

North Taranaki Branch Newsletter Term One 2023



Hi KCC'ers

I'm really excited about these adventures, looking forward to seeing you soon at one of the three activities planned for Term one, 2023.

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2023

The Great Tradescantia Pursuit

Have you heard about 'Tradescantia'? You may have heard of 'Wandering Jew' or 'Wandering Willie'?

What is Tradescantia

Te Wairoa is a Forest & Bird Reserve next to SH3A on Mountain Road. It is not generally accessible to the public.

This small reserve, surrounded by farmland, contains a wealth of native plant-life, including tawa, puriri, kohekohe, titoki and rewarewa. The birdlife is equally diverse with bell-birds, shining cuckoo, morepork, kingfisher and pukeko all inhabiting this five-hectare block of land.



Unfortunately the Tradescantia is rampantly invading areas of the reserve so it has to be dealt to. The Forest & Bird committee thought this would be a great challenge for KCC'ers.

Our task – and I know we are up to it, is to pull out as much as we can in a specified time to eradicate this pesky weed. I'm thinking an hour will be enough but this is a first for me so will be guided by general morale of the group. It has to be fun!

We will be split into teams, and our bagged up Tradescantia will be weighed so that appropriate prizes can be given to those collecting up the heaviest bag. Of course, size and age don't matter as the weight will be based on age ratio.

PRIZES

There will be spot prizes and prizes for total weight collected, so everyone is in for a chance of some cool prizes.

The Forest & Bird Committee will provide a sausage sizzle and other treats for afternoon tea, following the 'dealing to' of our allocated patch of Tradescantia.

Date: Saturday 21 January 2023

Time: 1.30pm. Finish 4.00pm approx

Meet: Te Wairoa Reserve – Clearview Road, off Mountain Road. Reserve sign is on the left about half way up. We will have our flag out on the cnr of Clearview & Mountain Roads!

Bring: Gumboots if you have them or other suitable footwear (can be muddy) and warm layers, raincoat, sunhat, sunblock, water bottle and snacks. Sausage sizzle and afternoon tea will be provided. Gardening Gloves – The weed pulls out easily but some people may experience an allergic reaction. I will bring some gloves and disposable ones also.

Cancellation : If the weather is unsuitable to proceed I will advise you by email in the morning.

Did you know? In 1930, Te Wairoa caught the attention of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), who spotted the reserve from his train and insisted on eating lunch there on his return journey.



KCC Motto

I will love and care for my natural world – the native plants, the animals and the places where they live. I CAN make a difference.

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2023

Healthy Rivers – What makes a healthy river and can we find one?

Mike Tapp, a retired DOC Education Officer is going to lead us on an expedition to the Waiongana Stream in the North Egmont National Park. Mike will assist us with some testing to see if this is a healthy river. We will discover what is living in the river and why it is able to live there. This will be very hands on, lots of testing and searching to see what we can discover.

The walk from the carpark to the Waiongana Stream is approx. 30mins, relatively simple walking with some steps along the way and a few undulating parts to the track. It is a bush track so expect dirty shoes.

If we are lucky we may spot North Island Robins as we walk to the stream. This is the site where they were released previously and are regularly monitored.

Date: Saturday 11 February 2023

Time: 10.00am start time. Please arrive 9.45am. Finish 1.30pm approx

Meet: Mangaoraka Carpark (Picnic Area), Egmont Road, Egmont National Park. This is about half way up Egmont Road on the left hand side. It is 4.5km from North Egmont visitors Centre.

Bring: Suitable walking shoes and warm clothing, raincoat, sunhat and woollen hat, sunblock, water bottle and lunch for after we have finished at the river. You may also like to bring snacks as well.

Cancellation : As this activity is taking place by a stream it will be cancelled if there has been heavy rain prior the morning or on the day. I will advise you by email in the morning.

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023

Living with Wild Weather & Making a Weather Station

Mike Todd, a qualified Meteorologist has a fun afternoon lined up for us. Mike has been camping at Onaero Bay for many years and has seen the effects of erosion on the environment.

Bring your questions along for Mike about our weather patterns, climate change and erosion and Mike will also help us make a weather station from recyclable items to take home.

We will also be checking out some surprising local wildlife residents and their habitat.

Date: Saturday 25 March 2023

Time: 1.00pm. Please arrive at 12.45pm. Finish 4.00pm.

Meet: Onaero Bay Holiday Park. Onaero Bay is 11.5 kms north of Waitara.

Do not drive into the campsite but park at the visitors carpark at the entrance. This is a large sealed area. I will meet you here and lead us in one group to the meeting point.

Bring: Empty clean 2L ice cream container and empty clean 1.5L drink bottle. These will be used to make our weather station.

Suitable sandals or walking shoes, appropriate clothing (layers are good), raincoat, sunhat, sunblock, water bottle and snacks for afternoon tea.

Cancellation : We will be under cover for making the weather stations but we will be walking about the site and down to the beach so bring a raincoat as you never know what the weather might do. If there is a need to cancel due to stormy weather, I will contact you via email on the day.

OPTIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITY

You may like to go for a swim in the river or sea after the KCC activity has finished. If the weather permits, maybe a picnic tea or even book a site and camp for the night?

These activities are optional and not part of the KCC organised activity.

Are you following us on Facebook? Kiwi Conservation Club / Forest & Bird Taranaki

Send an invite request or email/text me to invite you.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KCCNorthTaranaki>

