



# Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

## MANAWATŪ BRANCH

### MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

#### MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 @ 7.30 p.m.

Sound and Vision Area, Palmerston North City Library, George Street

Kevin Hague, F&B Chief Executive, will be attending the March Meeting and will give a short talk, prior to Dr.Cockram's talk. This is an opportunity to meet F&B new Chief Executive.

TALK: "Field studies and conservation of Antarctic and New Zealand penguins"



Speaker: Dr John Cockrem, Professor of Comparative Endocrinology,  
Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey

Dr Cockrem will describe field studies of Adelie and emperor penguins in Antarctica, and of kororā (little penguins) at Oamaru in the South Island.

Kororā are declining around the New Zealand coast.

He will consider the conservation status and current threats to kororā, particularly, in relation to a proposal for sand mining off the south Taranaki Coast.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

## F&B MARCH 2017 TRIP

### MATAI SOMES ISLAND in Wellington Harbour -

To learn about the penguin monitoring programme with Mike Rumble, a Penguin specialist.

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**



**Depart:** Palmerston North at 07.30 a.m.

**Depart:** from Day's Bay on 1030 a.m. ferry (car parking is available)

We will be guided by Mike Rumble, a Little Penguin volunteer researcher.

The itinerary on the island could include:

- PowerPoint talk in the Caretakers Cottage (ideal if it is damp/wet)
- Visit two penguin areas
- Meet Mena a DOC-certified penguin detection dog and watch her in action (this will be subject to DOC approval)
- Depart on mid-afternoon ferry (around 3.00 p.m.)

#### **COST:**

- 10 per person for the guided trip (discount applies depending on numbers. e.g. If the group is 20+ it will cost \$5 per person)
- Ferry return fare: Adults: \$23: Students \$19: Kids \$12 and Super Gold card holders - free.
- If you car-pool petrol costs should be shared.

To book on this trip and for information: Contact Julia Panfylova

Email: [J.Panfylova@gmail.com](mailto:J.Panfylova@gmail.com) Ph: 021 050 5741

#### **NOTE:** Visiting pest free island:

Clean and check your gear for unwanted pests to help keep the islands in the Bay of Islands, Hauraki Gulf, Wellington, Marlborough Sounds and other areas pest-free.

Protect our wildlife

- Check - your gear for pests, eg. rodents, insects, skinks
- Clean - footwear and gear, removing soil and seeds
- Seal - ensure your gear is zipped up (no open bags)

When you arrive on a pest-free island, you may be met by rangers to recheck your gear.

## OTHER MARCH EVENTS



### Find out about Whio!

#### **Whio Awareness Month Event.**

**DATE:** Sunday, 19th March, 2017

**TIME:** 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**WHERE:** the Victoria Esplanade Bird  
Aviaries

Learn about Whio, our native Blue Duck.

Meet a Conservation Dog and her DOC  
Ranger and join in fun activities.

Talk to the Ruahine Whio Protectors,

Make traps with the Milson Scouts,

Find out more about Wildbase Recovery.

Learn about the threats to this special bird  
and what is being done to protect it, including  
DOC's partnership with Genesis Energy and  
Whio Forever.

Complete the quiz to go into a great prize  
draw!

**March is Whio Awareness Month –**  
celebrating and promoting our endangered  
blue duck. Find out more about whio and  
how you can get involved

DOC and Genesis Energy are launching a  
whio 'duckface' selfie competition for Whio  
Awareness Month (1-31 March), aiming to  
raise awareness of New Zealand's native  
river surfing blue duck and the fact that whio  
are one of New Zealand's most endangered  
birds.

Whio are rarer than kiwi with 23 kiwi for  
every whio.

[http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-  
events/whio-awareness-month](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/whio-awareness-month)



### **Sixtus Lodge Jubilee**

**DATE:** Saturday, 25th March, 2017

**TIME:** 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

**WHERE:** Sixtus Lodge - Sixtus  
Lodge, Limestone Rd, Apiti 4774  
Sixtus Lodge will be celebrating its  
40th anniversary with a Jubilee that  
promises to be a fun and family-  
friendly day out in nature.

Visitors will be provided with morning  
tea at 10.30am and afternoon tea at  
3pm. In between there will be free  
horse and pony rides between 11am  
and 1pm (at the horse trekking  
property across the road). There will  
also be guided walks to the valley  
below the Lodge, and to the glow  
worm caves, leaving at 11am and  
1pm.

If you haven't visited Sixtus Lodge  
before this is a great opportunity to  
find out what the Lodge and  
surrounds has to offer. All welcome!  
Sixtus Lodge is located in the foothills  
of the Ruahine Ranges, near Apiti,  
eighty kilometres from Palmerston  
North (1 hour), 62 kilometres from  
Feilding.

For more information

visit <http://www.sixtuslodge.co.nz>, or  
call David on 358 0926 [get directions](#)

## CONSERVATION, EVENTS, CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

### Stand Up For Fresh Water

Help us protect Aotearoa's rivers, lakes and streams. Join our fight for fresh water today.

Forest & Bird has been fighting to protect fresh water but **we need your help** to ensure our rivers and lakes are ecologically healthy for the future.

The government has released its new "Clean Water" standards and it's not good news. They don't require any improvement to our water quality, except for the very worst rivers.

This will lock in current levels of pollution, degrade valuable freshwater habitat, and increase the risk of getting sick from swimming in a river from 1 in 100 to 1 in 20.

What's more, we have discovered that the majority of New Zealand's rivers and streams will not be covered by the standard at all.

**So what can you do?** Make a submission on the proposed standards, join a local freshwater rally on Tuesday 14 March, and make a donation to support Forest & Bird's ongoing fight for fresh water.

Together, we can protect and restore the native species and ecosystems that need clean water in order to survive and thrive. Together, we can fight for future generations who want to be able to swim in our rivers.

Kevin Hague

CEO - Forest & Bird

<http://forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/fresh-water/clean-water-submission>

<http://forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/media-release/maps-show-most-nz-rivers-are-excluded-swimming-standard>

### Palmerston North Save Our Water Rally

Hosted by NZ Water Forum - Bung the Bore

**DATE:** Tuesday, 14th March, 2017

**TIME:** 12.00 to 1.00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Horizons Regional Offices, 11-15 Victoria Street, Palmerston North

F&B Chief Executive, Kevin Hague will be speaking at this rally.

## **Last chance to have your say on the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

There is one month left to provide feedback on a new draft Conservation ***Management Strategy (CMS) for the Wellington, Kāpiti, Manawatū-Rangitīkei and Wairarapa Regions.***

*Date: 07 March 2017*

Department of Conservation invites everyone to have their say on its contents on the 10-year plan before submissions close at 4 pm on Tuesday 4 April 2017.

The boundary of this plan includes some of the most popular recreation areas in the lower North Island, including the Tararua, Ruahine, Rimutaka, and Aorangi Forest Parks.

The final strategy, when approved, will give direction for DOC management of conservation resources in these areas over the next ten years.

It aims to show how DOC will manage places, native plants and animals, clarifies priorities, guides decision-making on commercial activities and describes conservation outcomes to be achieved.

DOC Lower North Island Director, Reg Kemper says, “The document is our handshake with the community – it guides both the Department and the public about what DOC intends to do, how it will set priorities and how the public and other organisations can get involved.”

This new strategy places more importance than ever before on collaboration and connectivity – its purpose is to establish integrated objectives and a more connected way of managing our natural places and visitor assets in collaboration with others. People are encouraged to put in submissions to support or oppose the draft policies and suggest other approaches.

“If you agree with what the CMS proposes then great!” said Mr Kemper, “please put in a submission to let us know.”

“However if you don’t agree with something, let us know why and what you think the CMS should say instead. This is your opportunity to guide DOC’s approach in places that are important to you.”

The draft strategy and information about making submissions can be found on [www.doc.govt.nz/wellingtoncms](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wellingtoncms). Copies of the draft plan also can be viewed at the DOC offices in Wellington, Masterton, and Palmerston North.

Submitters can also choose to speak in support of their submission before public hearings in May/June 2017.

## **Draft Wastewater Bylaw**

<http://www.pncc.govt.nz/yourcouncil/consultations/draft-wastewater-bylaw/>

### **Submissions by 4pm Tuesday 14 March**

PNCC is currently seeking the public's views on this new bylaw. The council's intention is to not dramatically change the current wastewater processes but to formalise the current rules and processes relating to the wastewater network and ensure information is clear and accessible.

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## **FOREST AND BIRD PULLS OUT OF LAND & WATER FORUM**

**Forest & Bird has written to Environment Minister Nick Smith and Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy to advise that the organisation's Board has decided to withdraw from the Land and Water Forum.**

The move follows the Government's proposed freshwater standards, released last month, which largely ignore the consensus recommendations of the Forum.

"The latest proposals from the Government really are an attempt to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory," says Mark Hanger, Forest & Bird's President.

"The Forum provided the Government with consensus recommendations that had buy-in from all the relevant stakeholders, incorporating the best scientific advice, yet they've come up with something very different."

"In putting the Forum's recommendations to one side, the Government has undermined the good faith and trust that we put in the Forum to help address the freshwater crisis facing all New Zealanders."

Forest & Bird has been involved in the inner circle of the Land and Water Forum since its inception, over a period of nine years. The organisation has previously considered its membership of the Forum, in response to the Government's selective 'cherry-picking' of Forum advice.

To read full article please go to:

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/media-release/forest-bird-pulls-out-land-and-water-forum>



### **Controlling wasps**

New Zealand has some of the highest densities of German and common wasps in the World. They can now be controlled by using VespeX, a targeted wasp bait.

New Zealand has several kinds of native wasps which have evolved here and have never become a nuisance.

In recent years there have been four social species accidentally introduced which are classed as pests (German and common wasps, and two species of Asian wasp).

Introduced wasps are a significant pest which harm our native birds and insects, and are a threat to human health and recreation.

The best way to reduce a local wasp population is to find and destroy all the nests in the area. Usually wasps fly no further than 200 m, so you should aim to kill all the nests within this range.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/animal-pests-a-z/wasps/>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017/minister-welcomes-campaign-to-wipe-out-wasps/>

## FUTURE EVENTS

### F&B APRIL, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING

#### MANAWATU BRANCH 2017 AGM

**DATE:** Tuesday, 11th April, 2017

**TIME:** 7.15 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

**WHERE:** Sound & Vision area, PNCC Library, George St. entrance

#### THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A TALK:

"Investigating the efficiency of mast triggered 1080 pest control for South Island Robins in Tennyson Inlet, Marlborough Sounds".



**SPEAKER:** Mara Nydegger Bell, Massey University



#### An Evening with Dr Jane Goodall

Monday 26th June, 2017 @ 7.00 p.m.

Michael Fowler Centre

**Presented by:** Think Inc. & The Jane Goodall Institute NZ

Dr Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace returns to New Zealand to discuss hope for the natural world in challenging times.

Think Inc. alongside the Jane Goodall Institute New Zealand, AUT and Loop are excited to announce the arrival of Dr Jane Goodall to New Zealand this year as part of the "Tomorrow & Beyond Tour".

When we ask ourselves "what separates us from other animals?" we question both our differences and our similarities – a challenge to which the famed ethologist Dr Jane Goodall has devoted her life. In 2017, Dr Goodall tours New Zealand to help us revisit this eminent yet elusive question and how we can all transform hope for our planet into action that is positively impactful for all.



## SOME WEBSITES YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources/investigating-plant-pests-in-your-green-space/>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/stories/2016/november/manawatu-war-on-weeds-begins/>

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That is about all for this month. I do hope I shall see you at one of our Monthly Meetings.

Kind Regards

*Anthea*

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