

Habitat



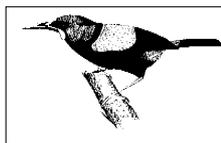
NORTH SHORE BRANCH

DECEMBER 2006 – APRIL 2007

CONSERVATION CELEBRATIONS

This was a great year for North Shore Forest and Bird – a lot to celebrate! Jim Lewis received an Old Blue Award and our weeding group a Weedbusters Award (read more further on).

I went along to the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary (mainland island) with some others from our branch. Although the weather wasn't perfect, it did allow for intensive work in a short space of time. More lending hands would have allowed for more extensive work! Any



FROM THE EDITOR

case, I was helping on a section of fence. One person held a spade to the batton, while another hammered the staples tight again from the opposite side (after spacing and straightening the battons first). Others pulled down an unwanted

fence, and another group cleared the furrows of debris on the ecology trail. Yet another group helped making wooden enclosures for rodent traps. Some strewed fertiliser to rejuvenate dune vegetation. It was a really tranquil day during which singles, couples and families could contribute to conservation within small teams in a beautiful environment.

Also read Jocelyn's experience of the Motuora excursion!

F&B North Shore receives Weedbusters Award

The North Shore Forest and Bird weedbusters' group were the 2006 recipients of an ARC Environmental Initiatives Award.

This recognises the work done by the Branch in keeping weeds down in the Tuff Crater area. The group works throughout the year taking off pampas plumes, cutting out woolly nightshade, tackling a bit of gorse and pulling juvenile pampas and moth plants out of the planting areas. This award will enable the group to expand its activities and start the revegetation of specific small areas, which we have roped off. We also hope to mulch some small areas and encourage seeds to grow.

Our thanks again to the North Shore City Council for their help with spraying the areas that were to be planted and for general control of the larger weed masses.



BEC STANLEY OF ARC HANDING WEEDBUSTERS AWARD TO ANNE AND ROMILY

Once the warmer weather has arrived the weedbusting group will start up again and we plan to stake plants, weed some areas, mulch plants, spread fertiliser, etc.

Feel free to join us for the odd hour!

For further information ring Anne Denny (480 5570) or Romily Atkinson (418 2236).

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REEF HERON *EGRETTA SACRA* - (MATUKU)



TUI *PROTHEMADERA NOVAESEELANDIAE*

DECEMBER 2006 – APRIL 2007

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

FROM THE CHAIR

(In-)Active Membership

I always like to think of North Shore Forest and Bird as an active branch – lots of things for our members to get involved in. I stop short when, on a rare occasion, one of our activities is not well supported. After all, we have well over 1,000 memberships when adding KCC and F&B together. This equates to over 2,000 people!

But I always come back to the same position: F&B is an organisation that values its inactive members just as much as its active members. At the end of the day, it is your sub that ensures that we can pay staff to run the Sealions Campaign, and it is your sub that pays expenses for staff negotiating to limit the sell-off of high country and Southern Lakes waterfront land through the High Country Tenure Review process. Modern Forest and Bird works in a different way from the F&B of yesteryear. It must reflect the times and the new ways of doing things. Much

of our work is stuff that I don't know enough about to be directly involved, and so – as a committed conservationist – I am more than happy to pay my sub and support our staff experts to get on with the job.

For our active members, though, there has been a lot happening. Two great trips: an island trip to Motuora, and a trip to Tawharanui. I hear glowing reports of the trip to the Kaipara – the follow-up to Suzi Phillip's talk at our August branch meeting. Our Tuff Crater 'after work' evening working bees have started again. We mounted a display at Takapuna Library for North Shore Heritage Week (30 Oct – 5 Nov), and of course, we had a sell-out for our fundraising movie, An Inconvenient Truth. We're selling F&B calendars and diaries again, and your committee has submitted to DoC's Review of Protection of New Zealand Wildlife. We're also still involved with the ongoing issue of North

Shore City Council providing sanctuary to stray cats in the Rawene Reserve – an area adjacent to large areas of native fauna habitat.

Special thanks to Susie Bettany, who has recently left our committee to move to Napier. In her short time with us, Susie made a positive impact. And thanks for your support, too, this year – simply by being a member. Yes, we still need you to get out there and encourage people to join Forest and Bird. It is our beautiful country that benefits.

Have a pohutukawa Christmas and a kaka New Year!!!

– Neil Sutherland, Chairperson

Editor's note to foreigners: *Pohutukawa* is a large, spreading, native tree flowering during Christmas only; *Kaka* is a big, native parrot wished to be seen more frequently by residents on the North Shore (NW Wildlink objective).

Annual Planting Day – June 11, 2006

Despite the soggy ground about 100 people arrived at Tuff Crater to help with the North Shore Forest and Bird annual planting day.

The group planted around 900 plants in an hour and a half on the lower edge of the area near the motorway and estuary. The plants comprised mainly species suited to wetland or salt marsh habitats.

We were pleased to have some help from a group of 40 American students from Augusta, Georgia, who were in Auckland at the time.

The areas planted had previously been cleared of weeds and our thanks to the North Shore City Council for this and for the provision of all the plants. We are also grateful to them for the barbecue and drinks at the end of the planting.

Hope seeing you all at the next planting!

Anne Denny, Committee.

Switch off human-induced Climate Change

- Change light globes to fluorescent bulbs
- Drive and fly less (walk, bike, pool or mass transit more)
- Recycle more & consume less
- Pump your car's tyres & keep engine emissions in check
- Use less hot water (take a cold shower in summer!)
- Avoid products with a lot of packaging
- Switch to power from a greener provider
- Plant trees & eat less meat...
- Turn off unnecessary electronic devices
- And spread the word!

Go to www.climatecrisis.net for more information.

A REMINDER...

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT! Get your calendar & diary orders in to Alan Emmerson on 473 2216. Only \$12.95 for a calendar and \$21.95 for a diary. Proceeds to conservation projects on the Shore.





NORTH ISLAND ROBIN - TIRITIRI MATANGI



CHATHAM ISLANDS BLACK ROBIN

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Excellent AGM & Council Meeting in Wellington

The 83rd Annual General Meeting (24 June 2006) was cohesive and with a strong sense of optimism and forward momentum. Two councillors, Neil and Alan, as well as an observer represented the Branch.

Of course, the highlight for us was Jim being awarded an Old Blue. It was great to have Jim and Ruth with us for dinner on Saturday night!

In his opening address, Forest and Bird's national president, Peter Maddison, expressed very warm thanks to all the hard work that members do in the branches. We have a newly elected Deputy President namely Barry Wards from Upper Hutt. Stephen McPhail, the treasurer, gave a clear report on our financial position (currently in deficit). New initiatives to recruit members will be crucial for financial health.

Of 129 bird extinctions since 1850, over 48% occurred in the Pacific, as Don Stewart of Birdlife reported. Don Merton spoke about the impacts of cats killing banded kakapo. (Hear-hear, cat feeders!) Further points were pest eradication on Campbell and Raoul Islands from where the programme branched out to Australia and Mauritius. Don is best known for saving the black robin of Chatham Islands from extinction. Kirstie Knowles gave a great talk on marine conservation with a lot about the plight of sealions and the impact of squid fisheries. ('Save Our Sealions' is our current appeal.) Darren Peters of DOC gave a very practical presentation on mustelid traps, explaining the development of different sizes and models.

A talk on high country tenure review by Ann Brower was perhaps the most stimulating in that it covered territory that few of us had really thought about. For instance, the use of the phrase 'tenure review' instead of 'land reform' circumvents a community response and could be considered political discourse.

We spent a whole Sunday morning on freshwater issues, starting with an interesting presentation on the social values we place on freshwater. An informative talk followed on braided rivers and the impact of taking water from them upon our wading birds, native fish, etc. From F&B Field Officers Debs Martin and Eugenie Sage: New Zealand's cow population is now equivalent to 35 million people living without septic tanks,



MURAL ON THOMPSON ST AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE VENUE (PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE WESTGATE, NORTHERN BRANCH)

and in Canterbury, 1,000 hectares of dairy farms require the equivalent of 10% of Christchurch's water use!

The surprise speaker was Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister for the Environment. She had a clear understanding of the issues and a good command of detail. She stepped outside of 'water as a commodity' position and talked about the intrinsic and environmental values of water. She has a lot of other people to convince, but the Maori view as she presented

it would be consistent with F&B's view.

Electorate workshops on communications and media comprised the final session.

A NEW VENTURE

Ruapehu Wilding Pines Conservation Work

Wilding pines are self-seeding over a large part of south-east Ruapehu. North Shore Forest and Bird and North Shore Tramping Club are embarking on a joint venture to help DoC control this problem. We invite you to join us in this control project. We're booked in for the weekend 9-11 February, leaving Takapuna by Tramping Club bus at 7pm on the Friday, camping in Ohakune, then on to Tufa Block, above Karioi Forest. Tents, etc are supplied. Just bring your personal gear. We stop work at about 1pm on Sunday, and get back to Takapuna by about 7pm Sunday night. The trip is free because DoC subsidises our transport!

For more information and to book, contact Neil on 480 2500 or email sherylandneil@hyper.net.nz

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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

DECEMBER 2006 – APRIL 2007

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

JIM LEWIS

Our very own 'Old Blue'

North Shore environmental advocate Jim Lewis has been honoured with an Old Blue Award at the national AGM and Council Meeting.

The award was given the name of the matriarch bird (founding mother) for the current population of black robins on Chatham Islands – a species saved from the brink of extinction. Thanks to Old Blue, approximately 250 individual birds (all her offspring) are now alive and thriving! The Old Blue Award has been bestowed upon people who have made extraordinary contributions to conservation in the past. Jim Lewis has joined the ranks of recipients of this prestigious award.

Jim has become a bona fide specialist of the Resource Management Act, and lodged many applications to North Shore City and Auckland Regional Councils on issues affecting the environment. He attended every session of District Plan hearings relating to plan changes. He has put in submissions on behalf of the Branch to protect several hundred hectares of our urban area from intensive subdivision. By so doing, adverse effects on bush, streams and estuaries were prevented.

This 'Old Blue' has dispensed his hard-earned advice to various groups in the City in order to safeguard native bush areas against degradation. Jim has also assisted the Keep Okura Green group and East Coast Bays Coastal Protection Society in their conservation efforts. Jim has been much involved in opposing the development on land adjacent to Long Bay Regional Park and Long Bay Marine Reserve.

Mr Lewis, supported by his wife Ruth, has a strong background in teaching and lecturing in geography; always articulate in responding to opposing viewpoints with well-founded arguments for his position.



JIM LEWIS

For those who do not know Jim well, he retired from Auckland College of Education in 1993. He has been member of Forest and Bird for over 20 years, served on the committee since 1993, and was Chairman of the Branch (1994-98). His degree is in Geography from Victoria University, which included papers in urban development, impact of economic development theories as well as geomorphology and systems analysis. He has been involved in RMA matters since 1991 from local hearings to those of the Environment Court (Okura Rural Zone).

MOTUORA ISLAND TRIP



On Sunday, 27th August about 20 intrepid Forest and Birders spent a fantastic day on Motuora island – a 30 minute boat trip from the Sandspit.

We weren't just there for the interesting company, superb views, warm weather and a sausage sizzle lunch; we were there to plant native trees and shrubs. Unfortunately, some even more intrepid pukeko had decided that some previously planted saplings were a better option than a sausage sizzle, so had pulled many of those out.

In a combined effort, Motuora Restoration Society, Forest and Bird (including an Australian and a South Islander), and a group of young Taiwanese planted out 2,800 trees and shrubs. Not all these were to compensate for the pukeko foraging!

After lunch we had free time to explore the island and, to plan the next trip to Motuora...

Jocelyn Sanders, Secretary.

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

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

The Committee 2006/7

NEIL SUTHERLAND	–	Chairperson	480 2500
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
JIM LEWIS	–	Committee	480 7245
VICTOR MEYER	–	Committee	478 1559
FLEUR SCHULTZ	–	Committee	419 4277
CLAIRE STEVENS	–	Committee	419 1233
KAREN WEALLEANS	–	Committee	410 1995
HELENE WILLIS	–	Committee	480 8851
BRIAN GANNON	–	KCC	443 2479
DOROTHY WERNHAM	–	Habitat deliveries	480 8316
NICK KEENLEYSIDE	–	Electronic distribution	info@draughting.co.nz

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

BIRD RESCUE

SYLVIA 478 8819

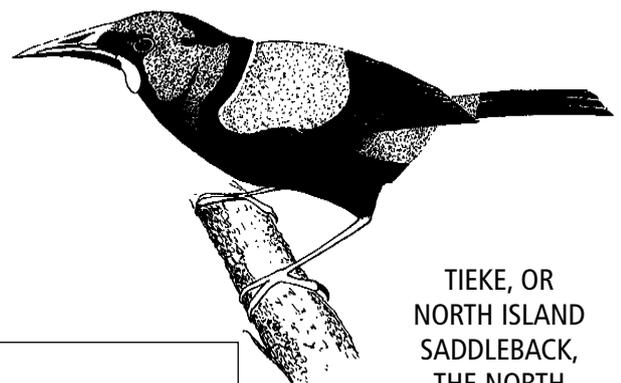
Remember if you are concerned about any conservation problems in your area, get in touch with Jim or Claire.

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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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WHAT'S ON

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

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **NO Branch Meeting in January and February 2007.** See you in March!

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!

DECEMBER

Monday 4th

'Tiri Tiri Matangi Is' by Ray and Barbara Walter. Living on Tiritiri Matangi since 1984, is what this evening is all about! The couple will share the personal story of their time there and talk about how the island was transformed from farmland to a habitat for endangered birds. North Shore Forest & Birders have been heavily involved in this project since its inception. As this event is also the Christmas meeting, please bring a festive delight to share for supper. Be sure not to miss this special occasion!

MARCH

Monday 5th

'The Auckland Islands and the southern Right Whale' presented by Murdoch Vant. Murdoch's recent three-week field trip to the Auckland Islands will be discussed. This occurred in collaboration with the University of Tasmania and the Australian Antarctic Division. Photographic and genetic information was collected from the whales to look at the ongoing population dynamics and to provide data for an investigation into the age of free-ranging mammals. The talk will also include some history of the Auckland Islands and associated wildlife. Murdoch has a Masters in Biology from the University of Auckland, where he is a lab-based research technician. Come hear about this most adventurous trip!

APRIL

Monday 2nd

'Return of the Teal to Campbell Island' by John Potter. Come hear how the speaker had spent three weeks on Campbell Island with five people from DOC at the onset of Spring 2005! They took along the second group of 55 Campbell Island teal to be returned from the mainland to the island, and while John was there, recaptured a number of teal from the first 'return' of the previous year. At the same time he did some disease screening on yellow-eyed penguins, albatross and mollymawks. John is Associate Veterinarian at Auckland Zoo and previously had a veterinary practice in Takapuna.



TRIPS

February, 9 – 11th

Mt Ruapehu Conservation Trip, bus leaving Fri 7pm from Takapuna. Come along to a great part of the North Island, and help make this important conservation venture a success. All you basically need is food and a daypack. The work is easy and enjoyable! Final day for booking: 2 Feb. Contact Neil, ph 480 2500.

Please remember to buy a Forest and Bird Gift Membership for your friends.

Help us to widen public awareness of our conservation work!

