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Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

The main event of the month has been me attending the F&B National AGM and Council meeting as the Branch Councillor. This was a 4-hour event on Zoom. It was a very good opportunity to get a handle on what our national office has going on. And there is a lot. Chief Executive Nicola Toki is impressive with her drive, enthusiasm and fearlessness. For the first time in 101 years, F&B has a woman President, Kate Graeme. The other women voted on to the board, I believe, are very well suited to the role, according to the 2-minute bios they gave about themselves.

Our urban rat trap plans for our membership are coming along. Some members have already taken DoC 200 traps to use, after the traps were given to us by PredatorFree Summerhill. There are some still available. Meanwhile Menzshed is making us the wooden tunnels for our traps which are now going to be D-Rat ones. After seeing these ones demonstrated by the blokes at the Menzshed, who had made 100 of them for Horizons, they are certainly the safest ones to use. The timber is with the Menzshed and the actual traps are on order. So hopefully it will all come together around mid-July and I will be in touch with those of you who have requested a trap.

I attended a meeting of concerned people about the use of herbicides by PNCC, especially around public parks, playgrounds, schools and so on. It was discussed that it would be useful for signs to be put out indicating that spraying was being done but there was also discussion regarding the need for dead vegetation. There is a trend now to let areas turn wild to do the insects, birds and wild life like lizards, a favour.

Cheerio for this month

Margaret
Chairperson

July 2024 Monthly talk

Tuesday 9th July 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

(will be streamed via zoom, see below for the link)

Talk: "Neighbourhood Trapping – A Palmy Perspective"

Speakers: Robert van Bentum – Pest Free Summerhill Member
Kevin Stafford – Smallholder



Photo: R.Vanbentum

Robert and Kevin will provide some background to neighbourhood trapping and how it has become so successful in some parts of New Zealand. They will also share their personal experience of trapping pests in their respective neighbourhoods and talk about what motivates them as well as share some of what they have learned and gained through pest control. They will be looking to invite the audience to share their experiences with the aim of discussing how Forest and Bird Manawatū can support further neighbourhood trapping initiatives.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/85788509468?pwd=xvkB6A32qwcW29LHxTzwRvj0YSk0lb.1>

Meeting ID: 857 8850 9468

Passcode: 486308

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

NEWS FROM FOREST & BIRD AGM

Old Blue Award

Richard Hursthouse (North Shore, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland)

Sally Richardson (Warkworth)

Branch Award

South Canterbury Branch (Canterbury)

Te Kaiārahi Rangatahi o te Taiao Youth Award

Nate Wilbourne (Brightwater, Tasman)

Ti Kouka Awards

Neil Baxter, Taupō

Mike and Sandra Goodwin, Rotorua

Sharyn Gunn, Kāpiti-Mana

Lynne McLellan, Upper Hutt

F&B BOARD: 2024-2025

All votes, including proxy votes, have now been tallied and the F&B Board are pleased to announce the full Forest & Bird Board, including its newly elected members.

Elected on a 2-year term

Kate Graeme as President - the first woman President in F&B history

Mark Hanger as Deputy President

Nigel Thomson as Treasurer

Board members elected on a 2-year term:

Eugenie Sage

Kate Littin

Romilly Cumming

Not up for election as they have 1 more year to serve of a 2-yr term

Ben Kepes

Bruce Clarkson

Board Members elected on a 1-year term:

Chris Barker

James Mackenzie

The F&B President gave an interview to the NZ Herald which you might like to read – the link is below.

Forest and Bird's first female president says Fast-Track Approvals Bill is one of NZ's biggest conservation challenges

By Harriet Laughton 5 Jul, 2024

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/bay-of-plenty-times/news/first-woman-president-for-forest-and-bird-warns-against-fast-track-bill/IMYPXEXIF5CLRF4DHPUDVVS5QU/#>

F&B MANAWATŪ MONTHLY TALK PROGRAMME: AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2024

Tues 13th August

Talk: Truth and Deer: the real damage that deer are causing in our ecosystems

Speaker: Vicky Gane | Biodiversity Advisor | Kaitohutohu i Haumaru Taio

Tues 10th Sept

Talk: Beyond myrtle rust & beyond – update on research

Speaker: Alba Mason, Plant & Food Research, Palmerston North

Tues 8th October

Talk: Toheroa are NZ's most protected shellfish, but their numbers aren't recovering. Why?

Speakers: Justin Tamihana, Ngatai Kikopiri Reservation Trustees Manawatū Estuary Management and
Dr. Phil Ross, Fisheries Analyst position at Fisheries New Zealand

Tues 12th November

Talk: Glow-worms - the iconic critter with the glowing tail

Speaker: Julia Kasper, Lead Invertebrates Curator, Te Papa

FOREST & BIRD 2025 CALENDARS AND DIARIES

It's that time again! They will be on sale from our August Monthly Meeting. I will shortly be contacting those of you who ordered a calendar or diary last year to see if you would like to order again this year. If you wish to pre-order, please email me at manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz and let me know how many calendars and/or diaries. Please would you also, provide a contact number, in case I need to get in touch with you.

Many thanks – Anthea

PS – if you are planning an overseas trip and would like to take some calendars as gifts, please contact me, at the above address, and I will arrange to get them to you.

 

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Calendar 2025

 Featuring superb photographs of our extraordinary wildlife and wilderness habitats taken by some of our leading nature photographers.
Weights less than 200g for economic postage.
Envelope included.



OUR PRICE
\$15.00

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Diary 2025

 

Every week brings a new photograph of our unique landscapes, plants and wildlife.
This quality week-to-view diary features public holidays, and a lay-flat spiral binding.

OUR PRICE
\$20.00



Have you heard of the Rat Virus Project? 🦠

As well as killing our native wildlife, we know that rats can carry diseases that make people and wildlife sick. Overseas, rats are known to carry multiple disease-causing viruses. However, while we know a bit about bacterial diseases that rats carry in Aotearoa New Zealand (such as leptospirosis), we don't know anything about the viruses in New Zealand rats.

Here is where you can help. The project needs wild dead rats of any species, less than one week old since death.

[Please fill out your details at this link and the project will send you a sample kit \(including packaging and a prepaid shipping label\).](#)

SEAWEEK WEBINAR ON THE ROSS SEA

Did you know the Ross Sea is Earth's largest Marine Protected Area? 🌐 Covering 1.55 million sq km, it is home to a huge diversity of life, it absorbs 90% of excess heat generated by greenhouse gases and is an important carbon sink!

Gain insight into the marine ecosystem of the Antarctic and more in our *upcoming webinar* on July 25 at 7 pm. One of our guests is a Zooplankton Ecologist at [NIWA New Zealand](#). They have travelled to the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area where Dr. Svenja Halfter can conduct research using zooplankton as an indicator of ecosystem changes and the effectiveness of the MPA.

Webinar details: <https://tinyurl.com/2g3c7bpe>

For more information on this research: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/.../the-sea-ice-factories-of...>

EXCEPTS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Heat on Fast-track Approvals Bill leads to changes

The Government is retreating from some of the worst aspects of this contentious Bill. It could have saved a lot of aggravation if Ministers and the Prime Minister had listened to key environmental groups earlier. Then, the reaction to our push-back was aggressively confident. Now, Ministers are indicating there will be substantial changes to the Bill and they have even stopped referring to it by name in the latest Q3 plan.

Whilst EDS sees no need for this legislation (we already have workable fast-track laws in place) if it is to proceed changes need to at least include shifting decision-making to expert panels; widening legal standing to include environmental entities; including sustainable management in the purpose clause; adding environmental matters to the decision-making criteria; removing the override of prohibited activities and water conservation orders; and dropping the proposed scheduled projects altogether.

Request for list of scheduled project applicants denied

Two months ago, EDS requested the list of applicants that applied for scheduling in the Fast-track Approvals Bill. The Ministry for the Environment has today declined that request. EDS will be making an urgent complaint to the Ombudsman to get that decision overturned. Scheduled projects are proposed to be undemocratically inserted into the Bill. The public has a right to know the potential extent and breadth of environmental damage

the Bill might inflict via scheduled projects.

Resource Management (War on Nature) Amendment Bill

The Government's latest resource management changes miss the mark. EDS has lodged an extensive submission on the (correctly named) *Resource Management (Freshwater & Other Matters) Amendment Bill*. EDS opposes the Bill because it lacks a clear evidence-basis, removes critical protections for freshwater and indigenous biodiversity, and is not consistent with New Zealand's climate change obligations. The Bill also lacks a rigorous cost-benefit analysis, will create legal confusion and increase litigation risk for the Government and councils. We look forward with keen anticipation to our ten minutes before the Primary Production Committee in due course.

Read EDS's Submission

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

F&B MANAWATŪ POUTOA WALKWAY - RESTORING NATIVE VEGETATION

INVITATION FOR VOLUNTEERS



Since April 2022 a small group of Manawatu Forest and Bird members have been working to restore the native bush near Poutoa Walkway, which runs parallel to Summerhill Drive and between Ruapehu Drive and the Summerhill shops.

Fortnightly 9 - 11 am every second Friday morning and sometimes do coffee afterwards. We will be planting over the next few months and would like to have more volunteers in our team.

If you are interested please contact Margaret McKenzie on 0224731096 or email margaret51mckenzie@gmail.com

PIT PARK PEOPLE NEED MORE PEOPLE!

Active since 1999 this incredible local project has seen the transformation of a disused clay quarry (Pit Park) into a recreation space that will be a lasting resource for the city. It's an exciting project that ticks the boxes of mitigating climate change, restoring native biodiversity and is a great space for local kids to experience nature and play.

The project **would love** new participants at its monthly working be to plant, weed and water in summer and all are welcome.

These take place the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 - 3:30pm. [Find out more here](#)

Regular Working Bees

Get your hands dirty!

July 14,28 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

July 13 [Green Corridors Summerhill](#) Help maintain corridors of native trees.

July 14,28 [A Rocha Nursery](#) Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

July 14 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#) Planting for Monarch butterflies.

July 21 [Pit Park Roslyn](#) A restored urban native bush habitat.

Most Sundays [Manawatū Estuary Trust](#) Keeping exotic species out of the wetland

August 2024 Monthly talk

Tuesday 13th August 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

(will be streamed via zoom,)

Talk: "Truth and Deer: the real damage that deer are causing in our ecosystems

Speaker: Vicky Gane | biodiversity advisor | kaitohutohu i haumaru taio



Fallow Deer



Red Deer



Samba Deer

Vicky will talk about the amount of damage browsing animals do to the bush, particularly deer.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated.

That is all for this month. Hope to see you at our meeting in July.

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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