

Inbrief 2016

issue 1

Forest and Bird Wellington Branch e-notice.

An occasional publication of events and items that may be of interest to members.



EVENTS

27 February (Saturday)

Seaweek

Events for this week can be found on the [organiser's website](#) or call Greater Wellington Regional Council.

16 March (Wednesday) a combined Forest & Bird and Zealandia event being hosted by Zealandia

Topic: Fantails of Wellington City

Time: 7:30 to 8:30pm (coffee & tea available from 7pm, admission by koha)

Venue: Zealandia Visitor Centre, Waiapu Road, Karori

Presenter: Nyree Fea

How much do you know about New Zealand's cheeky piwakawaka? Join Researcher Nyree Fea for an exploration into the life of these small native birds in Wellington city and their relationship with pest mammals.

About Nyree:

Nyree Fea is studying towards a PhD in Conservation Biology and Restoration Ecology at Victoria University of Wellington with a work background over the last twenty years in pest-mammal research and management for Landcare Research, regional councils and DoC. Her current research explores what happens to the smaller native birds when ship rat densities increase.

21 March (Monday) a BotSoc event

Topic: Otari-Wilton's Bush ; The functional role of betalains in *Disphyma australe* under salinity stress.

Time: 7:30 start

Venue: M101 Murphy Building, Victoria University, Kelburn

Presenters: Barbara Hampton and Gagandeep Jain

Barbara will present a selection from her recently-completed history of Otari-Wilton's Bush, looking at forest management during the government tenure up to 1918, the origin of the plant museum, a view of the collections from the record books kept by the curators.

Gagandeep will talk about the NZ ice plant, a succulent common on coastal cliffs and dunes throughout the country. The prostrate stems and erect, fleshy leaves are, in some plants, entirely green and in others the vegetative shoot is partially or entirely red. This colouration morph between red and green *D. australe* will be explained.

5 April (Tuesday)

Topic: Material disposal, reuse and recycling

Time: 2:30pm start

Location: Southern Landfill and Recycle Centre, off Happy Valley road between Brooklyn and Owhiro Bay

Tour guide: Wendy Bertholet, Waste Educator, Wellington City Council

This event replaces the planned visit to the Spicer Landfill in Porirua its purpose is to find out about disposal of our City waste and be educated on the operation of a landfill and how the environmental impact is controlled.

We are allowed one vehicle for this tour and will hire a bus or minivan depending on numbers. There is a small charge of \$5 to help offset the hire charge. Please deposit the money into the Kiwi Bank branch account 38-9012-0208811-00 using internet banking and provide your name and reference 'landfill'. This will secure your place and assist us with vehicle selection.

We cannot control the weather, so take wet weather gear and closed footwear; also sun glasses or other eye protection. If you would like more information about this trip please reply to this notice with the heading 'Landfill'

OUT AND ABOUT

Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC)

For kids who are wild about nature.

KCC is run by the region's volunteer KCC co-ordinators. If you would like to know more about KCC and its activities visit the [KCC website](#), phone 04 385 7374 or email [Tiff Stewart](#)

e-Walkers

A popular walking group that meets each Wednesday at 10am for a tramp of three to four hours somewhere in the Wellington region. For more information contact Elaine Todd, 976 4092 or Elspeth Preddey 472 3369.

Wellington Region Tramping Group

	Location	Difficulty/time	contact
March			
2	Mt Wainui Track, Paekakariki Alt:Otari to Te Ahumairangi	M/F 6 hrs E/M 4 hrs	Sally Mathieson 904 1260 Jenny Lewis 472 9228 mob 027 694 9609
9	Takapu Road – Belmont Reserve	E/M 5 hrs	Ray Markham 478 6091
16	McKerrow Track Circuit, Rimutaka Forest Alt:Otari Explorer	M/F 5-6 hrs E 3.5-4 hrs	Jill & Ian Goodwin 475 7248 mob 021 519 461 Sheena Hudson 389 2270
23	Kaukau Circuit Figure 8	M 5 hrs	Ed Crampton 478 3066
30	Carrington Ridge Wairarapa Alt: Titahi Bay Beach - Farm Loop	M 5 hrs E/M 3.5-4 hrs	Heather Jones 388 3411 Peter Gallagher 236 7160
April			
6	Kaitoke Alt: Twin Lakes Walk, Kaitoke	M/F 5+hrs E 3.5-4 hrs	John Groombridge 589 5461 John Neas 976 5934
13	Belmont-Western Hills Tracks Alt:Harry Todd Track & Beyond, Wainuiomata	M 5-5.5 hrs E/M 3.5-4hrs	John Larkindale 385 2933 Judy Stephens 576 0559
20	Orange Hut, Akatarawa Alt: Around the Tracks in Whareroa Farm	F 6hrs M 4-4.5hrs	Max George 232 4200 mob 021 0235 9955 Gillian George 232 4200 mob 021 231 4240
27	Hemi Matenga & Lockheed Crash Site Alt:Hemi Matenga – Tui St Circuit	F 6-7 hrs E 3-4 hrs	Peter Hatfield 384 7046 Gavin Mickell 387 3402 mob 027 4534 833

The planned programme of walks can be downloaded from the [website](#). For information about the group call Gavin Mickell on 387 3402

VOLUNTEER DIARY

Native Plant Restoration Nursery - Highbury

Weekend sessions over the next period – 1:30 to 4:30pm

Saturday **5 March**; Sunday **20 March**; Saturday **2 April**; Sunday **17 April**;
Saturday **30 April**; Sunday **15 May**; Saturday **28 May**; Sunday **12 June**

...also weekly **Tuesday morning sessions** from 9:00 to around 12:00 midday.

For more information contact [Chris Streatfield](#)

If you would like to receive notices and the newsletter from the *Native Plant Restoration Group* please reply to this notice with the heading 'subscribe Plant Restoration'

Places for Penguins

This project is focused on improving the habitat around the Wellington coastline to make it more penguin friendly. It involves occasional beach clean-ups, weed clearance, pest control, penguin monitoring, planting and other activities.

If you would like to help out with this project in some way or receive the project newsletter please contact the volunteer coordinator at placesforpenguins@gmail.com or reply to this notice with the heading 'Penguins'

Chartwell Bush, - Crofton Downs

This is the reserve below the sub-station at the top of Chartwell Drive and a recent addition to sites we are improving as part of our long term F&B Natural Pathways programme to help establish ecological corridors across Wellington. The work will involve removing pest plants, assisting with predator control already in place and doing some enhancement planting. Our purpose is to provide a better habitat for native fish, lizards and birds. The work will also enhance the buffer zone of the adjacent Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve. At this early stage it is clear a priority will be to remove the accumulated rubbish, which is still being dumped.

If you are a 'local' and would be interested in joining our small project management group please reply to this notice with the heading 'Chartwell Management' and how you can be contacted. If you would like to help out in other ways or be kept informed about the project reply to this notice with the heading 'Chartwell'.

Tanera Gully Enhancement– Epuni street, Aro Valley

This small but significant area in Aro Valley is in close proximity to Zealandia, Polhill Gully and Central Park. It is a F&B Natural Pathways project intended to improve the site's ecological diversity and provide a safe habitat for its wildlife. The project is being lead by local resident Denis Asher, if you would like to help or be kept informed about the project please reply to this notice with the heading 'Tanera Gully'

Garden Bird Survey

The dates for the winter Landcare Research survey are **Saturday 25 June to Sunday 3 July 2016**. An online survey form will be available on the [garden bird survey website](#) during the survey period.

Branch Publications – Rahui and Inbrief

Editor and assistance

Rahui is the only printed Branch newsletter distributed to all Branch members. It is published annually to coincide with the Branch AGM. Inbrief (which you are reading) is an online publication published about three or four times a year (less frequent than previously). Both publications are currently being produced by one individual with assistance from authors of articles published in Rahui.

The time has come to 'pass the baton'. If you would like to be the editor of one or both publications or help in some other way with their production, please reply to this notice with the heading 'Publications'. Note these are unpaid voluntary roles.

Letter stuffing

We save on Branch funds by manually putting Rahui into envelopes. If you are willing to help with that process this year in mid-May could you please reply to this notice with the heading 'Stuffing'. Please indicate which day(s) of the week and time of day that would best suit you.

SPEAK UP FOR CONSERVATION

Resource Management Act - amendments

The Governments RMA reforms are progressing through parliament, and the select committee is now asking for feedback on the bill.

The good news on the reforms is that the Government has backed away from some of their more concerning proposals. However, there are still a range of important and worrying issues in the rest of the legislation, and our RMA team is working on a detailed analysis of these.

Many of you will have a practical understanding of the RMA, and personal experience of its value to your conservation work. Your submission on the reforms from an 'on the ground' perspective will be important for influencing the select committee. The National Office have prepared background information on the [F&B website](#) for you to use. The **deadline for submissions is the 25th of March**.

Marine Protected Areas - discussion document

The Government's Marine Protected Areas discussion document is out for consultation. This document will lead to a new Act later in the year. **The deadline for submissions is the 11th of March**. This is our chance to influence the drafting of a new piece of legislation – and get it right from the outset.

Whether you have experience of marine protection (e.g. Taputeranga Marine Reserve) or not, you could make a valuable submission on the need for a well focused, streamlined process to make effective marine protection easier.

The National Office Marine Campaign team are working on a detailed response to the MPA discussion document, but if you'd like to use something more general go to the [F&B website](#) . A thousand people have already used the online submission template to make a submission.

Freshwater Management – proposal

The Government is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the way fresh water is managed. These reforms aim to “improve our management of fresh water to deliver better environmental and economic outcomes and better outcomes for iwi.”

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) are planning to hold public events on the proposed reforms in the following locations: Auckland, Rotorua, Napier, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Nelson, Timaru, Invercargill. Details of venues and times are not yet available. You can download a soft copy of the proposal from the [MfE website](#); the submission **closing date is 22 April**.

CONSERVATION MATTERS

International Seabird Protection

The recent Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Bali Indonesia proved to be a mixed result for Forest & Bird's seabird advocate and BirdLife International representative, Karen Baird.

Accidental capture of birds by longline fishing vessels is one of the biggest threats to albatross survival worldwide. Karen Baird attended the commission meeting this month [December 2015] strongly advocating for measures to protect our seabirds in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres from accidental by-catch from longline fishing.

“Larger vessels have been required to use 2 methods of mitigation to reduce seabird by-catch since 2014. This year [2015] we achieved a breakthrough in the northern hemisphere – now small vessels less than 24m long are required to use one seabird by-catch mitigation method, so species that migrate there from NZ such as Flesh-footed shearwater will be better protected, alongside north Pacific albatrosses. The new measure for the smaller boats will come into effect from January 2017.

Despite this positive progress in the north, no gain in the southern Hemisphere this time round, “ said Karen Baird.

Two proposals were submitted to improve the Conservation and Management Measure for seabirds at this year's [2015] Commission meeting. Both were the result of 2 years of work by BirdLife International. One was for the north Pacific and one for the south Pacific, both to fill gaps where the available science indicates that mitigation is needed.

“Unfortunately, agreement could not be reached on acceptable measures to protect vulnerable seabirds between 25°S and 30°S in the Southern hemisphere.”

I think there may be practical issues in particular for some Pacific island Countries to adopt mitigation measures at this time, however we hope these can be resolved over the coming year [2016] and a measure can be introduced for adoption at the next Commission meeting”.

BirdLife is very pleased to finally have protection for seabirds required on all vessels in the north Pacific,” said Karen Baird, “but long term we would like to see 2 measures required on small vessels and it's not over yet.

“There is more work to do from all participating countries to find agreement, and ensure seabirds are protected from accidental by-catch,” Said Karen Baird.

Forest & Bird is a partner of BirdLife International

Fairy Tern breeding ground threat

One of the world's rarest birds, and New Zealand Sea Bird of the Year in 2014, the New Zealand Fairy Tern, faces yet another push onto the slide to extinction from a group wanting to destroy the mangroves in its main habitat, that are essential to its survival. Around half of the ten or so pairs remaining in the world breed at the beautiful Northland harbour of Mangawhai. Now they are threatened by a group of locals who want to remove the mangroves that a recent study by BirdLife partner, Forest & Bird, has shown are essential to the Fairy Tern survival.