



FRIMLEY PARK in Hastings makes for a lovely destination for anyone wanting to take time out and literally, 'smell the roses'. The featured rose is the delicious sounding *Strawberries and Cream* looking its best.



The 19.34 hectare park was gifted to the people of Hastings by the Williams family in 1951 and was formerly the grounds for the family's impressive homestead, built around 1894 which had sadly burned to the ground in 1950.

The Hastings Rose Society offered to provide roses if the council would create a rose garden and a design based on Kew Gardens was constructed in 1965. The rose garden was officially opened on 26 November 1967 and there are now some 5,500 colourful roses of all varieties and types planted in an English-style, formal setting.

An annual 'Rose Day' is held during November when the roses are looking blooming gorgeous and this popular event attracts many locals who come along to enjoy a relaxed picnic in the well-kept parkland.



There are some extremely large, old trees throughout the park. A paved pathway leads through to the large rose garden, with rose beds located around an octagonal pavilion which was officially opened in 2012. There are seats under cover here, so that visitors can relax and enjoy vistas of the many colourful flower beds and take in the perfumed scent that permeates through the garden.



The park also has sports fields catering for football and cricket, a picnic area with tables, a petanque court (BYO boules), and an upgraded playground.



The play area close to Frimley Road has been specially designed to suit all children, including those with limited mobility. Youngsters are drawn into different play zones through the use of brightly-coloured astroturf which separates each area. The vibrant use of colour and textured surfacing is also designed to help those with poor vision or learning disabilities. Play equipment includes bongo drums, talk tubes, a wheelchair-friendly roundabout, swings, slides, a rope climb and scooter path.



Adjacent to the park is the Frimley Aquatic Centre. This is a three-pool outdoor complex, which is open during the summer months. It features Hawke's Bay's only 50-metre pool and an adjacent grandstand, as well as having a learner and toddler pool.



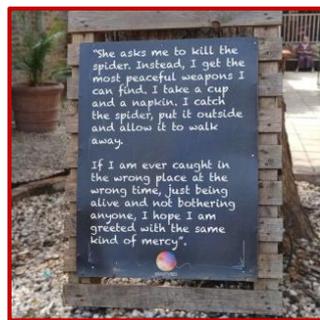
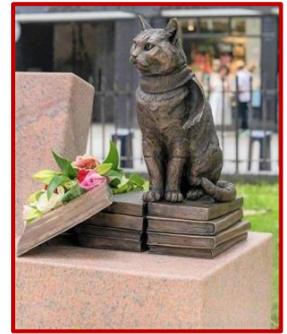
When I visited last January, there were lifeguards in attendance and I saw many families enjoying a picnic under the welcome shade of mature trees, making the most of yet another perfect summer's day.

Pool Prices: Children under 5, \$1; Children 5 - 17, \$4; Adults \$5; Pensioners \$4; Spectators \$1

MOTIVATIONAL MOGGIE: A series of best-selling books and a hugely successful film called *A Street Cat Named Bob* record how a stray ginger cat helped save the life of a troubled young man, living in London, who was a heroin addict.

James Bowen's life changed for the better when he found and adopted an injured cat he named Bob in 2007. The pair became inseparable and well-known on the streets as James busked for a living and Bob went with him. James credits Bob for providing the motivation for him to quit his drug habit.

Sadly, Bob died in 2018 after being hit by a car. Last year a bronze life-sized statue immortalising him was unveiled in Islington Green. James told the BBC that Bob, *"Provided strength, friendship and inspiration,"* adding that, *"He enriched my life from the moment I met him. He saved me and he touched the lives of millions, providing optimism to people across the world."* James hopes that the statue will show that everyone deserves a second chance.



GOOD CHOICE: Some messages on billboards resonate more than others and I thought this one outside a café was particularly pertinent, given the terrible times we live in. A humane decision by one person can mean the difference between life and death for another, be it a human, an animal or an insect.

The text is a bit small to read, so here is what it says... *'She asks me to kill the spider. Instead, I get the most peaceful weapons I could find. I take a cup and a napkin. I catch the spider, put it outside and allow it to walk away. If I am ever caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, just being alive and not bothering anyone, I hope I am greeted with the same kind of mercy.'*

SAVE THE DOTTERELS HAWKE'S BAY: A report and photos from Birds NZ secretary, Lynne Anderson.



The endemic Banded Dotterel (Pohowera) is a small, shore-nesting plover with a DOC status of 'At Risk/Declining'. Well-camouflaged eggs are laid among the stones on beaches between July and January, a time when the birds are very vulnerable to predators and disturbance.



When the chicks hatch they are balls of fluff on fast legs! They feed themselves but are guided by the parents as to where to find food. The parents stay close by and give an alarm call if danger approaches. Incubation takes four weeks and then, six weeks later, the chicks fledge and fly off.



This season, volunteers are monitoring two local sites; the stretch of beach adjacent to the walkway between Bayview and Westshore and also at Clive/Waipureku. At the Bayview site we have had at least fourteen nests and two nests have been identified at Westshore. When a nest is identified, it is roped off to keep vehicles and quad bikes away.



Napier City Council has also erected a 300 metre-long post and wire fence in that location. However, to date, it appears that many chicks have been lost - maybe due to inclement weather in October and some chicks were probably lost to natural predators such as black-backed gulls and harriers. There is also a lot of disturbance on the beach which stresses the birds and diminishes their chance of survival. Dotterels have evolved to protect themselves against aerial predators, not introduced threats, such as dogs, cats, vehicles and humans.

These little birds have many challenges and dangers to cope with and, sadly, not many chicks fledge. Last season in Kaikoura, where they have been monitoring for many years, from forty six nests only two chicks fledged. They really need our support! Check out our Facebook page.

How can you help? If you see a roped off nest, stay well away; walk below the high-tide mark (although better to stay off beaches during this time as the chicks feed down at the water line); avoid walking through the nesting area, which is above the high tide mark; please keep your dog on a short lead and off the beach during the nesting period; no vehicles or quad bikes on beaches please - especially not above the high-tide mark and, finally, please keep your cat inside at night. Cameras have shown that domestic cats have been responsible for the predation of many chicks in both Eastbourne and Kaikoura. You'll be surprised how far your moggy roams at night!



PICTURE PERFECT

The attractive little silvereye (also known as the waxeye) has been featured before, but I thought it could be again, as I was lucky enough to snap this cheery little personality recently as it was darting about feasting on a cherry tree on the lawn with lots of its friends.

All credit to my new camera, as I just set it on the 'point and shoot' mode and it did the rest.

Of course, patience is required and a dozen other pics were deleted as these wee birds don't sit still and pose but I hope this 'moment in time' captured may encourage other keen amateur photographers to give it a go.

The silvereye colonised New Zealand from Australia in the 1850s, and is now one of our most abundant and widespread bird species. It is found throughout the country, offshore and on outlying islands, occurring in most vegetated habitats, including suburban gardens, farmland, orchards, woodlands and forests.

For more information about the silvereye and other natives go to:- <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz>



SEABIRD RESTORATION PROJECT: In preparation for the next ten years of development, the fenced, predator-proof, 'Seabird Site' at Ocean Beach will be extended to accommodate colonies of additional species which will be established there through chick translocation and to protect titi/grey-faced petrel that are nesting both inside and outside the existing Seabird Site.

Volunteers are wanted to help with a myriad of jobs which include building nesting burrows, planting/creating seabird habitat and feeding chicks. If you'd like to volunteer your time for any of the many tasks which need doing, just e-mail:- volunteer@cape-sanctuary.co.nz More info @ https://mcusercontent.com/.../Cape_Sanctuary_Seabird...



WELCOME HOME! Around fifty people attended the 'Welcome the Godwits' event held on 8 October which was organised by the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society and Birds New Zealand. Bernie Kelly, Bird NZ's Hawke's Bay's Regional Representative, gave a short talk about these amazing birds and the incredible migrations they undertake year after year. The eager participants then walked down to the Westshore Scrapes to view over 100 godwits roosting up at high tide.



The bar-tailed godwit breeds in Alaska; after breeding in about September and when the juveniles are about 3-4 months old, they fly non-stop to various mud flat locations around New Zealand, where they spend the next six months fattening up and moulting into their breeding plumage.



Come March, they will depart again for another mammoth flight to the Yellow Sea where they have a 'fuel stop' for six weeks or so before embarking on the final leg of their migratory journey back to their breeding grounds in Alaska. The longest recorded non-stop flight is 11 days.

In 2020 at Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, several godwits were tagged with satellite transmitters so that their exact journeys could be tracked. If you are interested to follow the journeys of



these amazing birds and for regular updates, go to the Shorebird's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MirandaShorebirdCentre> Thanks to Lynne Anderson for the info and great photos.



WILDLIFE WELL-BEING: It's fantastic to know that there is a modern, world-class wildlife rehabilitation centre in Palmerston North - a facility that is open to the public and well worth visiting next time you're heading that way.

Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery is a specialised wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education centre, located in the

city's Victoria Esplanade. The centre is a successful collaboration between Massey University and Palmerston North City Council, along with key partners including the Department of Conservation and Rangitāne o Manawatū.

The centre connects generations of people directly with the conservation of some of New Zealand's most endangered species. It provides shelter and care to a range of native wildlife during their recovery after treatment at Massey University's Wildbase Hospital.



The facility is made up of fourteen specially designed rehabilitation aviaries for patients (like the kākā, left), a walkthrough aviary housing tuatara and a variety of resident ambassador native birds, two breeding aviaries for the endangered whio (blue duck) and pāteke (brown teal) and the Powerco Education Centre.



Every bird or animal at Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery is an ambassador for their species and the challenges facing them in the wild. Since opening in 2019, 276 patients have been released back into the wild.



The Powerco Education Centre is an exciting learning environment to explore, catering for all levels, from pre-school through to high school and beyond. By incorporating te reo Māori, the Education Centre becomes a place of learning for everyone. The centre offers Education Programmes for free, as well as private tours for a small cost.



This amazing place provides the community with a conservation education experience like no other. Locals, visitors, schools and community organisations all have the opportunity to see conservation in action - and learn how they can make a difference to the future of New Zealand's native wildlife.



Volunteers are a vital part of the success at Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery. They provide valuable support both behind the scenes and front facing with the public. To find out more about the centre, please visit:- <https://wildbaserecovery.co.nz> Or you can email:- info@wildbaserecovery.co.nz for further information about



volunteering, opening hours and tour bookings. (NB. The centre is closed temporarily, check first).

Good News! Recently, the Port of Napier reported that a really popular former patient, a kororā (little blue penguin) which had been rehabilitated at the centre following surgery for a fractured humerus at Wildbase Hospital and released back to the port in January 2021, had returned to the sanctuary this year for the first time since her release.



If you're aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke's Bay, please let me know and I'll be happy to follow it up:- jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com



"For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver."

Martin Luther

