



## Summer Newsletter 2020

*"Biodiversity starts in the distant past and it points toward the future".  
Frans Lanting*

### Kia Ora,

What a busy summer it has been..... We have been lucky enough to work alongside Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the University of Waikato to secure a summer school student over the university summer holidays - read more about her work below. 'Bug Man' joined us at the Waipātiki BioBlitz in early February and we are excited about the amazing work being undertaken to protect and enhance the long-tailed bat population in Central Hawke's Bay. As always, we couldn't do the work we do without the input of our membership, and in this edition, we are excited to celebrate the achievements of our Platinum Sponsor, the Hawke's Bay Airport.

#### 'Bug Man' kicks off a weekend of discovery at Waipātiki.

Over 170 big kids, little kids, scientists and enthusiasts converged on Waipātiki Domain over the weekend of 1-2 February to discover and count numerous species of fauna and flora as part of the Waipātiki BioBlitz.

For many budding environmentalists, Ruud



Kleinpaste, aka 'Bug Man' was the highlight of the weekend. Ruud set the scene for the event at the opening session and continued to wow kids and adults alike with his knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for all things living in the natural world around us.

Ruud was joined by ecologists and scientists from Hawke's Bay Regional Council, DOC, Te Papa, EIT, Landcare Trust, Plant HB, the National Aquarium and more.

It was great to see so many Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Guardians at Waipatiki over the weekend, as well as so many interested locals.

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers to helped to make the bioblitz the success it was. Watch this space for final numbers and species identification from the weekend.

#### Uni student's research helps conservation efforts in Hawke's Bay

Trying to help restore indigenous biodiversity in the Hawke's Bay is a big task, but university student Courtney Tregurtha-Nairn was up for the challenge.

As part of a ten-week summer research programme run by the University of Waikato, Courtney worked with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Biodiversity Hawke's Bay to refine the Ecosystem Prioritisation layer that prioritises the remaining indigenous vegetation for protection in the region, and to help establish a regional biodiversity hub.

Courtney worked on establishing a concept for a regional biodiversity hub for Biodiversity Hawke's Bay, which involved literature review, analysis of what other regions are doing and conducting interviews.

The information Courtney gathered was then used to gauge the types of resources and services that a regional hub might provide to support community conservation groups to be able to undertake local conservation projects.

#### Farewell Richard Riddell, Trustee



Farewell and thank you to Richard Riddell for the service and input you have given to Biodiversity Hawke's Bay.

Ngā mihi maioha

## Local eco-legends share their biodiversity successes in Wairoa

Wairoa was the centre for biodiversity in Hawke's Bay on 9 November last year, hosting the second annual Biodiversity Hawke's Bay BioBuzz and Forum event.

Biodiversity enthusiasts from all over Hawke's Bay and local experts from Wairoa came together for a day of education, engagement and connection – a great opportunity to celebrate achievements by the Wairoa community.



The day got underway at Rangihoua / Pilot Hill, which gave a great view of the whole Whakamahia Lagoon, and then moved down to the beach where stories of the local area were shared, as well as insights into local issues and successes.

Local eco-legend, Katarina Kawana gave the group some hands-on experience of catching and measuring tuna (eel), how to tell the difference between short finned and long finned eel, and the challenges tuna face in today's world.



The afternoon session showcased local "Eco Gems", with highlights including knowledge sharing around the number and variety of dragonflies on the Snellings property and the Whangawehi catchment group's amazing work. The day closed with the opportunity to experience the thrill and wonder of hearing a matuku /Australasian bittern boom in the early evening.

The event is supported by the Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Bay Tours and Charters, Plant Hawke's Bay, QEII Trust, and Enviroschools.

## Ngā Pekapeka o Ngā Motu Rākau o Ruataniwha: Protecting and Enhancing Long-Tailed Bat Populations in Central Hawke's Bay

*Written by Kay Griffiths, The Conservation Company*

It has been the most amazing eight weeks over December 2019 and January 2020, and we are a bit sad it has come to an end! The experience of working with a couple of awesome bat ecologists, actually catching bats, putting transmitters on and finding out where they have got their communal roosts has been incredibly rewarding, and full on!!



Preliminary results suggest two colonies with maternity roosts based around Puahanui Bush (Tikokino area) one in the western end and one in the eastern end, each with around 40 -50 breeding females. We have also identified at least two colonies in the A'Deane's / Ashley Clinton / Makaretu / Tukituki area that are using many of the small areas of remnant bush, and some are also roosting right up the Tukituki within the Ruahine Forest Park.

The really good news is that many of the maternity roosts are within core predator and rat control areas. We will be working with landowners and councils to identify management options for areas that are not. The widescale possum control initiated by HBRC and maintained by landowners will have been helping these populations too.

This is so much more than we expected to find out with our "small" study. It's pretty cool to have these tiny critically endangered critters living all around us, and for the most part not even knowing they are there! Follow the project with video and photos up on [Friends of A'Deane's Bush Facebook page](#).

*This project is facilitated through Biodiversity HB and funded through DOC Community Fund and WWF Community Conservation Fund.*

## Hawke's Bay Airport achieves first step towards carbon neutral status

Hawke's Bay Airport has succeeded in its first step towards carbon neutrality, gaining Level 1 of the internationally recognised Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

Hawke's Bay Airport chief executive Stuart Ainslie said the airport has completed the mapping stage of the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation programme and is well underway to becoming New Zealand's first carbon neutral airport.

"We are very pleased to gain Level 1 as we work towards realising our aspiration to be New Zealand's most sustainable and innovative airport."

The programme independently assesses and recognises the efforts of airports to manage and reduce carbon emissions through 4 levels of certification - Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation and Neutrality. Two other New Zealand airports – Palmerston North and Christchurch have also joined the programme along with around 300 others from around the world

With the mapping stage now complete, the focus moves to reduction and optimisation. Since it began tracking its emissions the airport has already seen a noticeable improvement due largely to design improvements delivered by the redeveloped terminal.

Whilst it's early days, the new building is already delivering some impressive results in terms of energy efficiency. In January our electricity usage was down significantly on the year prior, due largely to LED lighting and efficient cooling systems being operational in the new arrivals and departures halls. We expect this trend to continue beyond completion of the project at the end of the year."

The airport will be moving to a carbon neutral certified energy supplier and is currently undertaking due diligence on a large-scale renewable energy solar farm onsite, which Mr Ainslie said will greatly contribute towards carbon neutral status. There are also plans to incorporate carparks for EV's and charging provision and parking for E bikes.

Mr Ainslie said the Airport Board has committed to an ambitious Sustainability Framework which is underpinned by the four key pillars of financial return, environmental excellence, social responsibility and operation efficiency.

"Our aim is to be New Zealand's most sustainable airport and our framework is at the forefront of us achieving this. It anchors our medium- and long-term strategic imperatives and provides the foundations to our updated masterplan that will be released for public comment over the coming months. Sustainability will be at the heart of everything we do."

### Proceeds from fundraising calendar to Te Mata Park

Mahora School student artists helped raise \$1200 for plant conservation at Te Mata Park this year. Their paintings of native plants are on a fund-raising calendar organised by Mahora School teacher Nicky Dawson and Plant Hawke's Bay owner Marie Taylor.



*Many people across Hawke's Bay are already doing great things to protect and restore our biodiversity - together we can do more.*

**Ka kite anō**



**Biodiversity Hawke's Bay**

[www.biodiversityhb.org](http://www.biodiversityhb.org)

