



Forest & Bird chief executive Hone McGregor and Amelia Geary, lower North Island conservation manager, will talk about the future of the organisation in City Library next week.

PHOTO: PAUL BOYCE/SUPPLIED

Getting on board with Forest & Bird

**BRENT BARRETT, FOREST & BIRD
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New Zealand ranks first in the minds of many for our amazing natural environment and wildlife. Between the northern coastal home of Maui's dolphin and Fiordland National Park, there are brilliant places in between – such as the Manawatu Gorge, the Manawatu River estuary, and Totara Reserve.

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest independent conservation organisation working to preserve our natural heritage and native species. The Society has over 70,000 supporters and 50 branches around the country.

The Manawatu Branch, founded in 1957, is hosting recently appointed chief executive, Hone McGregor, at a public meeting on Tuesday, July 14 at City Library.

With Amelia Geary, the society's lower North Island conservation manager, Hone wants to meet members, supporters and interested members of the public to discuss the organisation's plans and future.

The recent finding in the Hawkes Bay Ruataniwha case is one example

of conservation advocacy protecting freshwater and native fish.

Locally, Forest & Bird was the catalyst in nominating the Manawatu Estuary for internationally recognised Ramsar status as a wetland of significance.

Hone is continuing a family legacy, as his mother and grandmother were active members of Forest & Bird for six decades.

Forest & Bird is active in protecting oceans, supporting DOC's successful Battle for our Birds, and challenging Government on the extraction of swamp kauri and the logging of West Coast windfall.

The local branch has focused on organising guided Manawatu Gorge walks, planting days and habitat restoration, while supporting initiatives such as Reel Earth and Green Corridors.

Hone and Amelia look forward to meeting everyone with interests in conservation at next Tuesday's 7.30pm City Library meeting, through the George St entrance.