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March 2020

Coronavirus Notice

Kevin Hague, F&B Chief Executive, has requested F&B Manawatū Branch advise you the following:

Forest & Bird will be sourcing our information about coronavirus only from the Ministry of Health and will be following any guidance they give. Their page can be viewed here, <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Also, please do not come the Monthly meetings if you show cold or flu symptoms.

If, in the event the PNCC Library advises us they are closing their Event rooms due to the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 we will send out a notice to your email address. Also, we will also post the notice on our website

www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

March 2020 Monthly talk
Tuesday 10th March 2020 @ 7:30 p.m.
Palmerston North City Library,
George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

Talk: "Litter Intelligence Programme led by Sustainable Coastlines"

Speaker: Ben Knight, Sustainable Coastlines



Ben will talk about A new nationwide, 3-year citizen science-based beach litter research and monitoring programme called The Litter Project. The innovative new programme 'Litter Intelligence' launched to tackle New Zealand's litter problem. Led by charity Sustainable Coastlines and supported by the Ministry for the Environment, Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Conservation, the programme enables passionate communities around the country to contribute to our first national beach litter database. Since October 2018, litter monitoring sites have been set-up at 79 beaches around Aotearoa. The programme is already helping to prove the prevalence of litter, with an average of 428 items found for every 1,000 square metres of coastline surveyed.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated
 If you would like to stay in touch, please sign up to our
 Mailing list on our website: www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz

For more information about Forest & Bird go to:
www.forestandbird.org.nz

F&B Manawatū March 2020 Monthly Trip

We are currently planning our next trip. Please check on our website – www.naturesvoicemanawatu.org.nz for updates

It's Whio Awareness Month – get involved! – see below for talks and a trip



Trapping success has seen whio numbers grow in the northern Ruahines. *Photo: Chris Tuffley*

Whio, or blue duck, are a national taonga/treasure, and with less than 3000 in the wild they need our help. They are special and unique in many ways. Whio are one of only four duck species in the entire world to live year-round in fast-flowing rivers, and those rivers need to be in pristine condition. What's more they don't quack!

The CET Wildbase Recovery Centre in the Esplanade will host a number of events during Whio month these will include :

- Talk from Peter Russell – Story of hatch to release

(Date to be confirmed, will be the last week of March)

- Talk from Janet Wilson – Work of Ruahine Whio Protectors

(Date to be confirmed, looking at 16th to 22nd March)

- Possible talk/guest visit from Eastern Ruahine trappers

(Date to be confirmed, after 16th March)

- Possible visit from DoC rangers as Whio dog handler

(To be confirmed pending their available time to travel, will be at the Library)

Check on the CET Wildbase Recovery Centre Facebook page

EVENTS

Whio Awareness Month Oroua Walk

Event date: Sunday 29 March 2020, start time TBC

Event location: meet at the car park for the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge at the end of Petersons Rd, Apiti, 4774.

Combining tramping with conservation, this tramp will take you down to the Oroua River which is home to a small number of the endangered Whio or Whistling Blue Duck. If conditions allow we will complete the "Lower River Loop" – an easy introduction to river tramping and the lower Oroua area. You will need boots or walking shoes, preparation for any sort of weather including strong sun. Please bring lunch and drinks but leave your dogs at home. There are downhill and uphill sections in this walk but it allows access to a beautiful part of the Ruahine Forest Park where Whio are sometimes seen. Allow 6 hours.

Contact Janet Wilson for more details. jwilson@inspire.net.nz

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway - Public Information Sessions

The NZTA will share the latest project updates at a series of public information sessions in March. Information on -Ground investigations, stormwater treatment wetlands, stream and habitat assessments, and resource consent applications for the new highway.

Please join them at one of the following:

Tuesday, 10 March – **Dannevirke**

(Dannevirke Service & Citizens Club, 1 Princess Street, Dannevirke, 4.00pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday, 11 March – **Ashhurst**

(Ashhurst Village Valley Centre, Winchester St, Ashhurst, 4.00pm to 7.00pm)

Thursday, 12 March – **Palmerston North**

(Hancock Community House, 77-85 King Street, Palmerston North, 4.00pm to 6.30pm)

Tuesday, 17 March – **Pahiatua**

(Pahiatua Town Hall, Cnr Main St and Kiwi St, Pahiatua, 4.00pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday, 18 March – **Woodville**

(Te Ahu a Turanga Marae, Tay Street, Woodville, 4.00pm to 7.00pm)

The NZTA will also be at Central Districts Field Days from 19th – 21st March.

Raumai Reserve Clean-up

Help clean up one of Pohangina's beauty spots,

Event Date: Saturday 14th March 2020, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Go to <https://recap.org.nz/node/302> for more information.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

HAVE YOUR SAY

[Indigenous Biodiversity](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-indigenous-biodiversity) <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-indigenous-biodiversity>

Humans depend on nature for our survival, yet we are losing native species and places at an alarming rate. The Ministry for the Environment is consulting on a [National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity](#). [Forest & Bird](#) tells us that large areas of New Zealand's bush and other critical natural areas are still being cleared and turned into housing or farms. F&B also advise that, contrary to recent media reports, the policy will not result in loss of private land. They have provided [information for submitters here](#).

Submissions close 14 March

[Whitebait Management Review](#)

[Improving whitebait management \(PDF, 7,631K\)](#) discussion document

The Department of Conservation is seeking feedback on proposals to change the management of whitebait, including a management goal for the six species fished as whitebait; management outcomes for the whitebait fishery; amendments to the whitebait fishing regulations; to phase out export of the whitebait species.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2020-consultations/consultation-on-changes-to-whitebait-management/>

Submissions extended to 16 March

F&B Manawatū Branch Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9th April 2020 @ 7:15 p.m. (Please note earlier time)

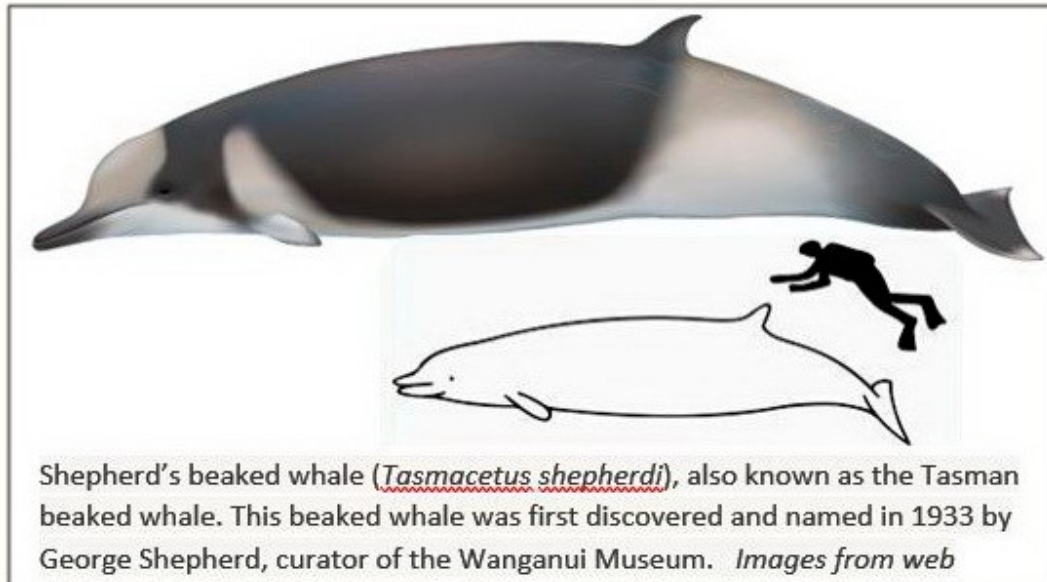
following immediately after with

April 2020 Monthly talk

Palmerston North City Library,
George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

Talk: Beaked Whales: Why are they the least understood cetaceans?

Speaker: Keith Beautrais, Whanganui



Shepherd's beaked whale (*Tasmacetus shepherdi*), also known as the Tasman beaked whale. This beaked whale was first discovered and named in 1933 by George Shepherd, curator of the Wanganui Museum. *Images from web*

New Zealand has played a central role in unraveling some of the enigmas of the Ziphiidae. Keith Beutrais researched these masters of deep dark places for a new Wanganui Museum exhibition and will share some of the discoveries being made.

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Cherry Gordon

I am very sad to advise you that Cherry Gordon died on 16th February 2020, after an extremely long (10 years) battle with cancer. While I have known Cherry since I arrived in Palmerston North, I didn't know her well, but always enjoyed our chats whenever we met.

In the early eighties Cherry joined the Manawatū branch of Forest and Bird. She was a very active conservationist and was elected on to the committee and became secretary when Chris Saunders was Chair (1984-1987). Cherry was Chair of the Branch between 1988-1990. She was enthusiastic and dedicated in this role and put her heart and soul into various campaigns of the time. An example of this was when she went with Chris to Murchison for the meeting organised by the Beech Forest Action Committee, which was to set up to

campaign against logging, including selective logging, of the Westland beech forests. There are not many people who give so much.

Anthea McClelland
Chair, F&B Manawatū

Francois Vallee

Newsletter Editor

Forest and Bird Manawatū Branch

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