



Mitigation of climate change determines the lives of a child like this, and our flora and fauna

Kapiti-Mana Forest and Bird

Newsletter May 2021

Chair's Opinion

I am sure most F&B people know the difference between mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Mitigation is stopping climate change by reducing carbon dioxide. Adaptation is (among other things) building sea walls to stop rising seas undermining buildings. Mitigation helps all people and flora and fauna. Adaptation helps a few people until climate change get worse. Mitigation starts dealing with the problem now. Adaptation passes the problem on to our children. The Kapiti Long Term Plan does not plan for any mitigation. I wrote a submission for Forest and Bird, but I decided to also give an oral submission. This is my oral submission.

Climate change is a threat, not only to people but also to forests and birds – to flora and fauna.

Bill Gates gives us a good model for climate change – Filling a bath where you can only turn off the incoming water, very slowly and everyone else must do some turning too. Disaster happens when the bath overflows. You could adapt to the situation by building up the sides of the bath, but the incoming water will catch up and the overflow will be worse. Instead of trying to slow the inflow, you have wasted precious time and accrued debt building up the sides when you knew that hours later the water would catch up. If instead you had used mitigation techniques reducing the flow, to the extent that you could, the overflow would have been smaller.

If the bath was in a rented room for the night and you managed to contain the overflow until you leave, the full to overflowing bath becomes the next occupant's problem.

Putting money into adaptation and not addressing mitigation is an admission of failure, is self-centered, and does not address the fact that climate change will just get harder and the losses greater.

After you have built the walls, and increased storm water capability, will you then have the lead time to address the real problem? Reducing

the amount of carbon emitted or increasing sequestration.

Are you leaving it to other councils and countries to solve the reduction of carbon? (remembering that we have the 6th highest emissions per capita and are a rich nation).

Will you then have the borrowing ability, having spent millions on adaptation, to mitigate?

Have you spent your money on a privileged few? Life-styled, well off, insured, housed, older people.

What about our fellow travelers on this earth - our flora and fauna? A biodiversity crisis could be just as significant to people as climate change. They somewhat go hand in hand.

Have you loaded the now larger problem and the cost on to the future generation?

This is not an issue to be provincial or generational over. Climate change requires a large and generous stance. We cannot wall ourselves in and pump out the excess. This is a time to co-ordinate and use our advantages to lessen a threat to the world, to biodiversity and to us.

Do you think that climate change will be slow enough, that world and government mitigation requirements won't blow this ten-year plan out of the water?

If this was a theoretical exercise and I had the authority, I would ask you to start over. Happily, for you, I don't have that authority.

Thank you for listening to me.

Guru said Mitigation is global. Adaptation is local. Welcome to local government. What a cop-out. No mitigation from KCDC then.

I was asked what mitigation opportunities I would recommend. I replied that if I was looking at creating the Long-Term plan, I would want the costed opportunities laid out and an analysis of the best bang for the buck. So perhaps the councillor could tell me. No response.

On a related matter, KCDC employed two people, Lawrence and John, who helped restoration groups restore KCDC land. They do what volunteers could not or do not want to do

including heavy lifting, spraying, chain sawing, plant aftercare and much more that I don't know about. They enhanced the success of the volunteer groups. They were always a pleasure to meet and work with. John has been placed temporarily in Rob Cross's role (Rob has left the council). Lawrence has taken up other similar employment outside KCDC. The work done by volunteers is important for biodiversity and climate change (The plants sequester carbon) .

This is a KCDC contribution to climate change, and if climate change much more lead time, I might be satisfied. But we don't have that time. Comparing KCDC adaptation plans with Kapiti restoration planting, reveals adaptation will cost millions, mitigation a pittance, and adaptation will be by paid professionals, most mitigation will be undertaken by volunteers. Let us hope that there are Lawrence and John replacement staff soon.

I wonder: do KCDC councillors believe they can wall us off from climate change? do they believe KCDC does not have a mitigation part to play (but others should)? have they not taken the calls to action of our youth (and others) seriously? or do they just not recognize the scale of the issue, the lead-times and the threat.

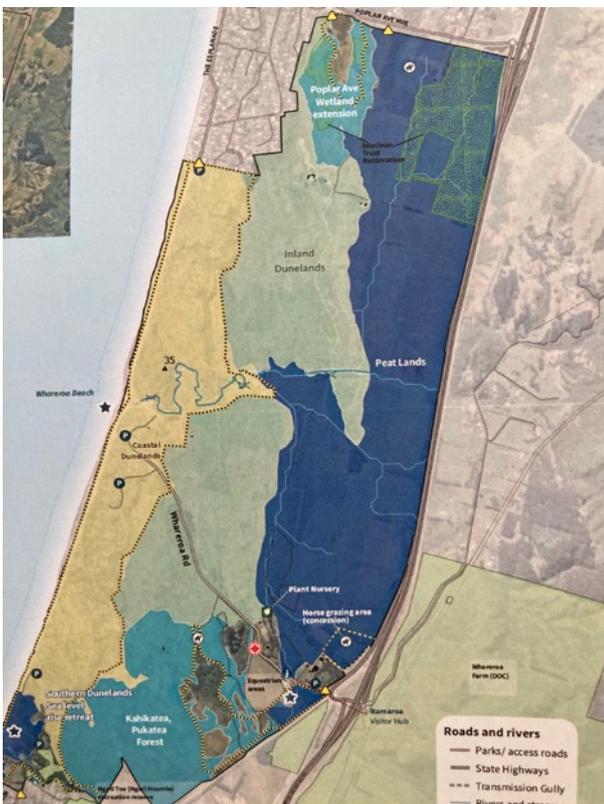
Russell

Have your say on changing transport emissions

[Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi - Transport Emissions: Pathways to Net Zero by 2050](#) is a recently released Ministry of Transport report. It outlines potential policies and pathways to a net zero emission transport sector to meet the draft advice and recommendations of the Climate Change Commission and move New Zealand's transport system (responsible for 47% of our CO2e emissions) to a net zero carbon transport system by 2050. The government is asking for submissions - which close on 25 June 2021.

Update on Queen Elizabeth Park

The friends of Queen Elizabeth Park won a large chunk of money to restore the southern peatlands of QEP (Remember that GWRC is restoring the northern peatlands) The Friends wrote to Daran Ponter, Chair of GWRC, and he wrote back saying *GW is absolutely committed to the restoration of QEP's natural environment... we would propose a pathway to investing the funds in restoring the area within a 3-year window... .*



This is part of the recently published Parks Network Plan. The dark blue area is all peatlands. Alongside is written that the first restoration priority for QEP is the area in dark blue.

So while we do not have a definite plan yet, all the indicators align. GWRC councillors (not necessarily all), the Parks Network Plan, and some money to do much of the work.

In about 3 years, Kapiti could have one of the largest wetlands in the Wellington region. We just have to make sure it good quality and it provides a good experience for visitors.

June Rowland QSM

June Rowland died this month aged 97, her memorial service is on 29 May at 2pm at Coast Community Church, Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu. June and Fred moved to Raumati as newlyweds after the war and lived their lives there.

June was involved in making life better for many, but we wanted to highlight her contribution to our environment on the Kapiti Coast. It all came about because of a chat over a cuppa with the Monday Walkers, about how the nature of the landscape was changing due to development. What could they do to ensure the most important features got saved? It was from this discussion that KEA - Kapiti Environmental Action group was formed, in 1990, comprising long term Kapiti residents.

June led the Forests and Wetlands Action Group of KEA and was Chair for a time as well. KEA operated under the recently developed Resource Management Act and some of their actions even impacted the way the Act was written. They took their local council to the Environment court seven times, winning six of their cases. Amongst other things, KEA were responsible for better outcomes for the Waikanae River and estuary, Tasman Lakes development in Peka Peka, listing of ecological sites, changes to the rural rules, preserving the Raumati Escarpment, creating the Mataihuka track, saving Whareroa Farm, and saving the forest remnant in Queen Elizabeth Park. June was in the thick of all of these helping to set up KEA, and remaining on the committee until it finished in 2008.

In addition, June was on the QE Park Board 1985-90 and the Wellington Conservation Board (WCB) 1991-94. In 2001 she was awarded the New Zealand Commemoration Medal (the Sesquicentennial Award) in recognition of her dedication to the preservation of the landscapes, wetlands and forest remnants on the Kapiti Coast, and the DOC Conservation Week Award for the Protection of Special Landscapes.

In 2003, June was further recognised with the award of a Queens Service Medal. June said that getting involved with KEA helped her realise many abilities she never knew she had. Often there were sacrifices for herself and her family but she recognised her involvement as 'a totally fulfilling outcome'.

We owe June Rowland a deep debt of gratitude for all her efforts - a life well spent, from which we, and our environment, have certainly gained.

Thank you June, rest in peace.

Memorial to Captain Val Sanderson

There is a small memorial plaque on a rock honouring the founder of Forest and Bird, Captain Val Sanderson, in Paraparaumu Beach. It is just south of the footbridge over the stream that enters the beach next to the Kapiti Boating Club, at the end of Kapiti Road.



Yellow Admiral Butterflies

Apart from bring joy by their very existence, butterflies are important pollinators and New Zealand has more than 20 species, including the yellow admiral or kahu kowhai.

They like to live in open areas - we spotted this one in a farm paddock - but need nettles like onga onga to breed, and feed their caterpillars.

It is perhaps not surprising that nettles have become rare, and this has caused problems for butterflies. Spraying, habitat loss and wasp predation is seriously affecting our butterfly populations.

We can help by planting nettles in appropriate places - rich, damp, semi-shady soils and most importantly out of the way (ask anyone who's been stung by a nettle).

You can find out more about our butterflies and nettles here on the [Forest and Bird website](#), or through the [Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust](#).



Fight for the Wild series

This four part video and podcast series by RNZ is about the Predator Free 2050 programme, why we want to eliminate rats, stoats and possums; and how conservationists, iwi and the Department of Conservation are approaching the challenge to meet the 2050 target. The first two video episodes have already screened on TV1 (Saturday, 7:35pm), you can find the associated podcasts, catch up on missed episodes and find out more on the [RNZ website](#).

AGM News and Youth Speaker

Our last public meeting was on April 28th and was also our AGM. Russell Bell was re-elected chair, Eraena Catsburg remains secretary and Peter Kentish remains Treasurer. Sue Boyde, Tony Ward and Pene Burton Bell were re-elected and we were delighted to welcome a new committee member - Ella Harvey who is also the convenor of the newly established Forest & Bird Youth Hub for Kapiti-Mana. Ella has also set up a [Facebook page for our branch](#), and for the youth hub. Please pass the word around any youth (14-25 yrs) from our area you think might be interested.

Our speaker for the evening was George Hobson who won young conservationist of the year award in 2017, is the Youth Hub leader for Wellington, and also leads the policy arm of [Forest and Bird Youth](#).

Editor: Russell Bell

Email: russelljamesbell@gmail.com

Phone: 0212266047

Your feedback on this newsletter would be most welcome as would contributions to future newsletters

George spoke about how he got excited about nature, why he joined Forest and Bird, and what drives him and other Forest and Bird Youth. Their aim is to empower rangatahi (youth) to be actively engaged in their connection to Te Taiao (our planet) and to do their part to fight for their future - protecting the planet and doing their part to reverse the crisis facing nature in New Zealand. It's a movement that acts as youth, with youth, for youth. We expect to hear more about George's exploits in years to come.

Next: Sniffing out our birds!

Our next public meeting will be at 7:30 pm on June 23rd in Waikanae. We have Jo Sim speaking to us about her day job - as conservation dog handler sniffing out our rare native birds for conservation. We hope you will join us.