



**DESTINATION CAPE COAST:** How lucky are we to have so many reserves within an easy fifteen or twenty minute drive from Hastings, Havelock North or Napier? All up, there are ten reserves (mostly small) in the Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton areas.

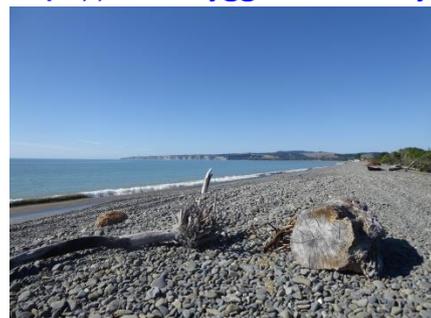


These friendly ducks were on the look-out for a free meal when they saw me at the Wellwood Terrace pond in Te Awanga Domain. There were a lot of mallard resting on the grass beside the water and, at the far end, there were two white-faced herons, a pied shag (see photo) and some more mallard, all getting on swimmingly well.



There is a very good limestone cycle track, part of the Landscapes Ride which brings cyclists along the coast from Napier, finishing at the end of the road at Clifton Domain. Cycling is extremely popular and on the day I visited, I chatted with several groups of friends who had travelled up from Levin and the Wairarapa to experience some of the various cycle trails on offer. They were older riders, enjoying the scenery from their e-bikes and were very impressed with the weather and the trails.

Since Robyn and Kerry Brannigan took on Hygge café (pronounced Hoo-ga) at Clifton, it has proved a hugely popular destination for refreshments or a delicious meal, no matter how you get there. Local, ethically-sourced food and organic coffee are complemented by stunning ocean vistas to Cape Kidnappers or across Hawke's Bay to Napier and beyond. <https://www.hygge@cliftonbay.nz> Booking is recommended for meals.



The largest reserve by far is the Haumoana Domain, covering some 35 hectares and 4 kms of coast. The views along the beach are pretty amazing and there is an estuary, lagoon and wetlands.

There is also a campsite where visitors can park up their motor homes and the cycle trail comes in off the stop-bank.



Te Awanga has long been a beachside location popular with artists and other creative minds. Driving along Clifton Road and just before Elephant Hill winery, I saw a very striking Ricks Terstappen sculpture, the 4.5 m Waka of Plenty (Te Waka Huhua) which was unveiled in November 2019 for the Cape Coast Arts and Heritage Trust.



Picturesque vistas towards Te Mata Peak provide a worthy backdrop.

Something else that is a better than average design, are the award winning loos in both Haumoana Domain and Clifton Road Reserve.

By bike or by car, it's a great time to explore this outstanding landscape.



Waka of Plenty – Te Waka Huhua.

Cape Coast is a 'must see'.

Award-winning WC's at Clifton Road Reserve

## REPURPOSE, RECYCLE AND REUSE:

Last month's feature about being able to take cleaned No. 5 plastic plant pots back to the Green Door or the Environment Centre Hawke's Bay in Hastings for free resulted in a lot of positive feedback – and more pots and other recycling left in.

I went to see what else the Environment Centre (a Registered Charity) took and how we can all help atone for the decades of chucking far too much recyclable stuff into landfill. I found out that 65% of rubbish dumped there could actually be recycled.

Located at 1004 Karamu Road North, the centre has a full-time manager, an E-waste manager, eight part-time staff and twenty volunteers. A small charge is made for accepting E-waste, to cover costs of its upcycling, recycling or safe disposal. Old TV's, computers and other e-waste can contain toxic materials which, if they were dumped into landfill, could leach into the soil or groundwater and damage the ecosystem.

Bay Buzz published two articles about recycling E-waste and the Centre's Zero Waste Programme at events which generated a lot of interest on its website and was widely shared on social media. See:- <https://baybuzz.co.nz/wanted-your-e-waste/> and <https://baybuzz.co.nz/zero-waste-heroes/>

For a list of what is accepted, go to:- <https://www.environmentcentre.org.nz> or, if you'd like to volunteer to help, phone (06) 8704942. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



E-waste being dismantled for its useful parts



**PLANTING DAYS:** Just too late to be included in last month's newsletter, Clint Deckard sent me this photo and told me that the CHB Branch of Forest and Bird's annual planting day at Otāia/Lindsay Reserve on 27 June was a great success. Despite the threatening weather, 25 willing volunteers turned up, which meant an early sausage sizzle lunch and not too many aching muscles.

At Te Mata Park, a hardworking group from General and Protection Forestry

Services and the Trust's contractors GB Landscaping, led by Project Manager Guy Morris and QEII National Trust's Troy Duncan planted an astonishing 12,676 native plants in the newly-named Te Kahika block. Then, the Schools and Trees Kaitiaki project held a well-supported planting day. I heard the buzz of excited children busy at work before I saw them! Almost 100 students worked alongside helpful adults planting hundreds of natives, in what will be an ongoing partnership. "The Trust Board is thrilled at the enthusiasm shown by local schools," says Communication and Education Coordinator, Sara Shaw. "We look forward to long-term school engagement and growing kaitiakitanga (guardianship) with the youngest members of our community."



Te Mata Park's Sara Shaw (left) and Emma Buttle with some of the young planters



Tauroa Reserve was a neglected mess

**COMMUNITY AWARD:** Hearty, well-deserved congratulations to Tauroa Reserve Care Group coordinator, Michelle Hicks and her team of dedicated volunteers, who have helped roll back 50 years of Council neglect and resurrected a devastated ecosystem to make Tauroa Reserve a pleasant place to walk in.



Michelle and her team with their award

**The Hastings District Council's Civic Honour for Exemplary Voluntary Service to the Community of Hastings in the Health and Welfare category was presented to Michelle and her team on 27 July.**



**NATURAL LEAKY DAMS:** I'm not suggesting that we bring beavers into the country... but the BBC had an interesting feature about how successful the rodents' lodges are at controlling flow rates in streams and rivers, helping to prevent erosion and creating wetlands. Their introduction is part of the National Trust's £10 million 'Riverlands' project to bring UK rivers back to life. More information on this innovative project:- <https://www.rspb.org.uk>

## PICTURE PERFECT

Keith Elvey, who is the current chairman of MENZSHED Hastings headed south in his motorhome during April.

His adventures took him to Ulva Island which is part of the Patterson Inlet Marine Reserve and half an hour by ferry from Stewart Island. This is where he saw this magnificent looking female New Zealand sea lion. The species has a DOC rating of 'Nationally Critical.'

Decimated by being hunted by whalers for their pelts, sea lions became extinct on the mainland in the mid 1800's.

Males from the sub-Antarctic islands began populating the Otago Peninsula in the early 1980's and then in 1993, a lone, pregnant sea lion was found by a farmer at Taieri Mouth. Subsequently called 'Mum', she had been tagged by researchers as a pup on the Auckland Islands in 1986.



For reasons unknown, she'd swum 435 miles to settle on the peninsula and, thanks to her off-spring, the population has been re-established, albeit in small numbers. 'Mum's' eleven pups have, over the years helped bring numbers up to around 160. An unrelated female named Marea settled in the Catlins in 2006 and proceeded to breed there, so this beauty might possibly be one of her descendants. Including the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island the population is around 12,000.

**Fun Facts:** New Zealand sea lions are genetically related to bears. Mature male sea lions can weigh 300-400 kgs, while mature females are between 85-160 kgs. Despite their weight and cumbersome appearance, sea lions can reach a top speed of 25 kph on land, so could out-flipper a person running.



**ENVIROSCHOOLS:** I wanted to find out more about what makes these schools special, so asked Regional Coordinator, Sally Chandler (pictured left) at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council a bit about them.

**What is an Enviroschool and how does a school join up?** The *Enviroschools Programme* provides a framework for schools, kindergartens and early childhood centres to engage in a holistic, sustainability journey. Schools can enquire about joining by contacting me (Sally) and filling out the form on the [HBRC website](#).

**Who organises the programme and what, if anything, does it cost to**

**become an Enviroschool?** *Enviroschools* is a national programme, established just over 20 years ago. It's free for schools to join and there is only a nominal cost for resources. The programme is funded here by HBRC with support from Napier City Council and CHB District Council.

**How many Enviroschools are there nationwide and are there any in Hawke's Bay?** Nationally there are over 1,300 participating schools, kindergartens and early learning centres in the *Enviroschools* network, with 68 located in Hawke's Bay. See:- [Enviroschools website](#).

**What is the ethos behind Enviroschools?** The *Enviroschools* programme aims to equip all young people with the competencies they need to be leaders in sustainability and regeneration. The programme is underpinned by five guiding principles:- Empowered students; Respect for the diversity of people and culture; Sustainable Communities, Learning for Sustainability and Māori Perspectives.



**What sort of things do participating schools do?** Finding ways to tread more lightly on our planet by reducing waste, growing and eating your own vegetables and conserving water and energy are just some of the concepts that schools tackle. The five theme area resources give teachers ideas on how to involve tamariki:- Zero Waste, Living Landscapes, Water for Life, Energy and Ecological Buildings.

Thanks Sally. This all sounds great.

For more information, e-mail Sally at: [chandler@hbrc.govt.nz](mailto:chandler@hbrc.govt.nz)



**HELPING HANDS:** Since 2014, the Backcountry Trust has funded the restoration of over 100 huts and 900 km of walking and mountain bike trails. Willing volunteers, under the guidance of their BCT representative, put in the mahi (work) to paint huts, cut back trails and even do full-scale renovations including re-clads, re-roofs, re-piles and tank installs.

Since the appointment of a North Island project coordinator in 2020, the Kaimanawas, Ruahines, Kawekas and Tararuas have seen an increase in mahi aroha relating to huts and tracks, and the 2021/2022 summer season is shaping up to be a big one. Getting skilled and willing volunteers on the ground is the most important thing in keeping our backcountry hut network alive, and the Backcountry Trust is keen to hear from anyone who has some time, energy and skills to invest in a project or two.



“Ideally, we would hear from people who have a group of mates with a range of skills and the ability to manage the project they are keen to work on,” says North Island Project Coordinator, Megan Dimozantos. “Some people come forward with a project in mind, whereas others have the team and the skills, but need some guidance on which project might best suit them and I’m here to help match them up with a project and help guide them through the mahi from start to completion. Our teams take a lot of

pride in the work they do and we’re really chuffed to be a position to provide them with the financial means and guidance to get out there and get it done.”

See projects completed by volunteer groups at:- <https://www.backcountrytrust.org.nz/project-list.html>

If you’re interested in being involved in a Backcountry Trust Project, all you have to do is e-mail Megan:- [megan.dimozantos@backcountrytrust.org.nz](mailto:megan.dimozantos@backcountrytrust.org.nz) Thanks Megan for the great info and photos.



**POLLUTION PEST:** While visiting an urban property which backs onto the Mangarau Stream in Havelock North, I saw five cattle wandering along the opposite bank. As they had access to the stream, the owner was contacted. Next day, the same cow in the photo crossed the stream and wandered onto the private section. This is how waterways get polluted. If you see anyone dumping rubbish or stock with access to streams, please let the local councils know, so that those responsible, who clearly don’t give a toss about the environment, can be spoken to.

**THUMBS UP!** HBRC councillor, Hinewai Ormsby, husband Cameron and their whanau have grown some 10,000 native plants and trees at their home nursery since 2017. These have then been donated to be planted during community events in various areas around Napier. Their latest community planting days were on 18 and 31 July when 1,000 natives were planted at the Whareponga Stream and a further 1,500 in Pirimai. What a fantastic effort - and great to see someone leading by example.



If, for any reason, you ever need or want to use a photo or illustration for free, you can go to a website called Pixabay, search for what you want and end up with a fabulous choice. This is a really useful resource for anyone writing a newsletter. Just head to:- <https://pixabay.com>



If you’re aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke’s Bay, please let me know and I’ll be happy to follow it up:- [jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com)



*Life is for having fun...  
Just do it!*

