



Newsletter

Issue: 65

April 2011

Friends of Flora AGM

Please put this date in your diaries. **May 25th at Community House, Decks Reserve, Motueka, 7:30 pm.**

It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

Every year we have a very interesting guest speaker, and this year is no exception. We have our very own Sandy and Robin Toy – our kiwi monitors. They will give an overview on 'our' kiwi, from their release - to where they are now.

Special Meeting

FoF held a special meeting earlier this month (as advertised in last month's issue), with the subject being '**A discussion evening about pest control – why it is necessary, and the toolkit available.**' Harry Broad – DOC Pest Control Advocacy Coordinator, and DOC scientist Graeme Elliot, were our guest speakers.

It was pleasing to see such a good turnout of FoF volunteers, for this meeting. It was a very interesting evening, with two very passionate and enthusiastic speakers. Following their separate

talks, with Power Point presentations, was a range of interesting questions from our group. Harry and Graeme were happy to oblige in a round of discussion on each of the questions. We hope our volunteers found the evening informative, and left the meeting with a greater understanding of the pest control methods currently being used by DOC throughout the country – and why.

Thanks to Harry and Graeme for accepting our invitation to speak at this special meeting.

Kiwi update – Sandy and Robin Toy

Just when we thought the kiwi monitoring was becoming predictable with the birds having developed good tight territories over the summer, a couple of females have got itchy feet and have wandered. Anaweka has moved some 3 km over into the top of the Pearse catchment, leaving Anatori in the lurch. This is a concern given the vertiginous nature of the country over there. She is still within the predator controlled area but right on its edge. Rameka is heading in the same direction so there'll be some lonely males at the western end of the Flora! We have increased the frequency of monitoring these two females.

Great spotted kiwi are thought to have territories of about 1 km² and our birds have been conforming to this, so these recent movements suggest the territories and pair bonding may not be consolidated. Normally it is sub-adult kiwi that wander long distances, sub-adult North Island Browns were monitored as dispersing >10 km from their natal area in the Moehau Kiwi Sanctuary, Coromandel and one bird dispersed 48 km! But we've heard that adult GSK have wandered several kilometres in Nelson Lakes and then come back, so Rameka and Anaweka's movements may not be anything out of the ordinary. The only problem will be if they get into the Pearse since retrieving them will be a mission!

Sandy will be talking about kiwi relocation including our project at the OSNZ meeting on 2/5/2011 and Robin will be on the radio on 29 April pushing the dogs and kiwi don't mix message.

It was disappointing to encounter another dog in the park very close to Anaweka. The good news was that it was a busy Sunday and after we'd had a go at the owner we spoke to several members of the public who told us they'd also berated the dog's owners. The message that dogs kill kiwi makes sense to most people, but one idiot could do so much damage.

American Ecology Group

Earlier this month, 14 American Ecology students and their three leaders – Esther, Dan and Mike – spent 3-days in the Cobb/Tablelands area with FoFers Lesley and Maryann. The group comes from 'Wildlands Studies', which is an international environmental field study programme. On their New Zealand tour (6 weeks), they like to do volunteer work for projects such as Friends of Flora, and also DOC projects. We had the pleasure of one of their groups last year, when they put the first of our Tablelands 'D line' in. This year they monitored 'D line' from the last station on the Cobb Ridge, down to Balloon Hut on the Tablelands, plus they put in the remaining 'eraze 8' wires, and they also laid out traps on 'X' and 'Y' lines. We were thrilled with the effort they all put in, and also the amount of study which is involved in their programme. These students will be going back to the US with a far greater understanding of NZ's natural ecology, than most NZers know. A job well done, and with a great deal of enthusiasm!

A big thank you to each and everyone of the group, and we wish them well for their future in ecology.

We would also like to thank DOC Golden Bay, for allowing us the usage of both the Cobb staff house and the Hostel.



Wildlands Study group with FoF volunteer Lesley, on the right



Emily with her 'D' line stoat catch, with Deep Creek behind her and Mt Arthur in the far distance



The Nelson/Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust Inc is celebrating 20 years of service in our area. One of the money raising events they are holding is '20 Summits for 20 years'. They have picked 20 summits within the area, and on certain dates, starting Sunday May 22, they are asking people who would like to join them, to climb one (or all) of the summits over the next 3 months, for a small cost. They would love the community to get involved in this.

They are also looking for volunteers, from anyone who has experience with any of these 20 summits, to help with safety etc, who would like to walk with the group doing one of these summits.

This is such a worthy Trust for us to help. In our area they are walking to the summit of Mt Arthur on May 29, Gordon's Pyramid on July 31 and Mt Lodestone on August 21.

If anyone would like to know more, or offer their time as a volunteer, please contact Paula Muddle at: paula@helirescue.co.nz

March catch results

Stoats = 4
Rats = 18
Mice = 2
Possums = 4

**Final reminder of the FoF AGM
Wednesday May 25
Community House, Decks Reserve, Motueka
At 7:30 pm
Our committee looks forward to seeing you
there!**

What's that plant – *Celmisia sessiliflora*

There are many species of general Flora area. One which is tops is sessiliflora. A highly hard, greenish-grey cushions. The flower sits directly on the leaves. – Sessile translates as 'without a

Sessiliflora's are widespread in and Stewart Islands, subalpine to generally in short snow tussock-



Celmisia's (or mountain daisies) in the commonly seen on the open tussock branched 'sub shrub' forming dense, flowers are so short; it looks as if the Sessiliflora means 'With sessile flowers' stork'.

mountainous regions throughout South high-alpine: 700 – 1,800m. Its habitat is herbfields on permanently damp sites.

Until next time...

Maryann
On behalf of the Friends of Flora Team

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