

Flight

J
U
L
Y

2003

ISSUE 116



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

www.ducks.org.nz

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

29th Annual Conference

18-20 July 2003

Regal Geyserland Hotel, 424 Fenton Street, Rotorua.

Only 35 rooms have been reserved for the Friday and Saturday nights. It would be helpful if members would indicate their interest as soon as possible, so that we can confirm with the hotel.

Full Registration of \$80 per person includes the AGM and morning tea, a fabulous wetland bus tour, lunch and wine tasting, Saturday night dinner and auction. (Other meals are not covered in the registration fee.)

Room deposit: \$50 per person.

Saturday night dinner and auction only: \$40 per person.

Send your registration and payment to:

P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

Conference inquiries: Graham Gurr phone 09 489 5337



wetland care
NEW ZEALAND

Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is to: 'Harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.'

Funding

Funding for projects comes mainly from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust, which was established in 1991 and has underwritten wetland development projects to a significant level. Extra

resources have come through fundraising and corporate sponsorships like that from Banrock Station Wines. Wetland Care New Zealand actively seeks funding from private and public sources for its work.

Partnerships

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. Alliances are being established with conservation groups like DOC, NZ Fish and Game, Forest and Bird and regional councils.

Taking Care of Wetlands

Wetland Care New Zealand's current and completed projects and partnerships include:

Ashhurst Domain Wetland - Manawatu
Camm Brown Teal Wetland - Northland
Home Lagoon - Wairarapa
Karori Sanctuary Wetland - Wellington
Magill Wetland - Reporoa
Mana Island Brown Teal Wetland
Pearce Wetlands - Wairarapa
Sinclair Wetlands - Otago

For further information, please contact:
William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand, phone 04 478 4335.

From the Flight Desk

Water features are everywhere - my plant saucer bird bath was dubbed one by a chirrupy visitor, and every garden show and magazine flows with elegant or rustic tricklers dribblers gushers burblers and sparklers. Wise towns have good fountains, burst water mains are always exciting to watch, and then...there are the glorious ponds and wetlands you hardworking people create. This year is International Year of Freshwater. We revel in our short showers, heated by waterpower maybe, run a hose to those young trees now that we've had rain, drink a humble glass of tap water without worrying if it's safe, gaze with deep pleasure over a lake or river....maybe we should take a moment to wonder if we can take it for granted as we always have. What if, once upon a future time, we were to be invaded - for our abundant fresh, clean water? This wouldn't have to be by force, though anything is possible. It could be by stealth. Or it could be by default - if we leave our laurels in

the wrong place too long and rest too comfortably upon them. If I want to irrigate my horticultural or dairy land, do I think about the aquifers, about how much deeper the wells have to be these days, about why this might be? Or do I just pay the bill and claim a tax rebate. In early June, concerns were voiced that planned dredging in Wellington Harbour risked breaching the main aquifer, which provides 60% of the drinking water for Wellington and Lower Hutt.

Everything connects on this little planet, so there are more watery items than usual in this issue.

Finally, all you wonderful wetland and waterfowl watchers - if a few more don't send me items, interesting local clippings, and especially illustrations for Flight, then I'll start leaving GAPS where they ought to be. Or I'll print the same ones again. And again...(the team gives grateful thanks for the living treasures among you).

Happy planting and abundant water,



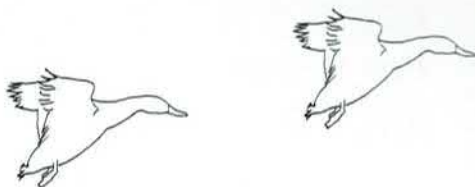
INSIGHT

Neil Candy
President

What a contrast in climatic conditions from the bottom of the North Island to the top. The lower part of the island has just experienced the worst drought ever while the top half was receiving a surplus of rain. In the Manawatu a large proportion of wetlands dried up, including some major lakes that in my memory have never been dry. The good news is that we have received numerous inquiries from non-members about wetland funding which unfortunately have had to be turned down. DUNZ members get priority in all our funding decisions and for the small joining fee of \$35.00 these people can possibly get a return on their investment of 3,000+%. Not a bad result in anyone's language! If you are asked about DU funding, please explain this, and if they can find a better return, then DUNZ would love to hear from them!

As you will be aware the AGM is to be held in Rotorua this year and the bus trip will be to the Broadlands Trust wetland at Reporoa. This is a magnificent display of what can be achieved with the right site and dedication to creating something of beauty that will last for a long time. If you have never been to an AGM before, this is the one to attend. Rotorua is very central and I assure you we do have a lot of fun.

Neil



CONTENTS

Special Features

Annual Reports	5
Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud	8
International Year of Fresh Water	12

Regular Features

Our People	4
DU News	5
Bird Talk	10
In Flight- Predators	14
Flight Ecofile	14
The Poem	15
Shopping	15

OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary membership-based society dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand wetlands through:

- wetland restoration and development;
- conservation programmes for threatened waterfowl;
- advocacy and education of wetland values.

By these means we seek to ensure the ethical and sustainable use of wetland resources by all existing and future users.

Cover photograph: Blue duck in Egmont National Park.
Photo: Department of Conservation.

Flight is published by:
Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.
ISSN 1173-2776
P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand.

Deadline for all copy and illustrations, Flight 117: 25 August
Flight Advertising Rates (excluding GST)

Full page \$224, half page \$112, quarter page \$56, eighth page \$28.
Waterfowl adverts are free to members. Please contact the editor with any suggestions or to book a space.

Contributions from members and other readers, including photographs, are welcome.

Editing & Production:
Juliet Oliver, Box 82, Greytown. Phone 06 304 9160.
E-mail: julieto@xtra.co.nz

Printer: Lamb-Peters Print,
106A Main Street,
Greytown.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patron

Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch

President

Neil Candy, Palmerston North a/h (06) 376-4448

Chairman

Craig Worth, Hamilton a/h (07) 854 0494
(07) 846 8719

Vice-president

Ross Cottle, Masterton (06) 378 7408

Treasurer

Graham Gurr, Auckland (09) 489 5337

Directors

William Abel,	Wellington	(04) 586 2752
Ossie Latham,	Auckland	(09) 483 7401
David Smith, LLB,	Auckland	(09) 298 4719
Alan Wilks,	Greytown	(06) 304 9729
Jim Law,	Pirinoa	(06) 307 7855
David Wilks,	Wellington	(04) 476 2242
Steve Rice,	Auckland	(09) 528 4560

OUR People



Robin Borthwick

Born in Masterton, Robin spent his childhood there and in England, and then returned to attend Christ's College.

After doing a farm cadet-ship in the Wairarapa he spent some time working in Australia before settling on the family farm east of Masterton.

A DU member for over 20 years he is married to Robin and they have a son and a daughter. His hobbies are fishing, shooting, boating, gardening and growing trees.

Robin has had a lifetime interest in wetlands and waterfowl and has had mute swan for some 15 years. During this time he was top breeder for three years.



Paul McCarthy

A member since 1987, Paul was born in Auckland and educated at Marcellin College. Married to Joanna they have four daughters and a son.

Paul has been a dairy farmer since leaving school 30 years ago, and farms at Galatea, Eastern Bay of Plenty.

His interests are gardening, building up an arboretum, breeding parrots and, wise man, playing the piano after breakfast.

Paul has been a brown teal breeder for many years and claims he must have the stroppiest male in the programme! He also has mute swan but is still waiting for fertile eggs.

He has a large wetland on the property and is gradually enhancing it with the development of a garden area.

Five Fingers - the Borthwick wetland

The family created this magnificent wetland 18 months ago. After a dry summer it still had another 1.6m to rise to reach its final level when it will carry just under 10ac of open water. Fed by a winter creek, the level dropped by 0.6m last summer.

By building a long dam wall across a creek-bed between two low hills, the area is flooding five gullies and Robin has appropriately named it Five Fingers.

At a cost of \$15,000, funded by the Te Whanga Family Trust, all the construction was done by bulldozer. At its deepest it is approximately eight metres, but apart from the dam wall the rest of the extensive shoreline has not been disturbed and is gently shelving.

Continued on page 7...



Five Fingers wetland.

DUNZ - Annual Reports 2003

President's Report

People say those times fly when you are having fun, the last 12 months have been most enjoyable and have passed by very quickly (must be an age thing?). The undoubted highlight of the last year has been the re-emergence of good old fashioned commonsense from Environment Waikato concerning Lake Waikare. The delaying tactics used had been quite frankly very disappointing from an organisation charged with protecting these wetlands and surrounding habitat. Delaying agreement to a settlement till the eve of going to the Environment Court was a total waste of Ducks Unlimited, Fish and Game and ratepayers' money. Someone should be held accountable not only for the waste of money but the huge amount of man-hours spent dealing with EW (one can always dream). Here I must acknowledge David Smith for his dedication to the task of saving these extremely important wetlands and I know he will continue to pursue EW and keep them on track.

A further high has been the completion of the Masterton Intermediate School wetland with Banrock Station Wines funding. This project in the middle of a large urban area has given DU a huge profile in the Wairarapa and made a large school population and associated families aware of the importance and beauty of wetlands. A big thank you to Jim Campbell who was the driving force behind this superb project.

We also completed the rebuilding of the Ashhurst Domain viewing

platform after the mindless arson and destruction of the original. If you're passing by, call in and have a look at this unique facility.

The Brown Teal Recovery Group of which DU is a member is working very well with everyone focused in the one direction. Over the last year numerous birds have been released around New Zealand with some even breeding and their progeny surviving. Let us hope that there is a positive future for these endangered birds. Blue duck have now been added to the 'Red List' of endangered species so hopefully more funding will be directed their way. I am not sure whether being on this list is good or bad in the sense that after all these years of breeding whio, we may have actually gone backwards.

Like all organisations, attracting people and more importantly keeping them involved in future years is going to be the biggest hurdle facing DU. As pressure from a growing population spreads further into rural areas, the potential for loss of wetlands is increasing. Unless we can get all parties interested in wetlands working together, be they landowners, conservationists or hunting groups, our ability to be a strong advocate for these areas is limited.

Finally I would like to thank all the directors for their commitment to the cause, some travelling for up to five hours each way to attend Board meetings, Fiona for willingly doing the minutes, Sandra running the 'office' and Juliet and helpers for our superb Flight magazine.

- Neil Candy

DUNZ Income and Expenditure account to 31 March 2003

Income

Membership	\$19,293
Donations and Fundraising	\$37,882
Conservation Donations	\$1915
Other Income	\$2035
Total	\$61,125

Expenses

Administration and	
Professional Fees	\$22,090
Flight Magazine	\$15,854
Wetland Care	\$18,771
Conservation Projects	\$5398
Total	\$62,113
Deficit	\$988

Bank account at 31/3/03 \$70,955

A full set of accounts is available on request from The Treasurer DUNZ,

P O Box 9795,

Newmarket, Auckland.

- Graham Gurr, Treasurer.

The New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust

Those who read the trust's report last year will recall the concern of the trustees as to the portfolio held and the effect of overseas markets. That concern has continued and the trustees have sought advice as to the appropriate course of action. The majority of the advice has been to 'hang in' for the market upturn. That certainly did not eventuate during the last financial year, which ended on the 31 December 2002.

We began the year with total funds of \$299,269 and ended it with \$258,749. Needless to say the trustees are very concerned to see this is not repeated. The market has stabilised but the effect of the increase in value of the New Zealand dollar has continued to erode the value here in NZ.

As at 6 June 2003 the value was \$267,871.27 which takes in some of the recent market upturn.

The trustees will be conferring before the AGM and will provide an update at that time.

- David Smith, Chairman.

Wetland Care

The next two years of Banrock funding

has been allocated to a project on the Waitakere River Wetland in Auckland. This wetland is owned and managed by the local branch of Forest and Bird and the funding is to develop a range of facilities for observation, including a tower and a pontoon at the end of an existing walkway. The grant will also support the purchase of traps, tunnels, plants and a range of other articles that will enhance the existing wetland. Ossie Latham is the WC co-ordinator of the project in Auckland with Forest and Bird, so if any members would like to help, don't hesitate to contact Ossie: phone 09 415 7583, mobile 025 433 033, email - carpetcourt@xtra.co.nz

Our own Wetland Care funding is assisting Northland member Murray Tapp to develop a new large wetland on a property he and Lois have purchased. Everyone who knows Murray will be aware of his experience and enthusiasm in wetland work, and we can look forward to a magnificent habitat when it is finished.

Wetland Care has applied for funding for two large and worthy projects from the DOC Biodiversity Fund. We are waiting for their decisions and will follow up with more details if the applications succeed.

- William Abel, Director.

Lake Waikare 2003

The last year has been a frustrating one with respect to our involvement on the Lake Waikare Group. Both the Ducks Unlimited and Fish and Game representatives have been concerned at the way in which the group was being manipulated by the Regional Council and political interests.

At the most recent meeting on 11 April those concerns were made clear. It is to be hoped that the group can now move more directly to achieving its goals.

NIWA has prepared research proposals which are designed to obtain the base information necessary for discussion of options and the development of scenarios which can be modelled. Progress on this should occur within the next two months.

All documentation available has been collated and will be used with the research by NIWA to determine the 'best guess' direction to take.

Fencing of the Matahuru stream has begun. It has been largely confined to the easier lower country near the lake to date. There has also been upgrading of existing fences. Progress will slow as it moves up the watershed into the more difficult terrain. Sediment monitoring is being done on the stream.

- David Smith.

Operation Pateke 2003

We are preparing for the Brown Teal Recovery Group's annual review in Whangarei from 16-18 June, and will provide full reports and photographs on this for the next issue.

Re the Moehau release (Flight 115, page 5), Shaun O'Connor, Brown Teal Recovery Group Leader, reported in April that planning is tracking well but it's tight with no room for set-backs. Shaun said the birds are already starting to get stropky in captivity at Peacock Springs, but Kevin Evans and Anne Richardson say it's currently manageable. The tentative release date was the week of 23 June. The person doing the monitoring at Moehau has had some training and familiarisation at Mimiwhangata. Shaun added, 'I think that's a pretty good effort given that we only flagged the shift from Okarito to Moehau in March. Approval of the recommendation and action on the ground in a month!' In early May, DU presented Shaun with a copy of the recently published book 'The Lost World of the Moa' by Trevor H. Worthy and Richard N. Holdaway. This presentation was to recognise Shaun's work, and particularly his leadership, in gathering the resources and focus of DOC, captive breeders and other stake-holders into a cohesive group for the benefit of Pateke.

- Ossie Latham.

Operation Whio 2003

It has been a big year for blue duck with many things happening, and again being able to release birds into Egmont National Park.

Blue duck have been re-classified on the IUCN International Red List as 'Endangered'. They are also classified on the new NZ list as endangered.

We also had the launch of the Central North Island Blue Duck Charitable Trust which will help to fund projects which DOC can't through lack of targeted funding for blue duck.

I feel that if the Government does not provide more funding, blue duck are going to go down the gurgler.

Breeding results:

Of 75 eggs, 26 were fertile, 19 hatched and 13 ducklings were reared, with only two females.

Egmont Release:

Eleven blue duck were released on 4 April including 10 males and one female. There was a major flood the next day. We lost two to a stoat and one to a hawk after no problems in the first month.

Numbers in Captivity:

Twenty-four males and 16 females; five losses for the year (three females, two males).

I would like to thank all my holders for the work they have put into the programme, and a special thanks to Peacock Springs for taking all the ducklings to get them ready for release.

- Peter Russell

Operation Royal Swan 2003

We appear to have a good mix of birds this year, so will be making a dent on the waiting list with some very patient people finally receiving their birds. Once again we acknowledge the assistance of Peacock Springs and particularly Ann Richardson, for their ever available help and advice. Royal swan would be in serious trouble in NZ without their devotion.

- William Abel.

Operation Gretel 2003

During the last 12 months we have distributed over 100 completely finished nest boxes for the teal, made possible by a generous grant of \$3000 from the Waikato-based WEL Energy Trust. We have made further applications and to date have received \$300 from Pub Charity and \$600 from the Perry Foundation. We also have six other applications pending.

By 31 July we hope to have held another working bee to make another 100 nest boxes.

Chris Bindon from the Auckland Chapter is a tower of strength in this teal project, administering over 200 boxes, which

demand hours of his leisure time. We in the Waikato salute Chris and Sharon for their dedication and support. We held another teal census on 6 April and are conducting a further hunting survey to try and establish the number of teal in NZ. During the next 12 months we will be seeking to establish the exact number of boxes erected in NZ.

- Jack Worth

(Also see Jack's report on the nest drum trial in Bird Talk, page 7.)

DU Chapter Reports

Manawatu

Sporting Clay Shoot

This event was held on Sunday 31 March at Grant Barber's property in the Foxton sand country, our previous venue having been sold from under us. Saturday was set-up time and being a whole new area, devious ideas about targets and shooting stands ensued. At the time, the Manawatu area was in the middle of a drought but at lunchtime the heavens opened up and drowned our campsite.

Sunday dawned fine and calm with a great turnout of 142 shooters, meaning a most successful and enjoyable day with some good scores posted. The number of younger shooters competing was most pleasing to see as well as the regular supporters of this event.

At the prize-giving held under torchlight, the shotgun, drawn on registration number, was won by our own Ken Cook, a most worthy and very popular winner.

Thanks to Manawatu Hunting and Fishing, Alpine Hunting, Craig Merritt Butchery, Grant Barber and everyone else for making it a very successful day.

- Neil Candy

Waikato

Our annual dinner auction in April was one of the best ever with 43 supporters, with a record total profit of \$3740. The crafty Brian Dale managed to extract \$2340 from punters in the main auction, and Malcom Dench's astute judgement saw silent auction bids materialise from nowhere, even to the extent of extracting \$150 from a well-known member, starring semi-clothed in a certain unprintable photo.

Please note: the Waikato Chapter will be modelling unisex sleeveless vests at the Rotorua Conference. Made from black anti-pill polar fleece, they feature the DU duck's head logo and the words 'Ducks Unlimited New Zealand' in gold. This will be a fundraiser for DU, and when you pay you can order your vest from Clare Worth who will have it delivered to you. If you miss the conference, you can write to Clare at 151 Newcastle Rd, Hamilton.

- Jack Worth

How was the season...?

Graham Gurr sends a rapid-fire report...

...best saying to date was the unnamed person shooting about one hundred yards from me, who when some ducks flew into his pond fired his auto shotgun... Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!pause (assume reloading).....Bang!!

'Got one!' came a cry drifting on the wind towards us!

Mud, mud, glorious mud... see page 8

Quoting

One may not doubt that, somehow, good shall come of water and of mud; and sure, the reverent eye must see a purpose in liquidity.

From Heaven (1915), by Rupert Brooke.

Learning from the Nest Drum Trial

The trial using old plastic 20litre drums on the floors of duck hunters' maimais, to encourage wild ducks to nest, has met with only moderate success with about 9% usage for the first breeding season of the trial.

While this is not the result we had hoped for, we are fully satisfied that the hunting fraternity can participate in this project. The drums cost nothing and can be serviced during the hunting season (May-June in the North Island, May-July in the South), ready for the breeding season which starts shortly afterwards.

From this trial we came up with several important factors that can only enhance the drums' usage.

1. The black drums appear to be the best as the ducks prefer a dark nesting site.
2. The drum opening should be pointed towards the darkest corner of the maimai, leaving just enough space for the duck to enter the drum.
3. The drums must NOT be placed in maimais so that ducklings are unable to exit after hatching.
4. The drums should have fresh hay or straw each season.
5. Grey teal, grey duck and mallards have used the drums. I consider that the scheme is worth continuing – perhaps we should ask Fish and Game to highlight it in their next pre-season magazine.

- Jack Worth

Members in the News

For Warwick Day, creating open water is second nature. He has a number of ponds on his Tamatea Farms property in Southland. However his latest open space covenant (he has already covenanted a forest remnant and a wetland area) protects not just the six hectare dam, but also the shrubland area with a stream running into the dam and then on to two more ponds he has made below – total area 27ha. The large dam is one of the main paradise shelduck moulting sites in central Southland, and the shrubland is home to the threatened fernbird.

When an American approached Ron Munro to help him find a wetland to buy, the search began. A farm that adjoined the DOC Toe Toes Reserve near the Munro's farm at Mokotua came on the market, and buying the natural wetland part of it seemed to be the answer. However, spoilt by a visit to the wide expanses of Sinclair Wetlands on the way to Southland, the visitor found this peat bog and natural swamp lacked appeal.

In the meantime Ron and Gay Munro had taken a liking to it. They hated the thought of the wetland being drained or the abundant fernbirds becoming refugees, so they bought the land themselves. They are now the proud owners of two wetland covenant areas – their original open water habitat and now 89ha of peatland/swamp wetland.

The items above are from Open Space No. 57 April 2003



'More duck, anyone?'

Wairarapa DU legend Jim Campbell is a member of a group helping with the development and maintenance of Masterton's popular Henley Lake, created some years ago from a large gravel pit close to town. Recently the group planted about 500 native grasses and flaxes along a wet-weather stream at the southern end of the lake. Helping the group were 12 students from Ohio, USA, with their leader Jason Clayton. Mr Clayton said they picked New Zealand ahead of other countries to visit as part of their university studies, because '...the environmental influences here and the care for them are much more significant than in the US. Many Americans would be envious of a relatively small town such as Masterton having such a wonderful resource. You people are very lucky.'

Source: Wairarapa News, 29 May 2003.

World Wetlands Day at Sinclair Wetlands

About 60 people attended a very successful day hosted by Otakou Runaka, for a programme which included information on traditional links with wetland habitats and research at the wetlands. Native trees were planted on one of the islands as part of the restoration project.

From Open Space No. 57 April 2003

Continued from page 4...

The wetland is partially fenced to allow selective access to stock for water, but large areas are stock-proof and have been extensively planted. More plantings are planned this winter. Robin is developing both English and native areas and has planted 200 oaks, as well as elms, alder, liquidambar, lemonwood, crabapple, bog cypress, kahikatea, karaka and flax. To enable the young trees to survive the dry summer he has spent many hours hand watering, using a light portable pump driven by a two-stroke motor and a long garden hose.

The wetland has attracted a wide variety of waterfowl. The day DU visited we put off at least 300 Canadas in one mob – the sky was black with them. There are also spoonbill, dabchick, grey duck, mallard, grey teal, pied stilt and black swan.

The large viewing hide in the middle also doubles as a maimai.

Robin's philosophy is that he is merely custodian for future generations and what has been created not only provides habitat but also a wonderful area to explore by kayak or dinghy.

Congratulations to the Borthwick family.

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud ...

by Alan Wilks

With line drawings by Tony Symonds, Greytown.

One of my few claims to fame is that I am on first-name terms with Roger and Joyce Brooks and, as members will know, Joyce is our champion raffle ticket seller!

Anyway, 15 years ago Roger and I created a small wetland on a friend's property near Greytown where we both live. The area was just a swamp at one end of a small paddock. A spring-fed creek running along one side had silted up, causing the wet area before finding its course again.

For our friend it was a few acres of neither use nor ornament and he was happy for us to get a digger in, clean it out and create a few islands in about two acres of shallow water.

To make it stock-proof we only had to fence one end and put in a post and rail section in one corner, to allow access for a machine in future.

We planted extensively with oaks, flax, NZ pampas and, unfortunately, willows – which are now taking over and will soon have to be controlled.

The summer before last 100kg of eels were taken out (see Flight 110 January 2002), and over the years the pond had started to silt up. Wading through it became extremely difficult as Roger found to his dismay when he got stuck last season and had to be rescued.

The mud was nearly knee-deep so we decided to clean it out. In February Garry Pilcher from Featherston came in with a digger, and did a wonderful job. He opened up the outlet to get rid of as much water as possible, then scraped out the soup which ran everywhere when he emptied the bucket. By the end of the day he had run out of places to dump the stuff and said he would have to come back in a few weeks when things had dried out.

Eventually, Barbie got the animals out and finally me so 'all's well....'

Garry came back after a month by which time the original stuff he'd dug out was firm enough to take more, and he finished the job in a few hours.

Made an interesting discovery when we came to put the section of rails back. I had put the nails in a hollow in the top of the strainer post but they'd gone – I can only assume a magpie was to blame!

The pond has slowly filled, growth is appearing on the dumped material and the birds are returning.

A highlight of the opening weekend was that we invited our friend's son Rupert, who is nearly 15, to join the boys on the Saturday evening. Under close supervision he shot his first two ducks. They tell me his voice went up two octaves and he arrived home with his bag wearing a grin from ear to ear.



Now begins the saga, relayed in our Editor's classically-inspired version opposite. I went out after a couple of weeks to test the remaining porridge, which was dry but still very sticky. To my horror I discovered a hogget well and truly embedded in the middle. The section of rail we had lifted out with the digger and then tied back in place had blown down to let the blighter in.

I took one step and my gumboot disappeared. I had to pull my foot out and, standing on dry land, retrieve the boot. I'd decided this had to be a barefoot job when our friend's wife Barbie arrived on the four-wheeler and said she'd do it.

Off came the footwear and in she ploughed followed by my old labrador, Purdey, who's gone in the hind legs. Purdey then got stuck. I went to the aid of Purdey – and I got stuck!





The digger



The mud

Pond Shots

This is the pond that Alan cleaned.

This is the sheep that got stuck in the pond.

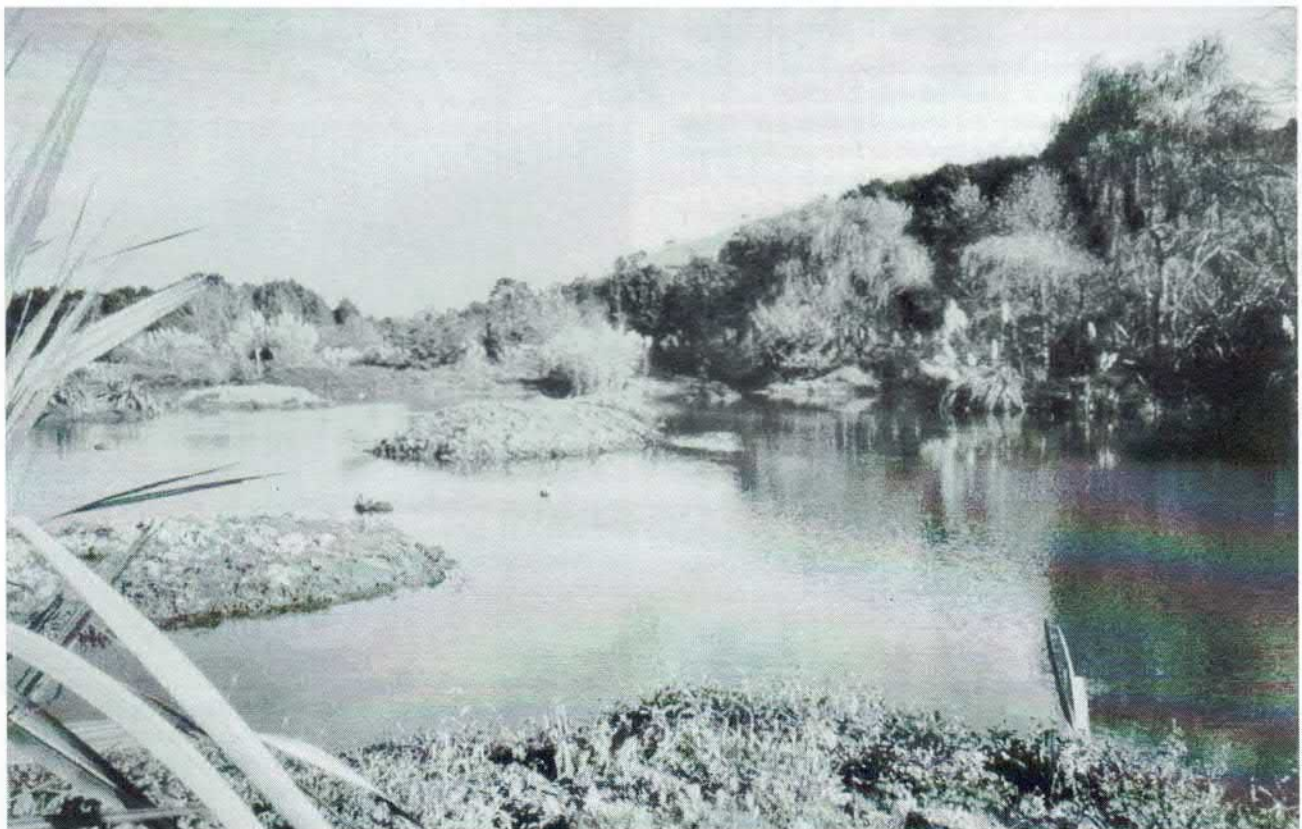
This is Barbie who rescued the sheep that got stuck in the pond.

This is Purdey who got stuck following Barbie who rescued the sheep that got stuck in the pond.

These are the gumboots that filled up with mud on his way to get Purdey who got stuck following Barbie who rescued the sheep that got stuck in the pond.

This is Barbie and Alan strolling back to dry land after she rescued the sheep as she lifts each of his feet with great sucking sounds in the gumboots that filled up with mud on his way to get Purdey who got stuck following Barbie who rescued the sheep that got stuck in the pond

that Alan cleaned.



The pond!

The Lamb-Peters Print has been awarded to Alan Wilks – for photographic perseverance and sheer stickability. Congratulations, Alan!

Bird Talk

Kaikoura Island needs your HELP!!

The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust is asking for support in its campaign to acquire Kaikoura Island for conservation. From a recent NZFRT message:

The Department of Conservation, the Auckland Regional Council and the Auckland City Council all have an interest in the island but individually they are unwilling to fund the purchase. Our job is to convince the politicians they must all contribute towards this project. The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust is determined to be the catalyst that secures the island for the public.

Initially, we are asking you to help by communicating your views to the relevant authorities. Letters, phone calls or emails will all have impact and show there is wide public support for this purchase.

By now you may have seen publicity regarding our interest in Kaikoura Island. This has been suggested as an alternative

to the Government's proposed memorial to Sir Peter Blake. The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust maintains a neutral position on the issue.

Kaikoura is a 564ha island, the seventh largest in the Hauraki Gulf and important historically, culturally and environmentally. Years of human impact have degraded the island but it has enormous possibilities for ecological restoration. Indeed the last 50 years have seen it restore itself to the point where the natural forest cover has re-established. Pests remain on the island but they can be removed leaving a secure habitat for endangered species. The most important of these is the endemic brown teal. Once ubiquitous throughout the country, brown teal are now restricted to a couple of areas. Great Barrier Island is refuge for 80% of the rapidly declining population. Even now, DOC researchers say the numbers are 'plunging toward oblivion'.

With your help we can secure this habitat for both the brown teal and the people of New Zealand to enjoy in perpetuity.

Please send messages of support to:

DOC: Minister of Conservation -
ccarter@ministers.govt.nz

Rob McCallum, Auckland Regional Conservator - rmccallum@doc.govt.nz

Auckland Regional Council:

Gwen Bull, Chairman -

lynn.fisher@arc.govt.nz

Bill Burrill, Chair Parks & Heritage Committee - bill.burrill@arc.govt.nz

Auckland City Council:

John Banks, Mayor of Auckland -

mayor@akcity.govt.nz

Scott Milne, Chair Parks Committee -

cr.milne@akcity.govt.nz

If you make a submission, please send a copy to - kaikoura@nznfrt.org.nz - Thank you.

- Dr Brian Davis, Chairman, NZNFRT -
www.nznfrt.org.nz

Brown Teal Conservation Trust

The trust's first newsletter is now available. Here are some extracts from it:

The BTCT's Management Manual has received very positive support. The trust received a generous grant of \$3000 from the Eastern & Central Community Trust to assist with publication costs. This was well reported in the Dominion Post and Wairarapa Midweek.

While on a trip to Moehau (see Flight 115, page 5) Shaun O'Connor and Kevin Evans saw eight wild brown teal. This is a really exciting discovery, as teal were long thought to be extinct on the Coromandel Peninsula. They were certainly there in good numbers until the mid 1900s and bearing in mind the many still wild areas on the Peninsula, their decline there can most definitely be put down to predators.

Ten brown teal have been reared from last year's wild-caught Great Barrier Island birds, and a mix of these birds and others has resulted in around eight flock-mated pairs being available this year. For more information, contact Kevin Evans on 09 439 2561, or email: kevan@brownteal.com

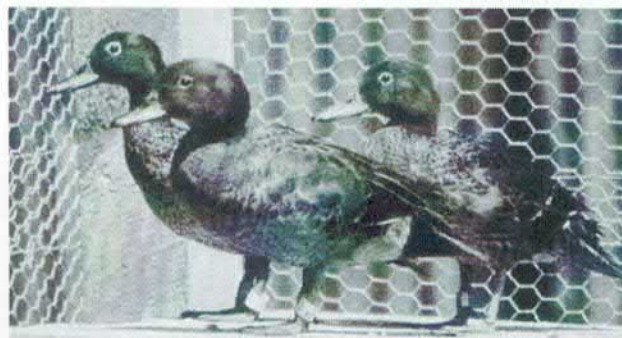
Some exciting news came from the Waikanae Estuary, courtesy Sue Moore, with two pairs of very healthy looking brown teal sighted there.

Exciting news also from a Titahi Bay wetland near the Pauatahanui Inlet, Wellington, where Shaun O'Connor recently saw a brown teal. The farm wetland at Titahi Bay is very close to Mana Island where brown teal are breeding well. Plans are in hand to expand and enhance the Titahi Bay wetland (possibly DOC and Ducks Unlimited will get together on this one). It may well be that we could again see brown teal at the Pauatahanui Inlet.

Contact: Brown Teal Conservation Trust, PO Box 188, Carterton, phone 06 370 6692, fax 06 379 5316, email haltd@actrix.co.nz (you can also contact me for a copy of the newsletter - Ed.)

NEWNEWNEW!

A new website www.brownteal.com is up and running. This is handsome, with good information and an interesting history link. Read about DU work on the Captive Breeding link.



Brown teal male and two females. Photo: Neil Hayes.

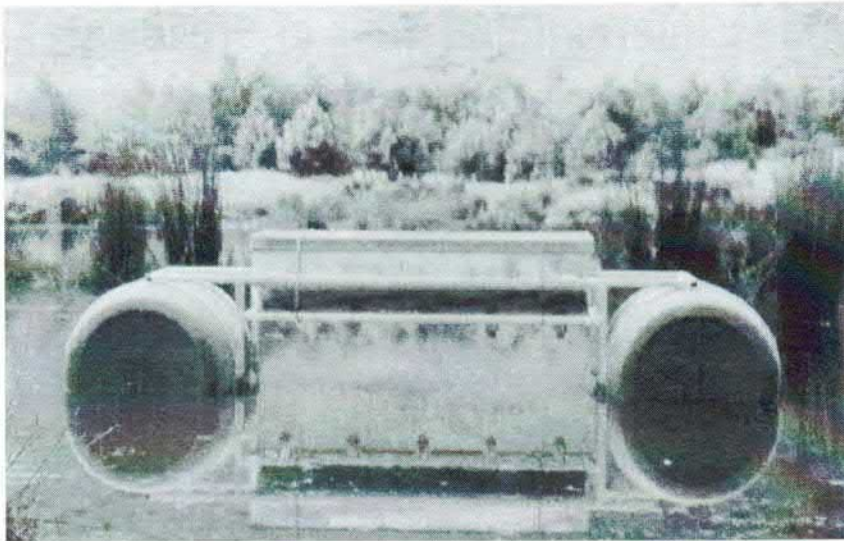
Pateke on Tiri

An excerpt from Dawn Chorus Autumn 03 (Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Island Newsletter):

...On a happier note, Jemima has found true love. In late February a handsome male duck in breeding plumage, sporting a transmitter, arrived on the Wharf Dam. This bird had been presumed dead as he hadn't been seen since being released on Tiri. Named Ossie (now minus the transmitter that was irritating him so was removed), he has settled down in domestic bliss with Jemima, though he did disappear for one night!

More good news - James Fraser and his dog Fiddich were on the island in the last week of April and found a female duck in Little Wattle Valley, which has now been banded. Our banded female in Bush 3 was also found on that dam with three four-week-old ducklings!! She is at least 10 years old.

[DU salutes you, Ossie!]



New maize feeder. Photo: Dennis Colson

Floating Feeder

No, not a duck, nor an optical illusion, but the new maize feeder Dennis Colson is finalising for his Nosloc range. It has a maximum capacity of 70kg and a dabble tray, so depth is not an issue. Tethered at one end it always points into the wind, and an endless rope to a loop in the anchor allows it to be pulled in and out for loading. The final price will probably be about \$500 + gst.

Contact Dennis Colson Contracting, Box 303, Te Kuiti, phone 07 87 6868, fax 07 878 6848.

This is my Island in the Sun...

A New Mainland Island Planned for Nelson.

Enthusiasm has been growing about plans for a new mainland island nature reserve in the Brook Valley, a former City Council waterworks reserve very close to Nelson city. Nelson is the only city in the country with a site like the Brook, so near to town but still linked with huge publicly managed areas of native forest – the Roding and Maitai catchments and Mount Richmond Forest Park. The new site would create a corridor for birds to move between these areas more freely, and possibly to come into the city. People will be encouraged to plant their gardens with food species to attract birds. Job development and training schemes are other possibilities.

There is already an important mainland island in the Nelson region, in the 825ha Lake Rotoiti site. The 500ha Brook Valley site is not only near a city, but has been a water reservoir for many years and has a wide range of native flora and fauna and a still-pristine stream. During 2002 the project's supporters weeded the lower reaches of the Brook Stream, turned out in large numbers to hear more about the 252ha Karori Sanctuary, completed feasibility studies and began work on promotional material for membership and fundraising. Dave Butler, Chairman of the steering group overseeing plans for the new reserve, says that the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington is predicted to become a 'must see' for tourists that will in time run a close second to Te Papa. The Brook Reserve could become a similar attraction for Nelson.

The steering group includes members of Forest and Bird, Nelson Environment Centre and interested individuals, assisted by Council and DOC staff and with support from local iwi. \$15,000 is being considered in the council's draft Annual Plan for a concept plan to cover biological, financial and management options. A trust will be set up to implement the project.

For more information contact Helen or Keryn at the Nelson Environment Centre, phone 03 545 9176 or email nec@tasman.net – www.nec.org.nz

Source: Nelson Mail 'Live Nelson', 4 January and 24 May 2003.

Bands on the Run?

Fish and Game NZ wants duck shooters to look out for leg bands on their catch. More than 9000 ducks have been banded in the Bay of Plenty and East Coast since 1997, and some have since travelled as far afield as Northland and Canterbury, said Fish and Game senior officer Matthew McDougall (see Flight 115, page 9).

'The bulk of the data is obtained when hunters shoot banded birds and return the bands with details of where and when they were shot,' he said. Banding studies were needed to help Fish and Game set game season regulations each year, and their accuracy depended on co-operation from hunters. People who sent in bands would be entered in a draw for a free hunting licence next year, Mr McDougall said. From The Dominion Post, 2 June 2003.

STOP PRESS!

The Central North Island Blue Duck Trust has accepted a \$1.5m package from Genesis Power, in return for giving up their fight against the Tongariro Power Development which threatened blue duck habitat on the Tongariro River. The trust has received the first of three \$500,000 payments. More in the next issue – Ed.

Maud Island Farewells the Kakapo

The last five kakapo from the Marlborough Sounds have been moved to Fiordland's Chalky Island, where 14 other kakapo were established last July. A further 60 birds are on Codfish Island, off Stewart Island. And in capturing the last remaining Maud Island kakapo, Don Merton, who will soon retire, ended his 45-year link with the place and the birds.

Merton placed the first two birds on the island in 1974, spearheading efforts to save the bird from extinction. Maud Island became famous as the first safe haven for kakapo.

Don Merton's work on Maud Island dates back to his teens as a Wildlife Service trainee in 1958, soon after the rare Maud Island frog was discovered. Merton and fellow officer Brian Bell visited the island that year and recognised its importance. He has been to the island every year since then, helping transform it from mostly pasture to regenerating bush.

In 1973 he was asked to head the kakapo recovery project. Sightings had been made a decade earlier in Fiordland – 'We had to go in and rediscover them,' he said. In particular, they needed female birds as none had been found since the early 1900s. 'We were pretty desperate,' Don said, 'We had to save this incredible bird.'

They found 18 birds in Fiordland during the 1970s, taking five to Maud Island to safety. But none were females. Only one fertile male, the famous Richard Henry, was saved and put on Maud Island in 1975. In 1977 kakapo were heard on Stewart Island and a small grant funded efforts to locate them. The first crucial female, Maggie, was found in 1980, and Merton proudly took her to Maud Island – but it wasn't until 1998 that kakapo first bred there, when Richard Henry and Flossie produced three chicks. DOC has asked Don Merton to help plan the island's post-kakapo future – the frogs, large land snails, takahe and Cook Strait giant weta still need protecting.

Source: Sunday Times, 25 May 2003.

Insatiable Thirst – 2003 is International Year of Freshwater

'To arrest the unsustainable exploitation of water resources, we require water management strategies at national and local levels...We need a "blue revolution" in agriculture that focuses on increasing productivity per unit of water – "more crop per drop" – together with far better watershed and floodplain management. But none of this will happen without public awareness and mobilisation campaigns, to bring home to people the extent and causes of current and impending water crises.'

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, October 2002.

Water Wrangles

Neville Peat, well-known Dunedin writer and Otago regional councillor, gave this talk on National Radio's Sunday Supplement on 18 May. Here is a full transcript:

Picture this: A mountainous land filled with sparkling lakes and more rivers and streams than you can throw a fishing rod at. Does this sound like a green and well-watered land – a bit like New Zealand? Certainly that's how the brochures portray us. No problems with freshwater resources in New Zealand.

Well, you tell that to farmers down the eastern side of both main islands when El Nino comes calling and drought strikes. Tell that right now to the hydro power companies. They've been wringing their hands as lake levels dwindle. It goes to show that water does not always spill out of our mountains – at least, not eastwards from the Southern Alps where most of the country's hydro power is created.

In Canterbury and Otago, agriculture relies on irrigation. A whopping 80% of the national water take for irrigation occurs in these two large regions. The take comes from big rivers like the Rangitata, Waitaki and Clutha, and smaller ones such as the Taieri, Manuherikia and Kakanui.

Right now there's a ding-dong battle going on over the Rangitata River. A Water Conservation Order application has stirred things up. On one side are the farming and irrigation interests; on the other, the fishing, conservation and recreation lobbies. It's all about water use for economic growth versus leaving enough for recreation and the things that live in the river.

The rush to dairy farming in the south, not to mention a surge in grape-growing and other crops is putting more pressure on water resources. And how about this for an eye-watering fact – since the 1960s, the area of irrigated land in New Zealand has been doubling about every 10 years. Regional water plans and the Resource Management Act are swinging into action to ensure there's a fair allocation – fair to those wishing to tap into the resources and fair to the environment.

It's all about the sustainable management of our water resources – sustaining both quantity and quality. These days, whenever I hear that word – sustainable – I brace myself for someone who's talking up sustaining economic growth or jobs or incomes or lifestyle . . . rather than sustaining the natural sway of things. Sustainable management of natural resources is a concept that surfaced about 30 years ago. In tune with today's largely market-driven philosophies, the term has been switched to 'sustainable development'.

Under the sustainability banner the Government has launched a new freshwater strategy. You won't see it in the headlines but look out for the ripple effect.

In terms of water allocation it talks about optimising economic and social returns. This is a new idea in resource management. Till now the RMA has operated on a first-come, first-served basis. Allocations stop when a river's minimum flow or an aquifer's safe yield is reached. The Government is now signalling that this first-come, first-served approach is an impediment to the optimising of water resources. Just how this will translate into legislation remains to be seen. Presumably it means that decision-makers in water-short areas will be given more discretion to pick and choose between applications. The wrangling over water supplies is not going to go away.

And what about the cost of water? In a region like Otago, where land prices around the western lakes have become ludicrously high, is it not ironic that water is by and large regarded as a free resource? Pay the earth for a bit of land; expect the water for nothing more than the cost of the resource consent and the pumping and piping of it.

Perhaps it is time we thought more about the value of water and the way it underpins – utterly and absolutely – our economic and social wellbeing. Without water our productive land and lifestyle blocks would be useless.

As an old saying goes, 'you never miss the water till the well runs dry'.

With grateful thanks to Neville Peat and National Radio for their permission to print this item – Ed.

Neville Peat's latest book in the popular 'Wild' series on New Zealand regions is 'Wild Rivers', published by the University of Otago Press in 2001. It covers the braided rivers of the McKenzie basin and much else besides, and features the wonderful photographs that this series is noted for. We have a copy of this book for the first DU member who signs up a new member after this issue, and can provide evidence!

'Water is our country's most precious resource...balancing the needs of the ecosystem with society's demands is difficult, but essential. We need to be asking whether our allocation mechanisms are adequate and whether we value water enough to reflect its real worth.'

From a May 2003 speech by Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

2003 is the UN International Year of Freshwater. Activities and promotions are being encouraged around the world, to highlight the vital importance of freshwater for all life, issues such as pollution, soil erosion and run-off into rivers, lakes and wetlands, and action to look after rivers, streams and wetlands. The official website (www.wateryear.org) has a lot of information, good school resources and links to material such as the UN special report on global water resources.

Realities:

Of the world's people, 20% have no access to safe drinking water, 50% have no adequate water sanitation and by 2025, 60% will face water shortages and/or pollution. 40% of all fresh water is currently allocated to human use – by 2025 this will have risen to 80%. And every eight seconds, the time it takes to wash our hands or drink a glass of water, another child dies somewhere, from a water-borne disease.

Source: www.pce.govt.nz, the website of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. (This site has fantastic information and links to environmental organisations worldwide.)

Water-Harvesting in India Transforms Lives

'Because of the water we are happy, our cattle are happy, and the wildlife is happy. Our crop yields have gone up, our forest is green, we have firewood, fodder for our cattle, and we have water in our wells.'

Exerpts from an article by Patrick McCully.

As an advocate for sustainable water management, I have written many words in recent years promoting rainwater harvesting. I've met its most famous practitioner, Indian activist Rajendra Singh, and heard about the work of his organisation Tarun Bharat Sangh - 'Young India Association' (TBS).

...Since 1986, TBS has helped villagers build or restore nearly 10,000 water harvesting structures in the Aravalli Hills region of Rajasthan. Villagers have also dug more than 1000 wells to take advantage of the resulting rise in groundwater levels.

While water harvesting is central to TBS's success, it is only part of the reason why the organisation has had such far-reaching impacts. By bringing villagers together to solve their severe water problems, TBS has empowered them to take control of other aspects of their lives. The results are seen in village rules to protect forests, in villagers uniting to force the government to provide teachers for their schools and to resist officials' demands for bribes, and in the widespread uptake of organic farming and improvements in traditional and modern health care practices. Rajasthan is one of India's poorest states, and one of the most backward in terms of women's rights. TBS has created women's groups in a dozen villages and enabled them to play a more active role in village decision-making.

...The water harvesting structures are mainly crescent-shaped earthen embankments (known as johads), or low, straight, concrete-and-rubble 'check dams' built across seasonally flooded gullies (nalas). Johads have been built in Rajasthan for hundreds of years but many fell into disrepair during the 20th Century due to the increasing role of the state in water management (and its fixation on large-scale projects) and the consequent weakening of village-level water management institutions and practices.

Monsoon rains fill ponds behind the structures. Only the largest structures hold water year round; most dry up six months or less after the monsoon. Their main purpose, however, is not to hold surface water but to recharge the groundwater beneath. Water stored in the ground does not evaporate or provide mosquito-breeding habitat, is protected from contamination by human and animal waste, and spreads out to recharge wells and provide moisture for vegetation over a wide area.

Several watercourses that had in recent decades held water only after monsoon storms now flow year-round due to the recharged groundwater. Forests have regenerated because of the raised water table and because the need to protect forests is a key part of TBS's message. A recognition that good water management requires good land management is one reason for TBS's amazing success. Among the benefits of regenerating forests on the rocky slopes of the Aravalli hills is that vegetation slows down run-off and reduces erosion, thus improving groundwater recharge and decreasing sedimentation of the villagers' ponds.

...Local villagers provide the labour on the water harvesting structures. They also contribute in kind, and are paid for the construction work, which brings cash into the villages. Funding for TBS has come from numerous sources including the Ford Foundation, Oxfam, European government agencies, and the Indian and Rajasthani governments.

The Large Benefits of Small Things

Despite only minimal government support — and often in the face of outright official hostility — TBS's structures have provided irrigation water to an estimated 140,000 hectares. TBS calculates that around 700,000 people in Alwar and the neighbouring districts

benefit from improved access to water for household use, farm animals and crops. Each structure is small-scale, but the total benefits of TBS's work are most certainly large-scale.

Not a single family has been displaced to achieve these impressive benefits. Unlike big dams, the johads and check dams have not destroyed any rivers or submerged huge areas of forests and farmland; on the contrary, TBS's work has actually created rivers and forests.

TBS has contributed around 70 million rupees (US\$1.4 million) in outside funding to the cost of the water harvesting structures. This works out to a cost of 500 rupees per hectare irrigated and 100 rupees (\$2!) per person supplied with drinking water. An admittedly back-of-the-envelope comparison of these costs with those of the notorious Sardar Sarovar dam project (SSP) in Gujarat state gives startling results. Taking a conservative estimate of the total cost of SSP of 300 billion rupees (\$6bn) gives a per-person cost of 10,000 rupees for drinking water supplied — 100 times more than in Alwar. The cost of supplying one hectare with irrigation water from SSP works out to be 170,000 rupees — 340 times more than in Alwar. Theoretically, if the budget for SSP was available to TBS-type water harvesters, they could provide drinking water to three billion people (half the world's population) while irrigating 600 million hectares (more than twice the world's irrigated area).

Now consider that TBS started work in Alwar at around the same time as the Gujarat government started construction on SSP. The people of Alwar district have for years been enjoying the benefits of water harvesting, while all but a tiny fraction of the supposed beneficiaries of Sardar Sarovar are still waiting to see a single drop of water. Furthermore, some 40,000 people have already been forced off their lands to make way for SSP, and hundreds of thousands more face displacement if the project is ever completed.

More than a billion people are estimated to lack decent access to drinking water. The World Bank and other dam builders and water privatisers use this shocking statistic to build up the case that \$180 billion a year must be invested in the water sector and that multinational corporations are the key in mobilising this huge amount of money. But at Alwar costs, \$180 billion would be enough to supply water to 15 times the world's current population. The needs of the one billion who lack water could be met for about the cost of a single major dam.

...Alwar is no utopia. It is a desperately poor region with deplorable government services, high levels of illiteracy and an appalling level of oppression for the majority of women. But if there is to be an answer to the acute water problems of India - and the world - I am convinced it lies with the rainwater harvesters and forest protectors of the Aravalli hills.

Patrick McCully is Campaigns Director of Berkeley, California-based environment and human rights organisation International Rivers Network. He is the author of *Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams* (Zed Books, 2001). These extracts are from an article first printed in the December 2002 issue of *World Rivers Review*.

From www.alternet.org 16 January 2003. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the article in full. It is worth reading - Ed.

Killing the Killing Machines – A New Stoat Trap

A new trap developed by DOC staff members Ian McFadden and Darren Peters and Petone artist Phil Waddington has been given full marks for stoat-killing efficiency in Landcare Research tests. 'It's all about the trend towards killing things humanely, which is fast catching up to us here in New Zealand,' Mr McFadden says. 'Animal welfare and animal ethics issues can no longer be ignored, even by people trapping introduced mammalian pests in an attempt to protect rare endemic species. In fact, the criteria that all traps will have to meet will probably be incorporated into legal documents like the Animal Welfare Act,' he says.

At the moment there is a draft set of criteria to which kill traps can be tested. The main component of these is that the animal must be rendered unconscious within three minutes, and that this state is irreversible. 'This means technically dead within three minutes of being caught,' Mr McFadden says, 'but it is not that easy to achieve, and the Fenn trap falls well short of this requirement.'

Having been told this by Landcare Research, which tests traps at its Lincoln University facility, DOC decided to look for an existing trap that could replace the Fenn. 'We searched overseas, found a possible trap and modified it to suit our needs, incorporating a very sensitive trigger designed by Phil Waddington,' reports Mr McFadden.

The DOC 180 is the result. It is the same overall size as Mk 6 Fenn, will be available in stainless steel or galvanised, and fits into any wooden box currently used for the Mk 6 Fenn.

At this stage DOC is finalising the production of these traps and expects them to be available by the end of July.

A price is yet to be confirmed, but they will cost about the same as the Fenn.

Mr McFadden says that traps would remain a key method of stoat control, and the new trap is easy to set and use. It will catch stoats and rats but mice and wetas would not trigger it, thanks to the new mechanism. He says that calls for more 1080 to be used on stoats were an oversimplification, as the poison only works on stoats when possum and rat carcasses were available and other food in short supply. Stoats are attracted to eggs, rabbit meat, beef and dehydrated rat and mouse bait. They also seek out dead animals caught in traps.

With thanks to Ian McFadden for this information. You can contact him by email: imcfadden@doc.govt.nz

(See also Around the Traps, Flight 115 page 10)

Campbell Island Free of Rats

Campbell Island, about 600km south-east of Stewart Island, has officially been declared Norway rat-free after two years, more than \$2.6 million and the biggest eradication programme of its kind.

With a team of 20 staff, temporary workers and contractors using helicopters to spread bait, DOC put out about 120 tonnes of poison over the 11,331ha island and its 200,000 rat population. The rare Campbell Island teal, a flightless relative of the brown teal, can now be reintroduced.

From the Dominion Post, 27 May 2003.

Flight Ecofile

About Arbor Day

Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska, USA in 1872. New Zealand's first Arbor Day planting was in Greytown in the Wairarapa on 3 July 1890. The first official celebration took place in Wellington in August 1892, with the planting of pohutukawa and Norfolk pines along Thorndon Esplanade.

Since 1977 New Zealand has celebrated Arbor Day on 5 June, World Environment Day.

In 2003 with 'Planting by the Water', DOC's focus was on using native plants to protect and restore waterways. DOC wants your stories. Are you involved in a native plant project or programme? They're keen to hear about the different sorts of projects happening around the country, and the people involved, especially people who have devoted many years of their lives to tree-related work.

Contact the Tu Kakariki (New Zealand Tree Programme) coordinator, Pam Crisp, if you have any stories, case studies or profiles to share: pdcrisp@doc.govt.nz

Rebuilding Habitats – From Pit to Pond

As a condition of its resource consent, the Australian-based GRD Macraes has an active conservation programme based on enhancing and rebuilding habitats for desirable species and controlling pests, at the site of its huge open-cast goldmine at Macraes Flat, North Otago.

Examples of the success of this approach can be seen with the Lone Pine Reservoir, silt ponds, and other wetland areas, where plantings have been established to encourage nesting birds and aquatic life.

A progressive rehabilitation programme also minimises the visual and environmental impact of worked areas in the Macraes surrounds. Incorporating landscaping principles, pasture restoration, tree planting and beautification projects, GRD ensures that as the mining operation moves on, the worked land is restored for wildlife, farming and recreation.

GRD adheres to the principle that rehabilitation should visually integrate impoundments and waste rock into the surrounding landscape so they appear to be naturally occurring features.

Much of the rehabilitation undertaken by GRD is aimed at returning worked areas to pasture, in keeping with the predominant land use of the area.

However, in other areas alternative rehabilitation aimed at enhancing conservation and scenic values is appropriate. Plantings in these areas include flax, swampy reeds, cordylines, manuka, silver and red tussock and several varieties of hebe.

The Lone Pine freshwater reservoir not only caters for the operational freshwater requirement, but has also evolved into a thriving wetland community. The lake is stocked with fish and is routinely frequented by seasonal bird life including swans, paradise and mallard ducks and oyster-catchers.

GRD is encouraging the evolution of this wetland through the introduction of nesting boxes and by ensuring that the area remains a shooting-free zone. Even though the reservoir is a man-made structure, run-off studies have shown that the wetland will be naturally sustained.

Other rehabilitated sites include the recently mined alluvial tailings area, which has been converted to a pond and attracts local bird life. Similarly the pre-existing pond adjacent to the Fraser's Pit area, disturbed during mining operations, has now been rehabilitated and after one season's rain once again attracts local bird life.

From the GRD website: www.grd.com.au

(To reach the Macraes goldmine, turn right at Palmerston, between Oamaru and Dunedin. It is a mind-boggling place. –Ed.)

NOSLOC FEEDERS

The Nosloc feeding system has been developed in New Zealand by Dennis Colson of Te Kuiti. The feeders are suitable for duck feeding and free range feeding. Of most interest to DU members will be the duck and pheasant feeders. The newly designed nozzles feed both wheat and barley, or you can feed whole maize by using the special end cap provided. Other sizes of nozzle are available for feeding pellets to ostrich and emu. The nozzles are made of galvanised steel and will not rust or break from use. Each feeder requires a waratah and bucket (20 litre) which you supply. Larger drums can be used for the system but require additional brackets and waratahs. The nozzle, either parallel for maize or spiral for wheat and barley, and a waratah mounting bracket are supplied.

FENN TRAP MK 6

Deadly to ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats, these all-metal traps are easy to set and are the ultimate quick-kill tunnel trap.

\$35.00 each.

GREY TEAL NEST BOX

These grey teal nest boxes come in a prefabricated form ready to assemble and erect on your pond.

They come complete with mounts ready to fit to your own post.

\$25.00

The Mitredale Duck Club Cookbook

By Di Pritt, published by Halcyon Press. \$19.95 including GST, postage and packing.

The Poem

A spell to be used when addressing the birth of a child

Let your first breath be
the volume of small lemons.

Let your second breath snap
like a sail in strong wind.

Let your third breath howl like a wolf
on the edge of a great mountain.

Let your fourth breath
hoot like an owl.

Let your fifth breath open slowly
like the eye of a wild animal.

Let your sixth breath
rise like the sun.

Let your seventh breath follow
the tide on its way out.

Let your eighth breath
guide it back in.

By Glenn Colquhoun

From his second collection *Playing God*,
published by Steele Roberts, 2002.

Change of Address

Are you moving? Please send us your new details.



Name.....

Old address.....

New address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, or email: info@ducks.org.nz

- ☐ YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member
☐ Please send me further information, I may join later.

Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Address.....

Phone..... Fax.....

E-mail.....



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

All subscriptions include GST. Membership is available in eight categories:

Junior (under 16) ☐ \$10 Contributor ☐ \$35 Family ☐ \$50 Business ☐ \$75 Life (one payment) ☐ \$1000

Note: Bronze, silver and gold sponsorships, which can be changed annually, include the membership fee of \$35. For the balance, sponsors will receive a receipt as proof of a tax deductible donation.

Bronze Sponsor ☐ \$60 Silver Sponsor ☐ \$125 Gold Sponsor ☐ \$250

My Donation of \$ is enclosed. Please find my cheque attached.

Please charge my VISA/MASTERCARD No:

Expires: Signature:

Please renew my membership each year and charge my credit card YES/NO

Post to: Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

ALL DONATIONS TO DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC. ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



WINCHESTER®

MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.



Marketed in the North Island by Kilwell Sports Ltd
and S&R Marston in the South Island.



Neil Candy at James Hunter's Wetland, east of Waipukarau. Photo: William Abel.

Proud to support Ducks Unlimited
New Zealand Inc.
in their efforts to conserve
New Zealand's wetlands and waterfowl