



# Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

## Southland Branch Newsletter

April 2019

### Our Calendar

#### Winter Events:

All talks at SIT Tay St Invercargill Room B1:10  
Start at 7.30pm except the AGM in May 7pm

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019** - Southland Branch AGM and Speakers Colin Bishop "Battle for our Birds" and Sue Maturin F&B Southern Field Officer. Venue SIT Tay St, Room B1:11. Start 7pm

**Weekend 18-19 May 2019** Tautuku Working Weekend. Bookings needed for accommodation Contact Noel [noelclayton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:noelclayton@xtra.co.nz)

**Saturday 15 June 2019** KCC Matariki Night Celebration and BYO Supper to share at Community Nursery Education Centre. From 6pm - park 183 Grant Road (ph Chris 2131161), Bronwyn KCC 2130017 [southland@kcc.org.nz](mailto:southland@kcc.org.nz)

**Wednesday 19 June 2019** – Speaker Francesca Cunninghame – The Galapagos Islands Mangrove Finch (SIT talk. Note the venue may be Hansen Hall).



## Winter Events Continued:

**Monday 15 July 2019** – Speaker Louise Chilvers - the effects of oil on wildlife, New Zealand's oiled wildlife response preparedness (SIT talk - Note the venue may be Hansen Hall).

**Tuesday 13 Aug 2019** – Speaker Konrad Richter - Russian Arctic Exploration - Wildlife, History and Culture.

**Saturday 17 August 2019** - Te Rere Penguin Reserve planting day  
Contact Brian Rance [rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz](mailto:rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz)  
Bookings essential for transport.

**Tuesday 10 Sept 2019** – Speaker Brian Rance – The flora fauna and history of Lord Howe Island

**Saturday 14 Sept 2019** - Bushy Point Triple Celebration - Otatara Conservation Week Activity - Big tree planting day for families at Bushy Point (ph Barry 2131500). Combined with Kiwi Conservation Club Bronwyn KCC 2130017 [southland@kcc.org.nz](mailto:southland@kcc.org.nz)

**Weekend 28/29 Sept 2019** Tautuku Working Weekend in the Catlins.  
Bookings needed for accommodation Contact Noel [noelclayton@extra.co.nz](mailto:noelclayton@extra.co.nz)

**Tuesday 8 Oct 2019** – Speaker Estelle Leask - Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust and Predator Free 2050

**Please put these dates in your calendar and come along, encourage your friends to attend. These events are funded by Southland Branch, free to attend and all are welcome.**

## E-News from Chief Executive Kevin Hague



Every month Kevin Hague emails out E-News highlighting the latest news and campaigns. If you don't currently receive this on email and would like to email [membership@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:membership@forestandbird.org.nz) and add your email to their membership list.

E-News April 2019 contained stories and links to great information on

**Mega mast response**

**Rubbish & Climate Change**

**Courageous Conservation**

**Restoring our High Country**



### Parting shot

A an adult Male New Zealand Falcon (Kārearea) captured in flight by

[Kurien Koshy Yohannan](#) - @igallopfree



For a chance to be featured, share your nature photos on Instagram or twitter and tag [@forestandbird](#). Or join our [nature photography Facebook page](#).

## Would you like to receive the Karearea newsletter?



### ***Fake news? – No, fake sea lions!***

Kimberley D'Souza is a science student at Auckland University of Technology. Her long term goal is to carry out research that will help to provide management tools that will reduce the rate of degradation and human disturbance of the natural environment. So why is she working with fake sea lions?

### **What is the Karearea Newsletter?**

Karearea is a newsletter full of southern conservation stories and events. It is edited by Jane Young of South Otago F&B Branch and every month we send it around our Southland members promoting Southlands upcoming events.

If you haven't received a Karearea it means F&B doesn't have your email address – so if you want to receive this newsletter and regular updates on Southland's F&B events please send National Office your email address - [membership@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:membership@forestandbird.org.nz). By doing this you also save the Branch the cost of printing and posting your newsletters. Of course if you prefer to receive hard copy of the branch newsletters that is fine too, but the monthly Karearea is only available on email and the best way to notify you about changes to the programme is by email.

# Te Rere Penguin Report

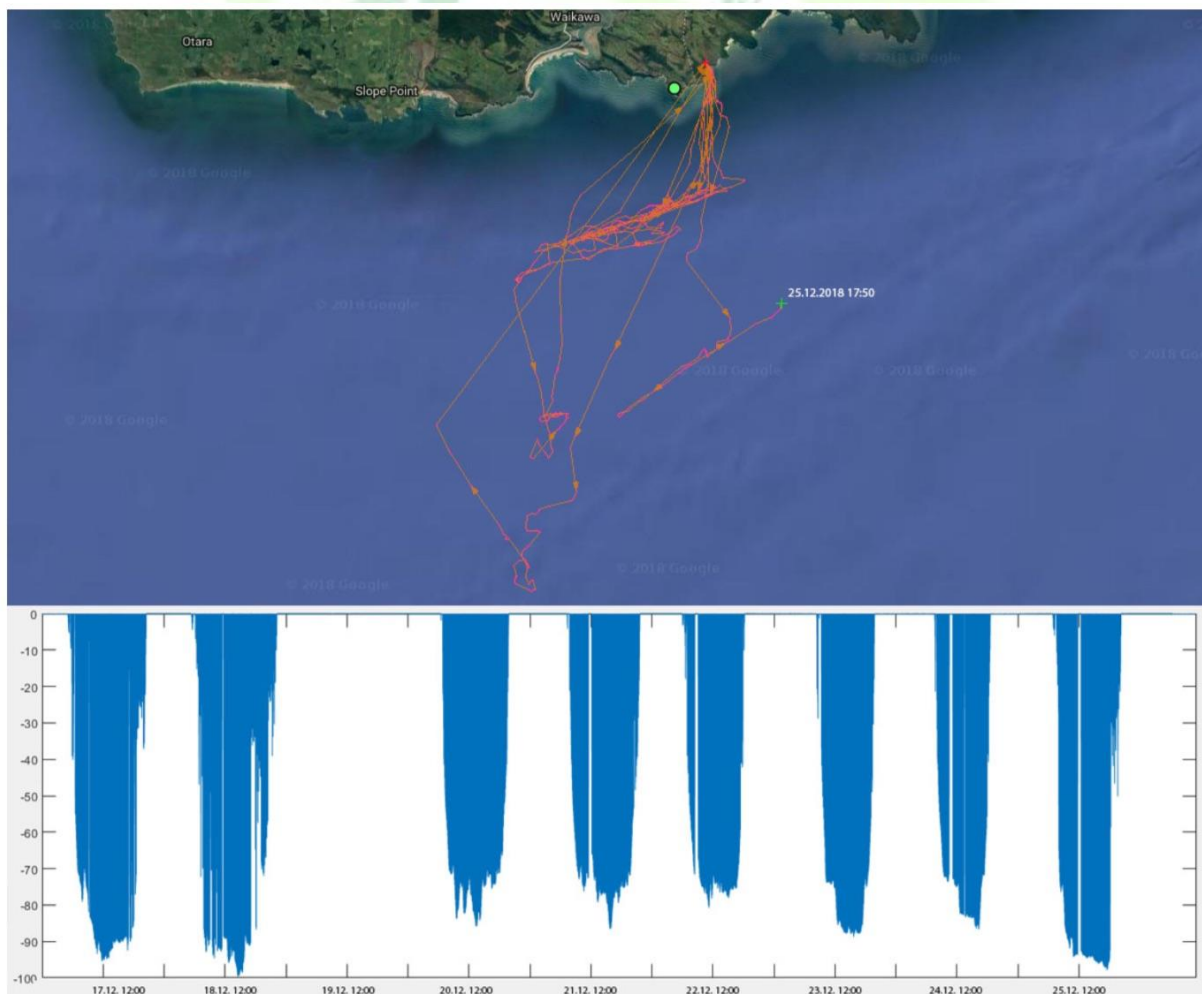
## 25 January 2019

The yellow eyed penguins at Te Rere have reduced in numbers to 27, down from over 50 a few years ago and we have only 2 active nests now - last year 9 and a few years ago over 20. It is caused by food chain changes at sea - the birds are finding it harder to get their preferred prey. Climate change and commercial fishing influences are behind the trend, but the exact relationship remains uncertain. It's a big and largely mysterious sea out there. These trends are happening with all the mainland birds, not just at Te Rere.

At the moment we have Scientists Thomas Mattern and Mel Young tracking some of the birds - this requires attaching and retrieving devices to their backs - not easy...

See preliminary tracking results below for two of our birds and Thomas has a more detailed report which will be referred to at the AGM.

On a positive note, there are fewer predators at Te Rere as the manual trap catches of stoats and rats are low, it seems that the protective array of Squawk Squad automatic traps are doing their job. The titi are active at their burrows as this the [video](#) from recent nights show. (This is the same active burrow location shown in the video from this time last year.)



GPS tracks and dive profile of bird id 982000405533506, Te Rere, Catlins, 17.-25.12.2018



Attaching  
the  
transmitter  
to the  
back of  
the  
penguin.



There will be a full article on the plight of penguins  
in the next Forest and Bird Magazine



One of our committee members Maryann has done a painting of yellow-eyed penguin and chick at Te Rere as a fundraiser.

This painting will be auctioned on Trademe

<https://www.trademe.co.nz/art/painting/flora-fauna/acrylic/auction-2010016159.htm>

Cards and prints will be for sale at meetings – proceeds to Te Rere - A3 prints \$15, A4s \$10 & packs of 5 cards \$25.



# Southland Community Nursery and Education Centre

## – it's a happening place!

### Southland Community Nursery News April 2019

There has been plenty happening at the Nursery and Education Centre since Christmas. Numerous school groups have experienced the magic of nature – we have a log of all activities with photographs at <https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/news-and-events/>. Expect more activity as we were successful with a Lotteries Funding application which will help with that aspect over the coming year.

We also have an exciting line-up of Workshops ahead (thanks to ILT Foundation Funding) – from apple pressing to plant propagation, plant ID, art, natural body products etc – check out dates and details at

<https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/education-centre/activities/workshops/>

Weekend 11-12 May 2019 Nature Journaling Workshop with Jo Ogier – Southland Community Nursery – bookings essential – 2 places left!!.

[bookings@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz](mailto:bookings@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz) [Workshop Details](#)

<https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/education-centre/activities/workshops/>

We continue to produce and sell native plants to fund other aspects of Nursery activity and supply hardy locally grown plants for Southland restoration projects. On Friday mornings volunteers help with nursery activities and networking over morning tea. In exchange for work, participants can take away some native plants for their efforts.

At the recently held Native Plant Restoration Workshop, Brian talked on “Right Plant, Right Place” and his presentation is available as a pdf file at

<https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/education-centre/activities/workshops/>



Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Southland-Community-Nursery-1824134004516199/?ref=nf>



Kahikatea fruit at Rances Bush



Workshop participants enjoy a cuppa in the Education Centre

## Native Plant Restoration Workshop 5 April 2019

Around 70 people came to the Invercargill Workingmens Club to hear a number of interesting speakers in the morning. First up Waikato Universities People Cities Nature team of Bruce Clarkson, Kiri Wallace and Catherine Kirby who presented on their nationwide cities restoration project. This was followed by speakers Brian Rance, Tim Whittaker, James Griffiths and Ben Doherty. After lunch everyone came to the Southland Community Nursery and into Bushy Point where Chris Rance, Jesse Bythell, Kiri Wallace and Brian Rance spoke about the various aspects of restoration in the field. You can read all about it at <https://www.peoplecitiesnature.co.nz/>

Brians presentation on "Right Plant Right Place" at <https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/education-centre/activities/workshops/>

**Chris Rance**

## Tautuku – Painting Expedition



Photo: Sprucing up for 50 years celebration!

Workers from South Otago and Southland Branches are feeling a great sense of accomplishment after completing painting 3 blocks of buildings in February at Forest and Bird Lenz Reserve in Catlins (left back) Mary Sutherland, Fergus Sutherland, Geoff Dembo, Francois Flanagan (front left) Jenny Campbell, Dawn Patterson, Noel Clayton.

Enthusiasm abounded for getting 'stuck in' to painting almost immediately when three Southland F&B members arrived on Friday night from Invercargill and beyond with the huge mission of painting all the buildings at F&B's Lenz Reserve over the weekend of 8-10 February.

Three got in to it on Friday night and finished about half of Coutts cabins before tea! The Saturday morning another contingent of 2 arrived from Invercargill plus a WWOOFer came for 3 hours with the team. They managed to finish Coutts Cabin and adjacent toilet block and started the main Lodge by 7pm, with much appreciated extra help from South Otago people who had come down for the AGM.

Some keen people joined in the 8 km walk looking for bats up Catlins Valley road from 9pm to midnight with one being found using the bat detector. Very exciting. Sunday dawned calm and hot again with all hands on deck from Southland and South Otago branches completing the main lodge by 1pm, in time for lunch, clean up and back to Invercargill by 5pm.

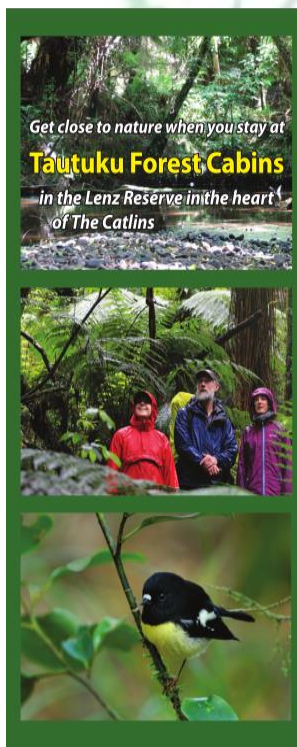
It was very satisfying having nearly completed the whole complex in such a short time. Fergus Sutherland had water blasted all the building except the A frame but he did that on Sunday morning. A small group from Southland undertook to go back another weekend to paint the small A frame and tidy up a few windowsills so they could say the job was really finished.

Thank you to Southland members under the instructions of volunteer coordinators, Dawn Patterson and Noel Clayton for their contribution to the Lenz Reserve. A superb accomplishment!

Very timely as the building are all spruced up for **the celebration of 50 years** since the Lenz F&B project was started. A get together is planned for the **afternoon of Sat 21 Sept 2019**. Anyone who has been associated in any way with the reserve over the years is welcome to join others to reminisce, bring memorabilia and catch up with what is happening now and in to the future for the area.

Please let your members know and set the date aside, with more details to follow. Southland contact is Peggy Snoep, 03 2188363, [peggysnoep@gmail.com](mailto:peggysnoep@gmail.com)

### Next working weekend 18 May 2019!



For More Information

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/lodges/tautuku-lodge-otago>

or find us on Facebook.

**Tautuku Cabins can be booked online at**

**Book it just follow the link below**

**<https://bookings.bookitsecure.com/pub/supplier.aspx?b=LENZRE>**

## Mid Dome working bee, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Photo: Overseas participants enjoying the challenge of removing wilding pine seedlings from Mid Dome on Saturday ( 9/3/2019) are (left) Dr John Dromey from Ireland, Tapuwa Marapara, Zimbabwe, Annika Sommerfeld, Germany, Jessica Zhao, China, Kyla Sherbanowski, Northland and Jeremy Shannon, Wellington.

A keen, enthusiastic and committed group of 28 people from across Southland, Otago, North Island and even from around the world used a lot of energy to remove small and not so small wilding pine seedlings, mainly *Pinus contorta*, from a large face at the top of Mid Dome in Northern Southland on Saturday (9/3/2019).

Environment Southland, (ES) *Te Taiao Tonga*, Biosecurity Officer, organiser for the day Adam Brown said the problem arose when non- native species were planted to try to prevent erosion in the high country, such as at Mid Dome, with the wildings resulting and taking over the native tussock grasslands. . Alongside the serious loss of native vegetation and the high country ecosystem the risks from wildings to farmland, fire danger and the loss of water through the trees have been recognised and responded to.

Chair of the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust, Ali Timms Ballentine told the participants that the Trust was formed in 2006.

"Over the years, with about 30 volunteers at each of two working bees a year, they have removed millions of seedlings and trees which is invaluable and vital for the Trust's work," she said. "Wildings are a great problem across the country, often not recognised."

"In 2016 the Government put \$16 million in to the wilding problem with our Trust proving it can do the work to control the problem here," she said. "Costs are high so with help from volunteers, more efficient chemicals and techniques, it means the dollars go further."

Boffa Miskell Project Manager, Marcus Girvan said he manages all operational activities for the Trust including aerial boom spraying, aerial basal bark application, ground control teams mostly using chainsaws plus volunteers using hand-tools.

"I have been in this position for five years with over a million dollar budget in the past two years thanks to funding partners of Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and Land Information New Zealand," he said. "We are making good progress with aerial spraying and ground crews with the aim to get seedlings before the four year old stage when they start forming cones and seeding, which will destroy all the good work we have done to date."

"We have a multi-million dollar application in to the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, administered by Ministry of Primary Industries which we are hoping will be successful," Timms Ballentine said. "Thank you to the Environment Southland and Department of Conservation staff who have spent this time on their weekend to work with the energetic volunteers to make this such an effective working bee in these ideal mild, calm and overcast conditions."



# Southland Ecological Restoration Network

The Southland Ecological Restoration Network has a website where you can look up, and link to many of the Community Groups doing conservation restoration projects throughout Southland. Check out your local area on the map and get involved with any good projects happening there, connect with a group and help out. - SERN Website- [www.sern.org.nz](http://www.sern.org.nz)

## Kiwi Conservation Club Southland

KCC is a children's conservation club you can join at [www.kcc.org.nz](http://www.kcc.org.nz) – you will receive 4 copies of the “Wild Things” magazine as well as being able to enjoy local outings – contact local KCC Coordinator Bronwyn 213 0017, [southland@kcc.org.nz](mailto:southland@kcc.org.nz) for further details.



Riverton Outing March 2019

## May & Russell Evans find solutions for Bush Haven Bird Rescue



It has taken about a year of searching for the right solutions to continue the work done by May and Russell Evans over many years, to rehabilitate injured native birds at their property Bush Haven in Otatara.

May said that after Russell snapped his femur last April retirement was necessary and the search was on to find new people to continue it. "It was very stressful before Christmas until Kathy Morrison, our first regular volunteer who has helped us for six years, along with Douglas Black, stepped in to take up the hospital side of the bird rehabilitation and Gretchen Ledington said she would take the kereru release aviary, " she said. "Our Bush Haven Trust will be supporting the new helpers financially."

"Some aviaries will go to Kathy and Gretchen for their work with the rest going to good homes, and we are taking two smaller ones to our new home in South City," Russell said. "Kathy and Douglas are converting an area in their double garage for initial care of injured birds."

The Otatara community and friends from Invercargill and across Southland enjoyed a barbeque followed by reminiscing and storytelling, cutting of a kereru (native pigeon) cake and gifts of appreciation were presented to May and Russell for their passion, dedication and knowledge gleaned as they rehabilitated many birds. Kereru, tui, bellbirds, ruru and falcon have all been nursed back to health after injuries.

One story told by Hannah McLeod summed up the couple's place in the environmental world. "As a young journalist I saw the opportunity for a story about them and their need for a kaka aviary as a pair were showing signs of breeding," she said. "Fonterra saw the story and donated their time and supplies to build it. "The pair have bred 24 chicks over four to five years with the female being named after me and the male called Casey after the staff at the casein department at the Edendale plant, who did all the work," she said." It showed me the value of journalism in bringing the community together, to achieve good things and to get friends for life, like May and Russell."

"We love the birds and the fact that it will carry on and the birds will be cared for is the main thing for us," Russell said. "The people we have met and the friends we have made through the birds is the best thing."

## **Treating our societal addiction to growth – Professor - Robert Costanza**

Professor Costanza discussed how societies - like individuals - can become addicted to patterns of detrimental and unsustainable material consumption and how addiction based therapies can offer communities solutions for alternative futures. How can societies turn around patterns detrimental to the future of the world's environments and the health and wellbeing of people? Motivational Interviewing on a societal level engages entire communities via public opinion and forums to discuss their goals and futures, enabling community engaged scenario planning to build consensus about preferred alternative futures. By rebalancing efforts away from only pointing out the dire consequences of the current behaviour of societies in relation to sustainability, resilience, and climate change, effective addiction therapies can build toward a shared vision of a positive future and ways for societies to get there together.

The talk and questions will be on ES website <https://www.es.govt.nz>  
And for more information about The Wellbeing Economy - <https://www.es.govt.nz>

# All About Bats!

## Bat Hunting in Northern Southland March 2019 by Jenny Campbell

The headwaters of the Aparima River up the Dunrobin Valley in Northern Southland was rumoured to have long tailed bats in residence so using the new F& B bat detectors, Matt Coffey and Jenny Campbell of Mossburn undertook to research this rumour.

March seemed the ideal month - mainly because we weren't organised in February! Mid- March saw us walk along a formed road towards the Aparima Hut from 9pm, turning around after walking about 5km with no results re bats, but having heard a lot of other night life and seen rabbits, hares, ferret and a wild cat. We got home at 1am after a gentle walk on a lovely mild night with heaps of stars, great conversation but a little despondent about there being no bats that night.

However Matt went for a saunter around the base of West Dome on Sun evening and captured the click-click calls on the detector of one bat and managed to record it on his cell phone! As well he saw one in flight in his headlamp. Great success!

Late March we persevered with Aparima hunt, walking up the bush track beside the river on a gorgeous mild calm evening, setting out in daylight and arriving at the hut at 8.30pm. Found 4 deer stalkers and three young people from France intent on completing the Te Ara Roa trail after 5 months, all quite surprised but very interested when we turned up in the dark and explained what we were up to! Unfortunately on the 6km walk out through the wetland we did not find any bats but were pleased with our efforts and enjoyed ourselves. There is always next season!

There have also been other surveys recently:

## A mystery solved!! By Geoff Dembo

At dusk on a still, muggy evening in January, Chris and I set out from the Community Nursery in Grant Road with torches and what looked like TV remotes. Our route would take us on a 4km loop across the Bushy Point planting area and back via quiet Otatara roads. There were plenty of moths fluttering around, so we wouldn't have a better chance to find bats.

There are two species of bat in this country: short-tailed and long-tailed. They are small and harmless, feeding on flying insects, and are the only native land mammals in NZ. Harried by introduced predators such as rats, and with fewer forest trees around to roost in during the day, they have become much rarer over the years. Local people around the country are being recruited to do bat surveys, in the hope that the number of bats can be monitored and their roosting trees found and protected.

The devices Chris and I carried were our newly acquired bat detectors, which would enable us to hear the sounds made by bats as they hunt. These are above the range of human hearing, at a frequency of 40 KHz for the long-tailed bats we were after.

As we ambled slowly through the darkness, a gentle hissing coming from the detectors, we came across some hedgehogs on the path but no bats yet. Coming out of the trees, we passed the Bushy Point pond and headed across open ground. Nearing the mound, the detectors went off ! Woo hoo !

The sound continued, on and off, as we walked across the long grass to the Bryson Road end. Something was wrong, though. The buzzing sound from the detectors was unlike the chirps which we had heard on a recording of bats we'd listened to on the internet. What could it be ? Were there other creatures out there making ultrasonic sounds ? Or was it from something man-made, like cell phone signals or electric fences ?

The next day we got in touch with Catriona Gower of Dunedin, who is organising the bat surveys in coastal Otago and Southland. She didn't know what the sound was either.

Determined to solve the mystery, I went back during the daytime and wandered around Bushy Point with a bat detector. The sound was still there, so definitely not bats. It seemed to come from little areas of the long grass. As I leaned over to look closely at one of these areas, I saw a bumble bee. Was that it ? But no, the bumble bee flew off and the sound stayed. I poked the detector towards the grass, and the sound from it got louder. Up popped two wee crickets, clamped together in mating position. After a couple of seconds, they sprang away and the sound stopped.

Mystery solved !

## Going Batty with Catriona Gower

Catriona Gower also came down to Riverton on 28 March 2019 to do talks for the local school and then take a bat walk in the Longwoods. The night was very popular with families and lots of children attended, but unfortunately no bats!

Southland Forest and Bird bought a bat detector for Southland as did Otatara Landcare Group and Southland Community Nursery. They are available to borrow, but the temperatures at night are probably now too cold – so as Jenny says “there's always next season!”

We are compiling a list of interested batty people so if you want more information contact Catriona at [catlinsbats@gmail.com](mailto:catlinsbats@gmail.com)





## Forest and Bird Youth Groups

<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/our-community/forest-bird-youth>

Forest & Bird Youth is a nationwide network of young people (aged 14 — 25) who are protecting and restoring Aotearoa's wildlife and wild places.

By harnessing their passion to create change, they are inspiring and involving young people to protect planet earth and do their part to reverse the crisis facing nature in New Zealand.

### How does it work?

Forest & Bird Youth Hubs are created and run by young people, for young people. Some meet up in person and contribute their time to running events or to local conservation projects, while others meet up online to discuss environmental issues or run advocacy campaigns. There is no limit on how many hubs a young person can be involved in and hubs can be formed around any interest area.

By connecting with Forest & Bird Branches, they are able to share and develop their skills, improve knowledge of conservation issues, and gain experience working in the field. They also receive opportunities to develop their leadership skills, such as attending the Annual General Meetings in Wellington.

The programme is funded through a Forest & Bird Youth Fund and supported by a Youth Advisor based at National Office.

## Southland Branch Committee:

Chair: Lori Johnston 027 683 8528  
Christine Henderson, Lumsden (03 2487605)  
David Fortune Te Anau 03 2497259  
Neill Robertson, (Manapouri) 03 2499595  
Chris and Brian Rance 03 2131161  
Gay Munro 03 2395827  
Edith Jones Manapouri 03 246991

Jenny Campbell (Mossburn) 032486398  
Peggy Snoep 03 2188363  
Margaret Hopkins (Stewart Island) 032191126  
Ruth Dalley (Te Anau) 03 2496664  
Amy Duffill-Brookes 027 6926839  
Maryann Darmody 021 02612817  
Beth Duffill-Brookes 027 3767089

### **Forest and Bird Addresses:**

Southland Branch, Box 71, Mossburn (note change of address),

Southern Region Office – Sue Maturin PO Box 364, Dunedin

Central Office – PO Box 631, Wellington

[www.forest-bird.org.nz](http://www.forest-bird.org.nz)



Our committee is keen to hear from any member who can help out with a variety of tasks.

If you are good with technology we could do with help setting up the monthly talk equipment, if you like design maybe you could help with Newsletters or facebook page, or help with trips, submissions, stalls, events, Te Rere, Tautuku or something new for the Branch email Chris– [rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz](mailto:rances@southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz) or the Branch Email [Southland.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Southland.branch@forestandbird.org.nz)



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**SOUTHLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

Southland  
Branch  
Box 71,  
Mossburn

**April 2019**