

~~~ The 'REAL summer' Issue ~~~

Keen to join the team?

Forest and Bird- we're making a difference locally, nationwide. As New Zealand's largest and most respected conservation society, we are creating effective advocacy for NZ wildlife and wild places.

The Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird is looking for people keen to join the '05/'06 committee and invest some personal energy into the local conservation scene.

The plan is for the 05/06 committee to be a team of eleven keen conservationists, each with a 'portfolio' to look after:

- ∞ Chairperson
- ∞ Secretary
- ∞ Treasurer
- ∞ Programme Coord.
- ∞ Newsletter Editor
- ∞ KCC Leader
- ∞ Fielding Representative (2x)
- ∞ Tertiary Representative
- ∞ Environmental Advocacy Coord.
- ∞ Membership Campaign Coord.

Committee elections are during the AGM on 12 April, appointments are for one year commencing in May.

Ring or email a committee member if you want to know more about these opportunities to make a difference *locally* for all of New Zealand's wildlife and wild places.



AGM & Quiz Night



• **GET...** the scoop on Manawatu Forest & Bird's progress & plans

• **ELECT...** committee for '05/'06

• **PLUS ...** branch service awards

• **AND ...** NZ nature quiz night!!

7:30 pm Tuesday 12 April



Meeting at Te Manawa
Main Street West
Palmerston North

Manawatu Forest and Bird: conservation *action*

Conservationist's Calendar

- **12 April:** Manawatu Forest and Bird AGM at Te Manawa, 7:30 pm
- **14 April:** Environment Network Manawatu Open Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Esplanade Educ. Centre
- **30 April & 1 May:** Work party adventure at Te One native bush project
- **10 May:** Manawatu Forest and Bird branch night in Friendly Feilding
- **More events on pg 4!**

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Nice One!

Congratulation to **Dianne** of Pahiatua, winner of the Word Match contest in the February newsletter. For her efforts, Dianne won a bottle of Banrock Station Shiraz (2002 Reserve).

This month's contest (pg 10) is a word search puzzle featuring 24 birds of the Manawatu Estuary (there are over 80 bird species found there, so we went easy on you!), and the prize is a computer disc created by the Manawatu Estuary Trust, containing educational programmes for discovery of the natural history of the Manawatu Estuary.

Manawatu Forest & Bird

Committee Contacts '04/'05

Chairperson:	Donald Kerr	353 7631
Secretary & News:	Brent Barrett	357 6962
Treasurer:	Sally Pearce	359 4326
Feilding Contact:	Alan Hawkins	323 0583
Kiwi Conservation Club:	Caroline Percy	021 264 2789
Annual Programme:	Viv McGlynn	353 2305

~Ideas or Questions~

Give us a ring, We need to hear from You!!

All members and the public are invited to all branch activities and meetings (especially our AGM!!). Branch nights are the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m.~ everyone is welcome, a gold coin donation is appreciated!

You can always reach us with an email to forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com. Also have a look at the Forest and Bird website www.forestandbird.org.nz and the great local branch website kindly hosted within www.environmentnetwork.org.nz for more information. You may also ring national office on 04 385 7374 with queries.

Thank You to The Square Trust

This year Manawatu Forest and Bird have enjoyed the tremendous support of the Square Trust. Their generosity has underwritten a significant profile raising campaign for the Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird. This has included costs of hall hire for branch night, advertising in the Tribune and the Guardian, and printing costs for the newsletter in your hand (circ. ~ 500 per issue).

Those of you who've been fortunate enough to attend the branch night series will appreciate the quality of Te Manawa as a venue, and we trust the newsletter has been of value keeping you in the loop on the happenings within Forest and Bird and on the wider local conservation scene.



Pictured are members of the current Manawatu committee (from the left) Donald Kerr, Chris Thomasen, Caroline Percy, Dianne Haist, Sally Pearce, Alan Hawkins, & Viv McGlynn.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to all new Manawatu Forest and Bird members! We look forward to your joining us as we continue celebrating and protecting New Zealand's wildlife & wild places.

- ∞ *Val Absolon*
- ∞ *Robbie Andrew*
- ∞ *Esta Campbell*
- ∞ *Jacqueline Carr*
- ∞ *Martin Carryer*
- ∞ *Stephen Close*
- ∞ *Julie Dalziel*
- ∞ *Pania Flint*
- ∞ *Katherine Gibbs*
- ∞ *Sarah Hilderink*
- ∞ *Hanna Jackson*
- ∞ *Neil Langley*
- ∞ *The Liengme Family*
- ∞ *Barbara Little*
- ∞ *Mrs A Minnaar*
- ∞ *Cameron Smith*

Food for the Birds

Remember the birds this autumn and plant some berry bushes. In February my favourite thrush discovered the **turuturu** or blueberry that was lighting up a ferny corner with a display of brilliant blue berries. This grass-like **forest lily** *Dianella intermedia* is easy to grow in a partly shady place but the berries are very delicate and drop at the slightest disturbance. I'm glad the thrush didn't take them all but wisely left some for growing next year's crop.

In March the silver-eyes flocked to feed on the orange-red fruit of the **karamu** *Coprosma robusta*, the shining karamu *Coprosma lucida* and the taupata *Coprosma repens* - a female form of this one, growing in Chris Thomassen's garden, provided the subject for our illustration.

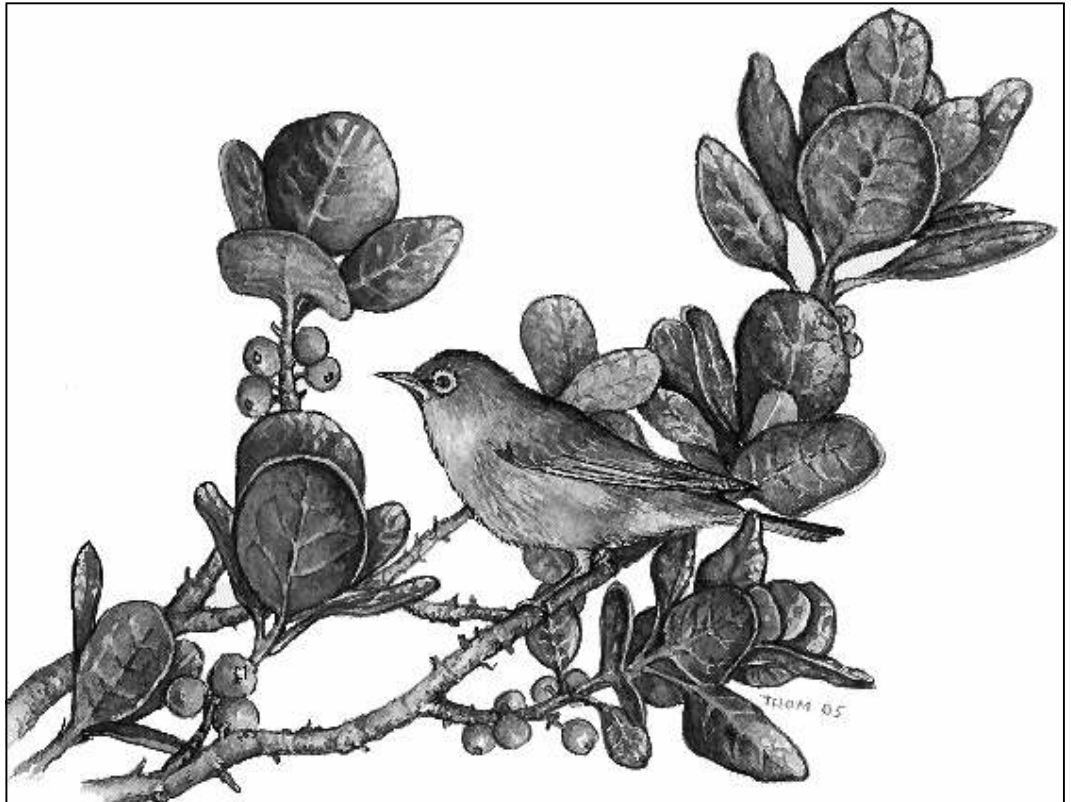
During winter the South African Red Hot Pokers, *Kniphofia praecox* 'Winter Cheer' provide a tempting tippie for bellbirds and silver-eyes. These small birds have mastered the art of balancing upside-down on the flower-heads to suck honey from the orange tubes.

Australian **gum trees** especially the winter-flowering *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* 'Rosea' and the summer-flowering scarlet *E. ficifolia* are favourite honey spots for tuis and bellbirds. At the beginning of August when the **Formosan cherry**, *Prunus campanulata*, is hung with cherry-coloured bells watch the tuis tumbling over each other to get at that tantalising cherry-blossom nectar.

No New Zealand garden seems complete without a **kowhai**, the native *Sophora*. The yellow flowers are lovely while they last but after two weeks or so they are usually gone - and so have the birds. So why not keep the birds in your garden by planting a succession of plants to provide food for the birds all through the year?

There are three different species of kowhai and a few varieties, so if you choose wisely you could

have kowhai trees coming into bloom from August to November. *Sophora microphylla*, a tall tree, flowers some time between August and October depending on the climate. In Christchurch a smaller variety *S. microphylla* var. *Longicarinata* flowers in October. *S. prostrata*, a small wiry shrub, comes into bloom late October to mid November. *S. tetraptera* is often seen blooming on the Central North Island hillsides from October to November. A smaller variety *S. tetraptera* 'Gnome' is noted for its large golden blooms. *S. 'Little Baby'*



is a low growing form with extra large, buttercup yellow flowers that come into bloom when the plant is only 30 cm high.

Along the Esplanade Nature Trail when you find a 2-3cm long reddish-purple fruit on the ground, look up and you may see the keruru, our native pigeon, feasting in the branches of the **tawa** tree. Look for the **kahikatea** tree at fruiting time and you'll see tui and bellbirds. The bright red and black fruit of the **titoki** attract blackbirds.

Let's not forget that the staple source of honey for the birds is our native flax, **harakeke** or *Phormium tenax*. Long may they grow in our wetlands!

~ **story: Rae Nicholls**

~ **illustration: Chris Thomassen**

Reference: L.J.Metcalf, The Cultivation of N.Z. Trees and Shrubs

~ The April and May Events Calendar ~

Tuesday 12 April~ 7:30 p.m.

**Branch Night at Te Manawa
“AGM and Quiz Night”**

The Annual General Meeting is your best chance to have input into Forest and Bird local priorities, shape next year’s committee (either by voting or being elected), see presentation of the branch service awards, and enjoy joining in or watching our teams Quiz Night for 2005. Quiz format is currently under top-secret development, but we guarantee it will be equally fun for contestants and observers alike!

Saturday 16 April~ 9:00 a.m.

**Work Party at Kitchener Park, Feilding
Trip Leader: Chris Thomasen 323 6876**

April 16th is the time for our annual workparty to Kitchener Park. Because Kitchener Park is lowland semi-swamp forest it was subject to severe flooding damage during last years floods. Although we saw damage like shingle and debris across regenerating seedlings and the board walk at the time of our workparty last year, major damage of dead trees, loss of rare plants and the infestation of weeds across previously cleared areas is now obvious. Kitchener Park needs our help, this is your chance to make a difference for this rare lowland forest in our own area!

Bring boots, gloves, tools (if you have them), and drinking water. Plan for 1/2 days work. Palmerston North car pool from PNCC carpark in Church Street across from NZ Post at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 24 April~

**Night spotting fish @ Kahuterawa Valley
Trip Leader: Alan Hawkins 323 0583**

Want to know the difference between the ‘short-jawed kokopu’ and an ‘upland bully’? Night fish spotting is the way! Join Alan and Russell Death (a freshwater streamlife guru from Massey University) on the expedition over Black Bridge and into the side streams looking for both NZ native and also exotic fish species.

Bring a torch, gumboots, and warm clothing. Meet an PNCC carpark at 7:00 p.m. for carpool, or 7:30 at Black Bridge at the end of Kahuterawa Road.

Weekend of 30 April / 1 May~

**Work Party at Te One
Trip Leader: Sally Pearce 359 4326**

Yes it’s hard work and yes it’s fun! You’re invited to come along and enjoy a weekend away in a lovely homestead set in native bush near Mangaweka, and lend a hand to our work party at the same time.

You’ll find the details in the story on page 8!

Tuesday 10 May~ 7:30 p.m.

**Branch Night in Friendly Feilding
Mark Carter~ “Makino Native Bush”**

The Makino area is typical New Zealand farmland, there are rolling hills, steeper gullies and flatter country near the Makino stream, sheep cattle, deer and even alpacas graze and a variety of fodder and grain crops are grown, it is highly modified from its original covering of mixed podocarp forest although some patches of native vegetation still remains along parts of the roadside, but there is also a secret in the Makino hills and we are going to see it. The 2005 Feilding meeting welcomes Mark Carter who will tell us about the surprising bush on his property on Mangaone road which we visit on 21st May. The bush is not the only thing we will learn about because you will find that Mark and Coby also produce their own sustainable energy for daily living!

Meeting is from 7:30 p.m. at St Paul’s Hall in Church Street, Feilding. Ring Alan Hawkins (06 323 0583) or Chris Thomasen (06 323 6876) for details. Anyone wanting to carpool from Palmerston North meet at the PNCC carpark in Church Street across from NZ Post at 7:00 p.m sharp.

Sunday 14 May~ 9:00 a.m.

**Work Party at Keebles Bush
Trip Leader: Donald Kerr 353 7631**

We’ve changed plans and will not go to Kopane as it says in the annual programme. Instead we’re off to Keebles for a day of plant pest eradication from this otherwise pristine bush reserve near Linton. Ring for details, plenty of work to go around!

Sunday 21 May~ 9:00 a.m.

**Visit to Makino Bush (Carter Property)
Trip Leader: Chris Thomasen 323 6876**

Having heard about this excellent local native bush area during branch night on the 10th, this is your chance for a look! Palmerston North people carpool from PNCC carpark in Church St; and meet the Feilding crowd 9:20 am at the parking area in Aorangi Road near the Railway Station in Feilding. It will take about 10 minutes to drive to the Carter property.

At the Carter property it is a good walk up and down hills until we reach the area at the back of the farm. The farm tracks go for some distance, so come prepared to walk with plenty of water and solid footwear. A 4WD or tractor ‘taxi’ from farmgate to bush patch is possible, but this is totally dependent on weather so best to be ready to walk the distance.

You will need strong footwear, boots or gumboots, there are no tracks as such in the bush. You will also need a lunch and plenty to water.

Festival of (Bird?!) Cultures

19 March we held a fun promotion at Festival of Cultures food fair in Palmerston North (and of course we ate some GREAT food!). This year we had the help of some visiting NZ native birds!

Kids and parents alike loved chatting with our feathered friends~ we tried not to ruffle any feathers!

With all that yummy food to eat~ we were sorry that no bird food was to be found!



Thank you to **Cool Kiwi** (Caroline, Viv, and Andrea), **Coy Kakariki** (Anthea), and **Terrific Tui** (Helen and Donald)

awesome!

Kev's "(t)Radical" New Rake

I'd like to tell you about my invention: the "tradical" weed rake for tradescantia! The tradical rake is basically a common garden rake with some pieces of garden hose stuck on every fourth prong. I've tested it heaps in the bush and was pleased with the results, so I thought I'd spread the word!

The idea with the rake isn't to get 100% of the traddie, it's to reduce the volume of it and facilitate the next stages of work (if appropriate) to eliminate the beast.

The key advantage of this rake is that it is very gentle on native seedlings and surface roots, riding over every thing from tiny seedlings to small plants up to 1/2 metre; whilst gobbling up the bulk of the tradescantia.

The effort required to adapt your old garden rake into a "tradical" rake is minimal, and with it you can do the work of 5 people, with only half the effort!! So what do you need to make your own?

1. A garden rake (doh!).
2. Cut 6 lengths of garden hose at twice the length of the rake prongs, cut one end at a 45 degree angle.
3. Drill a hole 1 cm from the blunt end of each piece.
4. Push the hose pieces onto the prongs, the blunt end with the hole near the top of the rake
5. Use nylon or similar to run through the holes and secure the hose pieces onto the 'backbone' of the rake.

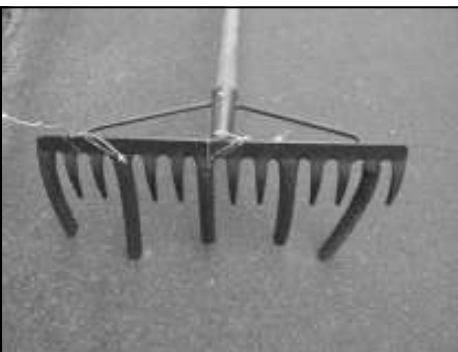
If all goes to plan, it should look a bit like the one pictured at the right. Worth its weight in gold when you go to do battle with the tradescantia!! Bring one along to Kitchener workparty in May!



Okay, so I busted my collarbone, and now I have a moment to tell you all a bit about weed control in local bush remnants, from the practical end of things! Tradescantia (wandering willie) is one of the greatest threats to our local bush patches, and it is difficult to control as it spreads easily by any fragment of the plant. Every bit of it grows, so to get 100% eradication is very challenging!

In order to think about traddie, I'll divide its infestations into 4 levels: (1) thick as, thigh height and above (yes it does get this bad!); (2) knee to thigh high, no native seedling, (3) ankle to knee high, some native seedlings, and (4) scattered to ankle high, plenty of native seedlings.

I've worked in all four levels, and I believe that to make significant headway a massive reduction in volume of the weed is the first requirement! If that is done, and the followup spray or hand-weeding is timely and thorough, the bush can



come away nicely. Basically for a work party then, a small number of people with "tradical" rakes will show up for the day, get stuck into the bulk of it, and once my collarbone is right I'll be back into it~ following up with the spraying and handweeding!

It is vital that serious infestations in ecologically important areas be controlled. Serious infestations smother seedlings, and with no seedling a native bush patch is simply dieing a slow death by attrition. Tradescantia control is a lot of work, but it is necessary to protect our very few and precious lowland native bush remnants! So get tradical!!!

~Kevin Wells

"Meet Mike"

20 April 2005

Wanganui Branch has secured Forest and Bird's new national General Manager **Mike Britton** to speak at their April branch night, and we are invited! This will be a great chance to meet the new GM, and hear his vision for the future of New Zealand's premier volunteer-based conservation society.

Meeting is Wednesday evening, 20 April, upstairs in the Wanganui Plunkett rooms near the Wanganui Public Library in Queens Square. Ring Val Benson (Wanganui Branch treasurer) on 06 345 0723 for details and directions.

KCC Coordinator's Meeting in the Catlins

On 11 March I traveled to Dunedin, to catch the once yearly, all districts Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) coordinator meeting. For any of you that haven't heard of KCC, it is the kiddies version of Forest and Bird, complete with a great activities programme and excellent nature education magazine!

This year's meeting was at the 'Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre' in the Catlins district, and was organized by the Dunedin KCC crew, and the main office gang of Ann, Hellen and Carol.

Day 1 The plane landed nicely in Dunedin, and luckily someone came and asked if I was part of the KCC trip, as I was slowly starting to wander in the wrong direction with my luggage, looking lost - looking out for KCC signs!! It was great to meet up with other KCC organisers.

We squashed up into a van, with luggage on our laps, and journeyed off to the 'Sinclair Wetlands' near the Dunedin airport. These wetlands are a dune swamp area of land that a person fenced off to save from being drained for farmland, which has happened to a widespread area of the surrounding land. Fern-birds, ducks and many native wetland plants are a major part of this area.

We did some work-shops, led by a trainer from the Association of Environmental Education, showing us fun and educational games

to use on trips and to help communicate conservation ethics to KCC children. After the workshop and tea we travelled further down south to the Catlins area, and unpacked at Tautuku.

Day Two started off with a workshop: talking, looking and sharing ideas while listening to KCC organisers of different districts. We got the opportunity to see the surrounding of Tautuku, and it looks lovely. The amount of native bird life is amazing; bell birds, tuis, woodpigeons, fantails, waxeyes galore! We then went on a tourist bus trip to 'Lake Wilkie' and 'Pounawea Bay'.

Lake Wilkie is a dune lake with a surrounding wetland forest. It has a board walk made extending out, over top of the dune lake into a centre view of the lake and wetland forest. Wonderful view and amazing forms of life! We then carried on to 'Pounawea Bay' and saw large male sea lions along the beach, relaxing away after a long sea hunt for food.

After lunch we journey down near 'Waikawa' and saw types of sea kelps and other sea life in that area - the scenery once again was wonderful, we actually bumped into an artist painting an area of the scene. While there we walked about, and spent time talking and joined in looking at how to involve KCC children on beach trips like the one we were on.

Day Three we packed our gear, cleaned our rooms, and set off for Dunedin. On the way we stopped off at the 'Purakaunui Falls' and had lunch. The water fall was an amazing, relaxing site made naturally by the flow of water and rocks. There was also a numerous amount of fungus's growing in the surrounding wetland forest, with a tomtit enjoying feasting away on the insect - it was a very friendly one, which didn't seem to mind us.

We carried onto 'Nugget Point' where we could first smell, then hear and at last see herds of sea lions and fur seals. The track going up to the lighthouse at 'Nugget Point' gave great scenes over looking the creatures, letting us see their life style of living. Great views of the surrounding areas as well - thanks to the great weather we received on the day.

The flight back to Palmerston North was nice, until once in the Manawatu the typical wind gave the welcoming blows to remind me I was home!

A big thank you to Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird for contributing towards trip costs, also thanks to the Dunedin crew and main office for organising such a great trip and making it on the date with such perfect weather!!

~Caroline Percy
KCC Coordinator for
Manawatu-Tararua

Te One Native Bush Restoration Update & Plans

Our summer work party visit to Te One was excellent fun, with heaps of progress on chopping, ring-barking and poisoning the invasive sycamore trees (weeds!) which threaten this rare bit of native bush in the Kawhatau valley, nestled in the western shadow of the Ruahine ranges.

The conservation plan is to rid all seeding and sapling sycamore trees from the half of the homestead property destined for QE II covenant status. The week-end work party in February certainly got us a good portion of the way toward the goal, with over 250 seeding trees poisoned.

In addition to the work, we enjoyed walking through the

bush remnant, staying in the beautiful colonial homestead, and of course heaps of good food and friendly company.

So where to from here? Mark your calendars now, in the week-end of **30 April / 1 May** we will continue our campaign against the sycamore weeds invading Te One native bush! This upcoming work party will focus on cutting down and poisoning the saplings that are too small to need drill-hole poisoning. Peter van Essen will also be along to fell some of the larger trees near the drive, so people are needed to help with that cleanup work as well.

Gear required: tough, waterproof gloves, loppers, pruning saws, and chainsaws. You will

also need warm and waterproof clothes (just in case), a sleeping bag, a pillow case, your own breakfasts and lunches, and food to share for an evening meal.

Give me a call on 3594326, or email sallypearce@yahoo.com, for further information. I need to know numbers interested in the work party by 22 April to allow for the work schedule setup and organization of transport and accommodation.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this great local conservation effort to date, we look forward to a fun and productive autumn workparty in the last weekend of April!

~Sally Pearce

Summer Activity Reporter

It's certainly been a summer (finally!) and for Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird it's been full of great trips, branch nights, and work parties. We can't fit in a full report on each trip~ instead a diary-style rundown follows:

8 Feb: Neil Webb from PNCC Civil Defence gives a vivid re-telling of the Feb '04 floods. This is the last public talk of Neil's long and distinguished career. 90 attend.

12/13 Feb: Work party at Te One native bush project. Story top of this page.

19 Feb: Twelve keen plant watchers visit Rangitikei Bush reserves, a pokaka is sighted!

20 Feb: Branch promotion at Esplanade Day, P. North

26 Feb: A bus chock full of keen bird watchers visit Karori Sanctuary in Wellington and the Otari Plant Reserve. Fantastic day for bird spotting.

8 March: Steve Pilkington gives an incredible talk / movie / slideshow on the amazing birdlife of the Snare Island group south of Stewart Island. 85 attend.

13 March: Kate Mitcalfe, environmental lawyer from Forest and Bird head office gives an excellent Resource Management Act workshop here in Palmerston North. Over 40 attend.

19 March: Branch promotion at Festival of Cultures (photo-essay pg. 5).

26 March: Dave Hamilton fills the boat to Kapiti Island Reserve to check out the spectacular bird and bush life on this special offshore island.

Easter Weekend: The usual suspects trundle off to occupy Ruapehu lodge for a fun week-end of botanising and birding on the Central Plateau.

Whew! With that much on, it has obviously been a huge team effort to make it all happen! THANK YOU to all trip organizers, speakers, and participants for making your summer programme a success!

First kiwi chick at Boundary Stream Mainland Island

DOC Press Release

11 March 2005

Department of Conservation (DOC) staff at Boundary Stream Mainland Island (BSMI) in northern Hawke's Bay are celebrating the arrival of the first kiwi chick to hatch in the reserve since intensive restoration work in the area commenced in 1996. The chick has been named "Makino", and is the offspring of two kiwi that were released into BSMI in early 2002 as part of Bank of New Zealand Kiwi Recovery's Operation Nest Egg. The chick was named after the area near to where its grand parents live in the Kaweka Forest Park.

Tamsin Ward-Smith, Team Leader at BSMI said that it is a fantastic milestone for the project, after hard work involving many people.

"It is especially good news after losing two breeding males last year," Ms Ward-Smith said. Kohu, the oldest male in the reserve was killed by a ferret at his nest in August 2004. His 50-day-old egg was disturbed during the attack and did not hatch. Just before Christmas 2004, another male kiwi, Mohaka, was killed by a dog only 50 metres from his nest site, just 50 metres off a main track.

Makino's parents, Marama (male) and Iwik (female) paired up in 2003. Their first nest which contained two infertile eggs failed, although this is not uncommon for an inexperienced first attempt. Marama was confirmed re-nesting in early December 2004. DOC Ranger Kahori Nakagawa said that this time Marama took very good care of the two eggs, not leaving the nest till late at night. If

a male kiwi does not leave his nest until late, this often indicates that one or both of the eggs are fertile. Kahori felt that this was a very good sign, but it meant some long nights in the bush, waiting for Marama to leave the nest for a break, so the eggs could be checked. When Marama's nest was checked, it was found to contain two fertile eggs – one approximately 70 days old and the other 40 days old.

"It is such a relief and we are all so happy that the first egg has hatched successfully and Makino is a beautiful healthy little chick, with gorgeous little eyes and funny toenails which are white at the tip," Ms Nakagawa said.

Kiwi were once numerous in the area but numbers rapidly declined with the loss of forest habitat and arrival of predators like stoats and cats. Since the establishment of the mainland island the 800 hectare reserve has been intensively managed to reduce predator numbers to the point where it is now a suitable place for species like kiwi to be reintroduced.

In 2000, DOC started work on re-establishing a kiwi population at Boundary Stream, releasing young birds into the reserve that had been sourced as eggs from nearby Kaweka Forest Park. The chicks were hatched and reared at Rainbow Springs in Rotorua, as part of Operation Nest Egg, and then released into the reserve when they weighed approximately one kilogram at about three to six months of age.

With North Island brown kiwi the male takes full responsibility for incubating the eggs, which

normally take around 80 days to hatch. The male leaves the nest each night for a few hours to feed and then returns again to incubate the eggs. The chicks hatch as miniature versions of their parents and for the first week live off a rich yolk sac stored inside their stomachs. After the yolk has been absorbed, they are ready to leave the nest and are completely independent of their parents, able to feed and find shelter for themselves, although often returning to the nest burrow for the first few weeks.

A tiny transmitter has been fitted to Makino's leg, so that his/her progress can be followed. At the same time, a feather sample was taken so that Makino's sex can be determined.

Including Makino, there are now nineteen kiwi living in BSMI. Most of them have reached breeding age, with some young pairs having laid infertile eggs last season. Staff are hoping that as these pairs are now more experienced, their nesting attempts may also be successful.

[**Editor's Note:** This outstanding success is result of many conservation professionals and volunteers working together, including a Herculean volunteer effort by the team at Napier Branch of Forest and Bird. Although Napier Forest and Bird has been acknowledged by DOC in other press releases, there were overlooked here. From Manawatu Branch: Hats off to everyone involved, and especially to those volunteers from Napier Branch involved in this inspiring and ongoing success story~ keep up the great work!]

will you win the April word search contest?

- **Theme:** Birds of the Manawatu Estuary~ over 80 species visit or live there, you only need find the 24 listed below.
- **Goal:** Find all these birds of the Estuary and enter the prizewin!
- **Hint:** Search words are hidden in all directions!
- **Prize:** the excellent estuary information and education resource CD-ROM 'Manawatu Estuary', created in 2004 by the Manawatu Estuary Trust.

L N L L Y C R R F R F S Z C
 L A G E R F E G A X T P I V
 I D E A R L H P U P J O A B
 B R K T E E C W I L G O D I
 Y E B V U G T T V N L N R T
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 E S D T V G O D W I T M T O
 R X N S A N D P I P E R V S

Species List:

- X bittern
- __crake
- __dotterel
- __fernbird
- __godwit
- __gull
- __heron
- __knot
- __oystercatcher
- __plover
- __sanderling
- __sandpiper
- __shag
- __shoveler
- __snipe
- __spoonbill
- __stilt
- __stint
- __tattler
- __teal
- __tern
- __turnstone
- __whimbrel
- __wrybill

My details (please print)

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

City _____

The Fine Print:

Entry deadline 1 May 2005

Post entries to: Manawatu Forest and Bird, Attn: Prize Draw, PO Box 961, P. North

Correct entries will go into a prize draw for a Manawatu Estuary CD-ROM

Winner's name to be drawn at the May branch night

Winner's name to be published in the June / July edition of the Twig and Tweet Gazette