



## North Taranaki Forest & Bird news, spring 2024

P.O. Box 1029 New Plymouth 4340

September 2024

### COMING SOON

We have some great events to look forward to, some in the day, some in the evening and one over several days. Do consider joining us.

- **Saturday 31 August, Brooklands Zoo, 10:15–1:00pm, Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) event:** The Head Zoo Keeper will talk about some of the animals and about zoos in general. Are they good or bad for conservation? See more detail, p.4.
- **7 September: a working bee at Te Wairoa.** Meet at the top gate at 10:00.
- **Thursday 17 October, 7:00pm:** Peter and Jill Winter recently travelled to Ecuador and on to the Galapagos. Peter will give an illustrated talk at Community House.
- **Saturday November 23, end-of-year get-together, 10:00.** We are thinking of a walk through the wetland forest at Barrett’s Lagoon. From there it’s just a hop and a skip to Local’s Café on Wallath Road for morning tea (or lunch, depending on your preference). Please let us know if you are coming, so we can indicate to the café. **To be confirmed.**
- **February 2025: A visit to Rotokare Scenic Reserve** when fledglings are about. It’s always a great trip.
- **Taranaki Anniversary weekend, 8–10 March, 2025:** are you interested in a trip to Forest & Bird’s very own Ruapehu Lodge? Please let us know if you would like to come — email [janethuntnz@outlook.com](mailto:janethuntnz@outlook.com) to put your name down and so we know how many beds to book.
- **A seed propagation workshop** run by Vince Naus — this would be a useful event to learn the best methods to raise native plants from seeds. **Date and venue o be confirmed.**
- **April 20, 2025 — Easter:** A picnic on the lawn in the clearing at Te Wairoa. We’ve done this before but it’s such a great place to be, we plan to do it again. BYO Easter eggs! **More to come nearer the date.**

**BELOW:** Forest & Bird’s Ruapehu Lodge offers warm, comfortable accommodation. It overlooks the Whakapapanui River and is surrounded by native beech forest with a wonderful view of Mt Ruapehu.

It’s close to a number of interesting day walks where you may see a range of native wildlife. There are cafes and restaurants in the village, just a 10-minute walk away.



### Conservation calendars now available

Some folks use their phones for appointments but if you like a paper reminder that looks great on your wall, you can’t beat a Forest & Bird calendar! Get yours from Dawn. \$20.00.

### RCM Changeover

Elvisa van der Leden, our Regional Conservation Manager, has been on maternity leave but is returning at the end of August. Welcome back, Elvisa.

Sarah Lucas has been brilliant, holding the fort in Elvisa’s absence. We would like to keep her on as well! Alas, it’s not possible. *Thank you, again, Sarah.*

## RECENT EVENTS

### Upper Durham Rd farm visit, 18 May

9 Streams Farm, at the top of Durham Rd, is a fabulous example of intelligent use of farmland. Vanessa and Mat Vujcich showed a group of 14 of us that land can be productive without damage to the environment. Waterways are protected from run-off, the stock are contented and healthy and native plants and wildlife are enhanced. It was a treat. Our thanks to Vanessa and Mat for their time and for sharing a vision of the future.



TOP: Mat and Vanessa's meticulous planning; LEFT: a leisurely walk towards an existing stand of forest.

### Waimea Stream walk, 24 June

A group of 14 turned out for a relatively sedate amble through the Waimea Stream plantation, a.k.a. Salaman Simpson Reserve. It's not large but is interesting, especially the large stainless steel memorials. The area was planted in 1991 with now-substantial trees, including kauri, kahikatea and totara.



### AGM + talk, 12 June

We started the evening with the AGM. There isn't a lot to report aside from the retirement from the committee of David Cockeram who has given many years of service. Thank you again, David. We welcome new committee members Amy Mills and Janica Amoore in his place.



The AGM was followed by a talk by Elise Smith, from the Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society. An appreciative audience of 25 learned about the society's work with kororā/ little blue penguins around the Taranaki coast.

Not only are individual penguins monitored with tags and collars but a sophisticated network of cameras remotely reports all activity from the inner-harbour colony directly to Elise's computer. As you can see, left, on the night of 7 August, a tabby cat entered the site. It has since been removed.



### A visit to Africa – Dawn Mills illustrated talk, 17 July

Veterinarian and committee member Dawn recently accompanied her husband Rob to South Africa. Rob was taking part in a conference, leaving Dawn to explore Capetown including a trip up Cable Mountain. Once the conference was over, they joined a big-game safari. It sounded amazing. They are keen to return.



## RESERVES REPORTS



### TOM & DON'S

On 26 June committee members Karen, Peter and Janet spent 5 hours at Tom & Don's in the company of Carol Burgess of the QEII National Trust. Carol was checking out the fences and the forest while the rest of us were thinking about future management options. Some trees in the open paddocks urgently need protective fencing. But more than that, we discussed withdrawing the relatively unproductive

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hillslopes from grazing and planting them in natives. It's a big change of direction with implications not only for the site but for our branch income. It will take a few years to implement.



## TE WAIROA DOROTHY BAKER RESERVE

Winter is never great for working bees, especially when half of the reserve was once a wetland! However, spring has sprung as they say, and our next working bee is on 7 September. Can you come? Meet on Clearview Rd at the top gate at 10:00.

Peter has two park benches to install, there are seedlings to plant out and there's always a weed or two somewhere!

**LEFT: Unprotected trees at Tom & Don's.**



Our junior members belong to Kiwi Conservation Club or KCC. KCC coordinator Lee McCracken plans amazing, super-interesting and super-fun events, which are summarised below. For more information, contact Lee herself at [northtaranaki@KCC.org.nz](mailto:northtaranaki@KCC.org.nz). Follow us on Facebook — Kiwi Conservation Club / Forest & Bird Taranaki.

### • Brooklands Zoo, Saturday 31 August 10:15 to 1:00

A talk by the Head Zoo Keeper will be followed by surprise fun challenges and activities. Bring your questions, suitable footwear, warm clothing (including raincoat), hats (sun/warm), snacks and lunch, water bottle and a friend to help you with the gnarly clues in the challenge! Register for this activity with Lee.

### • Wetlands visit, Saturday 21 September. Times to come.

This will be a morning visit to a wetland on private property. It will be a treat to see the area and find out what birds have made their homes here. The owner is a local vet, who will talk about his work with injured wild birds.



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

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