

Flight



ISSUE 139 - April 2009

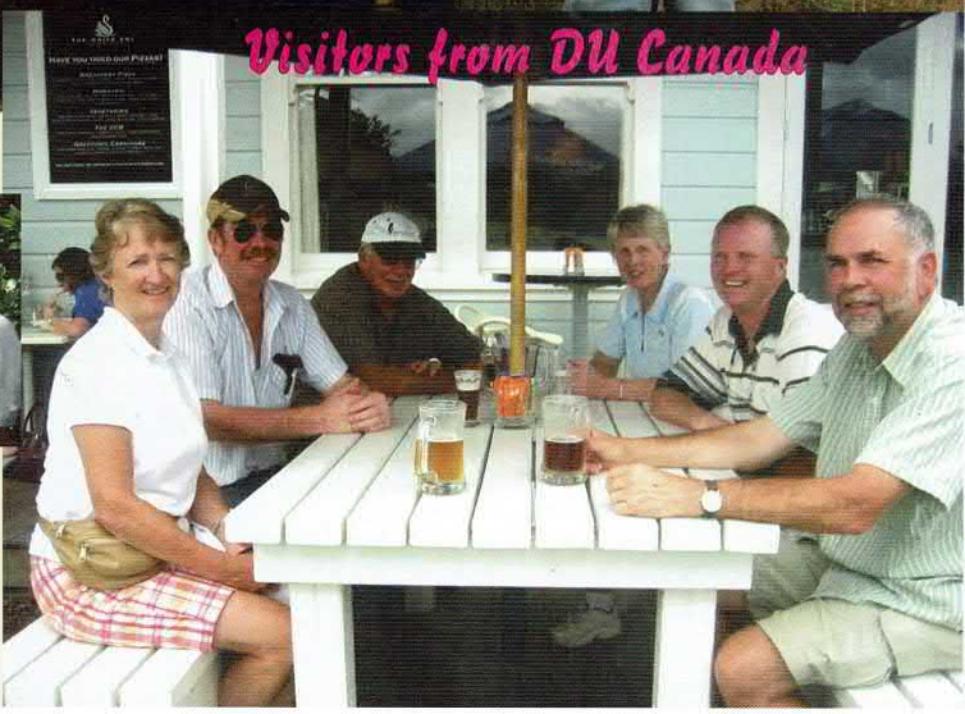


Pateke return to Fiordland

Jawharanui -
another pateke release

Manawatu
claybird
shoot

Rathmoy Game Preserve
and much much
more inside





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, among others:

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

Masterton Intermediate School, Masterton

Steyning Trust, Hawkes Bay

Travis Wetland Trust, Christchurch

Wairio Wetland, South Wairarapa

Wetland Trust New Zealand, Rangiriri

Waitakere Branch of Forest and Bird, West Auckland

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Dunedin

Cape Kidnappers pateke release, 2008

For further information, please contact:
William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand, phone 06-362 6675
PO Box 281 Levin.

William Abel sent Flight these impressive Easter weekend photographs enjoying his and Jan's Huritini wetlands - mute swan and Canada geese.



Waterfowl and Wetlands



Videos \$30

DVDs \$39

(inc GST)

+ \$5 for Courier

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.

ORDER FROM:

Scientific and Wildlife Films
11 Hanover Street, Wadestown,
Wellington, New Zealand

Insight

The hunting season is almost here and while reading the Fish & Game magazine I came upon an article in which the author had interviewed a number of long-time waterfowl and upland game hunters asking them why they hunted.

The answers varied a great deal, from watching the sun come up, working retrievers of all shapes, sizes and breeds, teaching young kids and just generally enjoying the great outdoors.

But the over-riding theme they all had was the camaraderie they felt with fellow hunters, that kept bringing them back year after year.

And I for one heartily concur with all those sentiments.

Good hunting!

Ross Cottle
President



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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Full colour half page inside \$200, Black and white full page \$300,
Black and white half page \$180, Black and white 1/4 page \$90.

All to be produced camera-ready.

Discount for long-term ads - ask Editor

Waterfowl adverts are free to members. Please contact the Editor with any suggestions or to book a space.

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

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15 May 2009

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Greytown

Wairarapa

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April 2009 cover photo shows:

From left DU vice-president Ossie Latham, DoC Pateke Recovery Group Kevin Evans and Reg Kempler of DoC with the cheque for \$17,000 donated by Banrock Station Wines to Wetlandcare NZ Inc, on the occasion of the release of pateke back into Fiordland in March. Photo courtesy Ron and Gay Munro. See story page 7.

Bottom right photo shows DU Canada visitor Len Everett pictured with wife Pat and son James, with (furthest from camera) Neil and daughter Teresa Candy of Manawatu, during a visit to Wetland Care NZ director William and Jan Abel's lovely wetlands and property Huritini in March 2009. Photo courtesy William Abel. See story page 9.

Photo bottom left: pateke held by Auckland Regional Council Student Ranger Megan Young with Jenny Rickett in background. Photo courtesy Matt Maitland and the Auckland Regional Council.



The 35th Annual Conference will be held in Palmerston North over the weekend 24 to 26 July 2009.

2009 Annual Ducks Unlimited Conference in Palmerston North preview

Programme

Friday 24 July

7.00pm: Registration. Drinks and buffet dinner at the Kingsgate Hotel

Saturday 25 July

9.00am: AGM

10.00am: Morning Tea

10.30am: Bus departs for wetland tour, drinks and lunch. We will be visiting three wetlands, first of all those of Bruce Ebbett and Neil Mercer, who are both relatively new members, at Makomako in the Pahiatua Track area and then lunch at Neil and Julie Candy's Hopelands, near Woodville. Bruce Ebbett's dam control structure was built in 1963. The lake is open to the public for water-skiing and picnics, etc.

Neil Mercer has ponds built in an old quarry. The Candys' ponds have been in since 2005, and the planting is starting to show progress.

On the return trip to Palmerston North we will go via the Te Apiti wind farm on the Saddle Road. The Ashhurst Domain (see photos below) is our last call.

6.30pm: Bus departs from Kingsgate Hotel going to the Silks Room at Awapuni Conference Centre

7.00pm: Silent auction and award presentations

7.30pm: Dinner followed by main auction

Sunday 26 July

9.30am: Guest speaker and morning tea

Manawatu's Ashhurst Domain

These photos were taken in April by William Abel who with a group of friends enjoyed a walk around the beautiful Ashhurst Domain, which is a public park, open seven days, with a cafe on site which is open most days. Ashhurst School has done a lot of planting around the wetland, aided by

the Palmerston North City Council, who are the landowners. One can access the park off SH3 on the Palmerston North to Woodville road, before crossing the Manawatu River and entering the Manawatu Gorge. Neil Candy is photographed feeling happy about the magnificent view!



**Lost - can you help?
from Sandra Pipes - info@
ducks.org.nz**

**DUNZ Administration
P.O. Box 9795,**

Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Does anyone have news or new contact details for:

Jane Donald, previously of Diversion Road, Featherston

Her Flight magazine has been returned as 'Gone no address' and we would like to remain in contact. Also lost in the mailing are:

Steve Phillips of St Heliers, Auckland - steveandjonelle@xtra.co.nz

Doug Emmett of Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game, Hamilton -

wfg@xtra.co.nz

The Secretary, Enviro Research, Ohakune - info@enviroresearch.co.nz

Calling our overseas members...

Do any of you know:

Ward & Sis Reilly of Lookout Mountain, TN37350 USA?

Their January Flight has been returned to us as being 'Not Deliverable As Addressed' but it's the same address we have had for them for years. If you know of them or their new contact details please can you ask them to be in contact with us. This would be much appreciated.



**Subscription
payments get
up-to-date**

We are moving with the times, even if it's at a duck's pace!

You have been able to pay directly into DUNZ account for some time but now Ducks Unlimited is an established bill payee with most banks, making payments hopefully a little easier, so subscriptions and conference registrations can now be paid by phone / internet banking. Just follow your bank's instructions .

PLEASE make sure you include your name, what you are paying, e.g. subscription, and either an invoice number or membership number so we can reconcile the statement and not chase you for money you've already paid!!

Credit card payers

For those members who renew their subscription automatically every year via credit card payment and their expiry date has expired since April 2008 and May 2009 would you please can you contact me by mail or email at info@ducks.org.nz with your new expiry date and card number please. This will be most helpful and speed the process up a great deal.

**Welcome to our new
members**

Ralph Adams of Levin

Roger Martin of Palmerston North

John & Carol Noakes of Motueka

Gayle & John Hopcroft of Feilding

Neil Mercer of Pahiatua

Kristian Funnell of Palmerston North

Geoff Flower of Hamilton

D Hazlitt of Palmerston North

Diane Playle of Gisborne

Recently we have tried corresponding with these people and their email address has changed. Please advise me of your new email address at info@ducks.org.nz.

DD Crichton of Christchurch

david@cha.co.nz

Perry Johnson of Ongarue

johnsonpj@xtra.co.nz

wds ltd@mail.igrin.co.nz (expanded from <wds ltd@igrin.co.nz>)

Murray & Lois Tapp of Whangarei

rogeramjet@clear.net.nz

Roger Smailes of Palmerston North



GENTLE REMINDER

**TO
MEMBERS:
DUCKS UNLIMITED
2009/2010
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE NOW DUE!**

Photo shows spoonbill and swan together at William and Jan Abel's Huritini in April 2009



DU Manawatu Clay Bird shoot a hit

The weather was kind for the Ducks Unlimited Manawatu clay bird shoot held on Neil and Julie Candy's property at Hopelands, Woodville. Although the somewhat gusty conditions in the morning meant the targets were moving around a bit, this still provided ideal duck-hunting conditions for the shooters. Just over 80 shooters registered on the day, coming from Wellington, Taupo and many places in between. In fact two Ducks Unlimited stalwarts drove down from Auckland for the event and to catch up with friends. Top score from 100 targets was 95, with two shooters, Jason Saunders and Darren Norling, tied for first place. But the day was more about getting out and having fun with fellow waterfowl hunters.

The event was kindly sponsored by Mooses Sports of Palmerston North. Jon Collins from Pohangina won the gun, a Browning Silver Hunter. Coincidentally, had tried out a demo model at the Moose's Sports stand (see photo) and found it very nice to use.

Top junior shooter was Guy Fraser from Taumarunui who won a driven pheasant shoot donated by Mark Grace, of Rathmoy, Hunterville. A walk-up pheasant shoot, also donated by Mark Grace, Rathmoy, was won by Dane Hutton of Palmerston North.

Mooses Sports had a great prize table, with everybody able to take home something from the event.

All photos courtesy Megan and Tommy Cushnahan



Photo above shows from left: Graham Gurr, David Smith, Di Pritt, Bevan Petersen, Carl Marwood, Darren Norling (who tied for top gun)



Ross Hood using the demo gun, a Browning Silver Hunter, at Mooses stand.

Photo right: Allan Elliot and Jim Campbell catching up and telling tales



Ten pakeke snoozing in the sun after some counting disturbance six unbanded, four banded and seen at the southern arm of Green Lake in February. Photo courtesy John Heaphy - see story p.14



The Manawatu clay shoot sponsor, Brian Leslie of Mooses Sports with the winner of the gun, Jon Collins, and host Neil Candy with Jan Cook in the background

New Zealand's rarest waterfowl species set to return to Fiordland thanks to some help from a Southland farmer and Banrock Station Wines

Southland farmer Ron Munro and 20 pateke/brown teal flew into the wild and spectacular habitat of the Arthur River in Fiordland National Park in March. Thanks to successful captive-breeding programme throughout New Zealand, and with the support of Banrock Station Wines and Wetlandcare New Zealand, the Department of Conservation Pateke Recovery Group are reintroducing pateke back into Fiordland, a place they have been missing from for many years, thanks mainly to the ravishes of stoats!

Local long-time pateke captive breeder and Ducks Unlimited member, Ron Munro is thrilled to see birds released near his home patch. "Naturally I am happy that Banrock Station Wines continue to support the national breeding program and the release at the Arthur River through Wetland Care NZ. Without Banrock Station Wines, a successful result would be much more difficult to achieve," he said.

Mr Munro said he is happy to see this major release of the endangered pateke in the South Island, near his hometown. "It's certainly encouragement to continue with the captive-breeding programme."

A flight from Queenstown Airport into Milford Sound sponsored by tourism operator 'Real Journeys', followed by a short helicopter ride saw the birds transferred into their new home in the Arthur Valley, close to the world-famous Milford Track.

Wetlandcare New Zealand director and Pateke Recovery Group member Ossie Latham states the site is a good one, as it is within the Operation Ark stoat-trapped area. "Where there is good stoat control, the ducks have a chance. This has proven the case elsewhere and as stoats are the number one predator in Fiordland, the Department of Conservation have beefed up the protection with an additional 100 stoat traps."

With Banrock Station Wine's continuing support of Wetlandcare New Zealand and the Pateke recovery programme, their contribution for this particular project enables each bird to wear a transmitter so that they can be tracked and if survival rates are good, further releases are planned. This would be a happy result for Mr Munro and his fellow captive-breeding

network members. If all goes well, over the next five years more than 200 pateke could be released into Fiordland.

The pateke captive-breeding network is made up of 20 volunteer facilities made up of a mixture of private breeders and zoological institutions, each breeding birds for release into the wild each year, and with around 150 birds collectively being produced with an estimated rearing cost of around \$450 each, this is a substantial contribution to the conservation of this species. So far the reintroduction programme has successfully established a new wild population of pateke into Moehau Cormandel and begun new flocks at Cape Kidnappers in the Hawkes Bay and Tutukaka near Whangarei. As part of its support of the Pateke Recovery Group Programme, Banrock Station Wines has helped to fund these releases as well.

There are currently fewer than 1800 pateke living in a wild state in New Zealand, making them New Zealand's rarest waterfowl species on the mainland.

Leading ecowine brand Banrock Station has been producing quality and innovative Australian wines based on sound environmental principles since its establishment in 1994. Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre is located in South Australia's Riverland region, about three hours drive northeast of Adelaide. The 1700ha site includes a visitor centre, 300ha of vines, internationally accredited wetlands, a floodplain and protected mallee ecosystem.

Banrock Station has a long-term commitment to global conservation and has committed more than AU\$5 million from sales of Banrock Station wines to 60 projects around the world to date. Banrock Stations wetland restoration programme led to the Wine and Wetland Centre being listed as a wetland of international importance in 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention.

Proceeds from Banrock Station wines sold in New Zealand are given to Wetlandcare New Zealand, who, in partnership with Banrock, supports the Pateke Recovery Programme and other wetland restoration projects throughout New Zealand. To date, Banrock Station Wines have donated over \$250,000 in support of 20 projects around New Zealand.

Photo left shows Ron Munro, long-time pateke captive breeder from Southland with DU and Wetlandcare New Zealand Director and Pateke Recovery Group member, Ossie Latham at the time of the pateke release in Fiordland in March 2009. Photo courtesy Bruce Fraser of Te Anau.



Another Tawharanui pateke release success

Another 40 pateke were released into the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary at Tawharanui Regional Park in February.

They came to the open sanctuary from the Pateke Recovery captive-breeding network, made up of 20 volunteer pateke breeders from all around New Zealand, and join the pateke that were released into the open sanctuary in February 2008.

Auckland's Regional Council Open Sanctuary co-ordinator Matt Maitland says this year's release is a positive reflection of the progress that the rare birds are making at the park.

"We know that at least half of the 24 birds released in 2007 are still living on the park and estimate that at least eight to 14 new chicks have hatched," he says. Some birds have been spotted on neighbouring properties including the nearby Christian Bay wetland.

The restoration of the Mangatawhiri wetland has been a key project for the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc (TOSSI) in recent years. TOSSI Chair Paul Williams says the introduction of pateke is the culmination of these efforts.

"TOSSI volunteers have dedicated many hours to restoring this threatened ecosystem and we are delighted to see rare species like the pateke returned to its natural habitat.

"This project has been made possible through funding from Banrock Station wines and Wetland Care New Zealand's dedicated sponsorship of lost wetland restoration and duck habitat," he says. This release is the second of up to four planned for Tawharanui over the next two to three years.



Photo above: pateke held by Auckland Regional Council Student Ranger Megan Young with Jenny Rickett in background



Photo above: Jaden Dawson-Takiari of Warkworth Play Centre prepares to release a pateke supported by mum Cherie Dawson and Rebeka Caldwell of DoC on right

Photo left shows pateke held by Rebekah Caldwell (DoC) with Jenny Rickett (Massey University) recording the duck's details at Tawharanui in February.

All Tawharanui photos courtesy of Matt Maitland and the Auckland Regional Council ranger team.



Fiordland pateke release

(story page 7)

Photo right is from the Fiordland pateke release in March. Bridget Baxter from Peacock Springs admires a newcomer pateke making itself at home. Photo courtesy Ron Munro. See story page 7.



Ducks Unlimited Canada visitors - “DU to detail threat to Boreal Forest”

Salt intrusion into coastal wetlands due to rising seas through global warming is a pending problem for New Zealand, according to Len Everett, the British Columbia, Canada, senior director of Ducks Unlimited, which has acquired 24 million acres of wilderness as sanctuary.

During his visit to New Zealand in March, Mr Everett said, in an interview with Flight, that in British Columbia there had been substantial work on dykes in anticipation of the rising tides, and thus the intrusion of salt water into farmland.

For wildlife there would be the increasing danger of the disappearance of freshwater breeding habitat for seabirds as the base for them to store energy for the winter migration to the ocean.

Discussing the impact of the search for domestic supplies of fossil fuels in Canada, Mr Everett noted the threat to the Boreal Forest, the zone between the prairie and the tundra, as exploration and production of tar sands was boosted.

Canada's Boreal Forest stretches from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean. It's 13 times the size of California, one of the largest intact ecosystems on earth. It holds more freshwater than anywhere else on the planet and plays an essential role in cleaning the air we breathe. The Canadian Boreal is part of the greater Boreal Forest, which stores more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem in the world. Despite its value, less than 10% of Canada's Boreal Forest is protected. It is being logged at a rate of two acres a minute, 24 hours a day to make things like catalogues and junk mail brochures.

Mr Everett warned that the new peril was the presence of the Boreal Forest as a repository for carbon fuels, and moreover with the terrain lending itself to strip-mining extraction.

Ducks Unlimited, which employs almost 500 people full time in Canada, is seeking to alert conservationists worldwide about the threat to the Boreal Forest by drawing attention to its value to the world.

The organisation was engaged in compiling an 'inventory' of what the Boreal Forest contains, and thus arrive at the value of it in the era of climate change.

Photo right : DU Canada visitor Len Everett pictured with wife Pat and son James, with (furthest from camera) Neil and daughter Teresa Candy of Manawatu, during a visit to Wetland Care NZ director William and Jan Abel's wetlands and property Huritini in March 2009.



Photo above from left : Doreen Bills of DU Canada, DUNZ President Ross Cottle, DUNZ patron Jim Campbell, DU Canada's Pat Everett, Ken Bills gold sponsor DU Canada, and DU Canada's Len Everett. From this refreshment stop in Greymouth, the group visited the Wairio Wetlands in the company of Jim Law (Photo and story Peter Isaac)

"We are going to spell it out, and detail what is there, in the Boreal Forest" said Mr Everett.

Mr Everett is the most recent visitor from DU Canada and he noted the New Zealand organisation's total reliance on volunteers. DU Canada has a payroll of 450.

"We must grow the organisation through encouraging volunteers, and the other important thing DU must do everywhere is innovate with new fund-raising ideas," he concluded.



Photo left is that of a bronze sculpture of a blue duck, created by Mike Norris. His Mike Norris Limited Edition bronze sculptures are on view at the International Art Centre, 272 Parnell Road, Auckland 1151. To view this New Zealand-based, British-born artist's work, click on the link <http://www.internationalartcentre.co.nz/gallery/artistCatalog.lsd?l=Norris&f=Mike>

Blue Duck Lodges news

We reproduce highlights of the first Bush telegraph for 2009 sent from Dan Steele, of Blue Duck Lodges. A lot of water has flowed from the mountains to the sea since our last newsletter. All the lambs have been sold, the blue ducklings have fledged, many top guests and eco-warriors have visited us, each leaving their own mark and the manuka honey is being harvested as we speak....

As always, more big plans are being hatched!!

Goings-on in the bush.....

As we grow, good passionate people are needed to drive the business forward. Wendi Lane comes from farming stock at Miranda and has travelled the world extensively, for 17 years!?! (was only meant to be 2!!) Wendi went on the website, liked what she saw, came and volunteered and then moved here!! Her jobs include Blue Duck PA(well....Dan's PA!), office manager, lodge organiser and whatever else needs doing!

Kia Wharite

The largest project of its kind in New Zealand, Kia Wharite will help protect blue duck, kiwi and the entire forest ecosystem on private and conservation lands. Whakahoro is the northern gateway for the project which covers 450,000 acres. Conservation minister Tim Groser came and launched the project. He spoke about conservation being the most important factor for NZ farmers, tourism and the economy, now and in the future.

Blue Duck Lodge is holding a large-scale kiwi call count over three nights from April 1 (or thereabouts, weather permitting). We are hoping to identify birds for future egg lifts and build a profile of the local Whanganui Kiwi population i.e. age, sex and distribution profile.

Blue Duck café and information centre is on its way! We have purchased the Wades landing canoe and jet boat base from Steve Carr.

This will become the centrepiece of Whakahoro as a café, info centre, art gallery and generally, just a nice place to hang out having a great cup of coffee whilst finding out about the wildlife, history and future plans for the area.

The plan is that the café will become Whakahoro's very own event's centre, hosting weddings, meetings and lots of parties!! We have already tested out the facilities with a few warm up parties!?!.....it's all good!

It will be a gradual project over the next few months, so we will keep you posted.

Upcoming events – shoots and giggles.....

- We're chasing roaring stags for the next month with top clients
- Latest word from National Geographic is - article due out in July issue
- Pre-lamb pig cull early July, before Dan takes off for Canada
- Music festival to celebrate Whakahoro centenary next summer
- The next Whio field day will be in May..... will let you know the date. Email if you wish to be put on the newsletter list.

Blue Duck Lodge
RD 2
Owhango
07 895 6276
dan@blueducklodge.co.nz

Pukaha Mount Bruce news - the complete newsletter is available by emailing

pukahapost@doc.govt.nz

Bud, the resident takahe at Wairarapa's Pukaha Mount Bruce wildlife centre, is lonesome no more following the introduction of a male buddy to his enclosure, visible from the centre's popular café. The two pair of pateke (brown teal) transferred to Pukaha in February 2008, have both successfully bred producing 13 ducklings. Once fledged the ducklings will be moved to the teal flock aviary where they will be on public display, which will give the adult pairs a chance to re-nest. The ducklings will be held on display until they get transferred to Peacock Springs in Christchurch for pre release training.

Mount Bruce has been holding and breeding kokako with rare genes in order to supplement wild populations being established into managed areas around the North Island. These budding new populations have been doing quite well, and the Recovery Group feels that the captive breeding component of the Kokako Recovery Programme may no longer be necessary. We have therefore released unpaired captive kokako from Mt Bruce to Tiri Tiri Matangi and the Puketi Forest in Northland. We are happy that these birds have a chance to contribute to ongoing recovery of kokako on the North Island.

Kokako continue to be important at Mt Bruce, as the Pukaha wild kokako population is flourishing and we still hold a single kokako on display, so the public is still able to view the species. Red crowned kakariki will soon be on display in the vacated aviaries.

This season all shore plover eggs will be artificially incubated and the chick's hand raised with juveniles produced destined for release to Mana Island. Reports from Mana indicate that three pairs have now established breeding territories on the island. We anticipate releasing chicks on Mana Island for another three years. All seven pairs of shore plover are currently breeding with eleven chicks produced so far, so it is shaping up to be a good season.

All three female hihi have started breeding for the season. Juveniles produced are to be released into Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington.

Our female tuatara was recently x-rayed and was found to be carrying eight eggs. She was artificially induced on the 6th of November and the eggs were sent to Victoria University, Wellington for research purposes.

This season plans are in place to continue with the WHIONE (Operation Nest Egg for the Whio) programme, where eggs are collected from Egmont National Park and the chicks reared at Mt Bruce and released back to the wild. The staff recently had four eggs hatch that have been hand-raised. The ducklings should be out on display by the end of January before being returned to Tarankai to live in the wild in late summer.

To date the captive kaka are yet to breed, but the wild population is breeding. One pair has successfully fledged chicks and another six pairs are known to be nesting.

Wildfowl threatened by oil spills have new dedicated newsletter

Under contract to Maritime New Zealand the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University is responsible for responding to oil spills in which wildlife have been contaminated or are at risk of becoming contaminated.

While oil spills cannot be predicted, they can be anticipated and planned for.

So the unpredictable nature of these events, both spatially and temporally, calls for a high degree of contingency planning to allow for a quick and highly mobile response at the time of a spill. The New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre oversees basic equipment stores in each region of New Zealand which are designed to cater only for the first 24 hours of an oiled wildlife response. In addition to these existing regional supplies we aim to station mobile oiled wildlife response trailers strategically around New Zealand which will be dispatched to the oil spill scene soon after initial notification. These trailers will provide responders with supplementary equipment to cater for the second day of a response.

Coastal Enhancement funding from the Auckland Regional Council was recently secured to the sum of \$18,050 + GST for the purpose of constructing a mobile oiled wildlife response trailer for the upper North Island regions. The funding also went towards stocking the trailer with appropriate response equipment for the second phase of an oiled wildlife response. When it is not on-scene at an oil spill, this trailer will be based at the Marine Pollution Response Service Depot, Maritime New Zealand, Te Atatu Peninsula, Auckland.

The other existing response trailers will be stationed at Palmerston North, Christchurch and Invercargill. All response trailers will be fully stocked and positioned at their designated locations by the end of 2009.

Other interesting links are:
Sea Alarm Foundation <http://www.sea-alarm.org/>
LAMOR <http://www.lamor.fi/>
Helsinki Commission <http://www.helcom.fi/>
Morehouse containers <http://www.morehouse.fi/eng/cfmldocs/>

Oil Spill Response Limited <http://www.oilspillresponse.com/>

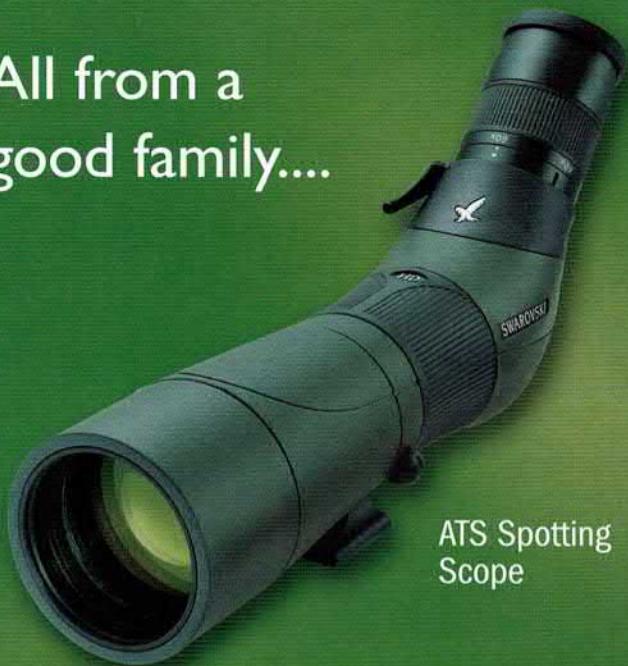
The 'Oiled Wildlife Response (OWR) Newsletter' will be circulated every three months by the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre (NZWHC), Massey

University. We intend that these newsletters will serve to keep Oiled Wildlife Responders up to date with events and news about oiled wildlife response both in New Zealand and abroad. Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and can be made to Helen McConnell.

(H.M.McConnell@massey.ac.nz).
For previous issues visit: <http://wildlife.massey.ac.nz/>



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ATS Spotting
Scope



EL Binoculars



SLC New
Binocular



LG 8x30
Rangefinder

Pocket Binocular



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Rathmoy, Rangitikei's jewel

DU member Mark Grace is the owner of the Rathmoy Game Preserve in the beautiful Rangitikei area of Manawatu, which offers a diverse range of driven pheasant, partridge and quail-shooting opportunities to suit all levels of experience. The shoot lodge, The Fish and Pheasant, sits on the edge of the Rangitikei River and at the foot of soaring white Papa cliffs. "It's a perfect and inspiring location before and after the shoot," says Mark.

"The day begins with an 8:30am briefing at The Fish and Pheasant where we run through the day's programme, have the safety briefing and the guns draw for their pegs. We then kick off with two drives before elevenses (morning tea), the first being an easy drive to get your eye in, then one more drive before lunch. Following lunch we travel by jet boat downriver and have as many drives as required to achieve the bag. The day finishes with the team coming together on the deck for a few quiet moments to cheer the many that got away and toast to the ones that didn't."

The bag is the number of birds retrieved at day's end. The minimum day's shoot is 100 birds and Rathmoy can host days up to 500 birds. There is a limited number of 100 bird days available and these will be held at the end of the season. During the day, shots will be counted. If the bag falls below the booked bag by more than 10%, shots fired will be considered and five shots will equate to one bird. A refund will be given if the bag targeted is not reached.

At Rathmoy nine guns is preferred but eight to ten is possible. Sharing of a gun is allowed and in this case there is a surcharge per person. Sharing a gun halves the cost of the day. Rathmoy will require the names of the Guns (that is the people owning the guns) no less than two weeks prior to the shoot day. Of course, Rathmoy reserves the right to reject any Gun without giving reason. Guns must use Rathmoy cartridges or their own biodegradable wad cartridges.

Lunch is included with the day's shooting and if you decide to stay on for dinner or are staying at The Fish and Pheasant we have two options for an evening meal: a catered three course meal or a cook-your-own barbecue with salads provided, and all one needs to do is grill the meat.

Shoot coaching is offered from 2pm the day prior to the shoot day for those less experienced or for those who would like to get their eye in. The coaching, hosted by one of New Zealand's top coaches, Gordon MacPhee, consists of two hours of simulated driven pheasant shooting with clay birds. We highly recommend this to get the most out of your day, and for those less experienced it is a must.

As a keen pheasant shooter himself, Mark Grace has shot at all of New Zealand's commercial pheasant shoots and will be happy to arrange bookings and accommodation on your behalf.

*Photos below: Fish and Pheasant Shoot Lodge.
Photos below courtesy Lucinda Maunsell, who is seen here with Mark Grace. Right: Rathmoy kitchen and picnic area.*



Walked-up shooting is available from May to August either with a guide over fully-trained pointers or enjoy the day at your own leisure with your own dog. Lunch can be pre-arranged for four or more people, as can pick-up and drop-off by jet boat.

Outside of the pheasant shooting season, Rathmoy offers Simulated Driven Pheasant Shooting. This is a similar day and concept to a normal day of pheasant shooting but substituting the pheasants with clays. This is great for a team of duck-shooting mates to get their eye in before the season or corporate team building days.

Peter Gifford is the new gamekeeper, who, with wife Kim and two children Leanne and Brandon has recently arrived from the UK. His work with the pheasants has been referred to by Mark as 'pheasant whispering'. Group and individual bookings can be made by contacting Mark Grace to confirm the shoot date. Other delights abound at Rathmoy.

Rathmoy Garden Cottage

Rathmoy Garden Cottage offers luxurious private accommodation and your stay can be as relaxing or eventful as you wish. The cottage is situated beside a lake in a beautiful six-acre garden. The cottage is Qualmark 5 star and for any queries email Susanna@rathmoy.co.nz, or phone 06 322 8334. You can take farm or bush walks, revel in the breathtaking scenery, experience a fully working farm property, quietly watch the myriad of birdlife, swim or enjoy world-class trout fishing in the Rangitikei, picnic by the lake, or curl up with a book in the extensive library.

Visit the renowned and spectacular Rathmoy Garden (featured in New Zealand Gardener March 2009 and April 1998), which is Susanna Grace's beloved masterpiece.

Rangatira Golf Course, known as one of New Zealand's most scenic courses, is just ten minutes away from Rathmoy Garden Cottage and there are several other courses to choose from within 45 minutes of Rathmoy.

For a change, try whitewater rafting, canoeing or jet boating, or for something even more extreme – the world's most extreme flying fox is nearby as is skiing which can be reached by car or helicopter. Rathmoy Game Preserve is located 5kms north of Hunterville. Ring or email if you would like to visit – the website is www.rathmoy.co.nz and all contact details are there.

PO Box 67, Hunterville, New Zealand.
The website is www.rathmoy.co.nz and Mark Grace is your host.





Rathmoy Garden Cottage - view across the lake and the main bedroom - Photos courtesy Susanna Grace

Wairio Wetland Restoration Committee, Wairarapa

The Wairio Wetland Restoration Committee met again in February 2009, during which meeting Phil Teal of Fish and Game was welcomed to the committee, was Lesley Christian representing the Farm Forestry Association - Indigenous.

As well as the above, members of the committee include Chair Ross Cottle (DU), Secretary Jim Law (DU), Jim Campbell (DU), Geoff Doring (Fish and Bird), Tony Silbury (DoC), Don Bell (GWRC), Sonny Te Maari (Ngati Kahunui), Nick Cudby, (Forest and Bird alternate) and Bill Rooderkirk (LandCorp - alternate), Howard Egan (DU), Phil Brady (DoC), David Cleal (Farm Forestry Association - Wairarapa Branch), Grant McGhie (Manager LandCorp Wairio Farm) and Barry Silvester (adviser to DU).

Jim Law reports that his South Wairarapa Rotary Club has been kind enough to contribute a further \$1250 towards this year's tree planting at Wairio. This brings Rotary's contribution over three years to \$7,750.

As well, Jim reports, a contribution of \$100 was donated from Fish and Bird New Zealand in March.

Howard Egan reports on Wairio planting day

The Restoration committee has agreed its work programme for the 2009 year. It includes a planting day scheduled for Tuesday 2 June, starting 9.30am at the Wairio site (stage 2). This is at Eastern Lake Wairarapa, 5km down Parera Road which goes off Kahutara Road. Roughly it is south of Martinborough. We are programmed to put in 300 plants but that depends on a decent attendance of helpers. It will be the only planting day at Wairio this year.

Good fellowship and a sausage sizzle will sustain all attendees.

Lake Wairarapa Canada Goose Cull

On Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February, Fish and Game organised around 300 shooters around the lake and the Wairarapa Jet Boat Club to act as beaters. Only about 400 birds were taken for the two days from an estimated population of nearly 3000, which was well down on previous years, due probably to the wind getting up early on the Sunday. Such was the power of the wind that one boat was swamped and the four crew were rescued by the Westpac helicopter which had been called by a shooter. Although in only two metres of water the boat hasn't yet been recovered because the lake is so dirty - visibility is nil.

Ducks Unlimited Raffle

Howard Egan of Carterton has valiantly organised the very successful raffle year after year and it's been very productive for Ducks Unlimited NZ - but now he's passed on the baton to Kevin Campbell, who hints at a very special first prize - details to appear in the July issue of Flight.

Female pateke remains found far from Tuhua release site

John Heaphy, DoC Conservation Officer, Tauranga, thought readers would be interested in a lucky find (well, not for the pateke in question) to add to the sum of growing knowledge regarding the movements of captive-bred pateke, released into the wild. Just before Christmas 2008 the remains of a freshly-dead and eaten banded pateke duck was found at the very south-eastern end of Welcome Bay, that is the south-eastern end of Tauranga Harbour, and reported to the national banding office in March.

It is a captive-raised female pateke from the 2008 supplementary transfer which were all released on Tuhua on 25 March 2008: band S-43938, RM/OY. The minimum distance flown from Tuhua to the find site is 48km in a straight line, which is over the Mt Maunganui/Papamoa residential area. John suspects that a significantly longer roundabout route would have been taken and that is based on the location of the find site, meaning she must have been resident in the general area for some time to get to where she was prior to death.

John visited the site on 18 March to discuss the find with the landowner and to collect the remaining bones/

bands, some of which had since been lost. There were no remaining clues as to cause of death but as it had been stripped of meat, pukeko were suspected of having eaten it. In further discussion the landowner thought he had seen the duck in the drain for some time prior to the find, associating with a dozen mallards and other small ducks or ducklings.

As previously reported a couple of years ago, two male pateke fitted with transmitters, from the Tuhua first release had been found dead on the mainland, one at Waihi Beach and the other at Kaituna. The transmitter time since death suggests both were killed within a day or two of their mainland arrival.

John concludes that dispersal is obviously a significant factor to consider in pateke restoration projects and not only for males now, as a result of this recent find. He adds that he suspects the two live pateke seen by Ornithological Society of New Zealand at Little Waihi estuary, just east of Maketu in western Bay of Plenty in April 2008, are now even more likely to be ex-Tuhua birds.

John Heaphy of the Pateke Recovery Group, DoC Conservation Officer, Tauranga reports:

The last update was dated November 2008. The third pateke breeding season on Tuhua has now finished I did the annual February post-breeding 'flock count', doing two separate counts over two consecutive days starting at first light both days. The count below is from the best day (Monday). The Tuhua original release was in February 2006 with a supplementary release in March 2008.

A total minimum 34 (or possibly 37 pateke) were counted on both lakes. The discrepancy of 3 unbanded birds is for a group that flew and I could not determine whether they had been counted previously or not as unbanded but I think not, so 37 is a more likely tally.

The pateke conveniently flocked together after the first 2006 breeding season, then there was no post-breeding flocking for the last two seasons.

The maximum group that week in February was seven, with lots of small groups of two to three birds. The birds were spread all over both lakes with most in Green Lake this time. One group of five unbanded birds were seen together in the north-west corner of Green Lake.

The water level has further reduced 30cm-plus from November 2008. Tuhua is very dry but not to the seedling wilting stage yet. Only a dozen grey duck were present, including a brood of two class three ducklings and no mallard were seen.

The final supplementary feed was done in November 2008 as usual around Black Lake release area, so this would have only benefitted those nearby birds. All maize in all feeders had gone last week (February) so there was no more feeding and they are now on their own. Mesh cages under the feeders has worked a treat in excluding grey and mallard duck. All the gear needs flying out at some stage.

14 staff and volunteers were involved in a working bee on Tuhua all the previous week and some of the other tasks completed, besides the pateke count, were to cut and mark a track from South-East Bay to and around the crater, and to complete weed control in the wetland for willows, pampas, wild fig and royal fern.

Late last week I bashed along a 50m length of eastern side of Green Lake doing pampas control and found four dead harrier-predated ducks - two of these at least were unbanded pateke remains, so this seems further evidence on Tuhua of the impact of hawks. They need to learn to live with each other. There were three or four hawks continually beating up the wetlands the whole four days I was in the crater that week.

The general conclusion is that all is well and the number of unbanded birds is promising for the future. There remain minor concerns still with low number of males but we will see what happens. All over to them now and the monitoring and email updates will now reduce.

(See photo page 6).

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For instance, and for a start, Neil and Julie Candy have one such self-contained cottage at Woodville and your editor has Bumblebee Cottage in Greytown. The Graces have Rathmoy Garden Cottage near Hunterville.

The concept is that through this magazine we inform readers of the contact details of the various homestays available throughout New Zealand, and have the list simply published in Flight. Thus, travelling DU members can avail themselves of hospitality for a sensible sum, and get to know each other and their farms/wetland etc. If the bird flies, we can put this onto the website in due course.

So for a start, here are three:

Woodville - Ruffit Lodge

www.ruffitlodge.co.nz

Greytown - Bumblebee Cottage

www.bumblebeecottage.co.nz

Hunterville - Rathmoy Garden Cottage

www.rathmoy.co.nz

Members are invited to send me their websites and this can be added to the list.



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