



## September Newsletter

On Wednesday 23rd July was the Planting Day at Lake Waiwiri (Papaitonga)



Health and Safety Briefing



Busy planting





Aimee shows how it's done



Around 500 plants were planted

Lunch with a view



In August the committee had a visit of three branch support people to get us up to speed on **some** computer things and after lunch we visited the nursery to show them **around**.

# Working bees

## September 2025

### **SUNDAY 14**

#### **PROUSEBUSH WORKING PARTY**

**10am**

A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails.

Contact Maggie Peace

021 215 2688

### **THURSDAY 25 PROUSE BUSH**

#### **WORKING PARTY 10am**

**Contact Maggie Peace**

**021 215 2688**

**NOTE:** *It is advisable to wear long pants and sleeves and to bring insect repellent to Prouse Bush*

### **WED 17 PAPAITONGA NURSERY**

**9.30am**

Caring for native plants to be planted out in local areas. Our plants are bought by DOC and Horizons.

Contact Lindsay 021 0816 3394

**All the above are of course subject to weather**

### **MONDAY 8**

#### **NGAWHAKAHIAMOE BUSH**

Kaitiaki work mornings. Ngawakahiamoe is a highly viable remnant of critically threatened swamp bush ecosystem (Kahikatea-Pukatea lowland forest) at Poroutawhao between Levin and Foxton. For an introductory discussion, and to receive monthly kaitiaki emails (which include variable start time, what we are doing and what to bring, and weather confirmation early in the morning) please contact

Heather Heron Speirs 022 368 0471  
[h.héronspeirs@gmail.com](mailto:h.héronspeirs@gmail.com)

Please note that you need to have good balance and strength to work in this environment as the trip hazard is high.

## October 2025

### **SUNDAY 12 PROUSE BUSH**

#### **WORKING PARTY 10am**

A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails.

Contact Maggie Peace

021 215 2688

### **THURSDAY 30 PROUSE BUSH**

#### **WORKING PARTY 10am**

**Contact Maggie Peace**

**021 215 2688**

**NOTE:** *It is advisable to wear long pants and sleeves and to bring insect repellent to Prouse Bush*

### **WED 15 PAPAITONGA NURSERY**

**9.30am**

Caring for native plants to be planted out in local areas. Our plants are bought by DOC and Horizons.

Contact Lindsay 021 0816 3394

**All the above are of course subject to weather**

### **MONDAY 13**

#### **NGAWHAKAHIAMOE BUSH**

Kaitiaki work mornings.

Ngawakahiamoe is a highly viable remnant of critically threatened swamp bush ecosystem (Kahikatea-Pukatea lowland forest) at Poroutawhao between Levin and Foxton. For an introductory discussion, and to receive monthly kaitiaki emails (which include variable start time, what we are doing and what to bring, and weather confirmation early in the morning) please contact

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## Trips

**Saturday September 6**

### **Ohau Mushroom Farm**

Meet at Thompson House at 1.30 pm

**Note the later start**

This is of course subject to weather

Contact - Claudia Mason -  
06 367 0660

**Saturday October 4**

### **Kuku Beach**

Meet at Thompson House at 10am

This is of course subject to weather

Contact - Claudia Mason -  
06 367 0660

## Bird Monitoring

**Wednesday September 10**

### **Hokio Beach**

Meet at Thompson House 10.00am

**Note later start**

Contact - Claudia Mason -  
06 367 0660

**Wednesday October 9**

### **Kuku Beach and Te Hakere Reserve**

Meet at Thompson House 9.30 am

Contact - Claudia Mason -  
06 367 0660

## Meetings

**Monday September 15 1.30pm**

### **Memorial Hall Main St OTAKI**

**Speaker:** Peter Jones from  
Predator Free Kapiti Coast

Levin people can meet at Thompson House at 1pm for car pooling

Contact - Claudia Mason -  
06 367 0660

**Monday October 20 1.30 pm**

**At Thompson House  
Kent St Levin**

**Speaker: TBA**





## The Manawatu Estuary New Web Site

I have just received the link to this and had a quick look and it. It is a fantastic site. It has a wealth of information and is very easy to follow and to choose what you want to look at.

I would recommend people to follow this link.

The Welcome to the Birds this year will be on Saturday 27th September 2025. More info closer to the time.



## Help Save Hutiwai Forest and Its Amazing Bats!

Hutiwai Forest is home to one of New Zealand's rarest creatures – the Long-tailed Bat. These incredible bats need safe, predator-free habitats to survive and thrive.

**We're** raising \$1.725 million to purchase and restore Hutiwai Forest, and with your support, we can protect this precious home for bats and many other native species – as well as for all New Zealanders to enjoy forever.

The sooner we reach our goal, the sooner we can start hands-on conservation to safeguard wildlife like these amazing bats.

**Here's** a rare glimpse of the Long-tailed Bat, one of the treasures **we're** fighting to protect.

<https://www.nfirt.org.nz/help-us-purchase-hutiwai/>

[#SaveHutiwaiForest](#) [#LongTailedBat](#) [#NFRT](#) [#ProtectNativeWildlife](#)  
[#Conservation](#)



-1° ... -2° ... -3° ...

**I hope you have managed to crawl out of bed and enjoy the beauty of our frosty mornings!!**

It was lovely to meet those children and whānau who came along to our Beach event on 8th June. We had a great time learning the names for all the different shells and sea-birds ... oh ... AND seeing the dead possum up in the tree!!!

Did you know that our native animals have their own specialised team of vets? Any injured or sick native bird or reptile can be taken to the Wildbase Hospital (at Massey University) for treatment ... which can even include it having to undergo an operation!

Once the bird or reptile is on the road to recovery it is transferred to the Palmerston North Esplanade where the Wildbase Recovery team is based. These talented people support the birds and reptiles until they are deemed fit and well enough to be transferred back to the wild. Our trip this term will be a visit to the Wildbase Recovery centre to check out some of their great work. While we don't know in advance what animals might be there recovering, they do have a great selection of permanent residents in their walkthrough aviary, so we are guaranteed to see a range of birds and even some Tuatara! Wildbase also has a great education centre where we can learn more about the residents and happenings. The date for this activity will be Saturday 23rd August ... meeting outside the entrance at 10am. Please click on the link to register for this event. ...

<https://forms.office.com/r/YJwAHHGtKQ> ... While entry is free they do have a donations box to support their amazing work.



Next month marks the 20th Anniversary of the Bird of the Year competition ... where anyone of any age can vote for their favourite native bird ... [Bird of the Year](#) < [Forest & Bird](#) ... You might see over the coming weeks people putting up advertising signs trying to get others to vote for them in the local Council elections. Maybe you would like to do a similar thing for the Bird of the Year competition and create a poster telling others all the cool things that your favourite bird has or does ... and by sharing it with others you may be able to encourage them to also vote for it! I would love to see photos of your creation, and hear about your campaigning, (and maybe, with your consent, send them to the *Wild Things* magazine). Who knows, you might even persuade me to change who I intend to vote for! And I'm sure I could rustle up a prize for the best poster/campaign ... so get your thinking cap on and be creative! [If you want to see how wacky and enthusiastic some (VERY RICH people) can get check out American comedian John Oliver and how he campaigned for the Pūteketēke, or Australasian Crested Grebe, during the Bird of the Century election!]

Please remember, if your child has done some exciting things in nature that they would like to share with others they can do so on our 'Kiwi Conservation Club - Horowhenua Branch' Facebook page! It is a private group so photographs etc are not public domain.



## The KCC Motto:

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

**Helen Croskery**

**Kiwi Conservation Club Coordinator (KCO)  
Horowhenua Branch**



## 23 August ... WILDBASE RECOVERY CENTRE

What a beautiful day we had for our visit ... Tama-nui-te-rā (the sun) came out and provided us with a fab welcome to Palmerston North.

The kererū was very pleased to see us as it raced around the aviary a few times, before stopping on its perch for us all to admire its beauty!



Then it was trying to locate the Tuatara ... while there were three in the enclosure the 'keeper' told us that they may not come out because it was so cold overnight. Thankfully one tuatara didn't listen and was tempted by the sun's rays. There was much excitement when it was spotted, with kids climbing on the big rock to get a better view. Can you see it hiding in the photo?



The kaka, not to be outshone by its aviary mates, started singing its song and popping in and out of the bush until everyone was watching it. Then we had a fantastic display of it climbing across the netting using its beak as an anchor as it swung its body across.



Then, outside the main aviary, we got to see a family of pāteke, complete with four ducklings.



Next was the education centre, which proved a real hit ... offering a wide range of experiences. The 'Operation' activity gave some the opportunity to explore their veterinary abilities. While the games and digital experiences attracted other inquiring minds. The taxidermied Kiwi gave us an excellent close-up view of our national identity. It was a great space for such a varied age group.

Did you notice all the pouwhenua at the entrance and between the aviaries? What a magnificent display of some of the Māori atua. Maybe you could take a closer look at them on your next visit to Wildbase! Which atua are depicted? I have only photographed four ... but there are six! Can you find them all?



### The KCC Motto:

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



## Volunteer Warden Opportunity Tautuku Forest Cabins – The Catlins



Forest and Bird is looking for people (couples are fine) to be voluntary warden(s) at its Tautuku Lenz Reserve and Tautuku Forest Cabins this 2025-6 summer.

At this stage we have vacancies for the months of April and May.

Wardens maintain the accommodation surrounds and liaise with the guests and manager.

A great chance to join the local community and get to know the Catlins and the Society's biggest reserve.

Apply to the Fergus at [tautukucabins@gmail.com](mailto:tautukucabins@gmail.com)



# Waitarere Beach Initiatives

You might be interested to know about some volunteer work taking place there, and down the coast past Waitarere.

## **Monthly Rubbish Clean-ups**

For some years, there has been a monthly clean-up by volunteers from the Waitarere Beach community, organised and led by Sharon Freebairn. It would be great if some of you are able to assist from time to time.

Dates and times for the coming year are listed in the attached document. Times differ to fit in with low tide.

Volunteers are invited to turn up at the Surf Club carpark in good time, and Sharon can provide you with rubbish bags and gloves, courtesy of Horowhenua District Council. Do be on time, as she only waits a few minutes before heading out.

## **South Bank Clean-up**

Recently we were alerted to a big build-up of rubbish on the south bank, near the estuary mouth. This is mainly flotsam and jetsam, some of it quite large.

The 4wd clubs in the region have agreed to organise a work party, in conjunction with Sean and Craig from HDC, to access the area and remove that rubbish. They will need their 4wd vehicles (due to soft sand) and caged trailers. Once the date has been set, we'll let you know.

## **Coastal Wattle and Tree Lupin Removal**

These pest plants are well established in many places, including the foredune in front of the residential areas of Waitarere Beach.

Horizons Regional Council is organising a work party to tackle a stretch from the surf-club south, and the 4wd clubs have offered to help with this too.

Again, we'll let you know once the date has been set.



# Waitarere Beach Clean Up Roster



## **Dates 2025 - 2026**

Sunday	August 14	-	10.00am
Sunday	September 21	-	2.30pm
Sunday	October 19	-	2.30pm
Sunday	November 16	-	1.30pm
Sunday	December 14	-	12.00pm
Sunday	January 11	-	10.00am
Sunday	February 15	-	3.00pm
Sunday	March 15	-	1.30pm
Sunday	April 12	-	11.30am
Sunday	May 10	-	10.00am
Sunday	July 12	-	1.00pm

Meet at the Surf Club carpark - Gloves and Bags provided by HDC

Walkers, Quad Bikes, 4WD vehicles and trailers all welcome.



An artist's depiction of the Rēkohu shelduck. Sasha Votyakova/Te Papa , CC BY-ND

# **The discovery of an extinct shelduck highlights the rich ancient biodiversity of the remote Rēkohu Chatham Islands**

Published: August 14, 2025 8.10am NZST

[Rare Chatam Island Shelduck](#)



*Te Manu  
Rongonui o  
Te Tau*

# Bird *of the* Year 2025

*Celebrating 20 years*



Opens 15th September 2025  
Closes 28th September 2025  
Winner announced 29 September 2025

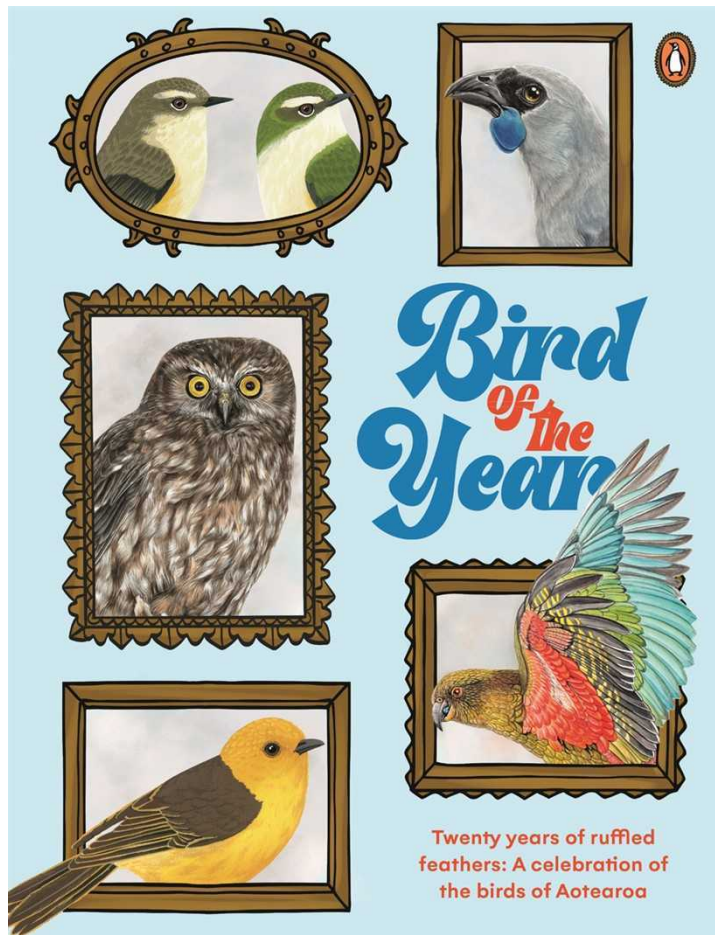
[Bird of the Year Page with voting.](#)  
[Click on the bird you would like to vote for.](#)

[Bird of the Year Activities](#)

[Birdle NZ Game](#)

The new game which is based On Wordle





## Bird of the Year Book

A Book worth Squawking about

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration, [Bird of the Year: Twenty years of ruffled feathers](#) is now available in all good bookshops. Science writer and former Bird of the Year lead, Ellen Rykers, traces the scandals, underbirds, and icons that have defined the competition. These stories and profiles of more than 80 birds (plus one bat!) are paired with stunning illustrations from New Zealand artists and illustrators. Every copy sold supports Forest & Bird.



# Branch Meeting Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
2025		
August 18	Levin	Thompson House
September 15	Otaki	Memorial Hall
October 20	Levin	Thompson House
November 17	Foxton	WFT 207 Seabury Ave
2026		
February 16	Levin	Thompson House
March 16	Otaki	Memorial Hall
April 20	Levin	Thompson House
May 18	Foxton	WFT 207 Seabury Ave
June 15	Levin	Thompson House
July 20	Otaki	Memorial Hall
August 17	Levin	Thompson House
September 21	Foxton	WFT 207 Seabury Ave
October 19	Levin	Thompson House
November 16	Otaki	Memorial Hall