

# Wildlands Wellington News September 2017

*An update on our people and services.*

**Wildlands: providing outstanding ecological services to sustain and improve our environments.**

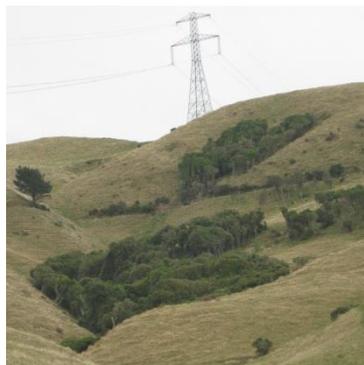
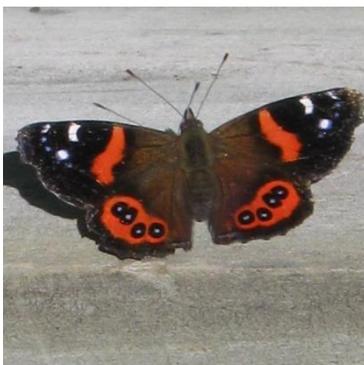
## **Keely Paler welcomed to our Wellington Office**

In May, we welcomed our new intern ecologist, Keely, to our Wellington office. She has recently completed a Masters in Biosecurity and Conservation where her thesis examined the responses of alpine beetles to climate change in Fiordland. Keely has previously volunteered or worked with Landcare Research, the Auckland Botanic Gardens, and the Department of Conservation, working on a range of projects involving invertebrates, plants, and pests. She has hit the ground running since joining Wildlands, assisting with assessing the ecological values of potential Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), undertaking desktop analysis for Forest Stewardship Council certification, and assisting with a project to map indigenous vegetation types and weed locations.



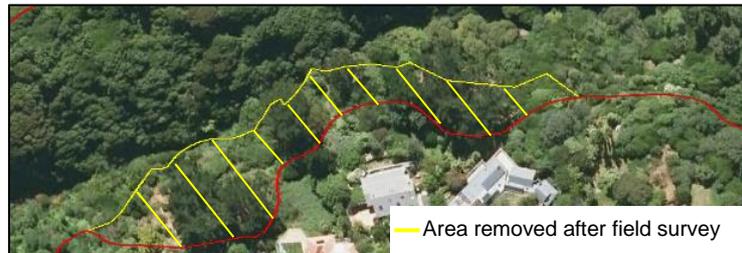
## **Advice on surveying and monitoring plants and fauna**

Wildlands can provide expert advice on survey and monitoring techniques and programme design for birds, freshwater fish, pest animals, invertebrates, plants, and habitats. For example, you may want to assess whether a pest animal control programme is, in fact, improving biodiversity values with your site of interest; or whether a structure in a stream affects aquatic biodiversity. We can provide you with advice on a range of cost-effective options that are the most likely to deliver useful information. All too often monitoring programmes are run for several years, or longer, only to find out at the end that the design of the programme was deficient or, with a few minor changes, could have provided more useful or robust data. Using an ecologist with statistical expertise at the design stage, which Wildlands can offer, can save heartbreak later.



## Significant Natural Area surveys

Wildlands Wellington is working with five District Councils in the Greater Wellington region to identify and describe natural areas that are significant under Criteria 23 of the Regional Policy Statement. Our involvement with these projects means that assessments are consistent across the region. We begin with a desktop analysis using the most recent aerial photography, and other visual tools such as historic vegetation maps, Google Earth, topographic maps, and the Land Cover Database. We compile records for freshwater fish, lizards, birds, rare and local uncommon plants, and bats. We include areas identified in the proposed Natural Resources Plan as ecologically significant or of importance to tangata whenua in the desktop assessment. The next step is to view sites from publically accessible areas to ensure values and boundaries are correct. The overall aim is to prepare site information suitable for public consultation.



**Projects recently completed by Wildlands Wellington include:** An assessment of the effects on seabirds of the construction of a new wharf at Napier Port, assessment of Significant Natural Areas for four District Councils, Forest Stewardship Council certification of plantation forests, potential effects and mitigation for a new stopbank on the Waikanae River, numerous subdivisions and freshwater fish projects involving fish recovery, fish surveys and a fish pass plan near SH58. Environment Court and Council hearing work including the potential effects of mussel farms on the 'Nationally Endangered' Marlborough king shag, and the potential effects of social events on the 'Nationally Critical' fairy tern and Australasian bittern.

### Wellington People:

	<p><b>Astrid van Meeuwen Dijkgraaf, PhD Ecology, Senior Ecologist</b> A highly qualified ecologist with a wealth of experience on large projects such as subdivision and infrastructure consent applications; and monitoring and inventory. Strong leadership skills make Astrid the ideal person to oversee projects while her science background means she can identify and initiate appropriate investigations and solutions for your projects. <b>Specialist skills:</b> Survey and monitoring and expert witness at Hearings (birds, bats, lizards, ecology, biodiversity offsets), design of monitoring programmes and data analysis, plant-animal interactions and management.</p>
	<p><b>Frances Forsyth, Masters Ecology, Senior Ecologist</b> An environmental scientist and ecologist with experience on a wide variety of projects particularly those involving freshwater fish. Frances has a reputation for well-researched, thoughtful and practical work with well-written clear reports. <b>Specialist skills:</b> Ecological restoration, ecological management plans, expert witness at Hearings, freshwater fish, and stream management. SEV and electric-fishing qualified.</p>
	<p><b>Rachel McClellan, PhD Zoology, Principal Avifauna Ecologist</b> An experienced ecologist and expert ornithologist who has worked on a wide variety of projects including strategic and conservation plans for large-scale restoration programmes, environmental impact assessments for mines, hydroelectric proposals, subdivisions, and wind farms, and the evaluation of threatened bird management programmes. <b>Specialist skills:</b> Design, implementation and review of fauna monitoring programmes, expert witness at Hearings (seabirds, shorebirds, forest birds, wetland birds), expert ornithological advice, writing and review of environmental impact assessments.</p>
	<p><b>Keely Paler, Masters Biosecurity and Conservation, Ecologist</b> An ecologist with experience in fieldwork and desktop based analysis focusing on a range of species including invertebrates, plants, and pest plants. Keely will be an integral part of projects with a large field work or data compilation component, such as assessing potential Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), assessments for Forest Stewardship Council certification and vegetation and weed mapping.</p>

### OFFICE LOCATIONS

Wellington    Auckland    Hamilton    Whakatane    Rotorua    Tauranga    Christchurch    Dunedin

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