



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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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
 (will be streamed via zoom, see below for the link)

Talk: "Tradescantia Beetle as a Weed Bio-control Agent in Manawatū"

Speakers: Tod Palenski, Biodiversity Services Ltd.

Common Name	Tradescantia Leaf Beetle	Tradescantia Tip Beetle
Latin Name	<i>Neolema ogloblini</i>	<i>Neolema abbreviata</i>
Status	Released 2011, established	Released 2013, established
Adult	Dark metallic bronz with slight iridescence	Wing cases are yellow with black stripes and dots
		
Photos: curtesy Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research		

Tod will talk about how the Tradescantia leaf beetle (*neolema ogloblini*) and Tradescantia tip beetle (*neolema abbreviata*) are being used as a bio-control agent against the widespread and environmentally damaging weed Tradescantia fluminensis in the Palmerston North region.

Join Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 10, 2024 07:30 PM Auckland, Wellington

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/88902024406?pwd=9yDTjgajuFWG6309SIOWEdGquDaAIm.1>
 Meeting ID: 889 0202 4406
 Passcode: 889117

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B Manawatū submitted on the **OMNIBUS RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Below is what we submitted

“We wish to submit to the above as follows:

We would like to see areas in neighbourhood parks and walkways put aside for Rewilding and the transforming of grassed areas to provide habitats for native moths, insects and lizards. The habitats have been significantly damaged and reduced by insecticide and pesticide use, mowing and housing development, in the past.

The planting of low growing coprosmas would be greatly beneficial and the areas would become permanent habitats for the insects, lizards etc.

In addition the increased planting of flowering native trees/shrubs, such as kowhai, kakabeak, hebes, would provide food as well as shade for walkways and sports grounds.

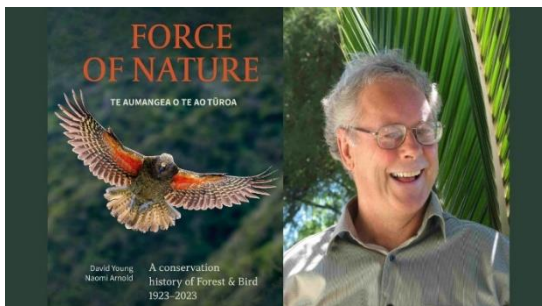
This would ultimately be a carbon saver long term but would also reduce the costs to PNCC of mowing, fuel, repairs and maintenance.

Another idea is to plant wildflower seeds in some areas to encourage butterflies and bees and, of course, insects.

Schools/kindergartens could be encouraged to get pupils to build Bug Hotels in rewilded areas of school grounds. Some Enviro schools already do this.”

N.B submissions closed on 24th November, 2024

'Force of Nature - A conservation history of Forest & Bird'.



David Young is one of New Zealand's most respected environmental authors, who has published widely in essays, articles, magazines and books - including 'Force of Nature - A conservation history of Forest & Bird'.

Check out this great Q&A with him about the experience of writing 'Force of Nature' along with Naomi Arnold.

<https://www.nzbooklovers.co.nz/.../interview-david-young...>

You can get yourself a copy from bookstores around the country or from @pottonandburton

KCC ADVENTURES

F&B Ruapehu Lodge



Photos: Anna Regtien, KCC Manawatū Manawatū



"In October Manawatu 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!"

Brown Mudfish Trip

KCC Manawatu members got to experience science in action when they headed out with Horizons Regional Council to monitor a population of Brown Mudfish at a wetland near Palmerston North. The site we visited is regularly monitored to check the population is still healthy. KCC Manawatu found three Brown Mudfish the day we went out. We learnt how important it is to look after our wetlands so this stunning native fish can flourish. KCC Manawatu member Izzy got to be the scribe and write down all the important information about each fish. We quickly realized how difficult it can be to get an accurate measurement of the fish length, as they squirm around so much. We learnt how the Brown Mudfish can survive living in damp mud for months if their wetland starts to dry out, by "breathing" through their skin and how Brown Mudfish mostly eat a diet of terrestrial insects which drop from nearby trees, rather than insects which live in the water. All the more reason to have trees around our wetlands. Tino Rawe KCC Manawatu.

Whanganui 2025 Summer Programme

Wondering what to do this summer – have a look at this programme



The Whanganui Summer Programme's

bus

trips, guided walks and talks are organised by the Whanganui Summer Programme Trust. The Whanganui Summer Programme is coordinated by a Trust set up in 2008 to take on the role previously undertaken by the Department of Conservation.

whanganuisummerpro.wixsite.com/whanganui-summer-pro

7 surprising facts you should know about possums

At one point, possums in New Zealand rivaled the sheep population

1. Possums eat juvenile kea
2. Possums don't like getting wet
3. Possums are naturally curious and are attracted to bright colours
4. Every night possums eat about 21,000 tonnes of vegetation — that's nearly the weight of Auckland's Sky Tower
5. Possums spread noxious plant species
6. In the 90s the iconic New Zealand Christmas tree was under threat from possums
7. Possums are the main source and carrier of bovine tuberculosis in New Zealand

To read more about the above points go to: <https://predatorfreenz.org/stories/7-surprising-facts-you-should-know-about-possums/>

BIRD NEWS FROM AROUND NZ AND BEYOND

BIRDS NZ MANAWATŪ

Bird watching at Ashurst domain and Manawatu River Sunday 15 December 2024

We will explore the wetland/field area, the Manawatū River area and the adjacent bush. It will also be an opportunity to learn to use eBird.

We will leave Milverton Park at 8:40am, carpooling or meet at 9am at the Ashurst domain near the campground. I expect that we will be finished at around 12 noon at the domain and at Milverton park at 12:30.

If you are interested, please contact me: Kirsten Olsen by email kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com or by phone 027 354 6010, latest Wednesday 11th December

Ashurst Domain is an eBird hotspot. 45 species have been observed there over the years. Thirty-one species have been seen this November. Black-billed gulls seem to be breeding at the confluence of Pohangina and Manawatū rivers. New Zealand Falcon have been seen there the last five years but have not been seen there since February 2024, so that could be a target to find it. You can explore the list of birds that have been seen there on eBird via this link: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L866627>



Department of Conservation

Season 10 of Royal Cam is underway with a new nesting site, new live stream camera location and new parents, 12-year-old RLK (male) and 14-year old GLG (female).

This pair started breeding in 2019/20 but had a failed egg that season. They then went on to successfully raise two female chicks during the 2021 and 2023 seasons, and their nests were not too far from the Royal Cam nests of Tiaki and Manaaki.

GLG laid her fertile and healthy egg on the 11th of November 2024 and the parents will now take turns to incubate their egg for the next 2.5 months.

Tune into the Royal Cam live stream here and keep up to date with all the happenings for season 10: <https://bit.ly/2MyVNUi>

P.S We'll have more exciting news to share in the coming weeks as we prepare our celebrations for the 10th anniversary of Royal Cam!

Birds New Zealand

Soaring to new heights 🦅 Dr Colin Miskelly, curator of vertebrates at Te Papa and a Council member of Birds New Zealand

He has been awarded the Cromwell Medal by The New Zealand Association of Scientists (NZAS) which is among the most prestigious medals awarded across all fields of research in NZ

He has been instrumental in advancing the understanding of New Zealand's unique bird species. He has played a key part in developing educational programmes and exhibitions at Te Papa that engage the public and promote awareness about bird conservation; including writing over 200 science blogs and leading the creation of New Zealand Birds Online, a vital resource for understanding our unique wildlife.

The world's oldest known wild bird has laid an egg



Wisdom (L), identified by her Z333 tag, watches as her partner tends to the egg

The world's oldest known wild bird has laid an egg at the approximate age of 74, US biologists say. Wisdom, a Laysan albatross, was filmed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at the Midway Atoll national wildlife refuge in the Pacific Ocean with her latest partner looking after the egg. Members of the species usually only live for 12-40 years, but Wisdom was tagged in 1956 when she was about five. Her last offspring hatched in 2021. She is thought to have had more than 30 chicks in her lifetime.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86w9n4jlvwo>

WHERE TO RECYCLE 'STUFF'

- **Free drop-off for real Christmas trees in Palmy** once festive season ends
Manawatu Guardian 2 Dec, 2024 09:16 AM
<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/manawatu-guardian/news/free-drop-off-for-real-christmas-trees-in-palmy-once-festive-season-ends/QNN2HVYPQVAR5PMWNAU73CKEMQ/>
- **Kiwi bioplastic company Compostify reveals sustainable breakthrough**
<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/companies/retail/kiwi-bioplastic-company-compostify-reveals-sustainable-breakthrough/DZ3DEUAXLNCZ7N53AUNJLV6MPPM/>
A compostable bioplastic made from crops such as sugarcane, cassava and corn has just opened for orders across New Zealand.
The sustainable bioplastic is designed and manufactured by New Zealand eco-innovation company Compostify. Not only is Compostify's bioplastic practical and robust, it decomposes naturally, turning what was once waste into something beneficial for the soil.
- **Recycle E waste for FREE at Noel Leeming**
In New Zealand, e-waste is increasing at a rate three times faster than municipal waste streams, with the average Kiwi generating more than 21kg of unwanted and end-of-life e-products each year. We hope this programme will help New Zealand divert a significant amount of e-waste from landfills, and recover precious resources to be recycled.
Read more here: <https://techcollect.nz/drop-off-locations/>
- **Household Appliance Recycling**
Small appliances (e.g. heaters, fans, toasters, kettles, blenders, alarm clocks) \$2
Medium appliances (e.g. vacuum cleaners/microwaves) \$5
Large appliances (e.g. fridges, freezers, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers) \$25
Drop off at Ferguson Street Recycling Centre, 545-573 Ferguson St, Terrace End, Palmerston North 4410
Read more here <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/.../Palmy.../E-waste-recycling>

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Have your say on the **Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw**
Submissions closing on 24 January 2025, 05:00 PM
We're planning to make a few changes to our Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw to help us better manage rubbish and recycling in Palmy.
<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Waste-Management-and-Minimisation-Bylaw-consultation#feedback>
- **Draft Tōtara Reserve Management Plan** - Public consultation is now open
To find out more visit <https://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz/TotaraReserve>
Submissions close 7 February, 2025
Thank you to those that provided feedback to us earlier this year in our initial survey. We have used this, along with key stakeholders feedback, legislation, and management assessments to help us to inform the draft plan, and we now invite you to comment on this.

WORKING BEES

Get your hands dirty!

Click on the link to find out more information

Dec 1 [Ahimate Reserve](#)

Dec 1, 15 [Dune Gardens, Foxton](#)

Dec 8 [A Rocha working bee](#)

Dec 8 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Dec 14 [Green Corridors Summerhill](#)

Dec 15 [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

F&B Poutoa bush restoration - every second Friday morning 9 – 11 a.m.

Pāpāngai Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Newsletter - November 2024

It is with great pleasure that we bring you our first community newsletter from the Manawatū Estuary Management Team. The Estuary is a special place for many of us and we are working hard to enhance it for our mutual benefit and enjoyment.

There is a long history of the area, which is referred to by its full name Pāpāngai Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary.

To read the newsletter go to: <https://papangaionewsletter1.tiny.site>



A loveliness of ladybugs have gathered on this tree branch. These little beetles are not only cute but also beneficial to our gardens as they help to control pests like aphids.

If we do not see you at our December Social Meeting,

the F&B Manawatū Committee wishes

*The year of 2025 be...
A year of Health & Happiness ...
A year of Peace & Prosperity ...
And also, a year of Love & Laughter*

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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