



November 2025 Newsletter



Neil Silverwood and Jenny Patrick at the Parliament event. Neil has taken amazing imagery to help explain why Denniston is so special. Jenny is the author of the kiwi-classic historical novel 'Denniston Rose'

Our goal is clear, rational, and lasting. We are calling for this public conservation land to be reclassified as a Scientific Reserve. This is not a radical ask; it is the only logical way to protect its unique, irreplaceable ecosystems from mining, forever. We need to move beyond fighting this same battle every decade. Please add your voice and share the petition.

[Sign the Petition

Here: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/petitions/make-denniston-scientific-reserve>]

We are thrilled to release the 16-minute documentary we premiered at Parliament: 'Save Denniston: Too Precious to Mine'. This is the single best tool we have to show all New Zealanders what is at stake. Please watch it, and then share it widely—with your friends, whānau, and on your social media.

[Watch the Documentary

Here: <https://share.google/1CwTQ1kJx4rlo8iew>]

Present at the documentary premier was novelist Jenny Patrick OBE whose novels "The Denniston Rose" and "Heart of Coal" became two of NZ's best selling novels. Mrs Patrick is backing the public campaign to Save Denniston and Forst and Birds call to turn this unique ecological mainland island into a scientific reserve.

Working bees

November 2025

SUNDAY 9 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am

A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails.
Contact Maggie Peace
021 215 2688

THURSDAY 27 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 19 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

MONDAY10 **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

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

December 2025

SUNDAY 14 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am

A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails.
Contact Maggie Peace
021 215 2688

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
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Trips

Saturday November 1

Chrystalls Bend

Meet at Thompson House
at 10.00 am

Bring lunch

This is of course subject to weather

Contact – Claudia Mason -
06 367 0660

Saturday December 6

Kimberley Reserve

Christmas Lunch at 11.30am

This is a shared lunch

This is of course subject to weather

Contact – Claudia Mason -
06 367 0660

Bird Monitoring

Wednesday November 12

Otaki Ponds and Otaki Estuary

Meet at Thompson House 9.30 am

Contact – Claudia Mason -
06 367 0660

Wednesday December 10

Waikawa Beach

Meet at Thompson House 9.30 am

Contact – Claudia Mason -
06 367 0660

Meetings

Monday November 17 1.30pm

**WFT 207 Seabury Ave
Foxton Beach**

Speaker: Bessie Nichols Awhuri
Forest Kitchener Park Trust Chair

**Speaking on
Phragmites Karka and its
spread in Manawatu**

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

Contact – Claudia Mason -
06 367 0660

NOTE :

**December and January there will
Be no Meetings**



Barbara Littlejohns

This plaque has recently been added to a seat in memory of Barbara Littlejohns at the entrance to Prouse Bush.

Barbara was such a hard working member of our F&B Branch for many, many years and is fondly remembered by us.





Sperm Whales

If AI language models can "learn" human languages, and translate between them, could AI also help us to decode what animals are saying? Off the coast of Dominica, a Caribbean island known for its sperm whale population, some ambitious scientists are trying to find out. Project CETI aims to use advanced robotics and AI to break the barrier of human-animal communication.

Control Click below and the page will come up in a new tab

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/latenightlive/david-gruber-whales-project-ceti-ai-translation/105939792>



The very invasive **Phragmites – kaka**

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Horizons Regional Council have been heavily criticised for their failure to control the spread of an invasive weed threatening wetlands, waterways and native trees in Manawatū.

<https://www.awahuri-forest.org.nz/phragmites>
[Phragmites-Karka at Awhuri](#) kitchener-

Dr. Scott has compiled a big PDF about Phragmites –karka . I have been unable to put the link in this newsletter so I will send it separately with the newsletter.