

Calling conservation volunteers

WANT TO HELP survey native frogs, kokako, kiwi and bats, or plant trees, eradicate pines or clean up an island?

The Department of Conservation has a detailed programme running through to September of practical and important projects that require volunteers. The projects are graded for varying fitness levels and desired skills (such as painting, first aid, or just good eyesight and keen interest), and vary from one-day jobs to longer ongoing projects. A donation is sometimes requested to cover food costs.

For details of projects in your area, contact the volunteer coordinator in the local DoC conservancy office. A list of the full national programme can be obtained from Christine Jacobson on 04-471-0726.

New membership benefits

THE ADVANTAGES of belonging to Forest and Bird are now even greater. With your 1996 membership renewal receipt you will receive a "1996" sticker to place on your current membership card. You can now get discounts by presenting your card (with the current year's sticker on it) to the companies below:

- **Kathmandu** (adventure and travel clothing and equipment) – free "Summit Club" membership which entitles you to between 10 percent and 30 percent discount depending on the size of the purchase.
- **Mount Cook Landline** – 30 percent discount off standard adult fares exceeding \$20.
- **Bivouac** (outdoor clothing and equipment) – at least 10 percent discount off recommended retail price on most items.
- **Naturally New Zealand Holidays** – these holidays cover anything from guided walking, nature touring and walking, rafting and canoeing, backroad cycling to mini-stays and safaris. They

Forest and Bird's conservation staff spent three days following the November council meeting in Waiouru working together on campaign themes and strategies for the coming year. From left: Basil Graeme, Clayton White, Kevin Smith, Duane Burtt, Jacqui Barrington, Ann Graeme, Eugenie Sage, Sue Maturin, Barry Weeber and executive member Claire Stevens.



GRAEME CALDER

have offered a 10 percent discount on bookings made directly with them on 0800 101 301. Heavily reduced connecting airfares are also available.

Kathmandu and Bivouac both have outlets in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington while Mount Cook Landline operates extensively in the South Island and on the main central North Island route.

The card also provides benefits for Forest and Bird. On the back of your card is an Ansett account number. If you are travelling anywhere by Ansett, quote this number (MC 10053) when booking your ticket and a percentage of the ticket price will be given to the society – it will not affect the price of your ticket.

We plan to keep building on this list of benefits. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you and we hope that you enjoy the new benefits. If you haven't, please take the time to renew today – your membership will make a big difference.

Awards

DAVID GIVEN, conservation botanist and *Forest & Bird* contributor, is the latest winner of the Loder Cup. He has contributed greatly to increased awareness of the plight of threatened plant species in this country, and has an international reputation for his expertise in the principles and practices of plant conservation.

David co-authored the field

guide, *Threatened Plants of New Zealand* in 1989.

The cup is awarded annually for contributions to the conservation of New Zealand's native plants.

Napier Branch chairperson, **Isabel Morgan**, was one of the winners of the inaugural Hawke's Bay Regional Council Environmental Awards last October.

Isabel, described in the award citation as "Hawke's Bay's most effective environmentalist" has been a member of Forest and Bird and an advocate for conservation on a wide range of local and national issues for over 40 years.

Obituary: Maurice Cowan

THE SUDDEN DEATH in November of long-time Forest and Bird member Maurice Cowan, was deeply felt in the Waihi District.

Described by the local press as one of Waihi's most loved and respected residents, Maurice, 47, together with his wife Jill, had a particular rapport with young people and was coordinator of the local Kiwi Conservation Club.

Known to some as being anti-mining in a town where mining had recently been re-established, Maurice claimed he would rather be known as pro-environment. As secretary of the local Forest and Bird section, Maurice was always there to organise and carry out tree planting or preservation work.

Maurice was deputy mayor of

the former Waihi Borough Council for many years and later chairman of the Hauraki District Council's Waste Management Committee.

His work with the Waitawheta Youth Camp, the Waihi Beach Sea Scouts and the weekly skating activities in Waihi's old drill hall took up more of his time.

When all these community activities allowed and in his "spare" time he practised his trade as a master plumber.

Owen Morgan

Seaweek

"ON THE EDGE" will be the theme of Seaweek 96 – to be held 23-31 March. Organised by the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA), the programme will focus on the inter-tidal zone and threats to it.

Activities for the week are being organised around the country. For more information contact Sioux Campbell, DoC, Box 1146, Rotorua, phone 07-347-9179.

Sustainable energy

"ENERGY, TRANSPORT and development" will be the theme of the fourth Sustainable Energy Forum, to be held in Tauranga on 29-30 March.

The forum is a non-profit society set up to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy in New Zealand.

For more information contact Fiona Weightman, PO Box 11 152, Wellington, phone 04-499-8668.