

# Kāpiti-Mana Forest and Bird

## Newsletter July 2023

### Editorial - The good news

The current news about climate disruption in Europe, Asia and the US is not at all good with floods on the east coast of the US and heatwaves on the west, and in Europe. Some temperatures are nearing 50°C. Because of the distribution of land masses, we know that the northern hemisphere will experience extremes before we get them – but we will get the same, just delayed. We also know that extreme weather is “baked in”. In other words, what the world has failed to do so far has determined the best the weather can be in the next decades; it can only be worse. We cannot do anything about that and that is not good. But we can do something about stopping it becoming worse.

The repercussions of not acting sooner are.

Hot weather: In Italy, temperatures could reach as high as 48.8C. A red alert warning has been issued for 10 cities, including Florence and Rome. (Reuters)

Sea Level rise and storm surges: Coastal.Climatecentral.org shows where this will hit. Areas at risk are personal so I will not identify any. Take a look.

Changes that we cannot predict: The gulf stream stopping. Carbon sinks turning to carbon emitters. Methane bombs.

Climate wars: Especially as water and food shortages affect more people.

Health effects: Hunger, mosquitos, dirty water, rotten food, pandemics (pandemics are predicted to be more frequent with climate disruption).

And finally, the earth may get to a point where it cannot recover.

[Climateactiontracker.org](https://climateactiontracker.org) tracks the policies and actions of all countries. You can compare every country that has signed up to supply figures. The range from worst to best is; critically insufficient, highly insufficient, insufficient, almost insufficient and Paris agreement compatible - i.e. they would achieve a 1.5° rise.

No country is Paris agreement compatible. England and Norway are “almost insufficient”. Australia, USA and most of Europe are “insufficient”. China, India, Canada and NZ are “highly insufficient”.

We, one of the wealthier nations are highly insufficient. The future looks terrible and NZ is not doing its bit to make it better, and Australia is doing better than us.

We need a government that will act to reduce carbon from our agriculture, our industry and our people, that will stop supporting high carbon industries, will massively increase revegetation, will let or make carbon-rich products increase in price and non-carbon products fall. If they don't, we are travelling towards a wall at 100km/h and refusing to use the brake.

The good news is that one NZ political party is going to fix our potholes. (Sarcasm for the avoidance of doubt)

**And now the good news.** Greater Wellington seem to be doing what is needed – reducing carbon emitting activities and embracing carbon

sequestering projects on their extensive lands.

Specifically, GW are:

- Investing in low carbon freight and heavy vehicle electrification.
- Investing in low carbon assets and water treatment technologies
- Continuing increases in operational efficiencies and electrifying fleet vehicles.
- Reduce the number of animals grazing in regional parks (ceasing farming regional parks).
- Continue to invest in mass tree planting and wetland restoration.

The top photo is the huge number of plants that will be planted by GW in QEP this year and the green objects are 450mm square mats which will be used to avoid the use of spot spraying. Each one has 1000 mats.



*Russell*

## RIP Graham Petterson



Photo: P Burton Bell

Graham Petterson was interested in plants from childhood, learning to graft fruit trees before his teens. Family commitments meant cash was always tight and Graham used his green fingers to grow plants for sale while still a student. He continued growing plants while studying at Lincoln and working, while raising a family, in fact all his life

apart from when he was a running an orphanage in the Philippines. Retirement to Waikanae did not stop Graham growing plants. Graham's back garden was a nursery and garden with vegetables and fruit trees par excellence. He said he heard the call to care for God's world, and that made the growing easy.

By understanding what plants grew best where, and sourcing local natives, Graham made a huge difference to Kapiti with the plants he grew.

Some of these were sold to the Kapiti Coast District Council, and some were sold by Forest and Bird to help fund branch activities.

Graham was a recipient of Forest & Bird's esteemed Old Blue Award, after being nominated by our branch. Until he died, Graham was very likely our longest surviving member of Forest and Bird

nationally, having joined at age 16 after meeting and being inspired by Perrine Moncrieff, one of F&B's founders.

I was privileged to attend Graham's memorial service on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and I'm so pleased he managed to join us at our centennial celebrations in Paekākāriki just a few weeks before he passed away.

Graham didn't quite make 100, but there were over 100 people at his funeral, proof he was well loved and much admired, by me too - and this only increased at this moving service.

## Native Toetoe and Introduced Pampas

At our AGM we had some discussion about the scourge of pampas, currently fashionable for weddings. It's the large grassy plant with white fluffy seed heads which remind me of a feather duster. We see too much of it in our area.

But, I hear you say, I thought that was toetoe! Sadly, more often than not, it's pampas.

We don't want to lose what toetoe we have, so how do you tell whether you're looking at a toetoe or a pampas?

### Four ways to identify Toetoe

- Toetoe flowers largely before Christmas and seeds are ripe before the end of summer. Toetoe Leaves have multiple long ribs and are hard to tear when folded.
- Toetoe Leaf sheaths have waxy base.
- Toetoe don't get messy wood shaving-like dead growth at base

### The differences

Species	Toetoe	Purple Pampas	Pampas
HABITAT	Damp/wet often with flax	Very versatile, just about anywhere	
FLOWERING	Nov-Feb	Jan-Mar	Mar-May
FRUITING	Oct-Mar	Mar-Apr	Apr-May
LEAF SHEATH	Ivory and waxy	Hairy	Smooth (not waxy)
LEAF RIB	Many. Hard to tear	Central. Tears easily across when folded	
DEAD LEAVES	Fold/remove whole	Messy like dry wood shavings	

I'll miss Graham, he was a fine man whose quiet manner was like an aura around him. Rest in Peace indeed, with our thanks for all you did and gave,

Photo: Graham at the Paekakariki event with Nicola Toki and his son Robbie. Penny Gaylor and Daran Ponter behind, with members of the Sanderson family.

*Pene*

Pampas is a South American grass, there are two types in New Zealand: cortaderia selloana - pampas grass, and cortaderia jubata - Purple pampas grass.

In the past, our native toetoe was also defined scientifically as a cortaderia, but it has been reclassified as its own genus and is now called austroderia toetoe. There are a couple of other toetoe species around the country, but in the lower north island, only austroderia toetoe should exist.



1.



2.



3.



4.

Examples of toetoe – 1&2: Growing beside flax in wet situation, 3: Multiple veins and 4: Sheath ivory and waxy (no shavings). Photos: P Burton Bell

### Eradicating Pampas

- Removing flower/seed heads will definitely help the spread.
- Unlike toetoe, pampas seeds prolifically and the seed can remain viable for 50 years so dispose of them carefully.
- Spray with glyphosate (you don't have to scrub bar it first)
- May require follow up spraying.

## F&B Favourite Walks in our district

We're starting a new series highlighting great local walks, with a conservation spin. Contributions welcomed, and example below. Yours might not need so many directions.

### Waikanae Forests Walk

By Pene Burton Bell, June 2023

**Distance:** 4 km loop returning to start (about 1 hr 30 minutes)

**Attire:** Comfortable walking shoes

**Transport:** Train, bus, park 'n ride parking

**Food/Drink:** Supermarket near start/finish, as well as a pub and cafes

**Toilets:** 3 public toilets near route (at Station, on Marae Lane, and in Waikanae Park)

**Dogs:** Allowed on leads

**Why is it special?** Get a good feel for the garden area of Waikanae, and what the forest that would have been like before development. It has amazing bird life, especially when the kohekohe is in flower.

**Directions:** Being a suburban walk, the directions need quite a lot of detail.

- From the **Waikanae Railway Station** walk to the Elizabeth Street Pedestrian Crossing
- Cross and walk through Mahara Place pedestrian shopping precinct.
- If you need coffee or lunch pick it up before you leave the village
- Left at junction where you'll see Movie posters, and past the Baptist Op shop.
- Right to cross Marae Lane, then head left (south) 200m towards Te Moana Road
- At Te Moana Road to right and walk 50m then turn right onto Koromiko Road

- After 200m turn right into Iti Grove, at the end, enter Motuiti Reserve next to No.16.

The forest contains mature tawa, titoki and kohekohe and would at one stage have been part of the Waikanae River channel.

- Exit Motuiti Reserve onto Ngaio Road and turn left and walk 500m crossing Kaikomako Road and Nikau Road before you enter the Russell Reserve near the Waikanae Kindergarten.

A mature Milk tree (*Streblus Banksii*) can be seen on your left about 50m into the forest along the stormwater line that begins on the left near the end of the carpark. Return to the parking area and continue a few metres to take the left fork in the road. This will lead you through mature kohekohe forest past the Waikanae Scout Hall and you will soon meet the end of the right fork.

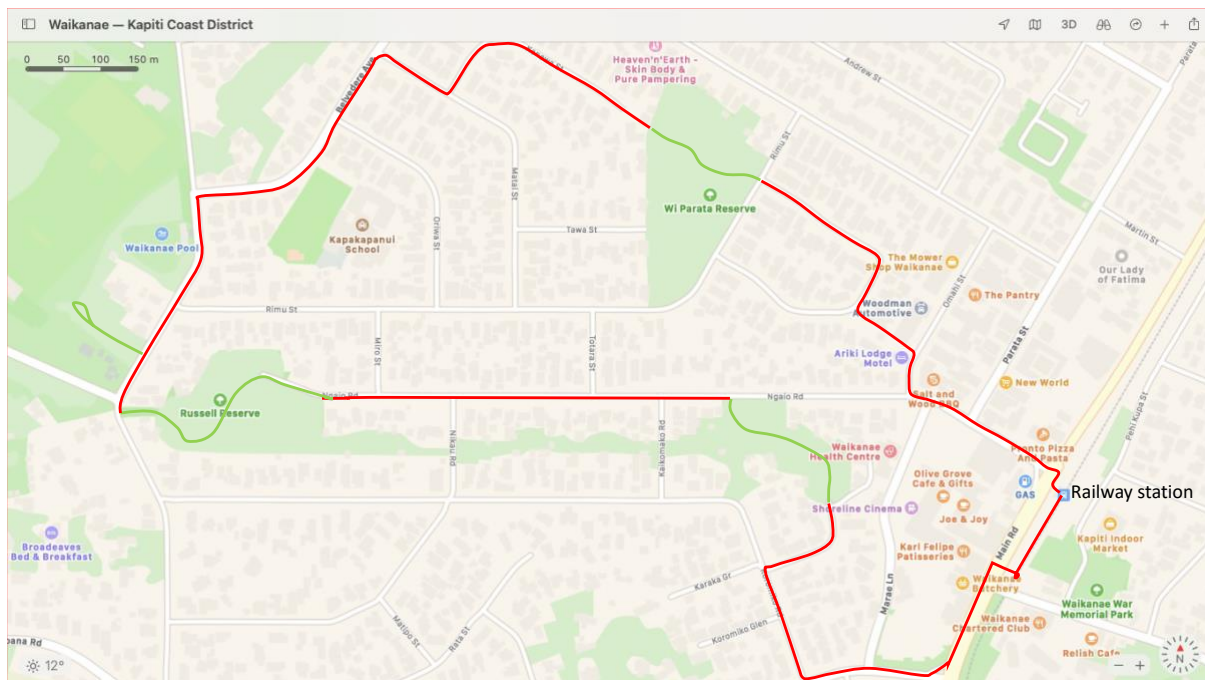
- Turn left (west) and exit on Ngarara road near the intersection with Park Ave.
- You will see the sign for Waikanae Park where the legendary Waikanae Market happens on a Saturday morning, and there is a children's playground, skate park, with toilets, playing fields and the Waikanae Pony Club beyond.
- Turn right onto Ngarara Road

Just after the playground you will see a style you can cross to explore another small remnant of kohekohe forest.

- Continue along Ngarara Road past the Waikanae Swimming Pool (open in summer)

- Turn right onto Belvedere Avenue and pass Kapakapanui Primary School, then cross Oriwa Street, and take the next turn right onto Matai Street (~ 350m from pool)
- 50m up Matai Street turn left onto Kanawa Street enter Wi Parata Reserve between No's 29 and 33.
- Cross over to Rewarewa Crescent. Near No.26 enter the Walkway to Omaha Street next to the Amohia Motel
- Exit Right towards Ngaio Road (Vet Clinic and Lawyer's practice over the road)
- At the corner of Ngaio Road is the Salt & Wood Collective for food, coffee or something stronger.
- Cross Old SH1 to arrive back at the Waikanae Railway Station.

Follow the path across the reserve through another predominately kohekohe forest but with amazing ferns and epiphytes – watch out for the astelias in the trees, they're nicknamed 'widowmakers' for a reason....



## Forest and Bird Calendars & Diaries

F&B 2024 Conservation Calendars and Diaries HAVE ARRIVED. These well-loved calendars and diaries are now available only through your local Forest and Bird branch. Buy now and sort out your Christmas pressies - even for overseas friends and relatives. Diaries are \$25 and Calendars \$18. They're available now from our treasurer Peter Kentish on 04 298 1255, or 02102770520, or email

[pk2003\\_595@hotmail.com](mailto:pk2003_595@hotmail.com) to order. You can pay online, or give cash to the deliverer.

## Fiordland Kiwi Diaries series

This is a very beautiful YouTube video series of two DOC workers in a remote part of Fiordland. They are tracking tokoeka kiwi in their natural, remote, and beautiful habitat. In episode 1 they assess the survival rate of chicks and take action to save them.

[https://youtu.be/JqVM3Y\\_3400](https://youtu.be/JqVM3Y_3400)

## Have your say items, or keep up to date with environmental consultations – July 2023

### Consultation on Coastal Hazards for Raumati and other Kapiti areas.

Raumati Consultation will be held to assess the social values and adaptation options for Raumati Adaptation Area at the Raumati Bowling Club, 1 Matatua Road, Raumati Beach, from 10.30am-12.30pm on Saturday 29 July 2023. AND There is an online survey of the entire Kapiti Coast which closes And/or complete this survey before 20 August 2023:

[https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal/survey\\_tools/central-adaptation-area-social-values-survey11](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal/survey_tools/central-adaptation-area-social-values-survey11)

### Proposals to redesign the permanent forest category in the NZ ETS

Native forests sequester carbon slowly but last for hundreds of years, whereas pines sequester rapidly, are prone to snapping and burning in weather events and last for less than 100 years. The redesign may allow the planting of pines then transitioning the forest to natives while still calling them permanent forests. It also is trying to arrange carbon credits and penalties to convince private investment into transition forests.

Another issue is Māori land being generally low quality, difficult access and far from ports. Its difficult to read and understand but if you have the patience and ability, here it is. **It closes 11/08/2023**

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-to-redesign-the-permanent-forest-category-in-the-emissions-trading-scheme/>

### Exploring a Biodiversity Credit system

The Government is exploring a biodiversity credit system to help incentivise the protection and restoration of native wildlife in Aotearoa New Zealand. The concept is that landowners might want to protect habitats or species on their land and investors (people or companies) might want to or be willing to pay for that to happen. To facilitate this, the government would set up an agency and sets of rules to make sure that the restoration or protection was genuine and to manage the incoming money and its transition to the projects. Submissions close 3/11/23

<https://consult.environment.govt.nz/biodiversity/nz-biodiversity-credit-system/>

## AGM Results

In June we met for our branch Annual General Meeting, the results are:

Chair: Pene Burton Bell

Treasurer: Peter Kentish

Secretary: Tom Pesendorfer (new)

Committee: Russell Bell, Eraena Catsburg, Tony Ward.

My thanks to all of them for standing. **We are still keen to recruit a Porirua person** to help us better represent that end of the branch, get in touch if you can help.

## Next Meeting

Our next public meeting will be on 23 August at 7.10pm (for a cuppa), for 7.30pm start.

At Waikanae Presbyterian Church Hall, 43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae.

Our speaker is the amazing Dr Greg Sherley NZOM, on the breeding ecology of the Rifleman (titipounamu). Hint: it's the bird-equivalent of 'it takes a village to raise a child'. Invite your bird-loving friends

## Events for Your Diary

The Annual F&B Conference is on Saturday 29 July 2023 from 0800 - 1700 at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. The theme is Inspiring Bold Leadership. If you can't make it in person, you can sign up to attend online. More details here: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/events/centennial-conference-100-years-conservation>

The Feathers & Foliage Art Exhibition is being presented by F&B Wellington in conjunction with the Conference, at the Thistle Hall (293 Cuba Street, Wellington) from 25 July until 29 July. It looks fab, and there are some associated talks. More details here: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/feathers-foilage-artist-profiles>

Greendale Reserve turns Twenty Five!  
A morning tea celebration for their amazing work in Otaihanga is on Saturday 5 August at 10am at the reserve. Past and future volunteers, and neighbours are very welcome. Please come along, for more information call Chris on 04 904 6174.

<p><b>Editors:</b> Russell Bell &amp; Pene Burton Bell Email: russelljamesbell@gmail.com Phone: 021 22 66 047</p>
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*Your feedback on this newsletter would be most welcome as would contributions to future newsletters.*

*Russell and Pene*

**Kapiti Coast Conservation Volunteering Opportunities**

**Congratulations** also to Friends of Maara Roa who also recently turned 25. We Love What You Do (and have done)



## Planting Opportunities

Why not celebrate Forest and Bird's centenary by joining a planting this winter?

Community Planting at Battle Hill Farm 9:30-12:30 on 30 July 2023. For more information visit <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/battle-hill-community-planting/>

Waikanae Estuary Care Group has two upcoming plantings: at 1pm on Saturday 31 July, from the Hadfield Entrance off Manly Street, and 9 am on 12 August from the Otaihanga Kiosk. Details from: [secretary@waikanaeestuary.org](mailto:secretary@waikanaeestuary.org)

Whareroa Farm plantings from 9-noon on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August. More details from [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com)

Friends of Taupo Swamp and Catchment will be planting along Taupo Stream on 19 August with Plimmerton Rotary at the South End of Plimmerton Domain from 9am-1pm. [contactplimrotary@gmail.com](mailto:contactplimrotary@gmail.com)





Fieldway Dunes Group (Waikanae), call Susie - 021 549 221

Friends of Waikanae River Monday 9-11.30, call Jo 022 083 1550

Friends of Wharemauku Stream 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 1:30pm, call Sue 027 846 5488

Greendale Reserve (Otaihanga) Meetup Tuesday 9-12, call Chris 04 904 6174

Kaitawa Reserve (Paraparaumu) Meetup Thursdays 9-12, call Tony - 027 5514443

Kapiti Biodiversity Project, including Queen Elizabeth Park Stream Planting Group: Tuesday 9 – 12, email [biodiversity.kapiti@gmail.com](mailto:biodiversity.kapiti@gmail.com)

Kapiti Weekend Wetland Restoration Group (Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki), 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays 9:30-12:30, email [jillvissercox@gmail.com](mailto:jillvissercox@gmail.com)

Kotukutuku Ecological Restoration Project (Paraparaumu), call Peter - 021 215 9262

Ngā Uruora Kapiti Project (Paekakariki/Pukerua Bay) Tuesday mornings & 2nd Sundays from 9, email [kapitibush@gmail.com](mailto:kapitibush@gmail.com)

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve (Waikanae) Monday afternoons and plenty of other opportunities. Check out <https://ngamanu.org.nz/get-involved/>

Nikau Valley Restoration Society, call Wayne 022 395 5867

Paraparaumu Beach Restoration. Check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093383598502>

Predator Free Paekakariki. Email : [predatorfreepaekakariki@gmail.com](mailto:predatorfreepaekakariki@gmail.com)

Queen Elizabeth Park Restoration Group (Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki) Wednesday 9-12. Email [pburtonbell@gmail.com](mailto:pburtonbell@gmail.com)

Tikotu Stream (Paraparaumu). Sunday, monthly. Call Rose 027 756 2713

Waikanae Estuary Care Group (Paraparaumu Beach/Waikanae Beach) Saturday and Thursday mornings. Check out <https://sites.google.com/view/waikanaeestuary/home>

Waikanae River Trappers. Contact Alison 027 452 7425

Weggery Restoration Group. Call Julian 022 090 3868

Whareroa Guardians (Mackays Crossing, Paekakariki) 1st Sundays 9-12, more during planting season, email [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com)



## Porirua Conservation Volunteering Opportunities

Friends of Battle Hill, email [battlehillranger@gw.govt.nz](mailto:battlehillranger@gw.govt.nz)

Friends of Mana Island, email [fomi@manaisland.org.nz](mailto:fomi@manaisland.org.nz)

Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, checkout <https://gopi.org.nz/>

Kahotea Stream Group (Titahi Bay) Quarterly releasing, litter clean up events and winter plantings. Email [kahoteastream@gmail.com](mailto:kahoteastream@gmail.com)

Maara Roa (Cannons Creek) Meetup Saturday fortnightly 9:30. Call Sef 04 234 7747

Mexted Stream (Ranui). Call Bill 0276770180

Pauatahanui Reserve (Porirua Harbour). Email [pauatahanuireservecommittee@outlook.com](mailto:pauatahanuireservecommittee@outlook.com)

Pest Free Porirua – email [pestfreeporirua@gmail.com](mailto:pestfreeporirua@gmail.com)

Taupō Swamp and Catchment (Plimmerton) email [tauposwamp@gmail.com](mailto:tauposwamp@gmail.com)

Whitirea Park Restoration Group (Titahi Bay) Check them out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1055760224479856>

If you think your conservation volunteering group should be included, please email [kapitimana.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:kapitimana.branch@forestandbird.org.nz), we'd be pleased to hear from you.