



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

April 2024 Monthly talk and AGM

Tuesday 9th April 2024 @ 7.15 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

The Manawatu Branch AGM will start at 7.15 p.m.

followed by the Monthly Talk

(The talk only will be streamed via zoom, see below for the link)



Talk: A look under the waves of Wellington – *Exploring Marine Conservation Success and Challenges*

Speaker: Dr. Nicole Miller, well-known citizen science leader

Nicole will talk about Wellington's Blue Belt which is filled with amazing marine life, but it needs help. Wellington's Blue Belt – the shallow coastal marine space around the South Coast and Wellington Harbour

Nicole said they are documenting the Blue Belt from underwater, by taking underwater videos and photos. This documentation will become part of the research used by local conservation and restoration projects, to help them protect Wellington's marine life.

The link for the Zoom Meeting is:

Topic: F&B Manawatu Branch Talk - "A look under the waves of Wellington – Exploring Marine Conservation Success & Challenges"

Time: Tuesday 9 Apr, 2024 @ 07:35 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/82963368634?pwd=KXDOHWqpOzabUUQOfbPCsBByZjxym7.1>

Meeting ID: 829 6336 8634
Passcode: 032422

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANWATŪ 2024 BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 9th April, 2024 at 7.15 p.m. @ PN City Library, George Street

The AGM will not be streamed via zoom, however, the Monthly talk, which will be given immediately after the AGM, will be streamed via Zoom.

I am standing down as Chair of the F&B Manawatū Branch. I have been in the position since 2009 and feel the Branch needs someone with different ideas to move the Branch forward.

The Branch is only as strong as its Committee and once again we are looking for help on the Committee. If you are interested in conservation and the environment, we would welcome you to help the Branch going forward. The more people we have on the Committee the more projects we can create and get involved with.

The F&B Manawatū Committee is inviting nominations for the positions listed below for the 2024-25 Committee, so if you feel you could put your hand up for one of the positions below or just serve on the Committee with your ideas, it would be great.

1. Chair
2. Secretary -The person should be familiar with Microsoft Office, particularly, Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
3. Publicity – to promote the Branch events, Facebook, Branch Newsletter
4. Advocacy – from time to time we, as a Branch, put in submissions.

Look forward to see you next Tuesday.

If you are interested, please contact Anthea, Chair at:

Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or 021 184 6241

Help stop the war on nature - Fast-track Approvals Bill

This is the biggest ever fight for New Zealand's environment, and our climate and environment need all the help they can get.



The Government is refusing to release the list of projects that would go through under the Bill.

But this list is likely to include coal mines on conservation land, huge dams that flood forests, and fish farms in already damaged oceans. A recent [New Zealand Geographic article](#) lists more examples the bill could allow: a water bottling plant that breaches a water conservation order, waste discharged into Lake Taupō, or activities prohibited by district plans.

You should tell the Government about any proposed developments that you don't think should be rubber-stamped, and why they'll be bad for nature. You can also use [our guidelines to help you write to MPs](#) demanding the Government release the list.

Nicola Toki, Chief Executive has written "She urgently need your help – New Zealand is facing the biggest fight for the environment we've ever seen.

This unprecedented threat comes from the Government's proposed '[Fast-track' Approvals Bill](#), which overrides vital environmental laws including the Conservation Act, the Wildlife Act and the Public Works Act. It also gives three ministers sweeping powers to approve any development they want, no matter how damaging.

Please tell the Government we need to keep environmental protections. Even if you only have a minute, you can help by using our [quick submission form](#). **Submissions to Parliament's Environment Select Committee close on 19 April.**

You could also increase your impact [by submitting direct to the committee](#), asking to speak to your submission, and telling them that you should be able to have your say on developments in your region. If you choose this option you could watch our [recent webinar](#) or join our next workshop webinar for more detailed guidance on making submissions. We will be putting new resources [on our website](#) as they're available.

This Bill isn't really about fast-tracking. The government already has a fast-track in the law. Instead, this heavy-handed legislation paves the way for bad projects to be pushed

through – some of which have already been turned down by the courts – without having to follow existing laws.

Our climate and our environment are at breaking point, and New Zealand already has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world.

This Bill takes New Zealand down the wrong track and could be setting us up for new human-induced extinctions of native plants and animals.

By making a submission, you are giving New Zealand's natural environment a fighting chance”

CONSERVATION LAND AFFECTED BY ACT

Areas which are red are public conservation land which eligible for projects to occur on under the Fast Track Approvals Bill.

Public conservation land ineligible for projects to occur on.

Additional exclusions apply in relation to Mining Applications in the Coromandel, as per the existing Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act.

Likely projects?

- Ruataniwha, Hawke’s Bay
- Wakamoekau Dam, Wairarapa
- Te Kuha (Stevenson Mining), near Westport
- Denniston (Bathurst), SI West Coast
- Oceana Gold, Coromandel
- Balmoral solar farm and Ohau Point Solar Farm, Canterbury
- Trans Tasman Resources, Seabed Mining, Taranaki
- Wind Quarry Zealandia, Taranaki
- Waitaha hydro Project, West Coast
- New finfish farm, Rakiura Stewart Island
- New housing developments (major centres)

We've also produced answers to some [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [submission guidance](#) for your information.

I plan to send out a mid-April newsletter with news I have not included in this newsletter.

I will look forward to meeting you at our April meeting.

Kind Regards

Anthea

Anthea McClelland
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