



THE PUKEORA FOREST OF MEMORIES is a ten hectare Memorial Park located at the base of Pukeora Scenic Road and a wonderfully successful Rotary Club of Waipukurau project.



The arboretum was created in 1993 as a place for trees and memories when the Hawke's Bay Area Health Board sold the land to the Rotary Club of Waipukurau, after the idea was initiated by one of its members, Andrew Watts. Nearly thirty years later, Andrew is still very much involved as the park's custodian.

The name conveys the original concept of a place to plant a tree in memory of loved ones and, in doing so, creates a very special place for the Central Hawkes Bay community.



The view from Pukeora Hill



When Catherine Reeves (who sent me the fabulous photos) told me that the park was a beautiful place to visit - and at any time of the year, I was keen to find out more, as I didn't know about it.

As well as new plantings undertaken every year, improvements are ongoing. There is a stone walled entranceway with seating on the lower road and a large car park area, while walking tracks, extensions and bridging continue to grow.

Just last November, the Rotary Club and community volunteers helped establish new walking tracks and there are regular working bees held to keep the weeds at bay and carry out pruning.

The views from the Pukeora hillside across the Tuki Tuki River to Lindsay Bush are just stunning and, while there is a definite climb which requires a certain level of fitness, various people have donated seats which are sited at vantage points along the way, so that you can take time out to relax and take in the vistas as they unfold.



As previously mentioned, the established and picturesque park makes a really fantastic destination for all seasons.

On the Forest of Memories Facebook page, visitors and volunteers have posted a wonderful selection of photos taken at various times of the year, showing



bluebells, rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias in spring and, more recently, gorgeous photos of the trees and shrubs looking spectacular, displaying an array of autumnal colours. It's also a really good photographic record of the voluntary efforts of Rotary Club volunteers and other members of the community who have contributed time or machinery to maintain and keep improving the park.

The idea of purchasing and planting a memorial tree became so popular, with enquiries coming from all over the country, that this opportunity is now only available for Central Hawke's Bay residents.

For more information, go to:- <https://forestofmemories.co.nz>



JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS ABUSED IN RODEO:

The New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA) and **SAFE (Save Animals from Exploitation)**, which is New Zealand's leading Animal Rights Charity, had a huge day representing animals abused in rodeo in the Wellington High Court last month.

At the judicial review, they delivered a strong message to the court that the process for the

Code of Welfare for Rodeo was flawed and that the entire code should be thrown out.

It was acknowledged by the Judge and representatives from the government, that they had made a 'blunder' or 'error' in reissuing the *Code of Welfare*, without following the proper process and they argued that discussions to update the code had been done - but for **SAFE**, animals are suffering and discussions are taking far too long.

Rodeos are condemned both in New Zealand and internationally by veterinarians, animal welfare agencies and ex-rodeo riders. Some countries have even banned the so-called 'entertainment' because it is so cruel.

NZALA and **SAFE** are confident in their case that rodeo is a breach of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and that this will be a good outcome for animals.

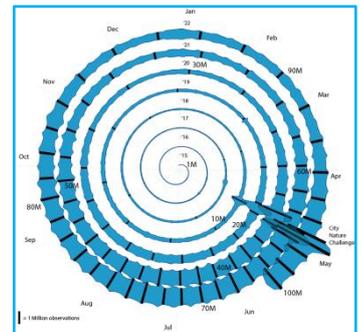


Animals abused in rodeo have now had a voice in the High Court, thanks to public support and the outcome should be known in about three months. More information @ <https://safe.org.nz>

iNaturalist **MEGA MILESTONE:** iNaturalist, whose aim is to connect 100 million naturalists to nature and thereby advance science and conservation by 2030, recently announced that it has reached an impressive milestone... 100 million observations.

This milestone shows what people can do by working together. The iNaturalist dataset is something contributors have made together, but it's larger than any individual. Together, the iNaturalist community has created a unique window into life on Earth and the hundreds of thousands of species with whom we share the planet. Here's to the next 100 million!

For more info on how to get involved go to:- <https://www.inaturalist.org>



LEAKY DAMS: Nathan Burkepile from the NZ Landcare Trust organised a walk and talk meeting at the Karitwhenua Stream Walkway on 17 June, looking at the series of leaky dams which volunteers have built across the stream to slow the flow of water.



Karitwhenua Stream Landcare Group's chairman, Bob Harris, explained that, "When it rains, we monitor the dams, so that we can make any modifications that are needed for optimal effectiveness."



If you needed an excuse to visit this very pleasant reserve, which is so well-cared for by members of the award-winning community group, then you could take a walk along the easy limestone paths and admire the handiwork of its secretary Don Jackson.

Don has recently revitalised and repainted the forty-four signs which mark various paths or points of interest. Each one has its own explanation and, while many provide a lasting acknowledgement of the contribution of individuals (like the late Dougal French), whose efforts are so much enjoyed by the community, others are just plain quirky!



PICTURE PERFECT

This gorgeous shot of a white-faced heron surveying its territory is another great pic from Catherine Reeve's extensive collection of amazing wildlife photos.

This heron is a relatively new species in New Zealand, having self-introduced in the 1940's. The tall, elegant, blue-grey bird is our most common heron and can be found stalking its prey in almost any aquatic habitat.

They're often seen on rocky shores and estuary mudflats, but can also be found near the shallow edges of lakes up to 500m altitude, on farm ponds and patrolling river banks. I see one regularly along Te Karamū Stream.

As they encounter people quite often, they're relatively tolerant of our presence. It's not unusual to be able to get quite close to them and watch them go about their day.

They catch and consume a wide range of prey, including small fish, crabs, worms, insects, spiders, mice, lizards, tadpoles and frogs. See more:- www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz



BIRDWATCHING: In May, I had the unexpected pleasure of seeing a rare black fantail in a cherry tree near my window but didn't have time to get a photo.

Recently, a kingfisher (kōtare) has been a regular visitor, perching in my neighbour's tree and I did manage to get some photos through the window. To find out more about it, I looked up www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz and read that kingfishers are found throughout New Zealand and in a wide range of habitats.

The key factors needed for them to thrive are:- Elevated observation posts to hunt from, banks or suitable standing trees to excavate nests in and open or semi-open habitats which support a range of prey items. In freshwater habitats a range of tadpoles, freshwater crayfish and small fish are taken. In open country, insects such as cicadas, beetles, stick insects and weta are caught, along with spiders and small vertebrates, including lizards, mice and small birds. It's just so nice to live in a suburban street visited by a really wide range of native birds.



COMMUNITY CHALLENGE: The Herehere planting day on 7 June was memorable for quite a few reasons... the good weather, the support of the HBRC, the great turnout of residents of the neighbouring James Wattie Retirement Village and the tremendous contribution made by over sixty Hereworth students.

What a difference youthful energy and enthusiasm makes!

The students are taking part in the nationally acclaimed *William Pike Challenge*. I asked Deputy Head, Kate Field, how many students are involved, how they benefit and if she could let me know about some recent projects.

Kate explained that, "2022 is our first year being part of the *William Pike Challenge* and this year all seventy Year 8 boys are taking part. However, from 2023, we hope to involve all our intermediate age pupils - which will be both boys and girls!"

"The Herehere Stream planting was our first whole group community service. However, we had boys making and distributing lunches for the Targa rally, planting at Ocean Beach and Te Mata Peak, as well as doing roadside and beach clean-ups. Boys have helped in charity shops, at their old schools and also attended community working bees." Photo: HBRC councillor, Hinewai Ormsby, who donated the plants, helps the boys.

"As a school, we have said that we will co-ordinate half of the twenty required hours and the boys need to find the rest. We often reflect on the fact that students at Hereworth are 'children of privilege', so it's great for them to give back - either to the community or to those who are less fortunate than they are. We supported the 'Jammies for June' campaign and also the *World Vision 40 Hour Famine*."





Inspirational people can and do make a difference to benefit the world we live in and Dr Jill Robinson, MBE is one such person.

Jill founded Animals Asia in 1998 and is considered to be the world's leading authority on the cruel industry of farming bears for their bile and the person who alerted the world to the vile and inhumane practice.

Now, 24 years later, one of Animals Asia's founding goals, to end bear farming in Vietnam, is being achieved. After years of negotiations, Vietnam has committed to closing all bear bile farms in 2022.



The organisation, which has rescued some 650 bears from horrendous conditions, operates award-winning bear rescue sanctuaries in China and Vietnam and it is to these safe havens that rescued bears are brought to live out the rest of their lives. Here they have shelter, company, enrichment, proper nutrition and, for the first time in their lives, freedom.

Animals Asia rescues bears which have suffered the most horrific existence and deprivation, some having been kept in tiny cages for many years and subjected to repetitive painful procedures of having needles inserted to drain bile to be used in Asian medicine.



Anh Trang spent years in a tiny cage suffering repeated bile extraction before he was rescued recently. He was given a health check which found he was suffering from high blood pressure, a common symptom found in bears from bile farms. He spent 30 days in quarantine before moving to his forever home and meeting his new friends.



In May 2022, Animals Asia was given the go-ahead to begin construction on a second sanctuary in Vietnam. This new 12-hectare sanctuary will sit within the beautiful, mountainous surroundings of the Bach Ma National Park and eventually be home to the bears which are still trapped on bile farms.

Rescuing this number of bears and providing them with sanctuary for the rest of their lives will require a huge effort but once the last bear is saved, this trade will be history for Vietnam, and will set a precedent for other countries in the region to follow.



As well as its fantastic efforts in saving bears from bile farms and rescuing animals from being sold into the black market wildlife trade, Animals Asia works to end the trade in dogs and cats for food in Asia; collaborates with governments and NGO's to improve the welfare of companion animals; promotes humane population management; campaigns for an end to abusive animal practices in zoos and safari parks in Southeast Asia and works closely with governing authorities and facilities to



improve animal management and increase awareness of the welfare needs of captive wild animals.

For more information, head to:- <https://www.animalsasia.org> or follow them on Facebook.

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



“Those who protect and save other animals lead the way in protecting and saving humanity and the earth.”

Anthony Douglas Williams

