



PŪKOROKORO FIELD COURSE Pūkoro Shoreside Centre

Date	31 January -6 February 2026
Time	3pm Saturday to 3pm Friday
Fee	\$1120 includes accommodation and all meals.
Numbers	12 participants, 2 or 3 tutors

Included:

- General information
- Covid Policy
- Equipment List
- Draft timetable
- Enrolment form

General Information

A copy of the draft programme is attached. You will see that the course includes both mist-netting and cannon-netting. On these days you will be catching and banding birds for research purposes. This 'bird-in-the-hand' experience is for most participants the highlight of the course. There may be an opportunity to try your hand at extracting birds from the mist nets, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Please note that both topics and tutors may still be changed. The order of events may also change before the course starts, and then according to the situation on the day – weather, birds, people, etc.

The course fee of \$1120 includes all accommodation and meals.

The Pūkoro Shoreside Centre has a large lounge/dining area with kitchen at one end, and a display area with a small gift shop at the other. There is a fully equipped lecture room.

Sleeping accommodation for course participants is normally in four or six-bed bunkrooms* with mattresses and pillows provided, and shower and toilet facilities adjacent. Bring pillowcase, sleeping bag or blankets and sheets, towels, and toilet gear. Bedding can be hired from the centre if you need to travel light.

For the field work sessions, the following are useful: binoculars, bird books and hand lens. You may not already have all these items, but do not rush out and buy them. Some may be borrowed, or in the case of field guides, purchased from the centre, and during the course you will learn the qualities desirable for future purchases. A telescope and tripod can be provided for the use of each participant, but you may wish to bring your own scope if you have one. Wet and cold weather gear and sunhat and sunblock are essential items.

We rely on participants sharing transport for field work.

A caterer provides all meals. **Please advise us in advance if you have any food requirements.**

Course participants help with washing and clearing up. Tea and coffee making facilities are available at all times. **Please bring a contribution of goodies like fruitcake or biscuits, home baking or bought, to share for teas and suppers.** If you like a beer or a glass of wine or soft drink, etc. with your dinner, bring that too.

The centre relies on tank water, so please bring plenty of clothing for the week to avoid having to wash any. Old shorts, shirts and trousers will be ideal for outdoor work - be prepared to get dirty at

times. You may get wet or muddy at least three times. **It is essential to bring tight-fitting beach shoes or old trainers or similar that tie on for walking in mud and water.** Gumboots could be useful for walking in long grass if the weather is wet (but are not suitable on the mudflats.)

The nearest shops are a small grocery store and petrol station at Kaiaua, about seven kilometres north of the centre.

If you have been involved in an interesting bird or conservation project, there will be an opportunity to speak about it briefly to the group (maximum 5-10 minutes) so do bring any relevant display material, slides, short power point, etc. If you want to show a sequence of photos, please have these edited and named so that they sort appropriately and in a separate folder before you arrive. If you wish to show a ppt, short video or photos, please have them on a memory stick in a file with your name on it

Please contact the Centre Manager, Keith Woodley, 09 232 2781 or admin@shorebirds.org.nz if you have any other queries or wish to stay extra nights at either end of the course. You would then need to arrange your own food outside the course dates.

We look forward to meeting you at Pūkorokoro.

Audrie McKenzie Daly – Course Convener
Keith Woodley – Centre Manager

Equipment List

- Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets
- Pillow slip
- Towels and toilet gear
- Ear plugs useful if you are a light sleeper.
- Old clothing for field work
- Casual clothing otherwise
- Soft-soled shoes for indoors
- Walking shoes or boots (gumboots can be useful if wet)
- Old trainers/surf boots, etc (tie-on/zipped is best as the mud is sticky) for walking **in** the mudflats – essential for at least two sessions.
- Warm jacket, hat
- Waterproof jacket (over-trousers too if you have them)
- Sit-mat or small old cushion may be useful for sitting waiting on shell banks.
- Sunhat
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses (glare on shell bank can be intense)
- First aid requirements/medication
- Insect repellent
- Torch - essential for the night activity as well as occasional use around the centre
- Small day pack
- Drink bottle
- Thermos may be enjoyable, not essential.

Please **bring the following if you have them**:

- Binoculars
- Camera – and the connections to download digital files to the centre computer.
- Field guides
- Telescope and tripod: *Note we can supply each participant with a scope and tripod if needed.*
- Hand lens
- Slides, display material, etc on a stick, if you have a topic you want to tell the group about on the evening of Day 2.



26th PŪKOROKORO FIELD COURSE
Pūkoro Shoresbird Centre 31 January-6 February 2026

PROGRAMME

Sessions in italics include field work. Be prepared for time on the shore, in the mud etc.
Lecture sessions in the Wrybill Room.

Sunrise approx. 0635, sunset approx. 2027

DAY 1: Saturday 31 January High tide 1838 (3.2 m)

- 1530 Welcome and introductions. An overview of the course. Using binoculars and telescopes
Keith Woodley, Audrie McKenzie Daly, Gillian Vaughan
- 1700 *Wader watch; informal discussion on telescopes and binoculars* Keith Woodley, Gillian Vaughan
- 1900 DINNER
- 2000 Migration and banding Keith Woodley
- 2100 CLOSE

DAY 2: Sunday 1 February High tide 0717 (3.4 m) and 1943 (3.3 m)

- 0600 LIGHT BREAKFAST
- 0630 *Wader watch* Keith Woodley, David Melville, Gillian Vaughan et al
- 0830 BREAKFAST
- 0930 Wader identification Adrian Riegen
- 1030 COFFEE
- 1100 Parts of a bird: what to record in the field Adrian Riegen
- 1200 LUNCH
- 1300 *An Overview of the Upper Firth of Thames Geography and Ecosystem* John Charteris
- 1645 Return to dining room in Centre, wrap-up John Charteris
- 1745 DINNER
- 1830 *Wader watch* Keith Woodley, David Melville, Gillian Vaughan et al
- 2000 Course participants talk about their projects Course participants
- 2100 CLOSE

DAY 3: Monday 2 February High tide 0812 (3.5m) and 2040 (3.3 m); Low tide 1420 (0.6m)

- 0600 LIGHT BREAKFAST
- 0630 *Wader watch* Keith Woodley, David Melville, Gillian Vaughan
- 0830 BREAKFAST
- 0915 Sharing the Margins: Status of NZ Shorebirds Keith Woodley
- 1045 COFFEE
- 1100 Flying into an Uncertain Future: The Flyway David Melville
- 1230 LUNCH
- 1330 *Out in the mud: shorebird foraging* David Melville
- 1500 TEA
- 1530 ID organisms in lab Peter Maddison, David Melville,
- 1700 Shorebird Foraging David Melville
- 1830 DINNER
- 1930 Invertebrates of the Pūkoro Shoresbird Miranda area (Wrybill Room) Robert Hoare
- 2100 *Spider and insect walk, moths to the light* Grace Hall, Robert Hoare

DAY 4: Tuesday 3 February High Tide 0903 (3.6m)

0630	LIGHT BREAKFAST	
0700	<i>Wader ID in the field, note taking</i>	Keith, David, Gillian, Adrian
0900	BREAKFAST	
0930	<i>Coastal Ecology - on the shore</i>	David Riddell
1030	COFFEE	
1045	Coastal Ecology - activities at the Centre + food web construction	David Riddell
1230	LUNCH	
1315	Coastal Botany <i>Walking the saltmarsh and Findlay Reserve</i>	Tansy Bliss, Peter Maddison
1600	COFFEE	
1615	Plant ID + food web construction	Peter Maddison
1715	Free time	
1800	DINNER	
1900	Briefing and preparation for mist-netting	Stephen Davies Adrian Riegen
2000	Bird in the Hand: why and how – observations and measurements	David Melville
2100	CLOSE	

DAY 5: Wednesday 4 February High tide 0950 (3.6 m) 22.18 (3.5m)

0530	LIGHT BREAKFAST + <i>set up mist nets</i>	Stephen, Adrian, Gillian, David, James Russell
0630	<i>Mist netting passerines</i>	
0900	BREAKFAST <i>at the orchard; mist netting continues</i>	
1230	LUNCH	
1330	Debrief mist-netting	Stephen
1350	Bird-banding certification in NZ, logbook	David Melville
1400	Use of data, OSNZ recording schemes, Rare Bird Report	David Melville
1500	COFFEE	
1530	Counting Birds – How we census	Gillian Vaughan
1630	Preparation for cannon netting	Adrian Riegen
1730	Optional: preparing the cannon netting kit	Adrian Riegen
1830	DINNER	
1930	Wader watch OR eBird and other recording (Wrybill Room)	David Melville
2100	CLOSE	

DAY 6: Thursday 5 February High tide 1036 (3.6m)

0600	<i>Set cannon nets</i>	Adrian Riegen, David Melville, Gillian Vaughan
	<i>BREAKFAST in the field approx. 7.30. Briefing with full cannon netting team.</i>	
	LUNCH when netting process complete approx. 4hrs after catch, at Centre	
1300	Evaluation and results of netting	Adrian, Gillian, David
1600	Anatomy of a shorebird	Jodi Salinsky
1800	DINNER	
1900	Field Guides and documentaries	Keith Woodley
2130	CLOSE	

DAY 7 Friday 6 February High tide 1119 (3.5)

0700	BREAKFAST	
0815	Wrap Up	Audrie, Keith, Gillian
0830	Planning your census	
0915	<i>Census of the Robert Findlay reserve</i>	David /Keith /Gillian
1115	Debrief and analysis of census results	David/ Keith/Gillian
1230	Evaluations; Group photograph	
1300	LUNCH	
1400	Farewells and participant departures	

PŪKOROKORO FIELD COURSE

Pūkorokoro Shorebird Centre

31 January – 6 February 2026

Registration Form

Your Details	
Name (as you would like it to appear on a badge)	
	Male / Female – <i>for assigning to a bunk room</i>
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Bringing own telescope	Yes / No
Emergency Contact Details	
Name	
Phone	
Travel Arrangements – <i>please complete/delete as required</i>	
I will be arriving by car on: I can offer a lift in my car. Is a lift available from my area?	
Food Requirements – <i>diet or allergies only</i>	
Interest – <i>Please explain in a couple of sentences why you would like to attend</i>	

Once your place on the course has been confirmed, please make your deposit of \$350 to the account below.

Registration Form

Email to: admin@shorebirds.org.nz

Or post to:

Pūkorokoro Shorebird Centre
283 East Coast Road, RD 3
Pokeno 2473

Deposit

Deposits are refundable in the event of your cancellation **up to 15 January 2026**.

Internet Banking

Account	02 0290 0056853 00
Reference	PFC 2026
Particulars	Your Name