

N.I. 2017 Gathering Speaker Notes:

Dr. Catherine Knight is a policy and communications consultant and an environmental historian. *New Zealand's Rivers: An environmental history* (Canterbury University Press, 2016) was longlisted for the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2017 and was selected as one of the *Listener's* Best Books for 2016.

Earlier this year, the government announced a proposal to make more of our rivers 'swimmable' by 2040 – it attracted significant controversy, reflecting the sense of urgency that many New Zealanders feel about the perilous state of many of our waterways. In her talk, Dr. Knight, will provide important context to this debate by exploring some of our complex – and often conflicted – history with rivers since humans first settled in Aotearoa New Zealand. She will argue that knowing our history is an important foundation to forging a better future, both in terms of our environment and our socioeconomic wellbeing.

Jenny Rowan of Kapiti (Chairperson) Wellington Conservation Board
Appointment term: 17 August 2015 to 30 June 2018

Jenny Rowan has been involved in local government for 30 years, most recently as former Mayor of Kapiti Coast District Council, and as an Environment Court Commissioner for 16 years. She is widely experienced in matters relating to conservation estate issues, the Resource Management Act and related aspects of the Conservation Act, including extensive work with Iwi. Her current interests include restoration and enhancement of public reserves and DOC estates on the Kapiti Coast, including as a former trustee of Whareroa Farm and as a member of the governance body for the Kapiti Biodiversity Project.

Mike Dickison, Curator of Natural History

Responsible for development and interpretation of the Museum's plant, animal, and geology collections, and coordinating natural history exhibitions, particularly of the world-class moa bone collection. Research interests are entomology, avian osteology and evolution. Also contributes to Museum social media initiatives.

Paul Callister

Nga Uruora – Kapiti Project Charitable Trust is a community based conservation project with a big work program and an even bigger vision. Set up in 1997 to reverse the drastic decline of coastal forest, we are aiming to create a continuous ribbon of bird-safe native forest running from Mackays Crossing to Pukerua Bay.

Paul has had a long interest in conservation issues. In recent years, Paul has been an active volunteer with both the Nga Uruora - Kapiti Bush restoration project and Kapiti's Queen Elizabeth Park. Much of this has involved supporting the planting programmes in both projects. Paul was also on the committee of Te Araroa Wellington Trust from 2014 to early 2016. From early 2015 Paul has been coordinating the pest control part of the Kapiti Biodiversity Project. He is also involved in projects to support lizard populations on the Kapiti Coast.