

# Habitat



NORTH SHORE BRANCH

APRIL 2006 – AUGUST 2006

## THE SPICE OF LIFE



**FROM  
THE EDITOR**

### How Forest & Birders are conserving New Zealand's biodiversity

**B**iodiversity is simply biological diversity (native wildlife), which refers to diversity of life on earth, including plants, animals and microorganisms. Further implications of the term are the variety within species and the habitat, in which they live and interact.

One of conservation's main goals is to conserve biodiversity on the planet!

An example of this is ensuring the biodiversity of the biggest natural harbour – the Kaipara – read more about it in the sequel... Biodiversity or 'the spice of life' sets the scene for this issue. Enjoy!

### An early Bird

**Renowned botanist** Muriel Fisher is one of those remarkable Forest and Birders whose enthusiasm for what we do has not waned over the years. Muriel was a prime advocate (when member of the Auckland Branch) for the establishment of a North Shore F&B Section, which later became North Shore Branch. She and her late husband, Bill Fisher, are well known for their work in establishing Fernglen, and Muriel was also involved in the early management of Le Roy's Bush as a member of the North Shore Scenic Board. An authority on native plants, Muriel has several books to her credit, the latest being Fernglen – The Muriel Fisher Story. Muriel has kindly shared some of her thoughts about North Shore Forest and Bird...



MURIEL FISHER: One of the early birds  
PHOTO: NORTH SHORE TIMES ADVERTISER

### How it all Began

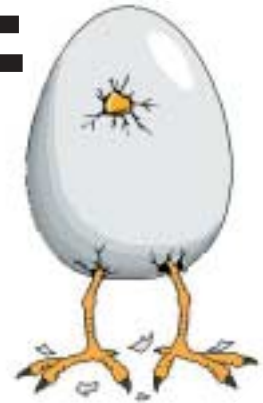
In the early 1960's a handful of Auckland Branch members, who lived on the North Shore, decided it was time to create a Section of the branch.

As soon as the Harbour Bridge was opened in 1959, development on a grand scale commenced on the North Shore. Huge areas were sub-divided, wholesale destruction of bush, and the scalping of the earth was in full swing – so the time was right for a local section of Forest and Bird to emerge.

Progress was slow. First there were about half a dozen people. After a few months our numbers grew to ten and at the most about 18 people attended our monthly meetings, which were held in a classroom of the old Takapuna Primary School. Finance was a problem – from memory, we only had about twenty pounds in the kitty, so it was hard to know which case was more deserving of support; considering that advertisements in the local paper were costly. Still we persevered and gathered a few new members each year.

At about 1966, the Government announced that it was going to investigate Coppermine Island: If sufficient copper was found, it would be mined. By that time our membership had grown and we had a good organiser on our committee. With a big 'battle' ahead it was essential to build up funds; so we held garden fetes at Fernglen. Bill Sievwright did a marvelous job of running those events and each one brought in several hundred dollars. I am thankful to say, there was not sufficient copper to mine on Coppermine Island.

Although I can no longer attend evening meetings, it gladdens my heart to read about all the exciting things members of Forest and Bird on the Shore are doing these days. It just goes to show that there is a lot in the old adage – big things grew out of small beginnings!



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**AN INVITATION:** *Help us to meet the environmental challenges ahead!*

Join North Shore Forest and Bird

Committee, by helping to:

- recruit new F&B members
- write submissions
- facilitate our monthly meetings

Our AGM is in May. We'd love you to

join our committee! We're active, and achieve a lot, but could do more with your help. Please contact Neil now to discuss or register your interest.

Phone 480 2500 or email  
sherylandneil@hyper.net.nz

APRIL 2006 – AUGUST 2006

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

## PROUD TO BE A FOREST AND BIRDER.



## The NORTHWEST WILDLINK is signed!

Auckland Naturally, the combined initiative of all Auckland branches of Forest and Bird, took a giant step forward on February 28th with the signing of the NorthWest Wildlink Accord. Signing it were George Wood (Mayor: North Shore City), John Law (Mayor: Rodney District Council), Bob Harvey (Mayor: Waitakere City), Anne Fenn (Executive: Forest and Bird), Sandra Coney (ARC Heritage Chair) and Chris Carter (Minister of Conservation).

- **We can feel proud that we are the only membership organisation of the six signatories.**
- **We can feel proud that the accord states that it originated from Forest and Bird's Auckland Naturally initiative.**
- **We can feel proud that Forest and Bird is held in such esteem that these bodies are prepared to enter into an accord with us.**

True to the Auckland Naturally philosophy, the NW Wildlink is an exciting regional initiative that links the Hauraki Gulf islands, through Whangaparaoa to the Waitakere Ranges. It places emphasis on all areas of the natural environment within this link (corridor), whether in reserve, covenanted or small bush areas on private sections. The linkage between these areas contributes to the dispersal of native birds, plants and invertebrates.

While celebrating the success of Forest and Bird in reaching this momentous point, we must acknowledge that Dave Pattermore, F&B's Northern Field Officer, worked diligently over a long period to bring this to its first stage conclusion. Dave has worked with sensitivity and quiet determination to make this happen for us.

**WELL DONE!**

Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.



## Tuff Crater – looking good

The Tuff Crater area is looking great and a good number of the plants from last year's planting have survived the heat and relentless wind.

The Council has had some of the pampas sprayed, and other areas worked over with weed-eaters to give the new plants a chance to grow.

However, the warmth and rain earlier in the summer have led to a lush growth of weeds of all types.

The pond has been scooped out and cleared and a wide track now leads down from the Warehouse car park almost to the pond. Some plants have been lost as a result, but there is now access to bring in fertiliser and new plants.

Recently a group of weeders worked for an hour and a half, pulling moth plant and asparagus fern in the area adjacent to the estuary. This year we have caught moth plant early when only a few pods have formed. These were removed from site and the vines cut so that the invaders could wither and die.

Subsequent weeding sessions would concentrate on pulling small pampas plants along the area near the Warehouse, and then moving along to the far end nearer the motorway to check for moth plant in this area.

We are always keen to recruit more weeders so if you are interested and occasionally have a little time, please give me a call on 480 5570.

**Anne Denny, Committee.**

## MEMBERSHIP: VALUE FOR MONEY!

**Forest and Bird needs you!** One of the sad things about working at the Forest and Bird display at the Ellerslie Flower Show was to have people come up and say: 'Great organisation, I used to belong but I resigned because I wasn't active.'

Neil talked with these people and explained that just by belonging to Forest and Bird they are active conservationists. Their subs enable F&B staff to influence government, to work on environmental issues, to help branches keep going with the local work, and the subs pay for that wonderful magazine – Forest & Bird.

The good thing was that, almost without exception, these people wrote out cheques and rejoined! They wanted to belong to an environmental organisation that works both locally and nationally. They believed in the work Forest and Bird is doing, and realised that by belonging, they are part of that work.



NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (LEFT) AND (RIGHT) FANTAIL MOKOIA ISLAND



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

## THE WAY FORWARD

**During F&B's Council Meeting held in Rotorua on the weekend of 12 November 2005, attended by branch councillors Neil Sutherland and Claire Stevens, as well as observers Helene Willis and Victor Meyer, the following issues were noted:**

### Strategic Plan of Forest and Bird

In Mike Britton's (F&B General

Manager) address he mentioned key points for encouraging membership:

1. Favourable conservation of the environment
2. New Zealand's biodiversity safeguarded
3. Remaining dynamic and relevant
4. Connecting people with nature.

This will lead to inevitable restructuring of the organisation.

There was also a request from the floor on freshwater reserves



VIEW FROM ON TOP OF MOKOIA ISLAND

to the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter, present on the day. The linking out to sea with Marine Reserves was considered important.

An independent Communications Review was probably the highlight of the meeting:

- Growth and relevance
- Importance of integration
- Remaining positive but firm to get desired response (e.g. member recruitment)

- Branch importance emphasised
- Call centre envisaged.

The Hastings/Havelock-North branch very funnily presented ideas on membership enhancement through external public relations, internal public relations and personal public relations.

The Sunday was blissfully spent on Mokoia, which is an island in Lake Rotorua belonging to the local iwi. Among other issues, eutrofication was discussed by a previous MP of Rotorua.

## Kaipara Harbour Safeguarded!



As you may be aware (featured in the previous Habitat), Kaipara

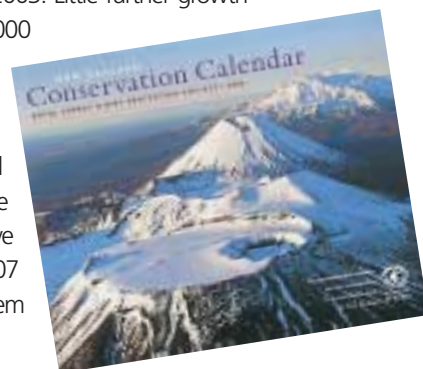
Harbour was potentially threatened by an aquacultural venture, against which the newly recognised branch, Kaipara Forest and Bird, submitted a case. The case was supported by North Shore Forest and Bird (\$500 donation), as well as other branches. In addition, a certain member of our branch is commended for making a substantial contribution to that cause. Subsequently, resource consent was not granted to the oyster farming company. Apart from many wetland species, the Kaipara provides a unique habitat for marine fish, such as snapper.

**So Viva, Kaipara, Viva!**

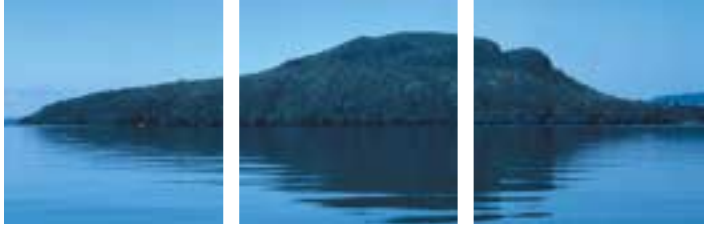
## Calendar and Diary sales in review

THE sale of calendars and diaries for North Shore Branch represents our sole fundraising activity for the year. The funds are used to support environmental projects within our area, such as Tuff Crater, Le Roy's Bush, and offshore, Motuora revegetation. Additional support is given to the Kiwi Conservation Club, which repays us by providing Forest and Bird members of the future! The concerns of our members are conveyed to Regional and National representatives through the attendance of committee members at meetings, which are usually held out of Auckland. Proceeds from sales thereby enable the branch to fund these activities as required.

Last year 572 calendars and 110 diaries were sold, delivering a profit of \$2,425. This represents a good result and is equivalent to the monies annually collected over the past three years. Oliver Saint ran the sales for five years and increased the profit from less than \$1,000 per annum to \$2,200 p.a. in 2003. Little further growth has been achieved, but returns of over \$2,000 p.a. have proved sufficient to keep the branch viable. A considerable effort is expended by the committee over seven months of the year to achieve this, and members should be aware of the importance of calendar and diary sales to the effective management of the branch. Order your 2007 calendars and diaries early and promote them to friends and family!



**Alan Emmerson, Committee.**



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## 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!

### APRIL

#### Monday 3rd

Science and New Environmental Issues. A guest speaker from NIWA will speak to us about interesting issues of the environment. Don't miss this intriguing presentation!

### MAY

#### Monday 1st

CHELSEA – Our Newest Park. Mel Galbraith will update us on developments with Chelsea Park down by the sugar refinery. This is also our AGM evening. Be sure not to miss this opportunity!

### JUNE

#### Monday 5th

Kaipara – a Harbour Gem presented by Suzi Phillips. Come hear about the ecology of Kaipara Harbour and various restoration projects underway... Fascinating!

### JULY

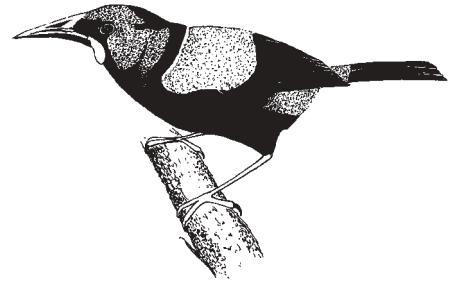
#### Monday 3rd

Snapper: What's Their Future? by Meredith Lowe. A presentation by a PhD student researching sedimentation in estuaries and its effects on snapper breeding and feeding. Come along to hear more about this...

### AUGUST

#### Monday 7th

Seabirds of The Gulf. Karen Baird from Kiwi Wildlife Tours will be sharing on birds of the Hauraki gulf!



## Branch Activities

**April, Friday 7th.** *Le Roy's Bush Glow Worm Tour:* 7.30pm. Did you know you can see glow worms in the city? Join a guided walk to enjoy Le Roy's Bush nightlife. FREE. Suitable for families (children must be supervised). Bring torch, jacket, sturdy shoes. Bookings essential (max 20): Leanne, ph 418 2378. Meet at entrance by 210 Onewa Rd.

> Monthly Le Roy's Bush 'Early Start' Working Bees (finish by 11am). Bring a spade or weeding gloves to the Glade Place entry to the bush.

**April, Sunday 9th:** Le Roy's Bush 'Early Start' Working Bee, 9am.

**May, Sunday 14th:** Le Roy's Bush 'Early Start' Working Bee, 9am.

**June, Sunday 11th.** Tuff Crater Planting: 10am–12pm. North Shore City Council has chosen our project to be the big city celebration for Arbor Day 2006. Come along! Bring a friend! Bring the family! It's only two hours. BBQ and drinks supplied! Bring a spade, or just come! Follow F&B signs from end of Warehouse Way, off Akoranga Drive. Contact person: Anne (ph 480 5570).

**July, Sunday 16th.** Le Roy's Bush and Little Shoal Bay Planting: 10am–12pm. We had a great turn out last year. Come along to this event and mingle with neighbours of the area. Remember we (F&B) secured this reserve for the people of Auckland back in 1947. So let's keep the commitment going! Meet, with your spade, by the Bowling Club (behind the tennis court) in Little Shoal Bay. Barbecue to follow! For more details contact Leanne, ph 418 2378.

### HABITAT FOLDING AND DELIVERY

Over 80 members are involved in the delivery of *Habitat*. We would particularly like to acknowledge Barbara Leigh, Jean and Charles Parley, Celia Bartram, Tric Brown, Debra Kemp, Garth Greig, Raewyn Hadwin, Helen Barker, Helen Slater, Gwen Jones, Theres Jujnovich, Donella De Silva, the Curtis family and John Dunnet for making sure *Habitat* reaches your mailbox.

# Habitat



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

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## THE CHALLENGE OF 'HUMANE CONSERVATION'

WHAT a fabulous world it would be if we showed 'equal empathy' for all living creatures! We wouldn't favour one species over another, unless there were environmental reasons for doing so. Just imagine it: A worm would be as important as a butterfly; a weta as important as a dolphin; a kokopu as important as a cat; a giraffe weevil as important as a kereru! What a different world it would be...

Fortunately, that is the way I sense public thinking is shifting. People are saying that – in the greater scheme of things – the tussock weevil is as important as the kea; the red tussock is as important as the kauri. There is a growing realisation that everything – no matter how tiny or huge, how 'ugly' or beautiful – is dependent upon many other things for its survival.

The interdependence of our native species increases the importance of

biodiversity policies and the protection of our flora and fauna.

So if it means removing agapanthus to allow bush ground cover to flourish, or wild cats so that kereru don't become extinct, then that's in the best interest of nature. Support for North Shore Forest and Bird's position to protect native lizards and birds from wild cats shows that people don't want local fauna to face extinction. As a community, we are moving away from the inhumane attitude where we favour certain species at the cost of other species.

If we believe all species are of equal value to the 'nature chain' (ecosystem), then as environmentalists, we need to be heard when situations in our community are threatening the chain. Now that's what I call, the challenge of 'humane conservation'.

**Neil Sutherland, Chairperson.**



## WHERE'S THE WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN?

### Is your garden going just a bit too wild?

The weeds are out of control and there is not enough native wildlife? With the planting season approaching, it's a good time to get your hands into garden gloves and take action! Every native planted and protected from weeds on the North Shore means more food and habitat

for wildlife, such as kereru and tui, especially near bush remnants. So, how to start? To get some good direction on the basics of good plants, nasty plants and pests in your garden and what to do about them, you could contact the Kaipatiki Project (482 1172). If you have a patch of bush or stream on your property, you may also qualify for Kaipatiki's Nature for Neighbourhoods programme: free home visits, trees, workshops and talks (thanks to North Shore City



Council and Biodiversity Advice Fund).

The next step is growing the big picture: find out from the experts how to design your contribution to the natural environment (in your own garden). UNITEC lecturers Leslie Haines (ecology) and Ian Henderson (landscape design) will give practical instruction on the key things to

consider, using an on-site example during April and May (enquiries: 482 1172).

Then learn how to grow your own native plants from scratch. Now is a good time to start, as seeds are ripening all over the Shore. Take a basics course (2 hours) at Kaipatiki or delve in deeper in a UNITEC short course (0800 10510).

**Caren Shrubshall, Kaipatiki Project.**

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

PO Box 33-873, Takapuna 1300

The Committee 2006

<b>NEIL SUTHERLAND</b>	–	Chairperson	480 2500
<b>JOCELYN SANDERS</b>	–	Secretary	479 2107
<b>CEDRIC HAY</b>	–	Treasurer	410 5977
<b>JIM LEWIS</b>	–	RMA	480 7245
<b>CLAIRE STEVENS</b>	–	Committee	419 1233
<b>ANNE DENNY</b>	–	Committee	480 5570
<b>ALAN EMMERSON</b>	–	Committee	473 2216
<b>LIZ ANSTEY</b>	–	Committee	480 1545
<b>VICTOR MEYER</b>	–	Committee	478 1559
<b>KAREN WEALLEANS</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
<b>NICK KEENLEYSIDE</b>	–	Electronic distribution	info@draughting.co.nz

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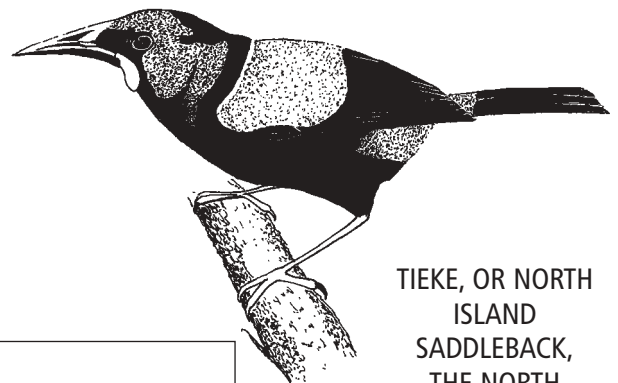
BIRD RESCUE

# 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