

Habitat



NORTH SHORE BRANCH

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2009

CONSERVATION IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST



FROM
THE EDITOR

Resulting from the impact that we have had on plants and animals, an aspiration has been ignited to protect species and ecosystems from decimation so as to preserve them for posterity. This philosophy, arguably first documented by George Perkins Marsh in the late nineteenth century, has a long history. The protection of genes and landscapes is considered and achieved on grounds of ethics, science, aesthetics, biodiversity, environmental stability, recreation, and economics. Read on and discover how these strands still weave their way into the very fabric of nature conservation today.



PETER'S PATCH

On June 7th, about a hundred of us planted up Peter's Patch (Tuff Crater Community Planting Day).



The story behind all this is that last year Forest and Bird members met a man, Peter Cox, who had been cutting gorse at Tuff Crater. He started at the St Peters entrance and steadily worked his way around to the Millennium Forest, so by the time we met him he was working on the 3m high gorse along the side of the path leading up to the walkway. Normal mortals were daunted by the height and depth of this enormous patch of

gorse, but not Peter! He just ploughed in and cut it down, leaving it in large piles which the Council picked up. After that he weeded out the whole area and spent a lot of time hoeing the re-growth. He then piled on the mulch and got anyone else around to give a hand. We had a few leftover plants towards the end of last year and these were sparsely planted over the area.

So during the recent annual planting the Council provided plenty of plants, some of which were laid out over Peter's Patch. The photo insert shows the beauty of the site today and what results from one man's determination to keep hacking away at the weeds!

– Anne Denny

ALBATROSS APPEAL

"That we are seemingly prepared to risk the future of these wonderful birds, while we continue to plunder the world's oceans to feed our insatiable appetite for cheap fish, simply defies belief."

– HRH The Prince of Wales

For more information go to www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/campaigns/save-albatross

and to donate <http://secure.forestandbird.org.nz/shop/donations.asp>

FROM THE CHAIR

CONSERVATION AND THE COMMUNITY

We know why we are actively involved in conservation: we want to preserve the natural character of our landscape which is increasingly under threat; we want to stop the spread of invasive weeds; and we want to promote our wonderful endemic plants, birds, reptiles and insects so that future generations will continue to enjoy them as we do. But our involvement is more than a quest for these worthwhile goals. As we strive to achieve them, we increasingly come into contact with like-minded people and a sense of community starts to grow. Our recent Tuff Crater planting day saw over 100 residents of the Shore working together to plant 1,400 native trees in an atmosphere of co-operation and good spirit. Children jostled to relate

stories of the trees they had planted last year, indicating a continuity of intent and enjoyment. These events are FUN, and everywhere you look people are smiling and chatting to their neighbours.

In a wider context, New Zealanders are renowned for their generosity and the hours they put into unpaid volunteer work in many different areas. Many Forest and Birders are also involved with other charitable organisations – selling poppies for returned service men and women, raising funds for their kids' schools, collecting for the Westpac rescue helicopter and the like. All these activities draw us together and give us that sense of who we are as a nation. And it's a jolly good thing that we do, too. The country simply could not get by

without the enormous contribution of unpaid volunteers.

Our branch has a growing sense of community as more and more members become involved with activities outside of the monthly meetings. Attendances on our regular trips are increasing and we are getting better turn-outs to our weeding and planting bees. Keep an eye out for these events and if you haven't been in the past, come along to one soon! Your participation is a contribution to both conservation and the community.

– Alan Emmerson

Notice: A Chair Report to the AGM of May 4th is available from emmo66@xtra.co.nz



Explorative feedback re. Tuff Crater

Fourteen people joined in on a circumnavigation of Tuff Crater on Saturday, 23 May. We enjoyed a beautiful fine day, a bonus in between some very cold autumn weather. The group inspected the first tank sites before taking a leisurely pace anticlockwise around the crater. One of the group had a native species list, another a weed list, and a third kept a bird list. We added rimu (planted) to the native species list, recorded 43 species of weeds and about 10 different bird species. The walkway along the tank sites was very muddy with two members slipping over, highlighting the need for an upgrade to this walking track (see picture). Members were introduced to the restoration plans for the site, the wonderful salt marsh and the mature coastal kohekohe/kowhai/kanuka forest below McBreen Ave (a priority area for contract weed control). We made our way back along the motorway edge past flotsam in the mangroves and over the bridge to survey the Millennium Forest. The future looks promising and the vision attainable for this wetland reserve.

– Richard Hursthouse

Funding update: DOC Community Conservation Fund has also granted us \$14,500 incl. GST for weed control and planting.

MANGERE / PUKETUTU ISLAND BIRDING WALK

On 15 March, Alan Emmerson led an enthusiastic group around the Mangere estuary and Puketutu Island. We were joined by some Forest and Bird members who lived in the Hillsborough area (close by) and who had never previously explored the area. Others in the party had seen the walk advertised on the Internet and decided to join us. Of course there were also several members from our branch, making up the total of sixteen.

We started out at Puketutu Island and were fortunate to view several native NZ scaup,

a species of diving duck. The highlight was when Alan spotted some tiny waders that turned out to be black-fronted dotterels from Australia. This was the first time he had ever seen this species in New Zealand and we felt very special to see them. Alan also sighted a magpie moth, which he managed to get in his telescope when it landed.

The tide was coming in, so we then ventured to the estuarine area to observe the migratory birds feeding, flying and socialising. We ate our lunch while

watching white-fronted terns swoop for food in front of us. The telescopes were set up and binoculars came out. The sheer number of birds was amazing for such a small area. We saw spoonbill, knot, bar-tailed godwit and oystercatcher, to name a few.

The weather was fantastic, after a miserable day previously, the company was great and, of course, thanks to Alan, we had the usual Forest and Bird expertise to make our day even more enjoyable!

– Jocelyn and Ivan Sanders



Welcome New Members!

A hearty welcome to Rosalind Ramsay, Sally Rowe, M F X Lalor, Andrew Robie, Lesley Bailey, Ken Moir, Naomi Kibe, Leone & Richard Green, Chris Masters, Kristin Price, Shirley Wensor & Ian Ferguson, Anna Bell, Amanda Gummer, Ceri Anthony, Eleo ore Le Clerc, Lesley & Jack O'Rourke, Simon Daniells, Stephen Sosich, Roger Fea, Maj de Poorter, Calerie Lloyd, Bernard King, Deidre Wynyard, the Freeland family, Liz & Chris Goodwin, and North Shore Horticulture Society Inc who recently joined North Shore Forest & Bird. May you enjoy partnering with us in conservation initiatives on the Shore!



SAGA OF A STRUCTURE PLAN – LONG BAY

The saga started with the decision of the Environment Court in 1996 that Long Bay could be urbanised...

The Long Bay Structure Plan Appeal has been continuing under the supervision of the Court in much negotiation and debate:

July 2008 highlights

- Interim decision by Court which favoured the more environmentally friendly NSCC proposal.
- Court also directed Council to consult with all others to appeal on making amendments that would implement the general guidelines decided by Court.

Other parties: Landco, owner of 178 ha, ARC, Great Park Society, Historic Places Trust, Ministry of Education, Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara, Singleton Family and Okura Environmental Group (OEG).

OEG is a combined group representing North Shore Forest & Bird, East Coast Bays Coastal Protection Society, Keep Okura Green, Okura Ratepayers Association Te Tinana, Torbay Historical Society and Dr K. Corbett, Whangaparaoa. The Great Park Society was a member of the group at the 2005 hearing, but decided to appeal independently.

August 2008 onwards

- Council identified 12 major issues requiring resolution before presenting a new land-use map to Court by end of November last year.
- Unresolved issues led Court to set new timeline for consultation: final map with supporting text from Council by end of March this year.
- Official response from other parties by May 1st.
- Responses did not entirely agree with Council's plan.

May 2009 definitives

- Parties have been meeting to contribute to Objectives, Policies and Rules – details of what is permitted and mandatory in different zones.
- Roading pattern (major issue) and general zoning resolved.
- Finalisation of 12 matters of detail remains, e.g. boundaries of residential zones along Vaughans Rd, protection of views from Grannies Bay and landscape enhancement along lower reaches of Vaughans Stream.

The Court has set down October 2009 for any final hearing. A decision may be made before the close of the year – 13 years since inception!

– Jim Lewis

Eskdale Park on ANZAC Day

An overcast windy day didn't put 10 enthusiasts off their fundraiser walk on April 25. What's more, it didn't rain on us.

Richard Hursthouse explained how to tell the difference between *Coprosma lucida* (raised midvein on the upper side of the leaf near the leaf stalk) and *Coprosma robusta* (flat midvein). He identified six *Coprosma* species, including *C. grandifolia* (kanono), *C. rhamnoides*, *C. arborea* and *C. spathulata*, on the track from Domain Rd to the bottom of the valley.

Kumarahou is common in this reserve, in the less fertile, elevated area in the east. Spotting one specimen on the track, we learned that it is a mild decongestant. I took a leaf to try as a tea later (to good effect!).

A small number of mature swamp maire or maire tawake (*Syzygium maire*) up to 10m high were found among a large stand of nikau palms. The trunks of the largest specimens measured about 40cm through. Tree ferns identified were wheki or rough tree fern (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), mamaku or black tree fern (*Cyathea medullaris*) and ponga or silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*). Mature podocarps in large numbers are miro, rimu, tanekaha and totara. There are taraire and rewarewa too. These are regenerating well.

Native birds heard were silvereve (tauhou), fantail (piwakawaka), tui, and grey warbler (riroriro). Eastern rosellas, sparrows and blackbirds were also around.

Our walk concluded in the grassy area alongside Glenfield Rd where last year's plantings of karaka, kawakawa and mahoe were struggling to survive their first summer.

– Margi Keys

Habitat



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

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2009

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

KCC outing to Whitford Bird Garden

Twenty North Shore KCC children and adults enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on a beautiful autumn day at Whitford Bird Garden. Blake Twigden, owner of the Garden, has had a passionate interest in conservation since he was a young man. He is a renowned wildlife artist, and he showed us a book called 'The Rarest Birds in the World' for which he painted all the illustrations. He also showed us a video about how he has used his art to draw attention to the urgent need for humanity to care for the Earth. In the late eighties he began planting a subtropical garden. Five years ago it was opened to the public! Blake personally guides his guests through the free flight aviary he has built for his collection of exotic birds. Blake's Nepalese pheasant has white feathers on its back, serving as camouflage against predators above when it spreads its wings on snow. He also pointed out the unusual plants from round the world. One was an Australian grass tree, 500 years old, which can survive bush fires. Another is a very dangerous plant, the ongaonga or NZ nettle. Blake grows it because it is the only food for the caterpillar of the rare NZ Red Admiral butterfly. Blake had to build a high predator-proof fence, with a concrete base deep into the ground, to keep out mammalian pests. Now many wild birds use his forest to nest and raise their young.

– Christine Ball



SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH 'K'

Four boys and five adults were involved in this June KCC outing to Centennial Park. Our first target tree was **kauri**. We counted 20. On the Mamaku Track was a large **kanuka**. A plan to have KCC members participate for a short time in planting grasses under the flame trees on the Aberdeen Track meant getting there within 20 minutes. Our goal was 50 plants in the ground within 40 minutes. What a fast and furious session! Everyone worked hard, the littlies carrying handfuls of compost, the older children trying hard to dig with an adult-sized spade! The adults were busy keeping up with the children while Christine took photos. We found lots of glass and metal rubbish in the planting area. Centennial Park Bush Society members were planting nearby. Jan Knight had a 9-year-old girl under her wing. Our reward was orange juice and bikkies. With the fuel we had in our bellies we renewed our energy for searching for more things beginning with k. We found **kowhai**. Seeds were prised from seed pods and pockets filled, with instructions of how to germinate at home. **Kohuhu** with its sticky seeds was next. **Kohekohe** starting to burst into flower was discussed. **Kiokio**, the common ground fern; **kiekie** the climber; **kahikatea** completed our list. We sat on the boardwalk under the biggest tree in the reserve and marvelled at a couple of tui feeding and playing. Some of the children pocketed seeds from near the bridge for planting later.

– Margi Keys



North Shore F&B website

The F&B website now has a North Shore Branch section – our first foray into a website! Check out www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/north-shore. This is still in its infancy and we welcome material and bright ideas. The site also has a calendar of our events at www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/north-shore-calendar.

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

TUFF CRATER VOLUNTEERING

Tuff Crater is North Shore Forest and Bird's key restoration project. We need volunteers to help! Please put your hand up for weed control, spraying (once qualified), plant rearing and fundraising. Ring Anne (480 5570) or Richard (410 5339) to express interest. If you'd like to be on the regular email notification list for Tuff Crater work days, please email northshore.branch@forestandbird.org.nz. Anne is coordinating some Friday mornings. There's scope to nominate an area you wish to care for and work independently on. Training on weed recognition and weed control can be arranged. Some equipment may also be available. Draft working bee dates are Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 7, Dec 5.



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

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

The Committee 2009

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

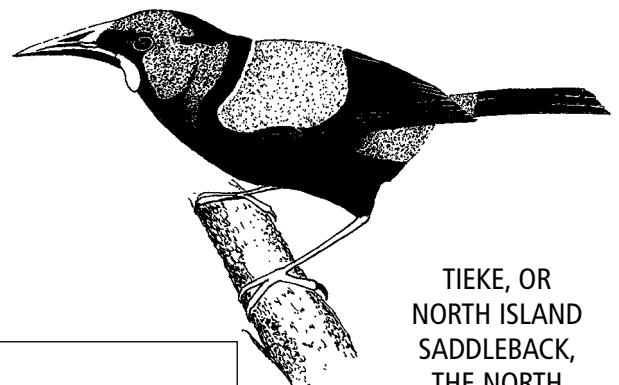
Remember if you are concerned about any conservation problems in your area, get in touch with Alan or Richard.

Habitat

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

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2009

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

WHAT'S ON

ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

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

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

TIME: 7.45pm.

ADMISSION: Donation / koha (please give generously).
We'd like to see you there!

AUGUST Monday 3rd

'Restoring biodiversity to our coastal dunelands – lessons from the Auckland West Coast' by Dr Mark Bellingham (F&B North Island Conservation Manager). Mark is a coastal planner and ecologist who established the Te Henga/Bethells Beachcare group in 1993 and is the current coordinator. They manage dune vegetation, shore and seabirds, people and dogs at the beach.

SEPTEMBER Monday 7th

'Invaders – animals from elsewhere that are causing trouble here' by Nicola Vallance (DOC Senior Media Adviser). Nicola has also presented more than 200 episodes of 'Meet the Locals' on TVNZ6. An experienced and animated speaker, this F&B/KCC member will talk about her new book and conservation experiences in general. Books will be on sale on the night.

OCTOBER Monday 5th

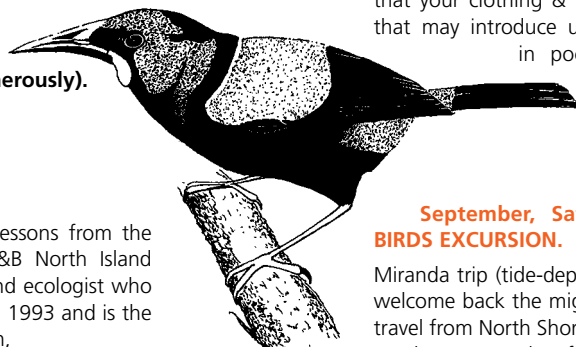
'Fast food for kaka' by Suzi Phillips. Kaka have been seen more commonly over the last few years. Suzi's talk includes information on sightings in the Auckland region and an insight into the sources of food that motivate them to migrate to the mainland in winter. As a Kakawatchnz researcher, Suzi welcomes public reports of the bird!

NOVEMBER Monday 2nd

'Project Manukau' presented by Alistair Shanks and Peter Maddison. This project was initiated in 1993 with goals to improve harbour water quality and to ecologically restore the coastline and seabed. Peter is immediate past president of Forest & Bird and Alistair is an environmental planner with Watercare. (This talk will be confirmed, as Peter may have to work offshore at short notice.)

DECEMBER Monday 7th

'Long Time for Long Bay' presented by Jim Lewis of Forest & Bird, Great Park Society and Okura Environment Group. A story about the delivery of urban landscape with coastal views from beginning to end – 15 years of talking sessions, expert surveys, model presentations and court deliberations. Come hear about the participants, the problems, the predictions, the plan. Tonight's also our Christmas festivity so please bring a plate to share!



August, Sunday 30th. MOTUORA ISLAND PLANTING DAY, 8am sharp (4pm return).

Join the North Shore contingent and be part of ecological restoration in the Gulf, coordinated by Motuora Restoration Society (www.motuora.org.nz). Ferry departs from Sandspit; \$20 for adults, \$10 for children of 5-15yrs (under 5yrs free). BYO drink and snack for morning tea. Sausage sizzle lunch and cuppa provided! Please ensure that your clothing & footwear is clean of soil or seeds that may introduce unwanted pests. Unwanted seeds in pocket corners or stuck to socks unwittingly spread weeds. Contact Jocelyn on 479 2107 or jocsanders@vodafone.co.nz to book or carpool.

September, Saturday 26th. WELCOME THE BIRDS EXCURSION.

Miranda trip (tide-dependent) led by Alan Emmerson to welcome back the migratory birds. Allow at least 90min travel from North Shore. BYO lunch or buy fish and chips nearby! Tea and coffee available for small donation. To register, carpool or for more information about this

bird-watching adventure, please email Alan (emmo66@xtra.co.nz) or ring 473 2216.

November, Sunday 1st. DEVONPORT VOLCANOES EXPLORATION, 10am.

This trip will be led by Bruce Hayward. Meet at the car park at Devonport Museum in Mt Cambria Reserve. We will then explore Mt Victoria and North Head. Bring a torch, as we will look at the rocks from inside North Head volcano. Please contact Jocelyn for any queries (jocsanders@vodafone.co.nz; ph 479 2107).

November, Sunday 22nd. TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND TRIP, 9.30am.

Ferry leaves from Gulf Harbour at 9.50am sharp. Pay your fare (\$39.00 per adult, \$19.50 per child) prior to departure through

www.360discovery.co.nz or phone 307 8005. No need to pay extra for a guide, as F&B members are knowledgeable enough about birdlife and the island. Please phone Margi (443 6919) to register your interest and carpooling options.

For further trip suggestions please speak to Richard (richard.hursthouse@xtra.co.nz) or Sarah (sarah.noble@aucklandcity.govt.nz).

Other North Shore planting days (10am-noon):

- 9 Aug, Sun Pinehill Reserve, entrance from Lough Derg Way
- 30 Aug, Sun Standish Reserve, entrance from Pemberton Ave

Contact NSCC Citywide Parks Officer (ph 486 8600) for more details (normal safety procedures apply).

