

Flight

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2004

ISSUE 119



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.



wetland care NEW ZEALAND

Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is to: 'Harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.'

Funding

Funding for projects comes mainly from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust, which was established in 1991 and has underwritten wetland development projects to a significant level. Extra

resources have come through fundraising and corporate sponsorships like that from Banrock Station Wines. Wetland Care New Zealand actively seeks funding from private and public sources for its work.

Partnerships

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. Alliances are being established with conservation groups like DOC, NZ Fish and Game, Forest and Bird and regional councils.

Taking Care of Wetlands

Wetland Care New Zealand's current and completed projects and partnerships include:

Ashhurst Domain Wetland - Manawatu
Camm Brown Teal Wetland - Northland
Home Lagoon - Wairarapa
Karori Sanctuary Wetland - Wellington
Magill Wetland - Reporoa
Mana Island Brown Teal Wetland
Pearce Wetlands - Wairarapa
Sinclair Wetlands - Otago
Masterton Intermediate wetland - Wairarapa
Matuku wetland - Auckland
Tapp wetlands - Northland

For further information, please contact:
William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand, phone 04 478 4335.

DUNZ 30th Anniversary Conference

23-25 July 2004

Venue: Rydges Hotel, 140 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North

Programme:

Friday 23 July, 7pm — Registration and drinks.

Saturday 24 July, 9am — AGM. 10.30am Wetland Tour (three different sites).

12 noon Lunch at Nokomai (Dave and Fran Gibbs' garden park). 6.30pm Drinks — Silent Auction begins. 7.30pm Award Presentations. 8.00pm Dinner and Main Auction.

Sunday 25 July, 9.30am Presentation from Blue Duck Recovery Group.

Room Rate: Rydges Hotel (20 rooms booked) \$128.25 GST inclusive.

Full registration: \$80.00 (AGM, Wetland Tour, morning tea and BBQ lunch, Saturday Night Dinner and Auction). Wetland Tour and BBQ lunch \$20.00. Saturday Night \$50.00 (Dinner and Auction only)

Room deposit \$50.00. The normal Hotel room rate is \$157.50 GST inclusive. The Coachman Motel corporate rate (next door) is \$129.38 inclusive.



From the Flight Desk

No apologies for this being a watery issue, since February went down the rivers (do we treat our water arteries as drains too often?) in so many areas. I hope the sun has helped to lift spirits.

Feedback has been great since the last issue, thank you all. Seven people said they like the 'eco-info' in Flight and one had a different point of view (see Letters page 6). With a 60/40 approximate ratio of conservationists to hunters these days, and with DU sometimes sitting uncomfortably in between (perhaps one could argue that there's a better view from the fence), these issues are important and need debating. There are several national organisations for

hunters, such as DU's new partner the NZ Wildfowlers' Association, while others like Fish and Game and DU have a wider environmental brief and good records of achievement in conservation. Please send us your views.

The 30th anniversary approaches, with a reminder to send special items for Flight 120 – wetland histories, people profiles (maybe you knew a passionate DU member who deserves remembering), interesting quotes and good photographs, including old black and white prints. You have until mid-May to think about it and let us know.

Juliet Owen



INSIGHT

Ross Cottle
President

Over the last 150 years the New Zealand landscape has changed dramatically, as we all know. Large amounts of native forest have been cut and huge wetland areas drained. All this, to achieve greater production from the land and therefore greater export earnings to build the infrastructure of the New Zealand we live in today.

Over the last 25 years or so, there has been a change in attitude towards our environment and the modification it has undergone. There has also been quite a lot of finger-pointing at the farming sector about these changes. This is quite unfair in my opinion. Successive governments on both sides of the political spectrum have for many years, through the Marginal Lands Board and suspensory loans for example, encouraged land development and increased production. There was little thought given to limiting the effects of this.

There is now more emphasis on balance and the pendulum is swinging back in the other direction. We must take advantage of this to save and enhance as many of the remaining wetland areas as we can.

If any DU member has a project, please feel free to contact the Wetland Care Co-ordinator William Abel to see if you qualify for assistance. Remember though, we are all volunteers and can't always turn up immediately!

This is Ross's first Insight as President. We look forward to your insights, ideas and energy over the next two years Ross, and hope you will enjoy the flight. Many thanks to Neil Candy for his thought and support in the job, and our best wishes to you as DUNZ Chairman as it takes off into the next 30 years — Ed.

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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.

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

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Cover photograph: Mincher wetland, Coatesville, Auckland region; Chris Bindon and Henning Hovmand in boat. Photo: Angela Spooner.



OUR People



Audrey Pritt

A member since 1989 when she took over her late husband's subscription, Audrey has always shown a great interest in DU activities and is a familiar face at conference weekends.

She was born in New Plymouth and the family moved to Ohakune when she was six, where she attended the primary school and then Ohakune District High. On leaving school Audrey worked locally in stationery shops and during the war operated a telephone exchange for NZ Railways.

In 1949 she returned to New Plymouth to do a hairdressing course, then worked in Hawera and Taihape before opening her own salon in Ohakune.

She married Bill in 1951 and produced three daughters on the family farm Mitredale, where she still lives with daughter Diane, of cookbook fame.

Her interests have been tennis in earlier years and since 1962, golf — she still plays nine holes a week.

Audrey tells us she has had ducks, swamps and diggers all her married life and still has them because daughter Di has caught the bug!

Pikes Lagoon

John McKinstry and Bruce McKenzie bought the 17ha property just over a year ago and they lease the grazeable land to a neighbouring dairy farmer. The property is bounded by Carter's Reserve to the west and the Ruamahanga River to the south and east, which makes the area prone to flooding. (see page 9).

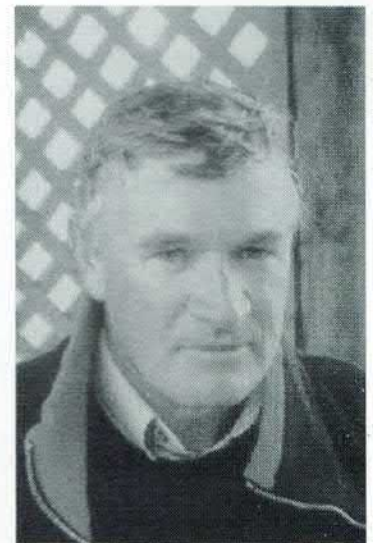
The area was very overgrown with willow, blackberry and gorse, with numerous old poplar stumps that have proved very hard to burn. Bryant and May, a previous owner, had planted the poplars to be used for match wood but due to rust infection the trees could not be used and the land was clear-felled, leaving the stumps.

John and Bruce have used a 20 tonne digger to remove willows, and appreciate the assistance of the King of Wairarapa wetland development Jim Campbell and his vintage HD5 bulldozer. They have created two long narrow ponds with two islands and plan a considerably larger area. Water sources are springs, a water race and a natural creek. The area is stockproof with a seven wire post and batten fence.

There are mallard and spoonbill and large numbers of grey teal, which are using nest boxes. Predator control is done with bait stations and the Regional Council has undertaken two control programmes. They intend to re-establish native flora.

They propose to build a loft in a deer shed, to be used as a lodge, hopefully above flood level!

John and Bruce, we wish you well.



John McKinstry

A foundation member, John was born in Masterton and raised in the Wainuioru district nearby, where he attended the primary school and later Wairarapa College. He and his wife Irene have four children and two grandchildren.

John is a sheep and cattle farmer with forestry interests and an emphasis on breeding Romney sheep and Hereford cattle. He also does contract hay-carting.

His other interests include the gun club and clay bird shooting, duck hunting, deer stalking, fishing and conservation work.



Which way DU?

Some comments from interested non-members, overheard around NZ...

Publicity: people don't know or care about DU unless they know someone involved. Others have heard of it and assume it's 'justa buncha duck shooters'. (You could pay for a bus trip by collecting gold coins every time this one is uttered!)

Wetland and waterfowl expertise — could DU offer speakers, site visits etc for students at all levels, and set up partnerships with conservation courses at tertiary level.

Does DU have a stand at the National Field Days?

Is there a website that people can visit...? Brochures, for example in Farmlands outlets?

What can members do? If you don't keep your copies of Flight, where do they end up, in the fire? You could help to promote DU by passing them on or leaving them somewhere — waiting rooms, bus stops, tourist outlets, tramping huts, baches, motels, libraries, schools...or just dump them - in plastic bags on park benches. They might have interesting adventures.

A member suggests directions

Extracts from a letter to the Board, October 2003:

'Neil has invited member input to the Board's preparation of a strategic plan. My views are that the strategic direction and plan will no doubt be framed within our excellent Mission [see page 3].

This can best be achieved through active successful chapters. It's like a small business, which depends on the knowledge and enthusiasm of one or two at the helm and the guidance of 'outside' professionals or advisors or mentors.

My suggestion is that DU directors adopt a responsibility for the chapter/s in their home regions, to encompass chapters and projects, and they should all provide an overview report to Board meetings. My other point concerns conservation of threatened waterfowl. I have heard talk of DUNZ perhaps becoming just a habitat-based organisation. This long-standing member would be totally opposed to this. With two endemic duck species currently

in real danger of extinction, this change would be unbelievable. One of the most important things we can do is to increase public awareness and keep pressure on DOC. As to strategy, I support maximum activity to save the brown teal and blue duck.'

A spinoff from a higher DU profile would be increased membership.

— *Howard Egan, Carterton*

Chapter reports

Auckland

The chapter is organising a combined DU and Sportways Gun Shed 'Duck Night' and Auction. It is being held in the Delightful Lady Lounge, Alexandra Park, Greenlane Road, Epsom on Tuesday 20 April, starting at 7pm. The function will include an auction of DU items, raffle, duck calling competition, products display, videos and a presentation on steel shot and other gamebird regulations changes for the 2004 Season. A cash bar will operate.

Contact Steve Rice, phone 09 969 7477 or Graham Gurr, phone 09 489 5337 for more information.

A September field trip is being organised for the combined Auckland and Waikato Chapters, to visit Jim and Faye Nilsson's Coatesville property Twin Lakes. The property has impressive landscaped gardens and an extensive range of trees. The Nilssons also have a great collection of both caged and free-ranging birds including a number of pure species of pheasant -- probably the most diverse range of water fowl species found anywhere together in New Zealand. This exciting day trip is planned for Saturday 4 September. More details in Flight's July issue.

The Auckland Chapter will hold the annual Dinner and Auction on Saturday 2 October 2004 at the Papatoetoe Cosmopolitan Club. The bar will open at 7pm followed by a buffet dinner. Ticket details will be advertised in the July issue of Flight.

DU welcomes these new members:

Auckland — Ray Matheson, Megan Hood, John McDowell

Waikato — Philip Dench

Manawatu — Philip Soler, Jim Speedy

Wairarapa — Gretchen Dick, Thomas Colton, Garry Pilcher, David Hooper, Louise Jackson

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Wairarapa

Annual Clay Bird Shoot 2003

Held at the Gladstone Pistol Club

A disappointing turnout of only 55 shooters meant that the day was not a particularly profitable one for the Wairarapa Chapter, however all enjoyed a good day's shooting with 100 targets.

Overall High Gun - Joe Bannister, 91

Top Woman Shooter - Rosie Quirke, 71

Top Junior Shooter - Phil Hooper, 57

Manawatu once again won the Chapter Challenge by a miserable three targets. We will get you next time!

Our thanks go to our major sponsor Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing, and Gladstone Vineyard. Special thanks to the Pistol Club for the use of their grounds.

— *Ross Cottle*

Results of DU Raffle 2003

1 Philips 29in TV, A. Mitchell

2 Philips Home Cinema DVD, L. Dicky

3 Hunting & Fishing Voucher, S. Loach

4 Philips 15in TV, K. Lorrigan

5 Philips DVD, P. C. Crawshaw

6 9ct Gold Sapphire ring, J. Linderman

7 Philips Portable CD Player, M. R. Curd

8 Breville Crock Pot, J. H. Gordon

9 Sunbeam Sandwich Maker, D. Wilks

10 George Foreman Grill, A. Perano

My thanks to our sponsors Philips and NZ Hunting & Fishing for their generous support, and to Rana Campbell for the hours of work she put into collecting and tabulating returned books and depositing the money. The net profit is about \$10,000, howzat for a great effort - good news for a change!

— *Ross Cottle*

Project Reports – see Bird Talk

Bill Barrett Award 2003 — Chris Bindon

Chris was born and educated in Warkworth. He owns a lifestyle block there, and has developed a pond and planted the property with many native and exotic birds and insect-attracting trees. He lives with his partner Sharon in Waitakere City where he works as a landscaper for the City Council.

Chris has always had a passion for conservation, joining DU in 1989. He joined Forest and Bird's Waitakere Branch committee in the same year and is a member of six conservation organisations in all.

Brown teal is his favourite NZ waterfowl. He has made and distributed around 400 nesting boxes for grey teal with his friend Henning Hovmand, also a Forest and Bird Waitakere Branch member and a retired farmer. Chris has erected 200 to 300 grey teal

nest boxes on various wetlands in the last few years (see cover photograph).

He manages the 115 grey teal nest boxes through Operation Gretel in the Windermere Game Reserve at Pokeno, this being Gretel's largest assembly of grey teal nest boxes.

Chris hopes to work in the future with Waikato Chapter members Jack Worth, Ray Hayward and Murray Shaw in helping to acquire and distribute NZ shoveler among DU members' waterfowl collections, to help this species increase in more areas.

He enjoys field trips with others who appreciate New Zealand forests and wetlands, and helping with the Auckland Chapter's annual dinners & auctions.

The Bill Barrett Trophy acknowledged Chris's years of dedicated grey teal work for Ducks Unlimited. He was nominated by Jack Worth, Waikato Chapter.



DU Board member Jim Law at Wairio. Photo: Wairarapa Times Age.

Wairio wetland recovery plan

Plans are being made to restore the Wairio Block, on the eastern edge of Lake Wairarapa, to its original natural state. The Board's May meeting will discuss a Wairarapa Chapter proposal by Howard Egan and Barry Silvester. The proposal has been submitted to DOC for consideration. The plan would allow water from the lake to be retained in a permanent Wairio wetland of about 40ha, stretching over about 1.6km.

Wairio was badly affected by the change in water levels caused by the construction of the Lower Valley Development Scheme in the 1960s and early 1970s. Huge areas of wetlands were drained for farming under the scheme and water levels artificially held by canals, channels, pumping and barrage gates to control lake levels.

As environmental issues became better understood, an attempt was made to partially re-flood Wairio with a channel and earth dams, but these failed, mainly through erosion by wind and water.

Wairio is controlled by DOC under the Lake Wairarapa Wetlands Action Plan. Lake Wairarapa supports populations of rare plants, fish and birds and is seen as a wetland of international importance, as DOC conservator Alan Ross says.

If the plan comes to fruition it could culminate in the building of an all-weather public walkway to the main lake. The project is expected to take up to three years.

Sources: Howard Egan; Wairarapa Times Age report, 10 February 2004.

We will bring you more on this exciting proposal in future issues —ED.

Manawatu member Chris Pullar has asked for more items in Flight on controlling wetland water levels (recent weather notwithstanding). There are many different scenarios ranging from the very basic, such as putting removable boards in the outflow, to those with major implications and engineering and local body requirements, says Lois Tapp. 'The value of being able to manage water levels was very apparent during the last storm. We received

113ml of rain in 12 hours and all systems worked as intended. We were able to make the unfinished site safe and there was no damage,' she says. (see feature article, Flight 117)

We need members' items on this issue — suggestions, successes, processes, pitfalls and paperwork. Basic notes will be fine, with photos, if you have them (remember to let me know first if you're sending digital shots —Ed.)

Letters to the Editor

— One of the reasons that DU membership is at its lowest point for years now is that the magazine (Flight) is almost anti-hunting in its contents. There are over 100,000 shooters in NZ and about 300 belong to DU. Printing a hunting story may help to redress the poor hunting membership.

— Jack Worth (Hamilton)

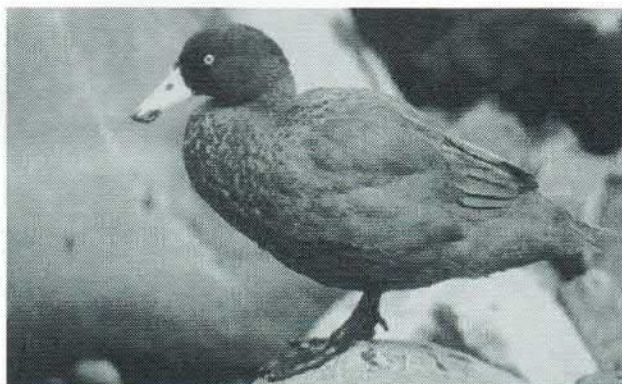
In past years hunting material in Flight has been the exception rather than the rule. Between 1977 -1990 (when unpaid subs were still counted as memberships), 18 issues had no hunting items at all. With very few exceptions, the last nine issues have referred directly or indirectly to hunting, and every issue mentions grey teal nest boxes, one of Operation Gretel's aims being to increase the population and add this bird to the game bird list.

Flight works to illustrate DU's mission statement 'For Wetlands and Waterfowl'. While not a hunting organisation, DU is aware that many members are shooters who wish, by way of wetland conservation, to put something back so that their sport survives. DU is completely neutral about duck hunting and appreciates that game birds need to be controlled for the benefit of other waterfowl and their habitats

—Alan Wilks.

What do YOU think?

Bird Talk



Blue duck. Photo courtesy Department of Conservation.

Whio

Summary of the 2003 report

The Central North Island Blue Duck Conservation Charitable Trust contributed significantly to work in the first two areas.

Wanganui — A pilot project over the last year involved installing stoat traps along 9.5km of the Manganui-a-te-ao River and a major effort to band and monitor birds. Eighteen pairs attempted to nest, one pair nesting twice. Floods may have been the key factor in high levels of chick mortality from broods that did hatch — of 43 ducklings hatched only 13 survived to fledge. In the last year nearly 50 birds have been banded. Trapping has caught nearly 50 stoats, over 100 rats, two cats and 15 hedgehogs. It was very encouraging to see so many chicks on the river.

(Nic Peet reported in a Dominion Post item on 6 March that high river levels had delayed DOC plans to move some birds from a river near Raetihi, home to one of the key blue duck populations, to Mt Taranaki. Staff could not check the birds till river levels dropped, and plans to catch the last brood of four had been ditched. 'It's likely that they've been lost in the flooding,' Nic said.)

Egmont National Park — After several years of the reintroduction programme it is now clear that without adequate stoat control we will not establish a population in the park. Over 550 trap boxes were placed, particularly around rivers used by blue duck. Well over 100 stoats and 300 rats were caught together with significant numbers of ferrets, weasels and hedgehogs. Eleven blue duck survive in the park with at least one female paired up. A significant number of captive-bred females are due for release in March and April — many thanks to breeders who have raised birds this year. [Peter reported that nine more birds were released into the park on 8 March.]

Fiordland and West Coast — This breeding season has been a bit brighter with large-scale stoat trapping and video nest monitoring under way. Stoat trapping in the Arthur Valley began in March 2003. Fourteen ducklings from four broods made it to the river and 10 still survive in spite of a massive flood. These are the first seen on the Arthur River since the study began in 2000.

The Clinton population has suffered from nest predation. We began monitoring pairs in the Cleddau, Tutoko, and Gulliver Rivers with nine ducklings hatching. There are a few clutches on the West Coast — We hope to put transmitters on all ducklings prior to fledging and re-survey the main study rivers.

Tongariro-Taupo — With DOC assistance, Whakamanu Wildlife surveyed the upper Whanganui, Whakapapa and Mangatepopo rivers in December 2003.

A condition of Genesis Energy's resource consent for water extraction is to measure the impact of increased water flow on blue

duck and their habitat. Productivity appears to have been low with very few juveniles recorded [the floods in late February will not have helped]. All birds seen in the December survey were banded with the aim of a fully banded population for the 2004-05 season.

Nelson / Marlborough — The Flora whio project is about killing stoats and putting ducks back. Working with local community group Friends of Flora to protect 5000ha of catchment, particularly targeting stoats. Whio pairs in Flora in 1990's down to one lone male.

Six hundred traps are on the hill at 100m spacings along lines approximately 1km apart. This meant making 500 tunnels and cutting 35km of track. Very busy! All boxes will have been set for two months before the return of our 10 chicks.

Transmitters placed on females of three pairs in Kahurangi. One pair lost clutch to flooding and did not re-nest, five fertile eggs taken from a second pair and four chicks (one male, three female) survive in captivity. This pair re-nested and has four chicks on the river. Six fertile eggs taken from third pair, all hatched. Ten whio are being raised by wonderful Anne Richardson at Peacock Springs for release in late March or early April. We will have a bit of an event and have invited Anne, Lady Issac and Peter.

East Coast — The Te Waiti juveniles were wiped out by October floods, only one juvenile produced this season. Thirteen adult pairs were found during the survey with the majority in moult indicating chick loss and not going to breed again. The Tauranga (non-treatment site) had a similar result, two juveniles and eight pairs.

The Takaputahi survey found seven birds: three pairs (up two from last year) and only one sub-adult. A local resident said the flood level was higher than he had seen it in the past 35 years.

Blue Duck Recovery Group: Peter Russell, Murray Willans, Tim Shaw, Nic Peet, KerryAnne Edge, Nic Etheridge, Murray Williams, Andrew Glaser, John Lyall (see back cover photo).

(See Flight 118 for Peter Russell's report. The full report is available from the Editor.)

Pateke Roundup February 2004

Captive programme — Kevin Evans

Total national numbers are now 37 ducklings. With a bit of luck we will have a few more late clutches with this wet weather. Peacock Springs is holding 18 teal for release at Moehau in May. The blue ducks will start being transferred for release shortly so we can then look at getting more teal down there. We hope to start a trial of the new conditioning diet shortly. A couple of people are interested in the captive programme and Claudia Duncan's Waikanae aviaries are nearly ready.

Brown Teal Conservation Trust — Neil Hayes

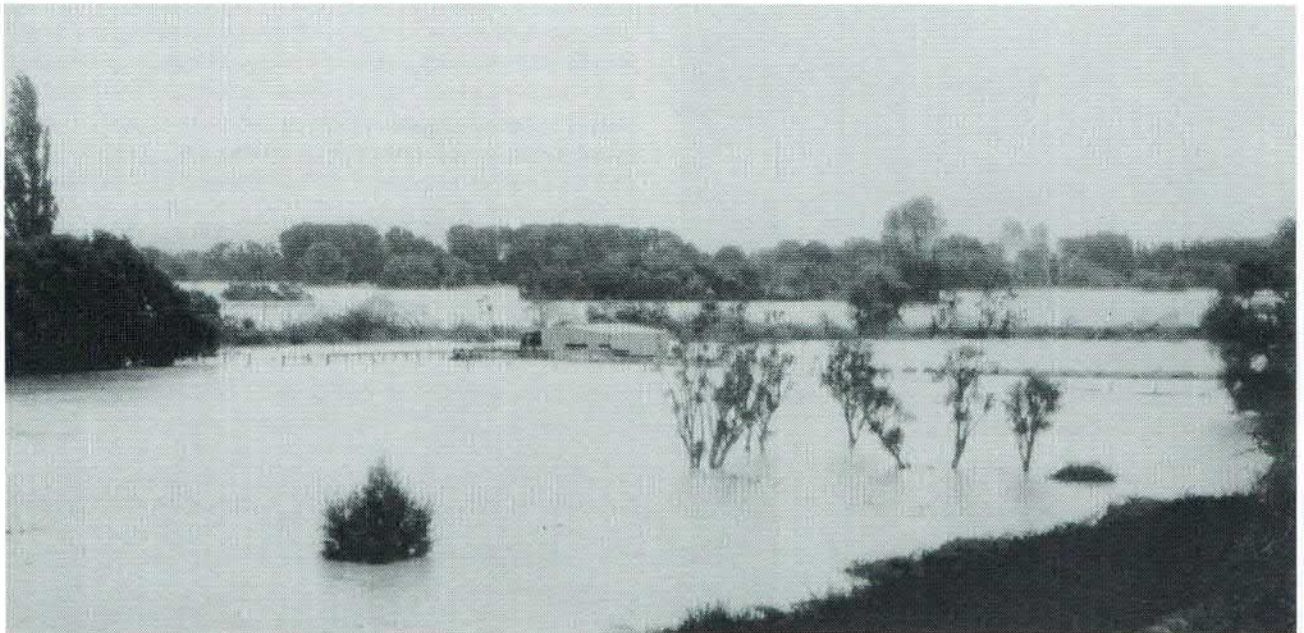
Still eight reared for the season, but we believe another bird is sitting. The seven birds in the new flock-mating aviary all look very healthy and two pairs should be ready for removal around mid March. The new aviary is shaping up to be a winner with a large pond, six loafing platforms, one feeding station and a good quantity of natural vegetation (nothing was planted) providing adequate cover during the day.

The new brochure has been well received and membership has had a healthy boost.

Continued on page 10...

FLOOD

Many thanks to these members for taking the time to send their comments at a very hard time.



Pikes Lagoon. Photo: John McInstry.

Julie Candy: You've seen it on TV, read about it in the paper, maybe even checked out the internet (www.ourregion.co.nz has some graphic photos), but until you're out there seeing the devastation for yourself it is hard to comprehend. This is the flood of 2004. Bigger than the flood of '53, they say.

Our farm at Woodville suffered some minor damage — about 25 slips, some taking out fences; a couple of trees down and half a dozen shorn lambs dead from exposure. Around us there are more scenes of devastation. Just a couple of farms away about 25ac of steep hillside has completely slipped away, leaving a pile of debris at the bottom and just rock and dirt on the hill face. This will take years to recover.

Meanwhile it was disastrous down on the Moutoa near Foxton. The spillway banks had burst in the early hours of Tuesday morning, flooding over 2000ha of farmland, houses and cowsheds. Neil's niece Kylie had heard the rush of water, grabbed her kids and she and her partner rushed up the road to wake neighbours. No time to get anything, just get the kids and get out. The houses were left with water up to the eaves.

Neil and I turned up to Manawatu College on Friday 20 February to offer assistance at the Civil Defence Evacuation base. The whiteboards of the Home Economics room were filled with evacuees' cell phone numbers, tallies of cows distributed to local farms, rosters for milking and offers of grazing. There were plates of donated baking, tea and coffee and volunteers and evacuees were preparing meals. One of the guys had just come in from milking and told us of cows only used to herringbones now being milked in rotary sheds and having to 'persuade' every cow onto the platform for the first couple of milkings. Other cows from rotary sheds were for the moment being milked in herringbone sheds, creating similar problems.

Darryl from Landcorp's Whirokino Station set about allocating us a task, but every sentence was interrupted with another call on his cell phone as the logistics were sorted. Soon we were on the job as navigators and assistants to stock-truck driver Graham from United Transport. He was from Whangarei, and after delivering some animals to Taupo had been sent on down as a volunteer to the Landcorp farms.

Things progressed well until we picked up a load from Paul Barber's

farm. The farm we collected them from at Foxton normally milks 1000 cows, but had been milking an extra 650 belonging to various different sharemilkers. There had been a mammoth job of not only getting the animals distributed to where they could feed and be milked, but also drafting them into appropriate mobs. There was some discussion of where this load was to go, and after Paul made a couple of phone calls we were told to take them to a certain farm in Spring Road, in an area between the Moutoa Spillway and the Manawatu River, but above the flood-affected land. We went past a checkpoint where those 'with no official business' were being turned back, and at the floodgate bridge met a gathering of police and officials. The floodgates were closed, and the Manawatu was lapping near the top. At our destination we found a group of tired workers hurrying to finish milking a mob of cows.

'Whose animals are you picking up?' we were asked.

'No, we're dropping some off,' Neil replied.

I won't quote the next part, but suffice to say we were told to leave as they had been told the floodgates were about to open and they would soon be under a metre of water. If we saw any other trucks bringing stock we should give them the message too. They did calm a little when we said we'd find another destination for the cows, but they were understandably stressed and very tired. As far as I know the floodgates remained closed at that stage, but the uncertainty was taking its toll.

This was just a snippet of one affected area in the lower North Island. Many townships have been submerged and vast areas of farmland have been devastated. There is erosion, silt deposits up to a metre deep and a lot of water still lying around, almost two weeks later. People are operating on a day to day basis and some will never recover from this freak of nature. The economic impact will be immense, but the human suffering is incomprehensible.

John Dermer: We are ok but have suffered plenty of damage from the KIWITEA stream. This is usually a placid stream normally passable with boots only, at this time of year. However, it does drop in altitude very quickly, which is obvious when you see the speed of the water in a major flood like this.

Quite a large area went under water leaving lots of silt, mostly on the Cheltenham Rifle Club range which has been on our property for the best part of 100 years. How the clubhouse was not washed

off its piles I do not know, the water was hitting it all day. As well, many 22-year-old pruned pines planted along the river to hold the bank could not withstand the volumes of water and are all over the place. Many lodged against the bridge to the west, which has lost its approach, plus a large wash-out where the water went round the blockage. The trees held the banks in 2-3m floods but this one was 5m according to the Regional Council monitoring station, which washed away at that level. Bits of it are still here — did it go higher? We will never know.

We have had no stock losses, unlike the people lower down where there is no escape from such volumes of water. We can get our stock to higher ground when the levels drop enough to let us. Not much fun to watch a small group of ewes up to their bellies all day and night and be powerless to help them.

We still have a warm dry house and the water pump is working so we feel very lucky.

Tony Simpson: From a DU perspective my observations are on the positive and lighter side of things - and we can all do with some humour at the moment. Flight paths have been opened up, and there is water in places the ducks have never seen it in. Just the other day I noticed a small raft of birds swimming around almost in confusion on a vast lake that was supposed to

be paddock. Our own habitat is intact with water levels up to max. We were indeed fortunate.

Gordon Pilone: I am happy to report that the wetlands were untouched by the terrible flood that hit the southern North Island only hours after our return from Gladstone. Many in Pohangina Valley, particularly properties on the river flats, really were devastated and there were enormous numbers of slips on hillside properties too.

Our wetlands are somewhat higher than the highest level the Pohangina river floodwaters reached during the storm. We are also fortunate that there are no creeks running into the wetlands from the hills on our side (west) of the valley. Water supply to the ponds comes from underground aquifers and rainfall. So the ponds remained clear throughout the storm. We were pleased that the wetlands survived the effects of such an intense storm. Hopefully this means they will last a very long time.

There are four ponds along the roadside to Pohangina Village, which are visible from the road and provide a pleasant approach to the village. We heard comments from locals just after the flooding that the wetlands along the road provided a visual haven of peace and calm amongst the surrounding murky water and silt in the village and river flatlands.

Oh no, don't let the rain come down...

This useless wail rose from 66 oilskins and assorted rain-coverings, as the squelch of 132 gumboots and the dip and surge of golf umbrellas advanced slowly along the boardwalk in Carter's Reserve. Masochistic types later enjoyed a pre-prandial stroll at Pikes Lagoon (see Our People) while the wind and rain blasted in. What looked substantial effects of recent flooding were minor in the light of what was to come elsewhere.

The Chapter had invited Manawatu members and friends to a field day and gathering at Gladstone Vineyard near Carterton on 15 February, at which the bus-load of keen visitors out-numbered locals by two to one. Somehow, on such a shocking day when other people in other places, and some of the visitors, would soon be plunged into major disaster, the mutual interests and good humour of DU people and their guests made it a great day. Not to mention the superb meal that DU members Chris and David Kernohan and their vineyard staff provided.

The Great Duck Race was fiendishly planned by Sharon Stevens-Cottle and Jan Abel, Ross Cottle and Neil Candy assisting. Punters bought plastic ducks for \$1 each and International Duck Racing Regulations applied. Races were run in a nearby creek, the rain swished past in horizontal sheets, and three winners in each of five 21-strong heats fought out the final. Was it faintly ironic that the appointed judge Peter Russell was the overall winner, finish line steward Ross Cottle came second, and third place went to Geoff Reid, a former policeman? A full inquiry may be held. Winners were presented with trophies in the Disney style



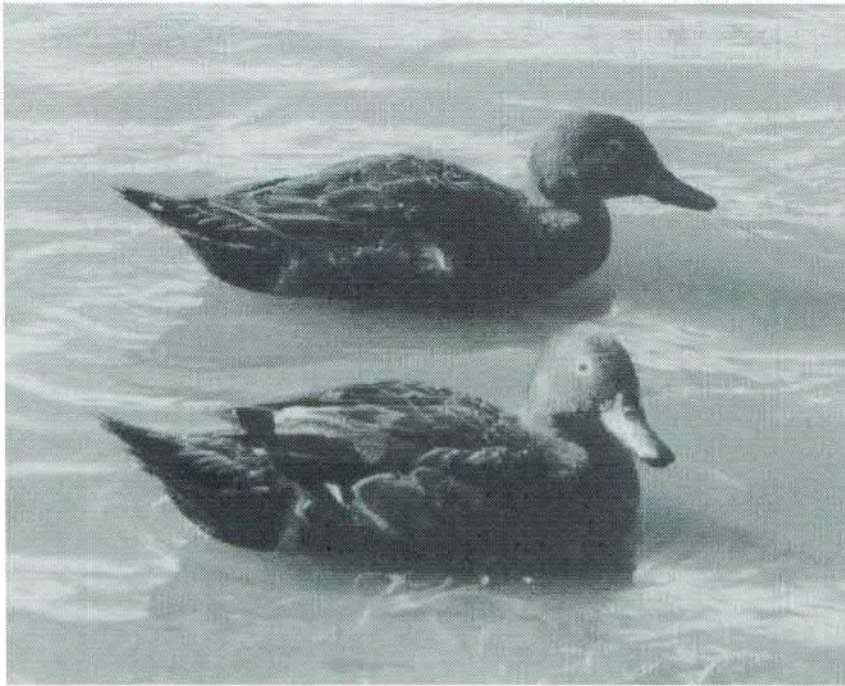
'And here comes Beetlebomb...' Photo: Alan Wilks.

and Gladstone Vineyard wines with collectible DU labels. The contestants' backers and the sodden crowd agreed that the event could well be a regular Chapter Challenge.



The President and his trophy. Photo: Alan Wilks.

Summaries from the latest quarterly reports, which highlighted weather problems, transmitters and pest control, especially cats:



Pateke at Mana Island. Photo: Jason Christensen.

Okiwi, Great Barrier Island

Monitoring 39 pateke, seven birds missing — most are probably transmitter failure. Thirty-two caught in December, six juveniles large enough for transmitters, total 21 juveniles transmitted for last season. General condition of birds caught in December was notably poorer than in October.

Thirty caught in January, 25 transmitted; two were 'missing' birds with failed transmitters. The birds' general condition was again poor.

A devastating quarter for the juveniles with 15 of the 21 being recovered, also an adult male. Pathology so far shows nine deaths from starvation and four predated or scavenged. Four birds were recovered in early December including two juveniles from the same paddock which contributed to the 'stoat scare' following a possible sighting. Pathology showed no obvious stoat sign. Seven pateke have been squashed on the roads since December.

Conditions were mostly very dry, leading to a reduction of suitable feeding habitat — up to 130 teal observed feeding in the estuary at low tide.

In response to a spate of pateke deaths in December, cat control measures were modified with several trap designs targeting areas where cats have been spotted. A night hunt was fruitless despite cats observed while looking for pateke. Overall, cat captures have increased, 29 caught since 1 December 2003.

Pukeko control continues with 116 removed, keeping the density down to 0.46 per ha.

Between August and November encounter rates for harrier and rabbit increased in comparison to 2002 numbers. At least 760 rabbits shot in the Okiwi Basin since December.

Mimiwhangata / Northland

Forty-one birds transmitted in February. Eight have been missing for some months, but the more flock site observations we do, the more we record birds alive with failed transmitters. This is in line with Sirtrack's statement that their 16-month transmitters have only a nine-month guaranteed life. Understanding long-distance

dispersal from the trapped area is impossible until we can eliminate the possibility of a 'missing' bird carrying a failed transmitter in its usual territory.

Thirty-four nesting attempts recorded for 31 pairs; 18 of these formed from a radio-tagged female. Thirty-seven fledglings banded with 20 of these radio-tagged.

The second annual trend count on 10 February counted 303 birds. Yahoo! This included two new small sites. Two more trend counts planned in February.

Heavy rain recently relieved a fairly long drought and the property is flush with fresh grass.

Six deaths since November 2003 Roundup, one not recovered. Primary cause uncertain for the other five, but four have mammalian sign. Carcasses will be sent to Massey for wing fat analysis.

Predator control continues with 369 trap sites, 50 stoats caught in just the northern half of the trapped area in December.

From mid February to early March all transmitters to be replaced for the next year (most new transmitters will be Holohil brand) and a survey of recorded band combinations by the capture team and indicator dog will provide a greater indication of survival.

Moehau/ Coromandel

Survival after nine months is 63%. Six birds died since the last Roundup, three probably killed by cats and one by a harrier. The others' fate is unknown but both transmitters have turned up. We are monitoring 22 of the original 38 released birds. From three nests this season one surviving duckling was taken to Otorohanga Zoo, but it is heartening to see at least some of the released birds attempting to nest. About 27 wild pateke confirmed at four sites.

Trapping goes well with stoat catches down in the Kiwi Sanctuary and three more cats caught. We are using a revised cat-trapping regime that should reduce predation. Road signs put up before Christmas to warn about teal on the roads at night had an excellent response from locals. We plan a pateke-aversion training day for local dogs and have regular reports in the local newspaper.

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

Total fledged about nine from three known pairs, and another potential pair. The birds have had a hard time with weather and fluctuating water levels; our feeder is often submerged and is still in the middle of the lake after floating there in the last storm.

Tiritiri Matangi

Thirteen ducklings survived. A female with two ducklings 3–4 weeks old is one of the original birds, at least 10 years old.

Auckland and Wellington Zoos

Two Auckland ducklings await transfer to Peacock Springs to join four from the first clutch.

The new pair in Wellington produced one infertile egg in quarantine. The old pair produced around 10 infertile eggs. The male is on metacam treatment for chronic arthritis.

— Ossie Latham and Shaun O'Connor

(If you would like the full BTCT and Pateke Roundup reports on paper or email, please contact the Editor.)



A parasite fix for possums?

Ground-breaking Kiwi research into genetically modifying a parasite that lives in possums was highlighted at the International Wildlife Conference in Christchurch last year. AgResearch and Landcare scientists have been working on how to modify a parasitic gut worm common in possums, so that it attacks the animal's reproductive system.

Dr Phil Cowan of Landcare heads the ecological side of the study, looking at how fast the parasite spreads through possum populations in certain areas and what conditions it best adapts to, while AgResearch scientists will use the data to try and modify the worm.

The parasite is common in North Island possums but in the south has only been found near Invercargill, perhaps brought with a pet possum. Dr Cowan is confident that it will quickly spread south. Two years ago, the parasite was released in a small area near Farewell Spit and a recent count showed possums over an 8000ha area were now infected with it. The fact that possums have developed immunity to it means that it has good potential for use in biological control.

Source: *Sunday Times*, 7 December 2003.

New stoat trap succeeds

In a recent trial 15 stoats were killed over a two-week period using DOC 200 traps in the Rimutaka Forest Park. The trap was developed over three years by Phil Waddington and DOC predator officers Ian McFadden and Darren Peters (see article in Flight 116 page 14).

Finalising a design, followed by field testing, gaining animal welfare committee approval and obtaining tenders for its manufacture all took time. 'It's only been out in the field for a week or so. The reports so far have been very good,' Mr Waddington said.

Unlike conventional traps, the DOC 200 kills instantly: 'When the

stoat steps on a plate, six bars come down aiming at its skull. It's an instant kill — at least that's what we aim for,' Mr Waddington said. The trap uses a hen's egg as bait and is safer and easier to set than older traps, which are not always effective, causing an animal to die in agony or injuring it so that it becomes trap-shy. Volunteers have placed a further 227 traps in the park and DOC is using 650 traps around Mt Taranaki and elsewhere.

The \$15,000 Rimutaka Forest Park operation is funded by Hutt City Council, Pub Charities and the National Parks Conservation Foundation.

Source: *The Dominion Post*, 21 January 2004.

Flight Ecofile

Teri

Teri Puketapu spent much of his childhood catching eels, whitebait and freshwater crayfish in Waiwhetu Stream in Lower Hutt. For generations his Te Ati-Awa people relied on the stream as a valuable source of food and fresh water, but now it is one of the most polluted waterways in New Zealand. Raw sewage was released into it, and the herbicide Diquat was used in an attempt to control weeds. The contamination was so severe, says Mr Puketapu, that the concentration of lead in sediments in the lower reaches of the stream reached as high as 1%.

Five years ago Mr Puketapu decided to do something about it. He roped in a few youngsters from Waiwhetu Marae to help him clear junk out of the stream — they've fished out TV sets, wheels and shopping trolleys — and pull out the exotic weeds that choked the waterway. His efforts attracted the attention of local authorities who have now decided to hand-clear the stream instead of spraying it with Diquat. Other groups began clearing away rubbish, and an action group was set up to work on ways to improve the stream.

The results are promising. Fish that haven't been seen in the stream for 40 years have returned. Shags and blue heron now come up from the sea to feed, and the stream has a small colony of pukeko.

'It's good to see life returning to the stream, but it has a long way to go, especially when there are so many people who keep throwing rubbish in it,' says Mr Puketapu, a former deputy mayor of Lower Hutt. I think it's essential to get involved in environmental work. We have to look after what we've got.'

Volunteer Week 2004 was held from 7-14 March.

From *The Dominion Post*, 4 March 2004.



'If the floods go on subsiding at this rate we'll be faced with a serious drought.'

Save Forests for Cheap, Clean Water

Major cities should focus efforts and funds on conserving forests that naturally purify their drinking water, saving them from spending billions of dollars on water treatment facilities, a recent study shows.

The study of 105 big cities by the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature showed that a third of them, including New York, Tokyo, Barcelona and Melbourne, get much of their water from protected forests. Preserving these forests, which reduce landslides, erosion and sediment, improve water purity by filtering pollutants, and in some cases capture and store water, is a cost-effective way to provide clean drinking water, the 'Running Pure' study said.

'For many cities, time is running out. Protecting forests around water catchment areas is no longer a luxury but a necessity,' said David Cassells, senior environmental specialist for forest resources with the World Bank. 'When they are gone, the costs of providing clean and safe drinking water to urban areas will increase dramatically.'

Chris Elliot, director of WWF's Forests for Life Programme, highlighted the stark case of New York, whose nine million residents get much of their water from the Catskill/Delaware watersheds in upstate New York. A recent evaluation showed it would cost \$7 billion to build a water treatment plant against a \$1 billion bill for actively managing the forest catchment area by raising water taxes and paying farmers to use less fertiliser and reduce grazing.

Melbourne, dubbed 'Smellbourne' in the 18th Century because of its poor water quality, took measures to protect the mountainous forest catchments to its north and east. Today these supply 90% of the drinking water in Melbourne, now recognised as having the highest quality water of any Australian city.

But Cassells argued that managing forests should not be at the expense of people living in those areas, and end-users who benefit from the forests should pay towards conserving them.

Authorities face tough choices between building houses for growing populations, cutting forests for timber or conserving them to help secure the water supply, Elliot said.

Given World Health Organisation estimates that 1.1 billion people have no access to clean drinking water and that water-borne diseases claim five million lives each year, the WWF is calling on governments to boost their conservation efforts in water catchment areas.

Jamie Pittock, director of WWF-International's Living Waters programme, argued that protection would help countries achieve their aim to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015. 'These global targets can be most effectively achieved, in part, by investing in the health of forest water catchments,' he said. 'By securing the source of the water, and by investing in the health of the environment through these protected areas we can make a big difference to people's lives.'

— Karen Iley

From www.planetark.org 2 September 2003

How to net the tourists...

In an effort to make America's natural wonders available to all citizens, the Department of the Interior announced the creation of a \$2 million National Parks Website, which clears the way for the wholesale development of the parks. Bulldozers will level more than 100,000 square miles of pristine, federally protected national parkland, finally making it available for industrial use.

The designer of the website believes nature lovers will find it superior to the real parks in every way. 'You will experience the same grand mountains, lush grass and wide variety of fauna, without ever leaving your home,' he said. 'And when you spot an animal on your cyber-tour, like a majestic elk, you can click on the elk and access information about its habitat and diet. Elks in the wild do not offer this option.'

The website, located at www.natparks.gov, will feature photos of parks and information on the parks' histories and wildlife. It will also offer camping options, with which visitors can set up a virtual campsite inside a national park and watch a quick-time movie of the setting sun while the sound of crickets and coyotes runs in the background.

'We digitally enhanced actual recordings of coyotes from Arizona's Saguaro National Park,' the designer said. 'It should sound better than the real thing.'

According to a National Parks Destruction spokesman, countless grizzlies, moose and bison will be incinerated when the 750,000-acre Yellowstone National Park is slash-burned to make room for what he says will be the nation's largest factory outlet mall.

'Yellowstone, like the other national parks, has proven to be a huge financial burden to taxpayers, costing more than \$200 million a year to maintain,' he said. 'The new Yellowstone Factory Shoppes, on the other hand, are privately funded and should be immensely profitable right from the word go. It just makes sense.'

The economic advantage of massive, unregulated development of the parks was only one reason for the website move. Safety was also a factor.

Every year, between 30 to 40 national park visitors are killed in accidents, ranging from animal attacks to falls off cliffs. 'The website will be far safer, with the greatest danger posed to visitors being possible neck and back strain from prolonged sitting at the computer,' the spokesman said. To avoid such discomfort when visiting the new cyber-parks, he strongly advised taking a stretch break every 15 to 20 minutes.

Yet another advantage of web-based camping will be the chance for visitors to enjoy interacting with talking,

anthropomorphic wildlife, such as PC Puffin, a friendly, wise-cracking aquatic cartoon bird who gives visitors tours of Alaska's Denali National Park. 'Non-cyber-parks do not feature puffin-led tours, for in real life animals do not talk,' he said.

U.S. Parks Department officials said the department is also planning an endangered-species website, enabling people to observe and study rare species on their computers. Once the website is up and running, the actual endangered animals will either be allowed to die out naturally in captivity or be killed off wholesale by predators and poachers.

Senator Spence Abraham, who sponsored the legislation, said that he and his family are planning a trip to the National Parks website this July. 'We've never been to Yellowstone,' he said, 'and I understand we'll be able to download a sound effect of hot, splashing water digitally recorded right at Old Faithful. We're very excited.'

Peeled some time ago at www.theonion.com/





Quoting...

An enlightened attitude to nature is an integral part of civilisation, it is not 'kids stuff' nor the province of cranks and crackpots, but rather it is in the mainstream of human progress.

One early spring day in 1932 we had shot 23 greylag geese. Among them were two wounded ones, and as soon as we had picked them up we hoped they might not die. The birds which a few moments before we had been trying to kill, we were now trying to keep alive.

The two geese survived and we kept them for many years. Having got this far it began to seem strange that we should ever have taken delight in killing geese at all. And yet we had, and to a certain extent still did. When a bird was cleanly killed in the air there was a satisfaction of good marksmanship, but was this any greater

than the satisfaction of breaking a clay pigeon fired unexpectedly from a spring? And if so how much greater, and why? When a bird crashed with a thud on to the ground, how could I ever have thought the sound satisfying?

I once heard a keen wildfowler say that he had the satisfaction of hearing his shots slap into the birds although none of them came down.

From Peter Scott's autobiography *The Eye of the Wind*, published by Brockhampton Press 1968.

Sir Peter Scott (1909-1989) was the only child of Robert Falcon Scott. Sailor and glider pilot, traveller, ornithologist and painter, he founded the British Wildfowl Trust, later renamed the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust, and was instrumental in establishing the World Wildlife Fund. He could be called the grandfather of DU. The line drawing above is his work (more on pages 9 and 14).



Paradise ducklings in foster care. Photo: Gail Simons.

It happened like this...

I pulled back the lounge curtains and noticed a cardboard box on the doorstep. My first thought was, Oh neat, I've won something and it's been couriered to me. But when I opened it seven little faces looked back at me, belonging to newly hatched paradise ducklings. There was a phone number on the box so I rang to find out what was going on. Apparently their mum had been run over on the road and the dad had flown into the bush leaving the newly hatched family. This lady had rescued them and brought them to me. As she had dropped them off the night before they were lucky still to be alive when I found them the next day. At least it wasn't a cold night. I have been hand-rearing them over the past few weeks. They all survived and are now ready to go to new homes if anyone is interested. They will cost a 40kg bag of maize or wheat each to help with my food costs.

— Gail Simons

Gail can be contacted at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park, 356 Kaimata Road, RD 8, Inglewood. Phone 06 756 7624

Useful web sites

Wetland Care Australia: www.wetlandcare.com.au is full of good information. You can also ask for their monthly newsletter from the site, or send an email to wetlandlink@wetlandcare.com.au

Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust: www.wwt.org.uk

Waitaki First: www.waitakifirst.co.nz includes articles by people like artist Graham Sydney (click the Media link). There is also a sobering page compiled by the Otago Daily Times, showing what Project Aqua's effect on the landscape will look like: www.waitakifirst.co.nz/docs/ProjectAqua/Views.jpeg

Conservation events being celebrated nationally this year:

Arbor Day 5 June 2004 Theme - Plant for Life.

Conservation week 2-8 August 2004 Theme - Conservation & Communities.

(Why not focus on blue duck this year and inform our communities about this superb and desperately vulnerable bird. Most of us won't get to see it, it's not very cuddly, and it's only some duck, as some might snort...such lame excuses. Is there a brochure? Could National Radio play its call for that week?)

Waterfowl for sale

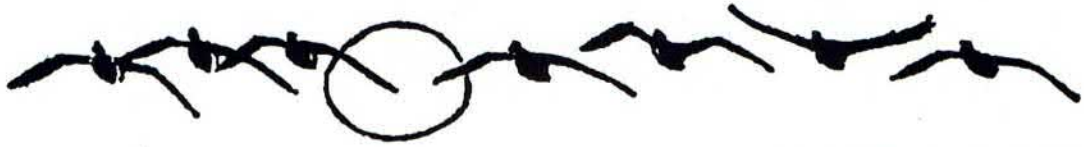
Available to permit holders: grey teal and paradise juveniles, pinioned or free-flighted.

Wanted: grey duck, shoveler or any Australian origin waterfowl.

Contact Murray Shaw, Hall Road, RD 2, Hamilton, phone 07 843 4111 (please quote permit number).

Quail for sale

Stu Millar of Hamilton is donating a pair each of red-mutation Californian quail of his own breed, and Bobwhite quail. All proceeds will go to the Waikato Chapter. Contact Stu, phone 07 846 1307 for prices and collection.



Living a lie

'As world leaders in environmental vandalism we have to stop thinking big, and think smart.'

Michael Stedman.

An address by Michael Stedman, Managing Director, Natural History of New Zealand, at a Waitaki First forum in Dunedin on 24 September 2003.

In December 1855 a German immigrant arrived in Kurow. Christian Hille worked as a shepherd, he lived in the cave at Otekaieke. In 1861 he was married in Dansey's cottage. He went on to build a very successful life in the valley. As well as farming he built the first ferry across the river, he had Hille's store in Kurow, built a hotel at Westmere — it still stands. A great many of his descendants are still in the valley.

He died in 1895 and is buried in Kurow. He was my great grandfather. Tonight I won't talk about alternatives to Project Aqua, there are many people far more qualified to do that. I won't talk about my view of the propaganda from Meridian. They stand on record, but I would say that in my opinion Mr Seay must take the grand prize as the country's best spin doctor, for his defence of the indefensible, for his ability to tell half the story and for his tenacity in trying to convince people that the destruction of their lives is good for them. And all paid for with our dollars; yes he is a public servant and Meridian whichever way you look at it is a government department — and with that comes a multi million-dollar propaganda budget.

We present a clean green image. We are neither clean nor green. We live a lie. We are in reality world leaders in environmental destruction. We are world leaders in endangered species.

Since the arrival of people - and in particular Europeans - we have modified this country beyond recognition. We see it as a resource to be exploited, placed here for our exclusive benefit. We now exist in a remnant of what New Zealand once was. There was a time when we could claim ignorance, but that time has long gone. We know what we are doing and we know the consequences.

And this catastrophe has been led from the front by successive governments, eagerly spurred on by armies of public service vandals all claiming progress.

In my time I've witnessed the destruction of most of the great rivers of the South

Island. The Clutha, the lower Waiau, the upper Waitaki, all part of this think big mentality. Destruction and the taming of the land became tied to nationhood. We could do big stuff!

Every year as a family we spend as much of our time as possible sailing on Lake Manapouri. And without fail on each visit I thank Professor Mark and thousands of ordinary kiwis, because without them the lake would have been lost. It was people standing up to the government vandals that won the day. They left me and countless thousands of New Zealanders a legacy, they fought the impossible fight and they won.

Over the past 20 years I have been involved in a great many Wild South documentaries that have born witness to the plight of this country. 80% of them have documented the fight by science and ordinary Kiwis to halt, or attempt to reverse, the massive waves of destruction that have overwhelmed these fragile and special Islands. These are sad stories, stories of great loss, stories of fights with impossible odds, some won, some lost.

And before that as producer of Spot On I made a Spot On special about the Clutha. It was a journey along the river that was to be lost to the Clyde dam. And to this day I remember Ian Taylor's last words of the programme, struggling with a fair amount of emotion Ian simply asked, "How do we say goodbye to a river?" There was and there is no answer.

It is a question we should never have to ask.

We are told the lower Waitaki has been so modified it's not worth saving. Never mind if it's one of the world's great braided rivers! Well, if modification is to be the criteria then there is no part of New Zealand that is safe; the entire land has been modified. And amid this chaos we still trumpet clean and green, unspoiled, we see tourism as a great economic answer and yet we continue to shit in our nest destroying the present and the future.

The very things that make us special, that attract visitors, are being slowly but surely destroyed. The very foundations of sustainable industries based on the land are being cut from under us. As yet another think big juggernaut comes to a town near you.

So what of the future? We are told we need the power — well, Auckland needs the power! The non-wealth-generating sector needs to support its life style, but it's a lifestyle that ultimately must be paid for through foreign earnings and that comes back to the land.

Twenty years ago the wine industry in Central Otago was a twinkle in Alan Brady's eye - look at it now. And what potential will be lost in the Waitaki valley as people with ideas, dreams and vision look ahead: viticulture, horticulture, agriculture and tourism. And will future generations ask in bewilderment, how did we let this happen? Consider this. If we have destroyed all the rivers and lakes in the South Island to serve the needs of four million people what happens when we hit six, eight even 10 million people. We most certainly will have to look to alternatives, so why not start now?

We don't even have to be a leader, many countries are already well down the path. And if the government is serious about tomorrow why haven't we seen, as a priority, a task force scouring the world looking at better ways?

We haven't, because Meridian has the government captive, just as Muldoon was before them. They are seduced by think big, let's do what we do best, destroy, and let's look back to the future.

And as it has been in the past, so it will in the future be the people who will fight on behalf of our land, our future and our children's future.

And we will win.



NOSLOC FEEDERS

The Nosloc feeding system has been developed in New Zealand by Dennis Colson of Te Kuiti. The feeders are suitable for duck feeding and free range feeding. Of most interest to DU members will be the duck and pheasant feeders. The newly designed nozzles feed both wheat and barley, or you can feed whole maize by using the special end cap provided. Other sizes of nozzle are available for feeding pellets to ostrich and emu. The nozzles are made of galvanised steel and will not rust or break from use. Each feeder requires a waratah and bucket (20 litre) which you supply. Larger drums can be used for the system but require additional brackets and waratahs. The nozzle, either parallel for maize or spiral for wheat and barley, and a waratah mounting bracket are supplied.

Nozzles are \$26.25 each (please advise spiral or parallel) and brackets \$26.95 each.

FENN TRAP MK 6

Deadly to ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats, these all-metal traps are easy to set and are the ultimate quick-kill tunnel trap.

\$35.00 each.

THE THUMPER

A lightweight tunnel trap designed to kill rats and stoats. The tunnel incorporates the spring mechanism on the same principle as the Timms trap. Available as single with a closed end or double, which is a run-through with two traps. The traps are set from the outside by pulling a cord. Easy and safe to use.

Single \$35, double \$49.

The Mitredale Duck Club Cookbook

By Di Pritt, published by Halcyon Press. \$19.95 including GST, postage and packing.

In 1869 picnics were a grand affair, if Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management is anything to go by. This bill of light picnic fare should feed 40 people:

'A joint of cold boiled beef, a joint of cold roast beef, two ribs of lamb, four roast fowls, two roast ducks, one ham, one tongue, two veal and ham pies, two pigeon pies, six medium sized lobsters, one piece of collared [rolled up and tied] calf's head, 18 lettuces, six baskets of salad, six cucumbers. Stewed fruit well-sweetened and put into glass bottles well-corked, three or four dozen plain pastry biscuits to eat with the stewed fruit, two dozen fruit turnovers, four dozen cheesecakes, two cold cabinet puddings in moulds, a few jam puffs, a large cold Christmas plum pudding (this must be good), a few baskets of fresh fruit, three dozen plain biscuits, a piece of cheese, six pounds of butter (this of course, includes the butter for tea), four quarter loaves of household bread, three dozen rolls, six loaves of tin bread (for tea), two plain plum cakes, two pound cakes, two sponge cakes, a tin of mixed biscuits, pound tea. Coffee is not suitable for a picnic being difficult to make.' In addition Mrs B. suggested three dozen quarts of ale, two dozen of each of ginger beer, soda water and lemonade, six bottles of sherry, six of claret, champagne (a 'discretion'), two bottles of brandy and any other light wine that may be preferred. 'Water can usually be obtained, so it is useless to take it.'

Oh, for clean streams...or a less crowded picnic with Omar Khayyam. 'Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough, a flask of wine, a book of verse...

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



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For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, or email: info@ducks.org.nz]

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 Please send me further information, I may join later.



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Expires: Signature:

Please renew my membership each year and charge my credit card YES/NO

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Blue Duck recovery Group, October 2003: Back L to R Murray Willans, Tim Shaw, Nic Peet, Kerry-Ann Edge, Peter Russell. Front L to R Nic Etheridge, Murray Williams, Andrew Glaser (Absent: John Lyall). Photograph: Huyley Meehan.

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