



**Forest & Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice

**MANAWATŪ**

*Celebrating*

**60  
YEARS**

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## **SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **F&B SEPTEMBER 2017 MONTHLY MEETING**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017 @ 7.30 p.m.**

Sound and Vision Centre, Palmerston North City Library,  
George Street, Palmerston North

**“Survival on the Edge – Development of the Wildbase Research Centre”**



Photos: From Wildbase website

### **Speaker: Professor Brett Gartrell**

Director of the Wildbase Research Centre, Massey University

Brett will talk about the research, medical and surgical services to wildlife through the Wildbase Hospital.

In global comparisons of biodiversity loss, the native wildlife of New Zealand is clinging to the edge of existence. Many species have been lost and others only survive because of intensive conservation efforts that combat the major drivers of population decline which include the destruction, degradation and fragmentation of native ecosystems, and a prolonged and continuing invasion of a suite of introduced animals.

The mission of Wildbase is to promote and implement collaborative research in wildlife health, with a particular focus on the interactions of wildlife health with the conservation of New Zealand fauna, human health, and domestic animal health.

**All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated**

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## F&B SEPTEMBER 2017 TRIP

### Tour around Wildbase Hospital, Massey University

- Date to be announced. (It will be towards the end of September)
- Time: 3.30 p.m
- To register your interest, please email F&B Manawatu at [Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz) giving your name, number of people and your contact ph. Number.
- The trip is limited to 12 people and if there is enough interest, we will arrange another trip in October.



Wildbase resident Veterinarian Megan Jolly and supervisor wildlife technician Pauline Nijman treating the kiwi. A feisty brown kiwi, dubbed Albion, from Taranaki was released back into the wild over the weekend after a month-long stay in Massey University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Wildbase. The adult female has been under the care of the Wildbase veterinary team for the last four weeks after she was found caught in a possum trap.

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## F&B 2018 CALENDAR & DIARIES

F&B 2018 Calendars and Diaries will be on sale at our Monthly meetings from August

**pb** potton & burton

**Forest & Bird**  
100 Years of New Zealand Conservation

### New Zealand Conservation Calendar 2018

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



Recommended Retail Price \$17.99  
**Our Price \$15.00**



### New Zealand Conservation Diary 2018

With this diary Conservation Diary 2018



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.

Recommended Retail Price \$24.99  
**Our Price \$20.00**

- As we only order a certain number of F&B 2018 Diaries. If you want to ensure you receive a copy of a F&B 2018 Diary, please email Anne Spring (who is our Calendar & Diary Coordinator this year) at [annespring@clear.net.nz](mailto:annespring@clear.net.nz) to order a Diary. Your order will be available to the Branch monthly meetings, unless otherwise arranged.
- The price has not changed from last year

## Election Issues

**F&B Manawātū** has asked 4 Palmerston North political candidates some environmental questions. These will be sent out in the next couple of days.

## From F&B National Office

### Five out of seven political parties want to end irrigation subsidies

Freshwater scorecard shows parties' policies

# Freshwater RESCUE PLAN

## SCORECARD GENERAL ELECTION 2017

Does your party support the Freshwater Rescue Plan steps?

☒ Support
 ☒ No support
 ☐ No response

SEVEN STEPS:	ACT	Green	Labour	Māori	National*	NZ First*	TOP
① Strong limits for human and ecosystem health	✗	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓
② Withdraw public funding of irrigation	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓
③ Invest in an agriculture transition fund	✗	✓	✗	✓	—	—	✓
④ Policy that reduces cow numbers	✗	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓
⑤ End gate polluter pays	✓	✓	✗	✓	—	—	✓
⑥ Regional council quarterly reports on water quality breaches and enforcement	✗	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓
⑦ Establish a "whole-of-government" approach towards a low carbon economy	✗	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓

For more information: [www.freshwaterrescueplan.org](http://www.freshwaterrescueplan.org)

\*For more information: [www.freshwaterrescueplan.org](http://www.freshwaterrescueplan.org)  
 ① Māori Party does not support the ACT step. Māori Party supports

[Download the Freshwater Rescue Plan scorecard here](#)

A scorecard developed by supporters of the Freshwater Rescue Plan shows big differences between the seven main political parties on fresh water in the lead-up to the election.

The scorecard shows three parties support the Freshwater Rescue Plan in full, and five of seven parties favour ending public irrigation subsidies, with only National and New Zealand First refusing to state their position.

“The Freshwater Rescue Plan has seven steps to save New Zealand’s rivers and lakes from overuse and pollution. It has broad support from organisations across the conservation, tourism, and public health sectors, which all-together represent about half a million New Zealanders,” says Forest & Bird Chief Executive, Kevin Hague.

“There’s no hiding behind rhetoric now. The scorecard shows exactly who supports the Plan, and who doesn’t.”

Supporters of the Plan have consulted with political parties and analysed policy statements to develop the scorecard.

“The most telling aspect of the scorecard is seeing how many parties want to end public irrigation subsidies. The Government has spent half a billion dollars in public irrigation subsidies, but most political parties want to end this.”

“ACT, Greens, Labour, Māori Party, and TOP all plan to end irrigation subsidies. National and New Zealand First need to tell voters what their position is and explain whether they think farming can stand on its own two feet without irrigation subsidies.”

“Looking across the positions of political parties, post-election negotiations could have a significant impact on what action is taken in the next three years to solve the freshwater crisis.”

The Freshwater Rescue Plan also includes steps to reduce cow numbers, create meaningful regulations on pollution, encourage reporting on water quality, transition to sustainable farming, and move to a low carbon economy. Only two parties – National and New Zealand First did not engage with the Plan’s supporters to endorse any of the steps in the Freshwater Rescue Plan.

The scorecard is hosted on Forest & Bird’s election information website:

[www.voteornature.org.nz](http://www.voteornature.org.nz) The seven main parties were asked a series of questions on environmental topics. Their answers are available in full on the Vote for Nature site.

Read the full Freshwater Rescue Plan at [www.freshwaterrescueplan.org](http://www.freshwaterrescueplan.org)

Organisations supporting the Freshwater Rescue Plan are: Choose Clean Water, Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc., Fish & Game New Zealand, Forest & Bird, Greenpeace New Zealand, OraTaiao - New Zealand Climate & Health Council, the Public Health Association, and the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand, ActionStation, Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO), New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, New Zealand Recreation Association, Pure Advantage, Waitaha Executive Grandmothers Council, Whitewater New Zealand, and WWF-New Zealand.

Copies of the scorecard in different file formats are available [here](#)

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## **Forest & Bird appealing seabed mining decision**

Forest & Bird is lodging an appeal on the Environmental Protection Authority’s controversial decision to allow seabed mining in the habitat of critically endangered blue whales.

The EPA granted consent for Trans Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL) to mine iron sand in the South Taranaki Bight.

The area is home to more than 30 species of marine mammals, including some that are critically endangered, including blue whales and Māui’s dolphins. It is an important migratory corridor for humpback whales. Little blue penguins use the area, and the Patea Shoals are an important natural area closer to shore.

For more information please go to:

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/media-release/forest-bird-appealing-seabed-mining-decision>

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## **Forest and Bird 2017 North Island Gathering**

Gatherings are held for the North and South Island every year. They are attended by Forest & Bird members, branch committee representatives, board members, and staff.

**Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October, 2017**

Tatum Park, Manakau (just south of Levin, Horowhenua)



This year's North Island Gathering is being hosted by members of the Horowhenua, Kapiti-Mana, Manawatū and Rangitikei Branches and will be held at [Tatum Park, Manakau, \(just south of Levin\) Horowhenua](#). This year you will not need to provide your own bedding and, Tatum Park are catering all our meals.

### **Speakers include:**

- Annabeth Cohen, Forest & Bird,  
"NZ Groundwater Ecosystems: undervalued & unprotected"
- Dr Catherine Knight,  
"New Zealand's Rivers: can we learn from history?"
- Jenny Rowan, Kapiti / Wellington Conservation Board,  
"The roles and functions of a Conservation Board and key conservation concerns for the Wellington region"
- Michael Dickison, Whanganui Regional Museum,  
"Measuring Biodiversity with Beetles"
- Paul Callister  
"The Ngā Uruora Kāpiti Project-Challenges of the Future"

### **Trips include:**

- A bird watching/beach Walk on Waikawa Beach
- Lake Papaitonga: Papaitonga Scenic Reserve
- Bush walk –Let's run a MicroBioBlitz in a local Bush Reserve

**Registrations** are now open for the North Island 2017 Gathering. Below are links to the Registration Form, Gathering Programme and Programme Notes.

[Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

[Registration Form \(Word Doc\)](#)

[North Island Gathering Programme](#)

[Speaker Notes](#)

Please complete the Registration Form and return it with your payment to:

By post to: P.O. Box 1372, Palmerston North 4440



Email to: [Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

Registration will be confirmed on receipt of payment.

Registration close on **13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

If you have any queries, please contact me at: 021 184 6241 or

email: [manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

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Sadly, Michael Greenwood passed away peacefully on Monday 14 August 2017

## **Tribute to Michael Greenwood**

### **Roger Michael Greenwood**

**1920-2017**



Roger Michael Greenwood, known as Michael, was a Life Member of Forest and Bird. He was one of the foundation members of the Manawatu Branch when it was created in November 1957, and served on the Committee for more than 20 years. He, together with Mrs. Una Esler, formed the Junior Naturalists, which was designed to get children, between 8-16 years, in closer touch with conservation through recognition of native flora and fauna. In addition, he was a constant participant in many of the meetings and field excursions of Forest and Bird, and the Manawatu Botanical Society over the decades.

Michael was born in New Plymouth and educated in Wanganui and Canterbury. After University, in 1943, he joined the Plant Chemistry Division of DSIR, where he worked (apart from 18 months at the University of Western Australia when he was awarded a fellowship in Soil Microbiology) until he retired in 1980. During this time, his work at DSIR centred on isolating and typing *Rhizobium* bacterial strains to find their ability to nodulate their specific legume hosts. NZ 2037 being the most famous, was one of his strains which has been used widely for inoculating white clover. Seed coated with *Rhizobium* provides young clover plants with a kick-start and ability to fix nitrogen. This was an important development and part of the reason why our pastures are considered so successful internationally.

Michael also conducted several studies on New Zealand plants and, in particular, he worked with colleague Ian Atkinson to develop the hypothesis on the possible influence of moa browsing

pressure in moulding divarication, the twisted and tangled morphology of many mainland indigenous shrubs. This hypothesis has resulted in both amateur and professional botanists taking much more interest in this peculiar group of plants.

Before Michael retired he became interested with Keeble's Bush, which is close to Palmerston North. Keeble's Bush is widely considered to be the best remnant of lowland podocarp-broadleaved forest in the Manawatu. In his will, Charles Keeble reserved it for scientific purposes only, and in the decade after he died in 1971, Michael worked to form a charitable Trust to look after this well-preserved 17 ha bush remnant. Michael became the inaugural Chairman of the C.T. Keeble Memorial Forest Trust in 1985, served as chair until 2001 and remained on the trust until 2012. In 1980, he was offered a 1.8 ha scarp downstream from Keeble's Bush to plant in native trees, and since it had a wide range of differing habitats, he decided to take it on as a retirement project. Michael's specific aim, which he followed within this restoration programme, was to propagate and establish species which had become very rare within Keeble's Bush, thus securing their future in the Manawatu District. He continued growing and planting in this area over the next 30 years. His efforts inspired the planting of the intervening area, the Link, by Peter van Essen, starting in 1996.

Michael was a tireless advocate for protecting native forests and bush remnants. In 1984, he was involved with the "Save the Odlins Block Committee" which, through urgent negotiation, saved a 2000-hectare area of native bush at Tokomaru from being logged and which has now been returned to the Tararua Forest Park. He has also contributed to understanding and protection of most other remnants in the Manawatu through sharing his knowledge of New Zealand's flora and vegetation.

He was awarded the prestigious Loder Cup in 1993, New Zealand's premier conservation award, which celebrates our unique and distinctive flora and honours those who make outstanding contributions to its conservation.

In 2010, Michael was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the New Zealand Ecological Society for scientific achievement, contribution to Keeble's Bush and contribution to restoration ecology. He was also a member of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, the Wellington Botanical Society and the Manawatu Museum Society, and was a long-standing member of the local branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the NZ Institute of Chemistry.

Though largely unacknowledged, Michael is probably New Zealand's first and foremost restoration ecologist, as well as being an inspired scientist, an active and effective conservationist, and a true gentleman and friend. He will be greatly missed.

*Anthea McClelland*  
*Chair, F&B Manawatu*

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## EVENTS

### Climate Change Experts

Sunday 17 September 2pm

Caccia Birch House, Hokowhitu

A talk and presentation given by climate change experts Prof. Robert McLachlan of Massey University, and Drs. Surinder Saggarr and Kevin Tate from Landcare Research, as part of [National Drive Electric Week](#). Electric Vehicles will be on display outside.



### What is EnviroFest?

EnviroFest is a three-week celebration (2nd - 23rd October) of new and existing environmental projects, events, and activities in the Manawātū. This festival aims to increase community awareness about environmental sustainability in a positive and enjoyable way. This year we are concentrating on three topics **Pūngao** (Energy), **Kai** (Food) and **Wai** (Water). We are encouraging community groups, business, schools and tertiary institutions to become part of this exciting festival. **He waka eke noa: On the way to a better future together.**

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### F&B Manawātū October Monthly Talk

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 @ 7.30 p.m.**

**GLOBE THEATRE, Main Street, Palmerston North**  
(please note change of venue)

**Talk: "Why we need to look beyond feathers for the future of our threatened species"**

**Speaker: Nicola Toki**, Threatened Species Ambassador, Department of Conservation



Nicola Toki is DOC's Threatened Species Ambassador. A self-confessed Nature Nerd, she has worked for conservation for over ten years.

Nicola is helping us celebrate 60 years as a F&B Branch. Her talk will tell us more about some of the 'un-cuddly' threatened species, which a lot of us may not have heard of.

She said one of her favourite quotes is:

*"They are our national monuments. They are our Tower of London, our Arc de Triomphe, our pyramids. We don't have this ancient architecture that we can be proud of and swoon over in wonder, but what we do have is something that is far, far older than that."*

*No one else has kiwi, no one else has kakapo. They have been around for millions of years, if not thousands of millions of years. And once they are gone, they are gone forever. And it's up to us to make sure they never die out."* — Don Merton, Conservation legend (1939 –2011).

Each week Nicola talks to Jesse Mulligan on National Radio about an uncharismatic but lovable member of New Zealand's wildlife community. Go to the link and listen to some of the episodes.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/collections/critter-of-the-week>



Below are some of the 'Critters' she has talked about



***Hirudobdella antipodum*** is a terrestrial leech found only on the Open Bay Islands in New Zealand. It preys on the feet of nesting seabirds. Its numbers have been reduced significantly by introduced **weka**, and the entire remnant population of the leech is now living beneath a single boulder.



The New Zealand batfly (*Mystacinobia zelandica*) is a small, wingless insect which lives in a symbiotic relationship with the New Zealand lesser short-tailed bat. It is a member of the true flies that belong to the order **Diptera** but is so unusual that it is placed in its own genus, **Mystacinobia**, and family, **Mystacinobiidae** - this monotypic family is endemic to New Zealand



***Hadramphus tuberculatus*** (known as the Canterbury knobbed weevil, Spaniard weevil or Banks Peninsula speargrass weevil) is a rare weevil endemic to the Christchurch area in the South Island of New Zealand. It was thought to be extinct from 1922 to 2004.

Hope to see you at our October Talk - All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

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