



# Forest & Bird

## GIVING NATURE A VOICE

### Horowhenua Branch

August / September Newsletter



Lake Waiorongomai

## Lake Waiwiri Scenic Reserve

Lake Papaitonga or Waiwiri is a dune lake in the Horowhenua plain. The lake and the surrounding wetland and coastal forest make up 136ha of scenic reserve.

The lake contains 2 islands, the larger being natural and the smaller man made by the Muaupoko people during the early part of the 20th century. It is made from soil and crushed mussel shells taken there by canoe. The lake was the scene of revenge killing of 600 Maori as Muaupoko had killed some of Te Rauparaha's children. The Island was used as a refuge for the local Maori when they were under attack.

The reserve is an intact progression of rare coastal forest to wetland with stands of mature Kahikatea, Pukatea and Swamp Maire forest while the wetland contains Flax, Raupo and Sedges.

In the mid 1800s Walter Buller, a young lawyer and magistrate visited the Horowhenua district and was immediately drawn to the lake. At the time it was noisy with birdsong and huge flocks of pigeons visited to feed on the Kahikatea berries. He vowed to preserve it from the axe as all around the timber was being milled. He planned to purchase it and create his own country seat (similar to those in England) and set up a refuge for birds such as the Kiwi, Huia and Tui.

He purchased the land in 1897, in a rather dubious deal with the local Maori and set about creating his dream. He introduced a large number of water fowl into the lake, trout into

the water and ornamental and fruit trees were planted by the hundreds. The grounds were laid out grandly right down to the waters edge. But the grand mansion he planned to build never eventuated.

He built a huge aviary to keep native birds in and went searching for the bird that he had labelled hopelessly doomed— the Huia. No Huia ever made it to the aviary but Kiwi were on the island and many other native birds in the aviary. The many exotic water birds were eventually shot by the state farmers.

He hoarded any Maori curiosities he could find and placed them near the lake. A magnificent carved Pataka or Maori Storehouse was obtained and erected in a prominent position.

This Pataka can now be viewed in Te Papa.

In 1901 the bush was formally established as a reserve and the lake added to it in 1991.



16. Carved pataka at Lake Papaitonga.

# Working Bees

## August 2024

**SUNDAY 11 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am** A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails. **This session we will be primarily planting.** Please bring Spade or Trowel as well as the usual.

Contact Maggie Peace  
021 215 2688

### **THURSDAY 29 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am**

**This session we will be primarily planting.** Please bring Spade or Trowel as well as the usual.

Contact Maggie Peace  
021 215 2688

**NOTE:** *It is advisable to wear long pants and sleeves and to bring insect repellent to Prouse Bush*

### **WED 21 PAPAITONGA NURSERY 9.30am**

Caring for native plants to be planted out in local areas. Our plants are bought by DOC and Horizons.

Contact Margarete 06 364 5986

**All the above are of course subject to weather**

## September 2024

**SUNDAY 8 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am** A small bush reserve in central Levin home to rare Powelliphanta snails. **If weather is good will be planting this time too.** Please bring Spade or Trowel as well as the usual.

Contact Maggie Peace  
021 215 2688

### **THURSDAY 26 PROUSE BUSH WORKING PARTY 10am**

Contact Maggie Peace  
021 215 2688

**NOTE:** *It is advisable to wear long pants and sleeves and to bring insect repellent to Prouse Bush*

### **WED 18 PAPAITONGA NURSERY 9.30am**

Caring for native plants to be planted out in local areas. Our plants are bought by DOC and Horizons.

Contact Margarete 06 364 5986

**All the above are of course subject to weather**

## Trips

### **Saturday August 3**

QE2 Park Wetlands and Tram  
We will also have a peek at the Kohe Kohe at Waikanae

Meet at Thompson House 9.40 am

This is of course subject to weather.

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660

### **Saturday September 7**

Pharazyn Reserve and Waikanae Estuary  
If we are lucky the White Heron will still be there.

Meet at Thompson House 10.00 am

This is of course subject to weather

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660

## KCC Trips

### **Saturday September 14**

Waikākāriki Wetland

Our trip is planned for Saturday 14th September from 2-4pm and you can register through this link <https://forms.office.com/r/KrWhqvMUur>  
Unfortunately, due to the steep nature of the Escarpment, this trip is not suitable for those in pushchairs or who have unstable footing. As part of empowering your child to be safer in the outdoors we at KCC encourage each child to pack their own day pack for the event ... thinking about what to take in case they get hungry, thirsty, cold, hot, wet, hurt, or lost. Please support them in this task and also guide them towards wearing sturdy footwear. Directions for getting to the meeting point will be provided on the registration form.

Remember if your school is a member of Kiwi Conservation Club that means YOU are considered a member too and are welcome to join in our activities!

## Meetings

So far this year we have been holding our meetings in the afternoon and it seems to be working well. Unfortunately it does rule out people who are working.

### **Monday August 19 1.30pm**

**Speaker :** Kelvin Lane -

“Manawatu Estuary and the Wrybill ”

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660

### **Monday September 16 1.30 pm**

**Speaker :** Kara Macdermid

“ Turitea toutouwai - the North Island Robin”

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660

## Bird Monitoring

### **Wednesday August 7**

Waikawa Beach

Meet at Thompson House 9.40am

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660

### **Wednesday September 4**

Te Hakere Wetlands and Kuku Beach

Meet at the Wetlands 10am

Contact – Claudia Mason - 06 367 0660



## Spinefex Planting at Kuku Beach

On Saturday July 6 some of us went to the Spinefex Planting at Kuku Beach. While we were waiting for the plants to arrive the Horizons and DOC staff took us looking and identifying some of the weeds in the dunes. Then when the plants arrived they were taken in wheel barrows across the beach to the outer dunes where the planting took place.



I must own up to being more sedentary and sat on the beach and played photographer and enjoyed surveying the estuary



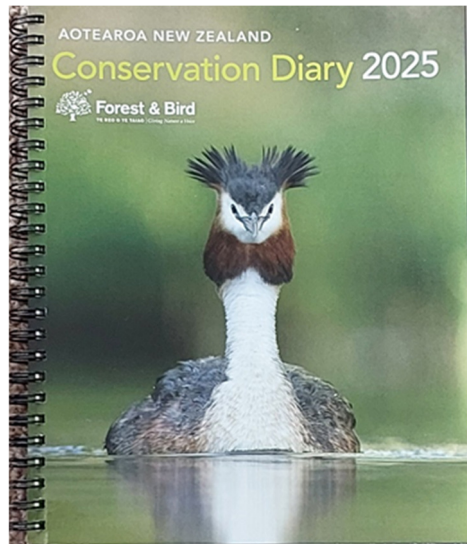
# Horowhenua Forest & Bird

## Potton Burton Calendars & Diaries for 2025



We are selling the Calendars for \$15.00

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



Example of open diary page

We are selling the Diaries for \$20.00

If you are interested, please email or text your order to:  
 Lena Berger  
[lberger.levin@gmail.com](mailto:lberger.levin@gmail.com)  
 021 0221 8314  
 We offer free delivery for Calendars and Diaries

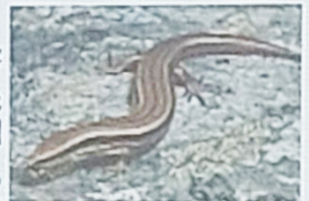


**WOW!** what AMAZING frosts we have been blessed with recently ... a favourite activity of mine (before enjoying the sunshine that soon appears) is going outside and hunting for the glistening pūngāwerewere / spider webs.

It was lovely to meet those children, and their whanau, who came along to our Wetland event on 26th May. It was a great opportunity to learn about the many plants and animals living in this ecosystem. Our host, Lindsay, is a great kaiiaki for our native Tuna. Thanks for having us visit!



This term we are headed to the northern end of the Paekākāriki Escarpment Track where the Waikākāriki Wetland and the newly opened 'Sanderson's (walk)Way' are. Some of your parents, or maybe even you, might have heard of the name 'Sanderson' before ... Captain Ernest (aka "Val") Sanderson was the founder of Forest & Bird and was also once a resident of Paekākāriki!



The Waikākāriki Wetland began its life as an abandoned rock quarry but thanks to the hard work of a group of dedicated environmentalists it has been restored to its former glory. In doing so it has become home for some of our most 'at risk' geckos and skinks and, if we are lucky, we will see some Raukawa gecko, and some



Northern grass, Copper, and Brown skinks. Our trip is planned for Saturday 14th September from 2-4pm and you can register through this link <https://forms.office.com/r/KrWhqvMUur> Unfortunately, due to the steep nature of the Escarpment, this trip is not suitable for those in pushchairs or who have unstable footing. As part of empowering your child to be safer in the outdoors we at KCC encourage each child to pack their own day pack for the event ... thinking about what to take in case they get hungry, thirsty, cold, hot, wet, hurt, or lost. Please support them in this task and also guide them towards wearing sturdy footwear. Directions for getting to the meeting point will be provided on the registration form.



Remember if your school is a member of Kiwi Conservation Club that means YOU are considered a member too and are welcome to join in our activities!

Did you know that TODAY July 28th marks a significant day in the calendar? It is 'World Nature Conservation Day'. This day is observed globally and is about raising an awareness of the need to preserve our natural resources and protect the environment. The theme for this year is "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature." To achieve this, we need to embrace sustainable practices that balance our needs with the health of our planet.



Please remember, if your child has done some exciting things in nature that they would like to share with others they can do so on our 'Kiwi Conservation Club - Horowhenua Branch' Facebook page! It is a private group so photographs etc are not public domain.

### The KCC Motto:

I will love and care for my natural world - the native plants, animals, and the places where they live.  
 I CAN make a difference.



## New Zealand's nest top manu: Bird of the Year 2024

Our squawktastic bird competition is back, and this year it's all about how much we love our manu.

<b>Voting opens:</b>	9am Monday	2 September
<b>Voting closes:</b>	5pm Sunday	15 September
<b>Winner announced:</b>	Monday	16 September

Last year we asked voters why they chose their top bird, and we were so inspired by the thousands of responses we received – check out the latest Forest & Bird magazine for details -

If you or a bird nerd you know would like to volunteer as a campaign manager, we're now accepting applications. If you have any questions or ideas, please email Ellen and Kirk at [birdoftheyear@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:birdoftheyear@forestandbird.org.nz)



What will it be this year ?

Make sure you have your say for your favourite