

North Taranaki Forest & Bird + Kiwi Conservation Club news

P.O. Box 1029 New Plymouth 4340

April to June 2018



Wow! Seven of us were in Te Wairoa reserve for the March working bee, making our way from the clearing to the south-east corner, when we came across two specimens of a large, creamy-golden fungus at the base of a very large tree, either a kohekohe or a puriri.

What beauties!

There were a number of stabs at their identity but with the help of Petra Gloyn who sent us in the direction of Jerry Cooper, professional mycologist with Landcare, it is believed they are *Bondarzewia kirkii*.

COMING UP!

AGM & PHOTO COMPETITION

Keep Thursday 19 April at the Community Centre, 7.30 pm free for our 2018 AGM. We'll get the meeting over as smartly as possible and then, before supper, are inviting you to share your favourite photographs of something relevant to Forest & Bird.

Bring prints if you want but we will also project the images. The best, as judged by the committee, will receive a certificate plus prizes of Top Flite bird seed and a bird feeder. There are two classes: KCC members and Adult members.

Email your photographs (up to three per person) to janethuntnz@outlook.com by the end of Monday 9 April. Maximum file size: 5Mb.

Don't forget to include details: who took the photo/s and whether a KCC or adult member and a caption.

Get those cameras snapping! Be creative! Be in to win!

Members of our committee have recently been

travelling and have taken some amazing photos so will exhibit some of them as well.



Call for Nominations

Are you or anyone you know interested in joining our committee? Our current team is standing again (see the list over the page) but we would welcome extra hands. We meet monthly and cover a range of things from the running of our reserves to organising activities and talks. Forest & Bird is playing an increasingly important role in the shaping of our nation and in the conservation of our plants and animals, from on-the-ground sort of stuff at the local level to national campaigns. Check out the website. It's impressive!



Saturday April 7 KCC Purangi trip



Places are filling fast for this KCC event. (For the full programme see p. 8). Adults are welcome but if you wish to go, we suggest you join the group around 4.30 for a picnic tea then, following a brief talk, don head torches and warm clothes for a walk up the Hidden Valley. You will see glow worms and may hear kiwi and bats. Contact Sonya to register: sonyabates@googlemail.com

Sunday 13 May, 11.00 am: F&B wetland walk, 50 Hydro Road

Dawn and Rob Mills have been creating a wetland on their property near Burgess Hill and have kindly offered to show us around. Park outside the gate.

Saturday June 9: North-South get-together, 46 Favier Road, Huiakama. Meet at 10.00 am.

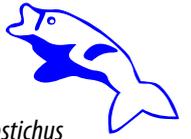
It's South's turn to host this year. We are first going to visit the farm of Sandra and Duncan Blue at 46 Favier Road, Huiakama, east of Stratford. Sandra and Duncan received land management awards for their restoration of a wetland. I'm told their efforts have also been given the stamp of approval by weweia/dabchicks that have moved in (hope they're still there). We're then going to drive on to Whangamomona for lunch in the hotel and maybe a bit of a look around before returning. Those from North Taranaki might like to come back via Matau, Purangi and Tarata, just for fun.



This weweia/dabchick was one of seven seen on the Inglewood settling ponds in February. These cute endemic grebes are found mainly in the Taupo region of the North Island. Their conservation status is described as 'recovering'.

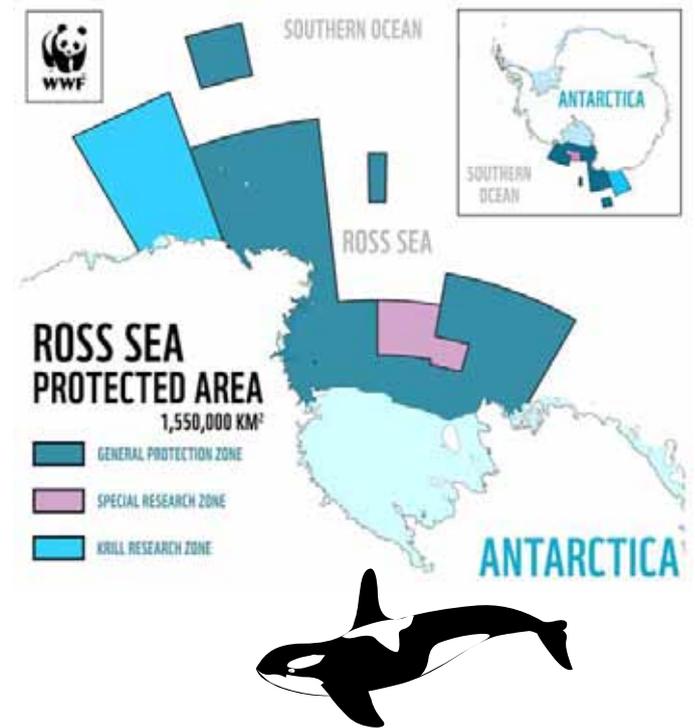
Sunday 8 July, 2.00 pm: *The Last Ocean* movie afternoon, Cue Theatre Inglewood.

Antarctica's Ross Sea is one of the world's truly pristine environments. Unbelievably, in the late 1990s a gold rush mentality developed after the world's fishing fleets began taking the dominant fish predator, Antarctic Toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*) for world markets. It was sold as Chilean Seabass to expensive restaurants at inflated prices. These amazing fish can grow to 2+m in length and weigh more than 150 kg. They are vital to the Ross Sea food chain.



Award-winning director and cameraman Peter Young has spent decades recording this beautiful place. In *The Last Ocean* (2012) he puts the case for the halting all fishing in the area. You may know what happened . . . come and see the creatures and stunning landscape. Running time is 87 minutes. Afternoon tea to follow.

Our thanks to Peter and Fisheye Films for permission to show the movie. Entry by gold coin donation.



SPEAKERS WANTED

It's too wet over winter to reliably plan outdoor activities, so we would like to have more evening or afternoon events. If you know anyone who would be an entertaining or interesting speaker, please let us know.



Who's who at North Taranaki F&B & KCC

Chair/newsletter editor: Janet Hunt (06) 7569165 | janethuntnz@outlook.com
Secretary: Anne Collins (06) 751 1 927 | anne46@orcon.net.nz
Treasurer: Dawn Mills (06) 758 3252 | rjmills58@gmail.com

David Cockeram (06) 758 7580 | davidcockeram@gmail.com
Jackie Cockeram (06) 758 7580 | jackiecockeram@gmail.com
Tony Collins (06) 7511 927 racingfrog27@gmail.com
KCC: Sonya Bates | sonyabates@googlemail.com | 0210674751

AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER TRIP

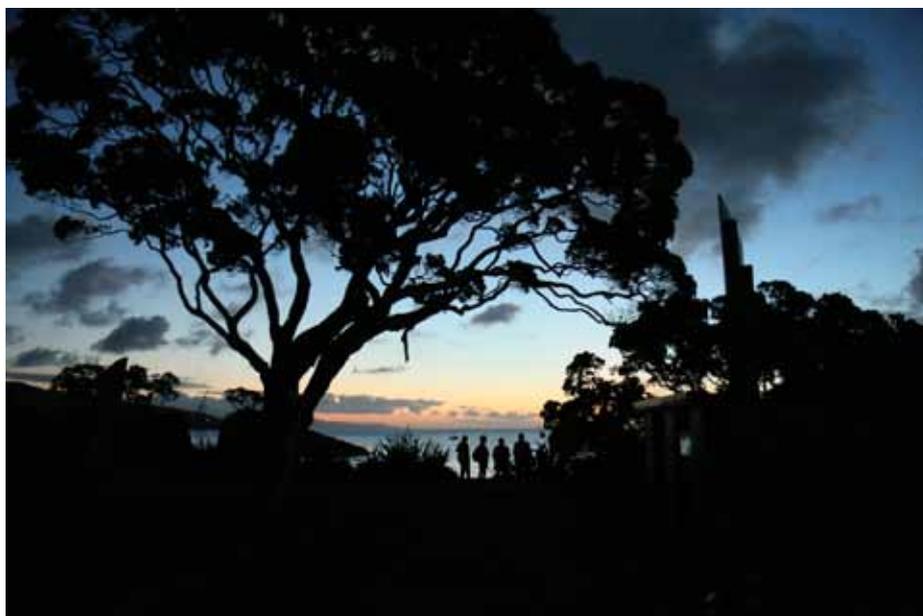


Ten Forest & Bird members visited Aotea/Great Barrier for three days in January. The trip was organised by David and Carol Digby of Eastern Taranaki Experience.

It was an excellent introduction to the island, which is mountainous and largely covered in native vegetation. Although there are cats and pigs, there are no Norway rats, possums, goats or mustelids, making it a haven for lizard and native bird species that are all but gone from the mainland.

We stayed in the south at a lodge in Tryphena and spent our first day exploring that area, visiting beaches, the substantial Kaitoke wetland and hot pool. Day two was in the north, with the highlight being a visit to the predator-fenced Glenfern Sanctuary. Day Three was a chance to do our own thing.

It was a treat to hear kaka in the trees behind our lodge, to see moho pererū (banded rail) running past our deck and to watch pateke (brown teal) fossicking at the water's edge in the bays as well as the rare New Zealand dotterels, the oystercatchers, and the fabulous scenery. It was a long haul there and back but worth it!



TOP: On top of the world at Glenfern Sanctuary; from BL: Tony Collins, Duncan Blue, Gary Adlam, Marion Adlam, Anne Collins, Peter Haines, Janet Hunt; FL: Carol Digby, Sandra Blue, Dave Digby. MIDDLE: Peter Haines and Carol Digby soak in the Kaitoke wetland hot pool. LEFT: evening at Tryphena. BELOW: pateke at the ocean's edge, Okiwi Bay.



Wellington Forest & Bird visit to Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust



Such is Taranaki's popularity that other branches are coming our way! In late February Wellington Forest & Bird's walking and tramping group visited for a week.

We met them at Rotokare in the middle of their stay (following Cyclone Gita!) and were lucky

to have a clear day to show them around. They loved the lake and we enjoyed the opportunity to show off a Taranaki treasure to such an appreciative, chatty and knowledgeable group. They have since made a donation to the branch in appreciation.

Later in the year a second group will be visiting from Kapiti and I won't be surprised if they would like a personalised tour as well! Let us know if you would like to help.

ABOVE: Morning tea in the courtyard prior to the walk around the lake.

Where to now?

A series of regional meetings have been taking place to discuss ideas from our membership how to strengthen Forest and Bird and ensure we are fit for purpose. Support for a constitutional change to enable all members to engage in the process of electing the Board is being discussed. Also needed is feedback on how to increase the active engagement of our members.

Anne and Tony attended the meeting held at our Ruapehu Lodge on 10 and 11 March. Mark Hanger, our President, Helen Tickner, Group Manager, some Regional Managers, and a number of members from the lower North Island made up an interesting and vigorous discussion group. Introductions revealed there is some frustration amongst members with organisational problems. Mark showed they are working towards an easier way for people to sign up, and explained the different types of membership. Making Forest & Bird more publicly visible, making effective submissions, a members' forum to discuss issues, engaging local

council or parliamentary representatives, were among the topics debated. We were told the work of volunteers is extremely valuable. There were different views on the subject of Board elections.

It was a valuable weekend.

Pest Management seminar

In February members of our committee plus past chair Carolyn Brough met with Robyn Kannemeyer and her colleague Nick Kirk, environmental social researchers at Manaaki Whenua — Landcare Research. They are surveying responses to new and developing technologies for managing animal pests — in this case, rats and wasps. Among the methods suggested were various forms of population control, such as selecting for infertile females/males, gene manipulation and targeted toxins.

While no conclusions were reached, it was fascinating to hear the varied, thoughtful and valid responses of those present. Above all, we agree: we want predator control to be safe and humane.

Take care out there!

Health and Safety legislation requires that we have trained people able to administer essential First Aid. Consequently, in February David Cockeram, Tony Collins and Janet attended an excellent, very full one-day course run by St John in New Plymouth. Tony has been trained in the past but needed updating on some techniques and David and Janet learned a lot!

David demonstrates wound stabilisation by bandage. (Tony has impaled himself on a pen.)



AROUND THE RESERVES

We are most appreciative of Taranaki Regional Council officers in looking after our reserves; they support us in so many ways, with hands-on assistance and with advice.

Tom & Don's Reserve



They're not easy to see but the patches of brighter green amidst the grasses are the 2017 plantings in the north gully.



These young trees are from a planting a couple of years ago, to the east of the bush. In a year or so the gully to the left will look like this.

Plantings

Matthew Simpson and Janet Hunt visited Tom & Don's reserve on 16 February this year and were impressed by the 2017 plantings in the northern gully. The 2017 wet spring has clearly been beneficial. We followed the stream to the bush and identified a number of places that could do with infill planting and several where the blackberry needs a good Talking To.

300 plants covering a range of species have been ordered. As with last year, a contractor, Brett Simpson will pre-spray, including the blackberry, and will plant in June.

Predator control

18 Goodnature A24 rat traps were installed in Tom & Don's in October last year so we were interested to see the first results on 19 January, after Toby Shanley, Lyndon DeVantier and David Cockeram did a trapping run. They were impressive: 51 kills (unidentified) in the A24s with a further 8 rats, 2 hedgehogs and one stoat in the DOC 200s. This followed a period of no predator control because of the wet winter and the farm closure.

Hopefully numbers will be decreasing henceforth.



Te Wairoa Dorothy Baker Memorial Reserve

Te Wairoa planting

A recent blitz in the South East corner has released the plantings from 2015 and tidied up a little of the *Tradescantia* in that corner. A few plants haven't made it, so we will look at infill planting this year, plus a few more plants near the lower stile where the *Tradescantia* has been sprayed.

Predator control

Thanks to the donation of \$915.00 by Mel and Shane Hurliman we are about to install five A24 rat traps and one A24 trap baited for stoats. We have a team who check traps on a roster; hopefully this will make the round a little shorter and speedier.

Storm damage

Cyclone Gita on 14 February toppled a kohekohe and a treefern near the Mountain Road boundary. The heads of the trees are not resting on but are over the fence and the uprooted treefern has dislodged one of the bridges over the drain. The damage is too great for us to deal with ourselves so we have contacted High Frontiers to cut the trees up. We hope to be able to use some of the kohekohe slabs to make steps nearby.

Friendship Force visit

On 18 March 19 members of the New Plymouth Friendship Force visited the reserve. As with the Rotokare visit, it was great to show them around. They were most interested and very keen to try and find the hydrangea that many remembered fringing the lower paddock at the time of purchase. It wasn't easy but we located a few leaves!

Wash your hands!



Thanks to a kind donation from a member we have a water barrel alongside the shed, installed by Tony. It was very handy during the visit on 18 March after we were demonstrating how effective the composting of *Tradescantia* in black plastic bags has been.



Even though the trees are encroaching a little, the clearing is an excellent place for a picnic. It was great to see so many friendly and familiar faces.

The
Cooperative
Bank

The New Zealand-owned Co-operative Bank is a partner with Forest & Bird. To find out more contact Jessica White at New Plymouth branch, 06 7596540 or visit their website: www.co-operativebank.co.nz.



KCC

Kiwi Conservation Club

Autumn 2018

NEWS

Kiwi Conservation Club has had an exciting start to the year with two very well attended events.

The first was a Coastblitz at Mangahume, a little known beach in South Taranaki which we were guided around by Emily Roberts local marine biology expert and Dotterel Defender. We had a great time identifying some unusual sea life and hauling away as much rubbish as we could. The species found were then added to the naturewatch web page to be identified and to add to the scientific body of biodata around this patch of coastline.

In February, the local Herpetological society wowed us with their native lizard collection at Brooklands Zoo park, and more than a few of us came away keen to house lizards in our own back gardens.

We have been working on networking and collaborating with other wildlife agencies, in particular, having the support of Wild For Taranaki is generating much more interest in our planned events.

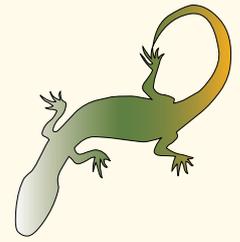
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ABOVE: At Mangahume: Emily Roberts explains what we will be doing.

INSERT TOP: Dylan Bates exploring the rocky shore.

INSERT RIGHT: What's this? Can you eat it? Is it a jelly bean? It's one of the marine creatures we found among the rocks.



LEFT: Learning about lizards with members of the Herpetological Society at Rotokare. Excellent!

HAPPENING SOON!

Sat April 7th 3:30-7:30pm | Purangi Kiwi Trip

We have an exciting trip planned which is hosted by the Purangi Kiwi Project. We will arrive in daylight to walk the Hidden Valley track (30 minutes — suitable for young children), where we can enjoy the native forest and prolific birdlife, including robins. We will return to the shelter for a BBQ dinner, then as darkness falls we will venture along the track again to see the glow-worms, and if we are quiet enough we may hear the kiwi calling!

<http://www.purangikiwi.co.nz/visitor-information/hidden-valley-walk/>

Please note there is a cost of \$10 per person for this event. It is almost full so registrations will be closing soon.

Rotakare scenic reserve

We are currently negotiating a time and date to be hosted here. It is likely we will be looking at bird monitoring and predator identification and trapping. When a date is confirmed this will be circulated via email and our Facebook page.

We appreciate you booking ahead for KCC activities because this helps the leader with preparation. If you book in then cannot come, please let the leader know as early as possible.

Please note that our leaders take every care to provide a fun trip that is safe. However, it is a KCC national policy that all children are accompanied by a responsible adult throughout the whole event.

If you or any people you know are interested in joining KCC contact NorthTaranaki@kcc.org.nz or phone Sonya Bates: on 0210674751.

WANTED!

Michelle Berridge, who has been in the role of KCO for a number of years, is now unable to continue. She has been a great source of enthusiasm and ideas and will be missed although she still plans to attend events as able along with her two children, Melissa & Jake.

We are looking for a new person/s to join Sonya in planning trips. It is a fun role and connects you to many other conservation minded people in our community. Even better, because you plan the events, you can make sure you can go to them!

Our Facebook group Kiwi Conservation Club/Forest & Bird Taranaki, is the easiest way to stay up to date with upcoming events and updates to these.



Do you know about any exciting conservation projects or do you have contacts in the conservation field? Please get in touch and share your ideas, so an event can be planned around this.



Going on a KCC outing?

Our weather changes fast! For a safe and happy trip, we must be prepared.

Always bring: * Sturdy walking shoes * Day pack with raincoat and warm jersey * Sun hat, woolly hat and sun block * Food * Water bottle * Friends and family, including an adult (over 20) who is responsible for you.

