



Wildlands

Wellington News - May 2026

The days are getting shorter and the field season is drawing to a close – but that doesn't mean we're slowing down; Wildlands Wellington is heading into Autumn with lots of exciting projects – come see us to get yours started today!



Wellington team at the Wildlands 40th Anniversary celebration. From top left to bottom right: Florence Kelly, Joe Dillon, Henry Morse, Jo McQueen, Tessa Roberts, Nyree Fea, Lily Tidwell.

New office, new Team Leader!

Wildlands Wellington team has undergone two major changes in the past year. Excitingly, we have relocated from Porirua to a more convenient location at 204 Thorndon Quay, just a 10-minute walk from Wellington Station. We welcome visitors, so pop in if you would like to catch up face-to-face for a coffee and a chat. Additionally, Senior Ecologist Tessa Roberts has stepped up as the Team Leader for the office. Tessa brings a wealth of skills and experience to this role and is excited to lead this passionate team from their new office.



Wildlands celebrates 40th anniversary

Last September, Wildlanders from Northland to Invercargill got together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the company. Founded in 1985 by Sarah Beadel, Wildlands has built up considerable experience in ecology and restoration, having grown from one person to over 150 highly knowledgeable staff over 14 offices throughout the country.

The breadth and depth of the expertise of Wildlands staff in New Zealand ecology remains unparalleled. Celebrations included restoration planting, site visits, talks by staff and guests, and a festive dinner.

Indigenous bird monitoring for Capital Kiwi

The Wildlands Wellington team is proud to be working with Capital Kiwi to develop their new bird monitoring programme. While Capital Kiwi have extensively monitored the effects of their predator control on kiwi-nui (North Island brown kiwi), they also wish to know whether their work is benefitting other indigenous birds. Our fauna specialist, Nyree Fee, was engaged to work along side Capital Kiwi staff to design a monitoring programme that aims to assess population trends of indigenous birds across the entire Capital Kiwi project area. The programme will involve annual monitoring of birds, during spring and summer, using acoustic recording devices. Implementation of the monitoring programme began in November 2025, and we will be excited to see the results as they become available.



Lily Tidwell collecting some MCI samples for analysis.

New freshwater macroinvertebrate capability

Ecologist Lily Tidwell has been trained in freshwater macroinvertebrate identification under the careful tutelage of Freshwater Ecologist Dr Richard Storey. Macroinvertebrate data provides critical information on the health and ecological function of streams and is an excellent complement to Lily's other freshwater skills of electric fishing, periphyton monitoring, fish salvage, and Stream Ecological Valuation assessments. A dedicated mini lab has been set up in the Wellington office for this purpose, complete with a Konus stereo microscope. We welcome samples to be dropped off at our handy central Wellington location.

Fast-Track Consenting

Several of our talented and dedicated Senior and Specialist Ecologists have been engaged to provide advice regarding a range of projects going through the fast-track consenting process. This includes work on behalf of applicants, as well as providing peer reviews of applications on behalf of the Environmental Protection Authority. Wildlands pride ourselves on providing robust, balanced, practical, and ethical advice. As a consultancy that routinely works on 'both sides of the fence' (i.e. on behalf of consent applicants, and as consent application reviewers for a range of regulatory bodies), we ensure that the advice we provide is consistent, impartial, and founded in best practice ecological principles, no matter who we are representing.

Our Team



Tessa Roberts
Senior Ecologist, Team Leader Wellington
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We are excited to have Tessa Roberts stepping into the Team Leader role for the Wellington office. Tessa has been an ecologist for 18 years, mainly in the Wellington Region, working for universities, councils, central government, and consultancies. She has extensive experience in ecological monitoring, surveying, remediation, and management. She has a particular passion for freshwater and vegetation communities, landscape restoration and biosecurity.



Dr. Nyree Fea
Senior Ecologist
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Dr Nyree Fea has more than 25 years of experience working as an ecologist in Aotearoa New Zealand. Nyree has managed a range of ecological projects and written numerous ecological assessments and management plans. Nyree is an expert in population biology of birds, bats and introduced mammals. She is particularly skilled in biodiversity offset accounting models and statistical analysis. Nyree has worked with a wide range of taxa and environments: indigenous forests, alpine habitats, wetlands, productive landscapes, as well as coastal and marine environments.



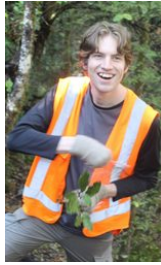
Florence Kelly
Herpetologist and Ecologist
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Florence Kelly is an experienced ecologist and herpetologist specialising in lizard management and restoration. Florence provides technical advice on lizard management and habitat enhancement, undertakes surveys, assessments of ecological effects, and designs and implements ecological management plans (lizard, restoration, pest plant, pest animal). Florence is an active member of her field as, an author of 12 publications, on the Council of SRARNZ (Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand), an editor for SRARNZ notes and a sub-editor for the journal BioGecko.



Lily Tidwell
Ecologist
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Lily has experience working with avifauna, herpetofauna, acoustic bat surveys, pest plant control, freshwater systems, and forest systems in both Aotearoa and the United States. Since joining Wildlands in 2021, Lily has undertaken and managed ecological effect assessments for diverse projects and provided specialist assessments for lizards and streams. They have certifications for lizard surveys, bird banding, and electric fishing, and have been trained in Stream Ecological Valuation, freshwater macroinvertebrate identification, and Biodiversity Offset Accounting Modelling. They hold a Master of Conservation Biology degree from Victoria University of Wellington and a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Sewanee University, Tennessee.



Joe Dillon
Botanist and Field Ecologist
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Joe Dillon is a highly knowledgeable botanist, experienced in a variety of ecology settings with a focus on herbaceous flowering plants. Joe has a MSc in Conservation Biology from Victoria University of Wellington, focusing on the effects of climate change on orchid distribution. Joe also received a summer scholarship for his work on orchid germination, culturing their fungal partners (mycorrhizae), discovering pollinators and optimum conditions for transplanting orchids into the wild. In addition to his botanical skills, Joe has undertaken bird monitoring, lizard salvage, bat detection, ecological restoration, and pest management.



Dr. Henry Morse
Field Ecologist/GIS Technician
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Henry is experienced in ecological mapping and modelling as well as field ecology. Henry has an MSc in Restoration Ecology and a PhD in Ecology and Biodiversity from Victoria University of Wellington. Henry's PhD specialised in modelling forest regeneration in response to climate change in his graduate work. As a part of this specialisation, he also explored the impacts of landscape-scale restoration on ecosystem services. Henry also has field experience in Avifauna monitoring and stream ecology.

Our Services

- Freshwater, terrestrial and marine ecological surveys and assessment.
- Wetland delineation and assessment.
- Assessments of ecological effects and solutions for large and small scale projects
- Ecological restoration and implementation plans.
- Identification of mitigation options.
- Geospatial representation and analysis.
- Plant, bird, lizard, bat, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates surveys, assessment, monitoring and salvage.
- Pest animal surveys, and weed impact assessments and management plans.
- UAV surveys for quality ecological data.
- Threatened plant and fauna management.

WELLINGTON: Level 3, 204 Thorndon Quay, Pipitea, Wellington.

REGIONAL OFFICES: Rotorua, Whangārei, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka, and Invercargill.



Supreme Winner

