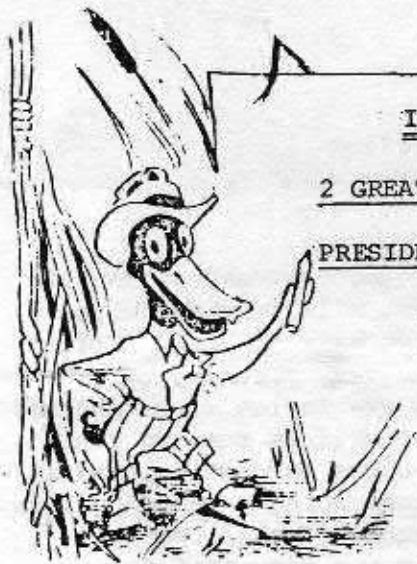




# “FLIGHT”

NO 4/75



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PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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D U CENTREFOLD!

## A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

D U 'T' Shirts for the Whole  
Family - and Friends

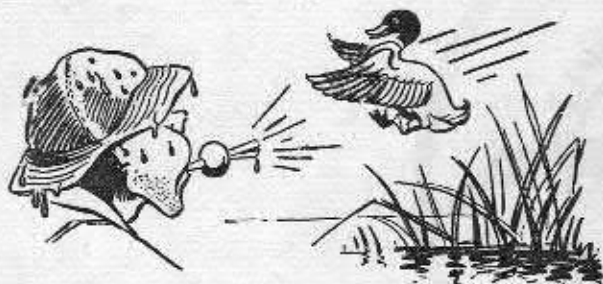
We have arranged for members to be able to purchase 'T' shirts with the DU decal symbol printed on the front. The shirts are top quality polyester/cotton knit and will be very reasonably priced.

The objective - is to raise further funds to benefit "Operation Gretel", and the profit made on the sale of shirts will go to this activity.

Full details will be given in a special circular on this subject, to be issued shortly, and there will be an assortment of sizes available (from 30" chest). Briefly: one 'T' shirt will be sent to each member for his/her acceptance, or return. It is hoped that all members will be so enthusiastic about the shirts that they will order sufficient for the whole family - and for friends - as Christmas gifts.

- WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS! -

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!



### OUR SECOND GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTION....

Give a subscription to DU to a friend!

We have pleasure in enclosing with this issue Gift Subscription Cards for you to send to someone you feel would enjoy being a member of DU for a year. This solves that difficult Christmas gift problem (particularly for the person who seems to have everything) and is an opportunity to introduce others to DU.

Simply write your name on the gift card, in the space provided, and send to the person of your choice. Return the tear-off portion to DU headquarters with relevant details and your cheque. Further supplies of the card may be obtained from Hamilton.

This is a great idea for Christmas (and all year) giving - it also gives us the opportunity to double (maybe treble) membership this year. Respond to the challenge - give a subscription to DU to a friend!

### NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to Messrs D.F. Litchfield (A), E. Nicholson (S), J. Merrilees (S), W. Parr (S), and Bryan Pirani (J). Ms J Keys (A).

### DIARY REPORTS: OPERATION GRETEL and OPERATION PATEKE

#### OPERATION GRETEL:

23 September - Inspected all boxes at Flexman's and Harlock's. Most boxes short of nesting material.... we had no wood shavings with us, so with a solitary pocket knife, we cut up Cattail and Native Grass and filled the boxes with this material. Saw good numbers of Grey Teal and Shoveler at Harlock's.

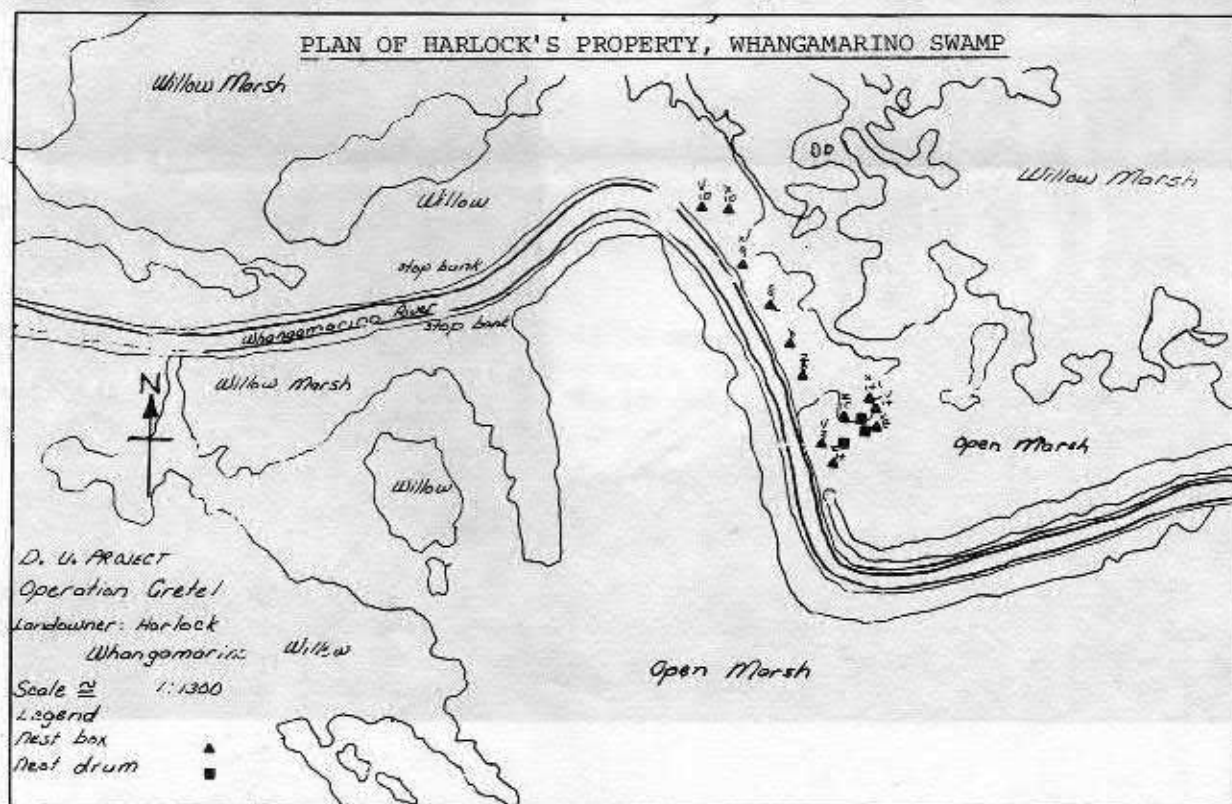
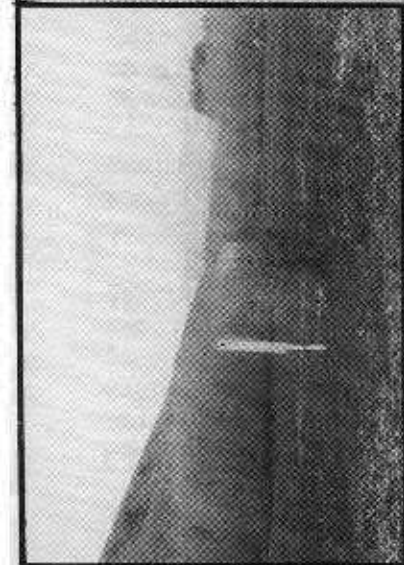
14 October - Inspected all boxes at Flexman's and Harlock's and we were delighted to find that one Z type box at Flexman's had six eggs (Teal) inside and another box was all scratched out... we also found signs of scratchings at Harlock's and also traces of down in one of the boxes which would indicate that either a very young female had plucked her breast without actually laying, or that a hen had laid, and the eggs were predated.

#### OPERATION PATEKE:

As at 31 October, five of our members (Messrs Ian Pirani, Neil Hayes, Wilf Wright, Julian Nelson-Parker) have five pairs of Brown Teal between them and it is very pleasing to note that 80% of the birds are laying....to date we have four Class four Ducklings running about, fifteen fertile eggs under incubation, and a further two females commencing a second or, in one case, a third clutch of eggs. We have high hopes of reaching our target of twenty birds raised.



The Brown Teal, upon which the operations of "Pateke" are centred  
Photograph: F.H. Lickers





LIFE-LONG LOVE LEADS LICKERS TO NEW ZEALAND - AND D.U.

Ask Henry Lickers his true name and he won't be able to tell you. Henry is a full-blooded Iroquois whose Indian heritage of hunting has brought him to New Zealand to study the life of the Black Swan on Lake Whangapae near Huntly. Henry is also a founder member of Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand; a director and one of DU's most ardent workers and supporters.

He is unable to divulge his Indian name more than three times in his life - once when he becomes a man; when he is married; and when he knows he is going to die. The name "Lickers" was given to his family by the British. Henry, aged 27, lived on an Ontario reservation for the first 13 years of his life.

Henry is the great grandson of a Red Indian clan mother. He was born on the day his grandfather died - which makes him a very important Iroquois. He is in line to be chieftain of his clan which now lives on the six Indian Nation reserve near Brantford Ontario, Canada.

Henry is no ordinary son of the confederation. He survived his ritual entrance to manhood at the age of nine, and received his totem - a personal spiritual guide. The totem is a bird - and birds have been guiding Henry's spirit ever since.

Henry, who will complete his MSc this year, after studying the local Black Swan for two years, says he took up wildlife research because "what else would an Indian do?". "I was a trapper and hunter on the reserve. Indians are said to have a better rapport with nature and I believe that's true. It would be impossible for somebody raised in the art of hunting and trapping not to care about animals he depends on" says Henry.

With conservation a popular topic, he says the habits of native people like the Maoris and Indians, who instinctively guide and protect the environment should be followed by society. In the 10,000 years of Indian civilisation, the tribal hunters learned that, to survive, they must adhere religiously to the rules of conservation on the range.

Henry's study of the mortality rate and productivity of the Black Swan has shown up some interesting facts - using nesting, banding, censuses and hunter surveys - concerning the life history of this very magnificent bird. Water levels on the lake, he believes, are one of the most important factors of Black Swan production.

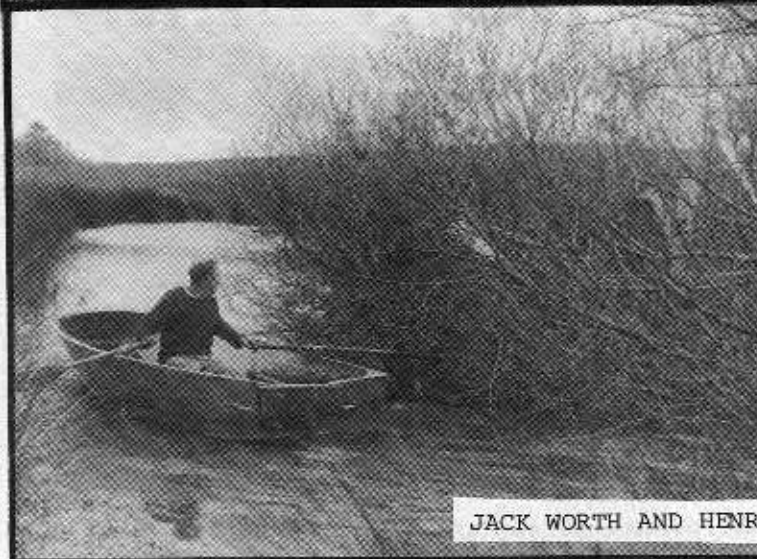
A desire to help New Zealand in its wildlife management is "one of the things that has made me stay here". Consequently, Henry is one of DU's most dedicated members and enthusiasts and his work centres on field studies for DU - he is also a keen photographer and the photographs in this issue are the results of his enthusiasm.

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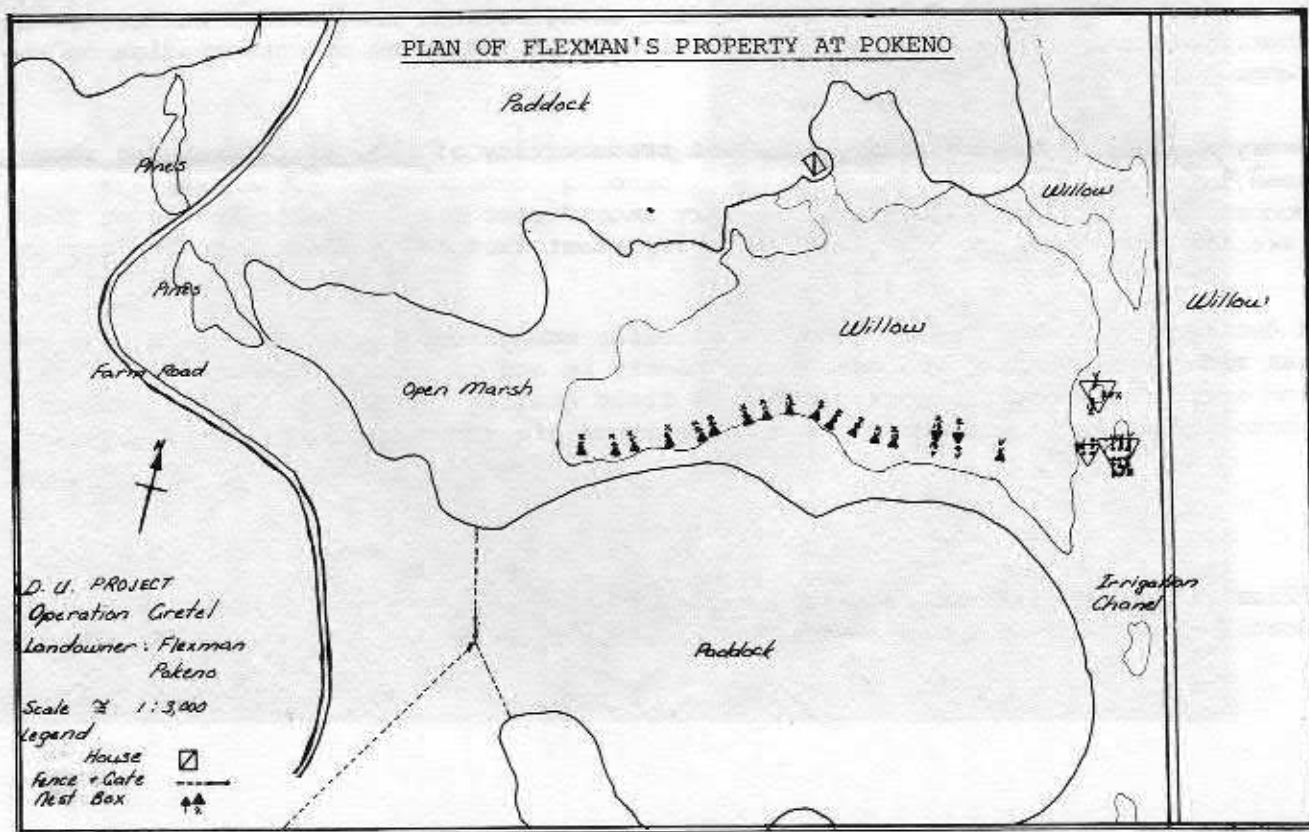
Illustration opposite shows Henry exuding "salesmanship" - to benefit Operation Gretel - in the recent campaign to sell raffle tickets, which was so successful.



OPERATION GRETEL - IN PROGRESS!!



JACK WORTH AND HENRY LICKERS - HARD AT IT!!



### DUCKS UNLIMITED MOVIES SHOWN THROUGHOUT NORTH ISLAND

Members will recall the excellent reaction we reported in Issue 3/75 to the Ducks Unlimited movies "The Wetlanders" and "Decisions". These movies have been shown at points from Whangarei to Wellington and have attracted great attention and interest. Such movies do much to promote the work of DU in New Zealand and illustrate what has been achieved in North America as an example of what may be achieved here. We hope to obtain further movies for showing to DU members in future.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO WELLINGTON ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY (DU members)

on the impressive Annual Report produced this year, and which has a totally new format. This is quite some change from previous issues; is stimulating and well worth reading by all DU members. Also featured in the Annual Report of the Wellington Society this year is a full page on the activities of Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand (submitted by director, Neil Hayes). To President, Don McCulloch (another enthusiastic DU member) and his team, we extend our congratulations on the excellent new format and production - long may it continue!

### PLANNING BEGUN FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1976

Director, Neil Hayes, is co-ordinating planning for the 1976 conference and arrangements are already well under way. The venue will be Wellington and the proposed date is 24 April 1976. Our second annual conference promises to be even bigger and better, and exciting, than the Inaugural Conference held in August this year.

- KEEP 24 APRIL 1976 FREE -

### DUDLEY BELL RETURNS!

Our wandering Director and Ambassador, Dudley Bell and his wife Lyn have returned to New Zealand brimming with enthusiasm and inspiration.

Dudley has many interesting experiences and knowledge to share with DU members for the benefit of waterfowl in New Zealand.

Welcome back Dudley and Lyn !



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# Greetings

It is with pleasure that I extend best wishes for the festive season to all members of our Ducks Unlimited (NZ) "family".

I wish to thank members of the Executive for their dedication and enthusiasm because, without them and the enthusiasm they in turn have generated in members, we just would not have been able to accomplish what has been achieved to date - this has involved plain hard work, all voluntarily given.

We face the tasks ahead in 1976 with confidence - the past is now a memory; nevertheless, it is a solid foundation upon which to base the future year's work. I am confident DU will go from strength to strength - and I am further confident that I have the support of you all - indeed, without this, DU just would not function.

I quote from W.T. Grenfell:

"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile"

Kindest regards to all of you and your families and best wishes for the coming year.

Ian H. Pirani  
President  
DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC