

Comment from the Chair

Marine Educator and Conservationist Made Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit

Experiencing Marine Reserves founding Director, Samara Nicholas was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to marine conservation and education. We were delighted to see Samara receive this recognition and hope it will help raise the profile of marine education across Aotearoa/New Zealand. Samara is a founding trustee of the Northland-based Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, and founding Director of the Trust's [Experiencing Marine Reserves](#) (EMR) Programme which, with its sister programme [Whitebait Connection](#), educates New Zealand children and communities about marine and freshwater conservation.



Marine conservationist and educator Samara Nicholas MNZM during a trip to Raoul Island (the Kermadecs).

Since its inception in 2002 EMR has expanded to involve over 40,000 children, and their teachers and whānau in marine education and community engagement events across the country.

"EMR has now expanded to eight different regions throughout New Zealand. It's like a non-profit franchise," Samara said.

"I have been successful due to the awesome team around me - we now have up to 30 EMR co-ordinators around New Zealand."

EMR plays a significant role in NZAEE Seaweek, offering learning opportunities and events for children, families and communities around New Zealand.

Congratulations, Samara on your outstanding achievement.

Tree ID App

In collaboration with the Centre for Learning and Teaching and The App Lab, the School of Science has developed a smart device app that allows the user to identify the most common native trees of New Zealand.

You can [download the app here](#)



Communities Protecting Nature: Practice, Policy and Law **You are invited to the ECO Conference,** **Friday 7- Sunday 9 September, 2018**

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW ONLINE on the conference information page of the ECO website.

[Click here to find out more and to register.](#)

Early bird discounts end 27 August

Location is the Pukemokimoki Marae, 191 Riverbend Rd, Onekawa, Napier 4110

We know that changes to how we view and treat nature are required. We know that lots of different people and groups are trying different approaches to marine and land use, conservation and biosecurity.

This conference is about how we as diverse community members and groups can change how we do things to live within environmental limits while improving ecological and human well being.

We'll discuss how we can work better for the environment, the future, society, and our roles as guardians and kaitiaki for the future. Maori leadership and mataurangi Maori, often blended with western science, is flourishing – how do we foster more of this and respect the Treaty?

The conference is community focused and community driven, but with dialogue with our central and local politicians and government and a close eye on how we can do better.

In the pursuit of our goals of improving well-being while living within limits, we'll hear about good practice and needed reforms. We aim to hear what action and support is needed

for community involvement in environmental law, policy and practice.

We'll have fun too – bring your art and music of environmental action, bring your stories and lessons of your actions, campaigning, work, and history, your energy and insights.

See you there!

The team at ECO

For Further information, see the [ECO Conference Page](#)

Or contact the ECO office at:
eco@eco.org.nz, 04 385 7545.

What is your NZAEE Branch doing for Conservation Week?

Conservation Week 15-23 Sept



The Conservation Week artwork is of a tīeke surrounded by native species, calling you to help. There are four sectors represented – flora, fauna, freshwater and marine.

Conservation Week is run by DOC each year to encourage people to get involved in nature and help to take care of it

Each year DOC works with community groups across Aotearoa to spread the conservation message. It's a nationwide celebration of kiwis pitching in to help our native plants and animals. We invite you to join us by:

Going to a local Conservation Week event

Doing an activity off your own back

Donating to an existing conservation programme

Thanks and hope to see you out there!

Hamilton Zoo Conservation Week Event

Hamilton Zoo staff are working with the awesome people at HCC Parks & Recreation to create an event at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park for schools during Conservation Week this year. Conservation Week runs from Saturday 15 September to Sunday the 23rd. We want to gather as many conservation-inclined people and groups as we can at Waiwhakareke on Tuesday 18th September.

This event will allow us to educate students in the restoration of natural areas, talk and share information about our native flora and fauna, teach students how to play their part in

conservation and share the many agencies that have like-minded goals to protect our environment.

Forest and Bird Youth Wellington Event

Forest and Bird Youth Wellington is a newly established group of youth, aged 14-25, who are a voice and a hand for the environment. We meet once a month to discuss ideas to boost and empower our following, and decide on projects that we will involve ourselves in.

We are currently planning a networking event, to be held at Victoria University on **Wednesday the 26th of September from 6:30pm till 9pm.**

Helping foster environmental and conservation relationships across the wider-Wellington region is one of our big aims. This event is to provide youth to access to information about local agencies and community projects pre- and post- graduation.

We hope that you will join us for our networking event to help us connect youth from all paths of study/walks of life to the environment and careers. Can you please advise us by 22nd of August as to whether you will take up this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Sian and Molly
Forest and Bird Youth Wellington

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Your 2018 NZAEE National Executive

Please feel free to contact your national executive members at any time.

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