



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Contents:

Branch Chair's message	Birds NZ February meeting
February 2025 Monthly Talk	Events you might be interested in
F&B Manawatū Monthly Talk Programme	Working Bees
Pouoa Reserve Restoration Volunteer Project	PNCC consultation
Mahi Ngātahi - 'Work Together'	March 2025 Monthly Talk

Message from F&B Manawatū Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR to our members. May 2025 be all you wish it to be.

Here is an update on our **Rat Trapping Project** which we started up in June last year and hopefully a wee reminder to those of you who have traps but have not notified any results.

- **We distributed:** 30 DRat traps in wooden boxes to members located from Bunnythorpe to Ashhurst to Feilding to Longburn and to PN. We have received reports from 12 members.
- **Results:** 9 rats caught, 7 mice caught and 1 hedgehog
- **We distributed:** 13 DoC 200 traps to members located from Waituna West to Feilding to Aokautere and to Palmerston North.
- We have received reports from 5 members.
- **Results:** 20 rats caught , 2 mice caught
- So far then there are 29 fewer rats in the Manawatu!

I have been told that Feb/March is a common time to catch rats but I am not sure why.

I wonder if some members are having trouble setting their traps and I would like to hear from them if that is so. Meanwhile, please do keep in touch with your results and as this was planned as a 1 year long project we will be contacting those who have not checked in, towards the end of the year (June).

That's all for this month

Margaret

Chairperson

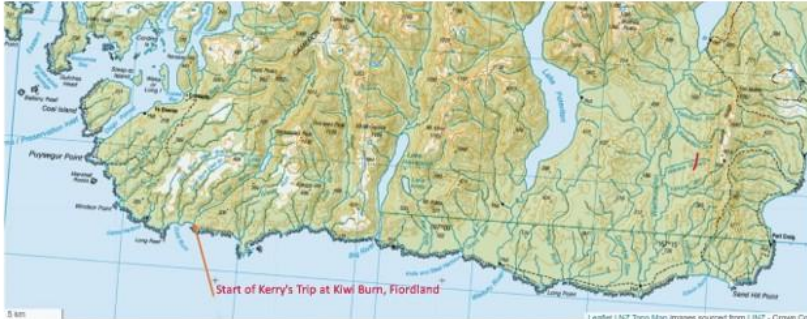
FEBRUARY 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 11th February @ 7.30 p.m.

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

Talk: “Exploring remote valleys in Southern Fiordland”

Speaker : Kerry Griffiths, Forest and Bird Manawatū Member



This is about Kerry's 2nd trip to very bottom of Southern Fiordland. We will hear what he saw, and what he heard in the thick bush – sadly no moose! On his month long trip he walked east from the helicopter drop off point at Kiwi Burn to Port Craig.

Zoom Link: <https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/84993008691?pwd=oOKvqnfJkaisgDkFKYK2MxtdWxR0Oe.1>

Meeting ID: 849 9300 8691

Passcode: 648370

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANAWATŪ FEBRUARY 2025 TRIP

We are planning a trip later this month, but sadly it hasn't yet been confirmed. As soon as we have the details we will post it on our website – naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

F&B Manawatū Monthly Talk 2025 Programme

MARCH – JUNE, 2025

(our talks will be streamed live via zoom)

Branch Monthly Meetings:

@ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street entrance, Palmerston North

SEA WEEK – Saturday 1st March to Sunday 9th March 2024

The theme is: Celebrate Connecting with our Seas –

Toi Moana – Toi Tangata

Tue 11 Feb Talk: "Exploring remote valleys in Southern Fiordland"

Speaker: Kerry Griffiths, Forest and Bird Manawatū Member

Tue 11 Mar Talk: Rare spade-toothed whale/tohorā

Speakers: Anton van Helden, DOC Senior Marine Science Advisor

Tue 8 Apr Manawatū Branch Annual General Meeting **starting at 7.15 p.m.
followed at 7.30 p.m. by a talk

Talk: Skinks, Geckos & Lizards

Speaker: Anna Yeoman, Ranger at Mokonoko Dryland Sanctuary

Tue 13 May Talk: To be advised

Speaker:

Tue 10 Jun Talk: "NZ Endemic Forget-me-nots (genus *Myosotis*)"

Speaker: Heidi Meudt, Te Papa Botany Curator

All visitors welcome

Your gold coin donation at meetings is appreciated

If you would like to stay in touch, please sign up to our Mailing list on our website:

www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

Poutoa Reserve Restoration Volunteer Project

We have had our first working bee for this year and achieved heaps of weeding, especially of convolvulus, in our first planting area below Jasmine Place, Summerhill. 500 plants have been ordered for us to plant this year and we intend to purchase some further trees in the winter. Our plantings put in over the past 3 years are thriving in the gullies. We have a committed volunteer group of 8 who meet fortnightly 9am to 11am on Fridays

We welcome more volunteers and if you are keen to join us, please contact me at margaret51mckenzie@gmail.com

Mahi Ngātahi - 'Work Together'

Mahi Ngātahi focuses our work into four streams:

- **Stream 1 – Growing Support:** Growing active participation in nature with members, branches, networks, and KCC.
- **Stream 2 – Conservation Project Delivery:** Delivering conservation projects that make a difference
- **Stream 3 – Conservation Policy & Advocacy & Legal:** Advocating for better nature outcomes
- **Stream 4 – Enabling Services:** Ensuring Forest & Bird has the right systems and processes to improve operations.

We are in our second year of Mahi Ngātahi, Forest & Bird's approach to *how* we do our work.

Mahi Ngātahi means 'Work Together', and it helps us be clear about where and how we can impact nature most. It also increases transparency and accountability around what the Society will (or won't) do and ensures that

Forest & Bird is functioning effectively now and well into the future. The day-to-day implementation of Mahi Ngātahi sits with Forest & Bird staff. Mahi Ngātahi has already brought about positive change, and we increased our efficiency as we have started doing things differently to improve Forest & Bird's operations.

One of our key focus areas as an organisation is around work prioritisation. We must make deliberate decisions about what work we do and what resources we apply. While this means we reduce focus in some areas, we are vigilant about significant changes in the conservation world that may impact our strategic direction and can respond to any of these strategic headwinds.

BIRDS NZ – MANAWATŪ BRANCH

DATE: Wed 12th February @ 7:15pm.

WHERE: Val Kenward Room at the Pn Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street.

Talk: Pollen and the Nitrogen Requirements of the Lesser Double-Collared Sunbird, *Nectarinia chalybea*



Speaker: Ian van Tets, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alaska Anchorage. Ian is originally from Australia, his work has taken him to South Africa, Belgium, Israel and Alaska (USA) – where he uses small birds and mammals to study links between their physiology and their ability to survive and thrive in their environment. Dr. van Tets is currently living in Palmerston North while continuing to work distance for the University of Alaska.

Intro to the talk: Nectarivorous birds typically are small, and have high basal metabolic rates. To meet their high energy needs, they spend a large proportion of their time foraging on nectar. However, they also require protein, vitamins, essential fatty acids, minerals, and trace elements. It is often overlooked how they obtain the protein that they need to survive and the effect on their foraging behavior. Nectar, pollen, and insects are all potential sources of protein that presents its own challenges. In this talk, Ian will discuss these issues together with research he conducted in South Africa to test whether pollen was a potentially viable source of protein for the lesser double-collared sunbird.

EVENTS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Go to <https://seaweek.org.nz/> to learn more about Seaweek

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The 2025 Manawatu Walking Festival - 7th to 9th March 2025

This three-day celebration of walking promises an unparalleled opportunity to explore the region's natural beauty, connect with local experts, and challenge yourself across a diverse range of walking experiences.

The 2025 Manawatu Walking Festival has meticulously crafted a selection of walks that cater to every fitness level and interest. Whether you're a casual stroller or an experienced hiker, there's a path waiting to be discovered. The festival boasts eleven unique guided walks that showcase the region's incredible diversity. For tickets and information on walk durations, start times, transport and space available, please visit each walk's listing on Eventfinda or the website for more information

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/tours-festivals/2024/2025-manawatu-walking-festival>

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Vote for New Zealand Bug of the Year 2025!

Select your top 3 favourite 2025 Bug of the Year nominees!

<https://bugoftheyear.ento.org.nz/>

Aotearoa is home to thousands of fascinating insects, spiders, slugs, snails, centipedes, springtails and other "bugs". These bugs make up more than half of our animal diversity and many of them are found nowhere else on the planet! Bugs are vital for the health of our ecosystems: they are food for our birds and fish, they pollinate our crops and flowers, and they keep our soils aerated, our waste decomposed and our backyard buzzing.

Voting closes midnight, 17 Feb 2025. All emails and locations we collect will be deleted after results are announced on 21 Feb 2025

Pohangina Domain and Recreation Reserve Walkway Opening

You are invited to come and celebrate the opening of the new walkway loop. A powhiri will be led by Oriana Paewai and there will be an unveiling of the exquisite piece of pointillism art drawn by Liz Grant. This will be followed by a meander through the community and memorial tree plantings. The newly installed signage map with QR code will be there for everyone to peruse the historical stories, photo gallery and GPS planting map.

When: Saturday 1.00 pm 15 February, before the East versus West cricket match

Where: At the Pohangina Domain, gathering at start of walkway by picnic tables and new map sign.

Following the opening celebration everyone is welcome to join in the festivities watching the cricket where complimentary bottled water, ice creams, a bouncy castle and post-match BBQ with delicious local meats to savour.

REGULAR WORKING BEES

Get your hands dirty!

Feb 9, 23 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

Feb **10, 23** [A Rocha Nursery](#)

Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

Feb 9 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Planting for Monarch butterflies.

Date: ? [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

A restored urban native bush habitat.

For more information about the above working bees click on the link. Also for more working parties, events etc. please go to <https://enm.org.nz/event> There you will find ENM calendar of events by the month.

PNCC CONSULTATIONS

Ashurst Domain

We've been working with you to update the existing reserve management plan for Ashurst Domain. The draft plan is now ready, and we'd love to hear your feedback by 5pm on Tuesday 4 March. <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/Have-your-say/Future-of-Ashurst-Domain>

We are starting a new section in the newsletter. – showing some of the species in PN Esplanade. F&B has signs for these species throughout the bush area.



Mamaku
(Cyathea medullaris)

The curving monkey tails, or koru, of the large black tree fern have inspired Māori design for centuries and now also feature in contemporary New Zealand art.

Growing to 20m tall it is one of the largest tree ferns in the world.

The sign features a photograph of a Mamaku tree fern on the left, a close-up of a koru on the right, and a green header with the title. A circular inset shows a detailed view of the fern's fronds.

A cross section of an emperor penguin skin explains how they can stay warm in very cold weather



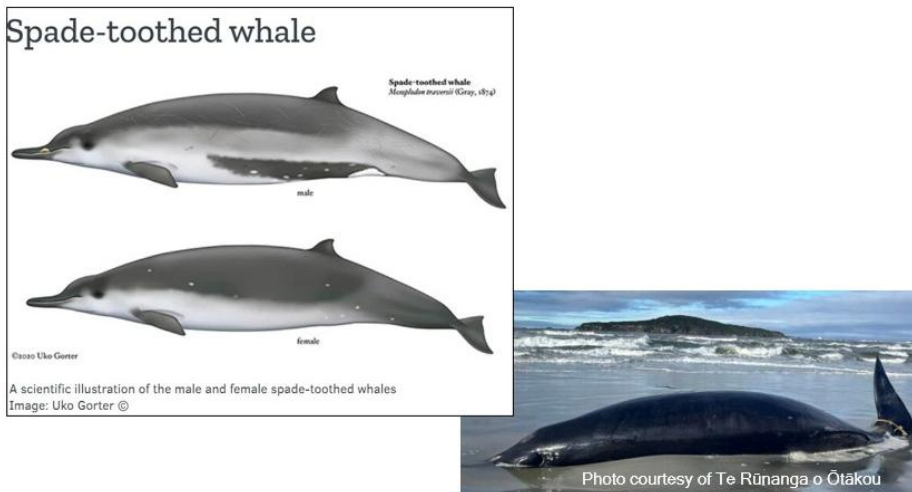
MARCH 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 11th March @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston
(will be streamed via zoom)

Talk: **Rare spade-toothed whale/tohorā** (*Mesoplodon traversii*)

Speakers: Anton van Helden, DOC Senior Marine Science Advisor



Anton Van Helden, DOC Senior Marine Science Advisor and a beaked whale expert will talk about the spade-toothed whale which was washed ashore near Taiari Mouth, Otago on 4 July 2024 and what was found in their research during the necropsy.

DOC staff were notified a type of beaked whale around 5 m long had washed ashore and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou named the whale Ōnumia, which reflected the traditional name of the area where the whale had beached.

Spade-toothed whales are one of the most poorly known large mammalian species of modern times. Since the 1800s, only 6 samples have ever been documented worldwide, and all but one of these was from New Zealand. From a scientific and conservation point of view, this is huge.”

Not only was this tohorā (whale) the first of its kind to be dissected by science, but it was also the first time Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou hapū worked with scientists to pull together indigenous and western knowledge systems.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor

F&B Manawatū Branch

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