



BLUE DUCK STATION

September 20

How much fun can we have at Blue Duck Station?

Spring has sprung at Whakahoro. Brand new lambs are arriving into the world daily, the boys are doing battle with the boars to stop too many being killed! Eight wild piglets are stealing the limelight at Whio Lodge, six orphan lambs are being raised, we're hoping for our first blue ducklings soon and pet goat Edy is now officer in charge of weed control at Blue Duck Café.

Goings on in the bush.....

- Purchase of new farm
- Museum of Bridge to Nowhere era
- New Riverboat navigates the Whanganui
- Radio Safety System
- Top of the World Lodge
- Conservation Field Day 1st October
- Blue Duck Lodge on [Facebook](#)
- Baby Blue due Christmas Day

Purchase of the new Farm

On the 9th July 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 ducks 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 tree's... remember volunteers are always welcome!

The farm is also home to some historic old buildings, one of these being the Dobbs Family Cottage where 18 children were raised! Over the next few months the team will be busy restoring this to its original condition.

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.

New Riverboat navigates the Whanganui

Whanganui river adventurer Robert Baldwin has made history by taking the first riverboat from Whanganui to Taumarunui in 82 years... good on you Baldy! The 19.5m boat was built from the ground up based on Alexander Hatrick's upriver boat the Wai-Iti II, which launched in 1911. The Adventurer II is a tunnel hull vessel capable of navigating knee deep water and rapids while carrying up to 40 people.

Blue Duck Station is working with The Adventurer II to give you fella's the opportunity to experience yesteryears river travel on the Whanganui as thousands of people did decades ago. Take a look at <http://www.adventurer.net.nz> for more information. Its moored here at present and the plan is to run trips up and down 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.

Top of the World Lodge

Totally remote, surrounded by native bush, off the grid and with views of both Mt Ruapehu and Mt Taranaki, plans for the Top of the World Lodge are well underway. The new Lodge on top of the ridge at the very back of the farm will be a fantastic base for hunters, trampers, horse riders and those who just want to get away from it all. GJ Gardiner homes and Placemakers, both from Waikato, will be helping out with this project. O for awesome! We'll keep you posted.

Conservation Field Day 1st October

On Friday the 1st of October, Blue Duck Station will host its annual Conservation Field Day. Farmers, businesspeople, tourism operators and anyone with an interest in conservation are invited along for a bit of a get together and general chin-wag about the environment.

Predator control is always high on the agenda so Leon Stratford and Bob Jordan will talk about pest control. Dave Bell from Native Birds Taranaki is offering his knowledge of the karearea (New Zealand falcon) and a representative from Ducks Unlimited will give us advice on restoring native wetlands.

Top fencer Wayne Newdick will demonstrate low cost, effective fencing solutions to help keep stock out of streams. This is important for improving water quality and letting otherwise marginal land regenerate into habitat needed by endangered species such as our namesake; the blue duck.

Rod Smiley from DoC will again offer kiwi aversion training for dogs. Between Whanganui and Tongariro National Parks, the Ruapehu is home to several (but diminishing) populations of kiwi. No matter how cute and cuddly or well disciplined you think your dog is, kiwi have a strong smell that most animals can't resist. Do your bit for our flightless bird and have your pet kiwi-proofed.

In the words of Robert Swan (Eco-Tourism Conference 2010)

"The biggest risk to our environment is that everyone thinks it's somebody else's job"

Blue Duck Lodge on Facebook

Remember we're on [Facebook](#), click this tab or type Blue Duck Lodge in the search box, find our page and become a fan! We are always happy for people to upload photo's they have of their visit to Blue Duck Station. It is also a brilliant way for you to stay updated with what's going on down in the valley. Check out the great pic's of Ryan's 200lb boar and the little piggies... enjoy.

Spring special!

Book into Blue Duck lodge (not Whio), for two or more nights, Sunday to Thursday and we'll take 25% off you 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

Upcoming events – shoots and giggles.....

- Field day Friday 1st October 10 am. Be there.
- The first Whio ducklings were spotted on 8th October last year so hopefully there are going to be some more again soon!
- Tui will be in the Kowhai again in October, 200 photographed at once last year. It's a must see, and listen!
- A new ablution block with composting toilets is in the planning stages for Whio lodge
- New Zealand's best one-day horse trek (to rival the Tongariro Crossing for trampers) will launch right here at Blue Duck Station this summer. More information coming soon...

We hope you enjoyed the latest edition of the Bush Telegraph and here's hoping it stops raining soon!!!

As always, feedback, comments, or a quick hello are always really appreciated. Better yet, we hope to catch up with you over the coming months.

Dan and the Blue Duck crew

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