

## Hamilton 'Junats' Celebrating 40 Years



KAY RUMNEY PARRY

The Te Kauri Lodge of the Hamilton Junior Naturalists Club was built in forest on the slopes of Mount Pirongia in 1967. Catering for 95 people it has hosted many Forest and Bird camps too.

If you know someone between the ages of 18 and 55 who spent their childhood in or near Hamilton check out if they were ever a 'Junior Naturalist,' and if so are they attending the reunion next Easter? More than 1000 children have belonged to the club which, during the 1980s, inspired similar groups in Auckland, and provided some of the impetus behind the formation of Forest and Bird's Kiwi Conservation Club.

Begun in 1961, Junior Naturalists were developed by the Hamilton science advisers of the Department of Education, as an organisation for those of intermediate and high school age who wanted to

further their knowledge of natural history. They began weekly meetings and regular field trips which are still main events on the programme today. The club built its own Te Kauri Lodge in 1967, on forest land donated on Mount Pirongia.

Many past members are now employed in the environmental field, and others carry on their interest as adult members of Forest and Bird. Currently, the club liaises with Waikato Forest and Bird, and the groups promote each other's activities. A combined track maintenance working bee at Te Kauri Lodge is planned for next month.

— Source: Kay Rumney Parry, H.J.N.C, PO Box 7030, Hamilton East.

## Gulf Branch Planting Guide

Three members involved in restoration projects with Hauraki Gulf Forest and Bird have produced a 52-page guide for planting natives. Entitled *Greening our Gulf Islands* it contains a lot of practical experience, some of its also useful on the surrounding mainland.

The authors have been involved in revegetation projects on Waiheke Island, near Auckland, and indeed subtitle their booklet *A manual for native revegetation with special reference to Waiheke*. Don Chapple has been working as a volunteer, albeit full-time, on the Society's

Atawhai Whenua reserve for seven years (*Forest & Bird*, August 2000). Rachel Ebbett and Ivan Kitson are the other authors.

Inexpensive modern methods of book publishing are certainly helping groups like this to make a permanent record of their experience. Together, such publications are beginning to amount to a useful store of knowledge on the practical side of conservation.

The book has been nicely designed, has a short colour section, and appendices of plant names.

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