



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

MANAWATU BRANCH

JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

Hello to you all,

I should like to welcome all new Forest and Bird Members and new subscribers to Naturesvoicemanawatu.

Tuesday, 14th June, 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

“WEE BEASTIES – THE INVERTEBRATES OF NZ FOREST FLOOR”



peripatus, velvet worm, ngaokeoke

springtail, tawhana



SPEAKER: Dr Maria (Masha) Minor

Senior Lecturer, Ecology Group, Massey University

“The non-insect invertebrates of the forest floor – what do they look like? what do they do? How much do we know?”

Dr. Minor will talk about the biology, the biodiversity and the state of knowledge we have in this group of invertebrates. The talk will be illustrated with colour images of soil and litter fauna.”

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B JUNE TRIP

LOOKING FOR WEE BEASTIES IN THE BUSH AT ASHHURST

Saturday 25th June, 2016

Leader: Dr. Maria Minor, Speaker at our Monthly Meeting on Tuesday



Photos: from the web

Dr. Minor help us look for invertebrates in the Ashhurst Domain Bush and let us know what they are. This trip follows on from Dr. Minor's talk on Tues 14th June, 2016

Depart: 2.00 p.m. – sharp from Palmerston North
or meet at 2.30 p.m. at the Ashhurst Domain (location below)

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.

OR meet: At the Ashhurst Domain by the Children's playground

What to bring: Please bring a torch, as we may look for invertebrates under rocks, in tree cavities or crevices.
Also, water, raincoat, and stout footwear

For more information: Contact Julia Panfylova Email: J.Panfylova@gmail.com

Phone: 021 050 5741

F&B MANAWATU BRANCH MONTHLY MEETINGS

July to December 2016 Programme

Programme is subject to alteration; please check our website for updates

Tue 12th Jul Talk: Mighty Moa of the Manawatū

Speaker: Dr Mike Dickison

Curator of Natural History, Whanganui Regional Museum

Tue 9th Aug **Talk: “Declining whitebait: what has gone wrong and how we can save them”**

Speaker: Stella McQueen

CONSERVATION WEEK – 10th – 18th September, 2016

Tue 13th Sept **Talk: “Exploring Coastal Fiordland from Preservation Inlet to Doubtful Sound”**

Speaker: Vince Neall, Emeritus Professor in Earth Science

Tue 11th Oct **Talk: “Changing River Channels: A Manawatu perspective”**

Speaker: Ian Fuller, Associate Professor,
Physical Geography, Massey University

Tue 8th Nov **Talk: "Palmerston North's Green Corridor: from range to river"**

Speaker: Russell Pool, Chair Green Corridors

Tue 13th Dec **Manawatu Branch Social**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FOREST AND BIRD 2016 NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Preparations are in full swing for this year’s Forest & Bird's 93rd Annual General Meeting and conference.

When: June 24 - 26 2016

Where: CQ Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington

All members and committee members are invited to join in two days of talks and workshops on climate change, engaging youth in conservation, and what we have achieved over the last year.

For information on the conference programme and details on how to register, please visit <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/get-involved/events/annual-general-meeting>

FOREST & BIRD 2017 DIARIES AND CALENDARS

Pre Order Diary Request

I know it is only June, but the Branch will be placing the order for the F&B 2017 Diaries and Calendars in July.

Last year we were scrambling to order enough Diaries to fulfil the requests.

In order to gauge how many Diaries we need to order this year,

- If you would like to order a Diary, please could you email Kevin Hanks (who is one our Calendar & Diary Coordinators this year) at kevnrob@hotmail.com I suspect the price will be similar to last year, but will not know until we receive the order request from the publishers.
- Calendars are not such an issue, but if you would like to place an early order for a F&B 2017 calendar, please email Kevin at the above address.
- I will send out a notice when the Diaries and Calendars will be available for sale.

WORKING PARTIES FOR JUNE

TREE PLANTING AT KEEBLES BUSH –

Saturday 18th June – Morning only – finish by 12 noon

MEET: 09.00 a.m. On Church St, opposite Centrepont Theatre & Salvation Army Shop (on Railway land side).

If you carpool, please share petrol costs with the driver.

PLEASE TAKE: Gumboots or sturdy boots, suitable winter weather clothing and water.

GREEN CORRIDORS - PLANTING DAYS

Every Wednesday in June- 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, by 4 pm the preceding Tuesday, if you are interested in participating.

WAITOETOE PARK – WORKING BEE

Sunday, 26th June 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

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Wildbase Recover Centre, Esplanade, Palmerston North Update

The project recently reaching an exciting phase with a target of raising \$700,000 by 30 July, and an expectation considerable progress will be made this year.

There is no other facility in New Zealand that directly connects applied science with education and national conservation efforts. Now is a great time to make a contribution to this project if you are able to.

A Give-a-little page has been setup:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/wildbaserecovery/donations>

Or, for corporate sponsorship please contact the Wildbase Recovery Community trust via their website www.wildbaserecovery.co.nz

The Wildbase Recovery Community Trust is tasked with raising the \$5.69m needed to build Wildbase Recovery and Wildbase Recovery continues to make great progress towards realising the dream of a specialised native wildlife rehabilitation and education centre in Palmerston North.

Wildbase Recovery is a collaboration between Palmerston North City Council and Massey University, with support from Department of Conservation (DOC), Rangitāne iwi, Rotary, and Lions Clubs. Once established, Massey University's Wildbase Hospital patients will be transferred to the Palmerston North Victoria Esplanade for recuperation. There, 14 rehabilitation aviaries will include a circular flighted aviary for species such as kākā, kea, tui and kererū, a five-metre-tall raptor aviary for kārearea and harrier hawks, recovery pools for ocean, shore and wetlands birds to restore their waterproofing, and a place for ground-dwelling birds including kiwi and takahē. Public will be able to view the wildlife as they recover in a natural habitat, without intrusion.

In addition to the purpose-built rehabilitation aviaries, Wildbase Recovery will include

permanent inflight and breeding aviaries, and the Powerco Education Centre. Onsite and online, Wildbase Recovery will provide high quality interactive storytelling and learning experiences that link directly to the NZ School Curriculum and DOC's national education strategy.

Bushy Park Bioblitz

In February Bushy Park Sanctuary ran as a special event a successful BioBlitz in collaboration with the Whanganui Regional Museum and support from scientists around the country.

The purpose of the Bioblitz was twofold:-

- 1) to obtain a greater understanding of the biodiversity present in Bushy Park;
- 2) to develop a repository of information including images and geotags on NatureWatch <http://naturewatch.org.nz/>

Over 100 people attended, with significant discoveries being made and a rough species count standing at over 900.

One high point was entomologist Robert Hoare from Auckland discovering two specimens of the lichen tuft moth *Izatha caustopa*, which has been seen only twice in the last 70 years, the last time in 1985. These two specimens caught in just one night means Bushy Park Sanctuary probably supports a healthy population of this rarely-seen moth.

Another highlight was the report from entomologist Rudi Schnitzler, newly of Whanganui, that he has identified at least two new species and a new genus! The result of this work is still ongoing and data is being processed.

UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT MONTH

Tuesday 12th July @ 7.30 p.m. – F&B Monthly Meeting

“Mighty Moa of the Manawatū”



Image: Courtesy Te Papa



Moa in Whanganui Museum

Speaker: Dr Mike Dickison

Curator of Natural History, Whanganui Regional Museum

F&B July Trip

Saturday 16 July - Paengaroa Scenic Reserve, Mataroa, near Taihape

Moa ate divaricating plants, but what are divaricating plants?

Find out by joining us on a divaricating trip to a gem of a forest remnant in the heart of the Rangitikei, Paengaroa Scenic Reserve, where divaricating plants rule. What is a divaricating plant? Come to the talk (on 12th July), then do the walk.

We'll be kindly hosted by a guardian of Paengaroa Michael Hutchins, who lives nearby and who has offered his house for our lunch stop, complete with a commanding view of Ruapehu, and a guided tour around his sustainable lifestyle.

N.B. Paengaroa is a special place for plants. It has a remarkable concentration of rare species and the greatest concentration of divaricating plants for any similar sized area in New Zealand making it a botanical treasure trove.

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 Manawatu Branch
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