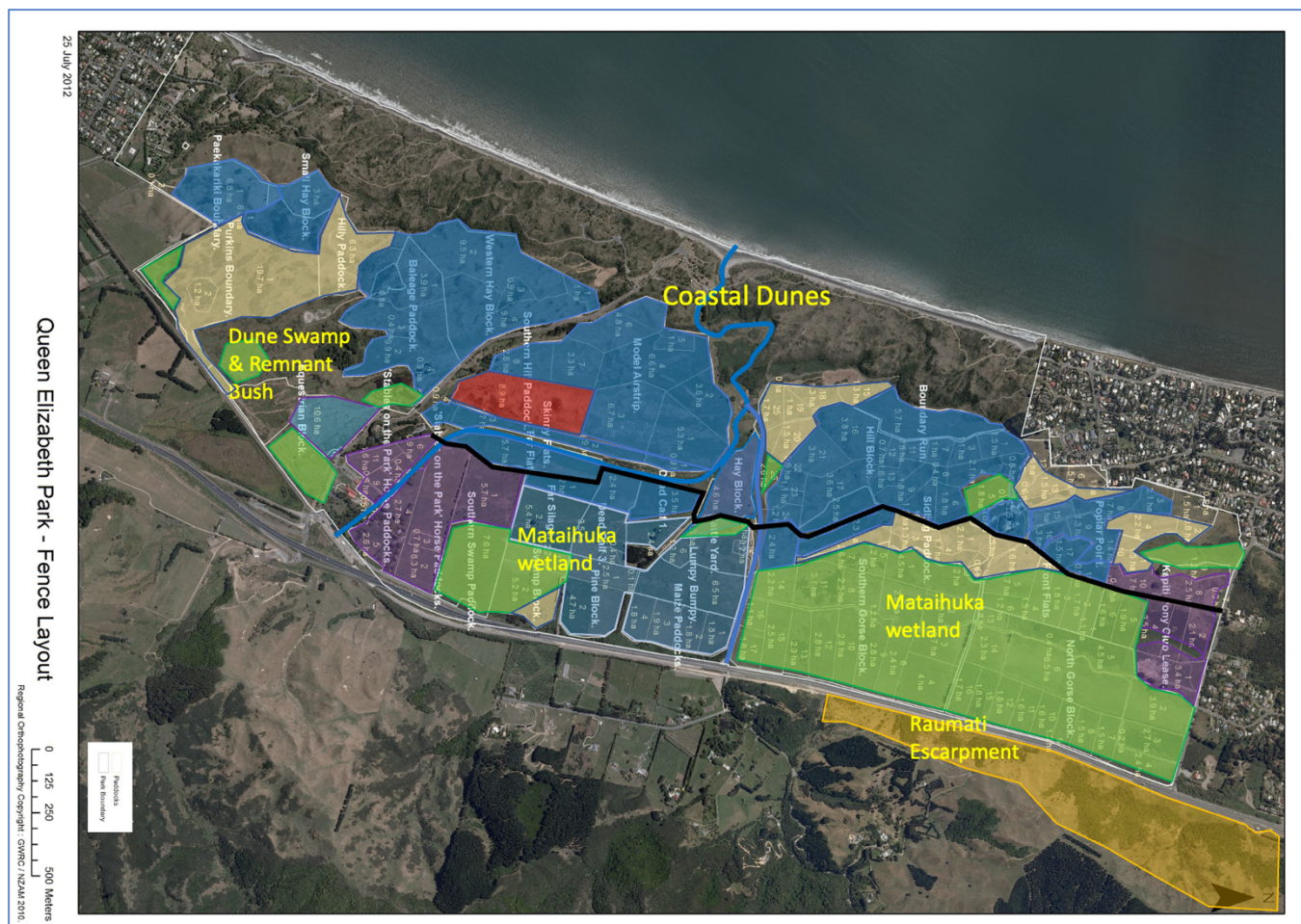


Kāpiti-Mana Forest and Bird Newsletter November 2021



No colour: fully accessible, Purple: Leased to equestrian groups. Blue: Potential farm lease, Green: wetlands not part of or removed from farm licence. Buff: Dunes removed from farm licence. Red: Latest paddock removed from potential farm licence. See explanation below.

Chairs opinion.

When I became interested in QEP, about six years ago, the public could access the parts of the park (shown not coloured) mainly foredunes and four of the small wetlands shown in green. Equestrian groups leased the areas shown in purple. The accessible area and equestrian areas were 260 hectares (ha) or 40% of the park. The farm lease covered 380 ha (60%) of the park and the public was excluded from it.

Over the last six years, GW has removed the other wetlands (green) and duneland (buff) from the farm lease area. The largest areas

were released after the farmer decided not to renew his lease (2020) but access has not been allowed into this additional 172ha (26%) of the park which has meant that the public could still not benefit from that extra land and has little knowledge of it.

Two weeks ago the conservation groups in the “Inspired by Sanderson” initiative had money to plant pioneer plant species on 5ha of land but the original location, on the Paekakariki escarpment, turned out to be unsuitable. We asked GW if a paddock that we had selected could be used and they

agreed. The paddock (red) is 9ha and was part of the 208ha grazing licence so now only 199ha could be grazed. That is still a big area but the non-grazing area is now 441ha or 69% of the park. The release of the 9ha paddock was possible because our relationship with Greater Wellington is improving significantly.

Russell

“Inspired by Sanderson” Project

This multiple project initiative is a collaboration between the friends of QEP, Nga Uruora, Whareroa Guardians, Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Group (KCBG), and Forest and Bird. It has been granted funding from the Wellington Community Trust Climate Action Fund for 6 projects.

On 29th October, we had our first review of the projects. All are going well except one.

Nga Uruora project 1,000 enrichment plants to be collected, grown then planted on public protected land

Project Yield 2030 8 tonnes.

The locations where these will be planted will be decided nearer 2030 but they will be planted in areas where pioneer species are established.

The 2030 yield for this project is low because these trees are slow growing to begin with. They will yield 123 tonnes by 2050 and 1481 tonnes in 100 years. They will continue to grow and pack away carbon for \approx 1000 years

More than 1,000 seedling have been collected. These are mainly totara but also other large podocarps that have the potential to store large amounts of carbon. A contract has been let with Te Rito Community Nursery in Porirua to grow on these plants. They will be planted in the winters of 2022 and 2023.

The Friends of QEP have also been asked by GW to discuss non vehicle access down the farm road (shown in black) which would allow people to see many of the areas released from farming, for the first time. That will be a great step forward.

I hope we can look forward to an increasingly positive relationship with GW and an increasingly accessible park for the public.

Te Rito has a training function of young people and uses disadvantaged people to undertake much of the work.



Te Rito nursery co-ordinator Steve Wilson with the first set of enrichment plants

Whareroa Guardians project. Whareroa wetland restoration

Project Yield by 2030 20 tonnes CO2e

This is a project to appropriately plant a 1 hectare wet area of Whareroa Farm Park.

Whareroa Guardians (WG) has also contracted Te Rito Community Nursery to grow the plants for this wetland which will be planted in the winters of 2022 and 2023.

Steve Wilson of Te Rito visited the site in late September and was accompanied by the Guardians of Whareroa farm.

Friends of QEP. Water sampling in QEP

This project does not save any carbon because it is part of two bigger projects which I will tell you about in later newsletters. The project is primarily about testing water quality in QEP. But other aspects are

- People will be trained so they know what they are finding,
- Children will be involved.
- Testing will occur once a month.

**** I need help for this project. ****

So far we have GW permission to take samples, have visited the sites with the trainer, have had a sampling and testing plan written by expert, decided the testing locations, decided that there are no H&S issues, and involved a supportive school liaison person. The project is financed so there are no money issues to worry about. We just need a few more supportive people.

The project is to get started with a picnic in the park on 21 December, so if you were interested in this, you could come along without committing to see why it will be a great fun project. Contact me for more details.



Visit by Steve Wilson to Whareroa wetland

I will talk about other projects in future newsletters

Russell

Climate Change "1.5C is still in reach but its pulse is weak"

So said [COP26 President Alok Sharma](#) at the close of the Dublin negotiations.

Climate Change Minister, James Shaw, describes it as "the least worst outcome, but it was not enough to keep warming below the crucial 1.5C mark". The Minister is part of

a Zoom debrief from MIQ. [Find out more here](#) if you'd like to attend.

I imagine the attendees (and others), like Greta Thunberg, are pretty tired of the 'blah,blah,blah'.

One way we can each make sure strong measures are agreed on our home turf, is by submitting on the first [New Zealand Emission Reduction Plan](#) which is out for consultation until next Wednesday 24 November 2021.

From my reading it feels like a plan without much of a plan, and big gaps, so there are plenty of opportunities to make comment on matters you think are also important, that should be included or have specific measures.

For those with little time, there's a [Forest and Bird has a 'click here' type petition](#) focussed on more support for nature based solutions. Submitters using the F&B form and still add their own comments on (for

THE RURU (alias Morepork)

Since the larger laughing owl became extinct in the 20th century, the Ruru is the only surviving native New Zealand owl. Little owls from Germany liberated in Otago and Canterbury between 1906 and 1910, to try to control the numbers of exotic small birds feeding on orchards and crops, are now widespread.



Ruru originally found in lowland forests throughout New Zealand and off shore islands, have adapted to deforestation and

example): **transport**, which while mentioned, doesn't seem to mention any help for those who don't have (or don't want) a car of their own – there is no emphasis on public transport as I'd expected.

What about **retraining** or transition opportunities for those whose careers will be impacted by the scheme (and ideas on how you think that should happen), and ensure the plan commits to **ending coal**, oil and gas exploration and mining.

We also need to ensure that reducing **agricultural emissions** are included.

Please note that MfE request submissions are made through their ["Citizen Space" tool](#) to reduce processing (and minimise taxpayer dollars spent presumably).

Pene Burton Bell

can now be found in man-made habitats in most areas apart from open areas of Otago and Canterbury. Often heard in the forest at dusk and throughout the night, ruru are known for their haunting, melancholic call which is reflected in both its names, ruru and morepork.

In Maori mythology and tradition, as a bird of the night, the ruru is of the spirit world - an ancestral spirit and watchful guardian of a family group, with power to protect, warn and advise. The large round eyes of carved figures inlaid with paua shell are known as owl eyes and while the ruru's occasional high, piercing call may signify bad news, such as a death, the more common morepork call heralds good news.

Owls have been designed as superb hunting machines with particular intention of hunting at night. As with all owls, morepork have excellent hearing with their disc shaped faces designed to direct the slightest sound to the large ear openings, while the flexible necks rotate 270 degrees to look for prey from every angle. The eyes with optimum binocular vision in low intensity light, add sight to senses well suited to the life they lead. Although their main hunting technique is perch-and-pounce, they are agile birds with a swift, goshawk-like wing action and the ability to manoeuvre rapidly when

pursuing prey or hunting, which can include catching flying insects around lights. Ruru hunt a variety of animals – mainly large invertebrates including scarab and huhu beetles, moths, caterpillars, spiders, grasshoppers, and weta. They also take almost any suitably sized prey, particularly small birds, lizards, rats, and mice.

The ruru has generally dark brown head and upperparts, with pale brown spots on head and neck and white markings on the rest of the body, pale yellow-white eyebrows, and buff cheeks. The eyes are yellow to golden-yellow and set in a deep facial mask. The feathers of the underparts are mostly dark brown with buff and white spots and streaks making it look paler overall. The upper tail is dark brown with lighter brown bars. The plumage is exceptionally soft with soft feather edges which enable the bird to fly silently through the air and silently approach prey. The bill is pale blue-grey with a black cutting edge and the feet are orange or yellow with blackish claws.

Young moreporks do not attain adult plumage properly until their third or fourth year.

Moreporks live in pairs generally in the same territory throughout the year and within this

area most often use the same roost, chosen to have overhead cover in deep shade where their dark brown plumage makes them difficult to see while they are inactive and asleep.

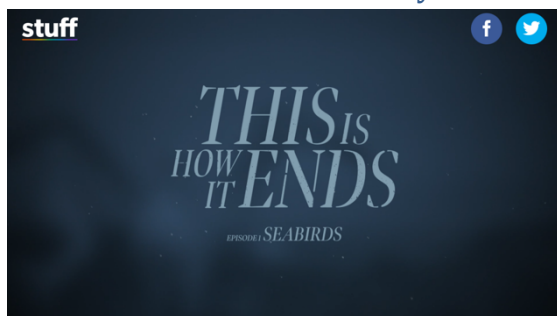
The breeding season usually begins late in August with nest sites most often in hollow tree trunks or thick clusters of epiphytes, cabbage trees or sometimes in caves and riverbanks. The nest is a depression formed with material found at the site. Eggs are laid between October and November usually two in a clutch laid within two days with incubation commencing with the arrival of the second egg lasting 30 - 31 days. The eggs are incubated by the female, who is fed by the male for 34 days until the chicks fledge. Until the chicks have feathers the female will only leave the nest at night for hunting.

For greater detail, photos and references see [NZ Birds Online](#).

Natali Allen

Thanks to Parkwood News and Natali for permission to reprint this article.

This is how NZ's biodiversity ends?



Stuff has produced a [seven-part documentary series](#) on why New Zealand's biodiversity is at risk - and what extinction threats there are. Its focus includes predators, but also much more. You can listen as a podcast or watch online.

Public Meetings under COVID rules

This pandemic involves physical, mental and social 'gymnastics'. These impact our public meetings too, Forest and Bird's clear guidelines for meetings include masks, 2m spacing, double-vaxxed and sign-in. The committee have considered this, and decided to wait for the traffic-light system before trying to meet again in person.

Russell

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Newsletter feedback and contributions welcome