

Flight



ISSUE 145 - October 2010

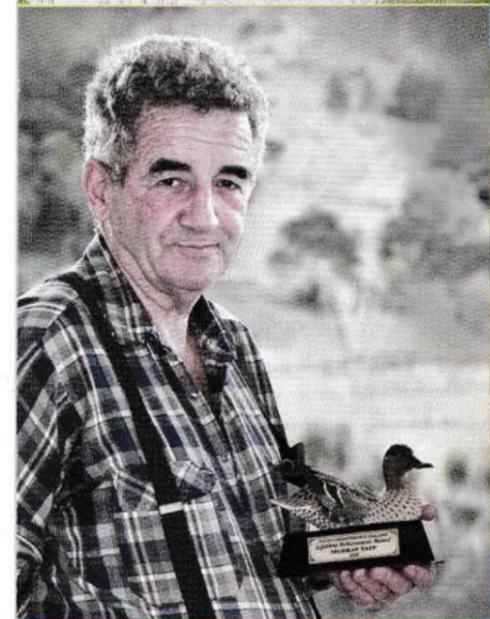
Conference and
AGM 2010 photos
and report inside



**Banrock
presentation**



Lakelands,
Parua Bay
near
Whangarei.



Developed
by Lois and
the late
Murray
Tapp, inset.





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.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. Money from our partnership with Banrock Station Wines 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.

www.ducks.org.nz

Our new website has been ameliorated, improved, zapped up, given new life by our wonderful Michelle Cooper of Artemis Creative Studios.

Next Flight issue - a page for children!

Have a look at www.ducks.org.nz and enjoy!

Invitation to Northland / Auckland / Waikato

And anyone else who wishes to accompany us

Visit to Tiritiri Matangi

27 November 2010

- Family orientated event, parents/ grandparents all welcome
- Ferry from Auckland or Gulf Harbour between \$39 - \$65 return
- Invitation in the mail soon – if you don't receive one and would like more information please contact me.
- Only 150 places on the boat (including the general public) so please express your interest urgently.

Tiritiri Matangi Island, situated in the Hauraki Gulf and only a 75-minute ferry trip from Auckland via Gulf Harbour. You will be entranced by the serenade of gentle birdsong and the lush native bush. Tiritiri Matangi is one of the world's most successful volunteer conservation projects. It has been re-vegetated with around 300,000 native trees and consequently 12 of New Zealand's endangered birds and three reptile species have been re-introduced.

Tiritiri Matangi, meaning 'tossed by the wind', is an Open Scientific Reserve managed by the Department of Conservation (DoC) in partnership with the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. The 'open sanctuary' status allows 150 ferry visitors.

So I can gauge possible interest, please either email Sandra at info@ducks.org.nz now or write c/- P.O.Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149. I am looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

Sandra Pipes

For sale

25kg drums of Metsy Gorse spray

We have eight (8) for sale at \$600 dollars each

Contact: Dan Steele

(07) 8956276

New Members

Craig Hart of Palmerston North

Railene Mabin of Waipukurau

The Library at the University of Otago, periodicals section, will have a ongoing collection of Flight.



This fabulous photo shown on the front cover of July 2010 issue of Flight was taken by William Abel, and the editor offers apologies for not acknowledging this on page 3 last time.

President's Letter

The last few months have been mixed blessings for DUNZ. The passing of Murray Tapp (see obituary on page 5) was received with great sadness by all the Board and other members who knew him. The property recently developed by Murray and Lois has been featured in Flight three times previously. Their enthusiasm was still so strong after completing the project they were seeking to sell and to do it all again. Sadly that is not to be. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lois.

On the positive side was the AGM at Wairakei attended by many stalwarts including Murray and Lois. It appeared to have been enjoyed by all.

At the AGM the Board announced it is seeking to secure an employee to help lead the marketing and co-ordination of the society. The Board will revisit its long term strategy at the November meeting with a view to then finalising the position description and seeking someone to start early next year. When finalised, a copy of the position description will be circulated to all members. If you think you fit the bill or know of someone who does please apply.

Also at the AGM Ossie Latham's resignation was received with regret. Ossie has been and continues to be one our hardest working members. The effort and time he has put into pateke and the association with Banrock Station sponsorships has been awesome. Thankfully Ossie continues to work tirelessly and his efforts are much appreciated. He was a most worthy recipient of the Bill Barrett Trophy.

It was with pleasure we welcomed Dan Steele on to the Board. For those of you who have not met Dan I suggest you jump onto www.blueducklodge.co.nz to see what he is about. Dan and Sandy are expecting the birth of their first child shortly so we will try not to put too much of a load on him. It's great to have someone younger than the rest of us join the Board. We would like to see our average age lower. If you have an interest in serving please let us know.

I would like to thank all those who have written to me in response to my previous comments in Flight. I am conscious I still owe a reply or two and that will happen. All letters are shared with the Board and all comments, positive or negative, are helpful. They are being listened to and will assist us as we set the goals for the next few years.

As we approach summer I hope that your feet are not permanently webbed from the water that has fallen upon us. We may like webbed feet on our waterfowl but frankly, they look stupid with work clothes.

David Smith



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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47 Cross's Line, RD, Greytown 5794 tel: (06) 304 8034
or cell 027 3222 944

email: gail.isaac@xtra.co.nz or gail.isaac@gmail.com

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Cover photos: At Cape Sanctuary. Cape Kidnappers, a fifth release of pateke took place in August. Here, Luke and Zoey Marsden with one of them. Story and more photos inside.

Inset: President David Smith showed the appreciation of Ducks Unlimited NZ with these presentations during the conference dinner to Amanda Moss on left, of Banrock Station Wines, Australia and, right, Li Camilleri of Constellation Wines NZ for their ongoing enthusiastic and vital support and sponsorship over the years. More photos inside.

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Conference and AGM Report

Bayview Wairakei Resort,
Taupo 30 July - August 2010

A cold but clear Taupo greeted us as we arrived Friday afternoon at the Bayview Wairakei Resort. Drinks in the bar got us all chatting away, where we met some members that hadn't been to conference before which is always wonderful, when they join in and find we're a great bunch of people.

Joining us for the weekend also was Amanda Moss who was over from Banrock Station Wines, Australia and Li Camilleri of Constellation NZ and we got to meet our new webmaster Michelle Cooper and her partner, long-time member Andrew Fulford. Dinner that night was up to us to organise for ourselves, some stayed in the hotel and others made their way into Taupo city and enjoyed a great meal.

Saturday morning started with the AGM, where out-going (in both personality and fact) president Ross Cottle handed over to our new president, David Smith. Three points were raised at the meeting.

- A proposal that from next year we would consider moving, with a possible slight change in format, the conference/AGM forward to earlier in the year approximately March / April to try to encourage families along and avoid the Rugby World Cup. More on this as information becomes available.
- The Board are creating a new position, working on the job description now, for someone who will be part time, revitalise the membership and get support from the corporate sector of society and raise awareness of DUNZ. They will advise the job description once finalised but "We may not get it right to start with but will work on it until we do."
- Next year's subscription levels were also discussed by the Board and they've decided not to add to the burden, so the charges will not increase for 2011-2012 but it is inevitable that it will have to increase the following year.

We loaded onto the bus and departed for our wetland tour where we visited a recently created 24-ha Ohaaki wetland established by Fish & Game at a site where the ground has settled through geothermal steam extraction for power generation purposes. Some challenging issues with the design and construction of the 1.2km bund were explained as the landscape will continue to subside at varying rates generally 300mm per year with a rise and fall of water of 2m. This wetland project has had to overcome some unique engineering issues and thank you to John Meikle who 'put it into perspective' for us extremely well.

John Meikle is a Fish & Game Officer, Eastern Region and is based in Rotorua. He is responsible for the management of a number of significant wetlands in the Bay of Plenty area. He is a wetland enthusiast and keen waterfowl hunter who previously was a member of DU.

We then moved onto multiple remnant oxbow lagoons at Waitapu (an oxbow being a U-shaped body of water formed when a wide meander from the main stem of a river is cut off) which are currently being restored by Fish & Game. John 'put into perspective' the value of these areas for waterfowl, management issues and funding sources for this work. The stream was straightened in the 60s and has filled with a variety of rubbish and the habitat gone.

There is no public access to these bunds it is purely for the waterfowl. Each farmer was contacted by John and given the opportunity to have this work completed; those that have taken the opportunity are extremely pleased. Some that turned it down originally have since been in contact trying to become involved but unfortunately there was only so much money available and it has all been allocated. John is doing marvellous work and is to be congratulated on making some areas that were really a tip into a fantastic habitat for waterfowl.

We ended up in the Huka Prawn Park Riverside Restaurant, ate our fill and then went for a wander around the farm, or most headed for the golf 'Killer Prawn Hole-in-One-Challenge' and tried to land their golf ball in to one of the rings floating in the prawn ponds - unfortunately none were successful that I saw, some interesting golf swings, but no hole in one!

Back to the hotel: silent auction items collected, main and silent items arranged, changed for dinner and back for a great evening. We brought the start time of the evening's events forward to accommodate those that would wish to watch the All Blacks vs. Australia at 10pm. It all went extremely smoothly with Bob Wood as always in fine form and managing to extract a credible amount from the members present. When we won everyone went home with an even bigger smile on their faces!

The Bill Barrett Trophy was presented to Ossie Latham. Special thanks were given to Li Camilleri of Constellation Wines NZ and Amanda Moss., Banrock Station Wines, Australia for their companies' ongoing interest in and support of Ducks Unlimited NZ.

Sunday's guest speakers started with Dan Steele, our newest director, on 'The Economics of Conservation'. This man has some amazing ideas and great enthusiasm for what he wants to achieve at the Blue Duck Lodge and because of all he's done so far and his plans for the future he is changing the name to Blue Duck Station. He now has a Café, Art Gallery and Museum. He is preserving and repairing all the old huts on the property including the old Dobbs Homestead where they raised 18 children and the original school for the riverboat people, turning back the clock and showing how it was 100 years ago.

Diversity is better than intensifying and so he is joining his farming with tourism and conservation. There are currently 12 pairs of whio on and around the station on which he keeps a keen eye. Currently has a manuka honey operation, turning his boar problem into the tourism dollar as Americans are happy to learn to hunt boar, not being terribly interested in stoats. Future projects include renewable power sources, home grown food/orchards/organic gardens and own milk production. This is a station to certainly keep an eye on.

Michelle Cooper, Webmaster spoke on 'Our Webpage and Kids Corner' and showed us what she has achieved with the website to date and what she has planned for the future with on-line shopping, conference registrations, resources for schools. Michelle has tried to make it easier to navigate and to update monthly to keep all the news relevant. She has us up and running on Facebook which is where the future members seem to get all their information from.

Also further down the track a Gallery - any contributions gratefully received - and a kids' corner. A kids' club for 2-14-year-olds with a welcome pack and a fun sheet which will be included in each Flight publication. Puzzles, downloads, fact sheets, games, wallpaper for their computers. Also a 'how-to', using the experience we have already accumulated and provide pdf sheets that can be downloaded, e.g. teal boxes for high school woodwork students to produce. Check out our website for yourself: www.ducks.org.nz

And finally we heard from director Jim Law and "Pictures from Wairio Wetland". DU's major wetland will outlive us all. It's on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa and fits into our strategic plan, owned by New Zealanders, worked in conduction with DoC. It's a slow-staged approach involving a variety of community members and ages with some of the primary schools involved now for their fifth year. An amazing effort - it is wonderful to watch its progress and see the education and pride it is instilling in the community at large. Thank you to Jim and his team for a wonderful job they are doing.

That brought the weekend to a close, said our good-byes and headed off in all different directions but all with the same goal in mind.

Congratulations to everyone on a great weekend as always.

Sandra Pipes

Photos pages 8, 9 and 11 thanks to Sandra Pipes and Lois Tapp

Murray Tapp - Sadly missed

On August 19, 2010, Murray Tapp passed away at North Haven Hospice, Tikipunga, Whangarei.

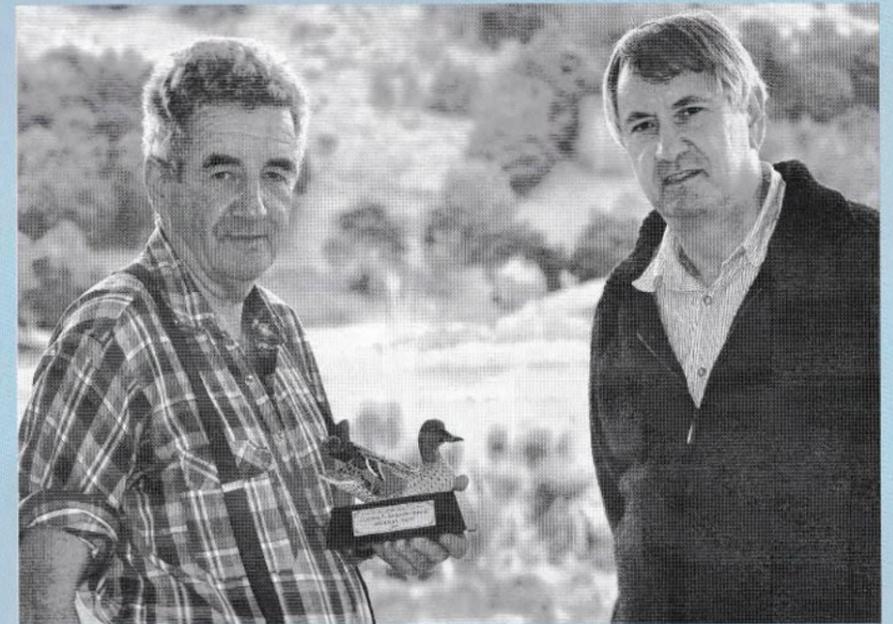
Loving and devoted husband of Lois, loving father and family man and creator with her of the beautiful Lakelands at Parua Bay near Whangarei, Murray had been presented in 2009 with Ducks Unlimited New Zealand's Lifetime Achievement Award. It was presented by (now) president David Smith, who travelled to Lois and Murray's home to deliver the Award. See photo Lois took on the day, below.

Murray had not been well for a long time, but still his death was a shock coming so close to the time he and Lois had attended the DU Conference at Wairakei just weeks before. "But he looked so well!" was said by so many of his friends.

Lois has told Flight that she had taken special care through the years to ensure that Murray's nutrition was the very best that could be given considering his illness.

Speaking of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Lois told Flight, "I don't know if David and the directors of Ducks Unlimited realised just how 'tickled pink' Murray was to have been given that Award. He felt very honoured and as a bonus, he thoroughly enjoyed David's visit.

"He was determined to attend the conference in spite of not feeling well at the time and said afterwards that he was so very glad we went".



Pateke spotted in Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt

Hutt City resident Wendy Baker did a double take when she spotted a strange duck swimming with the mallards on Waiwhetu Stream in late July.

A quick internet search confirmed that the newcomer was a pateke (*Anas chlorotis*), one of the rarest ducks in the world.

Because the bird had coloured ID bands on its legs, Wendy was able to check with Conservation Manager Raewyn Empson at ZEALANDIA - formerly known as Karori Wildlife Sanctuary - to confirm if it could have come from their population of pateke. The bands correlate with those of a bird banded at the Wellington sanctuary (15km as the duck flies from Waiwhetu) in 2004. Pateke were first released at ZEALANDIA in November 2000, where they have literally 'taken off'. However, despite successes like this, the pateke remains one of the world's rarest ducks.

With a dozen nationally-scarce bird

Lois and Murray started their retirement project at Parua Bay only seven years ago. Flight 117, October 2003, Flight No. 135, April 2008 and also Flight 141 October 2009 featured the developing story and many photos - one would find it hard to believe just how much was achieved in such a short time.

The 9.5ha of wetlands and associated plantings, with the house on a natural peninsula surrounded by lakes on three sides, provided a perfect breeding habitat for myriads of birds both native and introduced, and gave entertainment of the avian variety beyond their wildest dreams. (It is now for sale and there are photos on the back cover).

Murray and Lois were passionate about wetlands, wildlife and the environment and their legacy on this particular piece of New Zealand will long stand as a testament to their dedication, hard work, creativity and vision.

species re-introduced since 1995, ZEALANDIA is keen for local people to report unusual bird sightings through the Report a Bird function on its website www.visitzealandia.com/reportabird.



Tawharanui pateke happy, content and breeding thanks to the efforts of TOSSI

Alison Stanes of Tawharanui is a busy photographer for TOSSI and kindly sent Flight these delightful pateke photos taken in this sanctuary where pateke have had several releases. Note the ducklings below, the content pair asleep on one leg and this handsome chap at right.



Cape Sanctuary at Cape Kidnappers - fifth pateke release with involvement of Te Mata Primary in August



Photo above right: Luke and Zoey Marsden with one of the pateke
 Photo above: Blessing the pateke on their arrival.
 Photo right: Tony Yule shows the children the correct way to plant trees at Cape Sanctuary in August.

Cape Kidnappers - Te Mata Primary helps with the fifth pateke release

Tamsin Ward-Smith, Cape Kidnappers and Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve Manager, writes from Cape Sanctuary at Cape Kidnappers of the Audubon Programme with which the Cape Kidnappers Golf Course is involved. Part of the Audubon certification includes involvement with the community in conservation work. The latest pateke release tied in nicely, as Steve Marsden, who is the Cape Kidnappers Golf Course superintendent coordinated the school visit by Te Mata Primary School. His two children, Luke and Zoey, both attend the school. Tamsin reports:

We had a really fantastic day. The children were well prepared and had done lots of research into pateke and the Cape Sanctuary project before their visit. With help from Steve Marsden they constructed pateke nesting boxes with parents at the school. On the day we spent a couple of hours, before the pateke touched down, digging the boxes into the ground around the golf course dam and planting around 50 trees to improve cover.

The 39 pateke arrived soon after 2pm on August 26 and were officially welcomed by Ngati Mihiroa. Te Mata school children participated in the ceremony with their own waiata 'True Colours' which was a really appreciated contribution. The pateke were released at three locations; some went on the newly prepared Golf Course dam, others out to the coastal wetland front country of Rangaiika Beach and the some joined the youngsters on the main Double dams.

"The kids had such a wonderful time and learned so much! We are all so appreciative that you gave us this opportunity - definitely a once in a lifetime! It will be something the children will always remember," said Jodie Field, Teacher at Te Mata School. Ducklings are popping up all over the Sanctuary—the count is up to about 25 this season and we are planning a specific search through soon.

We are again very grateful to Kevin Evans and the captive breeders for breeding the pateke and making everything run so smoothly for us.

We are so delighted about the Golf Course Audubon programme as it is a great initiative for them to be involved with and really complements what is happening in the wider Sanctuary – recreation and conservation working together.

Audubon - who was he?

John James Audubon (April 26, 1785 – January 27, 1851) was a French-American ornithologist, naturalist, hunter, and painter. He painted, catalogued, and described the birds of North America in a form far superior to what had gone before. Audubon's influence on ornithology and natural history was far-reaching. Nearly all later ornithological works were inspired by his artistry and high standards. Charles Darwin quoted Audubon three times in *The Origin of Species* and also in later works. Audubon developed his own methods for drawing birds. First, he killed them using fine shot. He then used wires to prop them into a natural position, unlike the common method of many ornithologists, who prepared and stuffed the specimens into a rigid pose. When working on a major specimen like an eagle, he would spend up to four 15-hour days, preparing, studying, and drawing it. His paintings of birds are set true-to-life in their natural habitat. He often portrayed them as if caught in motion, especially feeding or hunting.

Cape Kidnappers update

A day of planting in August eventually took place on Cape Kidnappers after rain disrupted numerous previous attempts. Over 500 plants have been grown for the venture by the Department of Conservation Ahuriri Nursery volunteers. Many hands made light work with the last of the plants being staked and tied just in time for the heavens to open yet again. Enhancing the vegetation around dams is certainly proving beneficial for pateke. Some of the dams fenced and planted in 2008 are now home to a number of pateke. This is where there was barely a puddle surrounded by paddocks in 2008. 'Bob and Heather's' dam now accommodates a large group of 13 pateke which are often seen sheltering in the vegetation or sunning themselves on the bank edge. Keen Havelock North Scouts along with friends and parents became conservation volunteers at the Cape Sanctuary in August to assist with a slightly different approach to pateke monitoring.

All the released pateke have coloured leg bands so that they can be individually identified but it can be difficult to see these bands when the birds are swimming, moving through dense vegetation or roosting along the banks. Floating pontoons have proved useful elsewhere. The structures provide a safe resting spot for pateke and make it possible to see leg bands with binoculars. The Scouts designed and constructed two pontoons out of timber and plastic drums.

The day of launching thankfully dawned fine and after a bit of maneuvering and careful adjustment of the water ballast the pontoons were towed into position by keen kayakers. The Scouts also had a chance to try radio-tracking some of the pateke that carry radio-transmitters to monitor survival and movement.

"The project combined community service and learning about conservation with construction and outdoor skills so it was certainly a win-win for Scouts and pateke", said Kay Clapperton, Scout Leader.

After a week the pateke were already seen using the pontoon launched on the large Cape dam out near the coast on Cape Kidnappers. "I have to admit I was slightly apprehensive about how the pateke would take to the structures but sure enough after only a week in position they were taking advantage of their new furniture."

"There have now been over 200 pateke released at the Cape Sanctuary and these pontoons will certainly help us tell who is still around once the last transmitters currently on birds run out of batteries", said Tamsin Ward-Smith, Cape Kidnappers and Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve Manager.

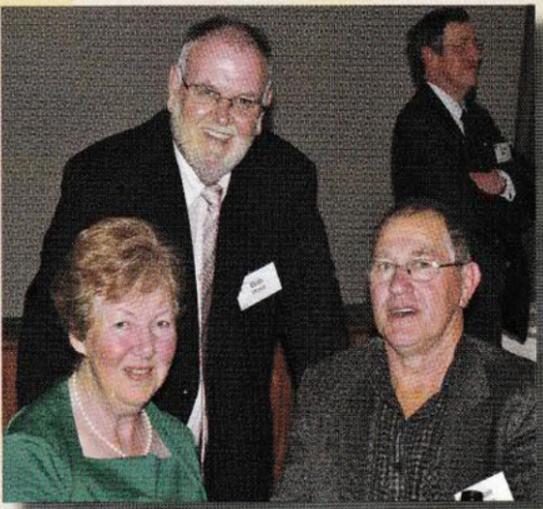
A fourth release of 90 pateke had taken place on May 13 and 14. Seventeen were fitted with radio transmitters. Six of these have been lost. At least one and possibly two of the deaths were by harrier, while two appear to be from cat and the other two unknown. On the positive side pateke are being sighted all over the Sanctuary and even outside. Flocks have been regularly seen waddling around the paddocks by staff out rabbit-shooting at night, and elsewhere in the Sanctuary on remote dams. Two pateke (one from the original release in May 2008) are also sighted regularly on the Te Awanga Lagoon. The first ducklings of the season were spotted by Rod Dickson at the end of July while filling the feeders, and other signs of breeding are underway with mating observed already between some of the newly released pateke.

Charlie Money of Dargaville

On August 17 2010, Charlie Money of Dargaville, dearly loved husband of Evelyn (Buddy) passed away in his 90th year. He will be missed by all who knew him and messages can be sent to Mrs E A Money, 5071 SH 12, RD 2, Ruawai.

Conference 2010 photos -

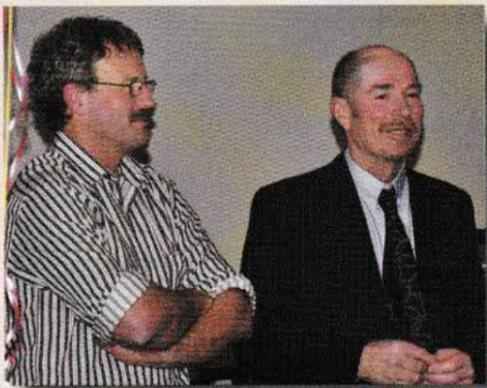
these ones thanks to Lois Tapp



Auctioneer Bob Wood with Mary and Ossie Latham



The scene during the dinner



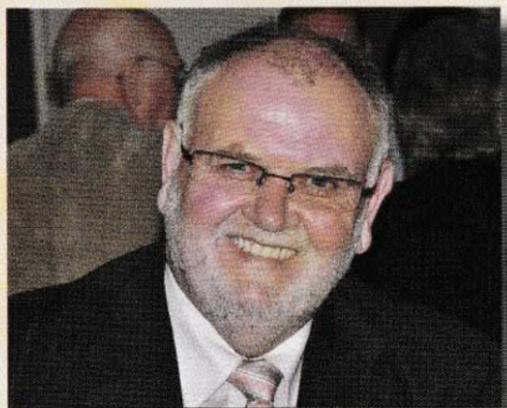
William Abel and past president Ross Cottle



A perspective view shows part of bund wall and a glimpse of the river



John and Gail Cheyne



Ever-faithful and energetic auctioneer, Bob Wood



Administration suprema Sandra Pipes, Jan Abel and DUNZ president David Smith



Left: John Meikle explains the background and future plans for the Ohaaki wetland project.

Lois Tapp kindly took and sent to Flight the photos on this page



Below left: Slumping and erosion of the bund wall



President David Smith showed the appreciation of Ducks Unlimited NZ with these presentations during the conference dinner to Amanda Moss on left, of Banrock Station Wines, Australia and, right, Li Camilleri of Constellation Wines NZ for their ongoing enthusiastic and vital support and sponsorship over the years.



The largest of the three Waitapu oxbow lagoons.



Ken and Jan Cook



Sandra and Stephen Pipes



Studying the culvert



New DU director Dan Steele of Blue Duck Lodge presents "The Economics of Conservation" and reveals his plans for Blue Duck Station



Moving along the fringe of the oxbow lagoon

Blue Duck Lodge grows into Blue Duck Station and more good news as well

In July Dan Steele, new DU director, and his team at Blue Duck Station purchased the Ruslings and Dobbs farms, between the home farm and Maungaroa Road. "We figured Blue Duck Lodge didn't quite cover the sheer size of the two farms combined (5200 acres) so we've renamed it Blue Duck Station. With the new farm comes a lot more country for you to play, hunt and explore, but also more responsibility to improve water quality and habitat for blue ducks. Fortunately the first blue duck (who) were spotted on the Oruru stream, by Simon, so that's good news. We now need to set a bunch of new traps through the bush and along streams, put up fences, plant native trees... remember volunteers are always welcome!" he reports.

Museum of Bridge to Nowhere era

During our first clean up of the farm we found several historical artefacts left behind by early settlers. These will go into the new Blue Duck Museum near the Café, and be housed in the historic post office and school buildings we have inherited. This will be built up over time and is another way the Blue Duck Team can preserve the important history of the Whanganui river.

Radio Safety System

We are in the process of installing a new radio system which will cover the entire farm, our end of the Bridge to Nowhere cycleway and part of the Whanganui river.

This will make Blue Duck Station an important safety base that can be used by Search and Rescue, DOC, the police and tourism operators in the area. We've been known to pull the odd person out of the drink and bush.

Blue Duck Lodge is on Facebook! Just type Blue Duck Lodge in the searchbox, find our page and become a fan!

Spring special!

Book into Blue Duck Lodge (not Whio), for two or more nights, Sunday to Thursday and we'll take 25% off your accommodation. Bookings to be made by end of October.

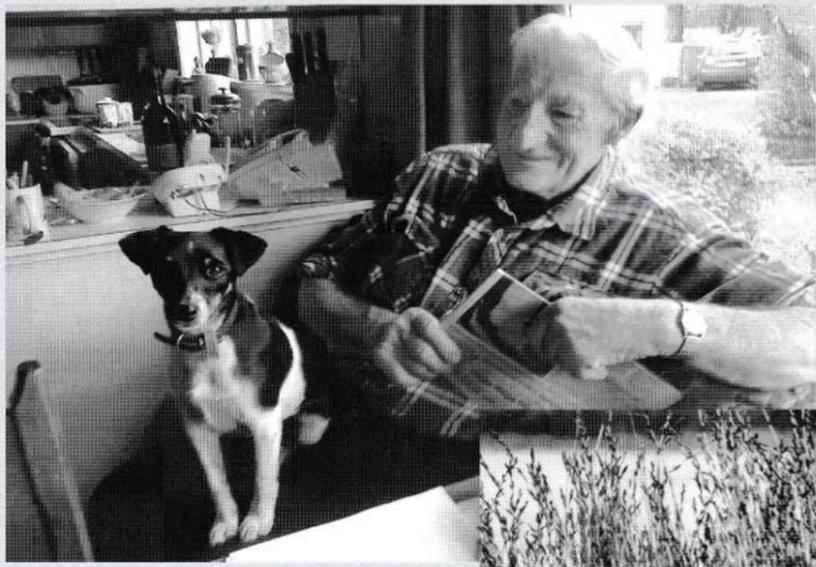
Baby Blue due Christmas Day

Last but certainly not least, Blue Duck and Snowy Waters lodges are breeding!

Dan and partner Sandy are expecting their first baby this Christmas. Blue already has his (or her) first quad and a handy huntaway won't be too far away but they're also in the market for good quality baby goods (hard to come by in Whakahoro!) If you're travelling this way and have any gear you need to find a good home for we're keen to trade. Email dan@blueducklodge.co.nz



Sandy Waters and Dan Steele - photo courtesy Lois Tapp



Long-time DU member Jack Luttrell of the Wairarapa is delighted to hear that the conference may be moved to a different date from the normal end of July when he has another pressing annual commitment. Here he is in his rush woven hide, and above, with Jess at home.



Conference may be moved to a different date



Murray and Margaret Shaw



Alice Hood



Li Camilleri of Constellation Wines NZ and Amanda Moss, Banrock Station Wines, Australia



Left to right around the table Ken Cook, Gail Cheyne, John Cheyne and Jan Cook at our lunch time venue.



Neil Candy



Prolific author, conservationist and photographer

On the eve of the launch of his latest of 30 books, *Wild New Zealand from the Road*, in September, DU member, author and publisher, Gordon Ell wrote to Flight on our request. In 2009, Gordon Ell published *Attracting Birds and Other Wildlife to Your Garden in New Zealand*, no doubt a feature in many of our readers' libraries and bookshelves. His words follow:

I joined Ducks Unlimited 'in the early days' along with a handful of Forest and Bird activists. We liked the idea of a group of people focussing on wetlands and their protection. It's been great to see the growth of new protected areas, restoration on private land and, of course, the conservation schemes.

I was encouraged in the outdoors by my grandfather, Harry Ell, well-known in the Ellesmere shooting fraternity in the first half of last century. Harry had only one eye and in his eighties shot a white swan by mistake in the early morning fog. He came home and gave me his gun, an old Osborne pigeon gun dating from the 1880s, which I treasure.

Most of its use was limited to small-game, however, now known more politically correctly as 'pest control'. I failed school cert. maths but between shooting and trout fishing every day got a lot closer to nature and its rhythms than any university course. Duck shooting was 'out' though: my preoccupation with the outdoors involved me in Forest and Bird and its national presidency, and as their statutory member on the New Zealand Conservation Authority during the nineties.

Again, I concentrated on parks and reserves, along with issues of public access and restoration.

In the mid-seventies the pull of the outdoors got too strong for my city-based job as a radio and television executive specialising in current affairs and features.

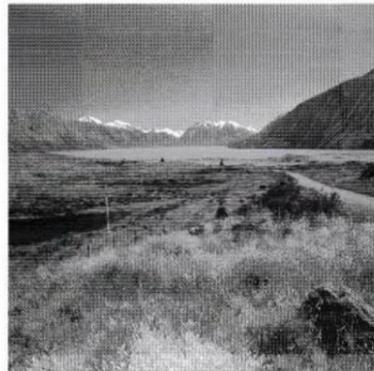
With the late Geoff Moon I began making outdoor films supported by a series of children's guides to nature. The Bush Press grew to specialise in historic and natural heritage, and I authored some of its leading titles including *'Encouraging Birds in the New Zealand Garden'* which is still in print, though greatly enlarged, after thirty years.

My latest book, *'Wild New Zealand from the Road'*, explores the more easily accessible wilderness of New Zealand, outlining its natural features in more than 350 photographs and text. It celebrates the joys of discovering our natural heritage, region by region, reflecting my interest in keeping our outdoors and nature valued and enjoyable for all.

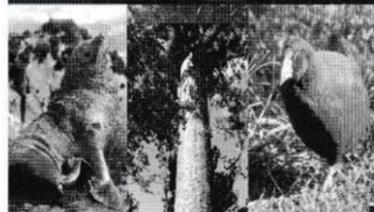
As a relaxation I developed a riverside property on the Matakana River near Warkworth. It was steep, overgrazed land overlooking a navigable stream and we planted native trees and dug ponds to enrich the bird habitat. Even though the spaces were small our ponds attracted breeding duck, pukeko and, brilliantly, in the first week, a banded rail.

Timber lots and succession planting served as an outdoor laboratory for observing bird life — from paradise duck to pheasants and quail, a pied shag colony, nesting white-faced heron and of course native bush birds, even the occasional kookaburra.

I have followed with interest the spread of a conservation ethic among the country fraternity inspired by groups such as Ducks Unlimited. I can also report the intense pleasure to be gained creating a wetland habitat, even if just around a farm pond, or by joining community projects such as the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary, restoring wetlands.



GORDON ELL
wild New Zealand
FROM THE ROAD



To contact Gordon Ell : The Bush Press, PO Box 33029, Takapuna 0470 Tel anytime 09 4862 667. Email: bush.press@clear.net.nz

From the publisher Random House....

Wild New Zealand From The Road explores the best of New Zealand's landscapes and wildlife — all easily accessible by car. 'Around one third of New Zealand land is held in public reserves and while the wilderness is still a physical challenge for most, it's now possible to experience a good portion of it from the road,' says Gordon Ell.

Along with suggesting ways to find and enjoy New Zealand's wild places, Ell has celebrated New Zealand's rich range of magnificent landscapes and the nature and wildlife that make them so special, drawing on more than 30 years' experience of photographing and writing about New Zealand's natural environment. *Wild New Zealand* leads the way to firsthand encounters with rare and endangered birds and plants, to exquisite landscapes featuring giant trees, waterfalls, lakes, and seal and bird colonies — most of which can be reached by a short walk.

With New Zealand's natural places under threat from intensive farming and increasing urbanisation, putting land aside for parks, reserves and sanctuaries to conserve our unique environment has been a priority. Sophisticated tourist services, for visitors and Kiwis alike, bring nature to the roadside, and dedicated reserves allow the public to experience wildlife in more natural conditions.

Conveniently organised by regions, and with all journeys beginning at central travel nodes in the North and South Islands, this portable handbook makes it easy to plan a trip and to get on the road.

Wild New Zealand from the Road

By Gordon Ell is published by Random House, September 2010 at \$55 and available through booksellers nationwide.

Gordon Ell was created an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to journalism and conservation in 1990. He was also elected an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society for his heritage film-making.

TOSSI committee changes and planting success

The Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc., known as TOSSI, committee for the coming year has a new chair, Steve Palmer, vice chair, James Ross, and committee member, Pat Williams. Continuing committee members are David Stone secretary, Joe Crandle treasurer, Sharon Kast and Alison Stanes for the 2010-2011 year.

As always there is regret when committee members leave, and sometimes there's a feeling they will be very hard to replace. But as often happens, past committee members continue to be involved, and the incoming leadership and committee members bring new life to the work at the park. Paul Williams, retiring chair, will continue to lead the nursery group in its wonderful work.

The planting season at Tawharanui for 2010 is now complete, with a total of 20,299 TOSSI-raised plants in the ground this year. This represents a huge effort by many people, including the nursery team led by Paul Williams, revegetation planners Steve and Penny Palmer, the ARC team at Tawharanui, various groups that came to the park for a day's planting, and all the TOSSI volunteers and visitors at our special planting days and regular Sunday workdays, who came even when the weather was awful.



Lake Huritini Cottage



Ruffit Lodge



Rathmoy Garden Cottage



Bumblebee Cottage

Self-contained homestays owned by DU members offering hospitality - add yours to this list - free

Many of our members run little self-contained and largely self-catering homestay businesses from their farms or wetlands, often in exquisite surroundings with friendly owners ready to offer hospitality and a new experience.

Through this magazine we would like to inform readers of the contact details of the various homestays of our members available throughout New Zealand, and have the list simply published in Flight. Thus, travelling DU members can avail themselves of hospitality of like-minded people and get to know each other and their farms/wetland etc. If the bird flies, we can put this onto the website in due course.

Have a look at the websites and go for a holiday! You know you deserve it. So for a start, here are five and photos of four...:

Photos from top:

Horowhenua -

Lake Huritini Cottage (The Abel family)
www.huritini.co.nz

For the wetland enthusiast Lake Huritini is a natural dune lake, close to several estuaries it is a haven for bird species of all types. White Heron, Royal Spoonbill, most waterfowl, stilt, dabchick, kingfisher all inhabit the environment here at various times throughout the year.

Woodville -

Ruffit Lodge (The Candy family)
www.ruffitlodge.co.nz

Hunternville -

Rathmoy Garden Cottage (The Grace family)
www.rathmoy.co.nz

Greytown - (The Isaac family)

Bumblebee Cottage just 4km from the centre of town.
www.bumblebeecottage.co.nz

Whanganui National Park - (Dan Steele family)

Blue Duck Lodge, Pinecones Lodge and Whio Lodge
www.blueducklodge.co.nz

See page 10 for Spring Special on Blue Duck Lodge.

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[t] 06 842 0519 [m] 021 258 3513 PO BOX 12204 ahuriri napier 4144
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Birdcalls on the net

Did you know you can go on the internet and download and/or listen live to bird calls?

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/new-zealand-bird-songs-and-calls>. This is the list:

Native birdsong A - Z

- * Auckland Island teal
- * Australasian crested grebe/kamana
- * Bellbird/korimako
- * Black stilt/kaki
- * Blue duck/whio
- * Chatham Island oystercatcher/to-rea
- * Chatham Island pigeon/parea
- * Chatham Island tui
- * Fantail/piwakawaka
- * Hutton's shearwater/titi
- * Kaka
- * Kakapo
- * Kea
- * Kiwi
- * Ko-kako
- * Morepork/ruru
- * North Island robin/toutouwai
- * New Zealand dotterel/tuturiwhatu
- * New Zealand falcon/ka-rearea
- * New Zealand pigeon/kereru-kuku/kukupu
- * Orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki
- * Paradise duck/putakitaki/putangitangi
- * Saddleback/tieke
- * Stitchbird/hihi
- * Takahe
- * Tui
- * Weka
- * Westland petrel/taiko
- * White heron/kotuku
- * Yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho
- * Yellowhead/mohua

What fun!

For instance, this is what you get when you select the tui: a three-minute four-second recording of tui and a chorus of many other birds singing in mixed bush and flowering kowhai. That's a long time of lovely noises!

Tiritiri Matangi Pohutukawa forest - too much of a good thing

It seemed a good idea at the time, when a nursery crop of pohutukawa was planted on Tiritiri Matangi - 90,00 of them in a tree-planting programme totalling some 283,000 trees. The expected strike rate on advice from Lands and Survey was about 30%. Instead, 90% of the trees grew, thus skewing the percentage of these to other trees and creating a monoculture, poor in both insect and bird life.

As a result, pilot work was begun by former DoC rangers Ray Walter and Ian Price to create light wells in the now dense forest. Regeneration took off in these light wells, of the sorts of trees conducive to the habitat of native birds and insects. So TM is now working on a project to areas of the forest in order to re-energise these areas for native birds. It will be a long process of at least 10-15 years. Ecologists Mel Galbraith and Graham Jones from Unitec Auckland are leading the project with statistical assistance from Professor Chris Triggs, head of Statistics Department at the University of Auckland. Scientists including Neil Mitchell of the University of Auckland, Chris Green from DoC, Shona Myers from the Auckland Regional Council and Ewen Cameron from the Auckland Museum have been helpful with their input.

Daryl Stephens has been appointed the new DoC Ranger on Tiritiri Matangi and will continue to welcome visitors along with Dave Jenkins and continue the smooth running of the project.

Documentaries

you can view on your computer from DoC

Gemma from NZ on Screen recommends the following videos as great viewing. These are all free, high-quality videos from NZ screen history, available to all. The year it was first screened or made is the last number in each case.

Here are some favourites:

Seven Black Robins - incredible, dramatic 1980 documentary
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/seven-black-robins-1980>

Moa's Ark (with David Bellamy) series -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/moa-ark-1990/series>

The Unnatural History of the Kakapo -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-unnatural-history-of-the-kakapo-2008>

The Black Stilt - <http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-black-stilt-1983>

Wildlife of the Mountains - amazing 1958 doco about the wildlife of the Upper Waitaki -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/wildlife-of-the-mountains-1957>

Kea - Mountain Parrot -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/kea-mountain-parrot-1993>

Bandits of the Beech Forest (wasps vs Kaka) -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/bandits-of-the-beech-forest-1996>

Emperors of Antarctica -
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/emperors-of-antarctica-1992>

Old Man's Beard Must Go!
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/old-mans-beard-must-go-1989>

Peter Hayden-curated 'Nature' collection as a single great link:
<http://www.nzonscreen.com/collection/nature>

Guest speaker

at Pukaha Mt Bruce

Rod Morris presented the Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial Lecture at Pukaha Mt Bruce.

His recent presentation of the sobering view of the destruction of mammalian predators on our wildlife, is even more poignant.

Hosted by the National Wildlife Centre Trust, Rod, a well known wildlife photographer and documentary maker visited Pukaha and addressed a full house.

His passionate address was all about 'his playground' - Fiordland and the devastation due to mammalian pests. Like many other parts of New Zealand, originally Fiordland was teeming with native birds and animals. Most native birds now seem to be retreating to Northern Fiordland - the Te Anau and Milford areas. Among other mammalian pests, mice seem to be causing untold destruction, not only to birds but to the fragile animals such as the alpine gecko.

He entertained for over two hours with witty anecdotes of his many years of filming, including the famous series of 'The Secret Life of Birds' with David Attenborough and interviews with luminaries such as Geoffrey Orbell (Takahe) and Don Merton (Kakapo).

Rod sees the future of our native species success lying in the hands of human intervention. He was delighted to be back at Pukaha - where he started his Ranger training in the 1970s - and to hear of the recent Flight of Kiwi campaign.

Raffle Prizes this year

The 2010 DUNZ raffle is coming up and Kevin Campbell is the man in charge. He reports that the major prize this year is a helicopter conservation tour of the Cape Sanctuary in Hawke's Bay incorporating a Kiwi Walk experience, guided by either Dr John McLennan or Tamsin Ward-Smith. This is kindly sponsored by Andy Lowe and Lowe Corporation.

Other sponsors to which we are very grateful are David Cameron and Ridgeline of NZ for an outdoor clothing prize, Yvonne van Leeuwen and Scott Bowater of Bush & Sea Boutique B&B in Kaikoura, and William Abel will contribute a piece of his unique jewellery made by his own hands at Hiritini. There will also be a good array of electronic prizes.

Royal Swan Upping in Windsor

With the rustling of feathers and the occasional squawk, five swans were hoisted from the River Thames just outside of Windsor, England, one day in July. Their graceful necks resisted the hold of their captors, squirming and trembling until, in a bout of desperation, they yielded to the rope that bound them. It was the second day of the United Kingdom's Royal Swan Upping, a yearly tradition of counting young swans, or cygnets, along the Thames. Twenty men lift the birds from the river—hence the name "Upping"—and measure, weigh, and check the cygnets for injury.

It is a tradition dating back to the 12th century, one that has shifted and changed with the times. Originally, the English monarch claimed ownership of mute swans because they were a delicacy featured at royal banquets. Because of this status, swans were deemed "royal birds." It is a tradition dating back to the 12th century, one that has shifted and changed with the times. Originally, the English monarch claimed ownership of mute swans because they were a delicacy featured at royal banquets. Because of this status, swans were deemed "royal birds."

DUNZ is now on Facebook!

Ducks Unlimited NZ are now on Facebook! Put the word into the search box....Become a DUNZ fan on Facebook and get all the news and events hot off the press. Plus access to our galleries, our events calendar (feel free to submit your DUNZ-related events to post here) and DUNZ blog. Recommend the Facebook page to your friends and spread the word about the great work DUNZ is doing though out New Zealand. And don't forget to get the teens involved as we will be putting content for them here in the very near future!

Access to the Facebook site can be found at the Blog links at the top and bottom of the Ducks Unlimited NZ website also for future reference.

In the 15th century, the crown granted swan ownership rights to the Vintners' and Dyers' livery companies. Representatives from the two companies and the monarch participate in this annual event held the third week in July. Dressed in traditional colors — the representatives from the crown are adorned in scarlet — the oarsmen make their way up the river in wooden skiffs which are a tradition in and of themselves, as some are over 100 years old.

When the small fleet encountered a family of swans with cygnets, the cry "All up!" echoed through the air. The skiffs corralled the swans against the shoreline. Then, the oarsmen hauled them onto the boats to be tied and lifted onto the shore for measurement.

Once on land, Her Majesty's Swan Warden, a position currently held by Professor Chris Perrins from the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, and Swan Rescue employees measure the swan for growth statistics and check the health of the cygnets. They are very vulnerable to fishing tackle this time of year," said David Barber, the Queen's Swan Marker. "Especially the young cygnets, they actually get hooks around them when fishermen discard their line, and we get a lot of deaths through that."

Change of Address - are you moving? Please send us your new details.

Name.....
Old address..... New address.....
.....Postcode.....

Phone..... Email.....

For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149,

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.

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Address.....

POSTCODE.....

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

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