



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 74, Hamilton, New Zealand

In Association with Ducks Unlimited, Canada, U.S.A., Mexico

“FLIGHT”

NEWSLETTER NO 2/74

DECEMBER 1974

What do you think of "FLIGHT" as the name for our newsletter? Your Executive felt this publication should have an appropriate name - but have mixed feelings about the one chosen for this issue (Executive opinion is divided equally, for and against!) If members can come forward with other suggestions, we would be most happy to receive them.



NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

OPERATION GRETEL (Grey Teal)

Briefly, we have been successful in our negotiations with Waikato land owners to place nesting boxes in various locations, and also have received several suitable nesting box designs from Ducks Unlimited (Canada). We are now geared for next year's breeding season.

SIR KEITH HOLYOAKE "I CARE YEAR" AWARD

Your Executive has lodged a submission with the Judging Panel - if Ducks Unlimited (NZ) is fortunate enough to be awarded this grant (worth \$ 3,000) it will accelerate our programmes and assist with the promotion of our group in a way that we cannot as yet undertake - and will encourage membership. One of the conditions of eligibility is that the group must have been established during the "I Care Year - 1974" and be making a worthwhile contribution to the environment. Naturally, we are looking forward to the outcome.

ROYAL FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NZ

An approach has been made to the above organisation for moral and financial support. We forwarded the President a copy of our submission to the "I Care Year 1974" Award, and quote from his reply -

"May I congratulate you on the great care you have taken in preparing this collection of documents. You will not perhaps mind my saying that, having examined them, it is my belief that your society ought to join our society en bloc; since, if I understand you right, you are endeavouring to perform precisely the same function as is our society. The

difference is that we have been doing it for 51 years and have acquired a vast amount of information which has been acted upon on many occasions in many different areas. If your desire is to preserve wetlands, then any assistance you can render us would be acceptable."

Our Wellington Executive will be meeting with officers of the Society shortly to explain our proposals further and to establish goodwill. Despite the President's invitation, we, of course, prefer to retain our independence and feel we have a quite separate and unique role to fulfill. However, it is with organisations such as the Society (for whom we have a healthy admiration and respect) that we hope to liaise in future and possibly work together on some projects.

OUR CRITICS - AND PUBLICITY GENERALLY

Members will no doubt have read certain strong criticism of our group in letters to the Editor of "NZ Outdoor". This magazine has sympathetically printed our replies to these critics. Any publicity is good publicity - even criticism - particularly when we have the opportunity to reply. Director, Neil Hayes of Wellington, has written several letters to Wellington newspapers on current environmental issues, which have been printed, and these opportunities help keep our name in front of the public.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Under our Rules, the AGM is to be held following March each year, and we plan to hold such a meeting between March and June 1975. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend - and we are planning now for our first "get together" which, we promise, will be a memorable occasion. As soon as we have firmed a date and venue, we will advise you further.

MEMBERSHIP - WE HAVE HIT THE HUNDRED MARK!

We are now well on the way to our next hundred members - anything you can do to help in this regard is to the benefit of all present members of DU and its activities. Why not set yourself a target of five prospective members from among friends and associates, who could be interested in joining? Even if each present member is successful with only one of these prospects, membership will double! If you can help, the coupon below may be useful:

Post to: The Secretary - Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc
 P.O. Box 74 - Hamilton

(tick where applicable)

I wish to join DU and enclose my cheque for membership

Non Active	\$ 5
Active	\$ 10
Life	\$ 500 (or instalment of \$50 pa)

Name
Address

MEMBERSHIP - SOME INTERESTING PERSONALITIES

Among members to date are Jack Byrne, author of "Duck Hunting in NZ" who is one of our enthusiastic supporters; Stuart Chambers of Hawke's Bay who may be better known to many as a journalist in the "NZ Farmer" where he writes a Nature Column; Janet Marshall, New Zealand's leading painter of birds has also joined and is enthusiastic about DU objectives. In addition, three acclimatisation society branches have "taken the plunge" - Wellington, Taranaki and South Canterbury - it is great to have their support.

ATTENTION - MAINLAND MEMBERS!

We would like to hear from friends/supporters in the South Island - we are most anxious to appoint a member to represent DU interests on the Mainland. At this stage, we are looking for two people - any interested members please write to DU headquarters in Hamilton.

KEEMEN

You may recall we mentioned the appointment of Keemen in our first issue. Director, Neil Hayes of Wellington is working on criteria for Keemen, whose honorary "duties" will include

- reporting on breeding activities in their area
- suggesting new projects in their area, preservation of new ponds etc
- reporting on drainage and filling activities
- reporting on the shooting season
- the promotion and organisation of support for DU in their area
- liaison with farmers and land owners on DU's behalf
- supplying reports on the above, quarterly, to DU headquarters for use by personnel. (This information will be summarized in the newsletter. DU (Canada) produce a newsletter called "Duckological" which is solely for the purpose of summarizing reports from Keemen and is sent to all members - and, once Keemen programmes are established here, your Executive envisage a similar publication)

We look forward to hearing from those who are interested in becoming Keemen for DU. Jack Byrne of Wellington is our first "volunteer" and we couldn't have a better man to represent the group. Come on - this is your chance to play an active role in DU and conservation. There are not many programmes where you can see your money working for you and actually have the satisfaction of participating personally.

NEWS FROM ABROAD



Dudley Bell has sent a massive consignment of literature comprising brochures, reports, a movie, forms etc and other valuable information from North America. Your Executive have spent many pleasurable hours assimilating this information and are filled with inspiration for the future. There is so much which can be done here, based on successful DU North American methods - one of these is sponsorship, which seems to be a major way of effectively raising funds on that continent. It is one we will be investigating here.

COMMENTS FROM DUDLEY BELL (in Canada)

"Directly after my last report, I went to Brooks, Alberta, where I met most Southern DU personnel and some provincial and federal staff and, here again, we banded Canada Geese for a week, catching 1350 altogether. The majority of the areas visited were established DU projects, but the largest catch was on an area called Hay Lake, a water reservoir where 740 geese were caught.

All projects visited during this time were completely reliant on a supply of irrigation water to maintain the levels for waterfowl.

The largest is the Tilley Development Area which incorporates solely irrigation waters and was done in conjunction and co-operation with the Eastern Irrigation District of Alberta. The main Dam will hold a surface water area of 2,300 acres and cover 19.2 miles of shoreline. Further development is now being commenced below Bantry and Decker-Dolley to pump water over a ridge 28' high through 12" pipe to feed further projects - 7000' of pipe will be needed.

There are perhaps areas in Hawkes Bay and Canterbury where these types of operations can be undertaken, using extensive irrigation waters. I have information on waterfowl usage below storage dams, in meandering streams and on the use of irrigation filled pond areas. # 20-30 pair/mile below storage dams (reservoirs) and 50 pair/mile on shallow irrigation filled ponds. This appears excellent. We will have to see how this fares in New Zealand.

At present extensive use is being made by DU biologists in island forming pond areas. The most economical size to construct for the most efficient production is one 0.1 acre in size, exposed from the water, shelving shorelines and topped with top-soil and seeded in Alfalfa and Clover.

I have conducted brood counts on lakes in the Tilley complex and, to give you some idea of density, here are general figures:

Tilley	A - 46 broods	30 Canada geese
	4 - No broods	
	5 - 50 + broods	75 Canada geese
	6 - 20 broods	
	7 - 18 broods	6 Canada geese
	12 - 43 broods	30 Canada geese
Deeper	(13 - 3 broods	
Lakes	(14 - 2 broods	

..... more from Dudley in our next issue.

OPEN FORUM

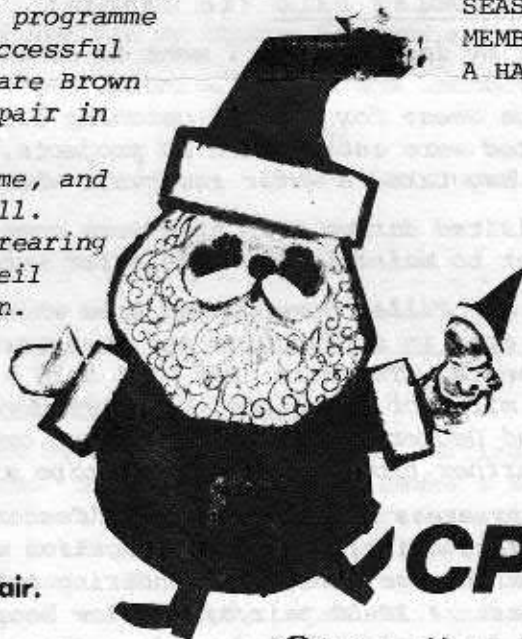
Are you confused about some DU policy? Have you heard criticism of DU which has made you concerned and you haven't known how to answer? WE HOPE NOT - but, if so, please write or phone DU headquarters for clarification. Queries will be answered promptly and any letters of special interest will be printed (or salient features of them because of space limitations) Don't write to private magazines with your questions or criticisms - DU headquarters is the logical place to direct your questions. We want to involve you - our members - in Ducks Unlimited (NZ) because YOU ARE DU!!

DID YOU KNOW?

- that the Auckland Acclimatisation Society will be staging another Game Fair on 1 and 2 March 1975. The last Game Fair held there attracted over 50,000 people and we are hopeful that DU will be represented at the next "exposition",
- that Dr Murray Williams and Tom Caithness B.Sc have offered their services to Ducks Unlimited (NZ) as Honorary Scientific Advisers. Murray and Tom are New Zealand's top waterfowl biologists and their support and interest will be extremely valuable in the development of DU in this country
- that Director, Neil Hayes, is highly delighted with his rearing programme this year. He has been successful in rearing a clutch of 5 rare Brown Teal - he only received a pair in June. Also, he has reared Shoveller for the first time, and his Grey Duck are doing well. Any members interested in rearing waterfowl should contact Neil through DU, Box 74 Hamilton.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS & BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY PERIOD & A SUCCESSFUL & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Yours, for conservation
THE EXECUTIVE
DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC



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