



January-February, 2019 Newsletter

Kia Ora Kaitiaki o te Aotearoa,

Welcome to the very first newsletter of Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa! This is our way of staying in touch with our members and the wider kaitiaki network, supporting sustainable conservation and collective activism.


We've made this first newsletter, which will usually be reserved for members only, available to the wider community to let you all know who we are and what we are about - in hopes that you too might like to join us and support our work. In this issue we will share a bit more about our vision, what we've been working on and where we are going!



Earth Before Politics?

Over the last few years it has become quite obvious that something has gone terribly wrong in the world of environmental groups. The traditional environmental groups that we have come to know and respect (*Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, WWF*) have changed their tune, from one of *earth before politics*, to a *contradictory mire of poison advocacy*. While these groups still claim to be a voice for the environment, it seems there is very little integrity left in their words and actions. Because of this, we are in desperate need of brave new voices. *Voices that recognize the rights and inherent value of ALL living beings, especially the planet we live on.* This is why Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa was born. To be one of those voices and to encourage and support ALL the voices that step into the true space of Kaitiakitanga.

Welcome...!!

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- *an environment free of pollution and cruel and inhumane toxins*
 - *the rights of water and all flora and fauna, native and non-native*
 - *sustainable and regenerative environmental management*

Our Vision

We have a collective vision for an Aotearoa where all life is respected; where our environment is free of pollution, and cruel and inhumane poisons; where the rights of water and all flora and fauna, native and non-native are recognized, and where we employ the wisdom of sustainable and regenerative land management. It's a BIG vision! But there is no question about whether it is what we want. Right now, we're seeing our country being pulled and pushed down a path that directly contradicts these values. Many of us hold these values to be self-evident. We have held them dearly, close to our hearts, but now we are being asked to do more, to be more. We are being asked to share our kaitiakitanga with each other and with others who have not found it yet!

There are three main areas that we plan to work on in 2019.

- *Referendum on Cruel and Inhumane Poisons*
- *Rights of Nature - Water & Flora & Fauna*
- *Support the Formation of the Kaitiaki Sustainable Conservation Network*

Board of Trustees

Currently there are three Founding Trustees. As the group establishes we will be adding two to four additional trustees.



Di Maxwell

Di is a long-time advocate for the environment and the people of the Far North. She spent 9 years as a Councillor in the Far North District Council working for positive change for the Northland region and now dedicates her time to encouraging change at a grass-roots community level. She has a post graduate degree in Sustainable Leadership and is also the founder and Chairman of The Far North Resilient Communities Charitable Trust. The Trust has been working on sustainable conservation social enterprise models to eliminate the use of poisons and make use of local resources and provide jobs.



Asha Andersen

I have been passionate about the natural world and all its treasures since childhood and I am grateful to have the opportunity to use my skills in media and campaigns to further the goals of Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa. I look forward to working with other dedicated changemakers across Aotearoa to create a brave new voice for all creatures great and small, including humans! We all have the right to clean water, to collect our traditional foods and medicines and to ensure our home and community is free of toxic poisons. We all have a right and a duty to be kaitiaki.



Stephen Torrington

I love the great outdoors and have many years experience working in horticulture, conventional and organic. I have a strong desire to help inform the public of the health risks associated with pesticide exposure since being poisoned with them myself. Since that time I have spent 25 years researching pesticide poisoning. I bring experience with challenging government over pesticide policy and was one of the first people in NZ to prove an occupational exposure to ACC after a 2 year battle.

I am currently building a support network and information website which is endeavoring to change how we perceive pesticides in society, called morewisdom.org. I have recently been invited to join the board of Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa and am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

If you feel like we do, we would love for you to join us on this journey.



Membership

Membership is simple and offers you a chance to get fully engaged **if you want to**. You specify which type of supporter you want to be and how much you would like to donate. *(We do request a money donation on the basis that we are a volunteer non-profit with costs to cover and campaigns to pay for. If you are genuinely unable to make a financial donation this will not prevent you from becoming a member.)*

There is an oath in the membership that ensures that all those who join us also support our vision. It's important that we're working together for the same shared goals. If you share our vision, please add your voice. Email us to request membership forms: floraandfaunaotearoa@gmail.com

Campaigns and Strategy

Members are welcome to join our Campaigns and Strategy Team enabling them to help set the goals, design campaigns and participate in them.

Kaitiaki Movement

More and more people are becoming aware of the serious environmental damage being done with poisons in the name of conservation, and they want change. People are becoming organized, they are joining their voices and their efforts with others from all around Aotearoa to bring about this change. To name a few, 2018 saw the formation of [Operation Ban 1080](#), [Nga Kaitiaki Tuku Iho](#), Nga Kaitiaki O Whangaroa (Whangaroa), [Nga Kaitiaki The Guardians](#) (Russell State Forest), [The NZ Gamekeepers](#), [NZGK Possum Fibre](#), [OCB's Outcasts](#) (Rotorua) and [Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa!](#)

Last year [Friends of Sherwood](#) (Auckland), [Brook Valley Community Group](#) (Nelson) and groups in the Russell area, engaged in important legal action against the state in order to stop respective drops in their regions. Although unsuccessful, they did bring much needed attention to the poison drops and showed that there is strong opposition and concern.

This year Friends of Sherwood is working on a Citizen's Initiated Referendum to ban cruel and inhumane poisons. Flora and Fauna will be collaborating and campaigning alongside them, and we encourage all kaitiaki groups get behind it, collecting signatures and raising awareness will be crucial - 400,000 are needed to trigger a referendum!

In light of this, it was very heartening to see the SPCA bravely [state their opposition](#) to the widespread cruelty associated with the use of inhumane poisons. It can't be understated - a huge collective effort is needed to make this ban a reality!

If you want to jump on board, get involved and help create the Aotearoa we all want to live in, join up and book your place at our Sustainable Conservation Conference in April, where we will be planning our campaigns strategy and a calendar of action for 2019!

web: www.floraanddaunaaotearoa.co.nz fb: [Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa](#)

Waitangi Day - 1080 Peaceful Protests

Waitangi Day, Wednesday 6th February will be the next mass protest event calling for a ban on 1080. Speakers and a debate are being planned for the day and Flora and Fauna will be there sharing our message - that all creatures great and small deserve respect and cruel and inhumane poisons don't have a place in Aotearoa. Check in at the Operation Ban 1080 facebook page for more details.

Help wake up the nation!

Come to Waitangi on the 6th Feb to support the movement to ban 1080!

SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION CONFERENCE APRIL 2019

On the first weekend of April (6th & 7th), Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa will be holding its very first annual conference at [Lopdell House](#) in Auckland.

This is an open invitation to our members and friends to collaborate on ending the use of poisons and embracing the many exciting solutions that make up Sustainable Conservation. We will also be establishing a Kaitiaki Network as a way of supporting groups. If you are interested in what we are doing, are considering becoming a member, are working on sustainable conservation projects or would like to collaborate on our shared vision, this event is for you.

See the next page for more information and please RSVP as soon as possible as limited spaces are available. Also share this with your friends and networks!



Rotorua Canopy Tours Dansey Reserve
Zip Line Forest Adventure



This weekend is for members, friends and other changemakers to talk sustainable solutions and collaboration in 2019!

SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION CONFERENCE *Poison to Ecology*

✿ **6th & 7th April** ✿

Lopdell House

418 Titirangi Rd, Titirangi, Auckland

Saturday

Everyone Welcome

Flora & Fauna NZ

About Us

Panel Discussion

Poison to Ecology

Panel Discussion

Sustainable Conservation

Kaitiaki Network

Networking Evening

Sunday

Members & Friends

Strategy Sessions

with Friends of FFA

2019 Campaigns

Calendar

Formation of the

Kaitiaki Network

*Join as a member or
friend to attend this day*

Cost: \$20 per day or Both days \$30 (includes light lunch & refreshments)
Limited Spaces Available - RSVP to floraandfaunaotearoa@gmail.com