



NZ BIRD CONFERENCE 2024

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

General

The venue for the NZ Bird Conference 2024 is the Trafalgar Centre, Nelson. The venue has requirements to ensure their commercial environment meets legislative requirements including those of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. The conference will start with a short safety briefing to provide attendees with knowledge of exits, evacuation routes and assembly points in the event of a venue emergency (i.e. fire, earthquake).

Mobility and Health Issues

The Trafalgar Centre has disabled access facilities. Please advise the organisers if you have any mobility issues so that your safety and comfort can be catered for.

Regarding field trips, participants are asked to advise the trip leader if they have medical problems and how to deal with them. Participants with an allergy or medical condition should bring their own antihistamines and personal medications.

If anyone is feeling unwell (for any reason) then, please do not attend the conference. The venue is well ventilated with plenty of space if anyone feels the need for separation from others.

Traffic and Parking

There is car parking at the Trafalgar Centre and in nearby streets. Care is to be exercised when parking and if crossing over to the Trafalgar Centre.

Field Trips

General

There will be at least one trip leader with each trip.

There will be a safety briefing before the start of each field trip to describe the route, identify local risks, specific or potential physical difficulties that might be encountered, conditions of walkways, arrangements to keep the group/s together, approximate times for lunch, tea breaks, timing for the end of the trip/rendezvous and what actions to take if the trip does not go according to plan. The trip leader will bring a first-aid kit however participants are encouraged to carry their own.

For all field trips participants shall ensure that they have appropriate clothing and suitable footwear with them – an additional layer for warmth, wet weather gear, hat (beanie/sunhat). Additionally, ensure you have sufficient food, drink, required medication, sunscreen etc.

If someone becomes unwell during a trip, unable to continue or needs to return to a vehicle they shall be accompanied back to the vehicle or bus.

Weather forecast for the day shall be checked before departure and, if necessary, the weather conditions shall be monitored during the trip. The trip may be cancelled if the weather deteriorates.

Abel Tasman National Park

The trip to Kaiteriteri is by bus and a safety briefing will be held before departure. Passengers are required to wear seatbelts when the vehicle is in motion. At Kaiteriteri participants will board a vessel for transport to/from Abel Tasman National Park. A safety briefing will be provided by the licensed boat operator. This trip will involve landing from a vessel to a beach and boarding a vessel from a beach.

Kahurangi National Park

The trip to Flora car park/Wangapeka is by 4x4 minibus and a safety briefing will be held at the Flora carpark. Passengers are required to wear seatbelts when the vehicle is in motion. Vehicles are registered, road worthy with licenced drivers who are familiar with local routes and conditions. The walk to Mt Arthur Hut is along a well-graded walking track although there are some tree roots. The track from Mt Arthur Hut to Flora Hut is a marked tramping track, with an uneven surface, rocks and tree roots. The track between Flora carpark and Flora Hut is open to mountain bikers – please be aware of these users and give way off track. This is a high altitude field trip (up to 1300 m) so warm and waterproof clothing is essential.

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, Nelson

The trip to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is by public bus. On arrival at the Sanctuary a safety briefing will be given before the start of the visit. The Loop Track is wheelchair accessible. Other tracks in the sanctuary are generally good but with tree roots in some places, and some involve stream crossing and steep sections.

The main group will be split into manageable teams with a trip leader and a tail-end-charlie with each. The trip leader shall carry a list of the people with their team, a first aid kit and a PLB (there is limited or nil mobile phone coverage thus the PLB in case of an emergency).

Summary

These field trips are on established tracks in reasonable condition and the pace will be leisurely with frequent stops for observations. There is a level of fitness and walking experience required for the Kahurangi National Park trip and to a lesser extent, Abel Tasman National Park and the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary trips.

There is an expectation for participants to speak up if they identify a risk and to share that with trip leaders and the team. We are all responsible for our own safety and that of others.

The trip leaders will take care to minimise risks where possible and provide knowledge of hazards to the participants however it must be stated that members participate at their own risk. If a member has doubts about their ability to walk over rough or steep ground or walk for a sustained period, they should discuss this with the leader and reconsider their participation on a trip.