



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Contents

- F&B Manawatū Chair's message
- F&B Manawatū October Monthly Talk
- F&B 2025 Calendars and Diaries
- Media releases about the Fast Track list from F&B and EDS
- BirdsNZ Manawatū branch October Meeting
- Forest & Bird's 100-year history – Book Title: Force of Nature
- Things of interest
- Regular Working Bees
- F&B Manawatū November2024 Monthly talk

Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

I have just returned from sunny Perth where I visited the city's Kings Park 3 times while I was there.

It is a 400 hectare bush reserve and botanical garden with 3000 native plants found only in Western Australia. An early colonial settler had the vision of saving this land from development but it is also very significant to the Aboriginal peoples.

Doing a guided walking tour of the botanical gardens taught me a lot about the Australian bush, all those different eucalypts and the amazing plants able to cope with the WA climate.

I represented the branch and spoke at the funeral of one of our very long standing members and personal friend, Rae Nichols. She was in her nineties and passed away in mid October.

That's all for this month

Margaret

Chairperson

October 2024 Monthly talk
Tuesday 8th October 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North
(will be streamed via zoom – see below for the link)

**Toheroa are NZ's most protected shellfish,
but their numbers aren't recovering. Why?**

Talk: Toheroa are NZ's most protected shellfish, but their numbers aren't recovering. Why?

Speakers: Justin Tamihana, Ngatai Kikopiri Reservation Trustees Manawatū Estuary Management, Dr. Phil Ross, Marine Ecologist at Fisheries New Zealand
Tessa Marshall, Niwa



Toheroa are a large clam treasured by Māori coastal communities (Credit: Phil Ross)

Justin and Phil will talk about the toheroa collapse and what work is being carried out to help its recovery

The toheroa, an iconic surf clam and taonga species, were once plentiful on the west coast beaches of NZ and were a world-renowned kaimoana. But populations collapsed in the 1960s after decades of unsustainable harvest, and harvesting was banned. Despite more than 50 years of protection, wild toheroa populations haven't recovered. But now, it might be on the way back.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/85696985220?pwd=oW78N6WQdjgW709EaKnvFIHcxtU1TS.1>

Meeting ID: 856 9698 5220
Passcode: 727428

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

FOREST & BIRD 2025 CALENDARS AND DIARIES

LAST CHANCE TO BUY - Our F&B Calendars and Diaries will be on sale at the October meeting – we still have some of each left until the end of October.

Please email me at manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz if you would like a calendar and/or diary and I will arrange with you for collection. Please would you also, provide a contact number, in case I need to get in touch with you.

Many thanks – Anthea

PS please note that overseas snailmail is taking longer these days



Media releases about the Fast Track list from F&B and EDS

Fast-track list reveal is a dark day for democracy

Sunday 6 October 2024

Parliament's Environment Committee must delay reporting back on the Fast-track Approvals Bill until it has time to properly consider the proposed projects, says Forest & Bird.

The list of projects for automatic fast tracking through Schedule 2 of the bill was only released today, months after public consultation closed.

"It's a dark day for New Zealand democracy when the select committee tasked with assessing a law doesn't actually get to see the whole law," says Richard Capie General Manager of Advocacy for Forest & Bird.

Forest & Bird is sending an open letter to the Environment Committee asking that it not report back to Parliament until it has had the opportunity to receive and consider public submissions on the proposal additions to the bill.

"The missing schedule includes developments with serious and complex environmental consequences – coal mining in pristine kiwi habitat, getting rid of forest

with high conservation values, and damaging ocean that is home to critically endangered blue whales and Māui dolphins,” says Mr Capie.

Some on the list are developments that Forest & Bird has spent years successfully opposing in court, essentially ‘zombie projects’. This includes the Ruataniwha dam in Hawke’s Bay and Trans-Tasman Resources’ proposal for seabed mining off the Taranaki coast. More information as well as pictures and video footage of these and other areas are available below.

“Because developments referred to or on the schedule are almost certain to go ahead, it’s absolutely critical that proper scrutiny happens now so that people can understand the ways existing environmental protections are being breached and the harm that will be caused,” says Mr Capie.

“Communities around New Zealand should be able to have a say on projects that could pollute their swimming holes, destroy the precious bush they love, or drive a native species locally extinct.

“Even with further consultation, this bill is such is a major departure from sound public policy, or reasonable environmental and conservation decision making, that ultimately Christopher Luxon just needs to put it in the bin.”

Under the bill, developments would be able to avoid community consultation, much expert scrutiny, and environmental safeguards under existing laws.

“The Fast-track Approvals Bill is the most extreme attack on nature in decades. New Zealand already has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world, and we’re in the midst of a climate and biodiversity crisis. It is the time to work towards bringing back birdsong, not starting a war on nature.”

Note

Forest & Bird was among the tens of thousands of submitters against the bill. Interest was so high that a ballot had to be used to allocate hearings by the Environment Committee. In June, widespread public opposition to the bill saw more than 20,000 people March for Nature down Auckland’s Queen Street in protest.

Specific projects on Schedule 2

Trans-Tasman Resources seabed mining:

In 2021, the Supreme Court overturned consents to mine 65 square kilometres of seabed in Taranaki, after a seven-year fight by iwi, fisheries companies and environmental groups. The area is home to 30 species of marine mammals, including some that are critically endangered, including blue whales and Māui’s dolphins. It is an important migratory corridor for humpback whales. Little blue penguins use the area, the Patea Shoals are an important natural area closer to shore, and the National

Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (Niwa) found an unexpected number of reefs full of marine life alongside the targeted mining area. The mining company boss admitted the giant crawler would destroy the seabed.

The Supreme Court sent the project back to the Environmental Protection Authority, after ruling there were not enough conditions to protect the environment. But in 2024, after the Fast-track Approvals Bill was announced, Trans-Tasman Resources announced it was pulling out of the Environmental Protection Authority's reconsideration of its application. ([More information and images](#)).

Ruataniwha:

This proposed dam would flood 22 hectares of Ruahine Forest Park, where there are rare wetlands as well as habitat for threatened species such as pekapeka long-tailed bats and kārearea NZ falcon. The proposal involved downgrading specially protected conservation land so that it could be swapped. Forest & Bird prevented the dam from going ahead in 2016, after [winning a case in the Supreme Court](#) which showed that the Conservation Act prevents ministers from revoking the protected status of conservation land, where the intrinsic values still warrant protection. The Fast-track Approvals Bill would allow any conservation land to be exchanged, including for money.

Waitaha hydro scheme (Westpower):

One of New Zealand's last remaining wild rivers, the West Coast's Waitaha River is threatened by a proposed hydro scheme which would use a weir to divert water through a tunnel. An outstanding and scenic area on pristine public conservation land, the area is home to 25 native bird species including kea, kākā and kārearea, plus long-tailed bats, and forest and green geckos. Forest & Bird were among the thousands of submissions against the concession application by the company, which was rejected in 2019 under the Conservation Act because of the significant impacts on the natural character of the area, the intrinsic value of the area and people's enjoyment of it. Pictures and video of the area [are available here](#).

Oceana Gold:

OceanaGold, a multi-national mining company based in Canada and Australia, hopes to develop an underground mine under public conservation land at Wharekirauponga, north of Waihi. Conservation experts fear vibrations from the drilling will impact Archey's frogs – one of the world's rarest and most endangered amphibians. There is also concern about the risk of subsidence and the impact of dewatering on the Wharekirauponga and Otahu rivers.

Barrytown Flats (TiGa):

The Coast Road Resilience Group and Forest & Bird appealed a mining consent won by an Australian coal mining company for mineral sand mining on the Barrytown Flats on the West Coast. The fast-track application is for a much larger 635ha area.

Bendigo-Ophir gold mine (Santana Minerals):

An enormous new hard rock gold mine is proposed in the Bendigo-Ophir region of central Otago. Santana Minerals want to mine an area that is under a post Tenure Review conservation covenant to protect landscape, biodiversity and historic values. The area, with Rock Tors, is home to rare plants, with lots of lizards and invertebrates. Full-scale mining would also involve a large tailings dam, with the risk of arsenic contamination to waterways.

For further information please contact:

Lynn Freeman
Media & Communications Manager
027 381 1110
l.freeman@forestandbird.org.nz

EDS Media Release

Huge number of projects to be fast-tracked; some good, some bad

6 October 2024

“The Government has today announced 149 projects that will be listed in the Fast-track Approvals Bill,” says Environmental Defence Society CEO Gary Taylor.

“Listed projects include public infrastructure, energy and housing developments which will help bridge New Zealand’s infrastructure deficit and housing shortage. EDS is not opposed to fast-track processes for essential public infrastructure and housing.

“The Resource Management Act can be too slow and too expensive. However, the Fast-track Approvals Bill goes way beyond what is required to streamline processes.

“The list of questionable projects includes coal mines, open pit gold mines on conservation covenants, projects that have already been declined by independent decision-makers, major extensions to Auckland wharves and many more disasters for our natural environment.

“Coal mines are contrary to our international climate change commitments and free-trade agreements, and will lock us into fossil fuels when we should be transitioning away from them.

“Trans-Tasman Resources’ seabed mining project is on the list, despite being rejected multiple times by independent decision-makers and putting potentially higher value industries like offshore wind, which need the same space, in jeopardy.

“A number of large-scale wind and solar project are included which is a good thing. Some of them occur on Significant Natural Areas, which pits climate change against biodiversity loss.

“Overall, we’re blown away by the sheer volume of projects listed. We question how the Government intends to stand up enough qualified expert panels to process them in the timeframes indicated.

“As currently designed, the bill almost guarantees approval for the projects. It fails to properly balance development and environment considerations and instead has a deeply troubling bias in favour of applicants. That means that good projects will get approved along with the bad. Local communities will not have a say.

“The list will now be inserted into the Bill, via an Amendment Paper, without any opportunity for public input.

“In the next few days, the Government will release the report from the Fast-track Projects Advisory Group that triaged the hundreds of applications. That will likely give reasons for the Group’s recommendations about what projects should be included in the Bill. We are still in the dark as to what criteria Cabinet ultimately used to decide what projects to list.

“The final and most important release will be the report to Parliament from the Environment Select Committee due on 18 October. That will reveal whether Government has listened to the public and agreed to include proper consideration of environmental and climate change matters and whether it will enable local communities to have a say.

“The proactive release of the list comes after EDS complained to the Ombudsman when its request for the names of projects under consideration was declined. People have a right to know what potentially life-changing development might be coming their way. It’s outrageous that it’s taken so long to find out and we thank the Ombudsman for his intervention.

“EDS will be carefully considering the implications of today’s announcement and will be responding in due course. We will prioritise our attention on the most questionable projects,” concluded Mr Taylor.

More: Gary Taylor 021 895 896 or gary@eds.org.nz

[List of projects](#)

[Donate to EDS](#)

BIRDS NZ MANAWATŪ BRANCH ©

Monthly meeting Wednesday 9th October 2024 @ 7:15 pm

Val Kenward Room at the PN Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street.

Speaker: Chris Tuffley will talk about his trip to the Chatham Islands in January 2024



Monthly meeting Wednesday 9 October 2024 @ 7:15 pm

Val Kenward Room at the Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street.

Speaker: Chris Tuffley

Chris Tuffley is a trumper, photographer and mathematician who became a birder too, through contributing to the NZ Bird Atlas.

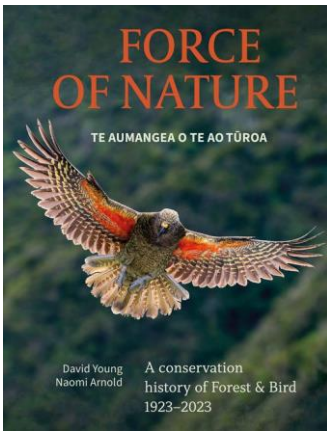
Talk: Chatham Islands birding



In January, Chris went to the Chatham Islands on a week long eight-person share-cost pelagic birding trip organised with Owenga Charters by Steve Wood. The group saw a total of 68 bird species, including almost all of the main endemic target species. Come along and see some pictures and hear all about it.

All welcome.

Forest & Bird



It's stunning. It's epic. And it's here! 🥳

Force of Nature Te Aumanga o te ao Tūroa chronicles Forest & Bird's 100-year history, featuring inspiring true stories of true-blue Kiwis who have battled to save wildlife and wild places across Aotearoa.

Be one of the first to get your hands on this beautiful book by award-winning writers David Young and Naomi Arnold.

Buy direct from us and get a 20% discount, with a special launch price of \$72 + P&P: <https://shop.forestandbird.org.nz/force-of-nature-100...>

THINGS OF INTEREST



Mike Joy, discussing his new memoir, 'The Fight for Freshwater'!

Wednesday 30 October

Palmerston North Central Library

Doors open from 6.15pm, event starts 6.30pm

Speakers include Mike Joy and Steve MahareyNau mai, haere mai.

Public event, no RVSP needed.

Tōtara Reserve Open Day



[Totara Reserve](#), 92 Churchill Rd, Pohangina

Saturday 12 October 2024 10:30am – 1:00pm

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/totara-reserve-open-day/pohangina>

Winning name of the Royal Cam Chick



We're pleased to announce the winning name of our Royal Cam Chick: Kiwa!

Kiwa, named after the divine protector and guardian of the ocean, is a perfect fit for our young albatross, known for travelling great distances over vast stretches of water. We're excited to see Kiwa's journey as he grows and takes flight.

Our runner up, Taitoa, also deserves a mention:

the brave and bold nature of our chick, showing a feisty side early on.

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the naming competition.

Stay tuned for more updates on Kiwa who fledged on the 23rd of September, and has taken flight over Te Moana-nui-

REGULAR WORKING BEES

Get your hands dirty!

Oct 20 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

Oct 12 [Green Corridors Summerhill](#)

Help maintain corridors of native trees.

Oct 13, 27 [A Rocha Nursery](#)

Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

Oct 13 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Planting for Monarch butterflies.

Oct 20 [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

A restored urban native bush habitat.

Most Sundays [Manawatū Estuary Trust](#)

Keeping exotic species out of the wetland.

Submissions

Have your say on classifying Palmy's parks and reserves

Submissions closing on 23 October 2024, 05:00 PM

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Have-your-say-on-classifying-Palmys-parks-and-reserves>

All parks and reserves need to have a classification status that controls what types of activities can take place there – such as recreation, community use or to help control stormwater. We're proposing to classify a number of our reserves and we want to know if you think any of them should be classified differently.

[Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua highway tolling consultation](#)

Type: NZTA project

Closing date: 7 October 2024

We're seeking feedback on a proposal to toll the new 11.5km Manawatū Tararua Highway to support the costs of constructing and maintaining the road.

The NZTA website's [public consultation hub](#) includes details of the proposed tolling scheme for each highway, with an online submission form for people to have their say.

November 2024 Monthly talk
Tuesday 12th November 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

(will be streamed via zoom)

Talk: "Glow-worms *Arachnocampa* - the iconic critter with the glowing tail"
Speaker: Dr Julia Kasper, Lead Curator Invertebrates, Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa

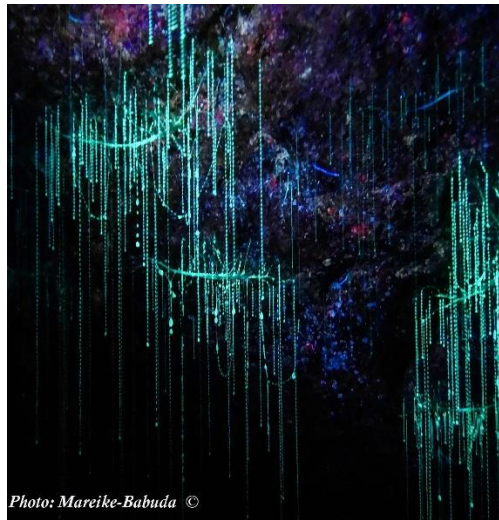


Photo: Mareike-Babuda ©

Synopsis of talk: Who doesn't know them, the little stars of Aotearoa – glow-worms? Titiwai, their Māori name refers to lights reflected in water. Who hasn't been mesmerised by their sparkling light, visiting a cave or seeing them in the bush during a night walk? Insect Curator Julia Kasper talks about her research on the iconic critter with the glowing bum.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

That is all for this month. Hope to see you at our meeting in
Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland
Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

