

Forest and Bird Nelson-Tasman

Chair Annual Report for AGM 11 March 2026

The year has proven to be both busy and productive, despite the on-going challenges faced by the conservation estate, both locally and nationally. The campaign to save Denniston continues to be a significant local focus - we will be hosting a stall at the Nelson Saturday market in support on March 21st as part of our on going contribution to publicising the issues involved.

Our major public facing activity continues to be our monthly talks (10 of which were held this year) - details of these are publicised in our regular newsletters, and we have also expanded our footprint in social media and in the local press to ensure maximum exposure for these events. Our KCC chapter has been extremely active, ably co-ordinated by Clare Qusted, Chris Turton and their team, with a number of very well attended events held throughout the course of the year.

The weed and pest control efforts by our dedicated volunteer groups continued at Pearl Creek and Paremata - a member from the latter group received funding for a specialist trapping course and a trail camera is now being used on the ground there to monitor pests more closely. We also supported the latest in the series of very successful Ronga Reserve planting days in winter 2025. Your committee remains extremely grateful to all the work put into these projects by our membership.

Some of you may also be aware that the Cohen covenanted property in Appleby has been gifted to Forest and Bird - this will be run directly by the Wellington office with a property manager looking after the running of the house and visitors. Volunteers will continue to maintain the grounds. Unfortunately, in less good news, the closure of the Golden Bay branch was confirmed - membership has been transferred into our group, and we continue to consult closely with them on all matters pertaining to Golden Bay.

We continue to make representations on a range of subjects - during the course of the year the committee sent in comments/submissions on: Wakefield Baigent's reserve review, Management of Waimea River Park and delta, the FTAA (fast track) bill and on the Game Animals bill. We would like to sincerely thank our secretary Gillian Pollock for the immense amount of work she puts into this part of our output (and for all the other administrative duties she undertakes). In addition, negotiations continue with the Nelson Birds group over placement of a bird hide at Whakapuaka using a donation given to the branch some years ago.

Finally, we would like to offer heartfelt thanks to Tim Robson who is leaving the committee after thirteen notable years of service - his contribution has been exemplary in any number of areas but of particular note has been his work with the Paremata trapping group and with youth educational activities (such as SciTec and the Andy Dennis award). He has been unstintingly generous with his time and effort (ably assisted on occasion by his wife Barbara) and we wish them the very best for the future.

Andy Hamilton, co-chair