



JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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“LOCATION AT THE LIBRARY FOR OUR MONTHLY TALKS”

The Committee would like to inform members that from our July monthly meeting we will be holding the meetings on the ground floor of the Library. This change is due to technical reasons while presenting the monthly talks from the Mezzanine Floor via Zoom.

OUR MEETINGS ARE STREAMED VIA ZOOM

Are you aware we stream our monthly meeting, so if you are unable to make our monthly meeting, please click on the zoom link at the bottom of the meeting notice where you can hear the speaker and ask any questions you might have.

JULY 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 8th July from 7.00 p.m.

PN Central Library Ground Floor, George Street

**** (PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings have changed back to the Ground Floor)****

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

Talk: What have we learnt about godwits and knots over the past 50 years?

Speaker: Phil Battley, Associate Professor, Zoology & Ecology Group, Massey University



A landmark event in awareness of migratory shorebirds in Aotearoa came in 1975 with the formation of what is now known as the Pūkoro Mirando Naturalists' Trust. Many members will have visited the shellbanks in the Firth of Thames or stayed at the Shorebird Centre to enjoy the massed flocks of migratory shorebirds that gather there. With the trust turning 50 this year, Phil Battley looks back at what we knew about the main northern hemisphere migrants in the 1970s, and what we know now.

Zoom Link: <https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/83817045256?pwd=abS3sKogCOX2ROxj64MtaKXcwpUOG7.1>

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANAWATŪ JULY 2025 TRIP

Saturday 20th July 2025 (weather permitting)

ESPLANADE BUSH NATURE WALK AND POUTOA WALKWAY

This trip will enable you to experience the bush area in the PN Esplanade and to walk the F&B Nature Trail. Afterwards, we will walk over the Fitzherbert Bridge to the Poutoa Walkway where we can visit the Branch planting area



DEPT. TIME: 1000 a.m sharp

Palmerston North – meet outside Wildbase Recovery Centre, PN Esplanade

Feilding: 09.30 a.n. MEET & CAR POOL from Railway Station carpark

WHAT TO BRING: good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, walking stick (if you use one), water, snacks and do not forget your camera.

Required fitness level: Easy

TO REGISTER FOR TRIP – please contact:

Rosemary: 021 476 731 or cullenrjrj@gmail.com

F&B MANAWATŪ MONTHLY TALK PROGRAMME – AUGUST-DECEMBER 2025

12th August "The Battle for the Plateau:

Forest & Bird's Campaign to Save Denniston"

Speaker: Scott Burnett, Top of the South, F&B Regional Conservation Manager

9th September "Reasons to kill rats"

Speakers: Professor Steve Trewick & Professor Mary Morgan Richards

14th October "South Taranaki Offshore Reefs"

Speaker: Karen Pratt, Project Reef South Taranaki

**11th November "Improving translocation success –
from planning, to release and beyond"**

Speaker: Dr.Zoe Stone, Horizons Regional Council

9th December To be advised

F&B BOARD – 2025-2026

This year, three Board positions were contested by five high-calibre nominees.

Elected members:

Tim Park

Tui Kaumoana Steedman

Patrick Holmes and Vicky Robertson received equal votes for the third position. Rather than return the decision to Council, and recognising the valuable but different skills and experience both candidates offer, the Board has used its co-option powers to appoint both Patrick and Vicky for two-year terms.

F&B BOARD COMPOSITION

President Kate Graeme 2024-2026

Deputy President Mark Hanger 2024-2026

Board Members

Nigel Thompson 2024-2026

Kate Littin 2024-2026

Eugenie Sage 2024-2026

Romilly Cumming 2024-2026

Tim Park 2025-2027

Tui Kaumoana Steedman 2025-2027

Vicky Robertson 2025-2027

Patrick Holmes 2025-2027

NATURE TRAIL SIGN IN THE PN CITY ESPLANADE



This plant is one of New Zealand's many divaricating species. That means it's very twiggy! This is thought to have helped it survive when moa walked the whenua, as small twiggy leaves are not as tasty as large succulent ones.

The leaves also change shape as the tree gets older with larger, more succulent leaves appearing above the height of a moa's beak. It is also known as 'duck's foot' because of the shape of the leaf.

Korimako/bellbirds- and pōpokotea/whiteheads feed on the dark purple berries of this plant. When a dry stick of kaikōmako is vigorously rubbed on dry wood it can generate heat and fire. It was used by all Māori with its fire making properties recounted in the stories such as those associated with the demi-god Māui.

FOREST & BIRD 2026 CALENDARS AND DIARIES (The same price as last year)



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Calendar 2026



Featuring superb photographs of our extraordinary wildlife and wilderness habitats taken by some of our leading nature photographers. Weighs less than 200gms for economic postage. Envelope included.



F&B Branches Retail Price
OUR PRICE \$15.00

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Diary 2026



Every week brings a new photograph of our unique landscapes, plants and wildlife. This quality week-to-view diary features public holidays, and a lay-flat spiral binding.

F&B Branches Retail Price
OUR PRICE - \$20.00

Our F&B Calendars and Diaries will be on sale at the August meeting - and the Sept & Oct meetings until we sell out.

There will be a signup sheet at our July meeting and shortly I will contact everyone who bought a calendar/diary last year to see if you would like the same order. Please email me at

manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz if

you would like a calendar and/or diary between our Monthly Meetings and I will arrange with you for collection. Please would you also, provide a contact number, in case I need to get in touch with you.

Many thanks – Anthea

PS please note that overseas snailmail is taking longer these days

Catherine Knight: “An Uncommon Land” Book Tour

An Uncommon Land is a story of enclosure, dispossession, colonisation and – ultimately – hope for a better future. Through the lens of her ancestors’ stories, Catherine Knight throws light on the genesis and evolution of the commons, its erosion through enclosure and the ascendancy of private property in parallel with the rise of capitalism – a history that has indelibly shaped New Zealand society and its landscape.

24 July - Palmerston North, Massey University (in person and **online**)

29 July - national (online), Wellbeing Economy Bookclub

<https://www.weall.org.nz/book-club>

31 July - Palmerston North, ENM Hui (info to come)

AUGUST 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 12TH August from 7.00 p.m.

PN Central Library Ground Floor, George Street

**** (PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings have changed back to the Ground Floor) ****

(The talk will be streamed via zoom)

Talk: **The Battle for the Plateau: Forest & Bird's Campaign to Save Denniston**

Speaker: Scott Burnett, Top of the South F&B Regional Conservation Manager



Scott Burnett is "Save Denniston campaign" lead for Forest & Bird and will explain the full context of the mining proposal and the dangers of the Fast-Track law. This iconic 'lost world', a biodiversity hotspot rated by DOC as one of the most ecologically valuable sites on the mainland, is facing an imminent threat. Bathurst Resources is proposing a massive 25-year open-cast coal mine, planning to use the government's controversial Fast-Track legislation to push it through with minimal public oversight. The scale of the proposed destruction is immense, threatening to permanently obliterate unique sandstone ecosystems, ancient dwarf forests, and habitats for rare species like the great spotted kiwi and the endemic Avatar moth.

You will learn about the irreversible damage caused by open-cast mining and acid mine drainage, and why the economic arguments don't stack up against the permanent environmental and climate costs.

Importantly, you will hear about Forest & Bird's national campaign to stop this mine. This is a defining moment for conservation in New Zealand, and a fight we can win together. Find out how you can help save this irreplaceable national treasure for future generations

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated



That is all for this month. Hope to see you at our meeting in July 2025

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

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