

**A second visit is available on Sunday 1st November.**

Start c. 6.00 am and return by 8.00am. Numbers limited to 8. If interested, please contact Heather heathers@xtra.co.nz or 07 332 3352

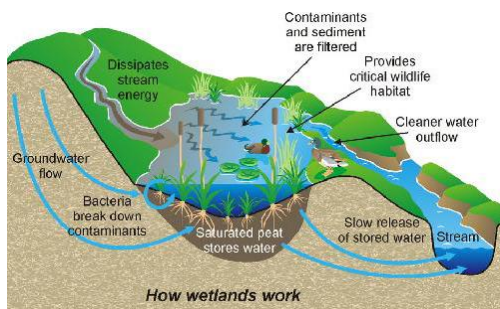
**If you missed out in March please confirm your interest again. Canopy Tours - Zip Line Experience and Explanation of Predator Control - Sunday 18th October 11.00 am.**

Canopy Tours offer a visit to enjoy the zip line experience and learn about Predator control at Dansey Rd Reserve. Up to 12 people at the group discount rate of \$119.00 for an adult (instead of \$149.00). Discount to \$95 available for students too. Sunday 18th October at 11.00am, be at Canopy Tours base on Fairy Springs Rd for 10.45am. Visit takes c. 3 hours. Places still available. If interested, please contact Heather at heathers@xtra.co.nz, or 07 332 3352

### Robin Black - speaker for October

Robin Black, who had a career including environmental planning for plantation forest companies in New Zealand, will give us a talk on archaeology within the forests of central North Island. The talk will be in the second part of **October** – date to be confirmed.

### Forest & Bird North Island Gathering 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> November



Forest & Bird's North Island gathering will be held this year in Napier, based at the Kennedy Park motor camp. The gathering is open to **all** Forest & Bird members. The theme this year is estuaries and wetlands, reflecting the importance of these special areas for biodiversity, water quality, climate change, mitigation flooding and storm protection.

For more information & to register go to

<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/events/2020-north-island-gathering>. Please book by the end of October.

### TIKITAPU PEST CONTROL PROJECT



Despite Covid - 19 restrictions, the Tikitapu project has been fortunate to be able to complete the programme for 2020. The bait stations have been cleared of any remaining bait and now it's time to look at the data, and see how much bait was used, and the number of kills.

The rats appeared to not find the D Block (Diphacinone) appetizing at first but fortunately soon developed a liking for it. At this stage it appears that there has been an acceptable result but we will get more idea when the post bait monitoring is carried out at the beginning of October.

We are extremely grateful to all those who have helped at the working bees this year. Thank you all very much. This project depends on volunteers and without you it would not happen. I would also like to thank both the Department of Conservation and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for their support and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for providing morning tea for the last two working bees.

Frances Blakely.



## Speakers – November/December

Later in November at a date yet to be confirmed, come and hear **Dale Williams** from B.O.P. Regional Council talk on the problem of wallabies in the Rotorua and wider BOP area and the impact of this.



**Bryce McQuillan** will lead one of his night-time insect walks also on a date yet to be confirmed.



## Royal Society of New Zealand: Rotorua Branch

Forest & Bird members are welcome to join these talks.

Meet in the Rimu Room, Scion, at 6pm. \$5 entry for non-members of the Royal Society.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – Speaker, Micah Scholer on ‘Tropical Birds.’

**Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> December** – Speaker, Marc Gaugler (Scion) on ‘New Zealand’s New Plastics Economy Roadmap.’

## Branch Contacts

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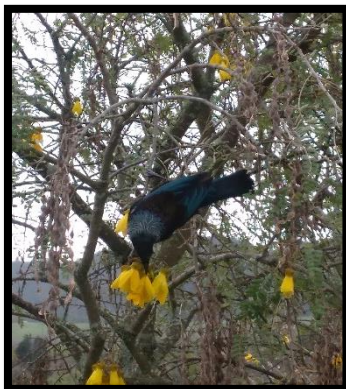
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