



Matuku: Birds NZ

Waikato Region Newsletter

November 2023

November 15th Meeting

What did it cost to save Pureora forest from logging in 1978 and was it worth it?



*Photo: Pureora
protester
Image: National
Library*

November Meeting

Join us to hear Carolyn (Kim) King talk about Pureora Forest, a subject she knows well as she has written a book and published a recent paper on the forest. We hope you can join us in person for the meeting (there will be no zoom option as we are sorting out some technical glitches).

The meeting is on Wednesday 15th November 7.30 pm at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building.

Upcoming Aotea, Kawhia and Raglan Harbour Census 18-19 November

The harbour censuses have been a long standing tradition for the Branch for many decades and contribute to the BirdsNZ vision of encouraging the collection of bird data. They also support our international commitment with the Global Flyaway Network to monitor migratory birds found on the harbours.

The census is done 3 times a year:

- Late October/November
- February (contributes to a national and international shorebird census)
- June/July

The number of people taking part in the harbour census is dropping and we would like to build up a core group of people who can participate and learn as they go (if necessary). We encourage members to consider this opportunity to practice shorebirds ID and bird counting. You do not need to be a bird expert to participate and you will be supported by more experienced members. There is no cost involved to members and you get to experience some out of the way places. Contact Jeanette 2012032982 for details.

Telescopes wanted

With Bruce Postill's departure we are short of telescopes which are necessary for the census. If you have a telescope you are willing to lend/sell please get in touch.

October Meeting Recap

Bruce Postill, Regional Representative for a number of years was farewelled and the incoming RR Jeanette Brooker chaired her first meeting. We wish Bruce well in his move to Christchurch.

Despite initial technological glitches 9 members were given a wonderful presentation via zoom by Ariel Hesswall as she discussed her research on seabird senses. It is good to see that a few of our members are finding the zoom option a way to attend meetings.



Some interesting points Ariel mentioned were:

- More than 25% of the world's seabird species are nocturnal
- King penguins have acute hearing to enable them to identify their chick in the colony
- Tube nosed birds such as albatrosses have very good smell and vision
- Researchers trying to entice birds to recolonise old nesting places are using nesting materials with seabird smells in them
- After measuring many bird skulls she found birds who have larger eyes and noses compared to body weight are more susceptible to bycatch
- Light attraction for seabirds is a world wide problem however if lights are changed from yellow to green, oil rigs have less collisions
- Volunteers in Auckland who collected light affected seabirds found:
 - 20-30% later died from internal bleeding and fractures.
 - more males than females were found
 - more juveniles than adults were affected
 - different affected seabirds were found in different areas e.g. black petrels were found mostly in rural areas

Other meeting news:

- Neil Fitzgerald reported whitehead in the Walter Scott Reserve
- Andrew Styche is looking for people who can help hi with 5 minute bird counts on the Kaimai's, Contact Andrew if interested astyche@doc.govt.nz

What's in a name?

Some of you may have noticed the addition of Matuku to the newsletter title. One of our members, Barry Friend, has access to old Branch newsletters and mentioned these were called matuku (Australasian bittern) and suggested we reinstate the tradition. Thanks Barry! Reading through some of these old newsletters our membership was very active as they mention 50 people signing up for a bus tour!

Hamilton Lake census

Barry welcomes people to join him on the monthly census counts.

Contact birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com for more details

Other regions newsletters:

[South Auckland Newsletter](#)

Research papers

- [Albatrosses diet during critical life stages](#)
- [Establishing a colony of fluttering shearwaters](#)
- [Weka home range](#)
- [Australasian harrier - newly uncovered parasites](#)
- [Impact of ants on seabirds in the Pacific](#)

Mel Magrath

[Mel Magrath has recently passed away.](#) he was a long standing council member of ONZ.



What's coming up - Meetings

Pop these dates in your diary so you won't miss these informative meetings.

- December - no evening meeting but on December 3rd join us for afternoon tea at the Hamilton Gardens
- January - no meeting
- February 21st the making of natural history films - a documentary
- March 20th Graham Saunders - Birdwatching on the Northumberland Coast

Trips & events coming up

Members in a recent survey said they wanted more trips and events planned, so we've listened and organised the following trips for you. Please support them. For planning purposes please RSVP if you intend to come.

- November 18 Harbour census RSVP birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com
- December 3 Christmas social event - afternoon tea in the Hamilton Gardens 3pm RSVP to Jeanette 0212032982
- January - no event
- February 24th Field trip to Maungatautari - an opportunity to see how our native birds thrive in a predator-free bush environment.
RSVP to birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com