

Flight



ISSUE 134 - January 2008

Seventhwave



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FISHING SHOOTING





wetland care
NEW ZEALAND

Our business is to harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.

Wetland Care members recognise that wetlands are vital to the wellbeing of the environment, acting as huge ecological sponges by soaking up pollutants and filtering water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and the sea.

Our initiatives focus on matters as far-reaching as groundwater replenishment, flood control, nutrient and contaminant management and climate change – all critical factors for the conservation of freshwater and saltwater wetlands and marshes.

We want to preserve and conserve the flora and fauna of our most endangered ecosystem so that vibrant wetlands are our legacy to future generations.

Funding for projects comes from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established by Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc in 1991, as well as membership, donations and corporate memberships such as that from Banrock Station Wines.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. An example is Banrock Station Wines who place the Wetland Care New Zealand logo on their wine bottles distributed in New Zealand. In return, Banrock contribute a fee, which is based on each bottle sold, to Wetland Care New Zealand.

Money from this partnership has been given to wetland conservation projects done by:

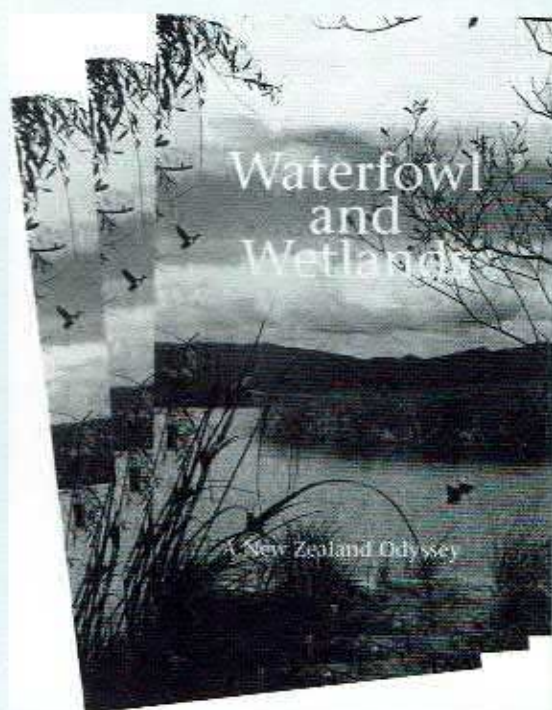
Tutukaka Landcare Coalition
Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc.
Ducks Unlimited Operation Pateke
Port Charles release 2005 at Coromandel
Henley Trust, Masterton
Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellington
Kitchener Park, Feilding
Manawatu Estuary Trust, Foxton
Mangaone Wetland, Raetihi
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Travis Wetland Trust, Christchurch
Wairio Wetland, South Wairarapa
Wetland Trust New Zealand, Rangiriri
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Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Dunedin

For further information, please contact:
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New Zealand, phone 06-362 6675
PO Box 281 Levin.



Our Website is : www.ducks.org.nz

Waterfowl and Wetlands



Videos \$49
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A New Zealand Odyssey

"Waterfowl and Wetlands - A New Zealand Odyssey" is a 75-minute programme that illustrates the value of wetlands, the waterfowl that depend upon them and the efforts being made to reclaim the country's rapidly shrinking wetland areas.

New Zealand is home to some of the world's rarest waterfowl as well as the more common introduced species. Each one is shown in detail. There is information on the various types of wetland and their management, waterfowl predators, the conservation value of hunters and also the Ramsar sites of ecological importance.

DVD indexing takes you directly to any waterfowl species, wetland type, Ramsar site and other subjects.

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Insight

Water Conservation

The early summer drought that is making its presence felt in central and southern New Zealand is a timely reminder to us what an essential commodity water is, with water restrictions being imposed about two months earlier than normal.

Also it is becoming increasingly clear that water drawn off for both rural and urban is reaching the point of being unsustainable.

The point I am trying to make here is that by developing wetlands we are not only setting up areas to filter and purify water but also slowing the water down, giving it more time to soak into the under ground aquifers.

It is my belief that wetlands will become more and more important as the years go on, and that Ducks Unlimited is well-placed with people with the knowledge to help.

Ross Cottle
President.



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Our Mission

To deliver effective wetland restoration, development, research, education and advocacy;

While supporting the preservation of threatened waterfowl and the ethical and sustainable use of wetlands

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Front Cover photos

A colour-banded juvenile whio on the Mangatepopo stream - note dark eye colour and grey bill. See story page 5. Photo courtesy Enviro Research.

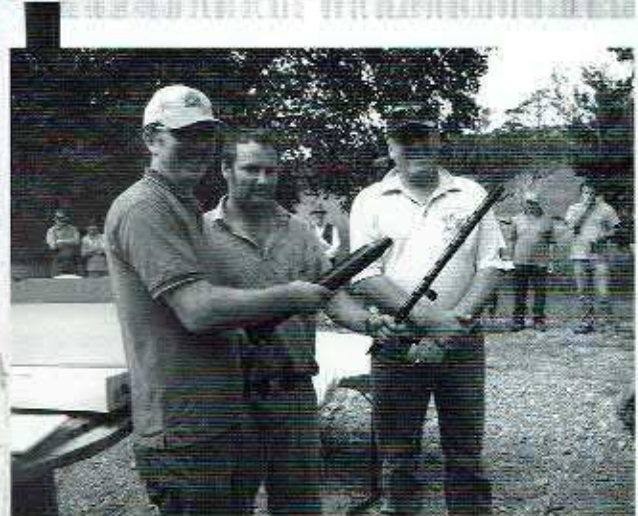
Inset: DU President Ross Cottle signing Memorandum of Understanding for Opuatia Wetland in Waikato. Witnessing the signature of the Waikato Conservator is DOC Waikato Area Manager, Rachel Kelleher. - story page 14.



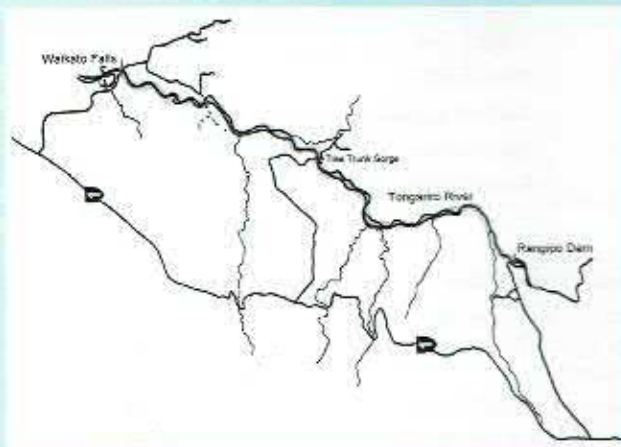
The Wairarapa Annual Claybird Shoot



Photos from the claybird shoot in November at Di and James Martin's place at Waitawa, Martinborough. Photos from top clockwise: the barbeque; Ngaire Morris, Gail Reid and Raana Campbell looking after the administration of the shoot day; DU president Ross Cottle with Matt Wyeth and John Moulder; Ralph Fauvel, Kevin Morris, Ngaire Morris and David James. 80 people turned up and \$1500 was raised. Matt Wyeth won the gun. Thanks to John Moulder of Wairarapa Hunting and Fishing, Masterton.



From whio story Page 5



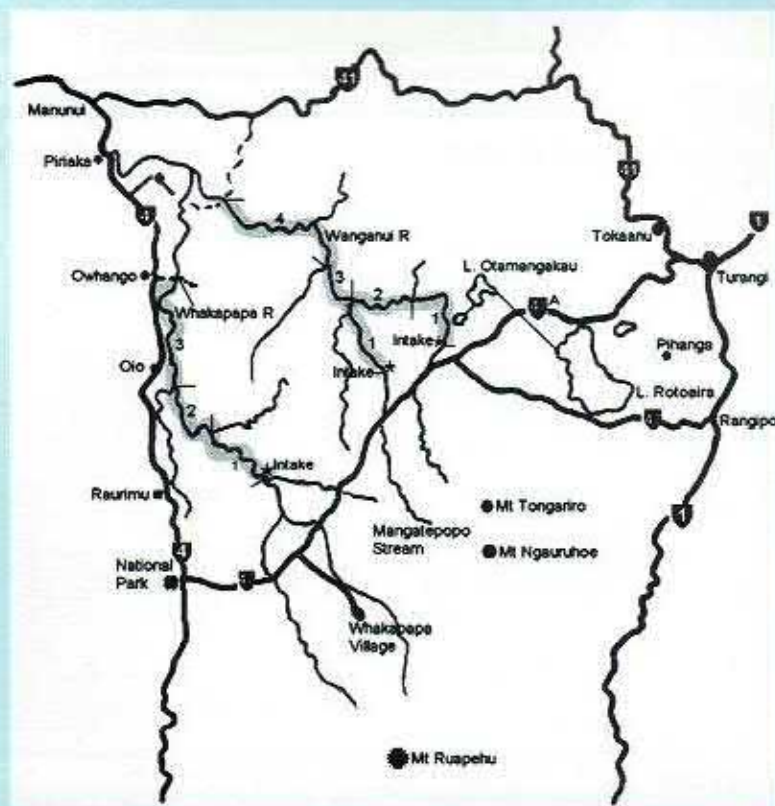
Map of Tongariro River, Rangipo Reach study area.



Adult whio pair roosting mid-stream at Tongariro, photo courtesy Enviro Research - story page 5.

Who benefit from Genesis Energy and Enviro Research Tongariro monitoring

In 2003, under a Genesis Energy initiative, an environmental consultancy based in Ohakune called Enviro Research commenced monitoring of who populations on sections of the main rivers below their intake structures. The monitoring was established to determine specifically how regulated flow regimes will safeguard who - blue duck - habitat on rivers both in the Western and Eastern Diversions, by conducting annual census surveys, which is an essential part of environmental monitoring associated with the Tongariro Power Scheme's resource consent operations.



Map of Western Diversion streams study areas.

The entire project involves two visits to each section of river during early December and making a way downstream (or upstream if you're real keen) from a start to a finish point either by walking, tubing or kayaking depending on the river's size and hydrology. Without trying to count the same duck twice, numerous amounts of data are collected, which later translates into valuable information such as, population trends, dispersal data, adult and juvenile survival rates, chick productivity, and recruitment tendency.

Beginning with the Western Diversion and utilising the most recent study report (December 2006), the establishment of the following base flow rate changes were taken into account.

Whakapapa = increased to 3 metres per second in 1992

Mangatepopo = increased to 0.5 metres per second on 1 December 2004.

Whanganui = increased to 0.3 metres per second on 1 December 2004.

The current monitoring work began in December 2003, with one other comparable survey undertaken by NIWA in December 1998, providing an opportunity to compare who numbers before and after the increase in minimum flows that occurred on 1 December 2004.

Results show that the increase of flow on the Mangatepopo stream and Whanganui River have had a positive affect on who density and distribution, with an increase in the number of pairs using the total length of each river.

Unfortunately, an inverse trend of overall decline since 2003 has been recorded on the Whakapapa River where the flow regime has remained constant since 1992.

As well, the Department of Conservation has conducted research, which has shown that predation of nesting females, eggs and nestlings has impacted on the density of who in the section of river immediately below the Whakapapa intake, which provides little or no recruitment back into the wider river population.

On the Tongariro River, Enviro Research has counted blue ducks within the Rangipo Reach twice in December during the years 2004-2006. The Department of Conservation counted the same reach during the years 1991-2002 providing comparisons between pre and post-reduced flow in 1995. The underlying population trend of the Rangipo Reach has remained one of highly variable pair density and distribution, and research has shown that who in the Rangipo Reach have a much wider genetic variation than denser more stable populations like those on Western Diversion streams. This shows that the Tongariro population has been reliant upon input (immigration) from outlying populations.

In 2006, a 50% reduction in adult who density was recorded compared with 2005, yet is comparable with most survey years since 1994.

These results must be considered a small sample in terms of the number of years of survey after the increased flow regime. With only three years of monitoring data post-increased flows, it is too early to determine to what extent the increased flows have affected pair density and annual productivity rates in the long-term.

The projects conducted around the country, and especially within the Central Plateau, have made a huge contribution to the information and knowledge that can be released for education on blue duck survival.

Funding of these projects by the Blue Duck Conservation Charitable Trust and Genesis Energy has made it so much easier for this research to be conducted in what must be described as a difficult and demanding working environment for bird study.

Enviro Research has contributed to the greater pool of information through their investigations of how changes in base flow rates of significant rivers in the Central Plateau adequately safeguard who habitat. Although the riverine working environment can be physically challenging, Enviro Research along with their DoC colleagues and local volunteers find the work particularly rewarding.

Photos and article courtesy Kerry Oates, Director, Enviro Research

email: kerry@enviroresearch.co.nz



Pateke release at the Camms' lake near Tutukaka, Northland

Mike and Elizabeth Camm's wetlands (story page 7)



Lifesaving - Mike Camm rescues a pateke who fell down the drop pipe.

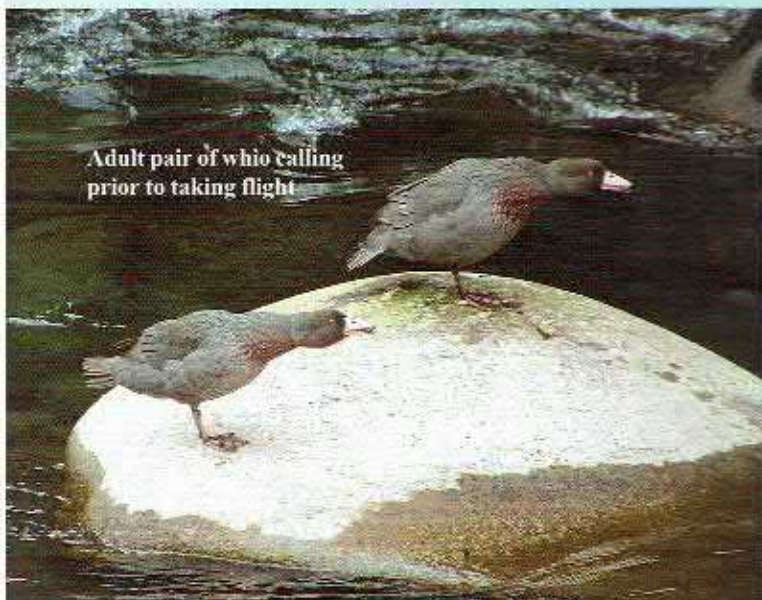


Some more ponds at Mike Bourke's property at Rangiwahia (see story page 8)

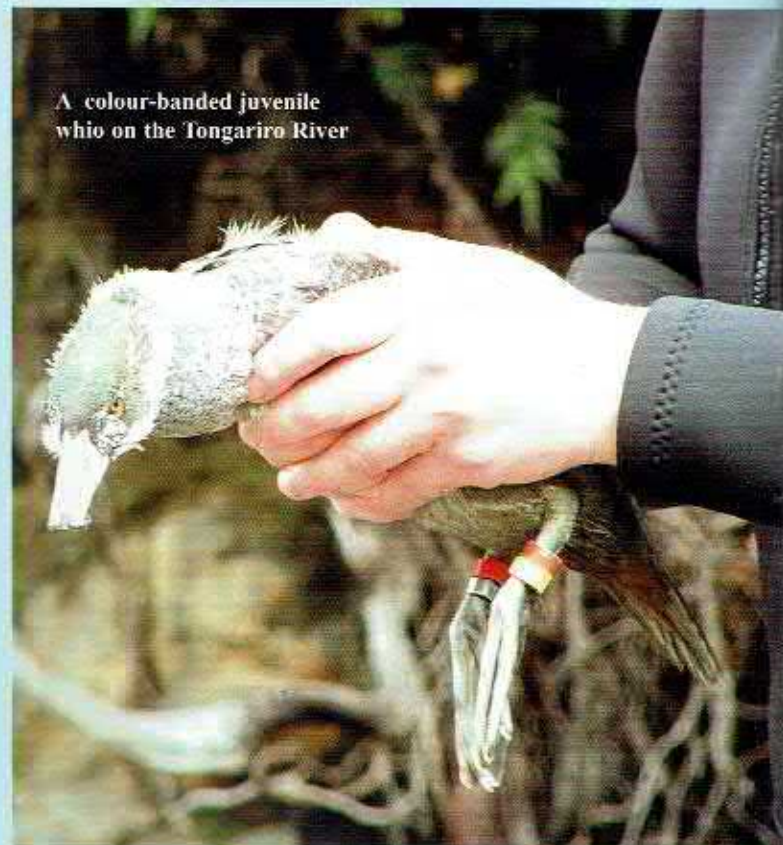


From left at the pateke release (see story page 7) Mike Camm, Elizabeth Camm (who is Mike and Jane's daughter-in-law), Elizabeth's children Simon and Christopher Camm, and Jane Camm releasing the pateke onto Mike and Jane's lake, part of the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition.

Whio photos and article page 5 courtesy Kerry Oates, Enviro Research



Adult pair of whio calling prior to taking flight



A colour-banded juvenile whio on the Tongariro River

Pateke Release at the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition site in Northland

The pateke release in the kiwi-managed area of the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition (TLC) grew out of an approach made by the Pateke Recovery Group. It was considered that with an extension of the trapping zone already in place for kiwi conservation, the release and subsequent re-colonising of the area with captive-bred pateke would complement the wild birds moving in population strongholds to the north at Whananaki, Teal Bay, and Mimiwhangata.

Central to the plan was the range of habitat offered around the original release site, the Camm wetland and lake developed as a private initiative in March 2000 with funding assistance from Ducks Unlimited (see aerial photograph today at left).

The lake margins have dense plantings of carex secta and flax giving plenty of cover for the birds. The adjacent raupo swamp leads to grazed pasture some 600m downstream and the grassed areas round the lake are managed by mowing. These areas offer night-time grazing for the birds. The catchment forms the headwaters of the Te Wairoa stream which meanders 4km to the tidal salt marsh interchange at Matapouri Bay, a traditional pateke flocking site and coincidentally the location of a release by Ducks Unlimited in the 1980s. Pateke are often sighted in this area and it is anticipated this will again develop into a flocking site.

Over approximately 2,500ha of private land, some 200-plus stoat and cat traps are maintained by a combination of volunteer and part-time paid trappers. This trapping plan has been continuously expanded to the present level since 2000. The whole project has been made possible by funding and support from the Transpower Landcare Trust, NZ Government Biodiversity Condition Fund, World Wildlife Fund, Banrock Station Wines and several local businesses together with support in kind from DoC and local private landowners who allow trappers to service trap lines on their properties. The trap management regime adopted sees the traps checked fortnightly from October to March and monthly from April to September. In the immediate vicinity of the release site the traps are checked weekly and for the four weeks prior to the release were baited with fresh rabbit. The preferred bait is salted rabbit and this is varied with salted possum when considered necessary. The traps used are double fenn sets in black plastic tunnels and wooden boxes, DOC 200 and DOC 250 traps in the appropriate boxes, SA cat traps and some live capture cage traps.

The release of 23 captive-bred pateke took place on 17 May 2007. All birds were fitted with transmitters to enable monitoring using a telemetry receiver with a yagi aerial and thus determine their fate!!

In spite of the preparation within the first week, seven birds were taken by a stoat (stoats?). It was of course quite devastating but always a risk as the current best practices for stoat control are really only updated ancient technology – traps! Stoats being stoats

are extremely smart and fast learners. It is believed the damage inflicted on the released birds was the work of probably just one trap-shy, street-wise stoat. "We'd released the birds in the centre of its territory!"

Dare I say it they were just 'sitting ducks'. Doubtless a little naive as well.

Now six months down the track we still have some birds left and have gained useful knowledge. Bird weights would indicate there has been a sufficient food source. Within the first three weeks birds were flying out from and back into the release site. One has moved 10km to the southwest and is alive and well on a domestic pond. Another resides 3km to the west in a separate stream catchment, also alive. Both were relocated during a DoC flyover with a receiver on a routine visit to Mimiwhangata and continue to survive in areas with no predator control (a certain irony in all this). Two birds drowned down the drop pipe outlet to the lake in spite of the 100mm grid metal grate over the top. A third was located down the bottom of the drop pipe and rescued – the lengths some people will go to for a duck!! (see photo on page 6, top).

So after a shaky start we are ready for more, with another 120 birds due for release over the next three years. Subject to the availability of funding for transmitters (a transmitter and harness for each bird costs approximately \$300) we intend to have a major percentage of these birds fitted with transmitters so that we can obtain a clear picture of their life of freedom. Ultimately we believe with a continued and expanding trapping zone we can suppress the stoat numbers sufficiently to ensure their long term survival and the establishment of a 50-plus pair population in the area.

In spite of our losses the public response to the release of pateke has been truly rewarding. The birds' profile has increased dramatically and incoming emails and phone calls given us a far better picture of the existence and spread of the wild and endangered native birds. This lift in awareness is half the battle and a step to creating public ownership of our little brown friends. If we can continue to build and promote this their future is assured.

- Thanks to Mike Camm, Tutukaka.

Editor's note: It will be remembered that Tony Sharley of Banrock Station presented \$12,000 to the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition last August for its work in the reintroduction of the pateke. The Tutukaka Landcare Coalition was established in 2002 and is affiliated to the New Zealand Landcare Trust. The pateke project began in May 2007 with the release of 30 captive-bred birds. In donating the money to the Coalition, Mr Sharley noted the inventiveness of the Coalition in fitting to the birds tiny micro-transmitters that enable ornithologists to monitor their movements.

In June 2007, Sue and Phil Moore noticed a pateke male at Waikanae Estuary and through their binoculars they read its band number. Turns out the pateke was released on Mana Island in 2005!



Ducks Unlimited Manawatu members visit Mike Bourke's wetland property

by new member *Liz Brook* who provided story and the photos

A bus load of Ducks Unlimited members invaded Mike Bourke's property at Rangiwahia in the Manawatu, one Sunday in November. The weather was superb, the walk through Mike's property was inspirational, the water ways and ponds with all the amazing plantings certainly gave us all something to aim for.

Mike and his extended family provided a magnificent lunch which we enjoyed out of doors along with the wonderful view over the largest of his ponds. He has recently stocked the pond with rainbow trout that he had to buy, and get a license for.

Those of us on that trip felt sorry for those who missed out.



Host Mike Bourke



Aah, the social side - and out comes the Banrock and beer!



Taumata Lagoon - home to Gretel wetlands - drying out as a result of agricultural irrigation

In 1990, Neil and Sylvia Hayes and their family purchased a major part of the Taumata Lagoon, 9km from Carterton, Wairarapa, recognised as one of the last vestiges of natural, wild wetland in the Wairarapa, with an outstanding oxbow lagoon and a remnant block of native bush. The bush was logged in 1964, but in 1990 the Hayes family undertook a major native bush restoration programme and have now planted thousands of kahikatea, totara and native flax. 7.5 hectares are under a QEII covenant and the regional council earlier conferred the area, Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) status. The Hayes' Brown Teal Conservation Trust which is dedicated to captive-breeding and in-depth study programmes based on researching and recovery of pateke, is based here at the Gretel Lagoon wetlands.

About six years ago the regional council issued a water extraction and irrigation permit to the dairy farmer neighbouring the lagoon and two bores were sunk: one 80m from the lagoon and the other 120m away.

Mr Hayes QSM (no relation to Wairarapa MP John Hayes) was quoted in the Wairarapa Times Age in December as having said "No mention of the lagoon appeared anywhere in the permit documents. It was not until 2004, after two wet summers, that the destructive



From this on 20 November 2007, Taumata Lagoon...

influences of the irrigation was first noticed and from then on the lagoon water level was monitored and recorded each day."

He said data gathered last year and this year shows millions of litres were taken from the lagoon in only a few weeks of irrigation for agricultural purposes. Neil and Sylvia have launched a nationwide campaign aimed at

"embarrassing the regional council" into doing something to stop the slow death of the lagoon. They have written to the Prime Minister, leader of the Opposition, government ministers, local mayors, Fish and Game Council, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and many other organisations and media.

...to this, on 10 December 2007 - 20 days



Accolades flow for new wetland book

Janet Hunt's latest book, 'Wetlands of New Zealand: A Bittersweet Story', was launched at the Waiheke Community Art Gallery in November before an audience of 100-plus and punctuated by heart-felt accolades for the award-winning island author.

Jenny Hellen from publisher Random House paid tribute to her feat of not only having researched (travelling all over the country) and written a book on such a complex subject in five months, but having been responsible for its design and layout as well.

Janet, she said, was "incredibly talented". An earlier work in a similar vein by Janet Hunt, 'A Bird in the Hand: Keeping New Zealand Wildlife Safe' (Random House, 2003), won both the non-fiction section and the Book of the Year award at the 2004 New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

Wetland expert and academic Keith Thompson who assisted with her research said it was the book he had "always wanted to write" but had not because he was "a stodgy scientist".

The accessible way it had been written meant it was a book that would "reach everyone", he said, which was vitally important as the plight, importance and beauty of wetlands became increasingly on the radar of public awareness. Furthermore the book reflected her "love" of these unique eco-systems.

Such sentiments were echoed by National Wetland Trust chairman Gordon Stephenson whose book 'Wetland: Exploring New Zealand's Shy Places' published 21 years ago was the last authoritative work on the subject. Janet's book was "a sign that wetlands are coming of age", he quipped.

In officially launching the book, Auckland Regional Council chairman Mike Lee said such an accomplished work identified the author as the country's "leading natural history writer".

Wetlands of New Zealand: A Bittersweet Story

This article originated in the Waiheke Gulf News, and is reproduced with their permission and our thanks.

KOTUKU: Nick (Whetter) - our former editor Juliet Oliver's son - recently went trout fishing around Harihari and Okarito and sent this lovely photo of a kotuku. His comment was, according to Juliet, depressing. He said, "There was no didymo but the dairy effluent was noticeable in what should be crystal clear spring-fed waters. It's all dairy country round there now".



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good family....



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Not an advertisement: the Cat Conundrum

The CatBib is a patented product, developed in the USA. It prevents cats from catching and killing wild birds by gently interfering with a cat's hunting skills, without interfering with any other normal cat activities. It is a colourful bib, that's right.

Invented by a backyard bird-feeding, cat lover in Springfield, Oregon. It acts as a barrier coming between the cat and the bird your cat is after. Simply put...it gets in the way just as the cat strikes out for the bird. Additionally, because birds see in colour, it also functions as a colourful visual warning to the birds. The birds are more apt to see the cat, before the cat gets close enough to attack. A simple solution to a big problem.

Just as importantly cats can run, jump, climb trees, eat, drink, and be merry in their CatBibs. The actions your cat uses to make that final lunge at a bird is what activates the CatBib to work only when it's attempting to catch a bird. They can enjoy the outdoors, get exercise, fresh air and sunshine. The only thing they can't do is catch birds!

The Murdoch University CatBib trial also showed that the CatBib reduces small mammal predation by almost 50%

The CatBib folds over the cat's collar and is secured by hook and loop closures for easy on/off action, and it is specially designed to slide easily over the collar and hang loosely over the cat's chest.

Comfortable and safe, the CatBib is made of thin neoprene which is light-weight (less than an ounce), stretchy, durable, and easy to care for. Wipe off with a damp cloth or machine wash.

Available in 4 colors: Blue, Pink, Teal, and Purple.

And the Scientists say:

(from an Australian Wildlife Health Network newsletter)

"Reducing the rate of predation on wildlife by pet cats: The efficacy and practicability of collar-mounted pounce protectors" BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION, Vol 137, Issue 3, July 2007, pp 341-348

M. Calver, S. Thomas, S. Bradley, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Murdoch University, Murdoch, Western Australia, Australia and H. McCutcheon, School of Veterinary Studies, Murdoch University, Western Australia, 2007.

In an attempt to provide sound advice to owners seeking to curb the predatory behaviour of their pet cats, we evaluated whether or not the commercial collar-worn product the CatBib reduces the number of vertebrates caught by pet cats. We also tested whether the colour of the CatBib influenced its effectiveness, or if supplementing the CatBib with a bell could reduce predation further.

Fifty-six cats identified by their owners as known hunters completed the study, which took place in Perth, Western Australia over a six-week period in November/December 2005 (southern hemisphere late spring/early summer). Each cat spent a period of three weeks wearing a CatBib and three weeks without it and the number of prey brought home during each period was recorded. Participating cats caught a total of 13 bird species, five mammal species and 11 herp (reptile and frog) species.

CatBibs stopped 81% of cats from catching birds, 45% of cats from catching mammals, and 33% of cats from catching herptofauna. CatBibs of both colours were equally effective at reducing predation. There was no statistically significant evidence that adding bells conferred additional protection. Most cats (86%) adjusted almost immediately to wearing a CatBib, 10% took a day or so and only 4% took longer.



Kitset Grey Teal Nesting Boxes

Chris Bindon has written to say that his grey teal nesting boxes - story Flight 129, October 2006 - as constructed by Henning Hovmand and himself, are still being made and that a great amount of them are available to our members in the Greater Auckland area in kitset form. If you are interested contact Chris on email giant.weta@orcon.net.nz

He would like to offer the kitsets to any chapters who might like to have Chapter member-bonding working bees, for instance, or put them together individually.

'Extinct' seabird once again caught in the Hauraki Gulf

A New Zealand storm petrel, once presumed extinct was again captured in November 2007 in the Hauraki Gulf but its breeding site remains a mystery.

Kiwi news

From DoC in September who report that little spotted kiwi have more than doubled in number on their Hauraki Gulf island home in the last five years, according to the results of a recent Department of Conservation survey. The population of kiwi on Tiritiri Matangi has grown to more than 60 (estimated at 60-80 birds) from about 30 birds in 2002.

Rattie's foiled attempt to sail to Tiritiri Matangi

A Norway rat found on a ferry due to sail to Tiritiri Matangi was stopped from getting to the island sanctuary due to quick action by the ferry operator.

In late September this year, when 360 Discovery staff discovered that a rodent had paid an overnight visit to the ferry while moored at Gulf Harbour, they promptly cancelled the day's trip to the island. The rat had chewed its way in under a door, sampled a snack basket then vanished.

The Department of Conservation biosecurity team was alerted and laid traps and bait on board. Suspicions that the visitor was probably a Norway rat were confirmed when it was caught in a trap on the foredeck the next morning.

Department of Conservation community relations officer Liz Maire says that 360 Discovery's decision not to sail and put the island at risk deserved high praise.

Hihi historic hatching in Waitakeres

Hihi transferred to Ark in the Park in the Waitakere Ranges earlier this year hatched chicks in late November 2007, Forest & Bird is delighted to announce. Ark in the Park Project Manager Sandra Jack says the chicks are the first generation of hihi (or stitchbird) to hatch on the Auckland mainland for more than a century. "We are absolutely thrilled with the arrival of our first 'Westie chicks'. The fact that the first generation of 'immigrants' brought to the Waitakere Ranges from Tiritiri Matangi Island is breeding successfully is a good sign that they have adapted well to their new home and are thriving." Earlier this year the 59 mostly juvenile hihi were transferred to Cascade Kauri Park, home of the community restoration project Ark in the Park, following an intensive programme of pest control that means the birds are more likely to survive on the mainland without being preyed on by introduced pests such as possums, rats and stoats.

The transfer was the first time hihi had lived on the Auckland mainland since their populations were wiped out by predators in the late 1800s.

Hihi were reduced to one population on Little Barrier/Hauturu Island in the Hauraki Gulf but recent conservation efforts have seen new populations established on Tiritiri Matangi Island, Kapiti Island and Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington where they are safe from predators.

KILWELL'S FIBRE EXPERTISE FILLS WORLD MARKETS

When historians review the Kilwell story they will see it as an example of a New Zealand company that built upon a strong consumer following to launch itself into the world market with industrial-grade products.

Kilwell celebrates its 75th anniversary next year and though most sports people associate it with outdoor gear, the company has levered off its skills in carbon fibre production to make components for the marine sector and also the electricity sector in 20 countries.

The story began in 1933 with British civil engineer John L Wells, a keen sportsman, living in New Zealand, who took a charge over an Auckland sports store. It failed, Mr Wells took over, and plunged into the recreational supply business.

Manufacturing started in 1958 and it was not long before the new era of carbon fibre dawned and Kilwell was among the first to

see the strength-to-weight ratio advantages in this new material.

By now in the hands of the founder's sons, John and Jeremy, the firm got a shot in the arm from the victory at the 1984 Olympics of Ian Ferguson and Paul McDonald. It was now that Kilwell's glass and carbon canoe and kayak paddle shafts began to hit their straps internationally. This was followed by orders for full scale carbon masts. The Rotorua company's expertise in carbon fibre manufacturer was now such that it began to receive orders internationally to customise its shafts into heavy duty electrical handling gear.

The fibre tube manufacturing business continues to run in parallel



Kilwell owner and Managing Director Jeremy Wells with humidifier and thermos fashioned in the form of a cartridge - note the gun safes in the background.

with the company's rod making division.

Manufacturing in its turn maintains pace with Kilwell's sports gear wholesaling division operated out of the Rotorua premises which though hangar-like in dimension are designed interiorly around a hunting lodge theme.

The firm remains in the hands of the family, as indeed, do members of the large staff, and this is essential bearing in mind the skills component in-depth needed by this diversified recreational products manufacturer and wholesaler.

Pateke Recovery Group Leader

DoC Thames programme manager Jason Roxburgh has replaced Richard Moloney as the Pateke Recovery Group Leader.

With his background in work on the conservation of other threatened waterfowl such as the Campbell Island teal and whio, Jason has been working on the Pateke Recovery programme since its beginnings at Port Charles in the Coromandel.

For 15 years Jason has worked in threatened species management, island restoration, pest eradication, marine reserve management and in developing community-based conservation projects.

Jason believes that the future of pateke survival depends on their being maintained in their current strongholds and being re-introduced to large managed sites. He praises the help of Wetland Care NZ, Ducks Unlimited, Banrock Station wines and the pateke captive breeders.

During 2008 the Pateke Recovery Group will be working with several community-based, private, DoC and Regional Council projects to begin the establishment of two new major populations.



Waikato Opuatia Wetlands Ducks Unlimited/DoC Accord Signed



Rachel Kelleher, DOC Area Manager with DU President, Ross Cottle.

Conservation week date change

You can plan a great event but you can't control the weather. That's the message the Department of Conservation have been getting loud and clear, as winter weather played havoc with many of this year's Conservation Week events.

Conservation Week is DOC's big event each year, when hundreds of conservation and recreation activities take place all across the country. It has always taken place in August, when DOC staff and community partners keep their fingers crossed for fine weather.

"We have had lots of feedback from staff and the key agencies we work with that early August has never been a very reliable time of the year to run events, with winter weather often putting a dampener on things," said Anastasia Turnbull, brand and campaign manager for DOC.

As a result, DOC has decided to move Conservation Week forward into September, when the spring weather is usually warmer and calmer.

DU patron Jim Campbell and DU president Ross Cottle, with DU treasurer John Bishop spent Thursday and Friday in Hamilton in December. The purpose of the visit was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with DoC. Ross reports, "We had a very positive discussion about the project with DoC and staff from Environment Waikato who have land which borders the property. Environment Waikato will address the bund along the edge of the Opuatia Stream this summer, which should hold the water in the wetland well into the summer and, as the land is very flat, we are hopeful that there will not be much more digger work required".

DU board member David Smith drove down to meet the group on-site for a good look around.

"We believe our main job will be in getting rid of the willow infestation which will be done in a staged approach, much the same we are doing at Wairio in South Wairarapa", Ross stated.

John Bishop's first job will be to set up the local committee to oversee the project.

"This is another excellent partnership between ourselves and DoC - we hope one of many more to come", enthused Ross Cottle.

Ducks Unlimited Raffle 2007

Howard Egan who is to be congratulated on his hard work organising the annual raffle, reported on October 26 that the raffle had been drawn. He says that it was well-supported with 92% of the books being sold, and the gross banking being just on \$10,000.

Yet again, Joyce Brooks of Greytown was the top salesperson, with a new record of 80 books sold!

1st prize: Philips 32" Real Flat TV	Ticket No. 2250	James Lazur, Queenstown
2nd prize: Philips DVD Home Theatre	2026	Geoff Hay, Rotonia
3rd prize: Boutique B&B, Kaikoura	3119	Brian Simmons, Algies Bay
4th prize: Philips 21" Flat T.V.	1783	C.B. Evens, Warkworth
5th prize: Gold.cz solataire ring	2316	Alan Johnston, Masterton
6th prize: Stoney Creek fleece garments	1107	Michael Bayley, Otorahanga
7th prize: Micro Hi Fi system	1303	Jonathan Brownrigg, Hastings
8th prize: Philips DVD player	1793	Phillipa Falloon, Masterton
9th prize: Clock radio	1070	Joe Bannister, Masterton
10th prize: Clock radio	1792	Phillipa Falloon, Masterton

LOST MEMBERS - a plea from our Membership Secretary Sandra Pipes

This is a new feature of Flight.

People move and their mailing details get lost - if you find them please info@ducks.org.nz or PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.

Dr Patrick Farry of Queenstown - has moved but unfortunately we have not received a change of address and we're sure he'd like to receive his copy of Flight!

If you can help, you may know where he has moved to or have a current phone number, please contact Sandra using the email or postal address above and let her know. It would be much appreciated.

Subscriptions

When the members pay next year's subscriptions could the members PLEASE...

- Provide me with their postal code. We were all sent a card with the new numbers attached months and months ago. When asked for them last year I received only a few and we

are going to **have to have this code on all mail in the future**. To save both a lot of time and money for DU it would be much easier for members to provide that information now!

- Those that pay by credit card please ensure they provide the card expiry date as the banks have become extremely picky about this (as they should).

- For those that have authorised DU to have their subscription paid automatically by credit card I need their card expiry date. The majority have long since expired and as stated above the bank will no longer accept either an old date or the blank spaces.

Members can either email this information now, wait and provide it on the subscription renewal notice that will come out in April, or could send a note now to me at PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.

Please remember if you've changed your email address to let Sandra know at info@ducks.org.nz

Thank you.



MONSTER FERRET BREAKS KNOWN RECORD



This is believed to be the largest wild ferret ever trapped in New Zealand. It was trapped at Gretef Lagoons in the Wairarapa in July. Weighing in at 1.5kg or 3.3lb, this monster-sized ferret was caught in a Timms possum/cat trap. In the opinion of many and as Neil Hayes says, they are by far the most efficient elimination trap... and yet this monster had managed to move about six metres away, after being caught. Imagine what it ate before it snuffed it...*(photo courtesy Neil Hayes, BTCT, Carterton)*

Kahurangi National Park has new who family

The Friends of Flora and the Department of Conservation are celebrating the arrival of the first who chicks - four of them - to have hatched in Kahurangi National Park's Flora Stream, in the Nelson area, for over a decade. This took place in December 2007.

Three years ago, only one lone male who remained in the Flora catchment; in recent times three who pairs have been seen there.

The Friends of Flora (FOF) and DOC are jointly trapping stoats in the area for the protection of who. The Friends are a group of community volunteers who carry out pest control in the Flora catchment to protect and enhance the area's native vegetation and wildlife.

The parents of the new who chicks are named Maryann and Bill, after Friends of Flora chairperson Maryann Ewers and her partner Bill Rooke, who are founding members of the group. Who Maryann had hatched in the nearby Pearse River in the 2005 breeding season. She was moved to Flora Stream in March last year with funding from the Tasman Environmental Trust's "Cobb Dam Mitigation Fund". In moving her to the Flora it was hoped she would pair with a male and breed. Bill flew into the Flora some time after, it is not known from where, and the two paired up in January this year.

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

Name.....

Old address.....

New address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone.....

Email.....

For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149, or email: info@ducks.org.nz



- YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member
 Please send me further information, I may join later.

Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Address.....

Phone..... Fax.....

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For Wetlands and Waterfowl

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