

Habitat



NORTH SHORE BRANCH

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2008

SAVE OUR FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS — WINTER APPEAL 2008



FROM
THE EDITOR

On Queen's Birthday (observance), trip leader Margi Keys took a group of Forest and Birders on an interpretive walk to explore Torbay Heights Reserve. Some remarkable botanical features were observed, including a considerable area of climbing rata which was in flower early June. Torbay Heights is one of three small reserves between the upper Glamorgan Drive area and the top of Glenvar Rd, inland from Torbay, all saved from residential development.

Please support our national Winter Appeal to save New Zealand's lakes and rivers (www.forestandbird.org.nz/support/donate/appeal.asp). Debs Martin is coming to speak to the Auckland region about saving the Mokihinui River from destructive development (see What's On inside your wrapper for details).

On the subject of queens, read further on about a 'weed queen' spreading her wicked scent through our native bush...

STOP PRESS: Political candidates to talk about their 'green' policies on August 4th.

ANNUAL PLANTING AT TUFF CRATER

Sunday 10am, June 8th was the morning of the Annual plant. Around one hundred people of all ages turned up to help get the plants into the ground. We were planting up the last bit of the grassed area that borders the sea coming through under the motorway bridge; next year we will be moving up the slope.

There was a general mood of fun and enjoyment as lots of the people had been before and they were delighted to see how much last year's plants had grown. Some serial repeat planters commented on the height the trees planted a few years ago have reached. Everything looked green, moist and healthy.

Lovely to see the number of children of all ages who were digging, if they were big enough to wield a spade, or holding and placing trees, conservationists of the future!

Forest and Bird thanks all those who came and joined in, and the NSCC for their help and the sausages afterwards. Thanks also to Te Ngahere who again, this year, sprayed the planting area, laid mulch and then put out the plants and helped us get them into the ground.

– Anne Denny



SPONSOR SOUGHT

Like most other areas of modern life, modern conservation efforts require funding. The North Shore branch is the 4th largest in the country but we are not one of the wealthiest. Some branches have permanent revenue generators, like the F&B hut at Piha that generates income for Waitakere Branch, while others have large bank balances as a result of bequests. These balances themselves give a steady income from interest payments. Our branch has one source of income and that is the sale of calendars and diaries. Our biggest cost every year is the production of our newsletter, *Habitat*. It comes out three times a year and our costs are incurred for printing and distribution. Each edition costs us approximately \$500 to produce and we have a circulation of 1,300.

We would dearly love a sponsor who would be prepared to take on the production and distribution costs. In return they would receive recognition of their role in the newsletter, a not insignificant benefit given the number of recipients. If you are able to help, please contact the Editor or any member of the committee.

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY *TIAKI TAIAO*, NORTH SHORE BRANCH

FROM THE CHAIR

IT'S THE END OF AN ERA...

New chairman excited about the challenges ahead for executive team

It was the end of an era when Jim Lewis stood down from the committee at our AGM in May. He also stood down as Acting Chair and I have taken on the job with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension. I am apprehensive about having to fill the large boots left by Jim but am also excited about the challenges ahead. It is certainly gratifying to have such an experienced and willing committee behind me – they will make the job a lot easier. Thanks again to Jim for his many years of service and we are delighted that he will retain his 'brief' on RMA matters, as well as being available for wise counsel when needed.

In my first year, I think I will stick to the basics. Our newsletter, *Habitat*, is an important piece of branch business, representing our biggest expense and

depending heavily on volunteers who help with folding and deliveries. Our editor, Victor Meyer, also does a great job and we are pleased that he is continuing in his role, despite leaving the Shore and moving to Whangaparaoa. Our commitment to the Tuff Crater is going to grow in coming years. Deputy Chairman, Richard Hursthouse, has brought to the committee a wealth of knowledge gained in his work on the Centennial Park Bush Society at Campbells Bay, and we are already benefitting from this in our expanded vision of what we hope to achieve at Tuff Crater. Anne Denny continues her sterling work organising weeding and planting bees, and we hope to see many of you helping out in the future. Membership has been declining slowly over recent years, a trend that is also

being experienced nationally. However, we remain a larger branch with nearly 800 members. Helene Willis runs membership and she will welcome any new members ready to sign up. Existing members can help by actively recruiting friends and neighbours – lend them your magazine when you have finished with it and invite them to our meetings. We are aiming to launch our own website before the end of the year and this should pull in new members as well.

So! Time to roll up the sleeves and get on with the 'preservation and protection of the indigenous flora and fauna and natural features of New Zealand' – our primary objective as stated in the Constitution.

– Alan Emmerson

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S TRUNCATED AGM REPORT

NATIONAL CONSERVATION: Support of the national campaigns. The Branch has also supported the Northern Officers by assisting at the Ellerslie Flower Show, the marine film festival at North Head, and a display at the recent BioBlitz at Smith's Bush.

LOCAL CONSERVATION: Our Millennium Forest Project at Tuff Crater, led by Anne Denny, has continued to develop – the original plants now over 2m high! Within the region, our members continue to contribute to many of the projects organised by ARC & DOC, e.g. Tawharanui, Tiri and Motuora. Within the city, the committee has supported projects in Little Shoal Bay, Le Roy's Bush, Centennial Park, and Lucas Creek reserves. NorthWest WildLink is the first

step in developing links of habitats and persons from the Gulf to Waitakere: a primary project fulfilling the vision of Auckland Naturally.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: These continue to be well attended (usually 50-60+) because of the high standard of speakers arranged by Karen Wealleans, the publicity in the local media by Liz Anstey as well as the loyalty of many members. The evenings are enjoyable with the smiling welcome of Barbara Leigh and the succession of supper helpers organised by Lynette Jolicoeur.

HABITAT: The newsletter continues to be our main means of communication. Victor and the design team print a quality production. The delivery system is efficiently maintained by the new

convenor, Linda Johnson. More members could join the e-mail edition forwarded by Nick Keenleyside. The programme for all branches is available on the F&B website (www.forestandbird.org.nz/branches/index.asp).

MANAGEMENT: Another good year's work has been made possible through efficient records and minutes by our secretary Jocelyn, careful control of accounts by Cedric the treasurer, record sales of calendars to boost our funds by Alan, regular production of *Habitat*, contact with new members, publicity in the media, and wisdom arising from long service by Claire. I leave this group with regret, but also with great memories!

– Jim Lewis



NORTH ISLAND ROBIN - TIRITIRI MATANGI



CHATHAM ISLANDS BLACK ROBIN

Habitat

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TORBAY HEIGHTS WALK

Our walk began at the corner of Helen Ryburn Place and Kate Sheppard Drive. We were a group of 25, including six very well-behaved children aged 5 up. It is always a pleasure to walk in the bush with children who have parents that share in a deep love of nature!

The track rises steeply for the first five minutes. We stopped to look at a mature rewarewa leaning over the track on the way up.

At the top we talked about kumerahou (*Pomaderris kumeraho*) and young tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) plus mingimingi, both prickly (*Cyathodes juniperina*) and soft (*Leucopogon fasciculatus*), tauhinu (*Cassinia leptophylla*), grass tree or neinei (*Dracophyllum sinclairii*) and the common tree daisy (*Olearia furfuracea*) growing on the clay.

Richard Hursthouse had a great book on fungi with coloured photos, so he was identifying the many species as he strolled along.

The track is very well formed and has a good surface layer of stones, thanks to the efforts of retired Westlake Boys High maths teacher Hugh Willis and his team of PD workers.

The vegetation is quite varied and mostly under 3m high in this section, with mapou (*Myrsine australis*), climbing club moss (*Lycopodium* spp.) and tangle fern (*Gleichenia*) on both sides of the track. Further on there is fine grove of nikau palm (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and puriri (*Vitex lucens*), perhaps 300 years old, laden with at least a dozen perching lilies. We didn't stop long underneath them... Kohekohe was starting to flower. Some neinei had red flowers; some had white.

The akakura is noteworthy here as it covers an extensive area of perhaps two hectares between Glenvar Rd and the track we took to the satellite station on the corner of Fitzwilliam Drive. It is worth revisiting this area at different times of the year to view the flowers. We were rewarded with the sight of perhaps 20 to 30 blossoms.

Rata is said to be descended from a union between Takapua, the daughter of Tane, and Rerenoa whose name means 'to go everywhere.' Rerenoa was a god (atua) who gave rise to

all the climbing plants, and Takapua was the maker of flowers in Maori mythology. Rata flowers were used in snares.

Our lengthy botanising meant we stuck to Torbay Heights Reserve instead of including the smaller Fitzwilliam and Emlyn Reserves which are to the north.

– Margi Keys



DARK QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

North Shore Forest and Bird needs your help in carrying out a survey of *Cestrum nocturnum* (queen of the night) in North Shore reserves. *Cestrum* is behaving like a weed now, naturalising widely in Auckland. However, it is still legally for sale. Our aim is to compile an inventory of where it is invading so we are better prepared in our attempts to stop it being sold.

Cestrum is a native of India and Central America. An evergreen shrub to 4m in height with white to yellowish flowers and a strong fragrance at night (hence its name); white seeds spread by birds. *Cestrum* thrives in damp gullies – in the wetter parts of our native bush – forming dense thickets in places. It grows from branches lying on the ground, which makes control more difficult. Seeds remain dormant in the ground for many years and all parts of the plant are poisonous.

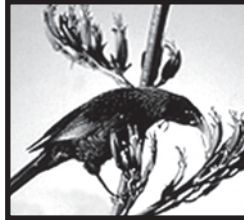
If you know of *Cestrum nocturnum* in any reserve, please notify Richard on 410 5339 or richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz with location and degree of infestation.

– Richard Hursthouse



Akakura or climbing rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*) flowers during autumn and winter on the North Shore. (In Torbay Heights, akakura can be seen towards the upper part of the reserve, whereas in Le Roy's Bush it is towards the lower part.)

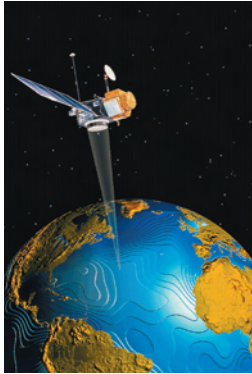
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The Forest and Bird Library Collection is now at Awataha Marae, 58 Akoranga Drive. Open Mon - Fri 10am to 3pm. Phone 486 5467

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FRAGILE WORLD – a multi-ecological web portal project

Recently a lot of organisations who work in the sustainability, conservation and human rights arenas have begun making use of the internet as a way to spread their message and make a difference. There is often an overlap in what they are trying to achieve, and on some issues these

organisations have opted to work together, for example the Be The Change website, which Forest and Bird supports in terms of tackling human-induced climate change.

The recently launched Fragile World website (www.fragileworld.org.nz) brings together a selection of significant issues and campaigns to raise public awareness and generate action through the work of organisations that endeavour to make a positive difference in our fragile world.

Fragile World focuses on four of the big issues facing our planet: sustainability, human rights, conservation, and climate change. They all overlap and need to be dealt with together. Many people want to make a difference in a lot of areas, but aren't sure how, or don't have time. This easy-to-use website is a place where people can easily and effectively take action on a range of issues which are important to them.

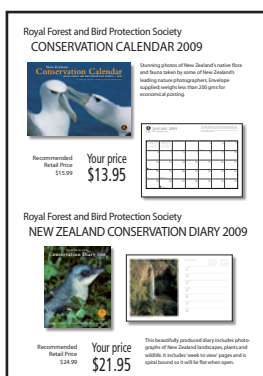
The actions have been selected from the campaigns of established organisations with a strong reputation for dedication, effectiveness and integrity, including Forest and Bird, WWF, Amnesty International, Oxfam and Greenpeace.

Next time you are online, check out the Fragile World website at www.fragileworld.org.nz.

– Nick Keenleyside

2009 CALENDARS AND DIARIES

Our annual fundraising activity, the sale of F&B calendars and diaries, kicks off in June every year. We have to start this early as our order forms go out with the July edition of Habitat. Checking with Warehouse Stationery revealed a slight drop in the price of envelopes, but the big shock came at the Post Office where the cost of mailing calendars has gone up to \$2 and for diaries it has risen to \$1.50. The message is clear – come along to a meeting anytime from August to November and buy your calendars and diaries at the meeting. Save on postage!



To add insult to injury, Alan has just heard that the price of calendars has gone up by a dollar this year. We shouldn't complain, as this is the first price rise in over 10 years (it may be as much as 14 years since the last one – way before Alan took on fundraising!). Please continue to support this, our only fundraising activity, as it brings in the much-needed funds that enable us to support conservation initiatives on the Shore.

Calendars (now \$13.95ea) and diaries (\$21.95ea) can be obtained using the supplied order form (hard copy) or by ringing Alan on 473 2216.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KCC

North Shore 'Trio' bringing home Old Blue award!



At the annual Forest & Bird Council Meeting in Wellington this year, Muriel Fanselow, Dorothy Wernham and Rona Wark were awarded an Old Blue for the founding of and exceptional contribution to North Shore Kiwi Conservation Club. Their pioneering work with children and conservation has done us proud!



Forest and Bird salutes (from left) Muriel Fanselow, Rona Wark and Dorothy Wernham upon receiving the prestigious Old Blue award. (Rona was unwell and couldn't attend the ceremony in Wellington.)

Photo courtesy of F&B Head Office

Send newsletter contributions to Victor Meyer, PO Box 33873, Takapuna or email victoranddebbie@paradise.net.nz

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society *Tiaki Taiao*, North Shore Branch

PO Box 33-873, Takapuna, New Zealand | www.forestandbird.org.nz

The Committee 2008

ALAN EMMERSON	–	Chairman	473 2216
RICHARD HURSTHOUSE	–	Deputy Chairman	410 5339
JOCELYN SANDERS	–	Secretary	479 2107
LAUREN POWER	–	Treasurer	478 6103
LIZ ANSTEY	–	Committee	480 1545
ANNE DENNY	–	Committee	480 5570
CEDRIC HAY	–	Committee	410 5977
VICTOR MEYER	–	Committee	427 5774
SARAH NOBLE	–	Committee	475 6338
CLAIRE STEVENS	–	Committee	419 1233
HELENE WILLIS	–	Committee	480 8851
BRIAN GANNON	–	KCC	443 2479
KAREN WEALLEANS	–	Guest speakers	410 1995
LINDA JOHNSON	–	Habitat deliveries	413 9851
NICK KEENLEYSIDE	–	Electronic distribution	info@fragileworld.org.nz

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

VICTOR MEYER, email: victoranddebbie@paradise.net.nz

BIRD RESCUE

SYLVIA 478 8819

Remember if you are concerned about any conservation problems in your area, get in touch with Alan or Richard.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH SHORE BRANCH
ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY



FOREST
& BIRD



TIEKE, OR
NORTH ISLAND
SADDLEBACK,
THE NORTH
SHORE BRANCH
EMBLEM



Habitat

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WHAT'S ON

Public meetings take place on the first Monday of every month.

VENUE: Takapuna Senior Citizens' Hall,
The Strand (behind Takapuna Library).

TIME: 7.45pm.

ADMISSION: Gold coin cover costs.

We'd like to see you there!

AUGUST – Monday 4th

'Special Election Year Political Forum' hosted by North Shore Branch. Sue Bradford (Green List MP and East Coast Bays candidate), Wayne Mapp (National MP for North Shore), Phil Twyford (Labour candidate for North Shore) and Dail Jones (NZ First List MP and West Auckland candidate) will answer questions following short statements. F&B members are urged to review the 20 Envirovote Questions (Forest & Bird magazine – May issue or website). Come hear the environmental policies of the main parties and be prepared to have your say!

SEPTEMBER – Monday 1st

'Developing a policy framework to manage aquaculture in Auckland's coastal marine area' by Anaru Vercoe of ARC Coastal Policy. Aquaculture policies are being reviewed. Come and hear about this important process in environmental management. Don't miss out!

OCTOBER – Monday 6th

'Auckland Regional Council Open Sanctuaries' by Matt Maitland, ARC Open Sanctuary Coordinator. Matt has extensive experience in ecological restoration and is going to share on Tawharanui Open Sanctuary and a new open sanctuary at Shakespear Regional Park. Animal pest eradication, pest-proof fencing, community partnerships, and ecological recovery will be discussed.

NOVEMBER – Monday 3rd

'Kauri (*Agathis australis*) under threat from an emerging Phytophthora disease?' presented by Nick Waipara, ARC Biosecurity Researcher. A soil-borne disease, known as PTA, has been identified from kauri forests in the Waitakere Ranges and Great Barrier (Aotea).

Come hear what can be done to protect our iconic tree against this disease...

DECEMBER – Monday 1st

'Conservation education and enviroschools' organised by Kate Jackson of North Shore City. Two schools are going to give a short presentation each about the conservation work they are doing. Don't miss this exciting evening! It is also our Christmas meeting – please bring a plate to share and be festive!

Save the Mokihinui River – Auckland Meetings

Forest and Bird's campaigner Debs Martin from South Island is coming to talk to the Auckland region:

- Central Auckland on Tuesday, October 14th
- Massey University (Albany) on Wednesday, October 15th

The Mokihinui is a pivotal river ecosystem on the West Coast. Debs will tell us about the strategy to save it from the impact of proposed damming. Don't miss this vital event! For more information contact Suzi Phillips on 021 271 2527 or email suzi@dialogue.co.nz

ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

August, Sunday 31st. MOTUORA Planting Day, 8am sharp (afternoon return). Join the North Shore contingent and assist in ecological restoration in the Gulf. Motuora Restoration Society coordinates day trips to the island fortnightly during the planting season and monthly during summer. Ferry departs from Sandspit. Cost: \$20 adult, \$10 child (5-15yrs), under 5 free. Medium fitness. Bookings essential. Contact Jocelyn Sanders on 479 2107 or jocelyn.s@slingshot.co.nz.

September, Sunday 21st. HOTEQ RIVER Boat Trip, 1pm (3hrs duration). On the 'Amara' to view flowering kowhai, birdlife, Atuanui (Mt Auckland) and Kaipara Harbour. Meet at Glorit on SH16, load at Mark Donaldson's house 1pm sharp, directly opposite the boat club on the north side of the river. Max passengers: 25. Cost: \$35 pp. Payment essential with booking to Richard Hursthouse: 410 5339; richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz. (Carpooling feasible.)

October, Sunday 19th. MIRANDA Bird Trip to welcome back the migratory birds, 10am onwards. Meet early at Miranda (high tide: 11am; allow at least 90min from North Shore). Bird watching first then guest speaker at 1pm (cost \$4.50). BYO lunch or buy fish and chips nearby! Tea and coffee available for small donation. To register and carpool, please phone Sarah Noble 475 6338 or email sarah.noble@aucklandcity.govt.nz.

November, Saturday 22nd. CHELSEA RESERVE Bush Walk with Mel Galbraith, 9am (3hrs duration). Meet at the refinery carpark at the very bottom of Colonial Rd, Highbury. Suitable for most abilities. For bookings, please phone Richard on 410 5339 or email richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz.

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS (10am-noon)

- Aug 10 Sun Long Bay Reserve, East Coast Bays
 - Aug 31 Sun Shepherds Park, Beach Haven
- Please bring a spade if you have one and sturdy footwear. BBQ and drinks provided.
Contact NSCC Citywide Parks Officer, ph 486 8600.

