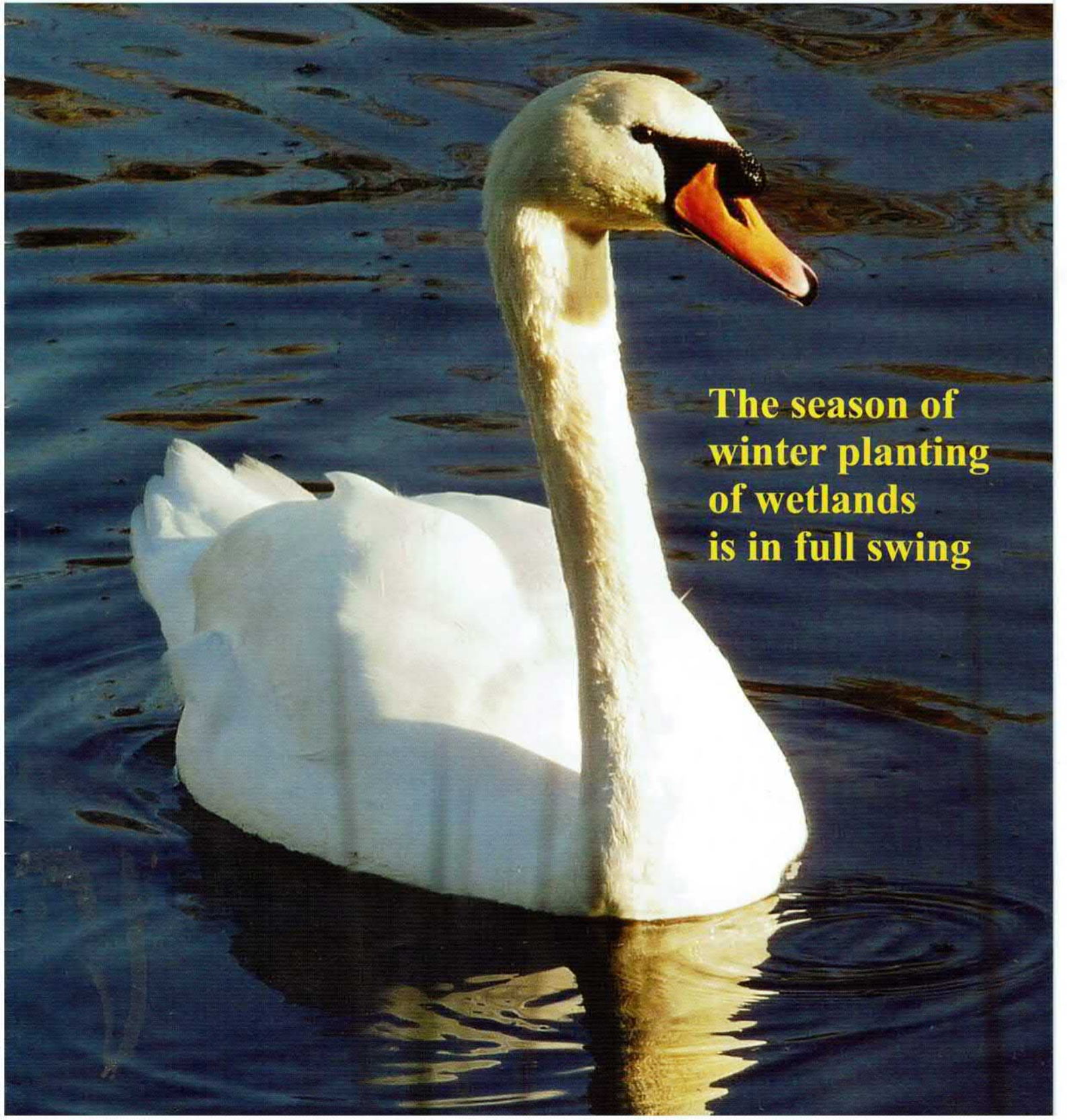


Flight



ISSUE 144 - July 2010

A large photograph of a white swan swimming in dark, rippling water. The swan is shown from the side, facing right. Its long neck is curved upwards. The water is dark blue with some brownish patches, possibly from algae or sediment. The swan's reflection is visible in the water below it.

**The season of
winter planting
of wetlands
is in full swing**



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.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. Money from our partnership with Banrock Station Wines 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 and 2009

Fiordland pateke release, 2009

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

www.ducks.org.nz

Our new website has been ameliorated, improved, zapped up, given new life by our wonderful Michelle Cooper of Artemis Creative Studios.

Next Flight issue - a page for children!

Have a look at www.ducks.org.nz and enjoy!



DU Conference 30 July-1 August at Wairakei north of Taupo

REGISTER NOW FOR THIS
EXHILARATING EVENT!

The Ducks Unlimited 36th Annual Conference and fund-raising dinner will take place from Friday 30 July to Sunday 1st August 2010. The venue will be Bayview Wairakei Resort north of Taupo. You don't have to be a member to take advantage of this great event.

Friday 30 July - 7.00 pm

- Registration. Meet your fellow attendees over a drink or make a reservation for dinner.
- A chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Saturday 31 July - 9.00 am

- 9.00am Annual General Meeting followed by morning tea.
- 10.30am Bus departs for Lunch and Tour at Huka Falls Prawn park.
- 6.30pm Drinks and Silent Auction begins.
- 7.30pm Award Presentation.
- 8.00pm Dinner and Main Auction.

Sunday 1 July - 9.30 am

- Social gathering, speaker and morning tea.

Our Guest Speaker is our own member Dan Steele of Blue Duck Lodge

Lost member - can you find him?

Dave P. Robinson previously of Rotorua

Sandra says, "He has been a life member for many years and we'd like to stay in touch".

New Members - Welcome!

Mrs Chris Hocker - Feilding

Mrs Sarah Kingsnorth - Albany, Auckland

Mr Richard Gavigan - Pahiatua

Mr Ross Hamilton - Turangi

Mr Brian Thomson - Pukekohe

John Monckton - Marton

Insight

The last three months have seen us, in Auckland and the Waikato at least, go from drought to flooding. The water coming down the Waikato River, with the Waipa River adding to it at Ngaruawahia, has raised the water levels in the lower Waikato by at least six feet.

I am always pleased when it floods early in winter. The waterfowl which have now started to pair up should hopefully nest somewhere safe from flooding.

Given the low numbers in our region they need all the help they can get for the population to rebound.

While flooding is of no direct assistance to the farmers there are positives – restoration of the water table, the increased feeding opportunities for bird life and for the sporting minded the ability to go bow hunting carp in the paddocks.

In some ways so it is with DUNZ. In the last Flight I asked for comment on how the organisation is going from the members' point of view. While it would be more than poetic licence to say I have been flooded with responses those that have been received have all been beneficial.

Some have embraced the concept of change and put forward suggestions.

Others have been of a much harsher tone with one suggesting we would be best to merge or shut up shop altogether. Both the positive and the negative are of assistance to the Board in critically assessing the future. At our Board meeting in May the Board has decided on a change in approach as to how DUNZ should be run. We have accepted we need outside expertise and that we will need to pay for it.

If done properly it should be at least fiscally neutral.

Full details will be announced at our AGM in July and, again, I welcome any comments you have once the details are published.

I hope you can attend in July. Please get your registrations in as soon as possible to enable accommodation to be secured.

David Smith
President, Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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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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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Minutes of the AGM of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand, 35th Annual General Meeting

25 July 2009

9am at the Steeple, Kingsgate, Palmerston North.

Welcome:

The President, Ross Cottle, welcomed members to the 35th Annual General Meeting.

Apologies:

Lady Isaac, Tony and Bets Simpson, Johnnie and Pauline Campbell, Kevin and Vietta Campbell, Dan Steele, Vyndie Smith, Clare Worth, Jan and Tim Tatham, Ken Parker, Peter and Anne Russell, Chris and Kathy Cant, Shirley Jenkins, Barbara Hanbidge and Rod Johnson, Marie Singer, Mehlhopt family, Kerry Oates, Enviro Research, Graham Gurr, Janet Denny, Kees and Kay Weytman, Dave and Ann Johnston, Myra Smith, Di Martin, Lorraine Jensen, Anthony Griffin, Alice and Ross Hood, Trevor Thompson, Rob and Robyn Borthwick, Howard Egan, Alan Wilks.

Motion: The apologies tendered are accepted.

Moved: James Martin Seconded: Di Pritt Carried

Minutes of the last AGM:

Circulated in the 35th AGM and Conference Pack and emailed to members.

Motion: That the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true and complete record.

Moved: James Martin Seconded: Neil Candy Carried.

Matters arising from the 2008 minutes: There were no matters arising.

President's Report: Ross Cottle

As circulated in the 35th AGM & Conference pack and emailed to members.

Motion: The President's report is accepted.

Moved: Ian Jansen Seconded: Nancy Payne Carried.

Matters arising from the Presidents 2009 Report: There were no matters arising.

Financial Report: John Bishop

Presented at the meeting (copy attached)

Our auditor needs to be changed; auditing fees have increased dramatically possibly due to a couple of issues. First our previous auditor, Beattie Rickman, was taken over three years ago and there have been auditing changes due to new accounting practices required so everything is the same worldwide. Our books must be audited so have approached another auditor who is prepared to do it for much less. Another alternative is if we had a retired accountant within the organisation who was interested we could offer them an honorarium.

Please, if you are making a direct payment to us, clearly identify yourself so we know who you are and where the money is to be allocated, e.g. membership number / subscription. It costs us \$10 a line to identify who this money has come from. O.Latham: Banrock and Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust monies have been unclearly allocated. We need to be clear as to which project each amount is for.

Motion: That the 2009 financial report be accepted, subject to the monies being reallocated correctly

Moved: John Bishop Seconded: Di Pritt Carried

Appointment of Auditors:

Motion: That the AGM give the board the power to appoint new auditors for 2009/2010

Moved: John Bishop Seconded: Glenys Hansen Carried.

Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust Report: David Smith

Anyone who has a trust fund invested over the last year that has enjoyed the experience obviously does not read the newspaper or have a television. Nor could they be reading their mail.

The NZWWT financial year is a calendar year. As at 31 December 2008 the trust was worth \$369,575. The trust had taken an \$80,000 hit over the preceding year i.e. from 1 January 2008. Needless to say this was the subject of debate among the trustees.

It was decided to stay where we are. To close the fund off would cement in the losses.

As to how things have progressed from then a look at the last six months is helpful. By 31 March 2009 the fund was \$345,600 so the losses were then still continuing. But as at 30 June 2009 the fund stood at \$367,000 to all intents and purposes as it was as at 31 December 2008.

The return over the last three months has been 28%. Whether this is a blip and downward trends will resume I can only tell you next year. I certainly do not expect 28% returns to continue but it may be the start of a recovery of sorts.

With interest rates for deposit funds as they are there is little benefit in endeavouring to recoup our losses that way. We need the occasional quarter at 28% to get back our losses but even a quarter of that is better than deposit rates.

The trust will be having its own AGM over this weekend and any alternatives will be discussed.

Over the last year Alan Wilks retired as a trustee. He has been replaced by Neil Candy.

I would like to pay tribute to Alan's contribution over the years. He has been a keen follower of the fund's fortunes, he has always had a sage comment or two and his jokes will be sorely missed.

We have paid \$500 to DUNZ but there have not been any other payments out. There has been no need by DUNZ to call on the funds so we can continue to accumulate over in the next 12 months.

We get a report from Spicer's every three months and if anyone wants to have a look at this see David Smith.

Election of Officers:

Board Election:

The President read out the following Statement:

The Constitution states that the Board should consist of not less than six, of which half, but not more than two thirds shall be permanently appointed Directors.

As of right, the permanent appointments are the Chairman, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Other permanent appointments are David Smith and William Abel

Retiring Directors are John Dermer, Jim Law, and Kevin Campbell

John Cheyne, was co-opted to the Board during the previous year.

Nominations for the Board:

Standing for re-election to the Board: John Dermer, Jim Law and Kevin Campbell.

Standing for election is John Cheyne

Are there any other nominations from the floor? None

Motion: That J Dermer, J Law, K Campbell and John Cheyne be confirmed as Board Members.

Duly elected.

Ossie is doing a good job with pateke so David Smith has now offered to be vice-president and he will take over as president in March 2010.

Reports:

Raffle: Ross Cottle

Thank you to Howard Egan who has organised it for the last three years, with the last one being completed by Ross as Howard was ill. Kevin Campbell has taken it over, but will be away for the initial stages so Ross will organise it initially.

Cape Kidnappers have donated a fantastic first price place negotiated by Kevin Campbell – thank you very much.

Membership: Sandra Pipes

Due to the economic environment I half expected to receive a larger number of resignations, similar to when we raised the subscription cost but to date we've only received 16 and with 21 new members, thanks to a membership drive by Ossie Latham, we are steady but not really increasing. Currently paid for this financial year is 440 with very few memberships outstanding (08/09 - 73 and 07/08 - 34: total 107).

The number of membership enquiries continues to increase mainly through the web page and emails. More and more of our members are using new technology and paying both their subscription and conference registrations online which is very pleasing to see and I encourage everyone to use this facility as we are a "Preferred Payee" with all the major banks.

Membership subs will stay the same for the next financial year but we will be looking at reviewing them.

Wairio Wetland: 700 acres on the Eastern Shore of Lake Wairarapa: Jim Law

Jim Law reported on this major project advising that last year was a typical year: fenced off Stage 3 and further planting in Stage 2 which was highlighted in Flight Issue 140. The planters included students from the Pirinoa Primary School and the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre (the environmentalists of tomorrow) as well as other community groups, including Rotary & F & B and, of course, DU members.

Funding from DUNZ again covered the core development expenditure for the wetland with the South Wairarapa Rotary Club contributing a further \$1,250 and another small donation from the local Forest and Bird Branch who want to be part of the project.

The 2009 work programme also includes release spraying in the spring of 2009 of Stage 1 & 2 plantings. Fescue control trials are also planned for Stage 3 prior to planting next year. These trials, covering half the area each, are 1) spraying in the spring and again in the autumn of 2010, and 2) grading the top 3 or so inches off and observing any regeneration of indigenous sedges, flax, trees, etc. Both sites would then be spot sprayed before the final planting next year. It is expected that these trials will be monitored by a number of interested parties.

Howard Egan remains a driving force responsible for leading the planting sub-committee, with Ross Cottle as the Wairio Restoration Committee's Chairman.

There are now visual signs of progress with trees above the fescue in Stage 1. Water is also being retained at both Stages 1 & 2.

We are at the cutting edge of the work being done at Lake Wairarapa and are supported by the local councils as we are actually doing what they have wanted to do for years. Accordingly, our profile is good.

Sonny Te Maari, a member of the Wairio Committee recently passed away. He was an incredible practical guy and his presence will be missed.

Opuatia Wetland: John Bishop

Reported on the second partnership project with DOC; this has stalled a bit mostly because the bund that surrounding it leaks like a swift. They now have money and in the 2010 summer once the wetlands will hold water we will provide money for plantings.

Neil Candy - Planting treaty Rangitaane claim is still under negotiation.

Loop around Foxton: they are looking at putting wetlands in there, still working on this project.

Pateke: Ossie Latham

The Recovery Group has had the previous eight years' work of establishing the minimum requirement for predator control, reviewed and now recommend to DoC that future effort be concentrated on understanding more completely pateke's diet and habitat requirements.

Website

Do we have a member that would like to take on the job as web master as our current webmaster is extremely busy and is overseas. If someone doesn't have the skills, training will be offered.

General Business:

Ian Jensen updated the Waikanae decommissioned waste water ponds (15ha).

Quite a few forest and bird as members, good planting, kids involved from the local school. 750 and 280 flax on an area that we worked on in one corner, previous planting is working well, ad in public newspaper received general interest from the public. Long term project KCDC who are running it have had a change in management, working with new representative is going well.

Murray Shaw - Waikato farmers want to change the name from Ducks Unlimited to More Ducks please or Wetland Care as it's a better image.

By education we have to correct the impression that we are not just duck shooters. Wetland Care is owned by Ducks Unlimited and we can't change the names around. Depending on your audience we should talk to which one - Wetland Care or Ducks Unlimited but the public must always hear one message. Wetland care has an image in the public as does DU.

Wetland Care and the National Wetland Trust public can't tell the difference.

It is important that Wetland Care stays with Ducks Unlimited and we educate the public as necessary each and every time.

A vote of thanks to Ross for the six years as President.

Moved: John Dermer Seconded: Neil Candy Carried: Very loud applause.

Closure: The President thanked the Board for their work throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 10.09am

Numbers attended: 45

Other Activities over the 35th AGM 2009 weekend

Wetland Tour: Mako Mako and Pahiatua with lunch at Hopelands then onto a visit to Te Apiti Wind Farm

Saturday Dinner: Lifetime Achievement awarded to: Murray Tapp

Bill Barratt Trophy awarded to: Dan Steele

Chapter Challenge: Manawatu

Guest Speaker: from DoC - Mr Peter Devlin and Mr Dave Conley on the subject of "Waterfowl Predator Control Project"

Sunday Talk: Debbie Latoa of Banrock Wines: "What a Commercial Enterprise requires of a Voluntary Partner in a joint venture with a public good component."

Sue Singh - "Wetlands and Kids Go Together"

REMINDER:

The Ducks Unlimited 36th Annual Conference 2010 and fund-raising dinner will take place from 30th of July to the 1st of August 2010. The venue will be Bayview Wairakei Resort north of Taupo. You don't have to be a member to take advantage of this great event.



Wairio Wetlands Planting Day

23 June 2010

Story and more photos pages 10 and 11



Farm Forestry Association contingent included Brice Cole, Shane Atkinson, David Cleal, Lesley Christian, Perry Cannon.



Warren Field who works for Greater Wellington Environment Education advising the students on best practice when planting.



Two willing planters at Wairio in June.



Merchandise for Sale

We have caps – which can be purchased by anyone. You don't need to be a DU member to be a proud wearer of this attractive headwear, both practical and attractive. The caps have a "Thinsulate Lining" which makes them warmer and more comfortable than an ordinary woolen one.

Imagine the possibilities. On your bike, skiing, sailing, shooting, walking to work, tramping, sleeping on very cold nights, hiding bald heads, hiding bad hair days, fishing, the possibilities are endless. And there is a choice of bird - pateks or whio.

All enquiries must come through email address info@ducks.org.nz, with postal address and requested payment method.

Preferably paid for by credit card – visa or mastercard – but cheque is also acceptable.

\$30 each inclusive. A snip!



2010 Past President's Report

Hi everyone

We are at the end of another year, and like world events, it has been an interesting one for DU.

The organisation has spent the year in second gear. We have had enquiries regarding wetland developments and have helped to create four new wetlands, but people seem to have been preoccupied with events around them.

Wairio is continuing to be a great success with the planting day in June bringing together a wide cross-section of the community with approximately 50 school kids and the same number of adults from DU, South Wairarapa Rotary, Forest & Bird, Farm Forestry Association, Greater Wellington Regional Council and volunteers from the general public.

1200 trees were planted in a couple of hours. It is great to see the efforts of the last five years starting to pay off. The Wairio committee needs a special mention for their efforts.

DU as the sole instigator of this project can be very proud of this wetland.

The Board of Ducks Unlimited received this letter from the Minister of Conservation just as we went to press, and are disappointed that the Minister's schedule meant she was unable to accept our invitation to be our honoured guest at the conference this year.



Office of Hon Kate Wilkinson

Minister of Conservation
Minister of Labour
Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister of Immigration

22 JUN 2010

David Smith
President
Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc
PO Box 9795
Newmarket
AUCKLAND

Dear David

Thank you for the invitation to attend Ducks Unlimited New Zealand's annual dinner, in Taupo on 31 July.

I regret that scheduled commitments mean that I will be unable to attend.

I would, however, like to acknowledge the fantastic conservation work that Ducks Unlimited does for wetland restoration and waterfowl recovery. I know the Department of Conservation sees its relationship with your organisation as a real and practical working partnership that results in good conservation outcomes in many parts of New Zealand.

It is crucial that this good relationship continues.

I value our conservation partnership greatly and wish you all the best for a very successful evening on the 31 July.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kate Wilkinson
Minister of Conservation

Remember this is the first DoC wetland in the country to be entrusted to an outside organisation for development and with approximately 400 acres available will eventually make a huge difference to the lake habitat.

Wetland Care has had a degree of uncertainty with its sponsorship, but that now seems to be improving.

Ossie has worked tirelessly to bring all the projects together.

The pateke and whio breeding programmes have also had respective successes and difficulties throughout the year.

As static as our membership is, we recognise the strength of our organisation to be, in the main, you, our membership. You continually support the cause with energy, finances and humour.

It is unlikely that any other conservation group in the country has as many privately owned wetlands as has our membership.

I have ended my term as president and I hope you continue to give the new president, David Smith, the same support that you have given me.

Ross Cottle

Wetland Care Report 2010

The last three projects we have worked on this year are as follows:

The Cottles in Masterton have developed a further 2.5 acres of swampy wet ground on their farm into wetlands. This was a timely project as Ross had access to two dumper trucks that were being stored on their property whilst doing road works outside the gate. These were free as was the digger operator, their son Aiden, and our dumper driver, patron Jim Campbell. A very economic development. Wish they were all like this!

We have helped Richard Gavigon of Pahiatua restore a dam wall that has enabled a pond to refill on his farm. Approximately two acres of water will be formed again. The area will be planted and fenced to become a wetland in a valley that lends itself to further work.

David Last and Stephen Schofield are dairy farmers in Woodville and we have assisted them to develop a new pond on their farm. When fully flooded this will add approximately five acres of new wetlands to the district. Fenced and planted, this development will be very attractive. An active spring system will fill this area and leave it nearly full through the summer - Woodville as well, of course, being noted for its rainfall.

William Abel



DU Directors meet near Ohakune

The directors of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand had a board meeting combined with a shoot in late May in the Ohakune area.

The wetland is a new one created by Graeme Berry on his property. It took three weeks of digging!



Who's the plucking smurf then? Aha! it's Di Pritt!



These are two DU members Paddy and Debbie Chambers, who farm at Raetihi and this is their favorite pond on their farm. They are involved with the Berrys' wetlands as well and farm the area in the previous photo as well as their own farm. They have an 18-month-old daughter called Molly.



From left: John Cheyne, Neil Candy, new president David Smith, Graeme Berry, treasurer John Bishop, John Dermer, Chris Thomas, past president Ross Cottle and Dave Johnston. The dog is Dave Smith's Chesapeake Bay retriever named Keeper.



Neil Candy and Ross Cottle on Paddy and Debbie's pond

Wairio Planting Day June 23 2010 flooded by nearly 100 people working together

When volunteers were called for the planting organised by Ducks Unlimited's Jim Law at Wairio on June 23, a horde of nearly one hundred answered his call.

This was an educational field event as much as it was a replanting one. Don Bell of the Greater Wellington Council took pains to detail to both young and old volunteers the importance of carrying a spade at hip level and not over the shoulder – a method of carriage that meant a sudden stumble or quick turn by the holder could damage someone close to them.

Greater Wellington Council's Warren Field similarly explained to the assembled the precise sequence of events in planting the mixture of sedges, flax and cabbage trees, among others, implanted on the day. He told the volunteers to take their time, dig an adequate hole and then surround the plant with soil and press it home.

Among the other many varieties of plants involved were kanuka, kohuhu, karamu and olearia. Earlier, Don Bell had explained how the Wairio land had once been used for agriculture, was inadequate for it and had been damaged by it, and the significance of its restoration as a wetland. A complete list of plants is on page 12.

Volunteers included Kahutara School, Taratahi Agricultural, the Farm Forestry Association and sponsors South Wairarapa Rotary as well as Ducks Unlimited people.

Wairio Planting Day June 23 2010

Story page 8 - More photos page 6



Harvey Phillips and Steve Playle



Dion Rayner works with Gianni Dear both pupils of Kahutara School.



Peter Groves, Don Bell and Jim Law



Charmayne Taplin and her charges of Kahutara School



Jim Campbell shows a young student the ropes



Taratahi Agricultural Alex Goode, Rebecca Armstrong, Ingrid Chevalier



Jim Law sets a good example



Ross Cottle, Ian Jensen and Ken Barnes

Grey teal nestbox tips sent from an enthusiast

To give the different grey teal pairs plenty of choice for breeding purposes it is recommended using at least eight nestboxes for them if there is room in a large wetland.

Position your posts for mounting the boxes well out into the water away from the shoreline which gives the birds a feeling of security from land-based predators. Posts should be at least 500mm into the pond bottom for good stability during windy or stormy conditions although this can depend on the topography of the pond bottom. Any less is not recommended. Have at least one metre of the post above the water. If there is a possibility of changing water levels on certain wetlands, this height of one metre helps efficient nestbox maintenance. This can be done by rowing around them in the autumn.

Whichever way the 90 – 95mm diameter entrance hole is pointing is not really important but it is pleasant, of course, if possible, for human viewers to have a discreet view of proceedings, without bothering the teals' comings and goings. If the nestbox faces the shoreline, it is advisable to allow at least ten metres distance. Other factors such as varying water levels and invasion by nesting mynahs or starlings can put the teal off the idea of using the nestbox. Mallard cannot fit into the entrance hole, so that is not a problem.

The nestbox will attract starlings and mynah but the three birds generally, not always, use the boxes at different times of the year. Starlings from September to December, mynah mainly from November to January and the grey teal from June to October. Grey teal breeding is more attuned to rainfall patterns than seasonal influences.

Starlings and mynah collect a lot of nesting material whereas grey teal bring no nesting material to the nesting site, just their own plucked breast feathers for nest lining. In the wild when using a natural tree cavity, the female would just simply accept what is left in the hole as a base as there is always some natural debris within. So it is advisable to place a small amount of hay

and small sticks in the bottom of the boxes or leave some of the starling/mynah nest material. It is recommended that the boxes be cleaned out and fresh material placed from March to May, in the quiet autumn period.

One can see many sorts of waterfowl species availing themselves of the nestbox tops, and the male grey teal will keep guard there while his mate is inside incubating. It can be a busy place. White-faced heron and shag will rest and dry their wings on them in between fishing sessions as can the delightful little welcome swallows which can make mud nests under the boxes against the posts too, so all in all, there is a wealth of wildfowl attractions for the wetland enthusiast to enjoy.

Queenstown GP was DU enthusiast

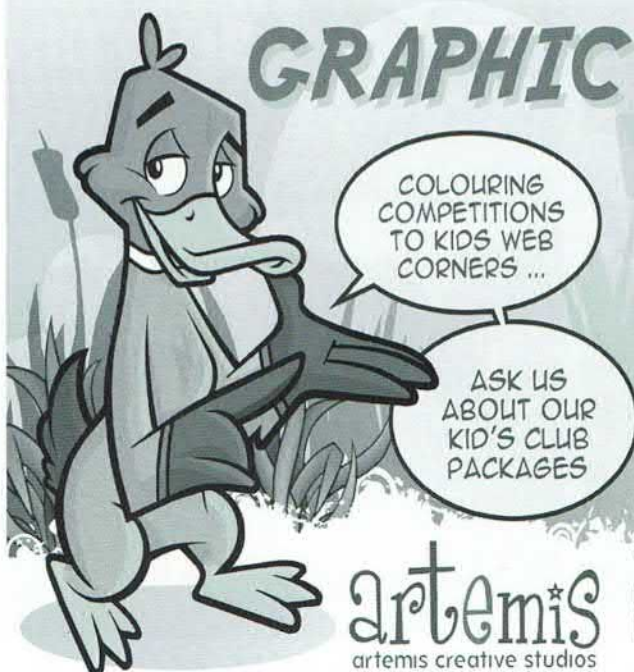
Dr Pat Farry

It has been brought to our attention that DU member and long-serving Queenstown GP Pat Farry, awarded an MNZM for services to rural medicine in 2009, died last October.

Dr Farry began practising as a GP in Queenstown in 1971 and soon after began teaching students and registrars there.

He dedicated nearly 40 years to rural medicine and education for general practitioners. He joined Ducks Unlimited New Zealand in 2001.

Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.



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PHARAZYN RESERVE WAIKANAĒ

Arbor Day planting held

Friday June 4, 2010

A planting day was held again this year on the decommissioned Waikanae wastewater ponds at the Pharazyn Reserve.

The ponds are located on the east side of the road at the junction of Rutherford Drive, Waikanae Beach and Paetawa Road, Peka Peka. This is a loop road through Waikanae. Te Moana road and Peka Peka roads respectively by following "To SH1 signs" from either direction.

The project is spearheaded by the Pharazyn Reserve Focus Group, Chaired by Jocelyn Prvanov, a Waikanae Community board member and nearby resident, hosted by the Kapiti Coast District Council and is run in conjunction with two local primary schools, Waikanae and Kapanui.

The weather gods prevailed with an excellent fine calm day, albeit in some areas it was a little muddy underfoot.

On arriving the school classes were given a brief educational lesson by Lisa Clapcott, from the Waikanae Office of the Department of Conservation. It was generally based around the birds, animals and the predators that may be found in and around wetland areas. Planting instructions, along with information as to the plants and their respective families were given by the Biodiversity adviser of the Kapiti Coast District Council, Rob Cross.

The Focus group members, Forest & Bird, executive members and staff of KCDC, the mayor, parents and family members along with some of the schoolteachers generally provided able assistance. The collective effort resulted in well over 1200 plants being planted on the day with bark mulch placed around most of the plantings.

A number of the children have been involved for about four years and it is pleasing to note that they take great pride in pointing out to others where they had planted in previous years, with the obvious results of the earlier plantings showing that they are doing extremely well.

It is intended that pedestrian access to the western pond edges at weekends and public holidays will be provided towards the end of the year.

In the long term hides are to be erected so that viewing of the many bird species that frequent this area can be carried out.

Ian Jensen - who also took the photos on the facing page.



List of plants planted at Wairio in June

Site 1: Gate end. Planting by Pirinoa School and Kahutara School supervised by Warren Field (Greater Wellington Environment Education)

Phormium tenax PB2
Coprosma robusta PB2
Cop propinqua PB2
Olearia virgata PB2
Manuka PB2
Kahikatea RT
Pitto colensoi PB2
Cordyline australis PB2
Cortaderia toetoe PB3/4

The format was to concentrate the flax and toetoe on the dirt mounds then space all other plants randomly on the bare ground in between. Approximate spacing is 1.5 x 1.5 metres. Taratahi Agriculture training students dug the holes and help the primary schoolchildren with planting.

Site 2: Centre. Planting by DU members supported by Rotary, Forest & Bird and DoC, supervised by Jim Law

Phormium tenax OG
Coprosma robusta OG
Pseudopanax arboreus OG
Olearia virgata OG
Manuka OG
Totara OG
Cyperus ustellatus OG
Cordyline australis OG
Cortaderia toetoe OG

Trial to test the performance of OG stock with the adjacent PB stock of the same species in Site 1. Concentrate the flax and toetoe on the dirt mounds. Site the Cyperus on the margins of any wet depressions.

Space all other plants randomly on the bare ground in between. Approximate spacing is 1.5 x 1.5 metres.

Site 3: Far North end.
Planting by Farm Forestry Association members

Phormium tenax OG
Cortaderia toetoe OG
Carex secta OG
Cyperus ustellatus OG
Olearia virgata OG
Manuka OG
Kahikatea RT

Planting to be essentially on the dirt mounds and the limited areas of elevated ground in between. Concentrate the flax and toetoe on the dirt mounds. Site the cyperus in wet soils on the margins of the depressions, with carex in behind Space the remaining plants randomly over the bare elevated sites within the area. Approximate spacing is 1.5 x 1.5 metres

A more complete list can be supplied by contacting Don Bell of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Wairio has support of Community Max

Don Bell, Team Leader - Land Services (Planning) Greater Wellington and a strong DU stalwart has arranged that the Community Max team will be at Wairio from Tuesday 20 July until Friday 23 July.

Work and Income's Community Max supports the completion of projects that benefit the community or the environment and that would not otherwise be done, while creating jobs for young people.

The intention during the July week will be to do all Stage I and II blanking (460 plants in spots previously prepared and sprayed), plus any planting not completed during the planting day with the Pirinoa and Kahutara school children, teachers and parents, Taratahi Agricultural College students, Farm Forestry Association members, South Wairarapa Rotary and other Ducks Unlimited volunteers on 23 June.

The deal with the Community Max team is that DU members will supervise and assist by bringing quad bikes to cart people and trees around. Jim Law as usual will be deeply involved in this wintry venture.

First Pukaha Mount Bruce Elwyn Welch Scholarship awarded

It is with much pleasure that Pukaha Mt Bruce announces the first recipient of the Pukaha Mount Bruce - Elwyn Welch Memorial Scholarship. This inaugural award goes to Rachel Riley. Rachel is a Masters student at Massey University and she has been awarded this scholarship as a result of her extensive work in studying the intellect of kaka and in particular, its intellect relative to the kaka's close cousin, the kea (known for its superior intellect).

The scholarship is named in honour of the passionate, amateur ornithologist Wairarapa man Elwyn Welch. It was 50 years ago that he devised an amazing plan to save the dwindling population of takahe by training bantam hens to foster and care for the takahe chicks.

This pioneering approach changed the face of captive breeding in New Zealand. The scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the estate of his descendents, the Ville Anderson family.

The purpose of the scholarship is to fund research that would benefit native birdlife in the Tararua Ranges.

Planting of 20,000 this year at Tawharanui continues

Planting is the main focus of three Sunday in the Park days in July at Tawharanui as they persevere with planting 20,000 plants this year.

Grey-faced petrel

During the last grey-faced petrel survey, birds were heard calling from Shag Bay all the way around the headlands towards the bay between Elephant Point and Maori Bay. There was a lot of flying activity with reports from all observers of grey-faced petrel flying in formation with spectacular acrobatics. Please contact Sharon Kast (kastaway@xtra.co.nz) who is coordinating the survey projects.

Kakariki

Last month fifty kakariki were released at Tawharanui. Ten had radio transmitters on their tail feathers and have been monitored by volunteers. These transmitters emit a signal for only two or three months, so the signals are fading. We request that anyone who hears or sees kakariki at Tawharanui please write the sighting in the TOSSI diary in the Vol Hole or email Alison Stanes at alison.purple@xtra.co.nz. Make sure you know the difference between the sight and sound of kakariki and rosella. If in doubt you probably have a rosella!

Pateke ducklings at Tawharanui

The good news about pateke this month is that we now have six, delightful pateke ducklings frequenting the Ecology Stream. It's not the usual time for pateke to breed though they are known to do so at any time of the year. But with it having been such a hard, dry year for them it is heart-warming to see these six youngsters thriving.

We continue to monitor the 2010 release pateke until February 2011, at a reduced rate. Using the telemetry equipment is not difficult, and training will be given. A commitment to help every week, fortnight, or month would be of help. If you are interested please email janhalliday@yahoo.com.

For more information, contact Jan Halliday as above - TOSSI Committee
09 422 2356 / 021 212 5312

More on the history of Flight magazine

The editor stands corrected regarding the facts of the background of Flight as mentioned in last issue, when it was stated that Alan and Di Wilks started the magazine. Alan Wilks reports it all began as a newsletter, the first one being published in August 1974 and the first actual Flight publication, still as a newsletter, appeared in December 1974. Cheryl Pirani compiled and mailed the first 32 issues and the first magazine appeared in September 1982, edited by Neil Hayes. Various editors later, the magazine appears quarterly, Alan Wilks took over mailing in April 1997 and is still doing it!

New Zealand falcon

Dave Bell of New Plymouth addressed the Wairarapa branch of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand recently, on the subject of the New Zealand falcon which is the only remaining endemic bird of prey. The three forms of the species are a bush form found in the North Island, an Eastern form in open country along the eastern South Island and a southern form found in Southland, Fiordland and even in the Auckland Islands. The male is a smaller bird than the female which is able to take larger prey. The eggs hatch, with the females hatching at 30 to 32 days and the males taking 32 to 36 days and as they grow both parents hunt for them and feed them. Falcon are able to take prey six times their weight and have included kereru and even ducks.

Further information about falcon is available on www.nzfalcon.org.nz

Please also report any falcon sightings to Dave Bell via the website, or his postal address which is 9 Spencer Place, New Plymouth 4312 or phone 06 757 2570 or 027 9570.

North Island black robin can count - it's true!

Spotted in a recent edition of Dawn Chorus, the newsletter of Tiritiri Matangi Inc, is the news that the North Island robin is one of the few animals in the world which can 'count'.

Dr Kevin Burns of Victoria University, Biological Sciences and Dr Jason Low, Victoria University, Psychology, have completed research which showed that this phenomenon exists. The robins watched as different numbers of meal worms were hidden in hollowed-out tree trunks and always went for the bigger meal. They could distinguish the difference between numbers up to seven.

Researchers had noticed that female robins will tend to observe where their male partners hide their cache and when the male is away foraging for food, the female will usually raid the cache and rob their partner. The female will always raid the cache with the largest amount of food.

Jane walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," he responded.

"Oh..... ! Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, three males, two females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded "Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone."



The Cape Sanctuary mega-fence. Big is good.

The formerly named Ocean Beach and Cape Kidnappers Preserve Newsletter, now called the Cape Sanctuary, reports.

The seabird site has been a hive of activity since early December, beginning with the arrival of the second collection and transfer of 75 grey-faced petrel chicks from Moutohora Island.

A constant flow of volunteers to and from the site ensured burrows were prepared, mown, watered and most important, the chicks fed.

The helicopter transfer went smoothly and by early January, just under a month later, 70 had fledged successfully. This is the second year of a four-year programme and the team is becoming more experienced at searching for and collecting the most suitable-sized chicks.

According to Cape Sanctuary manager, Tamsin Ward-Smith, Moutohora Island is paradise.

"We are very privileged to be able to work there and very grateful to the Te Tapatoru o Toi management committee for their support for this project," she said.

Volunteer feeders travelled from as far as Palmerston North and Auckland to take part in this transfer which was led by Dr John McLennan, Cape Sanctuary Ecological Advisor, Tamsin and Shayne Storey.

"We feel privileged to be involved with the seabird programme at Cape Sanctuary and to work with such a dedicated group of people. To hold and feed the grey-faced petrel, at times just hours before they fledge, and knowing they will be away for up to four years on their 'overseas experience' before hopefully returning to the Cape to breed, is a wonderful experience," said Bob and Heather Carter, Cape Sanctuary volunteers.

With grey-faced and Cook's petrel programmes well underway, similar programmes are planned for Sooty shearwater, diving petrel and fluttering shearwater, with the aim to see a year-round presence of seabirds in the area. Gannet decoys, found to successfully entice gannets to Young Nick's Head to breed, are also being placed on nearby headlands to attract birds to other sites on the peninsula.

Successful pateke season at the Cape

After a hugely successful breeding season, resulting in over 40 chicks from at least 10 pairs, there is to be a fourth release of 80 pateke in May. Again a proportion of the birds will be monitored with radio transmitters to try and keep track of their location.

At this time of year the youngsters congregate in flocks and recently a group of 27 were counted on the main release Double Dams.

There was also a surprise out-of-season breeding of five chicks a couple of weeks ago. "It was incredible seeing so many pateke all together.

"We could hardly keep count as they popped out of the vegetation and played around the edges," said Tamsin Ward-Smith, Cape Sanctuary Manager.

Predator control within the 10.5km fenceline at Cape Sanctuary (photo left)

At Cape Sanctuary, Kane has continued trapping cats at a hectic pace with 38 caught within the Sanctuary this year and 27 from the areas outside the fence. To increase trapping pressure further, John Winters has been employed to assist with control and the extra effort will, hopefully, have cats well and truly on the back foot by the end of the year.

The first ferret in 27 months was trapped inside the Sanctuary in the autumn. It was caught only 15 metres from a farm gate so its entry point was easy to determine.

On the positive side, 28 ferrets have been trapped just outside the fence. The regular predator fence check was completed recently and apart from a few popped rivets, the entire 10.5 km is standing up to its job well.

Preserve staff and volunteers have shot over 3,000 rabbits so far this year. Control has involved dividing the Sanctuary into target areas of which volunteers take a lion's share.

"The volunteers do a fantastic job of rabbit control in often hard-to-access areas and we thank them enormously," said spokesman Travis Cullen.

Glenys Hansen of Matahiwi, Masterton, has kindly allowed us to reproduce this excellent article we first presented in Flight No. 129, in October 2006. Glenys has just returned from an exciting three and a half weeks in Namibia and Botswana - huge deltas, outdoor safaris, wild animals and no fences - the lot!

Developing and planting a pond for wildfowl - by Glenys Hansen

So you have the pond built and have it fenced off with a convenient gate wide enough to fit your quad bike and trailer through - what next?

Within the fenced area you'll want to establish both trees and shrubs to provide fruit, nuts, acorns, flowers and cover which can be used by a variety of waterfowl and other countryside and garden birds. It is recommended that you spray areas or 'spots' before you start to plant. Use a non-residual herbicide spray such as Roundup or similar, as this type of spray is the recommended one to use around waterways.

Large trees should not be planted so close to the pond as to shade it, and in most cases this means planting the southern and eastern edges only. A mixture of oak species that includes (quercus robur), pin oak (q. palustris) and turkey oak (q. cerris) will be most productive providing the protein the birds crave when they're recovering from moulting and breeding stress. The pin oak seed is a favorite, and this species also provides delightful autumn colours that last a good while. The pin oak doesn't mind wet feet and can be planted in damp areas or quite close to the water's edge.

Ducks need security and feel most relaxed when there is a low vegetation screen around the pond hiding them from passing prying eyes. Screens of flax (phormium tenax) are ideal very close to the waters edge as this species also likes damp moist ground. (p. cookianum) flax has the lovely drooping leaves which make an ideal plant for islands and on banks just above the waters edge as does the native toetoe (cortaderia fulvida). The larger North Island toetoe (c. toetoe) is best planting in a dryer situation. Do not plant pampas grass by mistake!! A good variation of colours is available in the flax spp. and a mixture of these will give interest around the pond and also provide the food for the tui. Remember old dry flax heads make excellent firelighters when dried and stored away for the winter!!!!

Areas of grass near the water edges can be left to go rank and this provides not only cover for nesting but also food, as the mature seed heads find their way into the pond where greys, mallards and shoveler sift them up.

Ducks also like to use the plain grassy areas to loaf on and sun themselves and the grass grazers will keep an area trimmed with a little help from a mechanical string trimmer.

This also applies to the islands - don't plant all the way around the island; leave an area for the ducks to use as a loafing pad as well. If you have a number of islands in your pond, leave one free with minimal planting with a shade tree or two and plant up the others quite heavily to provide good nesting sites.

Sedges and rushes can be planted along the edges if not present naturally. Clumps of tall grasses such as the native niggerhead (Carex secta) can be planted in the water as well as on the pond edge, it is a large vigorous, green sedge which forms lifted tufts in the water. Plant in groups, to give excellent cover for nesting dabchicks and other waterfowl.

These plants can be easily established in large planter bags and then transplanted into the pond with a stake or two to keep them secure. The ducks really love the seeds. There are many other carex spp. which can be utilised on islands and around pond garden edges, though they need to be kept weed-free to look their best.

Some shrubs should overhang the water to provide escape cover for both adults and broods. Flax and cotoneaster are useful and most small ponds would benefit from one or at the most a couple of weeping willows (salix babylonica) or golden weeping willow (s. alba chrysocoma) overhanging on the southern side. If these are planted anywhere else on the pond they should be pollarded to about two metres in height and allowed to grow no higher. Swamp cypress (taxodium distichum) similarly treated should provide some cover and a clump of three or four such stumpy trees can be planted in the shallows for broods to escape in to. These trees provide the most vivid orange colour in the autumn and a lovely lime green in the spring.

Remember to avoid planting along the dam wall as the roots of trees will often cause the dam to leak. Very low sedges/grasses can be planted and this helps to prevent the waterfowl from stripping the grass roots and undermining the dam itself. Remember that while planting can make average ponds into top class ones, you can have too much of a good thing. Don't close the pond in completely with trees. Ducks

need to fly in and out easily and if they need to climb steeply and crash through branches to get out they'll frequent the pond less often. Always study a pond closely before planning your planting. Note the way the birds fly in and out in different winds and note also how the sun falls on it and where the birds like to come out and preen. If you place an old log in the water at this point they'll almost certainly use it in preference to the shore. Don't crowd the shore as the birds fear the bushes may contain predators and will not rest easy there.

Talking of predators, don't forget that once you provide habitat for waterfowl then you are also providing habitat for the mustelid family - stoats, ferrets and weasels, and also rats and hedgehogs. Be vigilant about setting up a trapping programme and keep the predators under control. Rabbits and hares are also a real nuisance and provision needs to be made to protect the young trees that are planted. Cheap protectors are available from nurseries and there is also an egg-based spray which can be used as a deterrent.

A slow release fertiliser pellet under each tree will give them a good start. Don't forget to stake and tie up the larger trees and keep them firmed in at the base. Trees should be kept free from weeds and grass and watered in the summer if it is hot and dry. Listed below are trees that can be planted around ponds in various situations.

Trees for the flowers, fruit and foliage

Wattles *Acacia* spp.
Chestnuts *Aesculus*
Fruit trees Crab apples, feijoas etc
Magnolia
Ribbonwood *Plagianthus* (moist)
Lacebark *Hoheria* spp.
Kowhai *Sophora* spp.
Gum *Eucalyptus* spp.
Cedar *Cedrus* spp.
Cypress *Cupressus* spp.
Spruce *Picea* spp.
Weeping willow *Salix*
Flowering cherry *Prunus* spp

Autumn colours & specimens

Black Tupelo *Nyssa sylvatica*
Water Tupelo *Nyssa aquatica* (wet)
Flowering cherry *Prunus* spp.
Liquid amber *Liquidambar styraciflua* (moist)
Dogwood *Cotinus* spp.
Maple *Acer* spp.
Beech *Fagus* spp.
Tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*
Larch *Larix* spp.
Ash *Fraxinus* spp.
Honey Locust *Gleditsia tricanthos*
Walnut *Juglans* spp.
Poplar *Populus* spp. (some moist)
Oak *Quercus* spp. (some moist)
Swamp Cypress *Taxodium distichum* (wet)

Natives - small to medium for group plantings

Coprosma spp.
Corokia spp.
Pseudopanax spp. - five finger & lancewood
Sophora spp. - kowhai
Phormium spp. - flax
Cordyline spp. - cabbage tree
Griselinia littoralis - broadleaf
Chionochloa spp. - snow tussocks (dry)
Clianthus spp. - kakabeak
Cortaderia spp. - toetoe
Myrsine australis - red matipo
Olearia spp. - tree daisy
Schefflera digitata - pate

Natives - large

Corynocarpus laevigatus - karaka
Dacrydium dacrydioides - kahikatea (moist)
Dodonaea viscosa - akeake
Hoheria spp. - lacebark
Leptospermum spp - manuka, tea tree
Pittosporum spp.
Podocarpus totara - totara
Weinmannia racemosa - kamahi



Swan beauty at William and Jan Abel's wetlands Huritini

DU Canada involved in Gulf oil spill situation

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is deeply concerned about the impact of the oil in the Gulf of Mexico and continues to monitor the situation. Thankfully, many of the waterfowl that use the area for wintering grounds are now north in Canada's breeding grounds. They recognise, however, that profound changes to the Gulf Coast ecosystem could affect waterfowl next northern winter and for a long time to come.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's focus is to ensure that Canada's breeding grounds are protected and restored and provide the critical habitat needed by North American waterfowl.

Our colleagues at Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the U.S. have long been involved in coastal marsh conservation, working to provide habitat that sustains millions of wintering waterfowl. They are seeking constructive ways to respond to this disaster; this includes establishing a Gulf Coast Oil Spill Action Centre.

This Action Centre page was created to provide Ducks Unlimited's members and supporters with the most current information on their efforts concerning the Gulf region's newest threat.

DU Canada will continue to monitor the situation and keep supporters apprised.

Visit the Gulf Coast Oil Spill Action Centre at ducks.ca for the most current information.

All media inquiries, contact: Duncan Morrison, d_morrison@ducks.ca
National Media Relations Manager Ducks Unlimited Canada
Tel: 001-204-467-3202

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**Peter Groves planting at Wairio Wetlands, Lake Wairarapa,
in June, along with about 99 other people**