

Tena kotou katoa

I am pleased to offer the Co-Chair Report for 2022-23

The year 2022-2023 has been another challenging one for F & B. Locally we have still had covid protocols to work through and we also had 3 experienced branch officers step aside. A huge thank you to Debs Martin, Jo Ecroyd and Julie McLintock for their years of service. While we were able to find replacements for Debs and Jo, with Scott Burnett and Peter Phipps stepping up, replacing Julie was another matter. It needed both Craig and myself to become joint chairs, and even then we don't think we've come close to replacing Julie's knowledge and work output. However, we are pleased we have kept the branch alive and functioning. This is due to having a positive committee, and in particular to our secretary, Gillian Pollock, the glue who holds us all together. Thank you all committee members for your efforts. As well thanks to Ian Morris for his IT and newsletter support and all others who have contributed in any way. Finally, we thank Andrew Tilling, Connor Wallace and Pam Pope who are not seeking re-election to the committee. Pam in particular has given many years of service and we offer our condolences on the death of her husband Ro.

While the second half of 2022 had its challenges, the start of 2023 has been much more positive.

1) Firstly, we are delighted to resurrect our monthly branch meetings with guest speakers. They are always interesting and well supported and tonight's meeting with Joris and his work on the Auckland Islands will be no exception.

2) Work at Pearl Creek continues. Malcolm Hugman co-ordinates this but unfortunately, he is stepping aside at the end of this year after long service and we give a huge thank you for his efforts. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in this restoration work, please see a committee member.

3) We continue to co-ordinate 3 traplines and tracking tunnels at Paremata/Delaware Bay and another at Moturoa. Thanks to Paul Briggs and Eric McPherson as they have stood down after years of service. We are always looking for new trappers so if you would like to spend a couple of hours, once a month walking in nature, please get in touch. Unfortunately the weeding programme at Paremata has stopped. There is still a team of weeders, but no team leader, so if anyone is interested?

4) Other projects we have supported include

- annual planting at Eves Valley with the Department of Conservation
- planting at the Cohen property
- weeding and planting at Farewell Spit with Health Post
- planting at Ronga Reserve at Rai Valley
- and support for the Te Hoiere Bat Recovery project at Pelorus Bridge through trapping

- 4) The Branch continue to be involved in a number of educational endeavours
- a) There is the annual Tasman Mission for enviroschools. Thanks to Connor for co-ordinating the programme this year.
 - b) We donate an award and the Perrine Moncrieff Shield at the Cawthron Scitech fair.
 - c) We support the secondary schools Young Enterprise Scheme and award the Environmental Sustainability prize.
 - d) And we award the Andy Dennis Memorial Scholarship to a student from NMIT, taking the trainee ranger course. This years winner is Daisy Sharp from Richmond.
 - e) Unfortunately our region still does not have a KCC co-ordinator.

5) Submission writing is a vital part of F & B's work. Many thanks to Scott Burnett as our main submission writer. Further submissions have been presented on

- the Draft Tasman Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Tasman Environmental Plan
- Draft Waimea Inlet Strategy and Action Plan
- Mapua wetland development
- Kellys Bush
- Maitai Development

We urge all members to become involved in submission writing, when possible.

6) Finally, we also attend the Nelson Tasman Biodiversity Forum and are members of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum.

So, an ongoing list and I am sure I have missed a number of important contributions and contributors, for which I apologise.

Finally we must acknowledge that this is F & B's Centenary Year. 100 years of commitment to New Zealand's natural environment is a special achievement. It's the result of a huge effort from a huge number of people, including, over the years, thousands of members from the Nelson Tasman Branch. This contribution was celebrated last month with the Birthday Bash at Pelorus Bridge.

The National Executive and the Committee thanks everyone for their ongoing support as we face the challenges of the next 100 years.

Tena kotou, tena kotou, tena kotou katoa

Tim Robson

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10/5/2023