

Flight

100

25th Anniversary Issue, July 1999.



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.



For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

Who Were They?

DU's Inaugural Annual Report and Financial Statement, published in the fourth issue, Flight No. 2, 1975, for the Annual Conference held in Hamilton that year, included a list of the membership current in that first year of the organisation's existence:

Directors

I.H. Pirani (President)
P.B.C. Pirani (Vice-president
& Acting Secretary)
D. Bell
F.N. Hayes
H.I. Jones
F.H. Lickers
Mrs C.L. Pirani
T.A. Voss
J. Worth

Life Members

I.H. Pirani
Mrs C.L. Pirani
J. Worth

Trade Members

Wellington Sporting Arms
Company

Junior Members

J. Burton
D.H. Swanwick
J. Tahere

Active Members

R.T. Adams
R. K. Ball
K. Baucke
N. Baucke
P.R. Bayliss
A. Bell
D. Bell
L. Bell
J. Boscawen
A.A. Boume
S. Bronger
G. Butts
J. Byrne
P. Casey
N.C. Cameron
D.N. Campin
Consolidated Traders Ltd.
R.J. Cook

W. Cowan
Mrs J.A. Crum
M.R. Dench
P. Differ
A. Flexman
B.C. Frazer
A.A. Gurney
R.D. Fenwick
J.D. Glover
Miss T. Gulliver
L. Gooden
W. Hamill
D.G. Harrison
F.N. Hayes
O.L. Harkness
D.G. Hansen
B. Jamell
I.G. Jensen
H.I. Jones
E.J. Le Prou
A. McCarron
P. McCormick
P.M. McLeod
D. McNeil
K. Mackie
R. Matheson
R. Meehan
W. Merrilees
B. R. Millar
T.W. Mills
F. Morris
P. Mullins
M.D. Midgley
J. Nelson Parker
A.M. Nooyen
N.M. Newcombe
E.N. Olsen
B.H. Paddy
Mrs J. Parry
R.J. Penna
B. Perry
N.B. Pauli
Mrs E.M. Pauli
D.G. Peryer
C. Pihera

H.L. Piper
P.B.C. Pirani
C. Pullar
I.B. Rose
W. Saunders
J.C. Savage
G.W. Scott
M.A. Scott
J. Seddon
C.P. Smellie
P. Taylor
W.T. Te Mara
P. Tuck
M. Williams
R.R. Willoughby
C. Worth
W. Wright
A. Wright
D. Watson
South Canterbury
Acclimatisation Society
Tauranga Acclimatisation
Society

Supporter Members

W.J.D. Allen
J.H. Arnold
B.D. Ball
F.C. Ball
J.T. Baker
G. Beadle
Mrs L. Bell
R. Brumby
W.M. Candy Jnr.
S. Chambers
C.B. Cook
H.A. Cook
I. Chandler
D.S. Dalton
J. Dyer
R.A. Denny
G.P. Douglas
W.R. Duncan
Mr Dungey

W. Flexman
R.C. Frost Jnr.
G.C. George
S.C. Gribble
T. Gooden
I. Harvey
Mrs M.L. Harris
Mrs S. Hayes
F.M.H. Hanson
G. Herries
A.E. Hope
T.G. Hunt
N. Hyde
J.M. Hudson
I.P. Johnson
W. Johnson
B.R. Jones
Mrs L. Lawrie
W. Lentfer
F.H. Lickers
N. Lowrie
J.H. McDowell
Mrs J. Marshall
G. Marshall
W. Morris
NZ Pheasant Breeders Assn.
J.R. Preece
H. Prince
B. Rowe
B. Stutt
D. Stutt
D.L. Taverner
A. Thomas
R. Trethewey
A. Vaughan
T.A. Voss
Mrs F.A. Voss
L. Wilson
Mrs C. Worth
Miss K. Worth
Taranaki Acclimatisation
Society
Wellington Acclimatisation
Society

Members World-Wide

Ducks Unlimited is an organisation with international associations. Contacts and exchanges are maintained with DU organisations in USA, Canada and Australia and will develop as DU grows in other countries.

An additional international dimension to DUNZ comes through its life members world-wide in countries like Australia, PNG, Canada, USA and the Bahamas. The most distant life member of DUNZ is Basil George who lives in Wales at picturesque-sounding Ivy Cottage, Ogmores-By-The-Sea.



Nominations for the Board

The Board of Ducks Unlimited has reluctantly accepted the resignation of two Directors: Glenys Hansen, who served for 13 years, nine as Treasurer; and Ken Cook, who retires after eight years and held the position of Wetlands Co-ordinator.

Both will be greatly missed for their unstinting efforts at Board level.

There is only one nomination to date to replace these two Directors and DU needs more Directors with energy and commitment.

If you know of a member who would be interested in standing for a Director's position, please approach them and send in a nomination. If you would like to stand, send your name and background information to the DU P.O. box number and a Director will nominate you. There is no requirement to attend the AGM to be elected and the opportunity for a ballot would be a welcome change.

INSIGHT

As we celebrate the first 25 years of Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand, it is prudent to look at the challenges ahead in the next 25 years.

Urbanisation here is one of the greatest threats to wetland habitats. As cities grow and expand, wetlands are lost, even with the Resource Management Act, which many seek to "reform" to make development easier. Attitudes, too, change with urbanisation as people lose contact with the land and country values. A recent USA study found that many opposed to hunting believe that "nature is something to be admired but never touched, loved but never used, harvested with our senses but never with our hands." TV programmes that give only part of the story - the bit with the pretty pictures - foster the attitude. These trends make promotion of our mission as important in coming years as it is today.

The future must see continued co-operation with other organisations. It's easy to be dismissed as a small organisation which cares only about ducks. Joining with other organisations, when and where we have common interests, increases our ability to effect change. We have recently worked with DOC and Fish and Game, both with successful outcomes. Communicating and working with others will play a large part in our future success.

But our future is also what our members want it to be. We are unique in New Zealand as an organisation, with members who are both hunters and non-hunters, sharing a love of waterfowl and the wild places they inhabit. Our greatest challenge will be to grow and continue to grow - not by attracting members with slick advertising and diverting resources to membership when they are more effectively used in the field, but by attracting members who are committed and informed to an

organisation which puts 100% back into wetlands and waterfowl.

Graham Gurr
President,
Ducks Unlimited NZ.

Congratulations to Ducks Unlimited New Zealand on its 25th year of conserving waterfowl and wetlands!

I am delighted that the spirit of volunteerism is so strong in DU New Zealand. Volunteers bring their work, wisdom, and wealth to Ducks Unlimited and they provide the enthusiasm that we need to continue to build our conservation legacy. DU New Zealand has a proud record and a bright future. The DU family is united around the globe in our efforts to conserve habitat for future generations of wildlife and people. No group of conservationists has done so much for waterfowl, wetlands and other wildlife as have the members of DU worldwide. We at Ducks Unlimited Inc. are excited about the many things that our organisations can accomplish as we move into a new century when conservation will be more important than ever.

I wish you great luck in your Annual Meeting and continued success in the years ahead.

Julius F. Wall
President
Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Clinton, Missouri, USA.

On behalf of the 8,000 dedicated volunteers and 400 staff of Ducks Unlimited Canada, I extend hearty congratulations for your 25th Anniversary.

We at Ducks Unlimited Canada recently celebrated our 60th Anniversary and we also have much to be proud of. Over these years, we have invested almost \$1 billion in Canada's environment, leading to the protection of over 18 million acres of wetland and upland habitat.

Our supporters here now number 150,000 and recent public opinion surveys revealed that we are Canada's "most trusted and respected conservation organisation".

The DU success story is truly becoming a global one, what with DU's presence in North America, New Zealand, Australia, Europe and now Latin America. This leadership in wetlands conservation was recently recognised at RAMSAR meetings; 116 nations attended and witnessed DU receiving one of only five awards in the world for our estuary conservation work in Canada. At that meeting, I spoke to DU's global influence and was proud to wave the New Zealand flag on your behalf.

I still hope to visit your fair country, perhaps as early as Christmas. In the interim, have a great meeting and continue on with your vital wetland conservation initiatives.

D.A. (Don) Young
Executive Vice-president
Ducks Unlimited Canada.

This special 100th issue marks the 25th Anniversary of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand.

- 4. Our Presidents: Past and Present Presidents Review the First 25 Years**
- 6. Annual Reports**
- 8. Wetland Creation**
- 10. 25th Anniversary Annual Conference**
- 11. Where Have the Ducks Gone?**
- 12. Ducks Unlimited's History in Flight by Alan Wilks**

CONTENTS

OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary membership-based society dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand wetlands through:

- wetland restoration and development;
- conservation programmes for threatened waterfowl;
- advocacy and education of wetland values.

By these means we seek to ensure the ethical and sustainable use of wetland resources by all existing and future users.

Cover Photo: Kevin Hintz, New Plymouth.

Flight is published by:

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.

ISSN 1173-2776

P.O.Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand.

Editorial Services: Gallery Books & Crafts, Box 99, Carterton

Printer: Lamb-Peters Print, 106A Main Street, Greytown

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-patrons	Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch	
	Norman Marsh, Reporoa	
President	Graham Gurr, Auckland,	(09) 489 5337
Chairman	Alan Wilks, Greytown,	(06) 304 9729
Vice-president/ Treasurer	Craig Worth, Box 5095, Hamilton,	a/h (07) 854 0494 (07) 846 8719
Directors	William Abel, Wellington,	(04) 586 2752
	Ken Cook, Palmerston North,	(06) 357 5484
	David Johnston, Reporoa,	(07) 333 8453
	Glenys Hansen, Masterton,	(06) 378 9967
	David Smith, LLB, Auckland,	(09) 298 4719
	Dale Stevens, Cambridge	(07) 839 7224
	Neil Candy, Palmerston North	(06) 353 6132
	Tom van Dam, Te Kauwhata	(07) 826 4269

OUR

Presidents



Past and Present Presidents of Ducks Unlimited Review the First 25 Years...

IAN PIRANI (1974 - 1980)

When Jack Worth approached me 26 years ago to assist him in establishing Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand, I had reservations because a slash, burn and drain it mentality still prevailed here.

However, as founding President, I found that there were many others with the same dream: to have good productive wetlands and flourishing bird species, both rare and endangered, and birds which we could crop as a sustainable resource. It has taken years of effort to convince both farmers and politicians that wetlands are important to the long-term survival of our ecosystems.

It is now trendy to care for the environment. It hasn't always been so, and we still see large companies treating the environment as theirs to modify at will. DU was founded on the principle of not owning land but managing it. I am pleased that the Board has returned to that policy.

We need more media exposure. It used to be easy to get. And it is our generation of hunters which must convince New Zealanders that we put in more than we take out.

I wish DU well for the future and thank all the people who have made it the success it is today.



PAUL PIRANI (1980 -1985)

Ducks Unlimited's original charter stated that it would create, improve and maintain wetlands on a business basis following the guiding principles of DU Inc. and DU Canada. There were many battles as DU was established in New Zealand and projects begun with volunteer labour and funding.

However, in the mid-1980s DU was "gifted" at some cost the Sinclair Wetlands and bought the Pearce Wetlands. Deviating from the philosophy of not owning land later proved to be a financial millstone, in spite of the ecological importance. I strongly opposed both proposals and my concerns were realised. It is encouraging to see the financial burden now lifted and DU concentrating on what it does best.

My wife, Cheryl (the first DU Secretary, a Director from the late 70s, and Flight Editor until the mid-80s), and I always regarded our involvement as a pioneer activity. Our active participation ceased in the mid-80s, and DU and the environment in which it operates have changed dramatically. Achieving the objectives and the tasks appears just as difficult and challenging. Those involved have our admiration and respect for their motivation, expertise and effectiveness.

We have many fond memories of the early times, the endless obstacles encountered and the energy, enthusiasm, skill and dedication with which these were overcome. We recall the wonderful fellowship of Directors and members and the generosity and unfailing genuine interest of DU Inc. and DU Canada, and we take pride in the organisation's achievements. The original objectives remain valid, reinforced by the current Mission Statement.



JIM CAMPBELL (1985 - 1989, 1991 - 1992)

For Ducks Unlimited to have a fund generating over \$25,000 annually was a wild dream of the many Directors prior to 1998. Couple this achievement to the various breeding projects which are now self-sufficient as a result of generous sponsorships and we have the recipe for a very healthy organisation.

None of this would have been possible without the enormous personal commitment of the DU "family" - the Directors, members and volunteers who contributed in so many ways. The generous support from our overseas counterparts and their motivation and enthusiasm has inspired many New Zealanders. As a result, special friendships have developed which will be lasting.

NEIL HAYES (1989 - 1991)

I joined the Ducks Unlimited Board in 1974, shortly after the organisation was established. My family and I were seriously involved for over 16 years. I worked as joint Secretary and Editor for much of this time and then as Vice-president and, later, as President.

We had an incredible team of Board members - and all met their responsibilities and more with initiative and passion. The result was that all projects were extremely successful and DU membership grew to over a thousand.

DU also became the proud owner of two of the country's best wetlands and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars toward the Sinclair Wetlands programme. For me this was one of the many highlights; another was the captive rearing of over 1,500 brown teal in 14 years, and the establishment of nearly 40 brown teal breeders all over the country.

Yet another major highlight was the success with which DU raised large sums of money at its annual conference - \$47,000 was banked by the DU Treasurer a few days after one annual conference.

But the major highlight of all was undoubtedly the fact that DU quite clearly generated, amongst a large number of New Zealanders, an incredible long-term interest and enthusiasm for wetlands and waterfowl.

DAVID RICE (1992 - 1994)

"Ducks Unlimited must be about people as much as it is about wetlands and waterfowl. Without people, our members, there would be no advancement in the protection and enhancement of these delicate ecosystems and the life they support.

The essence of DU, for our members, is contact with wetlands and waterfowl and experiencing 'hands on' enjoyment of contributing to the conservation of a diminishing habitat and you are encouraged to take part where you can." - Extract from David Rice's President's Report, Flight, January 1994.



DAVID SMITH (1994 - 1996)

"The pace of our lives seems to get faster. It is increasingly important that we allocate specific time to organisations such as Ducks Unlimited, otherwise the work will be done by fewer folk as time progresses.

It is even more important these days to have balance in our lives; your contribution to DU projects, dinners and outings will help you achieve such balance, help DU, and be fun at the same time." - *Extract from David Smith's President's Report, Flight, September 1994.*



ALAN WILKS (1996 -1998)

The first year of my term, 1996 and early 1997, was probably the most difficult time in Ducks Unlimited's history and I wondered at times whether we would survive. We had borrowed heavily to meet an obligation to the Sinclair Wetlands and were not raising enough to meet our outgoings, let alone create wetlands. It says much that our membership supported DU through that period.

By early 1997 we were forced, reluctantly, to terminate our only employee's contract, because we couldn't pay him, and once again we became a voluntary organisation.

The only solution was to sell the Sinclair and Pearce wetlands - we were asset rich but cash poor. Before the end of the year we had received unexpectedly fortuitous offers on both properties and they finally sold and I began to sleep again!

Early 1998 saw us debt-free with a healthy sum invested in the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust to ensure an income base for DU for the future.

I take no credit for the turnaround in our fortunes and once again must commend the Board of Directors for their dedication and support. I believe DU is now back on track and doing what it is meant to do, creating wetlands and fostering endangered waterfowl.

The highlight of my presidency was the advertisement in the January 1998 issue of Flight actively seeking applications for subsidies to create wetlands.

I am convinced that the future is bright. People are becoming more environmentally conscious. All we have to do is sell our message, get more members and more young blood on the Board.

The problems are behind us and we can look forward to progress.




**GRAHAM GURR
Incumbent President**

It matters not whether you want to watch ducks or hunt ducks. Without habitat you have nothing.

At this time, like no other in Ducks Unlimited's past, we are delivering on habitat. In the last year we have approved more money for more projects than at any time in the last 25 years. For the first time, our finances are secure through the capital fund created with NZWWT. It provides an income every year now and will do so into the future for further habitat protection, enhancement and creation.

As well, our Chapter dinners ensure even more money is available for local and national projects. It's a great feeling.

**BEAUTIFY
YOUR WETLANDS
WITH
TREES**
- MANY VARIETIES
- TREES FOR BIRDS
- TREES FOR SWAMPS
- WHOLESALE PRICES

*Freighted anywhere in N.Z. for your convenience
Send for your free price list from:*

**Nick NELSON
PARKER**

**CHEDDAR VALLEY NURSERY
R.D.2, OPOTIKI
PH (07) 312-4639**



**WE
SUPPORT
WATERFOWL
AND
WETLANDS**

**SPORTWAYS
GUNSHED LTD**

**49 NORMANBY ROAD
MT EDEN
AUCKLAND
Phone 09 631 5275, 09 638 7279**

ANNUAL REPORTS 98-99

President's Report

Graham Gurr

It is my pleasure to give my President's report in the 25th year of Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand. As an organisation DU has grown and matured over its first 25 years. Progress can be seen from Flight magazine as our ability to focus on our projects has developed and been refined. Reports from the project co-ordinators follow.

In its 25 years, DU has had eight presidents and over 60 Board members. Many decisions made in the past have, with the benefit of hindsight, been changed or amended by later Boards - a process which will, I'm sure, continue. All the decisions of Boards past, present and future are made in the light of information available at the time and with the objectives of the organisation in mind. As an organisation, DU owes a debt of gratitude to all past and present Board members for the time they have so freely given. They have the responsibility to manage and control the direction and expenditure of the organisation. Money management has been crucial in the past, keeping expenditure within the budget guidelines set by the Board.

The work Glenys Hansen did for almost 10 years, and that of Craig Worth for the past two, cannot go unacknowledged. Nor can the contribution made by Ian Lyver, when we needed some professional advice a few years ago, be ignored. In fact, when I start to compile a list of the people who have made a significant contribution in the past, the list grows and grows. To all of you, and you know who you are, our thanks.

So how do we measure DU's success over the past years? In 1994, at our 20th Anniversary, we set out a statement of strategic objectives. By looking at these now we can measure our success. We set a target of 15 wetland projects for year five of our plan, this year, and a total of 45 for the first five years. The Wetlands Report provides the full facts, but we are damned close.

In financial management we set four targets: an annual income equivalent to at least \$100 for each member (achieved); the complete elimination of all term liabilities (achieved); increasing conservation expenditure to over 70% of total expenditure (achieved); and decreasing administration costs to below 30% of total (achieved).

Where we have failed to keep up with our objectives is in the area of membership. I can remember one AGM many years ago at

Tokaanu when the same problem was discussed. Nothing has changed. The Board is reviewing our objectives for the next five years in the light of the gains DU has already made and the need to maintain and increase membership. But to voice a personal opinion, I'd rather have one committed member than 10 who joined so they could participate in a shoot or go to a dinner.

As we face the next millennium and the challenges that will bring, DU, thanks to the foresight and hard work of the Board members over the past 25 years, has never been in better shape. DU has secure and ongoing financial resources in the NZWWT, a growing number of Chapters and the ability to make a difference.

Wetlands Report

Ken Cook

The year began with the Ed Campbell project at Mikimiki. This required the creation of two ponds with a total area of one hectare in a wide flat valley with a stream trickling through it. The ponds are now fenced and planted and well used by local waterfowl. This job was a \$4,000 contract.

Howard Egan received a subsidy on an extension to his wetland at Carterton. He has a wonderful breeding wetland and with a \$3,000 extension to this, we were pleased to assist.

WETLAND SUBSIDIES

DU still has some applications under consideration but the criteria is the best habitat value for money. Further applications for subsidies are sought from members to create, restore or develop wetlands. These subsidies could provide digger hire, fencing or planting for a wetland project where the owner is also prepared to make a financial contribution but all applications will be considered on merit.

In the first instance, contact:

William Abel,
DU Wetlands Administrator,
316 Maungauraki Road,
Lower Hutt.

Ph.(04)586 2752,
Fax.(04)478 4336.

Bud Jones has carried on with his growing wetland at Eketahuna. DU has helped to establish a remarkable wetland assisting with another five ponds costing over \$6,000.

Ossie Latham, Auckland, and his wife have purchased a property out of Feilding with a real duck pond and several promising swamps. A 2ha. lake, previously a stock watering hole, is now a really safe breeding pond, fully fenced and mainly planted. DU has contributed substantially to the fencing.

After much discussion with contractors, councils and so on, the Magill pond is complete. This 1.2ha. pond is on Highway 5 at Reporoa just two kilometres north of the service station. Just watch this pond grow in beauty. Ducks are there in numbers already and they will surely appreciate the planting to come.

If passing Reporoa, do stop and have a look at this super new pond which has cost in excess of \$25,000. DU is pleased to have contributed substantially. Dan and Lois Magill have written to the Board expressing sincere thanks for the grant for the wetland project:

"The transformation from a low-lying partially swampy paddock surrounded by willows has been absolutely amazing.

"We now have a very attractive pond and we are absolutely thrilled with the way it has changed the whole look of the area. The reaction from the locals has been great and we now have visitors stopping and taking photos. We can't wait until the whole project is completed.

"We have planned a major tree-planting programme over the winter period for shelter and feed for the wildfowl whilst creating a show piece. It is great to see the hundreds of ducks which have already made it home.

"We would never have been able to get this worthwhile project off the ground without Ducks Unlimited's generous contribution and support..."

The Camm Wetland, in Northland and in brown teal country, has an assured water supply, and this wetland is a cracker. Planning for the project has been done by Murray Tapp. The landowners had set aside a considerable land area here and are to be commended for creating a wetland of some significance in Eastern Northland. This project is costing over \$25,000 and our contribution is very well justified.

Mike Camm tells us:

"I'm presently busy building some accommodation - a room beside the caravan. Then it's into the possums and pests again. DOC has fronted up with \$2,000 worth of traps, cyanide paste and pre-feed so I can attack their adjacent reserve. This should make a difference. At this stage I have the lake ringed with bait stations and must be having some impact. It's a never-ending game, although lots of fun..."

Early in the year we looked at a proposal for Murray Nix at Lake Ferry. The area was in the middle of a drought and two Directors had doubts about it. However, Murray Nix's confidence was well justified and three ponds where none existed before are now well-established.

Andy Tannock's pond at Opiki has seen extensive willow removal and channel creation which has increased the water area. Several islands have been created in this interesting ox-bow. DU helped with a subsidy and it is amazing what a digger can do in a couple of days.

The Shandon Golf Club at Petone (see page 10, Flight 96) was an excellent idea to use existing swamp and water supply. Tom Caithness was behind this one and we subsidised the project.

Di Pritt, who farms at Ohakune, seems never to stop creating more wetlands. This year she has enhanced and enlarged several, and two have been completed with assistance of a subsidy from DU. The work cost around \$6,000.

The Ashhurst Domain is another DU project, although DU funds have not been used. DU has carried out extensive raupo removal on this Manawatu ox-bow financed by grants from the Pacific Environmental Trust. We have created islands in what has become an ongoing project. In this year we have expended the \$25,000 in creating a wetland for waterfowl.

In this past financial year we have paid subsidies of \$29,371 plus the \$25,000 we have spent at Ashhurst. In total DU has put \$54,371 towards the preservation of wetlands in New Zealand in the 1998-99 year.

Operation Royal Swan

William Abel

We have eight young birds available for transfer. Six of these birds are being sexed by a DNA method which David Johnston has tracked down through Massey University. This is a conclusive test which will cost DU \$30.00 per bird.

We have a major problem, yet to be resolved, in that four of the birds have not been pinioned. Adult birds which have not been pinioned are a liability to the scheme. We are unable to sell them because, obviously, they will not stay where they are located and it is very expensive and risky to pinion birds at this stage in their lives.

Arrangements have been made for one pair to be transferred to Peacock Springs and an old pair (now beyond breeding) from there to be transferred to Edith Kerr at Takaka. Contact is to be made with Auckland and Hamilton zoos which do not have any breeding pairs. However, all royal swan transfers have to have DOC approval, still to be obtained.

I am determined we will establish a nucleus of breeding royal swan in places where they will be looked after, pinioned correctly and young made available to us at the appropriate time. This is going to take time, patience, and luck.

Operation Pateke

Alan Wilks

We engaged the services of Applied Ecology to compile an application for Millennium funding for the Chatham Islands proposal to re-establish brown teal on the islands.

Dr Grant Dumbell did a thorough and meticulous job in the presentation of the costings, back-up material and reports. The total cost of a two-year programme to release 60 birds a year from year 2000 is approximately \$84,000 and we have applied for \$70,000 and have received acknowledgement of the application.

We received letters of support from the Chatham Islands Conservation Board, one Iwi and the Brown Teal Recovery Group, and offers of sponsorship from Wrightson, Farmlands, and Gallagher Group, who will donate some materials and feed for pre-release pens and provide the balance at cost.

Relating to breeders' returns, to date 10 have been received from 12 breeders who are holding 23 pairs. These have produced 35 progeny, and 33 birds were collected in Hamilton on March 30 1999 by a Northland DOC conservancy officer for release.

DU received an offer from Kevin Evans to take over the position of Brown Teal Captive Breeding Co-ordinator, and the Board confirmed his appointment from 22 May 1999. Kevin is a brown teal breeder (RD 2, Ruawai, Northland, Ph.(09)439 2561, Fax.(09)439 2560) and will bring an enthusiastic new look to captive breeding.

As past co-ordinator I am grateful to Kevin for his offer to reduce my DU workload and thank breeders for their support over the years.

Grey Teal

Jack Worth

Since taking over the reins of Project Grey Teal in late 1998, I have, in the company of Ray Hayward (Hamilton) been very busy renovating part of the Hopu Hopu site comprising over 50 nest boxes. Some four kilometres north of Ngaruawahia next to the old military camp, the site has been successful for DU for over 20 years, producing thousands of teal ducklings which are becoming more apparent every year throughout the Waikato.

Another site - Lake Ngaroto - between Hamilton and Te Awamutu, with 10 boxes, is managed by Malcolm Dench. During his April nest clean-out, Malcolm discovered that eight boxes had fresh eggs and two of these were downed-up and sitting tight. This is very early for teal as July/August is the accepted time for breeding in New Zealand. Lake Ngaroto is some 200 acres and we plan to erect more boxes in the future.

It is planned to erect several trial boxes at Lake Rotomanuka, near Ohaupo township about 14km south of Hamilton.

The number of sites and nest boxes erected throughout the country is unknown and my last appeal for information raised only two phone calls with no back-up data. It is hoped to include a survey form in a future issue of Flight which might reveal more sites and results.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Board for providing me with a reasonable budget with which to undertake the work, and also all members who have taken part in this project.

Operation Whio

Co-ordinator Peter Russell has been overseas and unable to provide a report in time for publication. His report will be published in the next issue of Flight.

Continued on page 10

Acknowledgment

The photograph at top left on the following page is published courtesy of the Manawatu Evening Standard.

Wetland



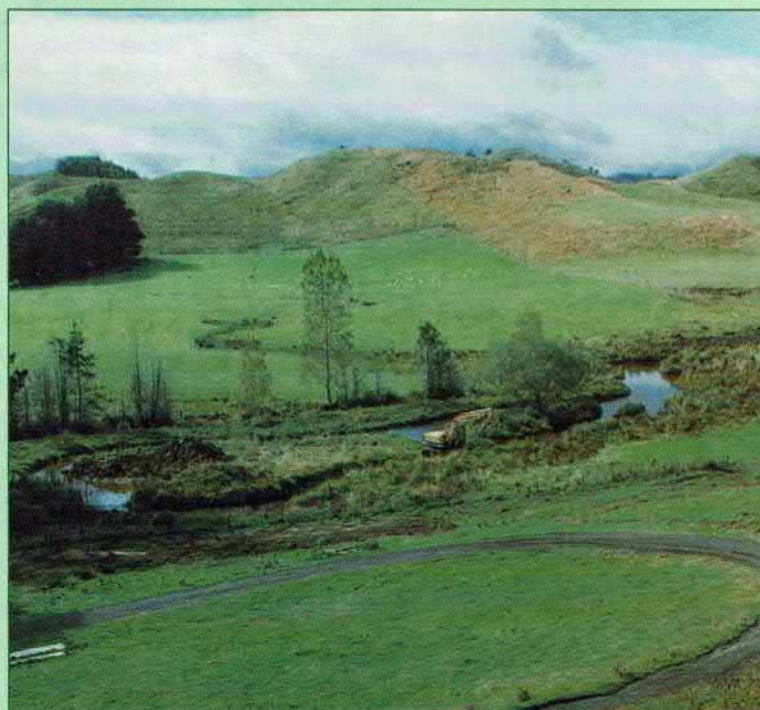
Ashhurst Domain is a \$25,000 project totally funded by money raised by DU from the Pacific Environmental Trust.



Northland at Ngunguru, east of Whangarei. Historically brown teal country with potential for re-establishment. A \$25,000 project.



South Wairarapa ponds - fencing and planting: \$3,000.



Two more ponds at Ohakune, costing \$6,000.



DUCKS UNLIMITED

For Wetlands a

For 25 years, Ducks Unlimited's conservation of New Zealand's wetlands and development is a major focus. In 1998 - 99, some of our developments have attracted a total of \$5 million.

Creation



Five more ponds at Eketahuna - a \$6,000 project.

NEW ZEALAND INC.

and Waterfowl.

NZ Inc. has been dedicated to wetlands. Wetland restoration objective. Eleven new wetland pictured, worth over \$100,000, 371 in subsidies from DU...



At Reporoa - a big earthmoving job costing \$25,000, with planting and fencing but right beside Highway 5 promoting public awareness.

AS WELL AS THE WETLANDS PICTURED:

- ★ Mikimiki, Wairarapa. 1 ha. costing \$4,000.
- ★ The Canada Flats wetland extension, Carterton, Wairarapa: \$3,000
- ★ A 2 ha. wetland in the Manawatu, fully fenced with assistance from DU.
- ★ Shandon Golf Club, Petone. Earthworks, flap-gate and planting - \$2,500.



Opiki, Manawatu - a \$2,000 extension to an existing wetland.

NZ Waterfowl & Wetlands Trust

David Smith

At the beginning of the last financial year, Ducks Unlimited was able to donate \$190,000 to the trust, the surplus from the sale of the Pearce and Sinclair wetlands after debt repayment.

This brought the total trust funds to over \$270,000. In May 1998 the trustees agreed to establish an investment portfolio with Spicers Portfolio Management Ltd. The initial investment after establishment costs was \$265,475 and the portfolio value as at 31.3.99 after all costs stood at \$279,488. The trustees were gratified with the 6.1% return.

DU has not required further funding from the trust for wetland and waterfowl conservation during the last year so the investment has been allowed to increase. Remember that all donations to the trust are tax deductible, are invested and only the income goes to DU to assist conservation.

Treasurer's Report

Craig Worth

As requested by the Board, a simple statement of income and expenditure is published below.

As expected, revenue received from membership, donations and fundraising adequately covered our administration and Flight magazine costs.

Membership revenue of \$22,390 was only slightly down on the previous year.

Chapter income of \$27,046 and

conservation donations of \$28,530 covered our conservation project costs of \$46,635 for the year.

This year we also donated \$190,000 to NZWWT.

In summary, it was a year of consolidation but we were also able to focus on providing funding for conservation projects, which was very pleasing.

My only concern is the continuing decline in membership. This is somewhat disappointing and will need to be addressed by the Board in the forthcoming year.

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT For Year Ended 31 March 1999

Income		Expenses	
Membership	\$22,390	Administration	\$11,556
Donations & Fundraising	\$37,821	Conservation Projects	\$46,635
Conservation Donations	\$28,530	Flight Magazine	\$12,646
Other Income	\$ 2,184		
Total Income	\$90,925	Total Expenses	\$70,837
		Surplus	\$20,088
		Bank Balance as at 31 March 1999	\$51,606

Copies of a full set of audited accounts are available on request from the DU Treasurer, P.O. Box 5095, Hamilton.

25th Anniversary Annual Conference

Tokaanu, July 23-25, 1999

The Tokaanu Hotel is fully booked and units at a motel nearby are being booked as more conference applications are received. There are a few places remaining but members wishing to attend should not delay sending their applications.

Conference Programme Highlights

Friday 23 July: pre-conference evening get-together and a happy hour with special bar prices for all who arrive and stay Friday night.*

Saturday 24 July: AGM in the hotel's Waihi Conference Room, 9.30am. Complimentary tea and coffee available.

The Wetland Tour: departs immediately following the AGM. The coach tour will include a visit to the Manganui a te ao to see blue duck in the wild and a barbecue lunch with complimentary wine from Rongopai Wines. (Participants will be able to order wines for later delivery at

special conference prices.) The tour returns to Tokaanu around 4pm. Pre-dinner drinks at 7pm.

For those who do not wish to go on the Wetland Tour, fishing, skiing, shopping or walking will be among other attractions available.

Dinner will start at 7.45pm with an extra special auction to follow. Items not normally offered at Chapter dinners will be available, along with the best from Canada and USA. After the auction, party 'til late.

Sunday 25 July: video screenings in the Conference Room featuring American waterfowl and wetlands, with complimentary tea and coffee. The conference weekend will finish around midday on Sunday.

* Meals and drinks unless specified are not included.



FEATURE AUCTION ITEMS

- 8 Day Duck Hunting Trip to USA
- 1 Day Guided Fishing Trip to Nelson with Tony Entwistle, New Zealand's top guide - value over \$700
- 2 Day Hunting Trip to Poronui Station
- Polar Bear Sculpture
- Labrador Puppy Sculpture
- Lots of Art Prints & Special DU Items
- Plus: Someone will win a Return Trip to the DU 2000 Convention in Hawaii (subject to confirmation)

If you can't attend but would like to bid, ring a Director who will bid for you.

Where Have All the Ducks Gone ?

Based on thoughts by Graham Gurr and David Smith

There appears to have been a dramatic decline in mallard numbers this season and there is genuine concern on the part of the Fish and Game Council as a result of their surveys and anecdotal evidence.

There are a number of possible reasons for the decline in the Auckland/Waikato area. The floods destroyed a large number of nests. ECNZ dropped the level of Lake Taupo on a three-weekly cycle so any birds between the lake and the first Waikato River dam were flooded out each time they tried to re-establish their nests and the effect was felt right down the river.

When the floods finished, the drought started, which concentrated the birds where there was some water and avian botulism resulted.

Large areas of land were sprayed for crickets which it is believed killed a lot of birds.

The Whangamarino has been a desert all summer and 10 years ago it supported a population of 60,000 mallards. Lakes Waikere and Whangapae are both decaying, with little water going through them. Everything downstream has been affected and they are now supporting only 10% of the waterfowl of five to 10 years ago.

It is known that more adult birds are being harvested than juveniles which means the breeding stock is being reduced.

In the Wellington region, including Wairarapa, Fish and Game noted in their pre-season press release that although the 1998 spring was a good breeding season, the continuing effects of the very dry La Nina summer had been severe on duck survival.

The population dynamics are a cyclical thing and with fewer waterfowl breeding there is more feed and the bounce-back could be quite dramatic

It must be remembered, though, that fewer birds means the impact of predation is increased. Is it enough to step up predator control and leave the rest to nature, or should DU be doing more?

Clearly any increase in the absolute area of wetland available to all waterfowl will help to counter the impact of the kinds of influences noted above. If there is to be an increase, for whatever reasons, in the frequency of drought and other extreme weather events, the buffering effects of wetlands become more important. Wetlands in good condition will continue to provide abundant waterfowl for hunting, provide hunting areas, beautify the landscape and provide habitat for other wildlife species.

Raffle Results

The DU raffle was drawn on 14 May in Hamilton. The delay was caused by lost butts untraceable in the mail. 1. J. Badley, Te Kauwhata (1281); 2. P. Revell, Orewa (3221); 3. D. Yule, Palmerston North (3925); 4. M. Franklin, Auckland (1932); 5. J. Sutherland, Eketahuna (3493); 6. N. McArtney, Blenheim (4110); 7. M.E. Moony, Tirau (2836); 8. S. McAuley, Timaru (2648); 9. Lampp Family, Hunterville (2434); 10. R. Cottle, Otaki (2217).

Once again, our champion ticket seller was Joyce Brooks of Greytown who sold 20 books but not a winning ticket. Our thanks to Joyce for her magnificent effort.

Twitchers

Following Graham Gurr's account of his visit to the WWT Slimbridge centre in UK in the last issue of Flight, readers have inquired about the meaning of the term "twitcher".

The dictionary definition is, "A bird-watcher whose main interest is in the spotting of as many rare species as possible." Twitchers try to see and identify every living bird in the wild and tick it off their list. Some go to great and expensive lengths, like one twitcher who has dragged his family all over the world in pursuit of the final and ultimate tick.

The Great Escape

Only the circumstances of this story have been embellished to protect the innocent:

A Waikato royal swan breeder, identified here only by a reputation for selfless support of the Cuban rum industry, allowed his breeding pair and three cygnets to escape.

It was deduced that the birds would have gone downriver. Five loyal neighbours answered the call to form a posse and agreed that a stirrup cup or two would be appropriate before they set off.

In a dinghy loaded with nets, fuel for the outboard and crew, they set off. Almost immediately, the first of many disasters struck. Two of the party fell overboard and vanished in the treacherous shallows. The badly shaken survivors were hugely relieved by being able to save the bottles the luckless pair had been holding.

The swan appeared just as the outboard ran out of fuel. The tank was rapidly refilled and pursuit resumed. Almost immediately, the motor seized. No oil in the fuel.

Quickly, two members of the party were sent overland to head the swan off while the dinghy drifted downstream. The birds were duly caught and placed in the boat covered with net.

Getting home was a problem: five swan and three somewhat inebriated captors in a motorless boat facing an upstream trip against the current. It was either lighten the boat by consuming all the remaining alcohol, or drag it as far upstream as possible and then carry it overland.

In the event, mystified landowners along the way were not impressed by three slightly wobbly men attempting to carry a boat laden with five complaining swan across their properties and kept asking: "Why don't you use the outboard?" A party member was heard to say, "If we're asked that again, I'll kill the sod!"

Fortunately the party arrived home. Tired, wet, hungry and sober, they proceeded to rectify their condition in reverse order.

All's well that ends well; the swan survived and the three cygnets are at Broadlands Wildfowl Trust awaiting pinioning. Offers are sought for an outboard motor.

MAGPIE DECOYS



Silhouette Magnum life-like Decoys

used for magpie eradication. Available from

selected stores or send your cheque to

HunterCraft, 697 Tweed St., Invercargill.

\$14.30 per two postage paid.

Phone (03) 216 9079 Fax (03) 216 7075

Ducks Unlimited's History in Flight

From days spent poring over the past 99 issues of Flight Magazine, Alan Wilks has culled some highlights which indicate some milestones DU has passed in the journey through its first 25 years...

1974...

A four page "Newsletter No. 1", with the original Ducks Unlimited logo (to be used until it was replaced in 1992), was published in August 1974 and supported by Canadian Pacific Airlines. DU boasted 45 members, including two life members, Ian Pirani and Cheryl Pirani. Cheryl Pirani edited Flight for many years. When the first edition carrying the Flight masthead was published in December 1974, membership had risen to 100.

Flight 3 announced that Operation Gretel was under way and a raffle was run to help finance the nest-box programme. DU had taken part in the 1975 Auckland Game Fair, displaying 150 waterfowl on a pond with a bridge, both built by DU members. Northern TV covered the display. Membership stood at 119.

The first Annual Conference, to be held at the Chartwell Tavern, Hamilton, on August 2, 1975, was announced in Flight 4. The launch of Operation Pateke was reported.

Flight 5 saw the magazine double in size to eight pages. The Gretel Raffle raised a net \$406.64. Membership was 159, plus four life members.

At the first AGM, Jack Worth gave an update of Operation Pateke, which aimed to supply the then Wildlife Service with 190 birds annually from 1979 to 1984 with a Wildlife Service subsidy of \$5 a bird which DU would match and meet all the costs of transportation to the release sites.

Also published was an extract from a letter from Dale Whitesell, Executive Vice-president of DU Inc. "Thank you so very much for the copies of Flight. All of you are to be congratulated on the great progress and achievements of DUNZ. If there is anything that DU Inc. can do to assist you in your efforts, please let us know..."

In December 1975, Flight 6 advertised the sale of the first DU T-shirts. Five pairs of brown teal were held by members for breeding.

The first visit by DU Canada Director, Gerry Malaher, of Winnipeg, was mentioned in Flight 7 and DU Inc.'s 23rd National President, Gaylord Donnelley, was expected.

The setting up of 100 grey teal nest-boxes on the Flexman property at Pokeno was reported in September 1976 in Flight 9.

Flight in 1977 reported DU Canada Chairman, Rod Hunter's visit (March issue - NB. Months in brackets hereafter refer to

A facsimile edition of the first-ever DU "Newsletter" published in August 1974, which took the name Flight later that year, is reprinted below and on the following pages.



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 particular quarterly issue) and the arrival of the first Canada geese from the South Island for release with the assistance of a senior field officer of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society (June).

DU's grey teal recovery efforts were supported by \$500 from the Ministry of Recreation and Sport for nest-boxes, and the issue of Flight in December 1978 carrying this news noted that 75 brown teal had been reared for release. Two were to be sent to WWT in UK the following year.

1981...

Operation Whio, which began in 1981, started with blue duck being distributed to members for breeding. Flight (December) reported that 101 brown teal were bred in captivity by members in the 80-81 season and nearly 600 grey teal nest-boxes had been erected throughout the country. Some 6,000 eggs were expected to hatch.

Highlights in Flight in 1982 included: the report (March) that another 50 Canada geese had been brought to the North Island; the



establishment of operation Whio; the expansion of the magazine to 20 pages; notice (June) of the first Tokaanu AGM to be held that July. Net figure raised \$5,100; and the start of a longstanding sponsorship of the back cover of Flight by Winchester (September). Cheryl Pirani retired as Flight Editor with the December 1982 issue, having produced the first 32 issues.

Wellington members were hosted by Jim and Doreen Glover at their Pauatahanui property in March, 1983. The report in Flight for June 1983 noted that among notable members attending was actor Alan Jervis (stage name of one Alan Wilks). An historic first was recorded (September, No 33, 1983 issue): DU's spending \$2,000 on grey teal habitat development at Pokeno. Operation Wetlands is launched. Flight gained a colour cover (December). An edition of Country Calendar covering DU was screened in September. Total membership had approached 1000.

In 1984, Flight announced the establishment of the Bill Barrett Trophy (June) and support of Grant Dumbell's Ph.D. research into brown teal. Horrie Sinclair's gifting of the Sinclair Wetlands to DU at the July 1984 Conference at Tokaanu, was news in the September issue. At the same conference, Craig Worth (now Treasurer and Vice-president) presented \$2000 from the Hamilton Chapter. Jack Worth was the first recipient of the Bill Barrett Trophy; \$1,000 was spent on fencing brown teal habitat at Matapouri and 147 brown teal had been raised in captivity in 1983-84 with 97 being released.

1985...

The expenditure of \$4000 on wetland development on the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa featured in the June 1985, Flight 44. This was to produce some 20 acres of open water from an area which had been drained. (The property was sold a few years ago and the developer drained the wetland.) A QEII Covenant was placed on the Sinclair Wetlands.

The December 1985 Flight reported that 127 brown teal had been raised in the 1984-85 year.

Horrie Sinclair received an MBE for his efforts for conservation in early 1986. The

2

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

March 1986 issue reporting this also detailed plans underway for building a complex at the Sinclair Wetlands to house Horrie, provide visitor accommodation, a workshop, etc. DU funds stood at nearly \$50,000. Operation Royal Swan was launched.

The Home Lagoon project in Wairarapa (June, 1986) was to be funded by DU, the Wildlife Service, the Wellington Acclimatisation Society and the Wairarapa Catchment Board. At a cost of \$14,000, 20ha of wetland was restored. The same issue, No 48, announced a Wildlife Service grant of \$5,000 to DU for habitat creation. The first two pairs of blue duck went to WWT Slimbridge, UK.

The start of construction at the Sinclair Wetlands was reported in the June 1987 Flight, as was DOC's approval for placement of five pairs of blue duck with members for breeding.

On February 5, 1988, the Sinclair Education Centre opened. Flight No 55 of March 1988 reported that Horrie Sinclair was to move into his new accommodation. Total cost: \$275,000.

1988 saw more firsts: the hatching of the first blue ducklings at WWT Slimbridge and the establishment of new DU Chapters in Manawatu and Whakatane (June, 1988).

The appointment of DU's first Executive Director, Dr Grant Dumbell, was featured in the September 1988 issue of Flight. DU had also purchased the 150ha Pearce Wetlands for \$110,000. Five representatives of DU Inc. and DU Canada and their wives visited and presented \$40,000 for the Sinclair Wetlands. DU reclaimed a 2.5ha lagoon in Northern Wairarapa.

1990...

Of particular note in the September 1990 Flight was mention of the establishment of the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust as a funding base for DU.

DU's launch in Australia was a topic in the March 1991 Flight. More sobering were President Neil Hayes's comment that it was "...Not possible to provide financial support for wetland creation until the Pearce Wetlands mortgage is paid off..."

Later that year, DU assisted with a wetland development at Carterton Golf Course in Wairarapa. Waterfowl breeding successes included 135 brown teal and nine blue duck and the establishment of five new breeding pairs (September, No 69, 1991).

DU's subsidising of the Makarua Swamp development in the Manawatu to the tune of \$7,000 was reported in the April 1993 Flight. The October issue of that year reported the launch of the Hawkes Bay Chapter and the establishment of the Andrew Dixon MacMaster Trophy. As reported in the September 1994 issue, this

was first presented to Masterton Intermediate along with a \$500 grant. In the same period, DU subsidised the Kowhai Flat development in Wairarapa.

1995...

Events recorded in Flight during 1995 included: the WWT capital's reaching \$22,500 (January); the creation of a new water source for Home Lagoon with a \$6,000 DU subsidy (July); the placing of a QEII Covenant on the Pearce Wetlands and funds invested in the WWT topping



For Wetlands and Waterfowl

DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

3

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.

\$50,000 (October, Flight No 85).
 Flight recorded DU's fluctuating fortunes in 1996: the obligation imposed by the Sinclair Wetlands was, by 1996, weighing heavily on DU which had borrowed heavily to meet its financial commitments (January). A brighter note was the sponsorship award to Canadian Airlines. The Pearce Wetlands were to be sold to reduce debt (April). The 1996 sponsorship award was given to the Phrazyn Trust. DU's debt had reached \$159,000 (July).
 DU's efforts to preserve endangered

wildfowl received a boost when it received a Lotteries grant for the Chatham Islands Brown Teal Re-establishment Survey. Dow-Elanco donated \$20,000 to the WWT for blue duck work (October). The April 1997 Flight carried the news of the Board's termination of the Executive Director's contract as a cost-cutting measure. DU returned to being a purely voluntary organisation. Three blue ducks were sent to WWT Slimbridge. In July 1997, DU received an offer for the Pearce Wetlands.

The January 1998 Flight, No 94, was able to report that both Pearce and Sinclair Wetlands had been sold. DU was now debt-free and the WWT funds stood at \$270,000. DU actively began to seek applications for wetland creation.

Successive issues of Flight from this point featured the wetlands which were benefiting from this revived capacity to do what DU is all about. The April 1998 issue noted that 27 applications for subsidies had been received, culminating in the announcement in July this year that over \$100,000 worth of wetlands had been created in the past year with subsidies of over \$54,000. This included involvement in a wetland development on Mana Island in association with DOC. In the same period a workshop was funded for blue duck breeders, and DU was gratified to see Jack Worth, who started Operation Gretel 25 years ago, take on the job again.

4

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 Wildfowling 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

A Message from

Canadian Airlines International

Canadian Airlines International congratulates Ducks Unlimited New Zealand on reaching its 25th Anniversary. One of Canadian Airlines' predecessors, Canadian Pacific Airlines, was a foundation sponsor of DUNZ and supported it in one of its first major promotions and membership drives which was held in conjunction with the Game Fair at the Clevedon Showgrounds.

Canadian Pacific Airlines, along with three other Canadian based airlines, was integrated into Canadian Airlines International in 1987. Over the years Canadian Airlines have assisted DUNZ with both passenger and cargo transportation between New Zealand and Canada, helping DUNZ maintain a strong relationship with DU Canada.

Canadian Airlines values its association with DUNZ and wishes it every success as we move into the next 25 years and a new millennium.

Steve Rice

Regional Manager New Zealand, Fiji and South Pacific Islands.

(Steve Rice attended the first AGM in 1975 and Canadian Pacific Airlines supported the first newsletter with advertising - see opposite. Ducks Unlimited gratefully acknowledges the outstanding contribution made by Canadian Airlines International and its predecessors over the last 25 years.)

Travel with CPAir is a global affair.



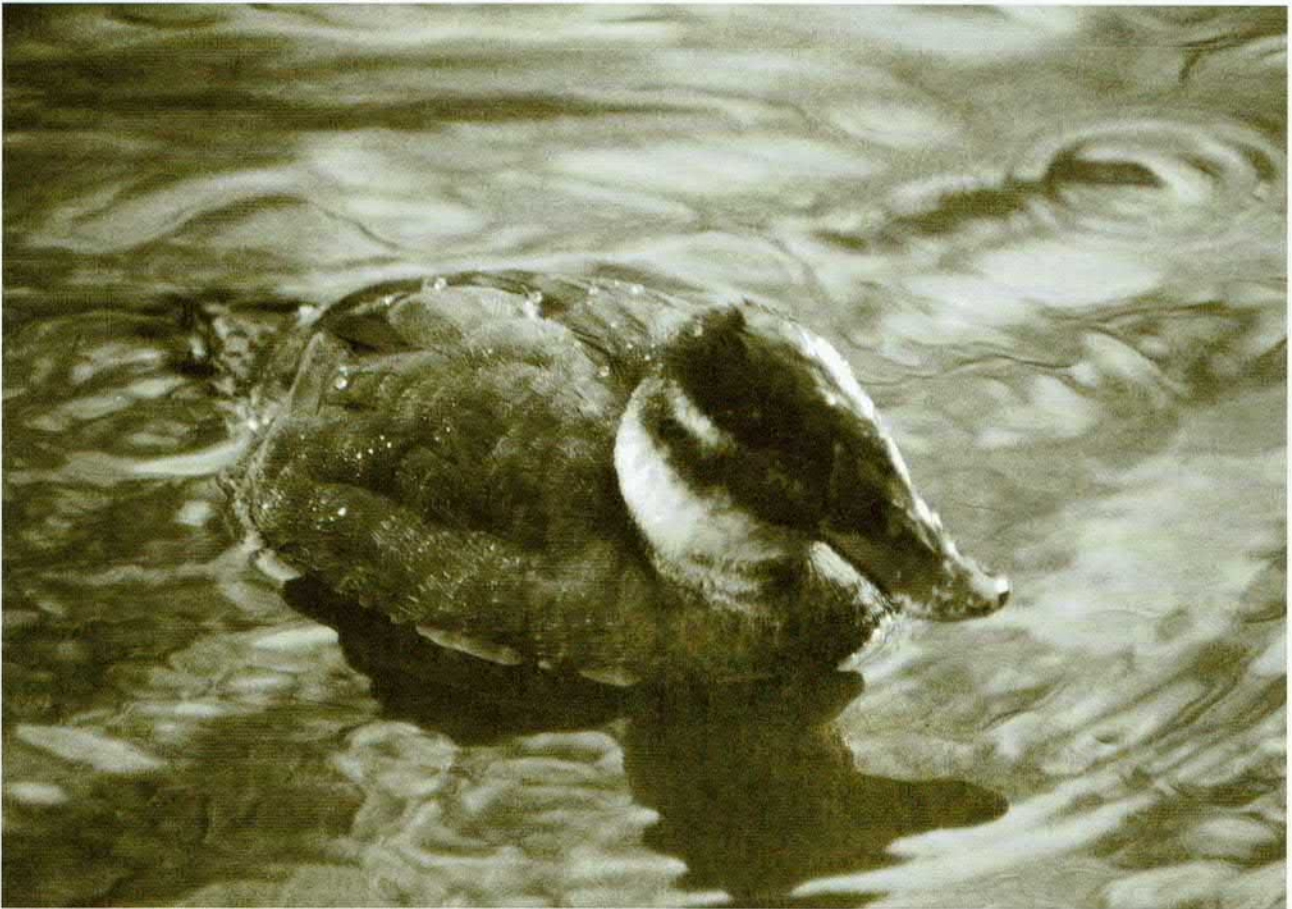


WINCHESTER®

MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.



Marketed in the North Island by Kilwell Sports Ltd.
and S&R Marston in the South Island.



Stiff-tailed duck, W.W.T. Slimbrige, UK. Photo: Graham Gurr.

**Proud to support Ducks Unlimited
New Zealand Inc.
in their efforts to conserve
New Zealand's wetlands and waterfowl.**