



Kotare or sacred kingfisher,
Lake Rotomanu

North Taranaki Forest & Bird + Kiwi Conservation Club news

P.O. Box 1029 New Plymouth 4340

July to December 2022

IT'S NOT QUITE BUSINESS AS USUAL — BUT WE'RE UNDER WAY

After two years, more-or-less, of Covid restrictions (and despite the fact that it is still with us and is a very serious illness) it seems there is now greater public acceptance of Covid limitations as well as a willingness to pick up where we left off.

Consequently, we are optimistically planning a programme of events for the remainder of 2022, both at senior branch level and for our KCC members. Please write these on your calendar and in your diary. We look forward to seeing you.

2022 programme at a glance

- ✿ 17 July, AGM, Sunday, Community House, 1.30pm
- ✿ 11 August, Thursday, Tramping Club talk, Beach St hall, 7:30
- ✿ 3 September, Saturday, 10:00–12:00 Te Wairoa — *begone Arum Lily*
- ✿ 1 October, Saturday, all day event: Bushy Park Tarapuruhi Forest Sanctuary and Historic Homestead
- ✿ 5 November, Saturday, 10:00–12:00 Te Wairoa — the south west corner
- ✿ 20 November, Sunday, 10:30–1:30 End of year get-together — New Plymouth mystery ramble, with lunch at Shining Peak Brewery

At all times —

- *Do not come if you feel unwell*
- *You will be seated at a distance from each other at indoor events*
- *Be prepared to mask up.*

2022 PROGRAMME

AGM • Sunday 17 July • Community House (beside YMCA), 1.30pm

As usual, we'll make the business part of the meeting as snappy as possible so we can get onto more enjoyable matters: a 15–20 minute talk by Elvina Van Der Leden, our new Forest & Bird Regional Conservation Manager (RCM).

Elvina is going to give an illustrated talk introducing herself and her conservation background, and will then share the video she made of her recent voyage to the Subantarctic Islands.

If you would love to make this trip but with scant hope of doing it, this may be the closest you get! It's a magic but inhospitable world south of Aotearoa New Zealand, a place where humans are not so important and weather, waves and wildlife rule!

Elvina will also talk a little about Forest & Bird's national campaigns with some examples of the work done as part of those campaigns.

We'll round off the afternoon with a cuppa and a chance to chat.

We need your support! Our hardworking committee of six is doing a great job, but you will appreciate that we really need more, not least because we will ultimately need replacements. Please consider joining us. There will be nomination forms at the AGM.



- Meet our RCM, Elvina Van Der Leden
- Hear about the wonderful world of the Subantarctic Islands
- Learn about F&B national campaigns

Thursday 11 August, Tramping Club talk, Beach St hall, 7:30



BACKCOUNTRY TRUST
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage

It's the New Plymouth Tramping Club's 48th birthday and Megan Dimozantos of the

Backcountry Trust will give a talk about what the BCT does and how people can volunteer. We are welcome to join the tramping club for this event. (It's rumoured that there may be cake).

Saturday 3 September, 10:00–12:00 Te Wairoa — *begone Arum Lily*

We recently paid a contractor to remove arum lilies in the lower reserve — and the team did a great job, as this newsletter previously reported. But the lilies are having the last laugh . . . and have returned poking out tongues, wagging fingers and singing *Nga-nga-nee-nga-nga*.

Wear gloves and gumboots, bring a spade and let's tell those pesky lilies to be off.



Saturday 1 October, all day event: Bushy Park Tarapurui Forest Sanctuary and Historic Homestead

We plan to hire a minivan and depart from New Plymouth at 09:00 for this expedition to the fabulous predator-fenced Bushy Park Sanctuary and Historic Homestead. You are also welcome to travel in private vehicles.

Morning tea will be at Patea's Café Fika with a catered lunch in the Bushy Park homestead on arrival.

We'll then spend a couple of hours exploring the forest trails, wetland boardwalks, hihi feeding stations and visitor centre before piling into the van for the return.

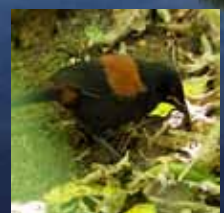
Numbers in the van will be limited to 12. Costs (for travel and lunch at Bushy Park) to be advised. You need to be moderately fit (hills!)

Regardless of how you plan to travel, please register your interest by 1 August with Janet at janethuntnz@outlook.com — mainly so we can book for lunch.



The Bushy Park boardwalk and wetland

Kererū, hihi, toutouwai and tieke are among the species you might expect to see at Bushy Park.



Saturday 5 November, 10:00–12:00 Te Wairoa — the south west corner

It's been a while since we were in this corner of Te Wairoa Reserve. The trees we planted in 2015 are now as high as an elephant's eye — but so are the weeds! We could easily spend an hour or two down here.

Park on Clearview Rd and walk across the clearing and down to the corner. It's too hazardous on the state highway

Sunday 20 November, 10:30–1:30 End of year get-together — New Plymouth mystery ramble and lunch at Shining Peak Brewery



Park in Gill Street outside Top Ten Cinemas and assemble outside Shining Peak Brewery (SPB) at 10:30 for a mystery tour! Because it's slightly secret, not too much is being revealed but let's say it includes a view from the top, an historic cemetery, barbed wire and very high walls, a quarry and a pretty streamside walk. It concludes with a drink to quench your thirst courtesy of SPB. The walk will take up to an hour and a half, depending on how much we dawdle!

Please register your interest by 1 September with Janet at janethuntnz@outlook.com (again, for booking purposes).



Janica and Miro Amore plant a swamp maire in the SW corner in 2015.

OPPOSITE? What, and where is this unusual waterfall? Even if you think you know the answer to that question, come along for the walk! There's something for everyone.

RESERVES REPORT

Pest control, both reserves

The trapping team at Te Wairoa continues to do a stellar job, regularly taking rats and sometimes mice in the traps. Thanks team!

Mark Perham continues to be our trapper at Tom & Don's, with scheduled rounds to target possums as well as the usual suspects — rats, mustelids, feral cats.

Tom & Don's

A new farm manager has signed on for three years with the Kings. We have therefore renewed our lease with them for the same period at a slightly increased rate.

Te Wairoa

Planning for a boardwalk in the wetland is still under way.

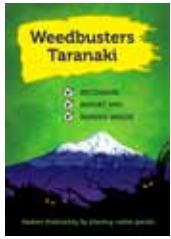
The flax along our boundary with the farm has been chopped back, thanks to Peter Haines.

You will note a couple of working bees in the reserve, on 3 September and 5 November. We hope to remove all arum lilies from the wetland and also to tidy the south-west corner.

However, those activities don't interest you, just come along and you will readily find other things to do, such as any of those in the column on your right. There are tools in the shed, or bring your own.

- Clearview Road entrance: clean the sign; trim around the stile and path; move shingle to the other side of the reserve for Tony's steps (bring buckets).
- Clearview Roadside: grass trimming and removal of agapanthus and the strange wattle-like bushes at the southern end.
- Clearview clearing: trim around the edges; mow under the rimu.
- Perimeter track: remove drums and old carpet from around trees in the lower Clearview Rd area.
- Lower reserve: remove honeysuckle, blackberry and hydrangea.

TARANAKI WEEDBUSTERS BOOK LAUNCHED



So many of the plants we regard as invasive began life as treasured

and possibly expensive garden plants but sometime, somehow, they grew legs, jumped the fence and were off!

TRC has recently produced *Weedbusters Taranaki*. The 72-page guide to weedbusting lists pest plants by growth habit and then suggests native alternatives.

It's a must-have, either as a pdf from the TRC website (search for 'TRC Weedbusters') or a hard copy from TRC.

We also plan to have copies to give away at the AGM.



Speaking of weeds . . . winter is a great time to spot them, when many trees are bare and



unwelcome species show up.

This mature tobacco plant/woolly nightshade was recently removed from *inside* the fence at Te Wairoa Reserve, along with a number of seedlings. Pesky pest!



A juvenile tobacco weed

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

Secretary: Anne Collins
anne.dkc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dawn Mills
(06) 758 3252
rjmills58@gmail.com

David Cockeram
(06) 758 7580
davidcockeram@gmail.com

Peter Winter
(06) 752 0167
peterjwinter@hotmail.com

KCC: Lee McCracken
027 755 6729
northtaranaki@KCC.org.nz or
leemccracken16@yahoo.co.nz

Newsletter: Janet Hunt
(06) 7569165
janethuntnz@outlook.com



Winter 2022
NEWS

A message from Lee

Hi KCC'ers

Yay, we are back in action! I've planned an exciting learning experience for us at the end of the July school holidays.

Lizard Education Session @ Lake Rotokare
Friday 22 July 2022, 10am-2pm

This will be led by Ash, Environmental Educator for Rotokare

During the session we will have some classroom activities, observe some captive lizards and learn some practical skills for identifying and making good habitats for lizards. We will also take a bush ramble and hunt for some lizards.

These education sessions come with a charge per child of \$4.50 but I'm glad to tell you that the North Taranaki branch of Forest & Bird have agreed to cover this cost for us. Our thanks to them.

Further activities to follow soon.



A Wellington green gecko enjoying the sun at Rotokare.

The news that National Office have given the go-ahead to KCC outdoor education events is very welcome. We can now proceed with outdoor activities without masks as long as we meet other expectations.

- You must be vaccinated if you are over 12
- Please do not come if you are feeling unwell