

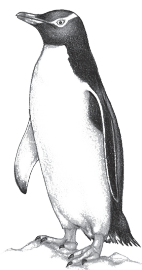
Coastal Predator Control

Introduced mammals including rats, stoats, possums, cats and hedgehogs are a constant threat to our Catlins wildlife and plants. Forest & Bird volunteers regularly monitor predator traps at locations including Long Point, Cosgrove, Jack's Bay, Pounawea, Penguin Bay, Owaka Heads and Papatowai.



Marine issues & penguin conservation

Branch members work at Irihuka/Long Point, a Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Reserve, and also at other penguin habitats. They carry out monitoring, predator control and habitat restoration work. Other activities include advocacy and involvement with community education on marine issues including the need for protected areas on beaches and out at sea.



CONTACTS

For general information Jane & Roy (Branch co-chairs)

Biodiversity monitoring

Catriona (bats, plants) Penelope (fungi, plants)
Richard (birds) Jim, Roy & Bronwyn (penguins, seabirds)

Climate change action Jan Jane

Ecological restoration – weeding and planting

Roy Jim Catriona Jane

Working with schools and educational groups

Catriona Jim Roy Jan

Lenz Committee Roy Jan Jim Penelope

Marine issues and penguin conservation

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Plant propagation Jane Jim Ian Catriona

Predator control Roy Jim

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Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

Since 1923 Forest & Bird has played a crucial role in protecting and restoring Aotearoa's wildlife and wild places – on land, in freshwater and in the sea.

We are an independent voice for nature in our communities, to government at all levels, and to the courts. We speak for all our threatened taonga and treasured places.

Highlights over the past 100 years include helping establish nature sanctuaries and national parks all over Aotearoa. Forest & Bird played a key role in the 'Save Manapouri' campaign, halted logging in many native forests, pioneered community-led island restorations, fought for new marine protected areas, came to the aid of numerous threatened species, and helped create ground-breaking environmental legislation.

Today, Forest & Bird continues to advocate for a stronger, more resilient natural world. Current campaigns include stopping new mining on conservation land, increasing effective pest control on New Zealand's forests, doubling our area of natural wetland, making room for rivers to help reduce flooding, and calling for more marine protected areas and stronger fishing regulations.

South Otago and other branches coordinate and carry out restoration projects in their local areas. Branch members and supporters care passionately about New Zealand's unique natural environment and want to ensure that its taonga are

protected for future generations. They highlight those things that make New Zealand's natural world so special and explain the dangers that it faces: ongoing damage caused by introduced species, habitat loss and degradation, and the looming threat of climate change.



SOUTH OTAGO BRANCH

Forest & Bird members are grouped into 48 branches around the country. South Otago Branch was formed in 1978, largely as a response to concerns about the widespread destruction of Catlins native forest. The fledgling branch took on an advocacy role, and also became involved in growing native plants and in yellow-eyed penguin conservation – activities that have continued to this day.

The branch now undertakes a wide range of projects, and is keen to become involved with community members in predator control, ecological restoration, biodiversity monitoring and just generally working for nature.

Although South Otago is one of Forest & Bird's smallest branches, it is also one of the most active. We've introduced a flexible format for our monthly meetings, which are often combined with a working bee in our native plant nursery. All members are encouraged to take part, and non-members who care about the environment are always welcome to join us.

OUR PROJECTS

A Voice for Nature

This is a central part of everything we do. In addition to the educational opportunities embedded in our main projects, we also organise displays and field studies, talk to community groups, visit schools, have stands at local events, take part in protest rallies, provide support with community predator trapping, campaign for beach protection and marine protected areas, maintain a facebook page, talk to journalists, make submissions on environmental matters, produce newsletters and stir up politicians of all parties.



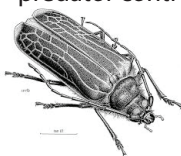
Climate Change Action

We take every opportunity to try and raise public awareness of the need for action on the climate crisis. This can involve setting up displays on practical actions we can take at a local level, urging media coverage of the issues, joining in protest events and providing input into district and regional plans. And of course we "walk the talk" with every native tree we help to plant.



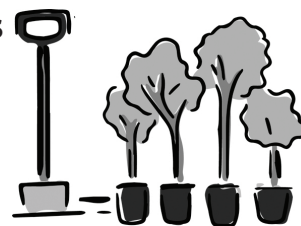
involvement with children & youth

Forest & Bird members are keen to work with young people in schools or youth groups such as St John's Penguins. We can often help to provide opportunities for students to learn about plants and animals of the Catlins. Demonstrations of predator control techniques are always popular, and students enjoy becoming involved with predator tracking. We also organise family-friendly activities such as kowhai viewing and bat walks.



Growing Native Plants

The branch has a long-standing involvement in growing native plants, both for revegetation work and for sale to individuals and community groups. We maintain nurseries in Owaka and Balclutha, and even have an outpost in Invercargill. We take part in planting and weeding as part of restoration projects at Otanomomo and the riparian strip at Dutton's Bridge.



Catlins Bat Project

The Catlins is lucky to still have a long-tailed bat population. Volunteers monitor where the bats forage by collecting data from passive detectors put out across the region. We also actively survey six routes each January and February listening for bat calls with detectors, and organise community bat spotting evenings. (You can borrow a detector from Earthlore, the Visitor Centre in Owaka or in Papatowai.) New volunteers always welcome. A recent development has been "It's Wild" – an opportunity for local artists to draw inspiration from Catlins nightlife. ~~~^..^~~~

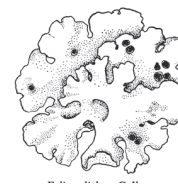


Otanomomo Scientific Reserve

Otanomomo is an important remnant of a rare type of lowland alluvial podocarp/broadleaf forest, which once covered the Clutha River delta. The reserve suffers from serious weed infestation and from introduced predators. Branch members and volunteers carry out biodiversity monitoring; predator tracking and trapping; and weed control and revegetation.



Tautuku Ecological Restoration Project



The Lenz Reserve is Forest & Bird's largest reserve and is a central focus of the landscape scale Tautuku Ecological Restoration Project. South Otago branch is represented on the Lenz Management committee,

which oversees the accommodation, as well as being responsible for maintaining the ecological values of the reserve. Members carry out biodiversity monitoring and predator control. They have also helped to develop new tracks and trapping lines.

