

A newsletter for people who enjoy walking in North Shore bush reserves.

Recent Bush Walk & Talk

On Sunday 16th October we explored Albany Scenic Reserve from the corner of Gills Rd, Lonely Track and Albany Heights to Wright Rd. The Wright Rd end is where kauri dieback disease has killed a number of mature trees. It looks like about 30 more trees are dying. The largest kauri in the reserve is well away from the diseased area, but is now fenced off to prevent foot traffic around its base. Kauri dieback is spread through the soil.



Base of large kauri in Albany Scenic Reserve, 2005. Photo by Judie Sinclair.

Other notable aspects of this area are kumerahou, climbing rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*), tangle fern and neinei (grass tree).

Next Bush Walk & Talk series

On 14th November we begin *BWT After Work* (three walks on Mondays). To enrol, please phone or email Kaipatiki Project. Bookings are essential. The price is \$10.00 each. The two-hour walks start at 6pm.

Nov 14	Kauri Point Centennial Park
Nov 21	Chatswood Reserve
Nov 28	Kauri Glen Reserve & Cecil Eady

BWT After Work will be offered again in February.

2011-12 Summer programme

The Discovery Walks summer programme has been running since 2005. The local morning walks start at 8.30am; evening walks start at 6pm. The 2011-12 summer programme of eight trips starts on Weds December 28 and ends on Sat January 21. Some trips (eg Tawhitokino and Tawharanui) will take a lot more than two hours. Best to allow most of the day, in fact!

Weds Dec 28	Manurewa: Peretao Rise, Hillcrest Grove and Banyan Drive
Sat Dec 31	Tawhitokino, beyond Kawakawa Bay
Mon Jan 2	Oakley Creek Walkway, Waterview
Sat Jan 7	Mathesons Bay, Leigh
Tues Jan 10	Cambria Reserve followed by Mt Victoria
Sat Jan 14	Tawharanui
Weds Jan 18	Exeter Res, Unsworth Reserve & Palm Hill
Sat Jan 21	Auckland Domain (includes pa site, winter garden and bush tracks)

The price is \$25 for all eight trips (pre-paid), or \$5 per outing. We'll carpool as much as possible. Do email me for a full programme if you're interested.

Botanical Gardens trip

Is anyone interested in checking out Sculpture in the Gardens (and a bush walk) at the Botanical Gardens in Manurewa? I'm keen to go on Sunday 13th November, leaving home at 1pm or thereabouts. Please contact me asap if you're keen.

Hanging spleenwort (makawe)

This lovely fern is one of the Aspleniums. It is often seen growing on dead ponga. When you touch makawe, it feels like plastic.

Join us soon for a pleasant stroll in the bush, and learn about North Shore's natural heritage. Explore 30 different bushy areas for two hours.

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Asplenium flaccidum is common in North Shore bush reserves. Photo by Philip Moll.

Waitakere Ranges track closures

A number of tracks are closed till December 12 to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease. If you are planning a trip, contact Arataki Visitors Centre to check on their status.

Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand *Tiaki Taiao* (F&B)

Attend Forest & Bird's public meetings to learn more about our natural heritage, go on trips and participate in local conservation projects. Public meetings of the North Shore branch are on the first Monday evening (7.30pm) each month from February to December, in the Senior Citizens Hall behind Takapuna Library. **You do not have to be a member of F&B to attend.** Entry is by donation, to help cover costs.

On 7th November we will view Pat Baskett's Nicotine Bees DVD. Pat is a local F&B member who has researched the reasons for decline in bee populations overseas. One of the causes is thought to be a new type of

insecticide called a neonicotinoid. Pat will present her research, followed by a compelling DVD on bee colony collapse in the USA.

F&B is a great way to contribute to conservation in NZ, especially if you don't have time to do trips or cannot be involved in working bees.

See www.forestandbird.org.nz for info and to join. The membership fee is \$57. There are many advantages to being a member: field trips near and far; discounts on accommodation in F&B lodges around NZ; informative monthly meetings (four Auckland branches to choose from); four excellent magazines a year, full of info about developments in conservation both in NZ and overseas; association with other environmentally minded people.

For more info on local activities and projects go to www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/north-shore

Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC)

F&B has had a children's arm for more than 22 years. KCC now has over 16,000 members throughout New Zealand who receive *Wild Things* magazine five times a year. Written by Ann Graeme with cartoon-like illustrations by Tim Galloway, the *Wild Things* magazines make topics like wild rivers, marine reserves and worms fun as well as informative for kids.

KCC membership is \$19 per child. Add \$5 for each extra child in the family. Schools can also join for \$74 per class. Phone 0800 200 064 or join online at www.kcc.org.nz

Parents or guardians accompany their child(ren) on outings. Monthly trips are offered, mostly in the greater Auckland area. A newsletter detailing trips is distributed to member families three times a year.

There is a *Discover Your Own Back Yard* programme which includes bug hunts and bush walks on the North Shore. We believe it is important to show our local KCC families the wonderful places they can

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explore not far from home, and projects they can involve themselves in.

We have camps too. Our most recent one was in the Tongariro National Park area. It rained and rained but we did get to the snow eventually.

If you have a child (or grandchild) and wish to encourage them into nature, do consider a subscription. You would be contributing to the making of a conservationist! The first KCC members have entered the workforce, having finished their tertiary education.

Auckland Botanical Society (ABS or Bot Soc)

If you wish to further your study of wild plants, ABS is a good place to start. Membership is only \$35.00. I joined last year and have learned such a lot. Their fabulous day trips are on the third Saturday each month between February and November.

They also run camps further afield. We are going to Mayor Island for Anniversary weekend.

The next field trip, on November 12, is the Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway to Bream Tail.

For details see www.sites.google.com/site/aucklandbotanicalsociety

Tongariro Natural History Society (Project Tongariro)

For those of you who enjoy visiting Tongariro National Park at any time of year, consider checking out this community group that was established in 1982, following a helicopter crash which killed all five occupants on the Turoa side of Mt Ruapehu.

TNHS, or Project Tongariro, supports DoC in the central North Island area. Their flagship project is Lake Rotopounamu, beneath Mt Pihanga. There, native bird monitoring and extensive predator control are carried out.

Supporters are now encouraged to adopt a hectare of land around the lake, for the price

of \$100, instead of paying an annual subscription.

Not only does Project Tongariro offer members trips in many parts of NZ, as well as volunteer projects in the park, they are involved in Tussock Traverse, a community fund-raising event which sees hundreds of participants running west across the area between Mt Ruapehu and Mt Ngauruhoe in January.

For more info and photos go to www.tongariro.org.nz

Happy walking!

Margi



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