



Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

# Take a Moment to Arohia te Taiao

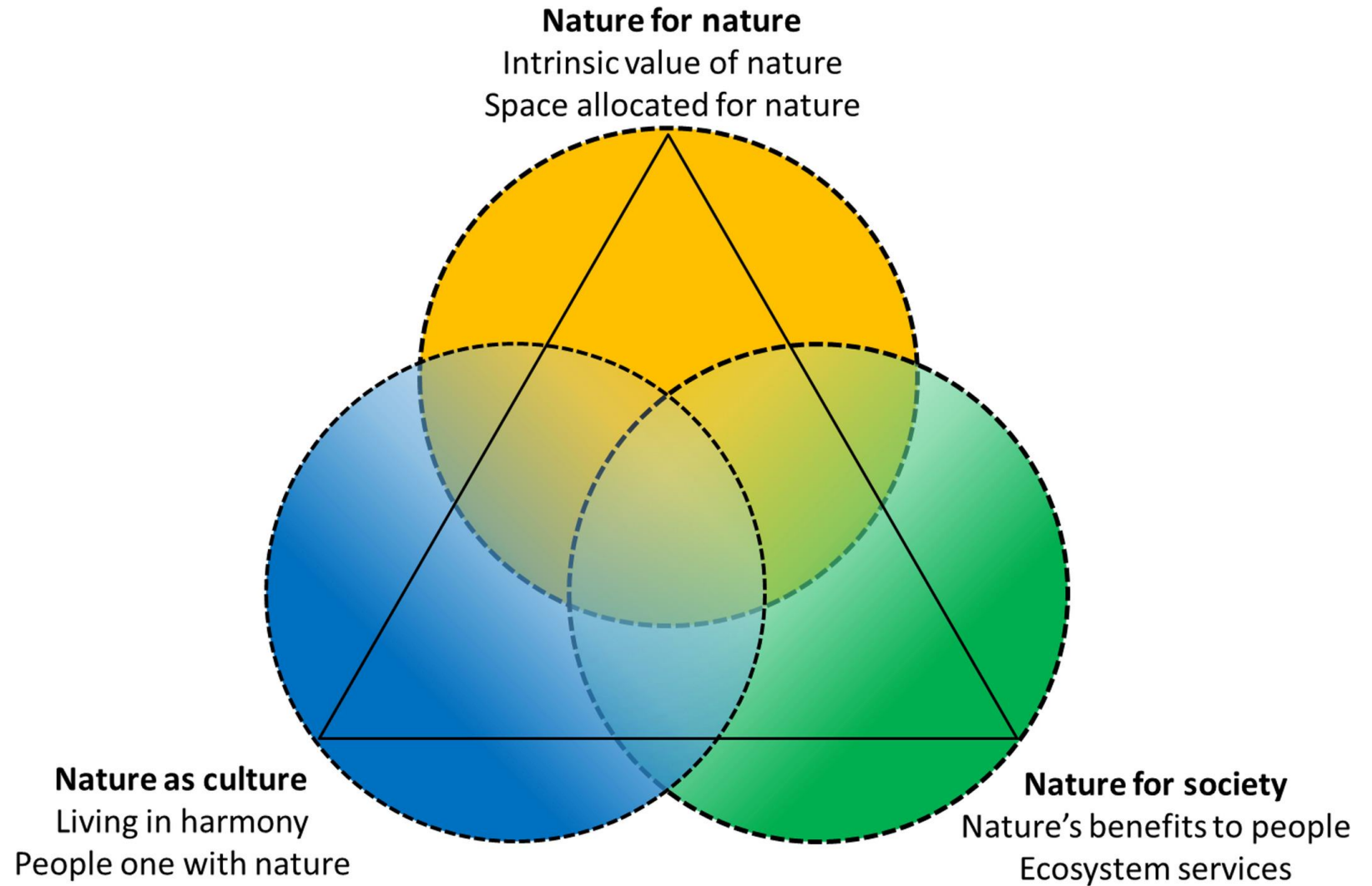
...notice, discover, nurture, enjoy,  
celebrate...

Gradon Diprose, Angela Brandt and Alison  
Greenaway



# Nature Futures Framework

Source: Pereira et al., 2020.





New Zealand

# GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

# Tweet, tweet – making our birds count!

Citizen science and Nature Futures

# Bringing together people & biodiversity research



- Birds as environmental indicators
- Monitoring urban biodiversity
- Engaging New Zealanders
- Providing learning experiences
- Connection to nature

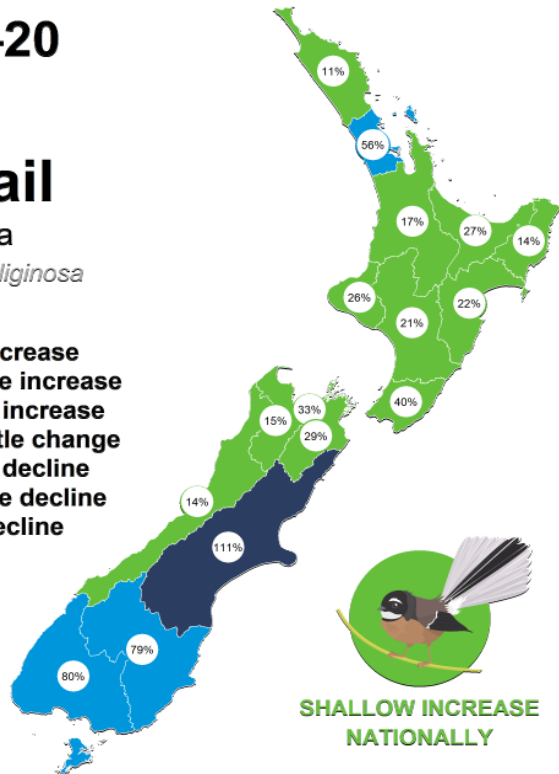
2010–20

## Fantail

Pīwaiwaka

*Rhipidura fuliginosa*

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline





# NZGBS and Nature Futures



**Nature for nature**

'Birds are beautiful'

'I am saddened about reducing numbers and species of our precious NZ birds'

'I just love birds!'

**Nature as culture**

'It's a fantastic way to feel involved in a collective effort'

'Makes me realise lots of other people care about birds'

'Really helps to appreciate your environment and how you can make it better for birds'

**Nature for society**

'It was very peaceful to do'

'Slow down and just observe and listen to nature'

'Such an enjoyable experience – enforced but focused resting!'

**Nature helps us get through lockdowns – workplaces should give back one day a month for nature.**  
How do you feel about this idea?



Spending time in nature supports our wellbeing (Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand).  
Photo by Sustainable Coastlines/CC BY-NC 2.0



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Total number of open text box responses = **9,478**

We focused on young people (24yo and under)

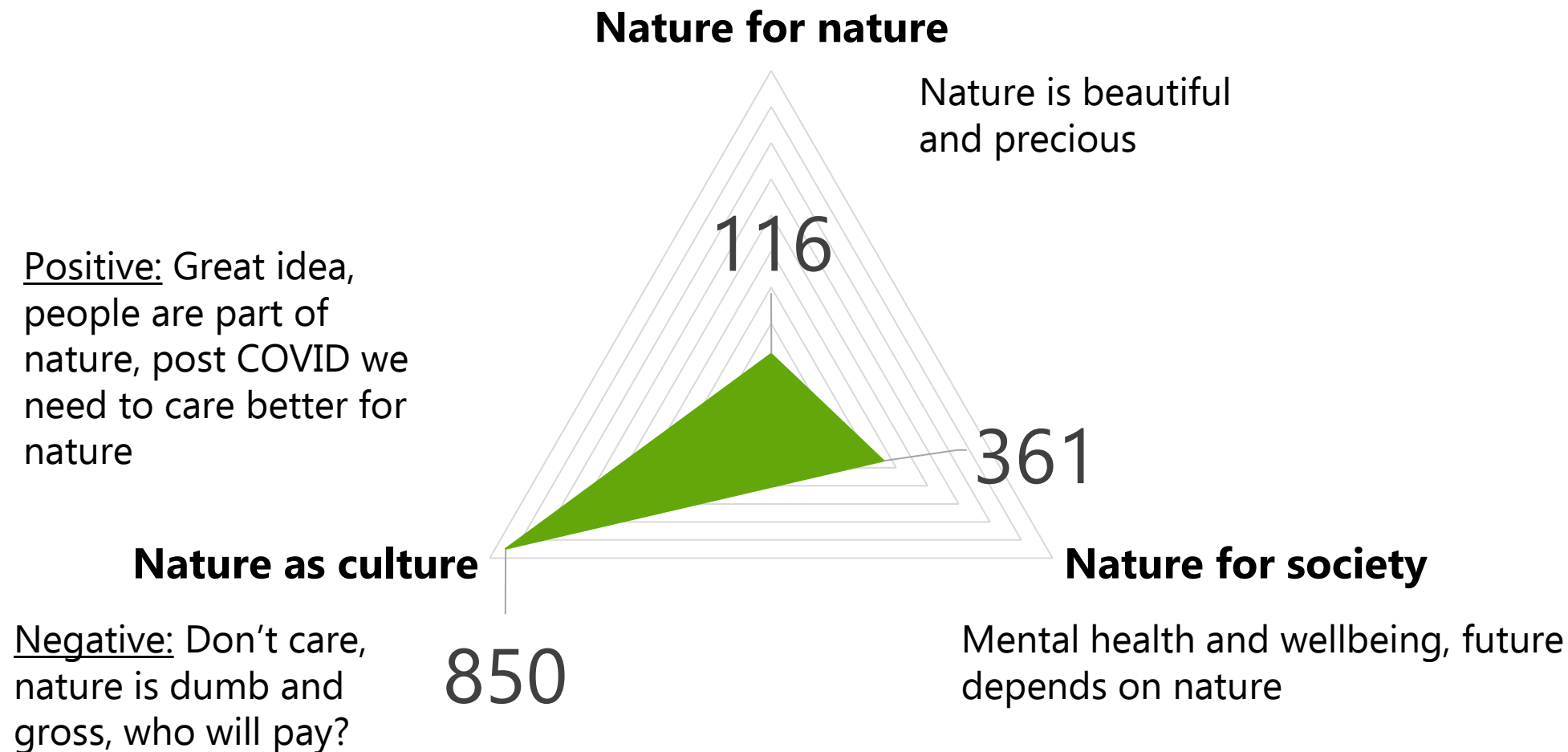
Number of responses to the open text box for 24yo and under = **2468**

Number of meaningful responses to open text box for 24yo and under = **1558**





# Responses to the open text field



# Nature as culture

Everyone needs  
To play a part in taking  
care of our land – yes!

If we all did less  
and consumed less, nature  
would benefit. We  
are nature too, so  
we are ruining our only  
life environment.

I do not care!!!!!!! Cos,  
I am not doing it. I  
am happy to go  
to the mall. I just  
don't care! I just don't care!

Who will pay for this?  
Small businesses need support  
to be able to  
offer this during  
hard times. Business owners need  
mental health support.  
Adds financial stress.  
Who will pay employee wages?  
Unemployed can do it.







# Connecting with Nature



Interviews March – May 2020 (alert levels 4 and 3).

Registration for interviews via social media and research networks, N =113 (most within 24 hours).

Selected for interviews on the basis of location and age group.

40 interviews via phone, 30 -90 minutes, recorded and transcribed.

Brief thematic analysis and findings shared back via social media.



# Framework for inquiry

Social practice theory

Pathways to nature:

Senses

Emotion

Beauty

Meaning

Compassion

## SOCIAL CHANGE

Works across three connected areas that shape what people actually do - their practices



## BENEFITS OF THIS APPROACH

- Shows connections and maps complexity
- Moves beyond individuals to collectives at larger scales
- Results in a different/wider intervention logic and impact than just focusing on one area [i.e. just competence or materials]
- Draws on a wider range of Social Science disciplines and knowledge [i.e. more than behavioural psychology or economic modelling]

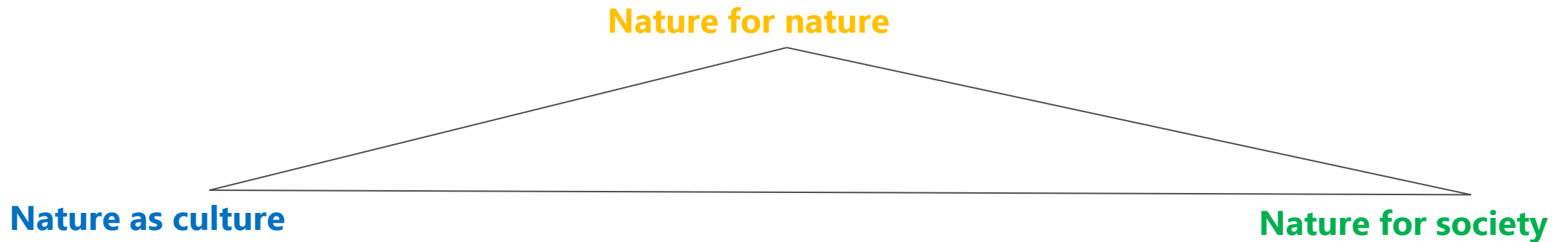


*I've lived here for, I don't know, 15 years or so? It sounds crazy but actually looking up what walks are available round here and different places I could go each day so I didn't get bored. And I started to realise just how much is around here, how much is accessible and you just walk to the end of the street and there's three or four different parks you can go. You walk along and your just surrounded by bush and birds, and we're just so lucky down here. It's amazing. But I just realised that, I don't know, the council's been busy while I haven't been paying attention. Well, I've never really paid much attention to, sort of, the plans and the community plans and that sort of thing, but even beside the expressway, it's all beautifully planted and there's rabbits-- rabbits are probably not a good thing, but there's wildlife, there's birds and you're walking alongside a motorway but it's actually really pleasant. There's heaps of planting and it's a really nice outlook. They've done a really good job down here.*



## Nature futures framework

Nature can take its breath. Possibly we have a second chance of seeing the paddle crabs, marine life and just the birds coming in really, really freely. It feels like they are acknowledging us, thank you for stopping all this trouble. It was like it was a stillness. So I think it [lockdown] would be a really positive thing for nature.



So we haven't been able to swim, which for us is quite a big deal because it's part of our healing and cleansing process, and it's part of keeping up our health and well-being. And when we get stressed or when we get down, we go to the water and we swim, and we pure [remove tapu], and we clear all the crap.

So in terms of caring for the property, the backyard, and harvesting and things like that, I mean, that has gone on pretty much as normal, but perhaps a little bit on steroids because both of us are at home and we're both avid gardeners, and the garden is a fantastic place to be in a stressful situation.



## Conclusion and Implications



- Moments of connection with nature are valuable.
- These moments directly impact well-being of individuals, nature and society.
- What might grow out of these moments of connection?