

# Habitat



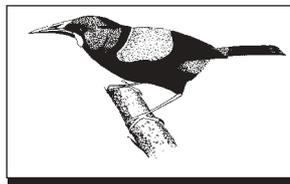
NORTH SHORE BRANCH

AUGUST 2005 – DECEMBER 2005

## TUFF PLANTING

Forest & Bird team rallies to help beautify crater site

Conservation events were too numerous the last couple of months to give justified cover to in this issue. The main event for the local branch was the Tuff Crater Community Planting Day that took place on the 29th of May, when about 600 trees were planted. Since the project's inception in 1999, the site near Akoranga off-ramp has progressed from being barren and neglected to a beautiful landscape of native tree seedlings and saplings right next to the motorway!



FROM  
THE EDITOR

It was really enjoyable. The tiny Kahikateas were miniature replicas of their promising adult stage, as they will grow into New Zealand's tallest trees.

What a team of planters! Even the weather was great! Angela Levet (NSCC Parks Department) was really impressed by our organisation and wants to increase support for the project next year, with more of a family focus. This means the Tuff Crater Millennium Project would be well advertised through Council, so our branch can pour more effort into other aspects of the project. The committee of North Shore Forest and Bird envisages a Three-Year Management Plan for Tuff Crater, and Dr Peter Maddison is undertaking a comprehensive survey of plants, lichens, fungi, invertebrates, and so on. Without monitoring assistance, it's Tuff Going, as Peter puts it! (If possible, please commit yourself to this cause.)

A big 'thank you' is due to all Forest and Birders and members of the public for a fantastic effort at Tuff Crater, which is also a Council Reserve! It is great to have enthusiastic groups, such as yourselves, working hard to improve our parks and having the vision and drive to make a difference.

The Parks Department of the North Shore City Council is reviewing the way planting days will be staged and promoted in future. Several larger events throughout the city will feature and the anticipation for Tuff Crater is to be paramount.



Council passes on its thanks to all involved for working so tirelessly. Romily organised the plant list very thoroughly, and Neil took the time to meet at Tuff Crater and discuss the site beforehand. Following up regularly with weed control could be even more important! So if anyone would like to join the Weeding Group, contact Anne Denny on 480 5570.

On another note, the New Zealand dotterel disappeared from Shoal Bay just on the other side of the motorway from where we were planting. Its habitat was destroyed to make way for motorway works. Attempts to recreate a nesting bank have not been successful. The kaka (also now endangered) is the big native parrot that is sometimes seen on the North Shore. These birds are thought to come from Great Barrier in the east. A corridor made up of native bush patches could facilitate their movement to the Waitakere Ranges in the west. By so doing, their local distribution will also be established in order to realise F&B's Auckland Naturally initiative for the region. The albatross is the focus of F&B's national appeal this year. Read more about it further on in this issue.

If you have an item to report upon, please submit an article to me. Any conservation news about the North Shore that is consistent with F&B policy and positive and constructive will be welcomed. Please send your contributions to [victoranddebbie@paradise.net.nz](mailto:victoranddebbie@paradise.net.nz).

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THE TEAM AT WORK DURING THE RECENT TUFF CRATER COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY.

AUGUST 2005 – DECEMBER 2005

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

## BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT IN BRIEF

The Annual General Meeting of the North Shore Branch of Forest and Bird was held in Takapuna on 2 May 2005.

A feature of this branch is the strong sense of team. While the committee has attended to the formal aspects of running the branch, other activities have happened because of the good will of branch members.

**THE COMMITTEE.** Any chairperson who has a team like the North Shore committee is very fortunate. All have worked with energy and commitment. We now have a strong structure of people co-ordinating the Tuff Crater Millennium Forest Project. An extraordinary amount of time has gone into RMA and submission work, our finances have been kept in a healthy state, and we had great success with the committee team selling calendars.

**KIWI CONSERVATION CLUB (KCC).** This section of Forest and Bird goes from strength to strength. Its progress is a credit to the co-ordinators and their exciting programme.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS.** Meetings have continued to be a big success. An interesting and vibrant selection of speakers has continued to draw a good response from F&B members and the public alike. The meetings are a valuable interface with the North Shore community.

**CONSERVATION WORK.** The Tuff Crater Community Planting Day was again successful. The improved organisation of this project has brought groups of people to the restoration site for working bees. These efforts have no doubt contributed to the good survival rate of the trees, as has the weed control undertaken by branch volunteers.

- Le Roy's Bush Planting Day had a good turn out. It is always a pleasant morning because of the smaller group of people comprising F&B members as well as neighbour volunteers.

- The committee has submitted in support of the kiore (Polynesian rat) eradication on Hauturu (Little Barrier) and the pest eradication at Tawharanui Regional Park. It is thrilling to report the apparently instant increase in numbers of birds, invertebrates, and plants as a result of these eradications.
- Branch involvement in the RMA and the submission process is a vital part of our conservation work – the 'invisible' but essential work of Forest and Bird to conserve biodiversity in urban areas.
- Motuora restoration, Tawharanui revegetation, Centennial Park restoration, and Three Streams arboretum are further support projects of this branch. Centennial Park and Three Streams have branch members as key players or organisers of these projects.
- Strong submissions in support of the Aotea (Great Barrier) Marine Reserve.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Member numbers have remained almost static for North Shore Forest and Bird, but there has been a rapid increase in Kiwi Conservation Club numbers. While we are disappointed that we have not been able to increase the adult numbers, we are delighted to see young conservationists joining KCC.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** I would specially like to thank the staff of NSCC Parks Department, as well as Forest and Bird staff in Auckland and Wellington. It is also with pleasure that I thank everyone in the branch for their support in the past year. Those who belong to Forest and Bird are valuable conservators of New Zealand's unique environment and marine heritage for future generations.

*Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.*

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Conservation is about making connections – environmental connections, and connections between people with a range of ideas.

With this in mind, North Shore Branch is lucky to have three new committee members with a range of environmental backgrounds. They all bring qualities that will be invaluable to our organisation. **Karen Weallens** has a landscape gardening business, and is keen to see much wider use of native plants in landscaping. She wants to be involved in our restoration projects.

**Helene Willis** is a teacher at the zoo and given that the

zoo is very active in increasing populations of New Zealand's threatened species, it will be good to have someone who is teaching in that field of conservation.

**Victor Meyer** is an entomologist, who has been working as an ecologist in the Kruger National Park for the last few years.

What amazing backgrounds for our committee! My hope is that we can connect to the interests of Karen, Helene, and Victor so that they feel they are making a contribution.

*Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.*



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

## MOTU KAIKOURA

### From private hands back to the people

Some 300 conservationists from throughout the Country boarded a Fullers ferry one Saturday morning and headed off to Motu Kaikoura at the entrance to Port Fitzroy at Aotea (Gt Barrier Is) to attend the official opening of the Motu Kaikoura Reserve by the Prime Minister.

Apart from being a great opportunity for networking with a big group of like-minded people, we saw whales spouting as we crossed over the open water from the end of Coromandel.



PRIME MINISTER  
HELEN CLARK

Motu Kaikoura is a 564ha island, which had been cleared in the past, and over recent years largely left to its own devices.

As a result, apart from an area at the south end populated with pines, which appear to have seeded from Great Barrier, the island has begun the revegetation process in natives of its own. The first and biggest task for the Trust that will administer this new reserve is to eradicate deer and rats. Since the reserve is only 80 metres away at its closest point from Great Barrier in the Man of War channel, any eradication process will

need to include a similar plan to that of Great Barrier. It is recognised that like for other restoration projects this is going to be a long and slow process. However, with the Prime Minister announcing on the day that the Government has set aside sufficient funds to eradicate the deer, a great start is envisaged. The good news is that already, there is a substantial list of native plant species and an increasing list of birds. As the eradication begins it is envisaged that seabird species, which used to roost on the island, will return including some rare species.

Because of the number of people on the trip and the sea swell that was present around the island, it was decided not to set foot on Motu Kaikoura. Instead, a slow trip around the island was undertaken so that it could be viewed from every angle. All those on board were very impressed with the size and variety of vegetation types that could be seen. More information is available at [www.motukaikoura.org.nz](http://www.motukaikoura.org.nz) or by contacting Angela at [a@ptnz.com](mailto:a@ptnz.com) or ringing 570 7546.

*Claire Stevens, Committee.*



## Three Streams donated to North Shore City Council

I was recently privileged to represent Forest and Bird at the gifting of Three Streams to the North Shore City Council. Three Streams, a 37,000 square metre property is located on the Albany Highway, just north of Albany Village, and contains a mix of lovely native and exotic bush.

John Hogan, the original owner, started to develop the property over 30 years ago. He said that the area was technically an arboretum, which differed from a reserve in that it contained a collection of both native and introduced species. Over the years the work has been aided by an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers (many of them F&B members) called Friends of Three Streams. In recent years it has been under the auspices of the QEII National Trust.

The Conservation Minister, Chris Carter, attended the momentous occasion and said that the area would be a great asset for the North Shore public. John Hogan spoke of his wish to see a visitor and education centre established on the site and he has gifted \$30,000 to get this underway. The next step is for the North Shore City Council to develop a management plan for the area in conjunction with all those currently involved, expanding to the wider community. If you haven't visited Three Streams it is open to the public, has lovely walkways and also borders Kauri Grove, one of the existing reserves in the Albany area. The mayor and a number of councillors also attended the ceremony, and a bonus was the excellent lunch provided by Council!

*Liz Anstey, Committee.*

## A PLEA!

This branch's only fundraising activity is the sale of calendars and diaries. We need someone to co-ordinate this. It would suit someone who has spare time late winter/early spring. It can be managed entirely from home and full guidance through our established system would be given. Our order for this year is almost due at the printers, so we need a volunteer *urgently!*

Please ring Jim on 480 7245 or contact Neil on 480 2500, email [sherylandneil@hyper.net.nz](mailto:sherylandneil@hyper.net.nz). We would like to hear from you!

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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

AUGUST 2005 – DECEMBER 2005

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

## Species or habitats?

Our North Shore Councillors – Neil Sutherland and Claire Stevens – attended Forest and Bird's National AGM in Wellington during June.

The President, Dr Gerry McSweeney, stood down. The newly elected President is Dr Peter Maddison who holds a doctorate in entomology from London and membership to Waitakere Branch. Peter is currently doing a survey of Tuff Crater's flora and fauna for North Shore Branch. Vice President Dr Liz Slooten is a marine scientist teaching environmental science, ecology, and conservation biology at Otago University.

One of the highlights was the Sanderson Memorial Lecture (Captain Sanderson founded Forest and Bird in 1923) presented by Paul Jansen, leader of Kakapo Recovery Project. It was positively provocative! The notion put forward was Kakapo survival on offshore islands: can we claim to have saved them? Paul believes it is vital for us to have them present in their natural environment on the mainland. Should we save species or should we save habitats? If species only, the danger is that under-appreciated species such as weevils won't be saved – a huge risk to biodiversity! Saving environments means that the connection between species as well as the interaction with their habitat is ensured.

F&B's Strategic Plan presented by the new CEO, General Manager Mike Britton, entails a more specific focus for the organisation. Some of the questions raised were what endeavours are F&B members involved with and what would they expect from Forest and Bird; where is the plan taking us as branches within a national organisation? Full-time staff recorded all ideas from the floor, to be used to influence the plan. Increased marketing and membership recruitment featured. Some great ideas are being explored!

## Albatross Appeal

New Zealand is called the albatross capital of the world because 14 of 21 albatross species occurring world-wide breed within the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone. Most are globally threatened. New Zealand has internationally instigated the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels that came into force during November last year.

Forest and Bird welcomed the Government's decision to regulate commercial fishing operations in order to reduce the annual slaughter of thousands of seabirds, including albatrosses and petrels. The fishing industry is now regulated within 200 nautical miles of the South Island, Chatham Islands and sub-Antarctic islands, following the recall of squid fishers renouncing their commitment to reduce seabird deaths.

The fishing industry's voluntary approach had failed. An estimated 10,000 seabirds die every year as a result of fishing in New Zealand waters.

HRH The Prince of Wales attested in his recent Dunedin speech that these seabird deaths are avoidable. The technology to prevent these deaths is generally very simple and inexpensive to implement. The real challenge is to make these solutions mandatory.

For more information contact Kevin Hackwell (F&B Conservation Manager) on 04 801 2215 or visit [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) to make a donation.

## VOLCANOES AND HABITAT RESTORATION – The Winter Series of Meetings

To link in with North Shore Forest and Bird's Tuff Crater restoration project, our winter meetings have begun with the enlightening talk in June about the restoration of the Manukau Harbour, where the sewage treatment ponds once were. During July the development of F&B's Ark in the Park project to restore the dawn chorus to the Waitakere Ranges will be reported upon. In August we go volcanic with a talk about the Auckland volcanic field, and a field trip to the site the following weekend. September we look further afield and hear about the active volcanoes of the Central Plateau. The last presentation of the series will be in October when we'll hear about the restoration and management of Pollen Island – another motorway fringe project beside the NorthWestern Motorway. Our last two talks for the year will be about local North Shore conservation news and issues in November, and for something different in December, we look to the resources of our own members, and hear about conservation in South Africa.

We hope for our usual good turn out at these meetings, and of course we welcome non-members too. Bring a friend and introduce them to the world of Forest and Bird. (See inside your wrapper for more details.)

## Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, North Shore Branch

PO Box 33-873, Takapuna 1300

The Committee 2005:

<b>NEIL SUTHERLAND</b>	-	Chairperson	480 2500
<b>JOCELYN SANDERS</b>	-	Secretary	479 2107
<b>CEDRIC HAY</b>	-	Treasurer	410 5977
<b>CLAIRE STEVENS</b>	-	Committee	419 1233
<b>ANNE DENNY</b>	-	Committee	480 5570
<b>ALAN EMMERSON</b>	-	Committee	473 2216
<b>JIM LEWIS</b>	-	Committee	480 7245
<b>LIZ ANSTEY</b>	-	Committee	480 1545
<b>VICTOR MEYER</b>	-	Committee	478 1559
<b>KAREN WEALLENS</b>	-	Committee	410 1995
<b>HELENE WILLIS</b>	-	Committee	480 8851
<b>BRIAN GANNON</b>	-	KCC	443 2479
<b>DOROTHY WERNHAM</b>	-	Habitat deliveries	480 8316

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

VICTOR MEYER, email: [victoranddebbie@paradise.net.nz](mailto: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 Jim or Claire.

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



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



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

## WHAT'S ON

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:** \$1 to cover costs.

We'd like to see you there!

### AUGUST

#### Monday 1st

'North Shore's Volcanoes and the Auckland Volcanic Field.' Bruce Hayward from Geomarine Research will talk about the North Shore's volcanoes like the Tuff Crater, and how they relate to the larger volcanic field. This will be a good backgrounder to our North Shore Branch's Tuff Crater Millennium Project.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Monday 5th

'Issues relating to the Ruapehu Crater lake' to be presented by Harry Keys, Advisory Scientist for the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy.

### OCTOBER

#### Monday 3rd

Mike Percy has long been involved with the Pollen Island Restoration Project. It's a fascinating one and presents some different challenges, as it is right beside the NW Motorway. Hear how these challenges are being met.

### NOVEMBER

#### Monday 7th

Shona Myers, Natural Scientist with the Auckland Regional Council, will speak about the environmental issues of the North Shore.

### DECEMBER

#### Monday 5th

'Off to Southern Africa.' North Shore Forest and Bird members, Victor Meyer and Fran Garside were much involved with conservation issues in their first country. Fran will speak of her involvement with local conservation groups in schools and tertiary institutions and with water catchment areas. Victor will speak on conservation biology from his perspective as a research scientist in Kruger National Park, where he finished his PhD. This evening is also the Christmas meeting so please bring a festive delight to share for supper.

## TRIPS and WORKING BEES

### August, Sunday 7th

Bruce Hayward will lead a full day field trip to the volcanoes of the North Shore. Meet outside Takapuna Library (The Strand, Takapuna) at 10.15am to organise car-pooling. Bruce will provide maps for us. We will visit Onepoto Crater, Tank Farm, Smales' Landing, The Pumphouse, and Takapuna Reef where we will have lunch (please bring your own). Afterwards we will travel to Mt Victoria and North Head and return to the library. You are welcome to bring a non-member friend. A maximum of 30 people is permitted. Please book with Sheryl by ringing 480 2500 (advise if transport is needed).



### August, Sunday 14th

Important! Annual F&B Planting Bee at Le Roy's Bush/Little Shoal Bay commencing at 10am. Support the dream of those F&B people who nearly 60 years ago secured this land for us to enjoy today. Bring a spade or gloves for weeding. Park in the Little Shoal Bay car park and follow the signs to the western end of the field. Phone Leanne on 418 2378 for more details.

### October, Sunday 30th

Motuora day trip: leaves Sandspit at 8am and returns by 4pm. A great day on the island to help with general maintenance work. Ferry admission is \$15 per adult (under 12 free). We support this project as part of Auckland Naturally. A great day for families. Register by Sunday 23 October with Sheryl, ph 480 2500. Car sharing available.

### November, 19th & 20th



Tiritiri Matangi weekend. A great chance to catch up with the wonderful happenings on the island. Get up on Sunday in time for the dawn chorus!! Phone Claire (419 1233) well in advance to make your booking. Bookings close 11 November.