



## AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

### Forest and Bird Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

Sound and Vision Centre, Palmerston North City Library,  
George Street, Palmerston North

**“DECLINING WHITEBAIT - what has gone wrong and how we can save”**



**SPEAKER:** Stella McQueen - Native Fish Geek

Stella says “four of the five whitebait species are in decline, including the most common fish in the whitebait catch: the inanga.” Stella will talk about the fact that these four species will be extinct in 35 years if we don't do something about it soon.

But what is really causing the decline?

And what we do to reverse it before it is too late?

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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### **F&B AUGUST 2016 TRIP**

**4WD adventure to Whitebait Creek, Whirokino Whitebait Spawning Ground, Koputaroa Scientific Reserve, Wildlife Foxton Trust AND MORE...**

This is a special trip, and is limited to 4WD vehicles only, and a total of 20 people. We need 3 more 4WD vehicles for the trip and would have spaces to car-pool.

Registration for this trip will opened at our Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, together with a waitlist, should the trip fill up on Tuesday.

If you are interested, please contact me: Anthea McClelland Ph. 021 184 6241 email: [Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz) after Tuesday, to register and or if you have a 4WD vehicle available. The trip is not suitable for young children.



**Leader:** Alastair Cole, NZ Landcare Trust

**Guides:** Bob Hoskins, who has been involved in habitat restoration

John Girling, who will guide us through Wildlife Foxton Trusts centre, where they have some Giant Kokupu and Inanga adults!

Join us on this unique 4WD adventure We will visit important spawning and adult habitat sites. Meet locals who will open your eyes to the incredible and secretive world of NZ freshwater species, and their importance to NZ ecosystem.

Don't miss this chance to get familiar with the iconic NZ freshwater species and book your place in advance, the number of places is limited to 20.

**Depart:** 10.00 a.m. sharp from Palmerston North

**Meet:** Palmerston North - Car pool – meet on Church St, opposite Centrepoint Theatre & Salvation Army Shop (on Railway land side). If you carpool, please share petrol costs with the driver.

**What to bring:** Suitable warm/wet weather clothing, gumboots or suitable footwear for wet conditions. Bring snacks, water, lunch\*, binoculars (we may spot a bittern or so!) – and - do not forget your camera.

\*We will be stopping at the Dutch Oven Café, if you do not wish to bring your own lunch, and arrangements have been made for those who bring their own lunch.

For more information: **Up to 12<sup>th</sup> August** contact: Anthea McClelland email:

[Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz) Ph. 021 184 6241

**After 12<sup>th</sup> August** please contact: Julia Panfylova Email: [J.Panfylova@gmail.com](mailto:J.Panfylova@gmail.com) Phone: 021 050 5741

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**THERE ARE STILL SPACES AVAILABLE FOR OUR OVERNIGHT TRIP TO:**

**LAKE ROTOKARE, nr. ELTHAM, TARANAKI**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

**PLEASE REGISTER BY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST. There will be a sign up sheet on Tuesday at our Monthly Meeting OR email me: Anthea McClelland**  
[Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz)



Rotokare Scenic Reserve is a stunning 230 hectare forested hill-country catchment, extensive wetlands and 17.8 hectare natural lake. This pest-free, fenced paradise is a home to iconic kiwi, extraordinary fernbirds, saddlebacks that were recently translocated from Bushy Park and many other native animals.

The approximate price for this trip is \$50 plus petrol (if you car-pool)

This includes:

- Accommodation at the Eltham Presbyterian Camp - shared rooms and cabins.
- Rotokare Project presentation and guided walk around the Rotokare Scenic Reserve
- Catered dinner
- Night Tour of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve

On Sunday, before you return to Palmerston North, you could:

- Look around the Reserve again
- Explore Stratford and/or Egmont National Park
- Visit the Tawhiti Museum at Harewa (well worth a visit)

If you are interested in going on the Trip, please register your interest with our Trip Coordinator, Julia Panfylova by 15<sup>th</sup> August. Also contact Julia if you have any questions about the Trip. Email: [J.Panfylova@gmail.com](mailto:J.Panfylova@gmail.com) or ph. 021 050 75741.

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## **FOREST & BIRD 2017 DIARIES AND CALENDARS - NOW AVAILABLE**



pb potton & burton

New Zealand Conservation Calendar 2017

Featuring superb photographs of our extraordinary wildlife and wilderness habitats taken by some of our leading nature photographers. Weighs less than 200g for economic postage. Envelope included.

Recommended Retail Price \$17.99

**Your price \$15.00**

New Zealand Conservation Diary 2017

Every week brings a new photograph of our unique landscapes, plants and wildlife. This quality week-to-view diary features public holidays, and a lay-flat spiral binding.

Recommended Retail Price \$24.99

**Your price \$20.00**

The F&B Calendars and Diaries will be available for sale from our August Monthly Meeting until they are sold out.

**If you want ensure your Calendar and/or Diary,** please could you email Kevin Hanks (who is one our Calendar & Diary Coordinators this year) at [kevnrob@hotmail.com](mailto:kevnrob@hotmail.com)

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### **VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS**

We are looking for volunteers to help the Committee to setup and meet and greet at our Monthly Meetings. This will be done a roster basis. It would require volunteers to be at the Library by 7.00 p.m. on the night they are rostered. There will be a sign-up sheet at our meetings OR you can email me. Your help would be appreciated.

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### **WORKING PARTIES FOR AUGUST**

#### **GREEN CORRIDORS - PLANTING DAYS**

##### **Every Wednesday in August- All Day**

Summerhill Drive, Palmerston North

Green Corridors runs regular volunteer planting days (half or full days) for casual volunteers most Wednesdays, in the Summerhill Drive area through winter and spring (weather dependant).

Planting often takes place along rough terrain and on hillsides so you must be physically fit. Phone Courtney on 353 2904 or mobile 021 035 8019, or email [courtney.starterplants@outlook.co.nz](mailto:courtney.starterplants@outlook.co.nz), by 4 pm the preceding Tuesday, if you are interested in participating.

#### **WAITOETOE PARK – WORKING BEE**

##### **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

This totara forest remnant forms part of the riverside walkway and the local community have been planting and weeding to enhance this beautiful area of Palmerston North.



Come and help out with a working bee that will include weeding, mulching and other general maintenance, followed by refreshments.

Meet in the park at the Buick Crescent entrance, which is next to Sharon Place. For more information, contact Rachel at [rachel@inspect.net.nz](mailto:rachel@inspect.net.nz)

### **SIXTUS LODGE WORKING BEE**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Join Sixtus Lodge Trust Board Members, in the foothills of the Ruahine Ranges, for their Working Bee at the Sixtus Lodge Outdoor Education Centre, where you can assist with bush work in the Margot Forde Arboretum among other tasks.

For more information contact: Sixtus Lodge Outdoor Education Centre telephone (06) 328 4823

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### **NEWS FROM FOREST AND BIRD NATIONAL**

#### **Protecting the Ngaruroro River**

Forest & Bird is applying for a water conservation order to protect the natural values of the Ngaruroro River in Hawke's Bay. The river is home to 44 native bird species, 27 of which are classified as threatened or at risk of extinction in the wild.

We are joining with Fish & Game, Whitewater New Zealand, Jet Boating New Zealand and Ngāti Hori ki Kohupātiki in seeking the order and Forest & Bird will be calling expert witnesses to support biodiversity in the lower reaches of the river.

We need to raise \$60,000 by the end of August to pay for the expert witnesses. Please support our work to save this special river by making a donation from your branch, or by asking branch members to make a donation. [Go here to find out more or to make a donation.](#)

#### **Freshwater Facebook group**

Decades of neglect and abuse have badly damaged our rivers, lakes and streams and our new [Freshwater 111 Facebook page](#) gives you the chance to highlight and report freshwater problems in your area.

Bringing freshwater issues out into the open is the best way to create momentum for change. Forest & Bird wants to know about the water issues affecting your community - stock in the local stream, rivers running dry, or pollutants seeping into waterways.

Report it to Freshwater 111 and let's take action to protect our precious freshwater.

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### **2016 Battle for our Birds**



Battle for our Birds is DOC's successful national pest control programme that protects our most vulnerable native species.

The programme uses biodegradable 1080 applied by air over large areas of rugged terrain to knock down rats, stoats and possums. Trapping and other ground-based pest control methods also play an important part. For example, a large trap network in the Murchison Mountains protects takehē from stoats.

### **Success from pest control in 2014**

The Battle for our Birds programme successfully stopped rat and stoat plagues triggered by widespread forest seeding in 2014. This helped protect native species across large areas from Waitutu in Southland to Tongariro Forest in the central North Island.

### **Pest control in 2016**

Widespread forest seeding this autumn will lead to another rapid rise in rat and stoats, putting our endangered native wildlife at further risk.

Planning for additional pest control is now complete and the sites for this year's Battle for our Birds programme have been confirmed. Our field staff and scientists continue to monitor seed and pests levels and have decided exactly where to prioritise pest control to protect native species most at risk.

[Get the status and map of confirmed and proposed pest control operations.](#)

### **An Extract from DoC's Battle for our Birds NEWSLETTER 1**

"Time in WAITUTU

The Battle for our Birds has moved up a gear throughout the country.

As DOC staff prepare for potential pest control activity, it is timely to reflect on the background research that drives us to defend large tracts of native forest to protect the ecosystems and wildlife within them.

Long-term studies of pest control outcomes require the dedication and commitment of people over many years. The results become valuable tools that help to shape future pest management strategies. For a number of years the Department of Conservation has been studying Waitutu Forest in the south-eastern area of Fiordland National Park.

Waitutu Forest is one of the largest tracts of unmodified lowland forest remaining in the country. The forest is a diverse mix of beech, podocarp and hardwood. It contains a healthy selection of mistletoe with five species occurring in the area.

In 1985, a Wildlife Service study by Elliot and Ogle<sup>1</sup> stated: "Waitutu has possibly the densest and largest population of kākā on mainland New Zealand."

Quarterly rodent, mustelid and seed rain monitoring has been conducted in the area since 2002. This showed the mustelid monitoring index to be consistently high at 80 to 100% year-round until 2008 when the first attempts at landscape scale stoat control in this area commenced. Stoats remained a constant threat to birdlife during this period. Possums were recent invaders into the area west of the Waitutu River and also threatened many of our native species."

To read more, please go to: [www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds](http://www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds)  
<http://doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwBCeu9s9hc>

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## **OTHER NEWS FROM DoC**

### **Restoration plan developed for Tamatea/Dusky Sound**

Located on the wild and remote Fiordland coast, Dusky Sound is the focus of a [cutting edge project](#) to see it restored to one of the most intact ecosystems on Earth.

### **Mouse blitz team leaves for Antipodes**

The [Million Dollar Mouse project](#) to rid Antipodes Island of mice is underway with the departure of a rodent eradication team to the remote nature reserve and World Heritage Area.

### **Great Mercury Island declared pest-free**

Introduced kiore, ship rats and feral cats have been [eradicated from Great Mercury Island](#)

### **Return of robins to Abel Tasman mainland**

The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust have [transferred 34 south island robins](#) from Motuareronui/Adele Island to the national park's mainland.

### **Rare lizard thriving on Chalky Island**

The vulnerable [Te Kakahu/Chalky Island skink is doing well](#) thanks to a herpetofauna project supported by Chalky Digits and the Fiordland Conservation Trust.

### **New Picton crèche for rowi kiwi**

Kaipupu Point Sounds Wildlife Sanctuary is to become a [crèche for endangered rowi kiwi](#).

### **Statement of Intent published**

Our [Statement of Intent for 2016-2020](#) has been published. It outlines our longer term directions and the management actions that will be undertaken in 2016.

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## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS**

Monica Peters is contacting you (as a 'member' of the wider citizen science community) to let you know that the NZ Landcare Trust's Inventory of Citizen Citizen Science Projects, Programmes, Resources and Learning Opportunities in NZ is now online. The document, which provides the most comprehensive and up to date information about citizen science in New Zealand, can be downloaded from the Trust's [citizen science project web page](#) . Monica recently completed a PhD at Waikato University on environmental restoration by communities and citizen science.

### **Envirofest Volunteers Wanted**

Want to help with EnviroFest? Gain work experience and meet great people? PNCET are keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer at EnviroFest, a three week festival of all things environmental in Palmerston North, running from 2-23rd October 2016. PNCET needs help with various event co-ordination tasks, and can write testimonials for volunteers. [Email PNCET](#) if you keen to be involved.

### **Youth Action Group Meeting**

Every Wednesday 5-6pm

Are you a young person who is interested in social, political and environmental issues? Do

you know a young person who is? Do you want to get involved with local events organized by teenagers who care about our community and our earth? YAGM is open to all teenagers and encourages respectful, open-minded discussions about a wide range of issues.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT MONTH**

### **Craig Potton 'Finding the Wild'**

**Tuesday 6 September**

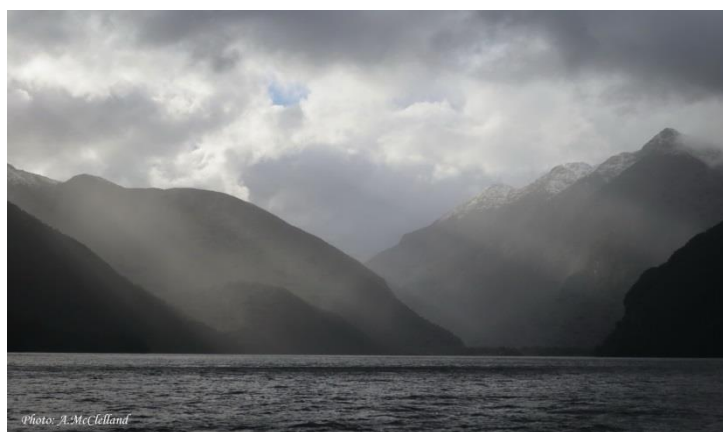
An Illustrated talk by eminent New Zealand photographer, conservationist and publisher, Craig Potton at Globe Theatre. Tickets on sale early August from Bruce Mckenzie Booksellers.

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### **Forest and Bird September 2016 Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

**Talk: "Exploring Coastal Fiordland from Preservation Inlet to Doubtful Sound"**



**Speaker:** Vince Neall, Emeritus Professor in Earth Science

Vince will be talking to us about his trip around Fiordland, a beautiful remote and not often visited part of New Zealand. He will talk about his boat trip, the geology, the biodiversity and a bit of history of the area.

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That is about all for this month - I do hope I will meet you at one of our Monthly Meetings.

*Anthea*

Anthea McClelland

Chair, Forest and Bird Manawatū Branch

[Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

