

# MANAWATU BRANCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER / AUTUMN 2017



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## WELCOME

After a fairly quiet winter, with a couple of events postponed, we have now put together our summer / autumn programme. So what happened last term? Rachel organised our ever popular overnight trips / tramps to Mt Ruapehu lodge and Roaring Stag hut. Thankfully the Ruapehu trip wasn't as wet as last year!



Over 30 people attended May's fungi hunting trip at Totara Reserve led by mycologist Barbara Paulus. After a briefing on where fungi like to live and armed with a simple checklist of different types of fungi, we walked along the campground tracks checking off those we found - it was surprising how much fungi you could find when you are looking for it. Wildbase Hospital at Massey University was the location of August's trip. Wildlife Technician Pauline talked about the work



that Wildbase does before we had a chance to meet a couple of residents. We were lucky enough to be able to see a Kiwi receive some medication after recovering from an operation after eating a large stone. Then we saw a tuatara which had ongoing eye problems.

And finally..... in January, the Kapiti Island trip finally went ahead, but not without a cancelled day. Fifth time lucky!!

## WHAT'S COMING UP .....

CRAWLIES AND CRITTERS

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> February

DAIRY FARMING AND CONSERVATION

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March

OVERNIGHT TRAMPING

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> - Sun 25<sup>th</sup> March

MIDWINTER AT RUAPEHU LODGE

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> - Sun 18<sup>th</sup> June



## WEIRD NATURE - TWO- SPINED SPIDER

These are orb web spiders. There are numerous different kinds of spiky spiders. They're around 2-9mm in total length and come in a variety of colours and shapes, and some have coloured legs too. You can find one this one in NZ but it is not native - it's from Australia. The one of the right is from the Americas. Very pretty colours, don't you think?





## COMING UP.....



### CRAWLIES AND CRITTERS

Explore what lives in a rocky stream. Stream walking looking for crawlies (crayfish), check the nets for native fish and fossick for aquatic inhabitants. Lunch and swimming optional. Join Alistair Cole from the NZ Landcare Trust on this stream exploration.

**When:** Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Where:** Horseshoe Bend Reserve, Tokomaru  
**Time:** 12pm for lunch  
**Contact:** sarah.h.galley@gmail.com  
 021 0827 0819



### DAIRY FARMING & CONSERVATION

Local dairy farmer Dave Stewart is passionate about the environment.

Join him on his farm on the outskirts of Palmerston North to see what he is doing to improve the health of the stream running through his farm. At the end of the visit we also have the opportunity to see the cows being milked

**When:** Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March  
**Time:** 2.30pm  
**Where:** Kelvin Grove Road (directions will be emailed!)  
**Contact:** sarah.h.galley@gmail.com  
 021 0827 0819



### OVERNIGHT TRAMP - TARARUA FOREST PARK

Join Rachel on tramp to Mitre Flats Hut in the beautiful Tararua Forest Park

**When:** Sat 24<sup>th</sup> & Sun 25<sup>th</sup> March  
**Where:** Mitre Flats Hut  
**Cost:** Adults \$15, youth \$11, under 10 years Free  
**Contact:** rachel@inspect.net.nz  
 06 356 5519



### MIDWINTER AT MT RUAPEHU

It's a very successful trip which has now become our annual weekender. Lots of walks, maybe some snow, pumpkins to carve. Just a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors, maybe you might see some Whio on the nearby river.

**When:** Fri 16<sup>th</sup> - Sun 18<sup>th</sup> June  
**Where:** Forest & Bird Lodge, Whakapapa Village  
**Cost:** \$10 - \$15 per night  
**Contact:** rachel@inspect.net.nz  
 06 356 5519

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS EVENTS .....

We are teaming up with the Whanganui KCC branch for some school holidays so keep your eyes on your email for further events.

