



FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and trust you had a good holiday season.

F&B MANAWATŪ MONTHLY MEETINGS

As you have probably realized F&B Manawatū Branch will not be able to hold our regular Monthly Meetings at the Library. The PNCC Library meeting rooms are not open and F&B National Office have advised Branches not to hold public meetings while we are in the 'Red Traffic Light' system.



As we do not know how long we will be in the Red Traffic Light system, the Manawatū Committee agreed we will hold a monthly 'Zoom' talk with interesting speakers and subjects drawn from around New Zealand.

We will publish the Virtual talk via our newsletter, Facebook and on our website – www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

We plan to hold our first Zoom talk on Tuesday 8th March, 2022 at 7.30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to ask the speaker questions after their talk.

If there is a subject you would like to learn more about, please email me at manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz

F&B MANAWATŪ TRIPS

We regret we will not be running any trips while the 'Red Traffic Light' system is in place.

New Chief Executive of Forest & Bird

At the end of January, Mark Hanger, President F&B Board announced the new Chief Executive of Forest and Bird. Below is his announcement:

Following the Chief Executive recruitment process late last year and interviews in mid-December, the Board and I are delighted to now announce the appointment of Nicola Toki as the new Chief Executive of Forest & Bird Te Reo o Te Taiao.

When Kevin arrived five years ago he brought to Forest & Bird a suite of skills and a gravitas that have enhanced the Society in almost every way. He, along with you as vital Branch, Youth, KCC, and Society organisers and leaders, have placed us in an excellent position for the future. We look forward to Nik working with us all to build on this success.

Nicola has an impressive history of conservation leadership and advocacy for New Zealand's wildlife and wild places, including during her first role at Forest & Bird as a Conservation Advocate from 2010-2012. Nik now comes back home to Forest & Bird after a decade working for conservation in a range of roles across the private and public sector.

Nik is a well-known champion for Aotearoa New Zealand's natural world and has a deep understanding of the environmental management challenges and opportunities in this country.

Since leaving Forest & Bird, Nik has worked in conservation leadership roles in the agribusiness industry, the Predator Free New Zealand movement, as the Department of Conservation's Threatened Species Ambassador, and has represented New Zealand at international biodiversity science and policy meetings overseas. Currently Nik holds a senior leadership role in the Department of Conservation as the Operations Director for the Eastern South Island.

In her roles with DOC, Nik has grown her both her financial and human resource management skills so she returns as a highly skilled, highly motivated, inspirational leader for the future. Together with her high public profile, whether it be on National Radio with Critter of the Week, or traveling the length of Aotearoa New Zealand with Sirocco, or as a high level DOC Manager, we are all very confident that she will add significant volume to the chorus of our thousands of members and supporters giving nature a voice across Aotearoa.

Nik lives in Waipara north of Christchurch and will continue to reside there. She will split her time in the role between the Wellington and Christchurch offices. The exact date of Nik assuming the CE role is yet to be finalised but will be in early April 2022. This will provide for a smooth transition from Kevin to Nik, and Kevin has very kindly offered to be available to assist Nik in the short term thereafter.

As the Society approaches its one-hundredth year of giving nature a voice, Nik will lead and guide Forest & Bird, on behalf of Kiwis everywhere who are passionate about protecting Aotearoa's wildlife and wild places, and will focus her attention on improving the visibility of the work of the Society and its vast network of members and supporters, as well as to develop and build a strategic direction to take Forest & Bird into the next 100 years.

Mark Hanger
President, Forest & Bird

Stay safe
Anthea McClelland
Chair

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