



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Contents -

Message from the Chair
November Monthly Talk
November Branch Trip
KCC Manawatū Trip report
Bittern Survey
Here the Wild Things Are

Force of Nature
Save the native Giant Maidenhair Fern
Regular working bees
Eradicating Sea Spurge
5 fast facts - ferrets
PNCC Consultations
December Annual Social

Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

It has been a long month so it hasn't felt as busy as it usually does here at F&B Manawatū. There has been some contact with the folks from PN City Council regarding the Kahuterawa Outdoor Recreation Plan (KORP) of which there is a review process in place. Our suggestions have already been taken up especially the upgrade of the road in to the area. A huge improvement there with all the pot holes gone.

The Council is revamping the F&B Nature Trail signs in the Victoria Esplanade bush. The draft signs have been passed by us and they should be in the Esplanade Bush soon. Our Rat Trapping Project is achieving some positive results with 19 RATS and 5 MICE reported caught so far.

However there are quite a few members with traps who have not reported any results and we would like to hear from them (monthly if possible) even if there is a Nil result.

That's all for this month

Margaret

Chairperson

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, see below for the link)

Talk: “Glow-worms *Arachnocampa* - the iconic critter with the glowing tail”

Speaker: Dr Julia Kasper, Lead Curator Invertebrates, Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa



Synopsis: 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/82539983275?pwd=0GfHJrItGGDTsObiTOBzuaqI9VF2TC.1>

Meeting ID: 825 3998 3275

Passcode: 936726

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANAWATŪ NOVEMBER 2024 TRIP

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2024

GUIDED TRIP WAITARERE BEACH TO LOOK AT TOHEROA IN SITU AT LOW TIDE



WHERE: Waitarere beach to look at Toheroa in situ at low tide

DATE: Sunday 24th November, 2024

MEET: Surf Club at Waitarere beach

TIME: 11.45 a.m. for a 12 noon start

CAR POOLING FROM: Palmerston North – meet opposite Salvation Army shop in Church St.
Feilding – meet at Feilding railway Station carpark

TO REGISTER FOR TRIP – please contact:

Rosemary at 021-147-6731 or cullenrjrj@gmail.com

KCC MANAWATŪ OCTOBER 2024 TRIP REPORT TO RUAPEHU



"In October Manawatū KCC stayed at the Forest and Bird Ruapehu Lodge for two nights. We had a full lodge with 17 children and 14 adults attending.

It was such a fantastic trip with all things volcanic. We slept on the volcano, we walked on the volcano, we made our own volcano (baking soda and vinegar), we looked at volcanic rocks under the microscope, we saw geothermal hot springs with bubbling mud and we soaked in volcanically heated, geothermal water at the hot pools. We were even treated to a dusting of snow on the volcano on the last morning of our trip. The lodge is a great facility for lots of families to get together. We will be going back again!"

The Bittern Survey – message from F&B Horowhenua Branch

As bittern are very good long distance flyers, one radio tracked bittern visited 30 wetlands in 20 days, the chance of counting that same bittern many times is high. Because bittern are seldom seen and their booming only heard in spring, the idea was born to do a coordinated bittern survey – counting how many we hear booming – in our areas on the same dates. Three Saturday evenings were chosen (14th September, 19th October and 16th November) and volunteers recruited and trained. The word spread, and before we knew it, several local and regional councils, DOC and many community groups joined in, from Northland to Canterbury and everywhere in between.. Just in the Auckland area there will be over 150 sites monitored during these Saturdays!

If you are interested, **please contact** Lena 021 0221 8314/ lberger.levin@gmail.com (F&B Horowhenua).

Meet outside *Thompson House*, 4 Kent Street, Levin on Saturday 16 November at 7.00pm and then go to the location to try and hear booming.

Below is a link to interesting facts about Bitterns

<https://www.facebook.com/100064501188277/posts/936871761806188/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

Here the Wild Things Are

[Kelly Gilbride /Madison Smith](#)

[A global race to discover the wild hidden in our cities](#)

Once a year, New Zealand joins a global competition where thousands of ecologists and enthusiasts from Wellington and Christchurch race to photograph urban wild- life. From seasoned scientists to passionate amateurs, participants dive into a fast- paced and joyful hunt for the weird and wonderful wild within their cities. But it's not just a playful quest. The "City Nature Challenge" inspires a monumental shift in how we view and connect with nature all around us – not just in forests and moun- tains but in our cities. Amid a global biodiversity crisis, with species disappearing at alarming rates, this competition ignites a spirited rivalry around the world and pushes participants to open their eyes to nature like they've not done before.

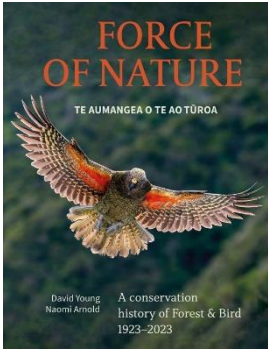
Here the Wild Things Are is not your typical nature documentary—it's a fast-paced, joyful exploration of urban wildlife hidden in our cities. Centred around the 'City Nature Challenge,' this global competition encourages cities to document the most species and engage the most participants. The film follows a diverse group of ecologists and citizen scientists over the course of three days as they delve into urban areas, from pavement cracks to treetops, capturing the often-overlooked beauty of the natural world. This inspiring quest highlights how conservation begins with noticing what's right in front of us.

Download the [Here the Wild Things Are worksheet](#) for kids.

Below is the link to the short movie

https://loadingdocs.net/short/here-the-wild-things-are/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3PQoVqwr5qgBiPMw045OAmTLyMGEInIe0-ROV-1Oa0yWntn3oXNKWVS6YU_aem_tzXUg_XqlK19dcoH3YdrC

Forest & Bird



Force of Nature: New book celebrates Forest & Bird centenary

For over a century, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest & Bird) has been at the heart of the nation's abundant and ground-breaking conservation efforts. Now a new richly illustrated book, *Force of Nature Te Aumangea o te ao Turoa*, A conservation history of Forest & Bird (1923-2023), celebrates the thousands of New Zealanders who have contributed. The book highlights the stories of those who got their hands dirty during the conservation movement's early days - including Geoffrey Orbell who tracked down the thought-to-be-extinct takehe, and Arthur Harper, the society's president for seven years from 1948. Susana is joined by Justin Jordon, grandson of Forest & Bird founder Captain Earnest Valentine 'Val' Sanderson, and Caroline Wood, the book's editor. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/labourday/audio/2018961636/force-of-nature-new-book-celebrates-forest-and-bird-centenary>

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...>

SAVE THE NATIVE GIANT MAIDENHAIR FERN



Join a group of friendly locals for an easy working bee to help preserve the environment of this endangered plant - now only found in the Ashhurst Domain and Manawatu Gorge (and two small pockets in Bledisloe Park and the Esplanade)!

When: Sunday 24th November 2024, 10am-12 noon

Where: Ashhurst Domain, meet in the BBQ area by the playground

BYO: Snacks, drink, sun protection, gardening gloves, sturdy shoes

This event is weather dependent and updates will be posted on the Ashhurst and Palmerston North Community Facebook groups.

REGULAR WORKING BEES

Get your hands dirty!

Nov 17 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

Nov 10, 24 [A Rocha Nursery](#)

Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

Nov 10 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Planting for Monarch butterflies.

Nov 17 [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

A restored urban native bush habitat.

Battle to eradicate toxic species silently established on remote beach

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/533036/battle-to-eradicate-toxic-species-silently-established-on-remote-beach>

- Sea spurge is an invasive plant that could take over large areas of New Zealand's coast
- Its sap is toxic and can cause temporary blindness
- A newly discovered infestation at Mitimiti, in the Far North, is the biggest to date



A toxic plant, which can temporarily cause blindness and is threatening to take over large areas of New Zealand's coast, has been found in large numbers established on a remote Northland beach, and efforts are now on to get rid of it before it is too late.

Sea spurge, which is native to the Mediterranean, first arrived in Aotearoa in 2012 on ocean currents from Australia, where the invasive plant has already caused environmental havoc.

Since 2020 it has been found at more than 30 locations along the west coast of the North Island, mostly between Taranaki and Wellington.

"Unfortunately, what sea spurge does - and the evidence is pretty glaring from Australia - is that it completely sweeps over native plants. It changes the natural pattern of sand and it displaces any bird life. What we would see if it was left unchecked would be a blanket of sea spurge replacing our native tihetihe and pingao, which our taonga species **toheroa** depends on," Martin said.

MPI said Biosecurity New Zealand, DOC, regional councils, iwi and hapū, and local groups were working to stop the pest plant becoming established in New Zealand.

Outside Northland, sea spurge had also been found at Karekare Beach and Aotea Harbour in the Auckland Region; Mokau in south Waikato; Ōakura in Taranaki; Scotts Ferry, Himatangi, Foxton Beach, Waitārere and Ōhau in south Horowhenua-Manawatū; and Waikawa Beach and Paraparaumu in on the Kāpiti Coast.

A fungal biocontrol agent is being trialled for use against sea spurge in Australia, but would require extensive testing in New Zealand to ensure it did not harm native plants.

Short-sighted surplus hunters: five fast facts

<https://predatorfrenz.org/stories/things-you-should-know/5-fast-ferret->

(Click on the link to read the article)



Ferrets, Australia's largest mustelid, are introduced predators that harm our native wildlife. Image credit: Cloudtail (iStock)

With their black eye mask, ferrets might remind you of the Hamburglar. But instead of targeting hamburgers, they are adept hunters with a wide range of native birds and lizards on their menu. They are the least researched introduced predator, so what do we actually know about them?

PNCC CONSULTATIONS

Rezoning Roxburgh Crescent

Submissions closing on 19 November 2024, 04:00 PM

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Rezoning-Roxburgh-Crescent>

Roxburgh Crescent land classification

Submissions closing on 19 November 2024, 04:00 PM

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Roxburgh-Crescent-land-classification>

Share your ideas on how our parks and reserves are managed

Submissions closing on 24 November 2024, 05:00 PM

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Share-your-ideas-on-how-our-parks-and-reserves-are-managed>

December 2024 Annual Social Meeting

Please bring some Christmas Treats to share

Tuesday 10th December 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

Talk: Weed Bio Control in Palmerston North – Tradescantia Beetle

Speaker: Tod Palenski, PN City Council



Image: adult tradescantia tip beetle (Neolema abbreviata) Landcare Research

Tod will talk about how the Tradescantia beetle has established itself in the Palmerston North region.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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