

Habitat



NORTH SHORE BRANCH

DECEMBER 2007 – MAY 2008

KIWIS' BLEAK FUTURE: IS IT 'FLY OR DIE?'



From left: Alan Emmerson (NI), Jenny Clad (Climate Project Director), Al Gore, and Melissa Clark-Reynolds (SI).

Climate Change debate in New Zealand

Last year the North Shore Branch of Forest & Bird organised a very successful double screening of Al Gore's ground-breaking documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Like many who saw the film, Alan Emmerson was deeply moved and it focussed his attention even more on the big issue of climate change. All our conservation efforts are played out against a backdrop of this bigger issue and we must always remember this.

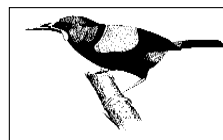
This year, the film has won the Oscar for best documentary and so you can imagine the excitement Alan felt when he was given the opportunity to go to Melbourne and take part in a training seminar with Al Gore. Mr Gore is training people around the world to act as ambassadors for global warming awareness by presenting a version of his slideshow to audiences in their home countries. In the last two years he has trained 250 Australians, most recently 170 in Melbourne at an event Alan attended.

• continued over

Although *Homo sapiens* can fly using technology – unlike the flightless kiwi – we aren't exempt from environmental response, indirectly induced upon ourselves.

Scientists estimate that before people arrived in Aotearoa, 12 million kiwi birds lived in the North, South and Stewart Islands. By the 1920s kiwi populations had dropped to around 5 million birds. In recent years they have plummeted to about 50,000 birds. This means that in the last one thousand years the global kiwi population has declined by 99.5%.

It is being reported that kiwi species are declining and that they could become totally extinct in 30 years' time. Remaining kiwi populations are disappearing at a rate of over 5% per year, halving approximately every decade. However, the populations near Whangarei in Northland are more stable.



**FROM
THE EDITOR**

The situation is critical. All mainland species of kiwi are threatened with extinction if the causes of decline are not addressed. Unless the survival rate improves, the kiwi's decline will accelerate as adult kiwi age and die.

Cost of saving kiwi, chick mortality, adult mortality, predator impact, and habitat loss are the factors most threatening to kiwis' population growth.

You may recall that we had 'An Inconvenient Truth' screened as a fundraiser event by our branch at Berkeley Cinema in Takapuna during October last year. This was a great success and we sold out both the main and accompanying theatres. One of our members has been commissioned by Al Gore to present the Climate Change slideshow to Kiwis in the North Island! (Read more about it on this page.)

A hearty welcome to Richard Hursthouse of the Centennial Park Bush Society who has now joined our ranks. He was officially regulated at a recent committee meeting. Read on about the progress made by this group in habitat restoration on the Shore.

Remember, frequent flights cost the Earth!

Habitat



REEF HERON *EGRETTA SACRA* - (MATUKU)



TUI *PROTHEMADERA NOVAESEELANDIAE*

DECEMBER 2007 – MAY 2008

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

FROM THE CHAIR

House for sale:
Prime property with
great sea views...



Frequently, advertisements similar to the above appear in our papers and on land agent billboards. It appears that there is some status or advantage, reflected in the house value, of having a sea view from one's house. Such an attitude could be an indication of our view of the urban environment in that people prefer to face away from it.

The status given to the possession of a sea view which often requires the removal of trees to preserve it seems to ignore the benefits of the latter. Possession of a patch of bush or even one tree is not only a personal amenity, but also of community benefit. Think about how trees contribute to the quality of our air and water – a contribution becoming even more important as our urban footprint increases.

Climate change may increase the hazards of living by the coast, while native vegetation is acquiring more value. However, if views of the sea encourage people to seek more protection for the life within it, that is a gain for us all. Certainly trees require more space on the house site, more than many of us can supply. Therefore, public space becomes essential in our cities to maintain the ecological benefits.

To all those who have added trees by contributing to planting on your own or with others – on islands or the mainland this year – our grateful thanks. You will have added value to our city and region! Special congratulations to Stella Forbes on her public recognition recently for her contributions to the health of our natural resources.

– Jim Lewis



Climate Change debate in New Zealand

FROM PAGE 1

Alan, and another New Zealander from Christchurch (Melissa Clark-Reynolds), jumped at the chance. It was an exhilarating weekend and one not easily forgotten. Alan came home with a copy of the modified slideshow, based on *An Inconvenient Truth*, and is charged with making at least ten presentations in the North Island over the next year!

Since Alan got back there has been another development with Al Gore being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, along with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. This has brought discussion of the issue to everyone's lips and Alan is confident that he will find audiences for the slideshow without difficulty. As he is not an experienced presenter, there will also be some nerves to overcome. He currently expects to present to our North Shore branch early in 2008 and has already had two venues in Rodney. If you belong to an organisation that might be interested in hearing this presentation, then please contact Alan on (09) 473 2216.

**Only when the last tree has died and the last river been
poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise we
cannot eat money.**
– based on Cree saying



NORTH ISLAND ROBIN - TIRITIRI MATANGI



CHATHAM ISLANDS BLACK ROBIN

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DECEMBER 2007 – MAY 2008

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



Acmena smithii (monkey apple) -- one of our worst weeds.

CENTENNIAL PARK

The Centennial Park Bush Society has been active in our 70 hectare park since 1976, when the council of the day started clearing manuka to 'tidy up the park.' Pat and John Morton, years ahead of their time in ecological thinking, quickly put a stop to this scheme and helped people realise that manuka is the nursery for our future native forests. Nature has had a helping hand over the years with many forest giants planted in the park and hours of weed control work.

Current Bush Society volunteers have been very active in the park. We meet weekly on a Wednesday afternoon for about 3 hours, planting, mulching, and weeding. Once a month we have a weekend working effort for those who cannot make it midweek. This year we have (with council assistance)

planted 2050 native plants in the park. Most of the planting is focussed on replacement in areas where significant weed control has been required, but also riparian (waterway) planting to help reduce erosion.

Our worst weeds by far are *Acmena smithii* (monkey apple), *Ligustrum* spp. (Chinese and tree privet), *Hedychium gardnerianum* (ginger) and *Asparagus scandens* (climbing asparagus). We have many others though, including *Selaginella* sp. (club moss), *Acacia longifolia* (Sydney golden wattle), *Euonymus japonicus* (Japanese spindle tree), *Cestrum nocturnum* (queen of the night – regrettably still for sale by some nurseries), *Cortaderia selloana* (pampas grass), *Lonicera japonica* (honeysuckle) and many, many more. We have also noticed wild seedlings of *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*

(bangalow palm), *Trachycarpus fortuneii* (Chinese fan palm) and *Phoenix canariensis* (phoenix palm) in the bush.

This year, after a three-year consent battle, we were able to make a start on substituting 20 large acmena trees, funded by a grant from the ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund. Council's Parks Department was very helpful in planting some large replacement trees, mainly native but including some non-invasive exotic species.

We were also able to make a start on our plan to reduce the number of scattered pine trees in the bush. In the old days we used to ring bark pines and they would fall apart slowly. Safety concerns require the much more expensive (and damaging) felling of these. Twenty pines were felled this year with natives planted to replace them.

Volunteers are actively trapping for rats and possums with plenty being caught. Professional input is being sought on the optimum methods and grids for pest control. Others are testing the water in the two streams as part of council's Waicare water quality project.

INVASIVE WEEDS

All this work will be to no avail if invasive weeds are left to grow wild on the neighbouring golf grounds and private property. Fortunately, the golf club is supportive of our aims and this year we have controlled pampas and removed acmena on golf club land, replacing those with selective exotic and native species. One local landowner has spent \$8,000 removing acmena from his private property. Hopefully our message is getting through!

We have numerous reserves on the North Shore and many of them are looking neglected. The Parks Department cannot control all the weeds with the limited budget they have. 'Think global, act local' has real meaning for us as we try to make a difference in our area of the planet.

If you want to assist us in Centennial Park in any way at all, please phone Richard on 410 5339 or email richard.hursthouse@extra.co.nz. If you want to help in your local reserve, speak to the Parks Department (ph 486 8400).

– Richard Hursthouse



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.

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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 2007 – MAY 2008

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

NORTH-WEST WILDLINK

LINKING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Did you know that you live within a special area for wildlife called the NorthWest Wildlink? The NWWL stretches north to west from the Hauraki Gulf islands, along Whangaparaoa, through the North Shore and across West Auckland to the Waitakere Ranges.

Within this area, people and organisations are working together to protect native plants and animals by looking after reserves and restoring biodiversity (variety of life).

The main objectives are to:

- Increase native wildlife
- Reconnect people with nature
- Increase the health and functioning of natural areas

There is already a good matrix of reserves and native vegetation throughout the NWWL area, but much of it is infested with weeds and pests. The state of our natural areas is often poor, with birds, lizards, insects, and native plants struggling to survive against rural and urban predators and invasive weeds.

Many backyards are either silent or home to only exotic birds. The vision of the NWWL is for native birdsong to once again be heard in every garden: that of tuis, fantails, and kereru!

By clearing weeds and animal pests from reserves and private land, we can create 'stepping stones' across the region, providing a safe route for wildlife to move between natural habitats. In so doing wildlife will once again be unhindered to move freely from the offshore islands to the forests of the Waitakeres.

Great results are already being achieved by a number of community groups, landowners and agencies. But to achieve such a large vision, we need to work together, beyond the boundaries of reserves and city fringes.

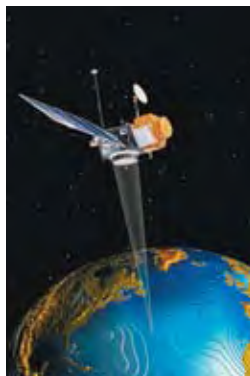
The NWWL is a concept – we need everyone's support and input to turn it into reality! Come on, how about you?

This accord is supported by Auckland Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird, North Shore City, Rodney District Council, and Waitakere City Council.

Electronic campaign

We'd like to remind members again to submit their email address so that the newsletter can be distributed electronically. This will save printing costs and channel funds more directly into conservation. (As an incentive you get Habitat in full colour on your desktop!)

If you receive both formats (i.e. paper and electronic), please notify Nick Keenleyside or Linda Johnson (details on wrapper) to cancel your hard copy. This will lessen the delivery effort on the part of our volunteers. Although we will always endeavour to have printed copies available, we urge online members to submit their email address (info@draughting.co.nz). This will also enable us to quickly disseminate important environmental notices to you. We shall not abuse or supply your address to third parties, and you can unsubscribe at any time.



INTERNET SAVVY PERSON WANTED!

We're looking for a committed volunteer to design and establish a website for the North Shore Branch of Forest and Bird. Data (text and images) can be provided. If you have the skills but little time we'd appreciate primary construction (maintenance could be done by someone else). If you can offer your services by making conservation on the Shore present on the web, please get in touch with the committee. We'd love to hear from you!

CALENDARS & DIARIES

The sale of calendars (\$12.95ea) and diaries (\$21.95ea) in support of our branch activities is well under way. For those of you who are still intending to buy but haven't done so yet, please be aware that sales are wound up in the last week of November. SO RUSH YOUR ORDERS IN NOW! Contact Alan on 473 2216 to avoid disappointment.



Welcome New Members!

We'd like to welcome the members who recently joined North Shore Forest & Bird:

- Robert Charlton
- Antoinette and Michael Eden
- Margaret Revell
- Dinah Philp
- Ros Ramsay
- Robyn Duffy

MAY YOU ENJOY PARTNERING WITH US IN OUR CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES.

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

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

The Committee 2007/08

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
RICHARD HURSTHOUSE	–	Committee	410 5339
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

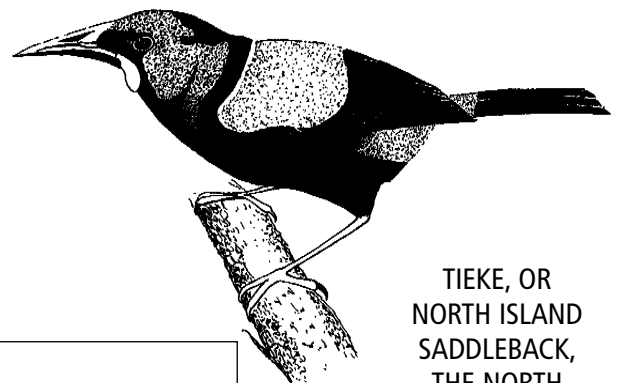
Remember if you are concerned about any conservation problems in your area, get in touch with Jim or Claire.

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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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DECEMBER 2007 – MAY 2008

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, excepting January.

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 3rd

'Weed control on Lord Howe Island' by Lesley Inglis (weeding volunteer) and Ian Hutton (LHI naturalist). Each winter, weeding parties spend a week at a time on World Heritage LHI, weeding in the mornings and guided by Ian Hutton on nature walks in the afternoons. The talk will cover the unique flora and fauna of LHI and seek to persuade you to be a volunteer weeder on this island paradise. It is also our Christmas meeting, so please bring a plate of delight to share!



FEBRUARY – Monday 4th

'Global Warming Update: the Inconvenient Truth story going forward' by Alan Emmerson (NI Climate Project Coordinator). A brief explanation of what global warming is; a discussion of what the signs of global warming are, including some of the science; a discussion of how the changes we are witnessing affect the world; and what we can do about it. Come hear about this poignant topic from a North Shore Forest & Bird member! It is also an opportunity to take part in an open debate.

MARCH – Monday 3rd

'Volunteering for conservation initiatives in the Auckland region' is the topic to be presented by a special speaker from Auckland Regional Council (ARC). Don't miss this important discussion, as we all can identify with being part of the volunteer force in the region, whether we're highly active or not! Come listen to this intriguing conservation ethos.

APRIL – Monday 7th

'Rare Plants of Auckland' by Rebecca Stanley (ARC Natural Heritage Ecologist). Bec will talk to us about some of the 300 rare (threatened native) plants of Auckland with particular reference to some North Shore species. Auckland region has lost at least 30 plants since records were kept. Bec is a plant ecologist at Auckland Regional Council, and previously worked for DOC on rare plants. Come and find out why our plants become so rare...

MAY – Monday 5th

'Regional Strategy for Biosecurity 2007–2012' by Jack Graw (ARC Group Manager Biosecurity). Come along and find out about potential new threats to our biosecurity and the continual challenge in addressing them.

Watch this space:

There will be a talk by Marleen Baling from Massey University in June or July about North Shore skinks!

ACTIVITIES and TRIPS

February, Saturday 16th. Relaxed interpretive walk around TUFF CRATER at dusk/early evening. This is in demonstration of our flagship conservation project on the Shore, concluded by light-trapping (moth survey). Situated at the end of Warehouse Way, off Akoranga Drive. Please contact Anne on 480 5570 to express interest (non-members welcome).



February, Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th. COOKS BEACH trip for Forest and Bird members courtesy of Margi Keys. About 2.5 hours' drive from the North Shore. The Endeavour laid anchor in the area for 11 days in November 1769. Captain James Cook and astronomer Charles Green observed the transit of Mercury from the beach, hence Mercury Bay. Walks at or near Cook's Beach will be undertaken. Accommodation available in two baches (one of which belongs to Margi) for 18 people (incl. 2 couples). Price per person would be about \$25 per night if we reach capacity (confirmation closer to the time). Please contact Margi (443 6919) for more details.

**> Remember to buy a Forest and Bird Gift Membership for your friends.
Help us to widen public awareness of our conservation work!**