



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

What a spell of dry weather we are having and it is showing up in our bush reserves that the trees are thirsty. The birds too seem to have taken off to places with abit more moisture. I am not sure where that is, even a recent trip to the West Coast showed dried up streams and thirsty bush.

Another recent trip has been to the F&B bush reserves in the Turakina Valley. The reserves are looking good with Sutherland Puriri appreciating being surrounded by a deer proof fence.

The Ashhurst Domain volunteers meet regularly and I joined them recently to help with weeding to keep on top of a lovely area of maidenhair fern threatened by the dastardly Tradescantia.

On Saturday March 1st we had a terrific field trip to Rangiwahia Reserve where we learned heaps from Mary and Steve Bielski, who caretake the reserve (an iconic 160 acres of virgin bush with huge podocarps) , and socialising afterwards with afternoon tea at the Kimbolton Cafe.

That's all for this month

Margaret
Chairperson

MARCH 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 11th March @ 7.30 p.m.

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

Talk: “**The spade-toothed whale and other beaked whales:
A deep dive into the lives of these elusive mammals.**”

Speakers: Anton van Helden, DOC Senior Marine Science Advisor



Anton Van Helden, DOC Senior Marine Science Advisor will talk about the history of the discovery of the world’s rarest whale, the spade toothed whale, and how we interpret the extreme lives of these and other deep diving beaked whale species.

The talk will discuss the first ever dissection of a spade-toothed whale, *Onumia*, the whale that stranded at Taiari Mouth in July 2024, undertaken in partnership with Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou.

Zoom Link: [Zoom Link: https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/81802551583?pwd=eZ1sH9Vw038KqbYusGpZh40l2VVyI5.1](https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/81802551583?pwd=eZ1sH9Vw038KqbYusGpZh40l2VVyI5.1)

Meeting ID: 818 0255 1583

Passcode: 412587

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANAWATŪ MARCH 2025 TRIP
NGA MANU NATURE RESERVE
TO VIEW THE DACTYLANTHUS TAYLORII

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH, 2025



Nga Manu Reserve
Photos from Nga Manu Website

Dactyloctenium aegyptium - known as wood rose

Photos: Dept. of Conservation

We are going to give a guided tour to visit the area where the dactyloctenium are growing and, at the moment, they are in flower. They are pollinated by the short-tailed bat. It is the only NZ indigenous fully parasitic flowering plant and the southern most member of its mainly tropical family. It is currently regarded as being Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

Nga Manu is tucked between the hills and the ocean there is a precious remnant of the once abundant Kāpiti lowland swamp forest. You will be able to enjoy the accessible and compact 14h site, whether it be the forest, walk-in native bird enclosures or picnicking lawns beside the ponds. Ngā Manu contributes to national and local conservation through its involvement in many species breeding programmes such as kiwi, tuatara, whio/blue duck, as well as endangered lizard species and plant conservation.

DEPT. TIME: 0900 sharp

MEET & CAR POOLING from-

Palmerston North Opposite Salvation Army shop, Church St. Palmerston North

Feilding: Railway Station carpark

CHARGE TO enter Nga Manu: Adults: \$15 Senior: \$12 Children: \$6

WHAT TO BRING: walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, walking stick (if you use one), water, lunch, and do not forget your camera

The paths are easy gravelled wide pathways

TO REGISTER FOR TRIP – please contact:

Rosemary: 021 147 6731 or cullenrjr@gmail.com

If you would like to stay in touch, please sign up to our Mailing list on our website:
www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

F&B MANWATŪ BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 8th April, 2025 at 7.15 p.m. @ PN City Library, George Street

We are seeking people who would like to serve on the Manawatū Branch Committee. The Committee meeting once a month on the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in conservation and the environment, we would welcome you to help guide the Branch going forward.

If you are interested, please contact Margaret. Branch Chair at Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or 022 473 1096

BIRDS NZ – MANAWATŪ BRANCH

Monthly meeting Wednesday 12 March 2025 @ 7:15 pm

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

The meeting starts with Birds NZ Manawatū's annual meeting.

The talk will start around 19:45 pm

Speaker: Chris Tuffley, a trumper, photographer and mathematician

Talk: Birds of the Ruahine

During the 2019-2024 NZ Bird Atlas Chris gave himself the job of making sure there was good data coverage in his local mountain range, the Ruahine. This turned out to be fantastic motivation for lots of great tramping trips, and to fill in the Atlas effort map he walked many of the major track, ridge and river routes in the range with a camera and microphone, counting and photographing birds and recording their songs. Come along and see the sights and hear the sounds of the Ruahine, and find out what birds are there and just where in the range you might hear a robin or see a fernbird.

All welcome



New Zealand Bug of the Year 2025!

Well done to the velvet worm for winning New Zealand Bug of the Year 2025!



PHOTO: NOAH, INATURALIST NZ

Also known as ngāokeoke, the velvet worm is a slime-spitting invertebrate (it has no backbone) that looks like it is from another planet

Ngāokeoke have velvety blue bodies covered in delicate orange spangles. Despite its rather fashionable and tame look, ngāokeoke is pretty deadly – it hunts at night and captures prey by spitting a jet of sticky toxic slime at them. It has saliva that dissolves prey into a nutritious 'soup'.

CONSULTATIONS

PNCC

Have your say on who manages Palmy's water in the future

Submissions closing on 30 March 2025, 04:00 PM

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Local-Water-Done-Well-consultation>

We need your feedback to help make an informed decision. You have until 4pm on Sunday 30 March to have your say.

We know you may have questions, and we're here to help answer them. We have a range of ways for you to get in touch with us, and to make your submission.

Click on the link to see the dates of the Drop-in Sessions

Manawatū District Council

Last year MDC was required to consult on national level changes to freedom camping and self-contained vehicle certification standards. We used the opportunity to make sure our freedom camping areas still meet the needs of residents and visitors to the district. Thank you to those who shared their feedback.

Our Current Consultation

We've incorporated your feedback, updated our proposed bylaw and made some improvements including providing for freedom camping at Mt Lees and Old School Reserve Pohangina.

You can read the detailed consultation documents under the heading 'Consultation Documents' or a summary of the changes and improvements are outlined below.

Submissions close 5pm, Friday 28 March 2025.

NATURE TRAIL SIGN IN THE PN CITY ESPLANADE

Puka

Griselinia lucida



Puka starts life as a vine using its host to climb to the canopy where it can form a small tree. The aerial roots grasp the host tree tightly and the two plants usually grow healthily together.

The large oval leaves belong to puka while the narrow leaves belong to the host, tawa.

Puka leaves were used as a wound dressing by Rangitāne o Manawatū. Kererū, tūī, korimako/bellbird, and tauhou/silvereye eat the small berries.



APRIL 2025 MONTHLY MEETING AND BRANCH AGM

Tuesday 8th April @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

The Manawatū Branch AGM will start at 7.15 p.m.

followed by the Monthly Talk

(The talk only will be streamed via zoom)

Talk: Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary and the lizards of Central Otago
Speakers: Anna Yeoman, Ranger at Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary and author



Photos: provided
by Anna Yeoman



The native drylands of Central Otago are home to a rich diversity of geckos and skinks, many found nowhere else on the planet. Sun-basking on the schist rock outcrops, and foraging in the fruiting native shrubs, these species were a huge part of the native fauna. However, due to habitat loss and predation by introduced mammals, they're now increasingly endangered. Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary, a community-run sanctuary near Alexandra, is focused on restoring the ecosystem and reintroducing lizard species. Seven years into operation, they're beginning to have some success.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

THE WONDERS OF NATURE



White Egret Orchid is native to Japan, Korea, China and Russia. It occurs naturally in grassy wetlands, upland bogs and seepage slopes. This species is in decline over its entire range due to over collection and habitat destruction

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

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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