



**Forest & Bird**

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

# Driving Out Nature

A Forest & Bird project for managing vehicles on beaches

**Carl Morgan**

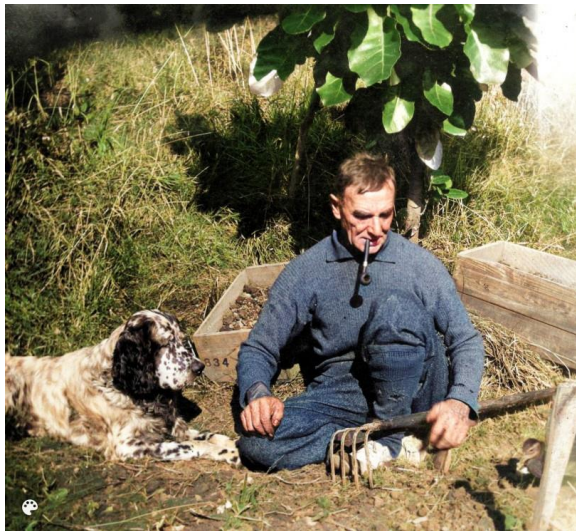
Regional Conservation Manager, Tāmaki  
Makaurau Auckland



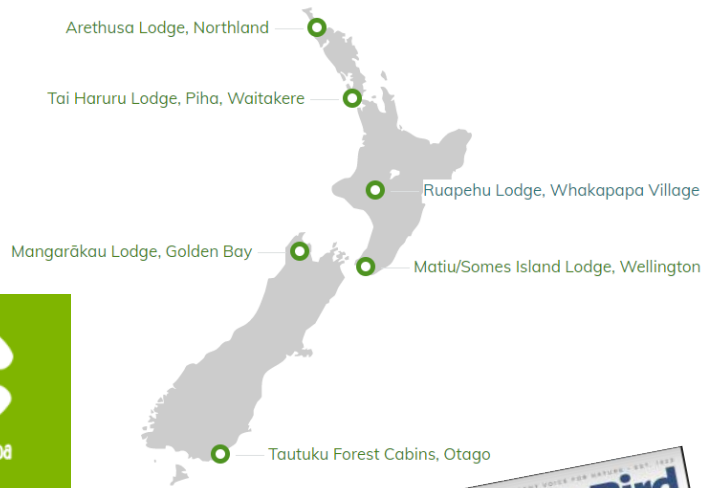
# Who are Forest & Bird?



Forest & Bird  
**YOUTH**  
NGĀ MĀHURI TIAKI



F&B founder Val Sanderson planting trees, Kapiti Island



# Background: Vehicles on Beaches

Photo: F&B Golden Bay



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CELEBRATING  
**100**  
YEARS 1923-2023



Photo Credit:  
Graham Lowther  
(excl. top left)

## Driving out our coastal wildlife

How well does your council protect biodiversity?

Forest & Bird has rated each coastal council on the regulations and resources they have in place to protect vulnerable species from vehicles driving on beaches in their area.

The plants and animals shown are just some of many needing protection on our coasts.



## Coastal Council areas rated

### NO PROTECTION

Kaipara  
Wairoa  
Gisborne  
Horowhenua  
Carterton  
South Wairarapa  
Buller  
Grey  
Westland  
Kaikōura  
Selwyn  
Waitaki  
Waimate  
Southland (includes Rakiura Stewart Island)

### SOME PROTECTION

Far North  
Whangarei  
Hauraki  
Thames-Coromandel  
Waikato  
Central Hawke's Bay  
Hastings  
Manawatū  
Rangitikei  
Taranua  
Porirua City  
Tasman  
Timaru  
Clutha  
Chatham Islands  
Christchurch City

### LITTLE PROTECTION

Ōtorohanga  
Waitomo  
Napier City  
New Plymouth  
South Taranaki  
Whanganui  
Masterton  
Ashburton

### GOOD PROTECTION

Auckland  
Ōpōtiki  
Western Bay of Plenty  
Whakatāne  
Tauranga City  
Hutt City  
Kāpiti Coast  
Wellington City  
Nelson City  
Marlborough  
Hurunui  
Waimakariri  
Invercargill City

### PROTECTED

Dunedin City

# The Golden Standard: Dunedin City Council

Policy: Vehicles are not permitted on Dunedin beaches unless they are being used to launch or retrieve a vessel.

Resourcing and partnership: DCC partners with DoC to deliver the Community Ranger Programme; a seasonal, educative initiative to improve compliance with DCC's Reserves and Beaches Bylaw.

Communication: 10/10



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Dunedin City Council

December 19, 2023 · 🌐

Great news for Dunedin's precious wildlife! Forest & Bird has scored Dunedin City Council top in NZ for protecting coastal species. Rangers employed by DCC and the Department of Conservation are visiting beaches to help locals look out for wildlife and care for the environment. They provide advice on ways to safely avoid sea lions, remind people that driving on beaches is not allowed and dogs must be on a lead near wildlife.

Forest & Bird members are concerned in other areas of NZ vehicles drive on beaches with no regard to nesting seabirds or resting marine mammals.

See the Forest & Bird article <http://bit.ly/beach-protection>  
Department of Conservation



# Next Steps



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Forest & Bird recommend that councils:

1. Use the Land Transport Act (specifically 22AB(1)(f)&(g)) to restrict the use of motor vehicles on unformed legal roads (beaches) for the purpose of protecting the environment, instead of relying on provisions in the LGA which does not allow bylaw creation for environmental reasons.
2. Put more resource (dedicated staff and budget) into compliance and enforcement of regulations.

# Next Steps



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Forest & Bird recommend that councils:

3. Provide better information to the public about driving on beaches, such as dedicated webpages on council websites and clear and adequate signage at beach entry points.
4. Improve cooperation across and between councils, the Department of Conservation and the NZ Police to enforce local regulation (bylaws) and national legislation (LTA, MMPR).

# Want to know more?

Visit our website or Google **Turning the tide on coastal protection.**

Get in touch with your local F&B branch.

Read our latest magazine.

Contact me: [c.morgan@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:c.morgan@forestandbird.org.nz)

