



March 2024 Monthly talk

Tuesday 12th March @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North

Talk: : Speargrasses & their associated invertebrates

Speakers: Lara Shepherd & Leon Perrie, Botany, Te Papa, Wellington



Speargrasses, with their sharp leaves and flower spikes, may look like a plant you want to avoid at all costs, but a number of critters call them home, including the charismatic speargrass weevils. Science researcher Lara Shepherd and Leon Perry will introduce these weevils, plus some other critters that utilise speargrass plants.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

Forest & Bird Manawatu Branch invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Speargrasses & their associated invertebrates

Time: Mar 12, 2024 07:30 PM Auckland, Wellington

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/87959881331?pwd=fEZZCTGH6ag7KSbgaSVN5ic8TNnWTd.1>

Meeting ID: 879 5988 1331

Passcode: 356397

I am sorry for the technical issues with our February Talk zoom link. These have been rectified, so our March Talk zoom should be much improved.

A YouTube video of the February talk will be available shortly on our website.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMME

APRIL - JUNE, 2024

Tue 9 Apr Manawatū Branch Annual General Meeting * starting at 7.15 p.m.
followed at 7.30 p.m. by a talk

Talk: “A look under the waves of Wellington - Exploring Marine Conservation Success and Challenges”

Speaker: Dr. Nicole Miller, founder of Explore Your Coast, Wellington

Tue 14 May Talk: “Phragmites karka, an invasive weed problem”

Speaker: Bessie Nicholls, Trustee. [Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust](#),

Tue 11 Jun Talk: “Satellite-tracking of Red Knots”

Speaker: Associate Professor Phil Battley, Massey University

Branch Monthly Meetings: @ 7.30 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street entrance, Palmerston North

All visitors welcome

F&B MANWATŪ BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 9th April, 2024 at 7.15 p.m. @ PN City Library, George Street

We are seeking people who would like to serve on the Manawatū Branch Committee. The Committee meeting once a month on the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in conservation and the environment, we would welcome you to help guide the Branch going forward.

If you are interested, please contact Anthea, Chair at Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz or 0211846241



KIWI CONSERVATION CLUB (KCC) NEWS

Kiwi Conservation Club - Hākuturi Toa

Upcoming events for KCC Manawatu - Term 1

Sunday 25th Feb - KCC Beach Clean-up Day at Himatangi Beach(cancelled due weather)

Sunday 17th March - trip to Tarapuruhi (Bushy Park)

NOTE: Anna tries to organise 2 KCC adventures per term and one in the school holidays.

For more info about KCC please contact:

Anna Regtien , KCC Manawatū Coordinator, Manawatu@kcc.org.nz

F&B Centennial Webinars March 2024

The future of conservation | Wed 27 March 2024, 7:30pm – 8:30pm | online

This webinar will explore the future of conservation from three different perspectives. Michael Bunce, the Chief Science Advisor at the Department of Conservation will talk about the future of conservation in terms of advances in technology. Hamiora Gibson, aka Sam the Trap Man, an ecologist and the co-founder of the Eastern Whio Link Trust, will give his perspective based on our relationship with the whenua. We also look forward to hearing from Hallé Ash, a student at the University of Waikato studying environmental science and the Hamilton facilitator at Trees for Survival. She will talk about the future of conservation from a rangatahi perspective. Register for the webinar here.

https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n-yIeMXwTgKjbf119HWG8w#/registration

FAREWELL TO THE BIRDS



Members of the Manawatu Estuary Trust extend a welcome to everyone to the Estuary at the Manawatu Heads as a gesture of farewell to acknowledge the departing migratory birds.

DATE: Saturday, 16th March 2024

TIME: 3.30pm

WHERE: We will be meeting at the viewing platform, Dawick Street (off Seabury Avenue), Foxton Beach)

Associate Professor Phil Battley, Massey University/BirdNZ will be there to help identify birds

Within four days of 16th March 2024, the Autumn equinox will be here.

It's also the time for the annual event of Hekenga.

“ Ko te hekenga nui o nga manu”

It is the great journey of the birds

Migration of some of the wading birds will have been going on for about two weeks. No one can tell if or when the birds are ready to make their departure from the estuary in small flocks. We can only observe their agitation and hear their calls signalling their preparation for the event. Departures usually occur, weather dependent. later in the afternoon.

The Bar tailed godwits, Kuaka, depart to return to Alaska to breed. The lesser or red knot, Huahou, another summer visitor, will return to breeding grounds in Siberia.

The sandspit is also a gathering area for the wrybill, one of the threatened native species that relies on the Manawatu estuary as a feeding ground. These little fellows can be

spotted easily using the spotting scopes which will be made available. There is a good chance that you may see a flock of these special birds at this time.

Viewing and photographic opportunities present themselves uniquely well because of the access and close proximity to their gathering points.

VEHICLES ON BEACHES



Forest & Bird have recently investigated all the vehicles on beaches regulations of each coastal city, district and unitary council in NZ, and ranked them. It is unacceptable that 73 percent (just over two-thirds) have inadequate bylaws, monitoring, and compliance for vehicles on beaches, which means coastal species and the environments they live in are left vulnerable and unprotected.

Check out our:

[Full Media Release](#)

[Full Vehicles on Beaches Report](#)

["Driving out our coastal wildlife" infographic](#)

[Click here for a letter you can personalise and send to your local council asking for better beach protection](#)

Regular Working Bees

Get your hands dirty!

Mar 3 [Ahimate Reserve](#)

Mar 10, 24 [Dune Gardens, Foxton.](#)

Mar 9 [Green Corridors Summerhill](#)

Help maintain corridors of native trees.

Mar 10, 24 [A Rocha Nursery](#)

Growing natives from eco-sourced seed.

Mar 10 [Apollo Butterfly Park](#)

Planting for Monarch butterflies, etc..

Mar 15, 29 **F&B Manawatū Project Summerhill Reserve/Poutoa**

Walkway – restoration of bush alongside the track. For info contact:

Maragret 022 473 1096 or Nicky 022 361 7540

Mar 17 [Pit Park Roslyn](#)

A restored urban native bush habitat.

Most Sundays [Manawatū Estuary Trust](#)

Keeping exotic species out of the wetland.

Every week. [Ashhurst Community Library Garden Working Bee.](#) Keep connected on Facebook for dates and times as these do vary.

April 2024 Monthly talk

Tuesday 9th April 2024 @ 7.15 p.m.

PN City Library, George Street Entrance, Palmerston North
(We are also streaming this meeting via Zoom)

The Manawatū Branch AGM will start at 7.15 p.m.
followed by the Monthly Talk



Talk: A look under the waves of Wellington – *Exploring Marine Conservation Success and Challenges*

Speaker: Dr. Nicole Miller, well-known citizen science leader

Nicole will talk about Wellington's Blue Belt which is filled with amazing marine life, but it needs help. Wellington's Blue Belt – the shallow coastal marine space around the South Coast and Wellington Harbour

Nicole said they are documenting the Blue Belt from underwater, by taking underwater videos and photos. This documentation will become part of the research used by local conservation and restoration projects, to help them protect Wellington's marine life.

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

That is all from me this month – hope to see you at our monthly meeting or on the zoom link.

Kind Regards

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Chair

Forest and Bird Manawatū Branch

Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz

