

# Habitat



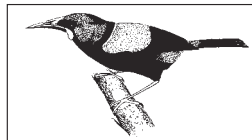
NORTH SHORE BRANCH

DECEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Caring for the environment is the main theme of this issue. An interesting change of Forest and Bird's name has taken place with the addition of **Tiaki Taiao**. This is in order for the society to be more inclusive of Tangata Whenua (people of the land). Read more about it further on!

As you may know, the official emblem of the North Shore Branch is the tieke (saddleback). Apart from kokako (very rare) and huia (extinct), tieke belongs to the wattlebird family without close relatives anywhere else in the world. It has a brownish red saddle-shaped mark on its back – hence the name. Tieke birds love to flutter around on the forest floor, navigating their homerange in energetic hops while searching for insects, berries and nectar. I had the privilege of representing Three Streams – a support project of North Shore Forest and Bird – at a special occasion (11 August) on Motuihe (island reserve) releasing 10 pairs of these unique birds back to a



**FROM  
THE EDITOR**

pest-free ecosystem. The Mayor of Auckland, local iwi, and other dignitaries honoured us with their presence. A lovely birdsong ensued subsequent to the release! This is another successful link in the Auckland Naturally chain initiated by Forest and Bird.

Le Roy's Bush Planting Day (14 August) eventuated across Little Shoal Bay due to the efforts of about 45 volunteers. This annual event is part of a major project of our branch, secondary only to Tuff Crater *Te Kopua o Matakamokamo*. During the event 200 plants had been added to the local bush environment. I wonder who brushed through the rushes taking down black wattles in the swampy riverbed...



NORTH ISLAND SADDLEBACK  
*PHILESTURNUS CARUNCULATUS RUFUSATER*

### NEW EDITOR APPOINTED

**HABITAT** has a new Editor. The last issue was his first. So who is this person?



**Name:** Victor Meyer  
**Age:** 34 years  
**Living:** Browns Bay  
**Joined F&B:** 2004

**Background:**

Victor had plenty of practice at writing when completing his PhD in entomology. He functioned as a conservation ecologist in Kruger National Park for seven years, and then in 2004 came to New Zealand with his wife Debbie and daughter Nadine.

**Ambition:**

Victor's dream is to find work in New Zealand, where he can use his specialist knowledge.

# Habitat



FANTAIL *RHIPIDURA FULIGINOSA PLACABILIS*

DECEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

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

## Tiaki Taiao – What's in a name?



FLAX IN FLOWER

Caring for the environment. Caring for the world. **Tiaki Taiao.**

For roughly 1,000 years people have lived in New Zealand *Aotearoa*. They have exploited the habitat at times, and at other times have developed ways of sustaining it.

After many centuries of coexistence with nature it is not surprising that Maori have a lot of wisdom and learning to share. Maori developed practices like *rahui* (environmental regulations) to ensure resources were not depleted. Pakeha followed with reserves and National Parks. Both have the same objective of sustaining our biodiversity.

With each culture has come belief systems, and these have combined to give New Zealand a unique conservation culture. *Tane* (man's provision – land) and *Tangaroa* (marine life – sea): 'signs' of the wild as predictors of the seasons, such as heavy flowering of flaxes; the links between *matariki* (seasonal planning) and the cycles of nature, are as much part of our conservation culture as the beliefs and observations of nature of the early British settlers. Both sets of beliefs are now often backed up by modern scientific evidence.

By extending our name to **Forest and Bird – Tiaki Taiao** we are acknowledging the contribution of both Maori and Pakeha people and cultures to our conservation ethic. By looking back and embracing our environmental past, we can be empowered as we move forward to embrace the environmental challenges of the future.

**Tiaki (tea ah key) Taiao (tie ah\_or):**  
**Caring for the Environment.**

*Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.*

## Chairperson's Report

Since the last *Habitat* your committee has:

- organised another very successful planting morning at Little Shoal Bay,
- submitted to the Little Shoal Bay Development Plan,
- sold lots of calendars and diaries,
- submitted to North Shore City Council a long term plan for our Tuff Crater Millennium Forest Project,
- met at Awataha Marae to discuss future development of their grounds,
- submitted to Birkenhead Northcote Community Board about decisive action to reduce feral cat numbers at Highbury,
- had a fantastic field trip around the North Shore Volcanoes,
- and had a record attendance at a monthly meeting – almost 100 people!

*Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.*

## CALENDARS AND DIARIES

Have you  
bought  
your 2006  
Forest and  
Bird  
calendars  
yet? Or  
your 2006  
desk diaries?



Don't forget that apart from the membership grant from national F&B, the North Shore Branch sales of these items provide the only income for our branch, the proceeds of which go directly back into conservation work on the Shore.

Support your local environment by buying these beautiful calendars and diaries for yourself, friends and family. You can buy direct at branch meetings or have an order form sent to you by ringing Alan Emmerson on 473 2216.



TUI *PROSTHEMADERA NOVAESEELANDIAE*



# Habitat

DECEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

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

## Tuff Crater – Forest & Bird's North Shore Millennium Project

The Tuff Crater, or Tank Farm as it is also known, is an extinct volcanic crater that has been broached by rising sea levels and silted up to form a tidal mangrove lagoon with a narrow salt marsh fringe and some native forest species. The crater and its environs are a North Shore City reserve under the management of the Council. North Shore Forest and Bird has adopted the reserve as part of its Millennium Project with a view to encouraging revegetation, which will enable the area to become another stepping stone in the Auckland Naturally bid (F&B initiative) to connect the Hauraki Gulf islands with the Waitakeres.

An annual planting day has been organised by the committee and supported by Council for the past few years, and around 100 people have been known to turn out for this event. The focal area has been the grassy bank below the Warehouse complex, clearly visible to thousands of motorists passing each day on the Northern Motorway. This year, in a bid to accelerate progress, a 5-year plan was drawn up and submitted to Council for consideration. The plan outlines work to be carried out and invites the council to support the effort by arranging weed control and continuing to supply native plants. Council has agreed to do this and will additionally advertise the main planting day and put on a sausage sizzle for all who attend!



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

In an exciting development, the National President of Forest and Bird, Peter Maddison, has undertaken a biological survey of the reserve to document the existing flora and fauna. This will give a baseline reference of the state of the reserve against which future records can be compared. Although in its early stages, Peter has

already identified 56 plant and 16 animal families. Supporting this effort, I have been doing bird counts and running evening moth traps. Of birds, 28 species have been identified, and of moths, 35 species thus far. I anticipate that the moth list especially will be added to considerably in the summer months. Volunteers are welcome so give your details to any committee member and join this worthwhile venture.

On a lesser scale, there will be monthly weeding parties held the week after the branch meeting in the early evening of summer. If you would like to join this group, please contact me (ph 473 2216) or any committee member and you will be put on the list and notified directly.

*Alan Emmerson, Committee.*

## The Issue of feral populations

THERE is a current debate in Birkenhead regarding the population of feral cats that have grown in number to such a size (over 50 cats) that the Council has begun to take action to reduce the population. This action has caused an uproar among some local shopkeepers who feel that cats have a strong place in the local community. There has been a similar situation at Albany with the numbers of chooks needing to be reduced, as they have also increased to unacceptable numbers.

Our society is very concerned about the fact that this is an ongoing debate, since we had the exact same debate about five years ago with regard to a feral cat population in Takapuna.

In the recent debate our Chairperson, Neil Sutherland, wrote to both the local paper and the Community Board, in

which he put forward the case for biodiversity of native species on the Shore and the need to protect these species against the threat of feral populations of cats.



FERAL CAT (*FELIS CATUS*)

As a result of this it has become apparent that the City does not have a citywide policy to deal with feral populations of cats and other species, where they have been allowed to gather and grow in to significant populations. Your local branch of Forest and Bird has begun the task of finding the person who would be responsible for such a policy and, it is hoped that we will work with that

person in order to have an enduring policy

put in place to address this issue.

*Claire Stevens, Committee.*

# Habitat



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

DECEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

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

## THE KAIPARA – WETLANDS UNDER THREAT

North Shore Forest and Bird believes support for the neighbouring Kaipara F&B Branch is important. As Sarah Gibbs said: 'The Kaipara Harbour is huge. Yet human interference is threatening the nature of its internationally important wetlands' (F&B Aug 2001).

The interference and threat come from people, recreation, industry, animals, and lately aquaculture. The Kaipara supports well over 20,000 waders. Some come from the South Island. Many fly up to 15,000 kilometres from Siberia or Alaska to feast on the abundant food supported by the shallow waters of the Kaipara. The birds recover the body fat lost during their migration, and then build up their reserves again, ready for the first leg of their return flight – the 7,000 kilometres to landfall in Asia.

The Kaipara is also visited by inter-island travellers from the South Island – pied oyster catchers, pied stilt, and wrybill. Papakanui Spit, near the Southern Heads, is one of only two breeding places for the

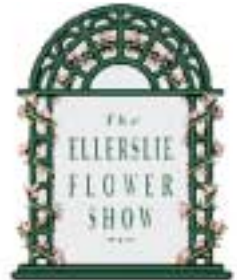


critically endangered fairy tern. Fernbirds, bittern, pipit and grey ducks can also be found in this area. Endangered New Zealand dotterel nest on the Tasman beach, along with many other less threatened species; also at Poutu on the Northern Heads. Much publicised current research is investigating the importance of the Kaipara to the world's most threatened dolphin – Maui's Dolphin. (F&B Deputy President Liz Slooten is involved in this matter).

Due to the importance of the Kaipara in maintaining our biodiversity, your branch committee gave \$500 to Kaipara F&B to help them prepare a case for the harbour's protection. If you would like to make a further donation to their case, write a cheque to Kaipara Forest and Bird, C/ Box 33-873, Takapuna, and we shall get it to them.

## ELLERSLIE FLOWER SHOW – PLEASE HELP!

YES, it's that time of year again! Forest and Bird will be back at the Flower Show this year. Our stall will be a regional one, and it will be the focus for a



recruitment drive. Every person joining Forest and Bird – Tiaki Taiao will be given a free native plant.

We need healthy native plants (non-hybrids) already established in their pots for the flower show – mid November.

- As most new members that sign up will be city dwellers, the preference would be for smaller growing natives, e.g. hebes, toe toe, corokia, mapou, cabbage trees, renga renga. (Pohutukawa and kauri are a bit big!)
- Smaller plants in smaller pots are best, as people will have to carry them around while they look at other exhibits.
- Label them if you can.  
If you are going to contribute to this event,

**Please contact Neil: ph 480 2500, sherylandneil@hyper.net.nz.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL ARTIST

**THERE is a person on the Shore passionate about the environment and very talented in painting!**

**She is also a member of North Shore Forest and Bird.**

**Let's meet this person...**



**Name:** Fleur Schultz  
**Age:** 31 years  
**Living:** Auckland (Hamilton-born)  
**Joined F&B:** 2004

### **Background:**

Fleur has been promoting conservation through fundraising for quite a while in various capacities – Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora offshore projects. She is also involved with Kaipatiki Project. Whilst being a qualified librarian and performing pianist, this emerging artist loves painting bird-life, using pastels and oils. She is married to Michael and they have a son Andrew. For more information visit [www.fleurart.co.nz](http://www.fleurart.co.nz).

### **Ambition:**

Fleur's vision of protecting the environment is for it to be appreciated and painted by coming generations.

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

PO Box 33-873, Takapuna 1300

The Committee 2005/6

<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)

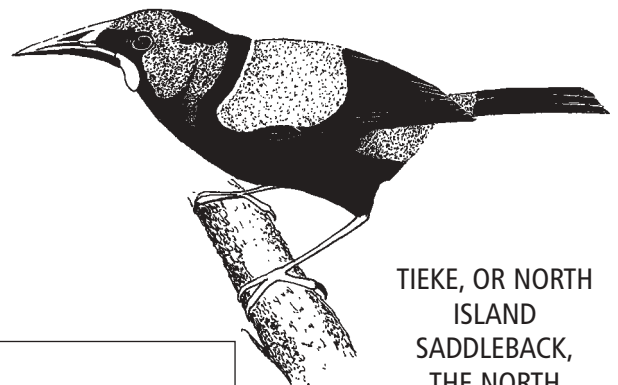
BIRD RESCUE

## SYLVIA 478 8819

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

# Habitat

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



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



# Habitat

DECEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

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 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!

### 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.

### FEBRUARY

#### Monday 6th

The not so 'common' dolphin: Common dolphins in the Hauraki gulf and the threats they face will be presented by Karen Stockin of Massey University. Also to be discussed is the ongoing research being conducted by the Coastal Marine Research Group at Albany.

### MARCH

#### Monday 6th

Steve O'Shea is much occupied with marine conservation. Apart from his passion for squids, he will also be talking about commercial fishing and its impact on marine resources. Dr O'Shea is an expert on the giant squid – fascinating!

### APRIL

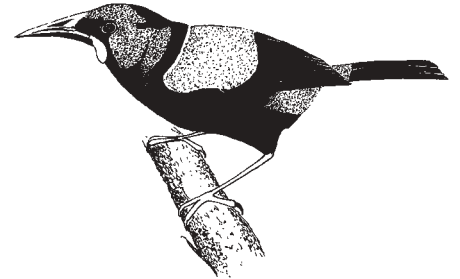
#### Monday 3rd

Peter Lee of NIWA will speak on aquaculture and its associated issues. This is an interesting industry affecting economies and environments. Don't miss this presentation!

### MAY

#### Monday 1st

Meredith Lowe is a PhD student researching sedimentation in estuaries and its effects on snapper breeding. Come to this presentation and hear about this knock-on effect.



### MEMBERSHIP GIFT

Remember to buy a Forest and Bird Membership Gift for your loved ones! Contact us or visit [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) to order online. Have a wonderful Christmas and may you be refreshed for the New Year!

