



## **Annual Report 2022-2023**

### **North Canterbury Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of NZ.**

#### **Chairperson's Comment**

This has been a good year for our Society and for our branch, following what has been described as some “bumpy” years brought about by the lock-down and Covid-19 restraints. Our 2022 AGM was delayed until 12 July so we have had a short year. But we have managed to pack a lot in this time.

#### **Your Branch Committee**

In July last year, I took on chairing with the support of Chay Cotter as Co-Chair, long-serving Secretary Frances Wall, Hugh Thorpe as Treasurer in tandem with Rick Robinson, Helen Hills continuing in organising working parties, Lorna Deppe focussing on marine matters, and with Valerie remaining on the Committee and offering her home as a welcoming venue for monthly meetings, we formed the Branch Committee, determined to serve Branch Members and conservation well. During the year we co-opted Louise Holmes and Renée Habluetzel onto the Committee.

#### **Canterbury Branches**

Everyone who joins Forest and Bird is assigned to a local branch, and North Canterbury is one of the largest with currently 1227 members, although Covid has diminished our numbers somewhat, as has the new method of recording members. Other Canterbury branches include Kaikoura, Ashburton and South Canterbury. We work with these, of course, and they afford us the delight of visiting their areas and projects, and sharing knowledge and friendships.

And throughout New Zealand, our youngest, our tamariki, can join Forest and Bird's Kiwi Conservation Club/Hakuturi Toa (KCC). Our KCC organiser in Christchurch, Eleanor Bissell leads a wonderful programme of activities for our Kiwi Conservation Kids.

North Canterbury has an energetic, active Youth Hub, part of Forest and Bird's nationwide network of young people (aged 14-25) run by young people for young people. Ella Peoples has become our liaison with this Youth Hub.

Nicky Snoyink is the much respected Forest and Bird Regional Conservation Manager for Canterbury and the West Coast, (an enormous area indeed), and is always at hand for help and advice on issues. While the branch committee and individual members have input into submissions, we work together with the Canterbury Office. Nicky generally submits for Canterbury based Branches to ensure consistency in an area of increasingly complex law and science. We do join in

consultations and members with particular knowledge and expertise may come forward to contribute, for example in the stakeholder engagement hui assembled for the Rangitahi/Molesworth Conservation Management Plan Review.

### **Branch Activities**

We have resumed Public meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, except when displaced by some other event, like our very popular August film showing and panel discussion on Rohe Kōreporepo – The Swamp, The Sacred Place.

Chay Cotter has taken on the considerable responsibility for our monthly public meetings and calendar, and reports on this. Chay and Louise also ran our stall at Estuary Fest in February, and committee and members have turned up to march under the Forest and Bird Banner in the Schools Strike for Climate demonstrations.

### **Hands-on Conservation**

The branch organises regular restoration plantings which bring many members together. Bruce Craig works tirelessly in the Waimakariri “Sanctuary”. In re-wilding our Calder-Green Reserve on the Heathcote estuary, Mick Ingram is a constant guardian and worker. Helen Hills leads on plantings on the Mahoe-nui Reserve on the Port Hills and trapping at Boyle Base, Lewis Pass.

Other membership opportunities to take part in hands-on conservation include the weed blitz in Arthur’s Pass (which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to bad weather in November) and wilding pine removal in the Craigieburn area, organised in two weekends in September by stalwart Joy Talbot, who also co-ordinates the Mother of All Clean-ups for Forest and Bird in the Estuary area.

Youth Hub liaison, Ella Peoples asked us to join in a Forest and Bird youth hub September survey of local government election candidates. We then asked appropriate candidates “how will you protect our Estuary?” at a Southshore Spit Meet-the-Candidates and Planting event attended by some 40 people. In co-operation with the Estuary Trust and Christchurch City Council rangers, some excellent restoration work on the Avon Heathcote Estuary was explained to, and then undertaken by, these local government hopefuls. This event also had the effect of re-energising branch liaison with the Estuary Trust and led to a special planting project in the Bexley Reserve for the Youth Hub.

### **Membership Expeditions**

The Committee worked hard to bring members to a rewarding Blenheim-based Forest and Bird South Island Gathering in October, arranging ride-shares and free accommodation for some of the attendees. This very educative and rewarding annual event is organized by different branches being held in different locations each year. Marlborough branch met expectations, with ecologists to lead us on interesting field trips, a day of excellent talks, reports and discussion, and the chance to meet with other branches and like-minded members.

Also in October, was the well-attended and much enjoyed Otamahua/Quail Island day-trip led by Helen Hills. It was great to have a number of families coming on that trip, so it will be repeated.

Two months ago, our branch expedition to celebrate the 100 years of the founding of Forest and Bird took members rather further afield. On the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, we coordinated with the West Coast Branches to meet in Greymouth for a Big Birthday Bash. Saturday was in Greymouth/Mawhera, and on Sunday in the wonderful Paparoa National Park for which Forest and

Bird fought so hard. The Centenary Year continues of course. We have much to celebrate by way of a century of Society work. Many members came to fill The Piano Music Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, for the uplifting centenary celebratory Force of Nature Concert.

### **Branch Work Outside Christchurch**

Christchurch events are generally well supported, but conservation activities and issues further afield are more demanding. We support work on Godley Head and Banks Peninsula especially for our local penguin colonies, and our branch has a long and active commitment in the Lewis Pass, in the first national reserve in New Zealand, centred around the Boyle Base with Helen and a volunteer team looking after trapping operations, now aided by Louise Holmes.

But Arthur's Pass is also within our area, and the heart of the South Island's first national park (established in 1929 and the third in New Zealand.) The excursion trains to Arthurs Pass of past decades, introduced thousands to our mountains' biodiversity landscapes. The national park headquarters with meeting rooms and excellent displays was a learning centre destination for families and tourists alike and a magnet for anyone visiting the pass.

So it has been of disappointment and concern that this national park headquarters has been closed since the earthquakes and the Department of Conservation (DOC) works from meagre space in a modified container, providing no meeting or education facilities. At a time when biodiversity loss is deepening, the unfulfilled promise of renovation of the national park headquarters, once the destination and source of biodiversity education for many, does not help advocacy for Nature.

As well, there is continuing concern over the demise of the kea in Arthur's Pass, and we were looking for ways to assist addressing this too, working with the Arthur's Pass Association and Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust. We have co-opted on to the Branch Committee Renée Hablueztel, an Arthur's Pass resident and one of Kea Conservation Trust's community engagement coordinators.

Working with Renée, we can offer useful support to conservation work in the pass, and we sponsored the January Summer Programme starting with a photo competition. This was only made possible with the expertise of one of our Members, professional photographer and nature guide, Steve Attwood. The Branch was rewarded with an outstanding collection of photos for us to use in advocating for the wonders of nature caught on film.

### **Branch Stalwarts**

We have had a year of greater activity, now Covid restraints are less. But we could not have done this without the work of the Branch Committee, and for the many friends of the Committee, the branch stalwarts, whose contributions make up the whole. Some have been mentioned but there are more. We could hardly operate without the quality e-news and timely notice board Michael Godfrey produces. Marie and Paddy West organise the suppers after our public talks, and Ann Godfrey has catered for meetings and the three are teaming up to produce supper for the AGM. There is the Boyle Base team, John Thacker, watching over our Rhodes Reserve in Lyttelton Harbour and so on. Board member Kaya Freeman is in active contact. We are just so grateful to you all.

Every extra pair of hands helps share the work. More stalwarts doing small but essential tasks are so important. Join the committee to help with the organisation. You would find it is really rewarding. You do not need great knowledge or expertise, for every bit helps. Please do know you would be welcome.

*Diana Shand, 2023.  
Co-Chairperson.*

## Summary 2022-2023 – Canterbury/West Coast Manager

During 2022/23 Forest and Bird has submitted on several District Plan reviews (Selwyn and Waimakariri) and presented at hearings on parts of the plans. The North Canterbury Branch enabled Forest and Bird to engage an ecological expert to provide dryland ecological evidence for the Selwyn District Plan, with a particular focus on the high country, which was very helpful.

Draft Annual Plan 23/24 submissions have been made by Forest and Bird to several district councils and ECan, encouraging councils to resource biodiversity and biosecurity programmes in their districts, and particularly for identifying and mapping significant natural areas and developing climate strategies. A submission and presentation were also made by Forest and Bird to Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board supporting their priority to "Protect and enhance biodiversity on Banks Peninsula" with recommendations for how this could be achieved. These recommendations were well received by the Board and have largely been adopted.

I (Nicky) represent(s) Forest and Bird on several environmental and biosecurity groups including the DOC tahr liaison group, the MPI wallaby governance group, ECan mid-Canterbury biosecurity advisory group, the Waimakariri Environment and Recreation Trust (WERT) and the Orton Bradley Park Board. These are appointments are useful opportunities to advocate for indigenous biodiversity protection.

In November 2022, Representatives from the NC and Marlborough Branches and I presented on behalf of Forest and Bird to the Molesworth Steering committee who is reviewing the Rangitahi/Molesworth Recreation conservation management plan. A draft plan is expected in early 2004 for further public consultation.

Thank you very much for the North Canterbury Branch support this past year. I look forward to working with the Canterbury Branch committees in the coming year to further strengthen Forest and Bird mahi in the Canterbury region.

*Nicky Snoyink*  
*Forest and Bird Canterbury/West Coast Manager*

## Calder Green Reserve

### General

Overall the Calder Green Reserve site is doing well with various reeds growing on the mudflats and saltmarsh ribbonwoods (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) mostly along the river-bank edge.

*Stage 2 Lizard Sanctuary project planting* was done in May, June and July 2020 in an area opposite the Calder Green Reserve. Two site maintenance days were organised during the last year with good attendance, the focus being cutting grass and putting bark mulch around the plants to reduce grass growth as the plants are getting established. Thanks to the dedicated members and community participants who assisted with this.

*Stage 1 Lizard Sanctuary project* which was planted in 2018 is continuing to get established and is growing well. During this summer, common skinks were regularly spotted in this area.

## Sea Lavender

A ‘search and destroy’ blitz was done again in late January 2023 along with a large team from the Christchurch City Council. Numbers of this weed pest have been controlled to lower levels. Further work to control this weed will be done in January 2024.

## Volunteer hours

Lizard Sanctuary maintenance event	80 hrs;
Site plant care and general	55 hrs;
Sea Lavender	30 hrs;
Other including rubbish clean-up day	<u>70 hrs</u> ; ( <i>estimate</i> )
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>235 hrs</u></b>

## Looking ahead

The Christchurch City Council is drafting a plan to revegetate areas in the Ferrymead Regional Park. This includes areas along the Ōpawāho / Heathcote River and near the Lizard Sanctuary. Forest and Bird will be consulting with the council once the draft plan, which is expected in July or August 2023, is complete.

*Mick Ingram*

*Forest and Bird Calder-Green Reserve Manager*

## Mahoe-nui Restoration Project

Mahoe-nui is a lovely gully of remnant native bush behind Sumner. It is on Christchurch City Council land and has been fenced off from surrounding farmland since 2006. It is situated from Evans Pass Road (near Rapanui Bush), to above the Summit Road. Forest and Bird, with the Sumner Environment group, provide volunteers to help restore the bush under the guidance of dedicated Port Hills rangers Di Carter and Fiona Fenton.

We have two planting days in winter and two releasing days in spring and autumn, when the long grass that surrounds the young plants is cut back and used to mulch the plants. We plant 600 trees each year and it is lovely to see the valley filling up with native bush. The survival rate of the plants this year is about 95 percent due to the unusual amount of rain we had this summer. The amount of grass growth due to the summer rain was phenomenal and it was very heartening to have a good turnout of our volunteers to release all our small plants from being smothered in long grass. After the covid constraints, it is nice to be able to have our cuppa and baking after our working bees again.

The working bees are only two hours long and we have a great, friendly team of volunteers. New people are always very welcome. Total volunteer hours for the year were 302. A big thank you to all our volunteers who make this project happen, especially ‘the regulars’ who love this site as much as I do.

*Helen Hills*

## **The Sanctuary**

The Sanctuary is a 30 hectare freshwater wetland ECan reserve situated between the stop bank and Waimakariri River adjacent to the gate just past 589 Coutts Island Road. Access is, either along the stop bank eastwards through the locked gate (walking, biking, horse riding are acceptable), via the newly opened Bailes Picnic area, which is at the end of Coutts Island Road, (carry along Coutts Island Road past the Gate) or by the car park located along the stop bank at the end of Lorimas Road. The Christchurch 360 Degree Trail passes through the Sanctuary.

Two public planting days were held in 2022 with just over 1,000 plants being placed in the ground with 13 and 9 volunteers for each planting day. Two planting days are scheduled for 2023 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and the 5<sup>th</sup> August. These planting days help with the biodiversity of the wetland and floodplain by supplementing the existing biodiversity of the area.

The trapping program is continuing with a small group of volunteers. In the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the tallies were 45 possums, 80 rats, 17 hedgehogs, 14 weasels, 1 stoat and 52 mice, (i.e. over 150 major predators excluding mice) involving 185 volunteer hours including track maintenance and pest plant removal.

This program is helping with the establishment of the new plantings and the local bird life, (although a bird monitoring program is not yet in place). The increase of ground nesting Californian Quail and Pheasants is a sign that the predators are at an acceptable level.

If anyone is interested in helping with the plant maintenance, or the trapping program, then please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Craig on **021 027 68961** or [barbandbruce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barbandbruce@xtra.co.nz) or contact one of the committee members.

*Bruce Craig*

## **Boyle Base Trapping Project**

The Boyle Base trapping project is located in the Lewis Pass area near the Boyle Village on DOC land. We have about 140 traps in three circuits to catch rats and mustelids (stoats and weasels) to protect native wildlife in the valley. It takes about two days for volunteers to get around the traps which are cleared and re-baited monthly.

The trapping management team is Helen Hills, Bruce Craig, Phill McEntee, Geoff Mahan and Rick Robinson. Numbers of predators caught last year are lower than usual at 4 stoats, 3 weasels, 9 rats and 13 hedgehogs (October 2021 to October 2022.). Other groups in the area are also reporting lower numbers of predators, although numbers are trending up again more recently.

We are progressing well with using our grant from the DOC Community Fund to replace 45 of our Fenn traps with DOC 200s, with all the boxes having been made by Bruce, Phill and Rick. The team has put 45 into the field already. As we have money left over, we are replacing another 15 Fenns with DOC 200s.

The hut was broken into again once last year. This time likely by a person living rough in the area, who has recently been caught by the police. Thank you to Bruce Craig who repaired the window. Last year the hut was used several times by a group (The Doubtless Trappers) who have installed traps up the Doubtful Valley. Boyle Base was also booked by other individuals and families who

enjoy using the hut as a base to explore the beautiful Lewis Pass area. Helen and Louise painted the back wall of the hut which hadn't been done when the hut was renovated a few years ago.

Thank you to Di Cowan and Andrew Stace who do our bird counts in spring and autumn and who also dispatched some wilding apple trees around the hut and near the beginning of the St James Walkway. Di's comment, after doing the bird counts, that there seemed to be slightly lower numbers of grey warblers and rifleman than previous years is a little worrying.

Volunteer hours were approximately 490.

It was good to welcome a couple of new volunteers to the Boyle team as it is quite a big job getting around all the traps monthly plus keeping the hut maintenance and lawns up to date. Our rotary lawn mower needs replacing so if anyone has a good one to donate we would be most grateful.

If you wish to book the hut (which is like a cosy tramping hut) to explore the beautiful Lewis Pass area or to help us with the trapping programme or hut maintenance/mow lawns, please contact Helen Hills **021 023 26155** or email [helenhills.mcp@gmail.com](mailto:helenhills.mcp@gmail.com)

*Helen Hills*

### **Stocker Scholarships**

Every year the North Canterbury branch, thanks largely to a generous bequest some years ago from the Stocker family, is able to offer postgraduate students the opportunity to win up to \$6000 for environmental and/or conservation related research in Canterbury. A condition of the scholarship is that the student give a short presentation at one of our public meetings in the subsequent year. These presentations are always well-received by our members.

In 2022 the scholarship was split three ways, each student receiving \$2000. University of Canterbury Master's student Logan Bramley aims to improve our understanding of the impacts of introduced honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) on native bee populations and the native plant species they pollinate. His work will be based on Cass Scientific Reserve.

Harrison Keesing, also studying at University of Canterbury, will investigate the abundance of two common aquatic invertebrate species found in healthy streams across New Zealand. They are sensitive to human impacts such as agriculture and are therefore useful indicators of stream health.

PhD candidate Ben McEwan, also at Canterbury University, is focussed on the biomonitoring of invasive predator species and the application of new technologies such as audio luring.

*Frances Wall*

### **KCC**

We reopened our programmes with *Awesome Eels and Wetland Birds at Travis Wetland* last June. Mild weather allowed us to check out the eels which were still around and the birds, including a pair of Cape Barren Geese which have since produced two young. Kids saw many different birds' nests. Unfortunately, a lot had plastic added by the birds; this demonstrated the importance of not dropping our rubbish. On turning over logs, we discovered flatworms, caterpillars and other insects that were wintering over. A totara on careful inspection revealed a stick insect! A worthwhile event and good to be able to hold one.

September saw the participants on *A Ramble through Charlesworth Reserve*. Colours, mudflats with lots of crabs and mud snails, seabirds feeding, all made for an interesting outing. The kids played Bat and Moth, enjoyed Leaf Slides with Jordan and listened to Caitlin read an appropriate story.

December saw us on an outing to *Pigeon Bay and Hay Reserve*. It was pleasing to see very little rubbish, all enjoying the natural beach treasures found. In the Reserve there were a lot of ‘leaf munchers’, lichens and original Kahikatea, Matai and Totara.

*Hinewai, with Hugh Wilson* was outstanding and great to have Hugh accompany us. We saw the very secretive Canterbury Gecko and a camouflaged stick insect was discovered by one of our young KCCers! Well done. Six participants ringed the 600 year old giant totara and on the return walk kids made their own collections of a variety of leaves from track side. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Forest and Bird we noted, and Caitlin documented, way over 100 different natural items along the track side. All had the best time!

I want to say big thank yous to Sam and Jordan both of whom have gone through the induction process with KCC at Head Office. They are so enthusiastic and a huge help both with advertising programmes via the computer and being present at events. Caitlin whose daughter Ariana was a KCC member from a young age, helps with programmes too. To all three a HUGE thank you.

*KCC Co-coordinator Eleanor Bissell*

### **Forest and Bird Youth**

2022 got off to a slow start for Forest and Bird Youth Christchurch, but where in-person events were lacking, we made up for it by continuing to grow our membership and planning for future events. A planting day at Brooker Reserve hosted by Avon-Otakaro Forest Park was our first in person event for the year. We worked with the North Canterbury branch and the Estuary trust to run a candidate Question and Answer event for ECan and city council candidates in the lead up to the election. We also helped to organise a survey of all ECan and city council candidates for Christchurch so that voters could examine their environmental policy. The latter half of the year brought many great things our way. We were thrilled to welcome five new members onto our leadership team. We are also excited to announce a partnership with the Estuary Trust and in 2023 we are working with them to restore Mugford Stream Reserve.

*Ella Peoples*

### **Newsletter/Website**

There were eight branch email newsletters from August 2022 to May 2023. This year, as well as notifications of upcoming public talks, working bees and field trips, articles by experts in different areas of the natural world have been included. There were four articles on moths by Brian Patrick and four on seabirds (three by Dr Lorna Deppe and one by Averil Parthonnaud.) This will continue in the coming year with articles on Canterbury plants. The average opening rate of the eNews was 48.7%. We also have a North Canterbury branch website with upcoming events and pages on our projects.

*Michael Godfrey*

## Facebook Page

Facebook does not make it easy for a report like this. Insights are only available for the last 90 days and exclude details of posts shared from other sites. Recent popular posts include: an article on Predator Free groups in the city; kākārīki at Hawdon Valley with comments from Gerry McSweeney about Riversdale Reserve; a BioBlitz at Coopers Lagoon; and some cute kākārīki hatchlings at Hawdon Valley. The number of followers is always increasing, up by 22 in the last month. Unfortunately only a small fraction of the total followers, 852, lead to interactions (likes, shares, and comments) with posts. Our page itself is following more groups and where considered appropriate, some of their posts are shared.

*Chay Cotter*

### Arthur's Pass Summer Programme 2023

The Arthur's Pass Summer Programme was sponsored by North Canterbury Forest and Bird, Bealey Hotel and Selwyn District Council and supported by the Arthur's Pass Association, Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust, Department of Conservation, and the Kea Conservation Trust. The lead event for North Canterbury Forest and Bird was the very successful photo competition. The photos in the kea section were of such high quality, that to help make their decision, judges decided not to consider photos of kea in unnatural environments such as around the Arthurs Pass Village or on the road. This is because kea in these environments is problematic in terms of the safety of the birds and messages about humans not feeding kea or allowing them access to human food in rubbish bins, on the road etc. The judge's preference was for photos that showed the glory of kea in their natural environment and exhibiting natural behaviour. The winning photos were profiled on Forest and Bird's social media platforms.

Other events and activities were:

- Kiwi listening in the evening (talk on kiwi conservation included) – thanks to Nic Menary from the Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust for running this event as he has done now for several years
- Kiwi telemetry tracing and talk on kiwi conservation – run by Graeme Kates from the Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust
- Art and craft activities run by Fiona Neale from the Arthur's Pass Association
- Village picnic - sponsored by Selwyn District Council and held at the Community Centre due to poor weather
- Evening talk about upcoming Otira Tunnel Centenary
- KeaUpdate from from Kea Conservation Trust, Department of Conservation and Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust
- Lynley Hargreaves gave us a talk about her new book "Vanishing Ice"

### Arthur's Pass Summer Programme 2024

Fiona Neale from the Arthur's Pass Association and I are working on this together, with likely dates 1-7 Jan 2024 and planning already getting underway. The branch is planning to sponsor the event

and include the photo competition again. The Arthur's Pass Association is applying for funding for 2024 from the Selwyn District Council. A key theme for the summer programme is to fundraise for the South Island Wildlife Hospital Trust (SIWH). It provides a critical service by accepting sick and injured kea for treatment and the trust desperately needs help to continue. Without the work of veterinarian, Pauline Howard at SIWH, we will lose birds as the alternative is Dunedin or the North Island and these places are too far away.

### **Arthur's Pass Park HQ**

The North Canterbury Branch has been supporting an alternative business case to help the Department of Conservation approve the restoration and reopening of the Arthur's Pass Park headquarters as a conservation hub. The branch has supported local Arthur's Pass residents to campaign to reopen the building and the work of protecting archives held in the park headquarters continues with the Arthur's Pass Alpine Museum Trust deed almost complete. We have attended Canterbury/Waitaha Conservation board meetings throughout 2023 at Open Forum sessions, asking for more information about the future of the Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre.

### **Kea feeding bylaw**

The North Canterbury branch is supporting the development of a Kea Conservation Trust community-led bylaw to make kea feeding an offence. The purpose of preparing the bylaw is to encourage the Department of Conservation to get on with preparing a regulation under the Wildlife Act and to provide another option to protect kea from being fed if the Wildlife Act review is not completed.

### **Kea Case Study in Arthur's Pass Village**

The proposal for a case study in Arthur's Pass continues to evolve. Initially it was seen as a way to influence changes to the Wildlife Act which is currently under review. After further thought, a case study that includes a historical and sociocultural approach that could deepen our understanding of our relationship with kea could provide very useful information. We are looking for students with legal and sociology backgrounds to explore this.

*Renée Habluetzel*

*Arthur's Pass Liaison Committee member*

## **Public Meetings**

As opposed to the previous years of COVID restrictions, we've had regular monthly meetings. Types of meeting and venue have been varied to broaden our experience with event hosting and ultimately to increase our audiences. We had a well attended film night and question and answer session at Lumiere Cinema, and trialled a conservation quiz evening. Both of these may become annual events. We have taken opportunities to work with other areas of Forest and Bird. Our Birthday Bash with the West Coast branch was successful. Tom Kay, our organisation's Freshwater Conservation Advocate, will speak to our August meeting on his Room for Rivers national tour, while our Chief Executive Nicola Toki will deliver the Lance McCaskill Lecture. A public figure, Nicola will speak at the Christchurch Art Gallery which again is a new venue for us.

Working with our Youth Hub and another organisation, *Estuary Ihutai Trust*, we hosted a council candidates' introductions and planting session. With these shared events or by hosting speakers of allied groups at our public meetings, we hope to build our network. Public talks on river health and

the South Island Wildlife Hospital, plus our involvement with the Arthur's Pass Summer Programme and the campaign to save the headquarters there, reflect some of the issues and themes prioritized by the committee. There have also been two evenings of presentations from our Stocker Scholars. It can be a challenge to balance relevance with availability of a good speaker but flexible people and a switched-on committee helps.

## 2022

- **August 15** *Rohe Kōreporepo. The swamp: the sacred place*, film at Lumière
- **September 13** Duncan Gray, ECan, *Braided River Ecology*
- **October 11** Ian McLennan, *Twenty Three Years of Ecological Restoration on Otamahua/Quail Island*
- **November 8** Renée Habluetzel, *Save our Park HQ Arthur's Pass and the Kea Conservation Trust Lead Removal*
- **December 13** *Quiz night*

## 2023

- **February 14** Tim Exton, *Predator Free 2050, Overview and Insights*
- **March 14** Sonny Whitelaw, *BRaid: Braided Rivers Aid*
- **April 11** Stocker Scholarship: Tessa Hiscox, *Safeguarding bees safeguards biodiversity*  
Mel Barnett, *Supplementary motoloures to assist pest control at Kaitorete Spit, Banks Peninsula*
- **May 9** Stocker scholarship: Sarah Seeley, *Drivers of insect diversity and plant-pollinator interaction networks of the Canterbury Port Hills restoration plantings*  
Lexi Hunter: *The success of the European Hedgehog (Europaeus erinaceus) at navigating predator control methods*
- **May 30** Branch AGM and Nicola Toki *Building on the legacy of conservation heroes*
- **July 11** Pauline Howard, *South Island Wildlife Hospital*
- **August 8** Tom Kay. *Room for Rivers*

## **2022-23 Committee**

Diana Shand: Co-chairperson  
Chay Cotter: Co-chairperson  
Frances Wall: Secretary  
Hugh Thorpe: Treasurer  
Valerie Campbell  
Rick Robinson  
Helen Hills  
Lorna Deppe  
Renée Habluetzel  
Louise Holmes

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