



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 74, Hamilton, New Zealand

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

NEWSLETTER NO 1/74

AUGUST 1974

Here we are with our very first newsletter and, due to your generosity and support, Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc is now an established fact.

Sure, we have a long way to go before we can take a breather - but we are now "off the ground" and we have every confidence in the future. By now, you will all have received our initial brochure and we hope you are satisfied with its presentation - as a matter of interest, this particular brochure took over seven months and countless hours of hard work (on a part time basis) to produce, and we have already distributed 2,500 around the country. You have already demonstrated your support for our cause - but, if you can place any further brochures in the right hands, then do not hesitate to drop us a line and we will despatch you further copies promptly.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Director, Henry Lickers, has - under our partial sponsorship - been working at Lake Whangapae (a large lake in the Waikato) carrying out a Hunter Survey on the local Black Swan population and, at the same time, is taking a census of all waterfowl frequenting the Lake.

OPERATION GRETEL

Operation Gretel will be our first major project - DU officials are at present negotiating with Waikato landowners for the use of their property for the experimentation of Grey Teal nest boxes.

The Object

To raise the N.Z. population of Grey Teal from the present estimated 20,000 birds to 100,000 plus during the next ten years.

The Reason

Such an undertaking would ensure the safety of this creature for posterity - and the knowledge and experience gained would be put to good purpose with other species in the future.

The Know-How

DU (NZ) believe that the prime reason for the static expansion rate of Grey Teal in this country is the shortage of nesting sites. In Australia, there is an abundance of old, dead hollow gum trees, and these are used extensively by the Teal after the rains have flooded an area. DU (NZ) plan to build several prototype nest boxes during the next three years and, after an evaluation period, we will proceed with the construction of several hundred more of the most suitable type.

Grey Teal are nervous creatures and, for this reason, DU have selected two sites in the Waikato and Wellington areas where they can have the solitude they require. After the evaluation period, other sites around the country will be chosen on their merit.

The Cost

Based on 1974 figures, the estimated cost of this project will be \$ 42,000.

Your Support

Yes - this is just another vital project of DU (NZ) which is helping preserve our heritage. We all talk about conservation - but we rarely have the opportunity to take it further than that. DU IS DOING SOMETHING POSITIVE ABOUT IT. If any members have suggestions for nest boxes, we would be pleased to hear from them.

FROM ABROAD

What has been happening in the field? Through the generosity of C.P. Air (Auckland office) we have been able to send Director, Dudley Bell, to Canada where he is working under the auspices of Ducks Unlimited Canada for a period of five months. Needless to say, we are deeply indebted to C.P. Air for this assistance.

SNIPPETS FROM DUDLEY BELL'S REPORTS

"Regina, Saskatchewan - Canada

- (a) An airboat, which is a 11' flat bottomed punt type of boat, fitted with a Lycoming motor, costs around the \$ 8,000 (Canada) mark - now you know how "Gentle Ben" wizzed around so fast!
- (b) DU Canada appoint what they term as "Keemen" - these are members who wish to become actively involved in the workings of DU and they take on the responsibility of reporting to headquarters on the following matters:
 - rainfall in a particular area
 - swamp levels
 - damage sustained to any of the finished DU projects
 - nest box counting and maintenance
 - the finding of wild nests and the reporting of hatching success etc
 along with various other helpful duties.
- (c) In Manitoba, the Canada Geese nest at the rate of almost two pair to the acre on an experimental 35 acre nesting plot.
- (d) Old tractor or similar tyres, laid about, are proving to be ideal nesting sites for Geese (Food for thought down Canterbury way)
- (e) After inspecting a number of dam and weir controlled lakes, Dudley suggests that it could be feasible to control Lake Whangapae at a level that would prevent pollution.
- (f) DU Canada use engineers to cost up a project, and the biologists have the final "say". Shoreline, rather than area of clear water, is the determining factor which their engineers are looking for in new projects.

WHO'S WHO AT DU?

Many people are asking "just who is who at DU?" - so we detail below the Board of Directors -

President	Ian Pirani	Company Manager	Waikato
Vice President	Paul Pirani	Company Manager	Wellington
Directors:	Dudley Bell	Wildlife Officer	Waikato
	Neil Hayes	Company Director	Wellington
	Henry Lickers	Student	Waikato
	Trevor Voss	Farmer	Taranaki

Because of space limitations, we will cover the "biographies" of only three directors with this newsletter -

Ian Herbert Pirani

Aged 35, married with one son. Area Manager, based in Waikato, for large N.Z. Company. 18 years interest in shooting and also breeder of gundogs. 7 years interest in breeding upland game and at present actively involved in breeding waterfowl on approximately one acre water, on which 16 species of waterfowl are held. Former Wellington Councillor for several years and a delegate to North Island Council of Wellington Acclimatisation Society for 2-3 years. Familiar with most of N.Z. wetland regions and vitally interested in the preservation of same. One of the movers of extension to Boggy Pond Scheme - has obtained finance from NICAS for Boggy Pond. Foundation member of DU New Zealand.

Paul Bryan Charles Pirani

Aged 32 (Ian's brother), married. Development Manager with major property development group. Active conservationist for 15 years, breeder of gundogs. Active shooter and wildfowler. Former breeder of upland game. At present Vice President and Councillor, Wellington Acclimatisation Society and Chairman of Southern Branch. Honorary Ranger. Foundation member of DU.

Francis Neil Hayes

Aged 36, married with two children. Waterfowl breeder - has hand-reared and liberated over 50 grey duck. Very active in Acclimatisation Society movement. Considerable experience in management and industry. Keen wildfowler and clay bird shooter. Current National Open Pistol Champion. Member - Wildfowl Trust, W.A.G.B.I., Ornithological Society, Agricultural Society. Secretary N.Z. Pistol Association four years.

GENERAL

Membership

Membership is progressing steadily - to date 45, comprising 2 life members, 30 active and 13 non-active. Subscribed from the following areas - Auckland 22; Wellington 14; Tauranga 3; Australia 2; Wanganui, Nelson, Hastings and Otago - 1 each. All efforts by present members to solicit new members will be appreciated - please advise us the names of those interested and we will forward a brochure.

Keemen

Do you wish to become a Keeman for DU in your area? These will be chosen from interested persons and the position will be an Honorary one. (see Snippets from Dudley Bell) Keemen will be asked to provide "key" information on such matters as incoming waterfowl, general breeding conditions and outgoing waterfowl movements in and around their wetland region, and provide headquarters with an overall picture. Reports from Keemen will be compiled, and tabled in this publication, and used by administration personnel. This is a vital role for interested DU members - we look forward to hearing from those who are enthusiastic.

Decal Transfer

In our brochure, we undertook to supply financial members with a decal transfer - although this work has been put in hand, it may be some time before transfers can be distributed.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DO YOU KNOW:

- that, of the 37 birds in the world in danger of extinction, 11 ARE NEW ZEALAND BIRDS! This is a shocking situation. One of these birds is the Brown Teal. The major reason is that their habitat is slowly, but surely, being reduced by drainage of wetlands. DU has the Brown Teal high on its list of priorities.

At long last, the Wildlife Service has commenced on a project to hand-rear the Brown Teal for liberation into the wild. Recently, some hand-reared birds have been liberated into specially selected areas and first indications are that they are doing well.

- that members of the Wildfowlers Association of Great Britain and Ireland (WAGBI) have hand-reared over 200,000 waterfowl in the last ten years. This illustrates the increasing interest and concern on the part of shooters in waterfowl conservation.

- that, contrary to some belief, it has yet to be proved that wildfowl spread disease among livestock. In Europe, it has been proven that droppings from geese have been beneficial to pasture growth - and results from experiments carried out in Tasmania showed that geese droppings have a manurial effect on pastures and actually increase the grass crop. (Marriott R.W. 1973: Wildfowl 24)

FUTURE MEMBERSHIP

Perhaps you know of persons who have expressed an interest in Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) and may wish to become members. Our members are our strongest asset - if you can assist, you may find the coupon below useful. When completed, return to

The Secretary
Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc
P.O. Box 74 - Hamilton

(tick where applicable)

- I would like to receive a copy of the DU Brochure
- I wish to join DU and enclose my cheque for membership
 - Non Active \$ 5
 - Active \$ 10
 - Life \$ 500 (or instalment of \$ 50 p.a.)

Name
Address

Please forward a copy of the Brochure to the following interested persons, who may be interested in membership (list name & address)

Name
Address

Name
Address

Travel with CP Air is a global affair.

