

Flight



ISSUE 143 - April 2010





wetland care
NEW ZEALAND

Our business is to harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.

Wetland Care members recognise that wetlands are vital to the wellbeing of the environment, acting as huge ecological sponges by soaking up pollutants and filtering water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and the sea.

Our initiatives focus on matters as far-reaching as groundwater replenishment, flood control, nutrient and contaminant management and climate change – all critical factors for the conservation of freshwater and saltwater wetlands and marshes.

We want to preserve and conserve the flora and fauna of our most endangered ecosystem so that vibrant wetlands are our legacy to future generations.

Funding for projects comes from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established by Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc in 1991, as well as membership, donations and corporate memberships such as that from Banrock Station Wines.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. An example is Banrock Station Wines who place the Wetland Care New Zealand logo on their wine bottles distributed in New Zealand. In return, Banrock contribute a fee, which is based on each bottle sold, to Wetland Care New Zealand.

Money from this partnership has been given to wetland conservation projects done by, among others:

Tutukaka Landcare Coalition

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc.

Ducks Unlimited Operation Pateke

Port Charles release 2005 at Coromandel

Henley Trust, Masterton

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellington

Kitchener Park, Feilding

Manawatu Estuary Trust, Foxton

Mangaone Wetland, Raetihi

Masterton Intermediate School, Masterton

Steyning Trust, Hawkes Bay

Travis Wetland Trust, Christchurch

Wairio Wetland, South Wairarapa

Wetland Trust New Zealand, Rangiriri

Waitakere Branch of Forest and Bird, West Auckland

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Dunedin

Cape Kidnappers pateke release, 2008 and 2009

Fiordland pateke release, 2009

For further information, please contact:
William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand, phone 06-362 6675
PO Box 281 Levin.



Register early for the DU Conference 30 July - 1 August at Wairakei

The Ducks Unlimited 36th Annual Conference and fund-raising dinner will take place from 30 July to 1 August 2010. The venue will be the Bayview Wairakei Resort north of Taupo.

Programme

Friday 30 July 7.00 pm

Registration, drinks followed by buffet dinner. A chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Saturday 31 July 9.00 am AGM.

10.30 am Bus departs after morning tea for tour and drinks and lunch at Huka Prawn Park.

6.30 pm Drinks and Silent Auction begins.

7.30 pm Award presentations.

8.00 pm Dinner and Main Auction.

Sunday 1 August 9.30 am

Social gathering, speaker and morning tea.

Photo caption front cover:

From the Woodville DUNZ Clay Bird shoot in March: Mulling over the days results, left to right, Terry Horne, Robert Horne, Richard Fraser and Jacob Horne.

Harm Broekema of Kaukapakapa has sent another lovely shot of the pateke taken in April as referred to in last January 2010 issue of Flight. They were spotted by him at Shakespear Park and he says "I spotted the pateke again last weekend and was happy to see that they have three healthy ducklings.

New Members - Welcome!

*Michelle Cooper, Napier
Glen Worthington, Porirua
Jim Bicknell, Greytown
Robert Blake, Blenheim
Bruce Rowe, Palmerston North
Tony Faram, Te Karaka
Chris Hocken, Feilding*

New President

David Smith is the new president of Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc, as of 1 April 2010 and Ross Cottle is now chairman. Here is David's first insight...

Dear DUNZ members,

As I write this I have a sense of déjà vu and I presume for you also. After having been president in the mid-nineties and a promoter of the concept of two-year presidential terms, the last thing I expected was to assume this role again. That I have says a lot as to where we are at as a charitable society in this century.

Our membership has struggled to maintain more than 400 for quite some time now. The folk who are prepared to serve on our chapters and the board appear limited. We simply do not have sufficient new blood to enable a regular turnover of board members. It's either that or the way in which we operate is appearing to be a closed group, which others feel they cannot join. If that is how you feel, PLEASE let us know as it is not our intention.

Our membership numbers are not unique to DUNZ. Those of you who are in Rotary, the local choir or other charities will know they all struggle these days. There is something about generation X, or is it Y or Z now, that seems to preclude joining a club or society. Happy to provide donations from time to time, but, generally, not their time. I realise this is a generalisation and there are some enthusiastic younger members so please, if you are one of those, would you let me have your thoughts on this matter.

What the present situation says to me is what we are doing no longer works as well as it did. We must find new ways of operating. This does not mean chucking out the baby with the bath water but rather find ways to complement our present activities to grow the society.

The Board will be meeting in May to consider new initiatives as to administration, marketing and membership. This will include consideration of a greater use of Wetland Care as our face to New Zealand, particularly to the non-hunting members of society, with DUNZ being the administrative part of the organisation.

We have, in my view, gained so much from our roots in DU Canada and DU Inc and continue to do so. Thus it would be counter-productive to disestablish DUNZ as our society. My other concern is that many of the efforts made over the years have been by hunting members, or past hunters, and I am concerned not to cause any sense of alienation. I know that I would feel a enormous sense of loss were DUNZ not to exist any longer.

If you have any thoughts at all on these matters, please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, so we can take them into account in our board meeting in May.

Ross Cottle has served as president for the last six years. He deserves a rest and a huge thank you from all members for the way in which he has carried out his duties. We are not so generous as to let him off the board though - sorry, Ross. We must also thank his wife Sharon who has provided Ross with technical support (how to use email, perhaps?) and support in so many other ways.

We hope you can join us at the end of July when the annual conference will be held in Wairakei, Taupo. I look forward to seeing you then.

David Smith
President
Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc

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Kevin Campbell Napier (06) 835 7218

Contents

Conference Advice 2010	2
New President's letter	3
DoC letter re Wairio Wetlands	4
WRENZ Conference in Christchurch	4
Oiled Wildlife and Project Jonah	4
Another Fiordland release of pateke	5
ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition	6
DUNZ Subs due - notice from Sandra Pipes	6
Victoria University meeting at Wairio	7
Wairarapa OSNZ	7
Nikau Foundation donation to Wairio	8
Ossie Latham interview	9
Alan Wilks and a special Cake	9
Motutapu/Rangitoto pateke sighting	10
Wetland Restoration Handbook	10
Tuhua pateke update	10
Swans riding on their parents' backs - an opinion	11
More kokako for Fiordland	11
Postglacial history of NZ wetlands	12
Woodville playcentre at Ruffit Lodge	13
DUNZ Clay shoot at Ruffit Lodge	14
World Wildlife Fund funding available	14
Wairio Wetland Restoration Committee minutes	15

Our Mission

To deliver effective wetland restoration, development, research, education and advocacy;

While supporting the preservation of threatened waterfowl and the ethical and sustainable use of wetlands

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All to be produced camera-ready.

Discount for long-term ads - ask Editor

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.

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Greytown



'Valuing community group contribution to conservation' - report from DoC

DUNZ Board member Jim Law has received this letter from DoC's Education and Community Outreach Helga Wientjes. Jim says that DUNZ's Wairio project was included in the survey. Here in part is that letter:

"In 2007 you participated in a Department of Conservation research project (carried out by Ned Hardie-Boys) that sought to better understand the value of the contribution that community organisations are making to conservation. We are pleased to advise that the findings of the research have just been published.

"A copy of the report 'Valuing community group contributions to conservation' is attached. Hard copies of the report are available free of charge while stocks last. If you like to obtain a hard copy, please email science.publications@doc.govt.nz.

"We'd like to thank you very much for taking the time to participate in the survey and provide information about the work you are doing for conservation. A total of 201 community groups working with the Department of Conservation took part in the survey. The research found that the total value of the contribution of these groups is close to \$16 million, an incredibly impressive amount of effort.

"The findings from the survey will help DoC give greater recognition to community groups and their contribution to conservation.

"The findings will also help DoC improve the way it works with community groups. One of the immediate improvements is that we are offering a range of training courses to the public. The online training modules can be done anytime and are free of charge. Various field courses are offered during the year and cost \$60 (ex-gst) per participant per day. Have a look at the DoC website to find out what courses are on offer: www.doc.govt.nz/training. Other recommendations made in the report will be adopted over time.

"Community organisations like yours make an invaluable contribution to the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic heritage.

"Thank you again for all your efforts, and we hope you enjoy reading the research results.

Kind regards,
Helga Wientjes
Education and Community Outreach
Department of Conservation
Helga's email is : hwientjes@doc.govt.nz"

Very elderly pateke still battling on

Joanna Sim, Pateke Ranger at Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier Island reports that she caught a banded female pateke in early March in Port Fitzroy.

It was banded in May 1997 by Dave Barker in Okiwi on Great Barrier.

"So not a bad innings", she reports, rather understatedly.

Oiled Wildlife Response link with Project Jonah

The 'Oiled Wildlife Response (OWR) Newsletter' will be circulated every three to four months by the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre (NZWHC), Massey University. We intend that these newsletters will serve to keep Oiled Wildlife Responders up to date with events and news about oiled wildlife response both in New Zealand and abroad. Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and can be made to Helen McConnell (H.M.McConnell@massey.ac.nz).

For previous issues visit: <http://wildlife.massey.ac.nz/>

The New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre has recently established a new relationship with Project Jonah New Zealand. Communications commenced following the recognition that both organisations have a shared goal: combating suffering to marine wildlife during emergencies (such as whale strandings and oil spills). The need for large numbers of responders during such emergencies is also a feature that both organisations share. With these synergies recognised Project Jonah New Zealand has generously offered NZ Wildlife Health Centre the use of their 3000-strong database of volunteers as a possible source of assistance during oiled wildlife response.

Project Jonah operates a SMS text system whereby their volunteers (trained in whale stranding response) can be notified of a wildlife emergency rapidly via their mobile phones. This allows responder numbers to be maximised in a short time period. The New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre is most grateful to Project Jonah for this offer. Project Jonah responders would undoubtedly be valuable in bolstering numbers of regional oiled wildlife responders when oil spill events escalate in scale and large numbers of additional response personnel are required.

OWR training course

The next Oiled Wildlife Response Course for members of the National Oiled Wildlife Response Team will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North on 28 and 29 April. Invites have already been sent to those whom we hope will attend. This year's programme will cover the following topics:

- Radio Communications
- OWR Health & Safety
- Oiled Wildlife Responder Management

For those members of the NOWRT who have not received invitations to this year's course, you can look forward to attending the second edition of this course in 2011.

This year the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre will also be holding a 'catch-up' course in the basics of oiled wildlife response on the 27 April for those who are new to the team.

Wildlife rehabilitators of NZ (Wrenz) Conference in August - Registration open now

To be held 7-8 August 2010 at the Antarctic Centre, 38 Orchard Road Christchurch (within easy walking distance from airport)

For those involved in avian vet practice, DoC permit holders, DoC staff, and those involved or interested in rehabilitation of wildlife.

- * Speakers and Workshops
- * Networking with other rehabbers
- * Native bird care
- * Husbandry, first aid etc., in keeping with the new minimum standards
- * Conference buffet dinner Saturday night at the Sudima Hotel, next to the Antarctic Centre
- * \$36+gst to be paid for on the night.
- * Maximum number is limited to 40 people.

Early Bird Registration Fee (before 7 June 2010) \$90 per person

Registration Fee (after 7 June 2010) \$100 per person

This fee includes entry to Antarctic Centre (normally \$35 per person), Two lunches, two morning and two afternoon teas. Free parking

NB Early Registration, Travel and Accommodation booking recommended as the All Blacks are hoping to beat the Wallabys on the Saturday.

For further information and registration
Please contact Jackie Stevenson
2A Glen Place, Parklands, Christchurch 8083, Ph. 03 3831488
Email gary.stevenson@xtra.co.nz

Major Boost for Fiordland's Endangered Pateke Population

39 more pateke, New Zealand's rarest waterfowl were released into their new surroundings into the stoat trapped-area of the Arthur and Joes Valleys, close to the Milford Track, Arthur Valley, Fiordland in late March.

The captive-reared pateke were flown into the Arthur Valley area near Milford and released by the Department of Conservation in a project partnered by the Fiordland Conservation Trust and Ultimate Hikes.

The latest transfer follows the successful release of 20 birds in the area last year (see Flight April 2009 No 139) which saw 14 birds survive – one of the highest survival rates ever for first time captive releases. They have certainly made themselves feel at home. In a very rare occurrence, two pairs of birds have attempted to breed and are sitting on nests due to hatch any day. If successful, these will be the first ducklings produced at any release site within the first year of being transferred there.

DOC Te Anau Biodiversity Ranger Andrew Smart said yesterday's release of 40 birds was made possible by the nationwide effort of private breeders, conservation trusts, Ngati Wai, Ngai Tahu and local businesses supporting the project.

The pateke were prepared for release into the wild at Peacock Springs Wildlife Park in Christchurch where they were taught to use supplementary feeders, banded and fitted with transmitters. They were then flown to Queenstown and transferred free of charge by a Real Journeys plane into Milford Sound to be helicoptered into the Arthur Valley close to the Milford Track before being finally released.

Ultimate Hikes employee Jemma Knowles, who participated in the release, said the pateke looked very happy in their new home. "This is such a neat project to be involved with. It

would be a great achievement if people walking on the tracks in this area could one day get a glimpse of the pateke once the population increases in numbers."

"If survival rates are good, more than 200 pateke could be released into Fiordland over the next five years. With only 2000 purebred pateke living in a wild state in New Zealand, this second release of pateke into the South Island is going to make a real difference," Andrew (Max) Smart said, adding, "And if survival rates are good, more than 200 pateke could be released into Fiordland over the next five years."

For more information please contact:

Department of Conservation Biodiversity Ranger Andrew (Max) Smart (03) 249 0200, email:asmart@doc.govt.nz, Rachel Cockburn, Manager Fiordland Conservation Trust (03) 249 8240, 0274 952 954, email:grant.rachel@xtra.co.nz or Jemma Knowles, Sales & marketing coordinator (03) 450 1948, email:jemma@ultimatehikes.co.nz

Andrew Smart wrote after the release:

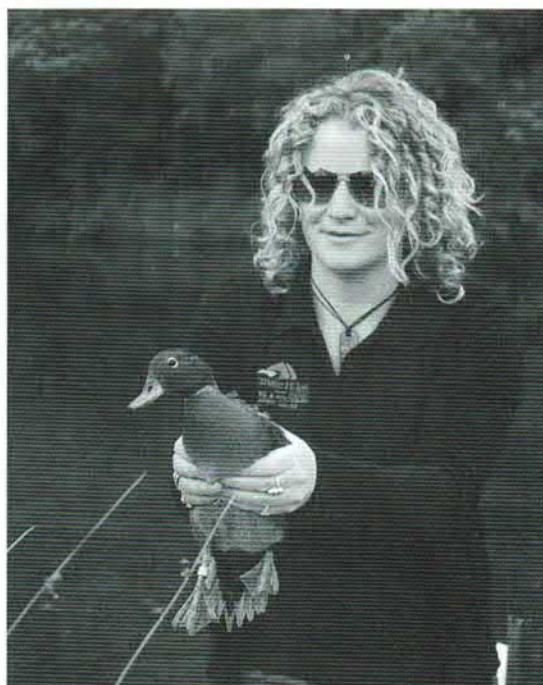
"...Just to let you know that the release into the Arthur Valley on Wednesday went well. As of Saturday all the birds were doing well. They don't seem to be using the supplementary food hoppers much. Two of the hoppers have been used but only a small amount of food has been taken. The birds seemed to be far more interested in foraging for wild food, as they were right into it straight away after release. The Arthur River was up approximately 3.1m last night, so our hoppers have probably been washed away. We put a couple of them higher up in anticipation but probably not quite high enough. The weather forecast is terrible for the next few days (the Milford Track is closed at the moment due to slips and flooding), so we probably can't get back in there until Thursday. Still the weather has been slightly better than after last year's release and all the birds did all right then."

DOC biodiversity ranger Andrew Smart carefully lifts the birds out of the helicopter:



TV captures the moment

Right: Jemma Knowles of Ultimate Hikes has a good grasp - a great photo!



Prime Minister John Key opens ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition at Karori

On March 31, Prime Minister John Key officially opened New Zealand's newest eco-attraction: a state-of-the-art natural history exhibition and visitor centre at Wellington's world-first ZEALANDIA eco-sanctuary.

Just ten minutes from downtown Wellington, ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition is the first facility fully dedicated to showcasing New Zealand's unique natural history and world-famous conservation movement. Housed within a new world-class visitor centre the award-winning ZEALANDIA eco-sanctuary, ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition will take on an extraordinary journey; from the day before humans arrived, through centuries of catastrophic loss; and finally, to the present day, the massive efforts New Zealanders are making to protect and preserve what makes New Zealand unique and extraordinary.

"ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition is a groundbreaking development that will see locals and visitors really learn and understand the past, present and future of our country's precious flora and fauna," said Positively Wellington Tourism Chief Executive David Perks.

"As you step back in time you'll realise what innocent mistakes have been made and how innovative and important ZEALANDIA's vision is. You'll learn what has been and what can be. This is a place that we should all be excited by and will give international visitors another reason to visit and spend longer in Wellington."

Using state-of-the-art interactive exhibits designed by local but world-renowned exhibition designers Story Inc, leading model-makers Izzat Design and special effects specialists Sauce, ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition is a unique and immersive visitor experience.

"As soon as you step through the doors of the exhibition hall it will be like arriving on another planet - New Zealand 1,000 years ago" said ZEALANDIA CEO Nancy McIntosh-Ward. "You will see a world that had evolved in almost complete isolation for 80 million years!"

In the exhibition, visitors step into the sights and sounds of an ancient forest. They can marvel at prehistoric beasts as they stand before life-like moa and fearsome Haast's eagle, and hear the haunting song of the extinct huia. Witness how humans almost destroyed what took millions of years of isolation to create in an extraordinary sound and light show. Upstairs see the fragments of this paradise that remain, and what places like ZEALANDIA are doing to make them whole again. Visitors will then be able to step outside and experience a groundbreaking eco-sanctuary first-hand capture the beauty of New Zealand and our natural heritage.

For more information on this media release, please contact:

*Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator ZEALANDIA: The Karori Sanctuary Experience, Waiapu Road, Wellington, New Zealand
Phone: +64 4 920 9200. Email: alan.dicks@visitzealandia.com.*



Some of the exhibits and activities at the new ZEALANDIA: The Exhibition, opened in Karori, Wellington at the end of March

Sandra Pipes - Administration Angel of DUNZ - with a message for you

Hi Everyone

It's that time of year again, with subscriptions for this financial year 2010 - 2011 being due as from 1 April 2010.

Please look for your invoice in the mail soon and forward your payment as soon as possible, this would be much appreciated.

Included on the invoice, will be your details we have on the database e.g. email, phone numbers, postal code etc. Please check these are still correct but if not any alterations can be noted on the invoice or the stub/ tear off portion when you forward your payment. This makes things so much easier if I or one of the board have to contact you for any reason.

If opting to pay by direct credit please email these contact changes through to me. Also remember to include your membership number as a reference so we can reconcile the bank statement and register your subscription payment against the correct member!

As for members who pay automatically each year with their credit card (Visa and Mastercard only), if your card has expired since June 2009 I will need the new details. You can either email me the information if you feel comfortable with this or I will be posting a form for you to complete and return to me promptly, so payment can be debited shortly.

If you have any questions regarding your membership level or payment options please feel free to contact me any time.

Please register early for our 210 Conference!

Sandra Pipes DUNZ (Administration)
info@ducks.org.nz or
PO Box 9795,
Newmarket, Auckland 1149
09 419 1720 or 0274 803 422

Victoria University staff visit Wairio Wetland

Study programme possibility being investigated

President of Ducks Unlimited NZ, Ross Cottle, DUNZ patron Jim Campbell and DUNZ board member Jim Law recently welcomed a team from Victoria University of Wellington to the Wairio Wetland project to view progress over the last five years and also to consider a study programme to look at the control of tall fescue.

The group from Victoria University included Associate Professor Ben Bell, Director of Victoria's Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology, and Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation

Ross Cottle said "Tall fescue or in layman's terms, just good old long grass, despite best efforts can seriously slow the growth of newly planted native sedges, flaxes and trees. Unless there is exceptionally good site preparation and follow-up release spraying some new plants simply die off. They just can't compete with rampant fescue."

Professor Bell expressed considerable interest in a study project which could be widened to look at other limiting factors in restoration projects such as the Wairio Wetland. It was agreed that such a study programme would be very timely, given the recently announced plans to develop

the regional park, Wairarapa Moana. This park would ultimately incorporate a number of the wetlands bordering Lake Wairarapa.

Wairarapa Moana comprising primarily Lakes Wairarapa, Onoke and Pounui plus their associated wetlands, is the largest wetland complex in the lower North Island.

Lake Wairarapa is the third largest lake in the North Island, being slightly smaller than Lake Rotorua and similar in size to Wellington Harbour. It is situated at the southern end of the Ruamahanga River catchment covering 40 percent of the region and thus is the sink for the catchment.

"Lessons learned at the Wairio Wetland could be used elsewhere around the lake," said Professor Bell.

It was agreed that the parties would jointly scope either a Master's or doctoral research programme and look at avenues to fund the research.

Howard Egan

Longtime stalwart and DU fundraiser, Wairio enthusiast, has decided to withdraw from his position on the restoration committee of the Wairio Wetlands project. Howard has been instrumental in the organisation of countless plantings and sheer hard work at the Wairio Wetlands, often in wind and rain and cold, since the inception of the Wairio Wetland project some five or more years ago.

He sent a note to Jim Law, noting that "the minutes outline a pleasing situation



Photo from left: DUNZ patron Jim Campbell, Professor Ben Bell, Trish Walbridge and Jim Law at the Wairio on-site meeting



at Wairio. I also noted the success in funds raising by the principals. Notwithstanding those comments, I said that I prefer to withdraw from the restoration committee. Age and health are the prime reasons, though I have also taken on a Deerstalkers' administration role, after a holiday of thirty years. As the initiator of the work at Wairio, obviously I have thought carefully before moving away. Nevertheless this tireless chap continues his work at his lovely Canada Flats wetlands near Carterton, Wairarapa.

From the newsletter of the Wairarapa branch of the New Zealand Ornithological Society, this will interest local readers:

WAIRARAPA MOANA / LAKE WAIRARAPA PROJECT.

The following is an appeal from Philippa Crisp, team leader, Strategy and Environment Parks, Greater Wellington.

"As part of the Wairarapa Moana project, I am looking at restarting the bird transects that were completed by Hugh Robertson and Barrie Heather on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa from 1982 to 1994. Colin Miskelly suggested that I ask you if there are any members of your Wairarapa branch of OSNZ who would be interested in doing this monitoring.

It would involve counting the wading species along an eight km transect on the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa four times a year. It is fairly hard going as you may be wading through water.

Let me know if any of your members would be interested."

If you are willing and able to participate, please notify Geoff Doring, 294 Waiohine Road RD 1 Carterton 5791, as he has offered to co-ordinate the project.

Ian Armitage, Wellington Regional Representative of the Wairarapa branch of the NZ Ornithological Society has asked if our region is willing (and/or able!) to continue to monitor the caspian terns at Onoke Spit. The Wellington Regional members would be willing to assist us. For many years, Colin Scadden faithfully observed and reported on the caspian tern colony on the Spit, but since his retirement from this work, it has somewhat lapsed. If you are able to help to re-invigorate this project please contact Geoff Doring as above. Also, OSNZ is auctioning over 300 books, which can be accessed over the internet, and bids placed at the website www.osnz.org.nz.

Nikau Foundation provides \$6,500 grant to Wairio Wetland restoration project

At a ceremony in Wellington in March, Ducks Unlimited New Zealand president Ross Cottle and board member Jim Law happily accepted a cheque for \$6,500 from Brian Burge, Manager of the Nikau Foundation towards the restoration of the Wairio Wetland.

Nikau Foundation chairman, Kevin O'Connor, in outlining the community goals of the Foundation, stated that he was "delighted that the Foundation was able to support Ducks Unlimited with its restoration work at the Wairio Wetland on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa."

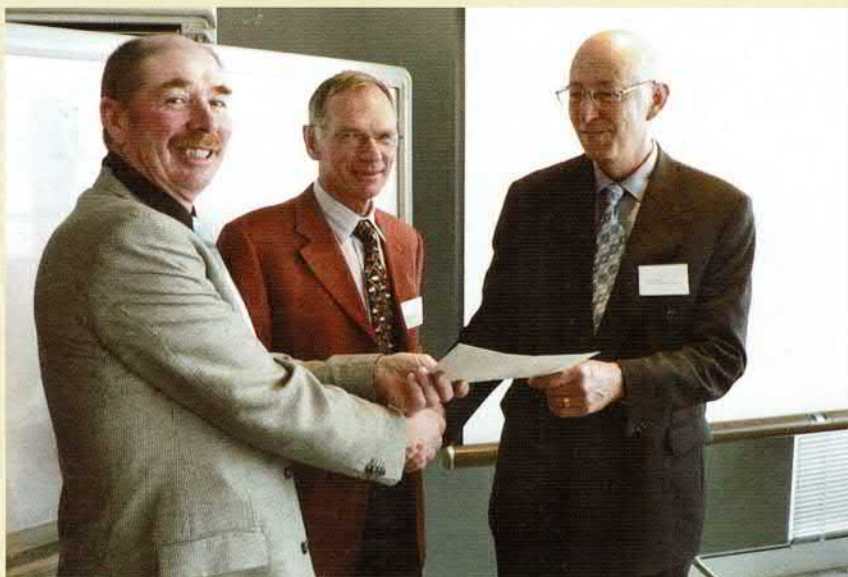


Photo above shows Ross Cottle and Jim Law with Brian Burge, Manager of the Nikau Foundation at the cheque-presentation ceremony. Photo courtesy Nikau Foundation

While most grants had previously gone to Wellington-based organisations he added that "the Wairarapa is part of the wider community supported by the Nikau Foundation." The grant for the Wairio Wetland restoration project has been arranged by Nikau on behalf of the Richard and Doreen Evans Trust.

Ross Cottle, in accepting the grant on behalf of Ducks Unlimited NZ, said that the grant would go towards "site preparation and tree planting at their joint venture project with DoC." He added, "We are starting to see the results of four years of effort and this injection of funds will help maintain the momentum of the project."

Tree planting is planned for May/June and volunteers are welcome. In past years children from Pirinoa Primary School, students from the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre, Rotarians and Ducks Unlimited and Forest and Bird members have assisted with the planting.

The marketing manager for the Nikau Foundation is Adrienne Bushell, who is a Ducks Unlimited NZ Life Member and she attended the presentation of the cheque, and took the photograph for Flight. She explained that the Nikau Foundation is the community foundation for the Wellington region, part of a worldwide family, which provides a simple, effective and long-lasting way for people to leave a gift for causes close to their heart and close to home. Because the capital is invested and only the income is given out, the gift keeps on giving for ever. The Nikau Foundation is a unique perpetual charitable trust which attracts gifts, trusts and legacies and invests them in the greater Wellington region.

On the right is a photo of Adrienne Bushell, Marketing Manager for the Nikau Foundation, and DUNZ Life Member who is a fluent French-speaker, pictured with His Excellency the Ambassador for France Michel Legrand at the Embassy residence a day after the presentation of the cheque. Your editor took this photograph.





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COLOURING COMPETITIONS TO KIDS WEB CORNERS ...

ASK US ABOUT OUR KID'S CLUB PACKAGES

Ossie Latham of Feilding - by Liz Brook

Ossie Latham is a man who puts his money where his mouth is, so 11 years ago when he and wife Mary bought their 55ha property, they started creating a series of wetlands suitable for water birds. New fences, particularly riparian fencing, ate up \$60,000, and that was before they started planting.

Both are country people at heart, Mr Latham having grown up on a farm in the Manawatu and Mrs Latham at Thames but not on a farm. As a retirement project, far from the crush and bustle of Auckland they looked around for a suitable property near Feilding - after all it was his home town. Even during the hectic life as an Auckland businessman he remembered the wetlands on his grandparents' farm, and although most farmers were busy clearing and draining, his grandparents didn't. This instilled a love of wetland birds, and when Ducks Unlimited New Zealand (DU) started up he joined. "I was just a member for donkey's years."

Now he is deeply involved and a prime mover for Wetland Care New Zealand, an offshoot of DU which has the task of harnessing resources from anywhere and everywhere, to restore and develop lost wetland areas in New Zealand. For Mr Latham there is the opportunity to help with getting pateke (brown teal) off the critically endangered list. In recent years they have gone from 1000 birds to almost 2000 but more are needed.

After leaving Feilding he was export manager for Carter Holt Harvey, a job that saw him travelling to many overseas countries. Later he worked for Godfrey Hirst Carpets. "I was a founding director and shareholder of Carpet Court New Zealand. But I am totally retired now." These days Mr Latham is more likely to be talking about how he loves being a farmer, his flock of 300 Texel ewes, his Murray Grey cows, or his Kikonui goats. He is even more passionate about the latest birds that have taken up residence on one of other of the many ponds created on the property or in the bushy areas that ring the water.

The main pond overlooked by the yet-to-be-completed house, is one km long by 40m wide with a 20 to 30m riparian shelter area all around. They have been planting at least 6000 trees a year, along with flax, raupo, carex secta and carex virgata around the water edges. There are dabchicks, black and white swans, Mallard and Grey ducks, pied stilt, herons, and a royal spoonbill and bittern have been known to visit.

From a property where there were not many birds there are now tui, bellbirds, morepork, pheasant, quail, grey warbler, fantails, fernbirds (Matata), welcome swallows and woodpigeons.

To ensure the birds' safety a trapping programme aimed at possums, mustelids, rats and wild cats has been ongoing. Though a consequence has been an increase in the number of mice and hedgehogs. "We know we have been successful because the brood size has increased, but we can't protect them from other predators such as hawks, shags and pukeko."

But taking things out of the system does have its down side as more hedgehogs mean less insects. One hedgehog can eat 150gm of invertebrates a night.

One of the lighter sides is the Christmas presents Mrs Latham has received over the last few years. A pine tree pruning kit and a gate one year, a weed mattock for thistles, and another time it was 300 cabbage trees. She takes it all in good heart, and is happy with the home that is taking shape and will very soon be habitable.

Work with Wetland Care involves assessing relevant sites around the country and the organisational capacity for the owners to run a successful release of such birds as the pateke. "My business background helps me to run things. I have learnt a lot too - about habitat and the interrelationship it has with everything."

Although Mr Latham has said he intends to devote the rest of his life towards his interest in wetlands development, he also said he has strong views on how long you should be involved. "You become friendly with the people you are dealing with and don't challenge them. Someone new, with a new perspective is often needed."

"I look for consistency in the way a wetland is being looked after and if it does not match with what they had been saying or doing before then I need to sort it out."

Wetlands are important for the environment. They act as ecological sponges by soaking up pollutants and filtering water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and the sea. World Wetland Care Day is celebrated on February 2, each year.

Photo and story kind courtesy of our DU member Liz Brook and the Feilding Herald for World Wetland Day 2010



Ossie Latham and the workers, with the nearly completed house in the background overlooking the largest of the wetlands. "Dogs are good and good-looking," he told Flight. "Sam is the Bearded and Pat the heading dog. Pat's bloodlines go back to a heading dog called Maid I had when I was a very young man. I was lucky to get the same bloodline forty years later."



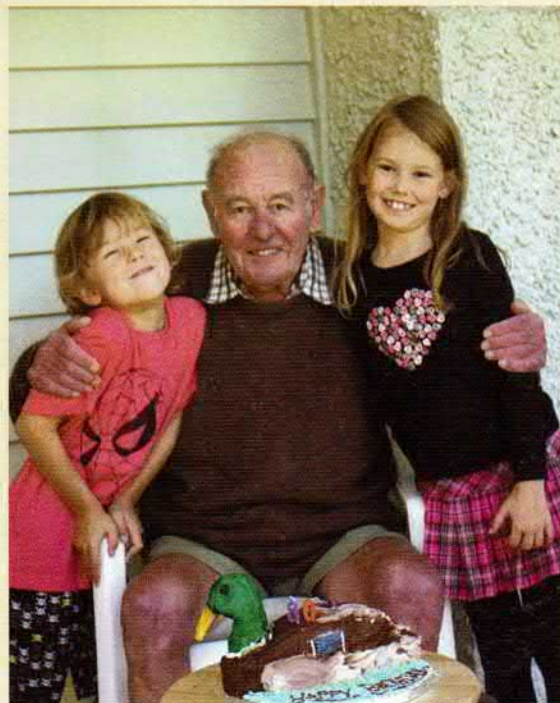
Octo-Man Alan Wilks

Now, most of us in Ducks Unlimited NZ know Alan Wilks of Greytown, all perhaps except newer members. Alan is the the DU stalwart who, along with his late wife Di, started this magazine. Not only that, but Alan has singlehandedly managed the mailing out of each of the last 14 issues of Flight, using an efficient method of his own, and considerable time and care.

Alan has served as a director of Ducks Unlimited since the early 80s, has been president and chairman, and in 2004 was awarded the Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Lifetime Achievement Award - the actual handing over of the Award that year being accepted by his son David.

Alan turned 80 this summer and his daughter-in-law Laurie Wright created for him a fantastic cake - a perfect replica of a mallard, too good not to appear in Flight! Ready to take orders, Laurie?

Laurie and David Wilk's children Fletcher and Alaina are pictured here with their energetic grandfather on the day of his 80th birthday.



Motutapu/Rangitoto sighting of pateke

Jason Roxburgh reports that Andrew Nelson at DoC's Auckland Area Office has sent in photos taken by P Remi Bigonneau, who is one of the lizard monitoring team. DoC is in the process of eradicating all introduced mammals from Motutapu-Rangitoto, which sits right on Auckland's doorstep. Motutapu was assessed during the update of the 2006 national site assessment, but rejected at the time because there was, then, no predator control. The notes in the assessment had said:

Site: Motutapu, Hauraki Gulf
Conservancy: Auckland
Contact: Paul Keeling; Rosalie Stamp
Assessment date: 2006
Mentioned because: Predator removal feasibility study documented, eradication plan in progress, money availability likely; wetland habitat present on island
Reason for rejection: Realistic predator removal timeframe 2-5 years from now.

Jason says that "there seem to be only three pateke so far, but there's a reasonable amount of habitat on the island. Andrew's team are going to see if any of these birds have bands, as there are several places they could have come from, including Tawharanui, Tiritiri Matangi Island, Great Barrier, and Moehau. Here's to these birds attracting others, and forming their own population". Hear, hear.



Photo courtesy P Remi Bigonneau

Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems

Edited by Monica Peters and Beverley Clarkson
SNZ 45.00 (+ shipping)

Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems brings together expertise from specialists and groups actively engaged in restoring wetlands throughout the country. The handbook builds on regionally based restoration guides and provides a detailed, comprehensive ecosystem approach toward understanding, protecting and enhancing our remaining wetlands. It is targeted at those who plan to, and those who already are making a difference to improving wetlands, and is written in a way that can easily be understood and importantly, acted upon.

This beautifully designed handbook has excellent colour photographs, is wiro bound with wrap-around cover, and includes a CD of references and websites.

The web link to the recently published wetland restoration handbook is <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/biocons/wetlands/>.

This is a major output of our FRST-funded wetland programme 'Maintaining and Restoring Wetlands' and some of you may have seen it at the wetland symposium in Rotorua last week.

The book may be published in hard copy for \$45 otherwise.

If you require any hard copies of the handbook, these are available on the Manaaki Whenua Press website: <http://www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=908> for \$45.00.

For further information please contact:

Dr Beverley Clarkson, Landcare Research, Private Bag 3127, Hamilton 3126, New Zealand
Phone +64 7 8593730
Fax +64 7 8593701
Mobile 0274123111

Tuhua Pateke Update - February 2010

John Heaphy has sent his update for 2010. His last update was dated February 2009. The fourth pateke breeding season on Tuhua has now finished with no specific breeding monitoring done and no broods were incidentally sighted or reported during other work. The Tuhua original release was in February 2006 and there was a supplementary release in March 2008.

"Last week on 18 February 2010 I did the annual February post-breeding 'flock count'. The water level has remained high for the whole summer. The yuk weather last week (early February) allowed only one full count on one morning which turned out to be one of the most robust counts I've done on Tuhua, as all the birds were relaxed and are very confident there was no double counting. Likely a few more birds were hiding away.

A minimum total of 29 pateke were counted on both lakes, slightly down from the 34 or possibly 37 from February 2009.

Count was from dawn 06.45am to 10.30am with poor light the whole time. Weather dull, heavily overcast, no wind. Steady rain started just after completion.

White was hard to distinguish from metal in the poor light. 'Wild' birds were sometimes hard to confirm on Tuhua if only standing on one leg (as most of them do) as most of the original 2006 release birds only had one metal band and no colours. So it was an art in trying to gently get birds to stand on both legs without them taking instantly to the water which is easier said than done!

The pateke conveniently flocked together after the first 2006 breeding season then no post-breeding flocking was seen last three seasons. Maximum flock last week was seven with lots of smaller groups. Birds were well spread all over both Black and Green Lakes with most again in Green Lake this time.

Only 15 odd grey ducks were present and no broods were seen. Hawk were seen beating up the lakes as usual and I watched one plummeting into the reeds chasing something. No mallard or bittern seen. One white-faced heron was seen in November on Green Lake, a species first for Tuhua.

I did a similar count from dawn on 9 November 2009 for a total of six pairs of pateke: one pair on Black Lake and five pairs on Green Lake. Water level then was as high as I've ever seen it - up into the forest which might account for the low count.

Some released males have shown up again so makes you wonder how many are missed from the counts. This total was a pleasant surprise as counts last year suggested numbers had dropped off considerably. Although the count is taken in February when numbers post-breeding season are at their highest, the number of pairs seen and the now even sex ratio bodes well for this population to hang in there. Previously this population has always had a female skew.

The last supplementary maize feed was done around western edge of Black Lake in November 2008 and the feeders have since been removed from the lakeshore.

There has been no active management in this population for the last 14 months and none is now intended - they need to sink or swim on their own and learn to live with the hawks which take a major toll of ducks there."

John Heaphy
Conservation Officer (Protected Species and Islands)
Department of Conservation
Tauranga Area Office
Ph: Office - (07)5787677 DDI - (07)5712722 VPN - 6544

Swans carrying young.....is it unusual, and do other waterfowl do this?

Murray Williams reports

The last (January 2010) issue of Flight, No.142, carried three delightful photos of young black swan cygnets being transported on the backs of their parents, and another of a mute swan cygnet likewise sitting snugly and getting free transport. Although this behaviour is not unusual it is rare to see such excellent pictures showing it.

The photos reminded me of an essay I read at the dawn of my interest in waterfowl, and a quick "google search" located it in the 1968 issue of Living Bird, an excellent annual publication from Cornell University's laboratory of ornithology. The essay, entitled "A review of parental carrying of young by waterfowl" was authored by two very active waterfowl biologists of the time, Janet Kear and Paul Johnsgard. It can be read in its entirety on the internet at

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/biosciornithology/32>

In this paper the authors record that only mute, black and black-necked swans had been observed carrying young cygnets on their back. None of the arctic-breeding swans did so and nor did the Coscoroba swan from South America. Since then, some trumpeter swans, solitary nesters on the northern American prairies and the largest of all swans, have been reported to do so.

Why carry young cygnets? Two possible reasons have been advanced: for warmth and for protection. Only very young downy cygnets, generally in their first week of life, maybe up to 10 days old, are carried. All young waterfowl take time to be able to thermoregulate and manage their own body temperature. Brooding from a parent stops heat loss and delivers warmth to the young, but this is clearly not a task that can be accomplished on water. Allowing the wee youngsters up on the back and beneath the umbrella of wing feathers is a pretty good alternative way to do it. My hunch is that this is the real reason for swans carrying their young. More recently, protection from water predators such as pike in British waterways, has been suggested as another reason.....possible but not very convincing, and not easily extrapolated to black and black-necked swans.

Quite a range of other waterbirds have been reported carrying young on their backs while swimming, as Kear and Johnsgard's paper indicate. These include grebes of course, but also musk duck, two species of sheldgeese (from southern South America), two species of mergansers (fish-eating ducks) a whistle duck and the US wood duck. There are almost certainly a number of other duck species in which, occasionally, a duckling manages to clamber onto its parent's back – an accidental outcome rather than something that happens commonly. A good example is mallard which you can check out on p.67 of that excellent wee book about New Zealand's game waterfowl, The Duckshooter's Bag. What.....you haven't got a copy? Tsk tsk!!

Murray Williams



Gordon Pilone sent this photo which appeared in the January issue 142 of Flight, with young black swan on its parent's back, at the Pullar wetlands



William Abel took this photo which also appeared in the January issue no. 142 of Flight.

More North Island Kokako for Secretary Island, Fiordland

Thanks to generous funding by the Fiordland Lobster Company, 15 more North Island kokako were successfully transferred to Secretary Island, at the mouth of Doubtful Sound, Fiordland during September 2009, following the successful transfer of 10 North Island kokako in October 2008. These kokako came from Rotoehu Forest, near Rotorua. The birds from Kaharoa were accompanied on their long trip to Secretary Island by Kaharoa Kokako Trust member Carmel Richardson and two iwi from Ngati Rangi Wei Wei: Riki Hana Hancock and Mita Mohi. Trevor Huggins (Southland DoC) was also among the catching team at Kaharoa and present for the release as were DoC Te Anau Biodiversity staff Kerri-Anne Edge and Keri Antoniak and local iwi Marcia Te Au-Thomson and Cyril Gilroy from the Waihopai Runaka. Mike Schuck attended the release representing the Fiordland Lobster Company who is sponsoring the project. The release of these birds follows the successful transfer of 10 North Island kokako in October 2008. Secretary Island spreads over 8000ha and is essentially predator-free. The island has no rats, mice or possums and a programme to remove stoats from the island commenced in 2005. There are thought to be fewer than 10 stoats left on the island. Deer are also in extremely low numbers on Secretary Island due to efforts by DoC to remove them.



Photo shows Carmel Richardson of Kaharoa Kokako Trust and Cyril Gilroy from the Waihopai Runaka with one of the kokako

Postglacial history of New Zealand wetlands and implications for their conservation

Reproduced for Flight courtesy of its author, Matt S. McClone, leader of the Biodiversity & Conservation Team at Landcare Research.

Most New Zealand wetlands formed at or after the end of the last glaciation (c. 18,000 years ago). Those associated with major rivers and close to the coast tend to be young as erosive processes both destroy and initiate wetlands. However, there is a strong linear trend in initiations since 14,000 years ago, which suggests that geomorphic processes such as soil deterioration, landslides, sand dune movement and river course changes are constantly adding new, permanent wetlands. Most wetlands began as herbaceous fens but usually transitioned to shrub- or forest-covered bog-fen systems, in particular after the beginning of the Holocene (11,500 years ago).

Raised bogs formed from fens during the late-glacial and early Holocene, when river down-cutting isolated them from groundwater inflow. As climates warmed through the late-glacial and early Holocene, wooded wetlands spread and over 75% of lowland peat profiles preserve wood layers. Large basins with high water inflow often contain lakes or lagoons and have maintained herbaceous swamps, whereas those with limited catchments have become almost entirely covered with forest or shrubs. Wetlands in drier districts tend to have been initiated during the mid- and late- Holocene as the climate cooled and rain-bearing systems penetrated more often. Ombrogenous montane and alpine bogs may have been initiated by the same climate change. Natural fires frequently burnt some wetlands, particularly within the vast bog complexes of the Waikato Basin, but many wetlands record occasional fire episodes. By the time Maori arrived in the 13th century, about one percent of the landscape was covered with some form of wetland and most of that wetland was under woody cover.

Maori firing of the landscape began the process of removing the woody cover, which induced wetter, more herbaceous systems and initiated new wetlands. Deforestation of catchments in drier districts increased water yield that may in turn have created lowland fens and lagoons. European logging, fire and draining destroyed both pristine forested wetlands and fire-transformed systems from the Maori settlement era. The loss of wetlands is now largely a crisis of continued degradation through draining, weed invasion and fire in already human-altered systems in productive landscapes. Wetland history can help assess values and inform goals for conservation of wetlands, but transformation of the lowland landscape has been so complete that an historically authentic endpoint is unrealistic for most wetlands. The major conservation emphasis should be on larger wetlands that provide a range of ecosystem services.

Matt McClone, Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640.

Woodville Play Centre Visit

It was a bit of a grey March day, but the rain held off for Woodville Playcentre's visit to the Ruffit Lodge wetlands of Manawatu's Neil and Julie Candy. Monday is the Playcentre's day for four-year-olds, and this term they are studying water. A group of about 20 (including the mothers) spent the morning checking out the two large ponds. After a brisk walk to the viewing station at the back pond it was back to the front pond for some 'fishing' with their nets. Unfortunately no tadpoles obliged, but all manner of nymphs and water boatmen were selected to be transported back to Woodville for further study, and much excitement over who had caught what. The children were all very well behaved, and nobody required clothing changes from making their study of the water too personal!



On the wharf at Ruffit Lodge

Clay Target Shoot, Woodville, Manawatu

Ruffit Lodge, on the property of Neil and Julie Candy near Woodville in the Manawatu was the venue for the annual Ducks Unlimited NZ simulated field clay target shoot. Saturday 27 March was set-up day; the wind was howling and setting suitable targets was a challenge. However on the Sunday morning when a good number of duck hunters assembled the weather was calmer, despite a cool southerly drift, and the targets were flying truer. The field was set to resemble duck hunting, with a few unpredictable targets here and there.

Top score from 100 targets was Tom Bishop with a creditable 95. This 17-year-old is certainly showing a lot of promise, and challenging some of the more experienced shooters.

The emphasis of the day was not, however, on high scores, but on having fun and boosting confidence before the hunting season. It was also a great chance to up skill on gun safety with plenty of experienced shooters ready with advice.

A good table of prizes saw Lance Hurley win first prize of a Mossberg 930 semi-auto shotgun, and Pahiatua's Richard Fraser taking home a new pump action Mossberg to replace the inaccurate one he was using.

We expect higher scores from him next year – assuming his score did not reflect his ability.

From the amount of laughter at the woolshed afterwards everyone had a great day and many caught up with old friends and fellow hunters. A great team of volunteers from the earlier squads meant the whole field was packed up as soon as the last squad finished. Many thanks to all those helpers. Thanks also to sponsors Kilwell Sports Ltd, Hamill's Sports and Melody's New World for prizes, and to all those who lent their traps for the day.

All profits from the day will go to wetland conservation and development via Ducks Unlimited's funding programme.



David Challies from Woodville testing the sponsor's gun.



Above: Ron Dodunski of Kilwell Sports presenting the Mossberg semi-auto to Lance Hurley

Left: Ron Dodunski presents the Mossberg pump action shotgun to Richard Fraser, with Neil Candy in background

Ducks Unlimited NZ website in new hands - www.ducks.org.nz

It is our pleasure to welcome new member Michelle Cooper as the new Webmaster for www.ducks.org.nz.

Michelle has been doing web design off and on for the last eight years and it is this skill that has brought her on board with Ducks Unlimited. Michelle's connection with DU is through her partner Andrew Fulford, a long-term member of DU, who has been introducing her to the wonderful wetlands and their inhabitants.

Michelle, who has a consulting business, Artemis, based in Ahuriri, near Napier in the Hawkes Bay, has taken over the role of webmaster for Ducks Unlimited NZ and Wetland Care NZ and is doing a great job so far, having been passed the baton by Anthony Griffen who set the whole system up in the first place.

Michelle has been working in the graphics industry for over 15 years. During that time she has worked in a range of fields, both here and overseas, from logo and business development to creative liaison for a magazine.

About six years ago, Michelle decided to move to the Hawkes Bay, lured by the weather and lifestyle, and upon arriving in the art deco city launched a company called Artemis Creative.

Artemis's main forte is actually illustration and children's work, having some experience in the educational field. As Artemis, Michelle works freelance for other design companies, publishers and private clients, offering illustration, graphic design and web design services.

The Board approved her appointment in March.

ARTEMIS CREATIVE FREELANCE

PO Box 12204 Ahuriri / Napier
[t] 06 842 0519 [m] 021 258 3513
[e] info@artemis.net.nz
[w] www.artemis.net.nz

BLUE MANGO DESIGN

[e] design@bluemango.co.nz
[w] www.bluemango.co.nz

Excitement at Pukaha



There is plenty of excitement at Pukaha Mt Bruce as they prepare to receive up to 30 new kiwi in May this year. It will be the single largest mass translocation of kiwi known.

These kiwi currently live on predator-free Little Barrier Island. When it is time for them to leave the island, they will be tracked by specially trained dogs (that will not harm them); then carefully caught and transported to us via helicopter and airplane. Quite a ride for flightless birds. We will keep you updated with regard to timing and events relating to this wonderful occasion.

The thirty new kiwi will double the population at Pukaha. This boost of numbers is a significant step toward them being self sustaining, therefore reducing Ranger intervention significantly.

WWF Habitat Protection Fund – Now Accepting Funding Applications

The Habitat Protection Fund is now accepting applications from 10 March 2010. The closing date for applications is 19 May 2010.

The Habitat Protection Fund is supported by the Tindall Foundation and is aimed at community-led conservation and restoration groups that are protecting and restoring habitats across New Zealand.

More information on the Fund's criteria and priorities is available on our website and in the Guides to Funding.

Applicants wishing to apply to the Fund should first read the guidelines to decide if their project is eligible. Groups wishing to apply for funding need to complete a Preliminary Assessment Form (available from our website). We will use this form to assess whether the group and project meet the Fund's criteria. We will then contact groups directly to invite them to apply and to complete a full application form.

WWF-New Zealand has made some changes to the Habitat Protection Fund. The HPF is now split into two funds:

The HPF Development Fund – This fund is aimed at building the capacity of new and small community based groups who don't yet have the experience to apply for larger amounts. This fund is designed to help you build your group's ability to take on bigger projects. It offers one-off grants of between \$500 - \$5000.

The HPF Projects Fund – This fund is aimed at community-led groups with more experience and a track record of delivering on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects on a larger scale. It offers grants of between \$1000 - \$20,000 per year for up to three years (maximum of \$60,000).

The Fund will re-open again in July with the closing date for the next round being 01 October 2010.

For those who have any questions concerning the fund or its criteria please contact Marc Slade - see below.

For more information on both these funds and to download the Guides to Funding and the Preliminary Assessment Forms check our website: www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/

Marc Slade

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Wairio Wetland Restoration Committee

Minutes of meeting No. 8,

9 February 2010

Kilmore Lodge, Wairio Wetland

Present

Ross Cottle - Chairman (DU), Jim Law - Secretary (DU), Jim Campbell (DU), Geoff Doring (F&B) & Tony Silbery (DoC).

In Attendance

Nil.

Apologies

Howard Egan (DU), Phil Brady (DOC), David Cleal (Farm Forestry Association - Wairarapa Branch), Lesley Christian (Farm Forestry - Indigenous), Don Bell (GWRC), Phil Teal (Fish and Game) and Grant McGhie (Manager, Landcorp - Wairio Farm)

Remembrance

Members noted with respect the passing of Sonny Te Maari (Ngati Kahunui representative on the Committee).

Jim Law was requested to contact Hami Te Whaiti for a new representative.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting were confirmed. Matters arising included a discussion of the Alder eradication trials which appeared to have been successful. Hope was expressed that there would be further significant aerial spraying of infested areas with back-up ground spraying as required.

Water Levels

It was noted that rainfall in January had been at record high levels and which was reflected in the relatively high water levels in all three stages.

Site Visit by Representatives of Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)

Prior to the meeting the Committee members took Associate Professor Ben Bell, Dr Kevin (KC) Burns, Dr Stephen Hartley and Dr Murray Williams of the School of Biological Sciences and Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director of the Victoria University Foundation, on a tour of the wetland. This visit had been arranged by Jim Law in line with the Committee's prior suggestion of scientific monitoring of planting methods/success.

The purpose of the visit was to consider the possibility of a VUW student conducting a research programme into methods to control tall fescue growth thereby enhancing the survival of newly planted native tree species.

The Wairio Committee members advised that they had been considering dividing Stage 3 into three areas, one where the top six inches would be bulldozed off, one where the existing fescue would be blanket sprayed with herbicide and the remaining area left as the control area. Each of these areas would then be divided into sub-sets using different planting techniques, e.g. mats, bark, etc and possibly associate planting of tree lucerne.

It was agreed that Drs Burns and Hartley would scope out a possible Master's student or doctoral research programme. If the programme were then agreed with DU, options for funding would be explored by the VUW Foundation and other likely interested parties (GWRC, DoC, DU etc).

It was also agreed that it would be better to delay planting in Stage 3 until the possibility of such a research programme had been explored. Other related activities touched upon were the possibility of other VUW students conducting a review of planting success to date, provision of the prior botany report of the wetland and sourcing weed mats (Geoff Doring to check with F&B).

Funding

Ross Cottle advised that the DU Board's agreement in principle to provide further funds remained in place and he hoped to gain specific approval at the next DU Board meeting.

Jim advised that he hoped to receive a grant from the Nikau Foundation (applied for \$6,500) and a further contribution from the Rotary Club of South Wairarapa towards tree planting in 2010. He also had an outstanding application with the Ron Greenwood Trust. Jim Campbell had also approach the Pharazon Trust for a further grant.

Geoff undertook to approach the Wairarapa branches of F & B and the Ornithological Societies (possibly weed mats from F & B)

Programme for 2010

As a consequence of the discussion regarding a possible research programme covering Stage 3 it was agreed to focus on further plantings in Stages I & II during 2010.

Work for 2010 was agreed as:

- Spot spraying planting sites in Stages I & II.
- Bulldoze areas in Stage 1 (and possibly Stage 2). Also possible boom spraying.
- Further autumn release spraying, using GWRC arranged contractors, in Stages I & II.
- Autumn spraying of alders, cracked willow, blackberry, etc. in Stages I & II.
- Prepare a costing for 2010 plantings (depending on fundraising success - see Funding) and secure an appropriate number of plants (sedges, flaxes and both mid-sized and specimen trees).

Dig planting holes prior to the planned planting day(s).

Don was to be contacted by Jim to discuss GWRC assistance re the above items.

It was agreed that the tree planting sub-committee of Don Bell, Howard Egan and Tony Silbery would continue to coordinate the tree planting days. Interested parties, including Alastair Sutherland (tel. 06 3077736) of the Rotary Club of South Wairarapa, David Aldersley (tel. 06 3797446) of Forest & Bird, Jenny Doring (tel. 021619599) of the Ornithological Society, Callum Johnston from the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre and the two local primary schools at Kahutara (Claire Crawford, tel. 06 3088427) and Pirinoa (Sue tel. 06 3077829) would be advised of planned planting days once agreed. It was hoped that Don Bell would be able to again arrange for the very successful GWRC provided a barbecue for the students and other helpers. DU members would be advised by email and a notice would be posted on the DU web site.

Don Farmer at the Times Age (Tel. 06 3700966) and Gail Isaac, editor of DU's Flight magazine (tel. 06 3048034), should also be alerted to the planting days to assist with media coverage. Jim would also ensure any suitable digital photos of the planting day were posted on the DU web site (Committee members to forward their best photos please).

2010 Budget Details

The tentative budget for 2010 was agreed as follows:

Stage I & II Release spraying	\$1,500
Weed (alders, etc) spraying	\$1,000
Plants (sedges, flaxes, & trees)	\$5,000
Bulldozing & Boom spraying Stage I & II	\$2,000
Autumn & Spring release spraying	\$2,000
Contingencies	\$500
	\$12,000

If additional funds were raised these would be used for further plantings.

Sources for the above budget were considered to be as follows:

DU funding - carry over and new	\$7,000
Applications pending (Nikau & Pharazon)	\$5,000
Other	TBA
	\$12,000

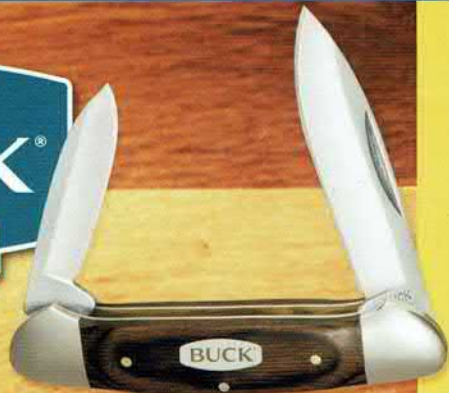
Predator Control

None planned for 2010, reliance continuing to being placed on the AHB's TB control program.

Ross Cottle
Chairman

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