



Field Trip All At Sea

Members of Waikato Forest and Bird took to the water to familiarise themselves with the Society's marine concerns.

They chose to make a 'let's get right into it' field trip to their nearest marine reserve, Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) at Hahei on the Coromandel.

Although the area of the reserve is quite small it was bitterly opposed by local recreational anglers when established in 1992. Since then, many have come to realise that fishing around the borders of the reserve has improved markedly.

John Charteris, a long-time member of Forest and Bird, and his partner Elva organised the boat, programme and resources for what proved to be a most interesting and different experience.

'John was keen that we not only saw the reserve from above water but that we got into the water and "snorkelled" to really appreciate the beauty of the environment.'

The conditions were beautiful and 15 of the group donned wetsuits, masks, flippers and snorkels to explore a sheltered cove. We all came back aboard the Seaquest III inspired by what we had seen.

'Unfortunately the wind got up in the afternoon so a second dive around Slipper Island was cancelled. We went back into Tairua Harbour where John collected plankton samples that we viewed through magnifiers. We all found this start of the food chain quite fascinating.'

— BILL FAIRWEATHER

Saving Albatross

Forest and Bird has presented 'Save the Albatross' postcards to diplomatic representatives from Southern Ocean countries and countries with large longlining fleets (see left). The postcards had previously been signed by Louis Vuitton and representatives of the Alinghi, Team New Zealand, OneWorld and GBR Challenge America's Cup Teams. Forest and Bird is working with overseas conservation groups through the BirdLife International network to protect albatross and other sea birds. Over 10,000 albatross are killed each year by longline fishing in New Zealand waters alone. The global annual bycatch of albatross and petrels may exceed an astonishing 300,000 birds.

InterCity Coachlines are sponsoring Forest and Bird's involvement in this campaign. — HAYLEY MEEHAN



BILL FAIRWEATHER

Members of Waikato Forest and Bird find out at first-hand about the values of protecting areas of coast. Above: snorkelling in the waters of the Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve on the Coromandel. Below: aboard Seaquest III in Tairua Harbour, Coromandel Peninsula, during their field trip.



BILL FAIRWEATHER



Diplomatic presentation. Front row, left to right: Second Secretary Min-Cheol Lee from the Korean Embassy; Counsellor Laurent Polonceaux, French Embassy; the Australian High Commissioner Bob Cotton; Carmen Fortuin, daughter of Honorary Representative Gregory Fortuin of the South African Consulate; Ambassador Enrique de la Torre from the Argentine Republic; Hugh Logan, Director-General of the Department of Conservation. At rear, Eric Pyle, conservation manager of Forest and Bird; the Ambassador of Chile, Carlos Appelgren; and (partly obscured) Dr Gerry McSweeney, national president of Forest and Bird.