



May - June 2019 Newsletter

calling for a sea change

It was inspiring to bring together such a diverse group of people at our conference in April. We represented a significant cross section of experience and disciplines, all concerned about the health and well being of people, wildlife and our environment. Between us there were mana whenua, landowners, conservationists, environmentalists, professors of toxicology and biological science, trappers, hunters, chemists, scientists, lawyers, farmers and many others! It



audience during question time

was heartening to be among so many passionate and caring people. Each of us came with our unique perspective and understanding and created a wonderful positive energy and excitement. A lot of knowledge, ideas and experiences were shared over the two days and many important connections were made. It's exciting to see collaborative initiatives sparked into being. So thanks, especially to Professor Ian Shaw for travelling all the way from Canterbury and Professor Wayne Linklater and to all the other wonderful speakers and those who joined us over the weekend.

Right now, our small Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa team needs to grow. If we are going to help change the current story we are living in - we need a big team of people! We need passionate, talented people with drive and enthusiasm to join us on this journey and to create their own part in Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa. If you understand where we are going and you want to collaborate or work as part of the team, consider joining us for our first online meeting. **On Thursday 13th June, at 7pm** we will be hosting a Zoom Meeting, to discuss current projects and your own ideas and contributions. *We will send out the link to the meeting closer to the date. More about this further on...*

noun: seachange

a profound or notable transformation.

synonyms: transformation, change, alteration, modification, variation, conversion, revision, amendment, metamorphosis, transfiguration, evolution, mutation;



A brave new voice...
for all creatures, great and small.

Shocking Statistics for Disease Demands Action

For some time I had been concerned to about the extremely high rates of some diseases here in NZ, for instance Moto Neurone disease, which sadly my dad died of - 131 people die every year from this, which is way more than the population adjusted average of 78 for other countries. Sadly, we also exceed the global average for leukemia by 300%! We lead the pack in a number of other diseases; no-one seems to know why, but we can't wait for research that may or may not be carried out! (these Figures are from the Global Burden of Disease study)

Surely we have to start questioning our environmental practices and how it is affecting us both directly, and the way it gets into the food chain. A quick search of data shows a list of poisons banned in other countries that are still used in volume here.

Methyl bromide is a dangerous toxic gas and extremely effective killer of all organisms, it's used to fumigate imported fruit, vegetables and other products, as well as in the timber industry. It's banned in many countries but our usage is increasing; it has gone from 100 tonnes in the early 2000's to over 600 tonnes!

Paraquat, a particularly harsh and hazardous chemical, is banned in the EU and a number of other countries, but in New Zealand the amount used has risen five-fold since 2004 to 42 tonnes a year.

And the biggie; NZ uses around 95% of the worlds' production of 1080, which not only affects us, and gets into the food chain, but it is also the most cruel and inhumane way for an animal to die.

I dreamt of a national organisation with a vision of an environment that was free of pollution and inhumane toxins. My friend Asha came on board, and we included the recognition of our right to have clean water, and also the rights of all flora and fauna. We decided that we would need to also encourage sustainable and regenerative land management practices.

Without the wonderful organisational skills of Asha, and her drive and energy, this would not have happened. Because I am tied up in some major social enterprise development projects, Asha has done a large chunk of this work, and I would like to publicly thank her and acknowledge all her hard work.

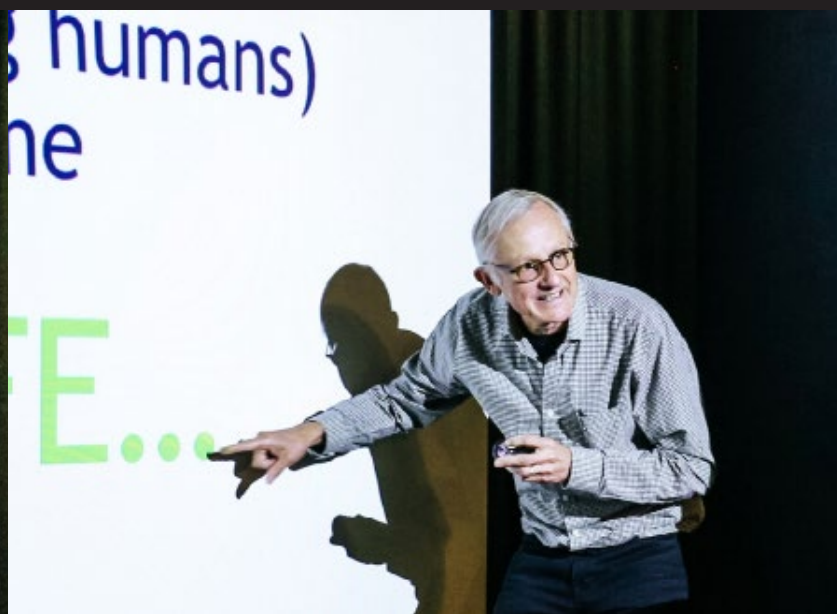
So where are we at now in terms of the organisation? We are an incorporated society, and are about to begin the process of also being registered as a charitable organisation. We need to build our membership, and this is one way you can all assist us; become a member, and sign up other people. You can do this on line, at www.floraandfaunaotearoa.co.nz/join-us/

Nga mihi
Di Maxwell.

*All photos and video from the conference thanks to Jo Armstrong, www.liquidlight.co.nz
Some of the recorded talks from the conference can be found on our [website](#) or [YouTube page](#).*

Poisons and Sustainable Conservation Panel Speakers

Some of the speakers, left to right: David Haynes, Brad Flutey, Steve Boot, Sue Grey
Christine Sumner, Ian Shaw, Hana Blackmore, Kathy White. Photos by Jo Armstrong



Nurturing New Kauri Sonya Ihimaera, Whangaroa

Steve brought in a fallen cone lying beneath this Kauri by our house so I let it sit on the kitchen table for 2 weeks until it dried and opened to release its seeds! 150 sown today, so hopefully in a month or two, we will have begun our plan to ensure Kauri trees will be kept healthy and protected from dieback on Awarua!

photo Sonya Ihimaera



Rescue Birds Gilly Jackson, Russell

This little juvenile Ruru was recently brought in to Gilly Jackson's Bird Rescue in Russell by a local woman who found it on the ground unwell. Gilly checked the bird and decided it needed to be seen by the vet. It has since been recovering and is almost ready to be released. She also has a kiwi and kereru among other birds in her care at the moment. Gilly has been rescuing birds for more than 20 years. In 2019 she has had 60 birds come into her care already. Read Gilly's story about a Pycroft's Petrel that came into her care on the next page. *photo Gilly Jackson*



Sir Bob Kerridge

When we asked Sir Bob Kerridge, former SPCA head of over 30 years, what his conservation values are, he made it very clear that he is a compassionate conservationist and questions the need to kill any living creature to 'save another.' Bob shared an opinion piece he had written called [The Dream of a Nation](#) which you can read on our website. He asks at what cost do we pursue the conservation of killing? Bob has also sent us a link to the Bob Kerridge [Animal Welfare Fellowship](#) - a grant available for those working on projects to improve animal welfare.

“There is little that separates humans from other sentient beings – we all feel pain, we all feel joy, we all deeply crave to be alive and live freely, and we all share this planet together”

(Mahatma Gandhi – 1869-1948)



This might interest some of you.

Band number D-163529 was placed on a Pycroft's Petrel chick on 13/03/1994 at Lady Alice Island (part of the Hen and Chickens Island Group). At 25 years old this is an old bird and a valuable record as not much is known about the longevity of this species.

This is the story of Pycroft's Petrel D-163529: a cruise ship came into Russell on 29 January - came up the coast from Tauranga. Late in the afternoon the ship contacted the NRC pilot boat saying there was a sick bird on board and the bird was handed to the pilot boat skipper who happens to know me. Sam phoned me and the pilot boat handed the bird over to my hubby on Russell wharf. I assessed the bird and found nothing wrong with it. It was well fed and very active. I've had a few of these birds brought to me. I believe they are attracted to the bright lights and get off track. People then think they are injured because they don't walk well on land. I saw the band and took photos of bird and took the bird to Long Beach. The bird was getting agitated and stressed and I wanted to let her go free. I put the bird on the sand near the water, but it sat looking at me. Lifted the bird up in my hands and gently 'pushed' her up and off she went very strongly. Last seen heading to Robertson Island. Must say that it brought a happy tear to my eye.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in visiting cruise ships and with their bright lights they attract petrels and terns.

photo Gilly Jackson



This is Jack and Kelsey. All animals have value.



I080 Poison: No Social Licence

Poison Factory Protest

Kristal Waitoa, who was there to protest the use of I080 over our forests, estimates 150-200 people turned out to support the kaupapa. She said, “We chanted, we told them what we want and when we want it. We told the public what I080 is and what it’s doing...we had the support of the public and the uniformed officers who were impressed at how we presented ourselves.” *photo Moo Scooting*

Plans are underway for an aerial I080 drop in the Waitakere Ranges. Residents have just been alerted that Forest and Bird representatives have given a [presentation to the Auckland Council](#) to drop in the ranges. No consultation has been carried out.

The NZ Outdoors Party Alan Simmons (*right*) and David Haynes of the The Outdoors Party joined us at the conference to gather ideas for the formation of their conservation policy. They are the only political group speaking out and taking action on I080 poisoning, with legal action being taken against DOC. You can support the challenge here: [Give a Little: Legal Challenge to stop I080 poison drops](#)





Russell State Forest

Brad Flutey (*left*) and others from [Nga Kai-tiaki The Guardians](#) have been busy working on implementing an alternative conservation model for the Russell State Forest. Last year in September the forest and wildlife were poisoned despite strong opposition. This caused the surrounding communities to unite and develop their own forest management plan that involves teaching Maori environmental management principals to local youth and forming a trapping network for the forest.

Kaitiaki Network *Thriving Papatuanuku Through Synergised Impact*

The Kaitiaki Network is for individuals and groups that empower people and communities through kaitiakitanga based on humane, sustainable and ecological approaches. By supporting each other and our communities through sharing knowledge, information and ideas, we will bring about positive change. Members will be featured on the network's page on our website and will have assistance promoting their work as well as access to professional support and advice. Joining is easy, free and means we can grow our collective voice - join the network [here](#).

Referendum *Collectors Needed!*

A petition to bring about a national referendum on banning cruel and inhumane poisons is well underway. More collectors are needed around the country to ensure the target of 330,000 signatures is reached before being presented at parliament on the 10th February 2020 deadline. If you care about animal welfare and ending such cruelty to animals please get behind this referendum. Make sure you sign and even better put your hand up to collect. Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa members are collecting alongside others from around the country and we will be supporting them with information and signage.

To collect in Northland, contact Laura Jordan: jordanl75@yahoo.com

To collect in other areas nationally contact Tricia Cheel: ecobee@xtra.co.nz

Zoom Online Meeting in June *Expanding our A-Team!*

We will be holding a Zoom online meeting for members who are interested in participating in projects including collecting for the referendum, research and arts projects and as well as learning about starting a local branch. This is an opportunity for you to bring your own ideas for discussion. We are also looking for people with specific skills in the following areas: *Media, fundraising, research and writing*. If this is you, then please join us for this online meeting!

Meeting Date: Thursday June 13th, 7pm - We will send out a link to the meeting with a reminder closer to the date. If you plan on joining us put it in your calendar now.



Introductions at Conference Sunday Sessions

Ian Shaw

Professor of Toxicology, University of Canterbury

One of the highlights of the weekend was hearing from Professor Ian Shaw (*right*) on the toxicology of 1080, glyphosate and brodifacoum.

Many of us found this extremely interesting and were eager to hear and learn more about Ian's research and thoughts on the publically debated science around these poisons. Also, of particular interest was Ian's opinion on the Kochumman family symptoms - which he says were consistent with 1080 poisoning (which was in fact the first working diagnosis), not BT poisoning as reported. Ian's talk from the conference should be on our website soon and no doubt we will be inviting him to dive into these topics further sometime in the near future.



Wayne Linklater

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Victoria University, Wellington

Professor Wayne Linklater gave a talk at our conference joining us via video link which you can watch [here](#). Wayne spoke about the differences in our conservation values as being at the heart of much of the conflict we see today. It's something, he says, we should be caring about a lot more - conservation values and actually each other's values in general. It was a great talk and hit home for a lot people. After the conference he shared some of his work including a critique of Predator Free 2050, some research on rats and an article about the culture and values of invasive species science. To request the documents just email us. Wayne can also be found writing over at sciblogs.co.nz where he is a voice of reason and integrity challenging the current narrative being put forward.

Other articles by Wayne Linklater:

[Facts don't give scientists a monopoly on the truth](#)

[Do conservationists care enough about people](#)

[Natives not always good and exotics not always bad](#)



*Wayne Linklater,
Nyree Porter Manuel and
some of the audience .*



Earth Law Centre

Have you heard of lawyer Polly Higgings? Sadly, Polly passed on in April from an aggressive cancer, but she was one inspirational lady who will live on in *earth law*. Polly founded the Earth Law Centre which is working on having the crime of ecocide written into international law. Her work to criminalise ecological damage is critical to healing the earth.

[Lawyer Polly Higgings talks big oil's crimes against humanity](#)

[Polly Higgins, lawyer who fought for recognition of 'ecocide', dies aged 50](#)

<https://www.earthlawcenter.org>

Ecocide by definition from the Miriam Webster Dictionary is: *the destruction of large areas of the natural environment as a consequence of human activity.*

other reading

[Fear and self-loathing in the Anthropocene](#) - The Ecologist, *Ian Rappel*

[Mara Hupara playground - a return to traditional Māori games](#) - NZ Institute of Architects

Kaitiaki Making a Difference

[Nga Kaitiaki O Whangaroa](#)

[Operation Ban 1080](#)

[Nga Kaitiaki The Guardians](#)

[The NZ Gamekeepers](#)

[NZGK Possum Fibre](#)

[OCB's Outcasts](#)

[Friends of Sherwood](#)

[Brook Valley Community Group](#)

[Nga Kaitiaki Tuku Iho](#)

ARE
YOU
KAITIAKI?

This is a volunteer run organisation.
It runs off the passion and contribution of people like you.
It also runs off the kind donations of people like you.
Thank you for supporting our brave new voice!

Direct Credit to: Flora and Fauna

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