

Ric Barber.

Thames Community Board,  
Pvte. Bag,  
THAMES  
16/10/2018

140 Brunton Cresc.,  
THAMES 3500  
snailaway180@gmail.com  
Ph. 869 0683

THAMES-COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

19 OCT 2018

RECEIVED BY:

kim

Re: SILENT FOREST: John W. Hall Arboretum

Dear Chairman,

When my husband and I (both elderly) moved to Thames in 2014 to live in a house which adjoins the lower end of the above arboretum, the main attraction, for us, was the native bird life and the beautiful old trees in the area. As we were from the north, we had hardly ever seen or heard a bell-bird! My disabled husband spent most of his time on our decks, listening to and watching the birds and I began volunteering, under the aegis of the Forest & Bird Soc, removing and poisoning the pest trees and plants with another dedicated volunteer, Bev. Woods.; work which we completed in the lower area of the arboretum in 2016.

During this time, we noticed a marked decline in the birdlife, so I asked to be allowed to run a small trapline for rats and mustelids and a possum bait station, for which I had been trained. This offer was declined, for the reasons of public safety(?) and that a contractor is already employed by the Council. I would counter that (a) signs are apparently sufficient for a warning and (b) the contractor does not appear to be doing his job. How often does he report results? and what are they?

The last time we saw or heard a native bird here was in July 2018 and we have seen one native pigeon fly across, since then.

Sooo – I think it may safely be said that the native bird-life in the lower arboretum has now been exterminated.

Of course there are blackbirds, mynahs, sparrows, a shining cuckoo or two and a few thrushes and finches to hold up the forest bird banner in our beautiful Thames!  
And HEY! The possums hold a party under my lemon tree every night!!

This does not auger well for the Government initiative of eliminating pests by 2030, does it?

As a sad ratepayer and Forest & Bird member I would like to ask that the TCDC Parks & Reserves Officer be requested to explain why no earlier action on this matter has been undertaken and what can, or will, be done now to remedy this unhappy state of affairs.

( Mrs.) Suzanne Williams

c.c.: TCDC Parks & Reserves Field Officer  
Forest & Bird, Thames

COPY  
FOR YOUR INFO.