



AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Contents

- F&B Manawatū Chair's message
- F&B Manawatū August Monthly Talk
- F&B 2025 Calendars and Diaries
- Possums
- Regular Working Bees
- [Some items that might interest you](#)
- BirdsNZ Manawatū branch August Meeting
- Excerpts from Environmental Defense Society newsletter
- [Branch monthly talk programme: Oct - Dec 2024](#)
- Myrtle Rust
- F&B Manawatū September Monthly Talk

Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

The Menzshed built 30 wooden boxes for our DRat traps to fit into and we are very grateful to them for this. The traps in their boxes and some DoC200s have now been delivered to members of F&B Manawatu who are scattered around Feilding, Ashhurst, Pahiatua and PN city.

Some early successes have been reported already. This is a 12 month project and trap owners are requested to text their monthly catch results.

I want to thank Robert Van Bentum and Kevin Stafford for sharing their rat trapping experiences in their own backyards, at our last meeting.

A 2-meter tall rata tree planted in Atawhai Reserve in memory of Margaret Neilsen, who lived nearby, has been transplanted to our 65 Anniversary planting in Poutoa Walkway. Margaret's rata would have been destroyed where it was originally planted, because Massey and PNCC are up to some development in Atawhai Park and farmland.

Our enthusiastic band of volunteers arrive every second Friday morning to continue with the native bush restoration in Poutoa gully.

The planting has been going well with the addition of some good sized nikau in one area. With the help of the contractor to PNCC, new areas are being cleared of blackberry, old man's beard, convolvulus etc for future planting.

Cheerio for this month

Margaret

Chairperson

August 2024 Monthly talk
Tuesday 13th August 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

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

Talk: "Truth and Deer: the real damage that deer are causing in our ecosystems

Speaker: Vicky Gane | biodiversity advisor | kaitohutohu i haumaru taio



Many people don't think of deer as a major pest in our ecosystems: especially where the bush has a canopy of healthy mature trees, it can appear that the entire ecosystem is likewise healthy. However, what's going on underneath the canopy can present a very different story, and could eventually result in the collapse of our forests. This talk will examine some of the damage deer and other browsers cause in the ecosystem, how the problem is getting worse, and why a change in our approach towards deer is necessary

Join Zoom Meeting

Time: Tues 13 August, 2024 07:30 PM

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/84720508383?pwd=fi0fBBuPkSbgf3Ib6WMWUngOiTJI9a.1>

Meeting ID: 847 2050 8383

Passcode: 780515

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

*** Experts are warning our forest understorey is at risk of irreversible damage From weed invasions to plagues of pathogens like myrtle rust to being munched to oblivion by possums, goats and deer – our forests are really copping it

LISTEN: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/.../experts-warn-forest-understorey...>

FOREST & BIRD 2025 CALENDARS AND DIARIES

Our F&B Calendars and Diaries will be on sale at the August meeting - and the Sept & Oct meetings until we sell out.

For those of you who have contacted me - your order will be there at the meeting to be collected (if you have paid by internet banking). If you have indicated you would like to pay cash for your order at the meeting, please see the Calendar sales table.

Please email me at manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz if you would like a calendar and/or diary between our Monthly Meetings 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

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AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Calendar 2025



Featuring superb photographs of our extraordinary wildlife and wilderness habitats taken by some of our leading nature photographers. Weighs less than 200g for economic postage. Envelope included.

January/Kohitiroa 2025						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OUR PRICE
\$15.00

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Conservation Diary 2025



Every week brings a new photograph of our unique landscapes, plants and wildlife. This quality week-to-view diary features public holidays, and a lay-flat spiral binding.

OUR PRICE
\$20.00

Horizons Regional Council

Animal Spotlight | Possums

During Biosecurity Week and the spotlight is on some of our biosecurity bandits.

A single possum chomps its way through about 300 grams of vegetation per sitting; this means in total about 21,000 tonnes of native and exotic vegetation is destroyed every night by these midnight munchers. Possums can also spread bovine tuberculosis to our dairy and beef herds.

Horizons has an ongoing programme (currently maintaining 200,000 bait stations) to tackle these eating machines across rateable land in our region.

Our work supports the national pest management agency OSPRI's TBfree programme to reduce the number of possums that carry and spread TB to farmed livestock..

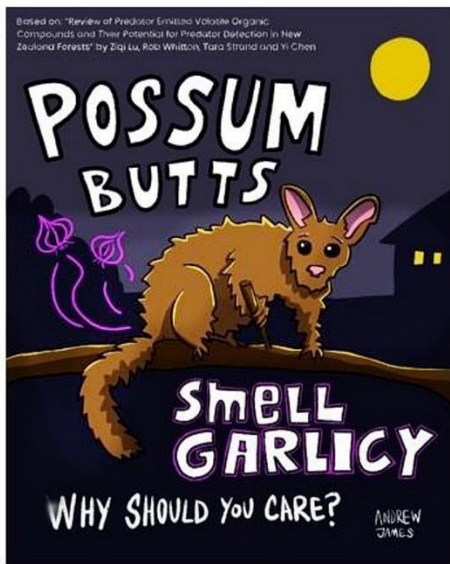
👉 To find out more visit our website <https://bit.ly/4cVV094>

Comic: Smelly predator science

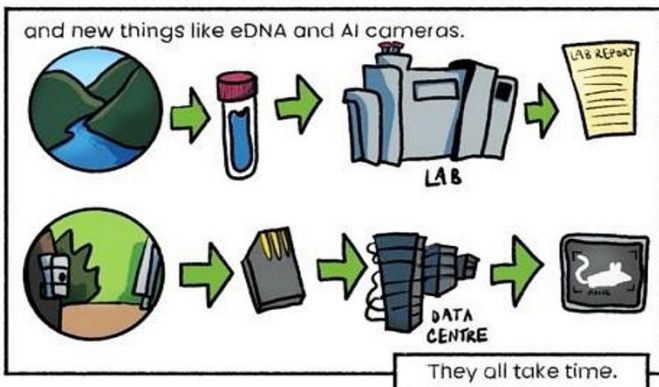
JULY 2, 2024 ANDREW JAMES

Introduced animals are smelly critters. Scion researchers have catalogued the stinky chemistry of it all. Find out how their scents could help us locate and eliminate the elusive last few predators. Illustrator Andrew James explains this study on predator emitted volatile organic compounds from Scion.

https://predatorfreenz.org/research/comic-smelly-predator-science/?utm_source=PFNZ+Trust+Newsletter&utm_campaign=87bd2e2a6f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_06_26_09_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_87bd2e2a6f-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=87bd2e2a6f&mc_eid=64d7a0cd6c



This information is currently labour-intensive and time-consuming to gather.



Introduced predators are fragrant critters – their bodies are covered in glands that emit scents.



The garlicy possum smell comes from a complex blend of volatile organic compounds or VOCs.



Including sulfur-containing compounds, fatty acids, & alcohols.

Researchers at Scion have catalogued what specific VOCs make up these smells for introduced predators.



REGULAR WORKING BEES

Get your hands dirty!

Aug 11,25 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

Aug 11, 25 [A Rocha Nursery](#)

Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

Aug 11 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Planting for Monarch butterflies.

Aug 18 [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

A restored urban native bush habitat.

Most Sundays [Manawatū Estuary Trust](#)

Keeping exotic species out of the wetland.

SOME ITEMS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU

The links below are things I have read recently. Click on the link to read the full article

New details of Three Waters replacement revealed

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/524487/new-details-of-three-waters-replacement-revealed>

Cabinet has approved a new way of delivering water services after it unwound the previous Labour government's Three Waters reforms.

Local Government Minister Simeon Brown has announced council-controlled organisations - known as CCOs - will immediately be able to borrow for water infrastructure through the Local Government Funding Agency.

The first Local Water Done Well bill is expected to pass in Parliament this month.

Biosecurity Bonanza short webinars

Find out about the latest biosecurity research being undertaken at Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research.

Due to the continued success of our virtual Biosecurity Bonanza series over the years, we are returning in 2024 with the same bite-sized webinar sessions over the course of a week that will cover weed biocontrol and predator control research updates from our scientists across the country.

Date: Monday 19 – Friday 23 August

Time: Twice daily – 10:30am and 2:30pm

[View the full agenda on our website](#)

Kiwi trek: Waikato translocation the biggest ever with 222 birds getting new homes

By Danielle Zollickhofer 16 Jul, 2024 06:30 AM

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/waikato-kiwi-translocation-2024-the-biggest-in-nz-history-after-222-birds-got-new-homes/3CH2L5PXNBFADHMQ5EBXWMRMDE/#>

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari Kiwi translocation 2024

Over the next eight weeks, 300 Kiwi are moving out of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, located between Te Awamutu and Putāruru, to boost existing

populations in three areas across the North Island. Before their departure, the birds undergo ..

Living with rivers

<https://baybuzz.co.nz/living-with-rivers/> Tom Kay, F&B Freshwater Advocate

Among the 47 considered and clear recommendations of the expert panel is a call for a new approach to living with rivers: "When designing new flood management works or improvements to existing systems, HBRC should consider the evolving best practice of 'Making Room for the River'".

This idea – of giving rivers enough space to flood safely and function more naturally – is recognised as the preferred way of keeping communities safe and rivers healthy. It's a nature-based solution to a problem we've largely engineered ourselves into.

Polystyrene recycling for Palmerston North will help reduce landfill

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/polystyrene-recycling-for-palmerston-north-will-help-reduce-landfill/JFWK6MSFXNDBLG6P532OLG2KKE/>

Palmerston North has a new drop-off point for all clean household polystyrene. The Ferguson Street Recycling Centre is now accepting household polystyrene packaging, also known as Styrofoam, commonly used for packing computers, electronics, appliances and toys.

Some of those items, especially large household appliances, can come wrapped with a trailer-load of polystyrene that can take hundreds of years to break down.

The kākāpō trial at Sanctuary Mountain began just over a year ago.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/waikato-kakapo-reveal-their-escape-strategies-in-new-fence-trial/AJZUI3B5WBFDDAMVKL3NVA2GAQ/#>

It has been a year since the Waikato made history as the first home for kākāpō on the mainland in 40 years.

The Department of Conservation (DoC) said it was a year of many learnings, including how the chunky and flightless parrots have continued to escape their fenced home at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari (SMM).

DoC operations manager for kākāpō Deidre Vercoe said DoC, Ngāi Tahu and the sanctuary had learnt a lot over the past 12 months about how kākāpō had taken to their new habitat and they continued to learn and adapt.

BIRDS NZ MANAWATŪ BRANCH

Monthly meeting Wednesday 14 August 2024 @ 7:15 pm

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

Speaker: : Cleland Wallace, from the Zoology and Ecology Group, School of Food Technology and Natural Sciences, Massey University

Talk: Daily tui migrations in the Manawatū as revealed by Atlas monitoring

Tui are known to move around for food sources throughout the year, in Palmerston North areas such as the Victoria Esplanade with the large Gum trees, College street where the Banksia are planted and the Pohutukawa spread city wide are important. Cleland started counting the tui movements as part of the Birds NZ Atlas project in July 2019 after previously noticing flocks of tui flying up the Turitea valley, it quickly grew

into a longer-term project as more and more tui were seen moving up the Turitea valley each evening mainly over winter in the last few hours before sunset. An attempt to characterise their behaviour was developed as it quickly became obvious the numbers, location and heights varied depending on the local weather conditions. What are the implications of their behaviour? How can you help them?

All welcome.

EXCEPTS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MfE advises of significant demand for fast-track approvals

Last week the Fast-track Advisory Group was meant to report back to Ministers on what projects should be listed in the Fast-track Approvals Bill and the order of their priority. In response to an official information request, we have been advised that at least 78 projects are under active consideration, the exact nature of which remains a heavily guarded secret. The list is fundamental to the Bill's potential environmental impact, and it's imperative that the public has an opportunity to comment on it before being enacted into law. Our Ombudsmen complaint requesting release of the list is progressing.

Bad aquaculture amendments get green light

The Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill has now passed its second reading. Despite there being no regulatory impact assessment on the Bill's proposals and having almost no public mandate (around 90% of submitters opposed the Bill), the Primary Production Committee recommended its progress with minimal change.

The Bill seeks to extend the duration of all marine farm consents for 20 years. The 'bespoke' council review clause, aimed at placating submitters concerned with the Bill's potential to lock in bad environmental outcomes for another two decades, is a hopeless addition. The Bill gives effect to the NZ First coalition agreement to remove regulatory barriers for the seafood sector. Its blinkered progression demonstrates this Government's rigid adherence to its coalition agreements at all costs. EDS has written to the Prime Minister and Minister for Regulation requesting that this bad law be binned.

EDS seeks changes to Draft Minerals Strategy

We have provided feedback on the Government's *Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040* requesting amendments to safeguard the environment. While we support aspects of the Strategy that seek to improve understanding of the country's mineral resources, the Strategy poses significant risks for the natural environment and conservation values. We oppose actions that provide for fast-tracking of mining approvals and a more permissive consenting regime. Our submission includes a suite of amendments to ensure the Strategy is not used as a covert tool to enable environmental destruction.

[Read our submission](#)

F&B MANAWATŪ MONTHLY TALK PROGRAMME: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

Tues 8th October

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 and
Dr. Phil Ross, Fisheries Analyst position at Fisheries New Zealand

Tues 12th November

Talk: Glow-worms - the iconic critter with the glowing tail

Speaker: Julia Kasper, Lead Invertebrates Curator, Te Papa

Tues 10th December – End of year Social

New Zealand Geographic

A vicious strain of myrtle rust is burning through our bush. Dozens of native species—and the ecosystems they support—are at risk. Scientists think we have three, maybe four years before the biggest pōhutukawa start to fall. They're racing to find a way to stop the rust—and to save seeds from plants we stand to lose forever.

Otaki Kahika Grant (in stripes) checks a tender young ramarama for new growth. The plant has been laid horizontal and pinned to the ground with supplejack—a growth-boosting technique the Te Rātā Whakamaru team hope will help give the ngahere a fighting chance. The strategy epitomises western science in kōrero with on-the-spot field work: “expertise from all angles”, says Kahika Grant (Te Whakatōhea, Te Arawa, Te Whānau-ā-Āpanui).

Read the feature from the latest issue: bit.ly/the-forgotten-pandemic

September 2024 Monthly talk

Tuesday 10th September 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

(will be streamed via zoom,)

Talk: “Myrtle rust research update - from Beyond Myrtle Rust and beyond

Speaker: Alby Marsh, Co-Director Māori. Kaiwhakahaere Matua

Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Hine, Ngā Puhī, Ngai Te Rangī, Te Rarawa



Bright orange-yellow powdery myrtle rust pustules on under-side of a ramaram leaf. Photo: DOC

Synopsis of talk: Myrtle rust was first detected on mainland New Zealand in May 2017. Since then, it has spread throughout the North Island, parts of the South Island, and the Chathams.

In this talk, Alby Marsh will be delivering a brief overview of the disease before delving into the research that has been conducted over the last few years by the Beyond Myrtle Rust research programme as well as other research groups, programmes and projects across New Zealand. He will also be highlighting his own work on the disease, which focuses on Kaitiakitanga & Māori led solutions and has the goal of building capacity and developing strategies to facilitate Māori leadership around myrtle rust management.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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