

Habitat



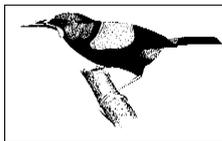
FOREST
& BIRD

NORTH SHORE BRANCH

AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

Partnering together in conservation

Forest and Bird's mandate is to protect all native species on land and at sea. Did you know that domestic cats consume more sea fish in petfood than all the world's seals combined and that over 50 marine fish are caught for fishmeal to rear one commercial salmon (EWT, 14 May 07)? The world's oceans are hastily sliding into a new era. Unsustainable fishing, pollution, and other human impacts are depleting our sea life. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the demand for fish within the last five decades has risen at twice the rate of human population growth. Population collapses of all major remaining species could occur within 40 years! It is



FROM
THE EDITOR

an old myth that the sea's bounty is infinite. Environmental activists illustrate the predicament with some sobering analogies. A spokesperson for Sea Shepherd stated that the principal marine predators on earth are now cattle, with over half the global fish catch serving as feed for domestic livestock. Nations around the world are beginning to realise that urgent action is needed to protect the ocean's resources. A UN General Assembly resolution was passed in December 2006 to reduce high seas bottom-trawling beyond national jurisdictions. In a more recent step, more than 20 nations agreed to discourage unregulated and destructive bottom-trawling in the South Pacific. The agreement will take effect on 30 September and should halt any further exploitation of deep-sea fauna until 2010. After this period a vessel can fish in a new area only after the country has conducted a scientifically accepted impact assessment so as to ensure that no 'significant adverse impacts' on vulnerable marine ecosystems occur.

In this issue of *Habitat* a poignant case for the plight of the Maui Dolphin is briefly made (remember to highlight the talk of October 1st). We had our Tuff Crater planting to gain those carbon credits explained further on in the newsletter. Also read the tribute to Neil – his positive attitude and energetic style will be sorely missed!



ANNE ORGANISES YOUNGSTERS DURING PLANTING.

Tuff crater planting was really tough!

Sunday the 10th of June saw our annual Planting Day at Tuff Crater. This year we were assisted by Te Ngahere who organised the selection of plants, laid them out, and came on the day to help us plant. Through the NSCC we were given lots of mulch and this was spread before the planting day so our plants have more of a chance to survive in a somewhat harsh environment. *[Mulch inhibits the sprouting of weeds – Ed.]*

We placed the plants on the reserve down by the water – some in a completely new area and some a replanting of the area we covered last year.

Our thanks to all the people – adults and children – who turned out in the pouring rain to put in an hour of digging and planting. By the end of the morning the area was looking great and, despite the weather, everyone posed for a photo and seemed happy with the result. After a hot drink and a sizzling sausage supplied by the Council, it was time to head home for a well-deserved hot shower!

Forest and Bird has been fortunate to be given a huge pile of mulch in an area above the pond which needs replanting, so Romily and I have been spreading the mulch and putting in trees. Anyone who has time or inclination could give me a ring on 480 5570 so some more planting can be done.

– Anne Denny

Habitat



REEF HERON *EGRETTA SACRA* - (MATUKU)



TUI *PROSTHEMADERA NOVAESEELANDIAE*

AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

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

FROM THE CHAIR

What a pack of Tuff workers at crater planting



TUFF CRATER WORKERS.



PLANTING IS FUN FOR THE FAMILY.

It was a cold, damp day but over 50 hearts with spades clubbed together. Diamonds all. What a pack of workers! Not a card game but the annual planting at Tuff Crater across the stream from the motorway. The fence does hide what was achieved along the bank, but it also gave some shelter to human and plant. Though the mayor was not there, some Council staff were, led by Angela, friend of all volunteers. They were supported by representatives from ARC and DOC, as well as Branch birders including a contingent from KCC and special guests Neil and Sheryl.

Another 1,000 plants in a bed of thick mulch, all provided by the Council. More family for Anne and Romily to nurture and to protect from weeds and rashly driven mowers.

But ours is not the only planting Council is supporting. Note some of the other places and dates in What's On (inside your wrapper) if you missed ours; you may be able to help elsewhere.

Are we making a difference to our city? Certainly by the numbers planted every year, but invasive plants, bulldozers, secret poisoners and those who perceive land as sites for building are constantly diminishing our urban vegetation. As much of the city's native vegetation is in private hands, perhaps Council can consider ways to support residents to maintain what we already have. Environmental protection requires funding as well as new planting. Check your local Council candidate for their views.

– Jim Lewis

Final words from the outgoing Chair

Because I am no longer a resident of North Shore, it is with real reluctance that I am not offering to stand for chair again this year. My time in this position has been hugely rewarding. I will miss the stimulation of holding office in a great conservation organisation at a time when it is modernising and reorganising to meet the conservation challenges of the 21st century. I caught the tail of the old F&B and fully endorse the executive's decisions for major modernisation and refocus. I will also miss the tremendous energy and humanity of people I have been lucky to meet through my role as chair – at branch, regional and Central Office level. It has been a great experience. Thank you, all.



NEIL SUTHERLAND (LEFT) WITH JIM LEWIS.

– Neil Sutherland

PS: The full AGM report (hard or soft copy) is available upon request from the Branch Secretary.



NORTH ISLAND ROBIN - TIRITIRI MATANGI



CHATHAM ISLANDS BLACK ROBIN

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AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

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

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Paying our way in the world – a quick look at an easy way to do your bit by reducing your grubby carbon footprint

Overwhelming scientific evidence supports the conclusion that the observed changes in the global climate are, in large part, due to human activities. Activities such as transport and electricity generation which burn large amounts of fossil fuels have released unnaturally high concentrations of carbon into the atmosphere, in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. This gas persists in the atmosphere, trapping warmth that should otherwise have dissipated out into space. This is termed the *greenhouse effect*, whereas the heating-up process is called *global warming*, and the overall effect is known as *climate change*. While the greenhouse effect itself is a natural phenomenon and is necessary to sustain life on earth, human-induced increases are threatening the delicate balance. As human activity increases, greenhouse gases are building up and trapping more heat.

As a result of climate change, extreme weather events such as droughts, storms and floods are occurring more frequently. There undoubtedly will also be major economic, social, and environmental effects as direct and indirect results of climate change. These will affect you and your home, business or workplace one way or another. We can all contribute to lessening the extreme effects by reducing the amount of CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases) being released into the atmosphere, and by compensating for excess CO₂ in the atmosphere by supporting projects that generate carbon credits. The cost of combating climate change now is cheaper than doing nothing, and then paying for the costs of adaptation later on.

One option is the carboNZero programme run by Landcare Research. If you visit the website (www.carbonzero.co.nz) you will find a user-friendly carbon footprint calculator which lets you work out the amount of your household's CO₂ emissions. It offers suggestions for reducing these emissions, which can help reduce your energy bills as well as your impact on the environment!

You can also offset your remaining emissions by purchasing carbon credits online, especially for activities like air travel! This is a programme which should be taken up by every home and every business, however large or small.

Something else was the Live Earth concert (www.liveearth.org) which took place on 7 July. This has been run in association with Al Gore, author of 'An Inconvenient Truth', with the aim of drawing attention to global warming. Their website includes another carbon footprint calculator.

– Nick Keenleyside

Le Roys Bush – a real gem

Le Roys Bush is a gem in the heart of Birkenhead for those who haven't explored this delightful reserve; it's well worth a visit!

A group of local residents maintain the reserve in partnership with the North Shore City Council. Several of these residents form the extremely proactive and dedicated management committee (all Forest & Bird members). Regular working bees are held to tend the bush, but the group have ongoing concerns about invasive creepers and other weeds that are smothering and killing ponga, totara, kauri and other native species. The committee has just achieved a major step in winning an award from the Auckland Regional Council's CEF fund. This is a grant of \$18,000 to help eliminate willows, wattles and pampas grass which are re-invading the Little Shoal Bay wetland and threatening to choke the waterways. Part of this grant will pay for a contractor to start work on the willows this coming spring. The committee will then monitor the area and plant natives to reduce the risk of re-growth.

The North Shore Forest and Bird committee is assisting by overseeing the grant for the Little Shoal Bay management committee and arranging payments for contractors as required. For further information visit their website at <http://groups.google.com/group/LeRoys-Bush-and-Little-Shoal-Bay/web> or go to groups.google.com and search for 'LeRoys Bush'.

The group is always looking for people to assist; if you are interested you can phone Terry Gill on 480 8646 (evenings).

– Liz Anstey

Calling on marine experts!!!

We are in desperate need of specialists for our national marine campaign (Threat Management Plan). Please register your expertise with Helene Willis on 480 8851 or email willis24@xtra.co.nz urgently if you can assist in this regard.



KCC NEEDS YOU!

North Shore Kiwi Conservation Club coordinators required. Training provided. Ability to talk to kids and a passion for conservation essential. We currently have 5 coordinators so you won't be on your own. Plenty of support available. Our club events are Sunday afternoons normally, once a month. Please contact Brian Gannon (443 2479) in the evenings or email Brian.Gannon@acsim.co.nz if you are interested.

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 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

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

TRIBUTE TO CORE FOREST & BIRDERS

NEIL SUTHERLAND & SHERYL CORBETT

Sheryl became part of the Branch committee in 1992 and left in 1999 so they could travel overseas. During those years she took on a number of roles. On their return, Neil came onto the committee and for the last three years has been the Chair of the Branch. At the same time, Sheryl, although not on the committee anymore, was responsible for putting together our speakers programme which saw the number of people attending our monthly meetings increase to the numbers we get today of around 70-80 people. Both Neil and Sheryl have been enthusiastic members of a number of conservation organisations, and are seen at most planting events organised by the Branch and by other groups.

Neil has worked with the Committee to continue the tradition of members taking on tasks that they are interested in pursuing to ensure that the burden of committee work is distributed evenly amongst the members. He has worked hard to get new committee members and to encourage younger people to become actively involved in the Branch.

Neil and Sheryl have moved to their dream home at Leigh looking over to Tawharanui one way and to Hauturu (Little Barrier) the other way. We wish them all the best for the future in the knowledge that they will continue their work for conservation!

– Claire Stevens



NEIL AND SHERYL AT A RECENT PLANTING.

F&B Northern Regional update

REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: In March, Mark and Nick gave a verbal presentation in support of F&B's submission (representing several branches in the region as well as the Northern Regional Office) to the ARC on this. The Auckland regional branches of Forest and Bird were seeking recognition of mainland restoration projects (Ark in the Park; Ataunui) in the plan and better control of a number of plant and animal pests. We await the outcome with anticipation!

NORTHWEST WILDLINK: The most recent event (when going to press) under the NWWL banner was North Shore's flagship event at Tuff Crater Reserve on June 10th. The weather was enough to put off a certain F&B staff member, but fortunately did not deter a good number of Branch members and locals from turning out!



MAUI'S DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN: Our campaign for a Marine Mammal Sanctuary for Maui's dolphin on the Dargaville to Taranaki coast was launched at Kelly Tarlton's on 7 June. We are seeking public comment on our proposal before it is submitted to the Ministers of Conservation and Fisheries in September. There are less than 111 Maui's left, only 25 of which are breeding females – urgent action is needed to prevent this species from becoming extinct. We are proposing that a ban on set-netting and drift netting be extended to cover the Maui's entire habitat, a trawling ban be extended out to four Nautical miles off the coast, pollution controls, and stricter regulation of vessel speed around dolphins at sea.

Please support our campaign! You can get more information at branch meetings, from the regional office (ph 631 7142) or on the Forest and Bird website (www.forestandbird.org.nz).

ARK IN THE PARK

Another 30 hibi were released at the Cascades Kauri Park on Saturday 16th June, as Forest and Bird's Ark in the Park project attempts to restore hibi (stitchbird) back to mainland forests, after a 130 year absence. The birds from the first release in April relished their new habitat, ignoring honey feeders and got stuck into the abundant fruit and rata flowers at the Cascades.

NEW OFFICE

We have moved and are now located at 34A Charlotte St, Eden Terrace. It is a one-way street which runs off the end of Virginia Ave East, which runs off lower New North Rd. Do come and visit us anytime! New phone number is 302 0203.

STAFF

We have two new staff members who have started in the past few weeks: Jacky Geurts – our new Marine Conservation Field Officer and Troy Makan – our Central North Island Field Officer. Jacky is flat out running our Maui's sanctuary campaign, with the branches from Dargaville to Taranaki. Troy, who takes over from Jon Midwinter, has been busy with National Fielddays and catching up with the Central NI branches. But we managed to get him into a Maui's dolphin suit for promoting the sanctuary to shoppers in Newmarket!

– Nick Beveridge

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

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

The Committee 2007

JIM LEWIS	–	Chairman	480 7245
JOCELYN SANDERS	–	Secretary	479 2107
CEDRIC HAY	–	Treasurer	410 5977
LIZ ANSTEY	–	Committee	480 1545
ANNE DENNY	–	Committee	480 5570
ALAN EMMERSON	–	Committee	473 2216
VICTOR MEYER	–	Committee	478 1559
CLAIRE STEVENS	–	Committee	419 1233
KAREN WEALLEANS	–	Committee	410 1995
HELENE WILLIS	–	Committee	480 8851
BRIAN GANNON	–	KCC	443 2479
LINDA JOHNSON	–	Habitat deliveries	413 9851
NICK KEENLEYSIDE	–	Electronic distribution	info@draughting.co.nz

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

BIRD RESCUE

SYLVIA 478 8819

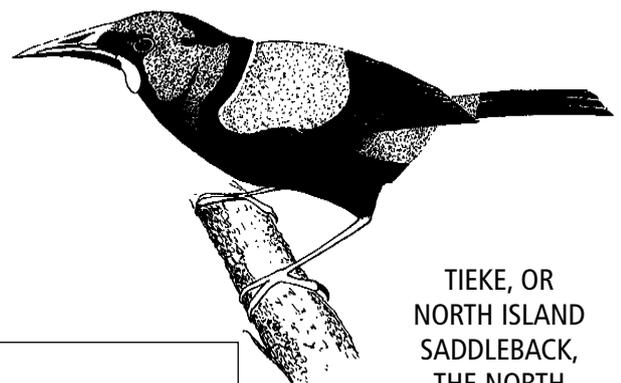
Remember if you are concerned about any conservation problems in your area, get in touch with Jim or Claire.

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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



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AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

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

WHAT'S ON

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

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

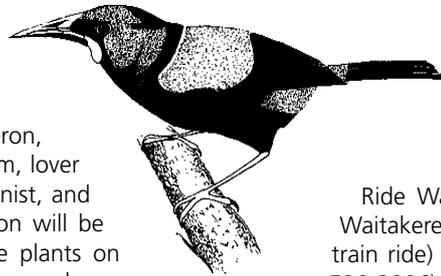
TIME: 7.45pm.

ADMISSION: Gold coin cover costs.

We'd like to see you there!

AUGUST – Monday 6th

'Plants and Animals of some small northern NZ islands' by Ewen Cameron, Curator of Botany at Auckland Museum, lover of all natural history, professional botanist, and strong conservationist. This presentation will be about exploring and documenting the plants on small northern islands and islets. The unknown factor adds intrigue. Excitement and difficulty of access are all part of the challenge. Unusual natives and surprising exotics help to indicate the wider picture. A range of different islands and their biota will be presented.



SEPTEMBER – Monday 3rd

'Characteristics and lifestyles of NZ spiders' by Grace Hall from Landcare Research. Spiders are easily recognized by four pairs of legs (like all arachnids), but unlike scorpions, mites and daddy-long-legs, they have a visible waist (pedicel). Often the number and arrangement of eyes are important in identifying the different families. Below the eyes are two small jaws (chelicerae) which end in fangs. Also part of the mouthparts are limb-like, sensory appendages (pedipalpi) that assist with food handling and reproduction. All spiders are predators and most feed on insects. Come hear about this fascinating world!

OCTOBER – Monday 1st

'Introduction to the Maui Dolphin and Forest and Bird's proposals for its protection' by Jacqueline Geurts (F&B officer). Also to be explored is what the Departments of Fisheries and Conservation are intending to do. Maui's dolphins are distinguished by a rounded dorsal fin and gently sloping snout. They fish on the sea floor but also find squid in mid water. Count yourself fortunate if you see them surfing! Like other small dolphins, Maui's have a low reproductive rate. This subspecies is most closely related to the Hector's dolphin and got its name from the Maori designation for North Island. Come and hear what you can do to save the world's rarest marine dolphin!

NOVEMBER – Monday 5th

'Effect of revegetation on the invertebrate community of Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf' presented by Robin Gardner-Gee from the School of Biological Sciences, Auckland University. This talk will include an evaluation of the role of seabirds in providing marine nutrients to terrestrial systems and potential flow-on effects to the invertebrate community. Come along and be intrigued!

DECEMBER – Monday 3rd

'Weed control on Lord Howe Island' to be presented by Lesley Inglis. (More information following in the next newsletter.) It is also our Christmas meeting, so please bring a plate of delight to share on this festive occasion!

ACTIVITIES and TRIPS

August, Saturday 18th. Eastern suburbs reserves. Explore this area with Central Auckland F&B and enjoy a hot pub lunch (\$30 p/p all inclusive)! To book ring Sally Hally on 528 7506.

September, Saturday 15th.

Ride Watercare's historic bush tramline in the heart of the Waitakeres courtesy of Central Auckland F&B. Cost: \$29 (incl. train ride) – payable on booking please. Contact Isabel Still (ph 528 3986) to reserve your seat!

October, Sunday 28th. MOTUORA Island working bee/excursion. Come and visit this unique island in the Hauraki Gulf (between Kawau Island and Whangaparaoa). This is one of North Shore F&B's key support projects. Ferry departs early from Sandspit and returns in the afternoon. Passenger fares and small parking fee for vehicles apply. (Sausage sizzle and cuppa provided at lunchtime!) Book with Jocelyn Sanders (ph 479 2107).

November, 17th & 18th. TIRITIRI Island stay-over for 15 Forest and Bird members this year! There is an expectation that those going will offer themselves to the DOC officers to do some work on either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. People going must be members of the Branch.



Those wishing to book a place should contact Claire Stevens (ph 419 1233) and the first 15 to pay a deposit will be on the trip. The overnight cost for the bunkhouse is \$10 for people who are members of the Supporters of Tiri and \$20 for others. The boat cost is likely to be about \$50 return but the actual amount will be confirmed.

Please wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear, and remember to bring sun or wet weather protection.

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS

SOME EVENTS MAY BE NEAR YOU. ACT LOCALLY!

- AUGUST 5, LYNN RESERVE, Glenfield
- AUGUST 19, KAURI PT DOMAIN, Chatswood

Please check times and confirm events with Angela Levet, NSCC (ph 486 8564)