

# The Catlins Summer Programme 2018

Welcome to the **Catlins Summer Programme**, which offers walks, talks, wildlife experiences, fossil hunts, local history, films, children's activities and more. This programme has been organised by South Otago Forest & Bird in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and the Catlins Historical Society.

## Contact details

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## For updates

South Otago Forest & Bird Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ForestAndBirdSouthOtago/](http://www.facebook.com/ForestAndBirdSouthOtago/)

## Important information

- Before taking part in outdoor activities you must pay careful attention to the safety briefing and sign the register.
- Most activities are suitable for children, but children **must** be accompanied by an adult.
- Make sure that you have clothing and footwear suitable for our changeable weather.
- Activities may have limited numbers of participants so advance booking is recommended.
- Most activities don't have set charges, but a gold coin donation is appreciated.

## Events 2018 NB Most outdoor events last 2–3 hours

### Tues 02 Jan 10am Cryptic life in the forest

Meet: Papatowai picnic grounds

Organiser: Pen Gillette

Share Pen's passion for these lowly life forms during a short walk along the Picnic Point track.

### Thurs 04 Jan 10am Fossils at Papatowai

Meet: Papatowai picnic ground car park

Organiser: Fergus Sutherland

Discover Jurassic fossils including ammonites, shells and worms as you walk along the rocky shore.

### Thurs 04 Jan 4pm Family bird spotting & ID – Kiwi Conservation Club activity open to all

Meet: Pounaweia playground shelter

Organiser: Pen Gillette

Learn bird ID and recording skills, especially for children, from an enthusiastic expert. (Bring binoculars if you have them.)

### Sun 07 Jan Leaving 1pm Catlins Historical Society's Catlins Heritage Tour

Meet: Owaka Museum Cost: \$10 (children free) inc bus fare & afternoon tea Organiser: John Burgess

Visit places of historical interest – Caberfeidh, Kahuika, Tahakopa and Maclennan – with commentaries from local residents and Society members.

### Mon 08 Jan 7pm Insect conservation at Earthlore

Meet: Earthlore car park 129 Hina Hina Road

Organisers: Gordon & Janine Thompson

Stroll through Earthlore's insect conservation habitat and hear about the native plants that are crucial for the survival of NZ's butterflies and moths, and about our recovery programme for Red Admiral and Copper butterflies.

### Thurs 11 Jan 7.30pm (films & talk) 9.30pm (walk) Tahakopa history and NZ bats

Meet: 'Our Hut' in Tahakopa Limit: 35 Cost: \$5 Talk & supper No charge for walk Organiser: Catriona Gower

Enjoy a short film about early days in Tahakopa, featuring Plunket founder Truby King. There will then be a talk on long-tailed bats followed by supper and bat spotting a short drive away. Torch and warm clothes advised. Bring a camp stool if required.

### Fri 12 Jan 2.30pm Sea lions on the beach

Meet: Owaka Museum Limit: 20 Cost: \$5 for bus

Organiser: Emma Bardsley

A chance to see NZ sea lions and hear from DOC ranger Emma Bardsley about their biology. The bus will drop you off at Surat Bay and pick you up approx two hours later after a 3km guided walk to Cannibal Bay.

**Sat 13 Jan 2.30pm Practical penguin conservation**

**Meet:** Rock monument area above the Nuggets car park

**Organiser:** Jim Young

Talk to researcher Mel Young about yellow-eyed penguin biology and conservation, while painting yellow-eyed penguin decoys and building nest boxes for blue penguins. All materials and equipment provided.

**Wed 17 Jan 9pm Catlins nightlife**

**Meet:** Shanks Bush, cnr Tahakopa Valley Rd & Papatowai Highway

**Organiser:** Emma Bardsley

Discover life after dark in the Catlins Bush with DOC Ranger Emma Bardsley. Bring a torch.

**Thurs 18 Jan 3pm Clutha District Libraries & Otago Museum: Wild About Reading Tūhura Science Show**

**Meet:** Owaka Library

**Organiser:** Vicki Woodrow

Science is everywhere, and in every book too! Join the Otago Museum's Tūhura Science Team as we go wild experimenting with the science in the books from your library. It's time to go wild right in your library!!!

**Fri 19 Jan 2.30pm Birds at the Catlins River Estuary**

**Meet:** Owaka Museum Limit: 20 Cost: \$5 for bus

**Organiser:** Richard Schofield

Come with Richard to find numerous bird species around the Catlins Lake (40+ spotted last year) – dotterels, oyster catchers, shags, white-faced herons, spoonbills, godwits – and maybe even a bittern.

**Fri 19 Jan 7pm Insect conservation at Earthlore As for Mon 08 Jan**

**Sat 20 Jan 10am Mohua at the Wisp**

**Meet:** Owaka Museum to car pool/get direction

**Organiser:** Fergus Sutherland

Fergus will lead an exploration along the top end of the Catlins River Walk to view life in the beech forest, especially the endangered mohua (yellowhead). Approx 3 hrs – bring binoculars if you have them and lunch.

**Sun 21 Jan 2pm Predator tracking at Pounaweia**

**Meet:** Pounaweia playground shelter

**Organiser:** Jim Young

Build an ink tunnel and make chew cards so that you can discover what predators are present in your local area/backyard.

**Tues 23 Jan 1pm Low life, high life and past life at Otanomomo**

**Meet:** Otanomomo Scientific Reserve, Telford Dairy entrance, 615 Owaka Highway **Organiser:** Pen Gillette

A rare chance to explore the remnant lowland podocarp forest at Otanomomo and visit an historic grave site. (Marked route, not a formed walking track.) We'll be doing some not-too-energetic weed busting en route.

**Tues 23 Jan 7.30pm Predator Free Catlins – Backyard and beyond**

**Meet:** Owaka Community Centre Supper room

**Organiser:** Jim Young

Learn about pests – stoats, rats, possums etc – in your backyard or local area; what you can do to protect your patch; and how this can be expanded into wider predator control. Talk and panel discussion followed by a practical trapping workshop.

**Sun 28 Jan 10.30am Guided walk on the Long Track at Lenz**

**Meet:** Lenz Reserve car park Rapid 614 Chaslands Highway

**Organiser:** Roy Johnstone

Hear about early logging history and current conservation efforts during an 8km bush walk through regenerating and original forest. A few muddy sections – appropriate footwear needed. Bring lunch for a stop at the log bridge.

**Thurs 08 Feb 1pm Wild at the Wisp**

**Meet:** Owaka Museum to car pool/get directions to the Wisp

**Organiser:** Pen Gillette

Share Pen's passion for lichens, fungi and birds on a walk into the top end of the Tawanui River Walk.

**Fri 09 Feb 7.30pm NZ Bat talk 9.30pm Catlins bat spotting**

**Meet:** Owaka Community Centre Supper room

**Organiser:** Catriona Gower

A talk and film clips about bats in general and NZ ones in particular, followed by a drive to Tawanui when you may get to see and hear some of our local bats. Torch and warm clothes advised. Suitable for low mobility participants – bring a camp stool.

**Wed 14 Feb 7.30pm Fossils of the South**

**Meet:** Owaka Community Centre Supper room

**Organiser:** Roy Johnstone

Daphne Lee from Otago University will talk about the many and varied fossils of the area. Also a chance to bring along that 'funny-looking rock' that you've been wanting to know more about.

**Mon 26 Feb 7.30pm Yellow-eyed penguins – going solo**

**Meet:** Owaka Community Centre Supper room

**Organiser:** Roy Johnstone

Researcher Mel Young shares her findings about the conservation implications of the post-fledging dispersal of the endangered yellow-eyed penguin.