

# Flight



ISSUE 150 - January 2012



Inside:  
AGM information  
Pateke stories  
Member survey results



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.

## New members

Welcome to new members  
Tim White of Masterton  
Dean McRobbie of Waipawa  
Clive and Alice Richardson of Palmerston North

Member - passed away  
It is with sadness that we note:  
Pat McLiver from Matauri Bay passed away.

## Ducks Unlimited

### Dinner/AGM 2012

**March 16 – 18 (Friday – Sunday)**

Conference venue Powderhorn Chateau,  
194 Mangawhero Tce, Ohakune.

#### Friday March 16

7pm. Dinner at Di Pritt's woolshed (\$30 per person, BYO) Di will provide dinner and dessert.

#### Saturday March 17

10.30am. Bus departs Top o'er the Bruce for lunch with chair lift operating, followed by a tour of local wetland developed by the Berry family. (\$65 per person).

6.30pm. Drinks, silent auction and Awards Presentation, Powderhorn Chateau.

#### Sunday March 18

10am. Morning tea and guest speaker, Powderhorn Chateau. Breakfast both day own responsibility at \$18 or \$25 per person.

#### Registration Fees:

Full registration includes Friday dinner, AGM, morning teas, Saturday dinner and auction, Sunday speaker and morning tea. \$170 per person.

#### Accommodation:

Double/Single \$180 per night. Double/Single Twin \$180 per night.

Honeymoon Suite \$180 per night.

Apartment (up to 8 people) \$750 per night.

#### Extra Events Costs:

Bus trip to top o'er Bruce and lunch followed by wetland tour \$65. And/or Saturday dinner and auction only \$55.

**Send registration form and fees to DUNZ.**  
**Jan Abel, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 281, Levin, 5540.**

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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.

Deadline for all copy etc for Flight 151, and not related to the AGM, March 16.  
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# From the President

I have tried over the last year or so to make this letter about DU and certainly not about me. However recent events mean this must be at least in part about me, and for that I apologise.

I have been appointed a Judge of the District Court. I will be sworn in at the end of January and after three weeks will then be sitting permanently in Palmerston North.



While the involvement of Judges with the community is seen as a good thing that does not extend to positions of responsibility in organisations which raise funds from the public, even if for a charity. I must therefore step down as President at the AGM. Whether I am able to stay on the Board I do not yet know but I will get clarification shortly.

My disappointment is the Board has been considering alternative approaches to how we operate to make DU viable for the future. I did want to drive that to a conclusion but will now have to take a lesser role. In this Flight (page 5) is my report for the AGM to be held in Ohakune starting Friday March 16. My report sets out the progress the Board has made in its restructure. I will address this more fully at Conference.

I encourage you to book early for the Conference. We have what is now a rare opportunity for most attendees to be in-house. The standard of the rooms is high. With the reduction in price we have negotiated it is excellent value for quality lodgings. Consider it a luxury weekend with friends. But most importantly please come – there is cheaper accommodation in Ohakune if you wish. But please book now, it makes organising Conference so much easier. See you there.

David Smith



## Christmas gift

Wow! It was a white Christmas at Pukaha Mt Bruce. A second white kiwi hatched one week before Christmas Day. Pure white named Mauriora, a sibling for Manukura who arrived in May. Both birds have the same father. A small number of North Island Brown Kiwi carry a recessive white gene which both the male and female must have to produce a white chick. Centre manager Kathy Houkamau said. "It is remarkable that two birds with the rare white gene have paired up in our forest. We assume the mother is the same because of the rarity of the white gene."

Mauriora, meaning 'sustained life', is a word used by Maori as an exclamation of something important. Check out pukaha.org.nz for updates.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Contents

### January 2012

Issue 150	
Conference advice 2012	2
New Members	2
President's letter	3
DUNZ conference/AGM 2011	4
President's report 2011	5
Director Profile – John Bishop	5
GPS for Pateke	6
Pateke ranger	6
Wairakei Pastoral wetland	7
Pateke ducklings	7
Pharazyn Reserve	8-9
Swan heist	10
White kiwi news	10
Pateke survival guide	10
Pheasant gamekeeper	11
Dr Frank Baldwin obituary	12
Wetland tourists	12
DUNZ member survey	13
Bird whisperer	14
TOSSI open boardwalk	14
Letter to Flight	15
TOSSI turns 10	15
Wildlife manipulation	15



## 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*

**Cover photo:** Ducks flying at Wairio wetland, Wairarapa.

Photo: Ian Jensen.



# GPS tracking helps Pateke research

A study of habitat selection of Pateke by Otago University PhD student Debbie Armstrong will provide a better understanding of Pateke and their habitat. This could help conservation efforts for the species.

During the study at Mimiwhangata Coastal Reserve (Northland) and Great Barrier Island Debbie said she was looking at both the home range of individual pateke and the use of different habitat types.



**In good hands:** Research for Debbie Armstrong.

To find out what habitats are being used by individual Pateke, location data is collected by GPS (global positioning system) units attached to the birds. This helps identify habitat features within the territories and how they are being utilised by individual Pateke.

"I then identify the most commonly selected habitats and rank all of the used habitats in order of preference," she said.

Optimal habitat for the Pateke is not always available. A habitat type may be highly favoured, but if it is difficult to find then it can't be utilised much. Or, where habitats have been altered dramatically by humans, environmental cues used by the species might no longer be associated with quality habitats. This could lead to making 'incorrect' decisions when selecting habitat, which in turn may lead to reduced survival. Debbie said in addition to looking at the habitat pateke are selecting, she will be exploring the relationship between specific habitat selections and pateke survival and health to attempt to identify the optimal habitat for the pateke.

Productivity of pateke on Great Barrier Island is recorded at only 25 percent of that reported in Northland.

"I intend to explore the possibility that the low productivity is due to available or unavailable habitat. I will compare the habitat selections on Great Barrier Island to the selections made in Northland. If differences are identified, I will attempt to determine the causes of these differences.

"I will also identify whether or not habitats previously deemed 'optimal' are (still) available at both locations."

The decline of pateke on Great Barrier has been evident in the low survival rates of juveniles.

"By comparing the habitat selections by juvenile pateke on Great Barrier Island with juvenile survival and health data I will determine if there is any relationship between survival and habitat choice. Additionally, I will compare the habitat selection of the juveniles with adults and attempt to identify why the adults are surviving and the juveniles are not.

"If a difference in habitat selection is evident, I will then attempt to determine the reason for the unsuccessful selections," Debbie said.

## Tracking birds

The new generation GPS wildlife tags being used to collect data on pateke were developed by the University of Otago Physics Department and combine both GPS and cell phone technology in sub-20g, backpack mounted tags. The cell phone (GSM) technology in the tags allows data to be sent via text message.

A hiccup occurred with tag units made of plastic. The pateke were a bit rougher than predicted and cracked the units. New ones of carbon fibre were made.

Use of cell phone networks to transmit data collected eliminates the need to regularly recapture the pateke, reducing species disturbance.

*Meet Tiff Browne a Pateke Ranger for the Department of Conservation at Whangarei and Gyp a Brittany Spaniel she is training as an indicator dog for hunting.*

## A ranger and her dog

Tiff studied Zoology and Wildlife Management in Dunedin before working for DOC on the Grand and Otago skink project. Now she is a member of the DOC team in Whangarei.

Dog lover Tiff is a novice hunter. "So to combine these two interests I looked for a dog I could train recreationally for hunting pheasants," she said.

Gyp is a Brittany Spaniel, relatively rare in New Zealand but known for their energy, good nature and ability to set, flush and retrieve.

"I had no experience training a dog specifically for hunting, but I am fortunate enough to work with several people who use their dogs for indicating pateke and kiwi, so I have been able to pick up tips from them.

"Gyp was a bit of a gamble as he didn't come from a registered breeder but has quickly shown himself to be a marvellous hunter, if a little strong-willed and unruly! His favourite activity is flushing anything with feathers, closely followed by eating (anything remotely smelly will do) and snoozing next to the fire with his buddy Molly, our Border Collie."

Tiff has been fortunate to have her work closely aligned to her hobby, and said "Introduced predators such as cats and stoats and habitat loss are the biggest problems limiting pateke survival. DOC has extensive predator control in place to protect pateke on Northlands East Coast, which adjoins community predator control projects to cover a large area of habitat. "Part of my job is to monitor the pateke at Mimiwhangata Coastal Park by fitting them with transmitters to track their movements. The best way to catch pateke is by using a pateke-indicating dog, and this got me interested in hunting dogs and the amazing work they can do if trained properly." Teaching Gyp to indicate pheasants has been good training for both of them.

## Bred for the job

The Brittany Spaniel is a gun dog bred primarily for bird hunting. Although often referred to as a Spaniel, the breed's working characteristics are more akin to a pointer or setter.

The Brittany was named for the French province of Brittany and may be the result

of crossing the Orange and White Setter and some not clearly identified French dog. Since the Brittany looks a lot like the Welsh Springer Spaniel some think the two may be related.

The breed is one of the most popular pointing breeds for bird hunting. The Brittany was first shown in France in 1896.



**Hunters:** Tiff Browne with Gyp.

Photo: provided by Tiff Browne.

# Wairakei Pastoral wetland



**Fortification:** The pumice earth works.



**Cover up:** Lime covers the pumice and the diggers are putting mud onto the lime. Photos: Jim Campbell.

When Geoff Reid asked Jim Campbell if he would consider driving a 12 tonne digger to help create a new wetland close to Wairakei Pastoral headquarters on the Broadlands Road east of Taupo, Jim's answer was obviously yes.

Geoff and his wife Gayle had taken levels and put in pegs for the project which Jim said enabled an immediate start on arrival.

Whilst waiting for the 20 tonne digger to arrive with Tom Hodgkinson driving, Jim was given the task of clearing a clean trench through the swamp for a wall to be built.

Tom had mentioned that the slop was approx 1 metre deep then onto reasonably firm pumice. He then said "Be careful because the tracks on this machine are well worn, try to keep it straight ahead to avoid losing a track."

In trepidation Jim advanced into the swamp and by lunchtime had cleared about halfway

across. He encountered a softer area and chickened out for a cuppa and kai. The knowledge that the second digger was closer encouraged a second advance and successful clearance right across the area.

Then followed two days were digging pumice from areas close by and accumulating a large heap each side of the swamp. Tom's expertise and an hour or so had the fill across enabling a 30 tonne dump truck and tractor and trailer to cart across the fill to compact it.

Geoff needed a couple of whiskeys and a soak in the AC hot pools to settle his nerves after negotiating the massive Komatsu Dump Truck across what seemed a very narrow crossing from the height of the truck cab.

Tom's expertise again proved special when he suggested lining the bottom with lime to bind with the pumice to prevent erosion of

the fill. Some of the closer black ouse was then put on top of the lime to encourage vegetation growth. (See photo of pumice bank.)

With landscaping of islands and removal of most of the black gunge, plus organising a spillway the job was complete.

The morning after the wall went across 10 Mallards and two Parries where in residence, an immediate result.

Jim was extremely lucky when after having been in meters of slop and driven out, a hydraulic hose that empowered the tracks, burst. Had that happened on the slop wetsuit and flippers would have been required to attach a cable to pull the machine out.

A huge 'Thank You' goes out to Wairakei Pastoral for funding the project, providing accommodation and the loads of enthusiasm given."

## Pateke ducklings cause excitement

In September last year 26 Pateke (Brown Teal) ducks were released at Mountain Landing on Purerua Peninsula in Northland. (see Flight 149, P 7)

In early November staff at Mountain Landing, Purerua were excited to see some ducklings.

Tim Robinson who works at Mountain Landing said there had been a male/female pair on their small pond by the plant nursery since the release. On the evening of November 24 Caleb (the nurseryman) saw a Pateke (with transmitter) exiting raupo followed by four ducklings.

Caleb was charged with keeping any Pukeko at a safe distance.

"Having lost three pateke to cats we were in

deficit, it seems we are now in credit," said Tim.

"The breeding pair are on a small pond near our office so I have been able to see them most days since their release. I think the ducklings have been sighted due to them being used to human activity, despite this the ducklings have been well hidden in raupo cover."

Pateke ducks are among our rarest species of avifauna.

Pateke look like a baby duck, they are small, brown and have a white ring around each eye. They are primarily nocturnal preferring to feed at night, often on nearby pasture.

Greg Blunden of the NZ Kiwi Foundation said this release of pateke is only possible

because of the integrated pest management undertaken on Purerua Peninsula by landowners and NZ Kiwi Foundation since 2002 and with assistance since 2007 of the Northland Regional Council (NRC) through the introduction of Community Pest Control Areas (CPCAs).

Partners in this project are Banrock Wines, Brown Teal Recovery Group, DUNZ, Ngati Torehina, Ngati Wai, Mountain Landing Company, NRC, NZ Kiwi Foundation, and the captive breeders of brown teal.

All pateke sighted should be reported to Greg Blunden on 09 405 1244, 021 710 441 or (preferably) by email to nz.kiwi.foundation@gmail.com



# Restoring wetland

*Along with the ecological benefits of developing and restoring wetlands and surrounds included in the Pharazyn Reserve (lower North Island west coast) has come a greater understanding in the community through the involvement of two local schools.*

The Pharazyn Reserve lies between Waikanae Beach and Peka Peka Beach where the connecting road, Rutherford Drive/Paetawa Road generally bisects it.

At around 41ha, the Reserve is made up of a dune environment between the road and the beach in the west. To the east is a modified grassed area with the former Waikanae oxidation ponds beyond which covers around 12.5ha.

The ponds, decommissioned in 2002, sit within the Harakeke Wetlands that flank them to both the north and the south. This land was compulsory acquired under the Public Works Act in the 1970s, as was the spray discharge zone on the adjacent dunes between the ponds and the wetland fringe west.

Early in the 1990s a rural residential subdivision was applied for on land north of the residential areas of Waikanae beach to



**About weeds:** Lisa Clapcott DOC Waikanae, talking to a Waikanae School class about the weeds you don't want in your Wetland.

the southern fringe of the rural residential land at Peka Peka. This land generally surrounded the area west of the ponds and the adjacent dunes.

The land apart from a few small pockets was the last owned by the W N Pharazyn Charitable Trust. Originally part of W H Fields farm inherited by his daughter, the late Mrs Pharazyn, on her death it passed to her husband W N Pharazyn. He created a

charitable trust and there are now many legacies of the trust's work within the wider community including involvement with pest eradication on Kapiti Island.

It was a highly litigated subdivision over a considerable time, with its approval a reserve was set aside that now makes up the dune environment between the natural wetland fringe west of the connecting road and the beach.

After the wastewater ponds were decommissioned the new system pumps wastewater to Paraparaumu to the Kapiti Coast District Council high-level treatment plant.

A management plan was initiated to take care and provide for planned rehabilitation of the ponds and the surrounds. There was the usual agency involvement along and a number of stakeholders provided input to the draft document. Public submissions were called for in September 2004, six submissions received and many of the points raised were included within the Plan.

In 2006 the Waikanae Community Board invited interested residents to apply as members of a Focus Group for monitoring and development of the Reserve. There were seven applicants and all were appointed by the Board. The Focus Group's main focus to date has been rehabilitation of the pond edges. Fill is brought in to cover the hard line concrete wave barrier while at the same time as much as possible creating a gently sloping convoluted pond edge.

This has not been easy as available fill has not always coincided with low water levels.



**On the fringe:** Natural wetland fringe of western dunes with Rutherford Drive beyond.

# at Pharazyn Reserve

The Focus group involved two local schools, Waikanae and Kapanui, with plantings carried out each year as an extremely popular Arbor Day activity. Many of the students take pride at pointing out where they had planted in previous years. Other groups have assisted with overflow and other plantings.

Some boxthorn and blackberry control has been carried out on the beach dune area and some pines have been removed with native planting in their place.

Earlier last year (2011) significant numbers of pines were removed in just a few seconds when a tornado raced inland, causing a swath of devastation, fortunately and very luckily although there were some injuries there was no loss of life.

Many of the fallen pines have been removed providing significant areas for further planting.

Ian Jensen.



**Birds eye view:** The beach, esplanade reserve and western dunes in the top left corner with the fringe wetland, (former water coarse of the Kututauki Stream) on the western side of the pines (now removed due to tornado) with the road from Waikanae, Rutherford Drive from the southwest, then as Paetawa Road from the Reserve heading northeast to Peka Peka. The modified grass area to the east of the road and the ponds lie in the south east segment flanked by the Harakeke wetlands either side.

Photo: Pharazyn Reserve Management Plan 2005.



**Damage done:** The south pond with tornado damaged trees beyond.

Photos: Ian Jensen.

# Swan cargo

The Annual trip to Peacock Springs is a special trip for Jim Campbell and Ross Cottle each year to pick up mute swan cygnets which Lady Diana Isaac generously donates to DU.

Over the years there have been various modes of transports to cross Cook Strait.

Jim recalls that when Safe Air were still running Bristol freighters (10,000 rivets flying in formation) across from Rongatai to Blenheim, it was a quick trip especially when you have live waterfowl on board the ute.

"The ground crew would write on the back of a cigarette packet the date you wished to cross back with live cargo and give you a time to be at the airport. Twenty minutes later you were at Rongatai."

Another trip was with his cousin Kevin, hiring a Cessna from the local aero club and flying two hours from Masterton to Christchurch. The return trip was a rather smelly affair with cygnets in sacks as passengers. The more usual trip is to catch the ferry from Wellington at mid-day, overnight at Waikawa, Picton, then head south the next morning. Along the way stopping for a pleasant break and short walk to see the baby



**Swan heist:** The team with three of the swans. From left Shelly Harvey, Mike Robertson, Sarah, Ross Cottle, Emma Cournane and Anne Richardson.

Photos: Jim Campbell



**Bathing beauties:** Baby seals in the fresh water stream at Ohau Point.

seals in the fresh water stream at Ohau Point. Eventually arriving in Christchurch and staying with Ross's niece, Tina, on the West side of Christchurch.

"A lovely time was had dining with our hosts at a nearby restaurant for dinner, including the wildlife helpers from Peacock Springs and if we are fortunate Lady Diana joins in as well. This is a rare opportunity to catch up with all the special wildlife projects happening at Peacock Springs and their future. Anne Richardson usually gives us a tour and most years there is another new project on track to do with endangered species," said Jim.

"The largest consignment of cygnets was 22. This season it was 10. Last season, Bob Butts from Takaka met us at the Bluebridge terminal with seven and we handed over to Bob one of our Masterton reared cygnets for genetic diversity. There is much moving around of cygnets from various clutches to help with breeding results."

The return journey means an early start collecting up the cygnets at Peacock Springs, which Anne and her team organise prior, then back up to Picton to catch the ferry around 1pm. The plan is to have them settled on Ross's pond around 9pm that evening.

"A huge 'Thank You' goes out to Anne and the team for all the help. "Congratulations to Lady Diana for her 90th birthday from all in Ducks Unlimited.

"We thank you sincerely for your huge support to our organisation for many years and wish you every success with your continuing financial support and enthusiasm for endangered species."

**Jim Campbell**

## White kiwi's Facebook page

Manukura, the white kiwi now lives in her own enclosure in the new kiwi house at Pukaha Mt Bruce and visitors can see her on a daily basis.

Kathy Houkamau, Pukaha's manager, said not all kiwi are suited to captivity but Manukura's relatively laid back nature helped her to settle in quickly.

When Manukura swallowed two stones she was sent to Wellington for specialist attention. The first stone was passed in the traditional way following a diet of slurry.

The second stone was too large to pass and after several unsuccessful attempts to retrieve it with an endoscope procedure, a specialist urologist from Wellington Hospital, Rod Studd was called in. In an hour and half he managed to break up the stone with laser treatment and then remove the pieces. By not having surgery her recovery was faster.

Manukura can be seen in her enclosure 9am to 4.30pm daily.

## Pāteke survival guide

Brown teal/pāteke published September 2011 by DOC. It will guide landowners, community groups and others interested in the recovery of pāteke.

To download the publication go to the DOC web site and the Pāteke survival guide (PDF, 1,432K).

### Contents:

- 1 Pāteke-some key facts.
  - 2 Where are all the pāteke?
  - 3 Can pāteke recover?
  - 4 Seasons of the pāteke.
  - 5 Dramatic decline.
  - 6 Threats.
  - 7 What you can do for pāteke.
  - 8 Case studies of effective pāteke management.
  - 9 Monitoring.
  - 10 Captive breeding and releases.
  - 11 Specialist advice and support.
- Appendix 1.

*A locum gamekeeper at the Rathmoy Game Preserve was considered by DUNZ member Ossie Latham to be an interesting story for Flight, and so it proved to be.*

## Dedication the key to this job

The job of gamekeeper may seem romantic, but Ian Cook knows it is hard work. Originally from Cornwall, Ian has been a gamekeeper all his life. He was happy to spend several weeks at Rathmoy Game Preserve in the Rangitikei recently, while the regular gamekeeper Peter Gifford was on leave.

Ian knows this is a busy job. With his wife Rosemary, Ian runs a shooting preserve in Tasmania for a mainland (Australia) syndicate.

The couple moved to Tasmania 10 years ago. They went for a visit and decided to stay. Ian thought he had left game keeping



**Ideal environment:** Ian Cook with a pheasant pen and Rangitikei country in the background.

behind, but the 1215ha property they bought proved ideal for pheasants, and the 12 "guns" from the mainland talked him into it. Many of them shoot there during the eight days of the season. About 7000 birds are bred a year.

Ian grew up in a "hunting, shooting, fishing" family. His father thought he should have a proper job, but Ian had other ideas. "Pheasants are a real bug, addictive, not a job, it is way of life.

"Seven days a week, 365 days a year. Some people have romantic notions about this life, but you can't take short cuts, the more you put in the more you get out."

Rathmoy pheasants are bred on the property where 8000 birds are needed in the field. There are seven large pens with 900 hens spread between them and 25 cock birds per pen. There are eggs to collect every day, they are washed, sanitized, dried and put into the incubator in trays. On the fourth week the eggs are transferred to the hatcher, and a fresh lot of eggs go into the incubator, so it is full on the whole time.

From day one the chicks are under gas heaters, with water and food. They have to be checked several times a day. As they grow are moved progressively to lighter and larger environments. At six weeks they go into an outdoor pen.

The weather can cause problems, mechanical breakdowns on the hatcher, power cuts, predators, cats, hawks, and in Tasmania, predation by Tasmanian Devils.

Eventually the birds go to a release pen from where they are fed gradually further and further away from the pen and to an area where

there will typically be kale or maize. They live happily there before being "put up" for a shoot.

Ian said he doesn't like to see the birds ill treated and he never shoots his own pheasants.

In the wild pheasants are good mothers but Ian said the odds are against them. "Predators and bad weather being the biggest killers."

Rathmoy game reserve according to Ian is ideal terrain. "It is wonderful - New Zealand is wonderful full stop."



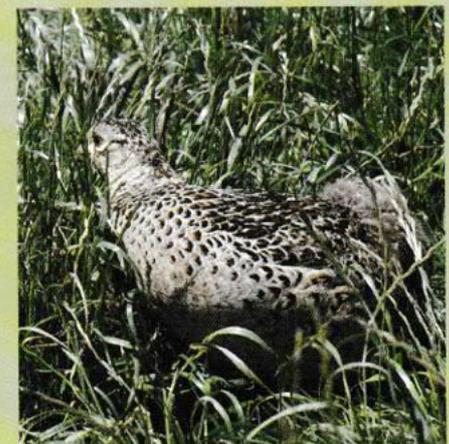
**Warm spot:** Pheasant eggs in the incubator.



**Precaution:** A clip inserted into the chicks' beaks when a few days old prevents them pecking other chicks, but allows them to feed.



**Albinism:** A white cock pheasant, there are a few at Rathmoy. Photos: Liz Brook



**Female pheasant:** Good camouflage for the females.

*Ducks Unlimited New Zealand recently lost a very good friend with the death of Dr Frank Baldwin and Ducks Unlimited Canada lost a great stalwart. DUNZ member David Johnston said: "Frank was a larger than life character, large in stature, intellect, humour and generosity, right down to his larger than life 10 gauge shot gun."*

## Dr Frank Baldwin 1934 – 2011

Frank died on May 19 2011, age 76. He is survived by his wife Ali, daughter Olivia (Janet) and granddaughter Annika, his son Frank (Karen). He is also survived by his sister Jo and her family in England and sisters-in-law Teen and Alex and their families in Australia.

Frank lived a full, fascinating and passionate life. He loved his family, "Quack Farm", his dogs, ducks, decoys and the marsh. He was passionate about good foods and wine, single malts, long chats and music.

Frank dreamed big dreams and with persistence was often successful.

Born in London in 1934, Frank attended Marylebone School in London and after graduation worked at University College before furthering his studies at Cambridge University.

In the early 1960s Frank moved to Sydney, where he helped set up the Anatomy Department of the Medical School at



**Family man:** Frank Baldwin with his wife Ali and granddaughter Annika, 2009.

Photo: supplied by **David Johnston**.

the University of New South Wales. He returned to London as a Churchill Scholar in 1972-73, spending the majority of his time and studies at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital.

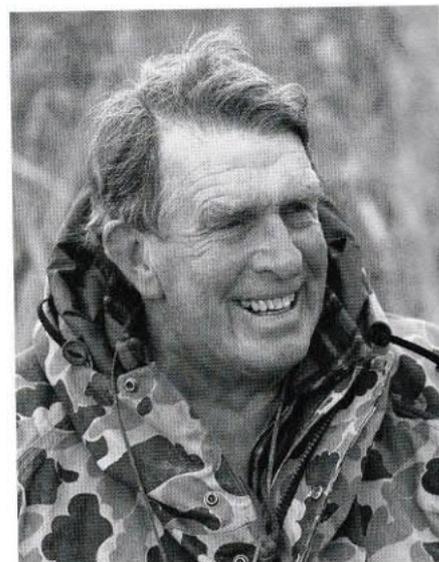
In 1975 he was awarded his PhD in Medicine from the University of New South Wales. In 1977 newlywed Ali and Frank moved to Saskatoon where Frank worked in the Department of Anatomy and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1981 the Baldwin family moved to Winnipeg where Frank joined the Department of Pathology at the Health Sciences Centre.

Frank always had a passionate interest in waterfowling, conservation and education, pursuits he focused on following his retirement in 1993. Frank was elected as a School Trustee in the Lord Selkirk School Division and served two terms.

He also served on the Board of Ducks Unlimited Canada from 1991 through 2005 and following his retirement from the Board served as an Emertius Director until his death. He directed his efforts towards conservation and education initiatives including the opening of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Greenwing Days, waterfowl festivals, the Adopt-A-Class programme, mentored hunts and the Great Greenwing Adventure Camp.

He also served on the Selkirk Ducks Unlimited Committee, acting as chairman for over a decade.

Frank was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, the first Lieutenant-Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award in 2005 and the



**Full life:** Frank Baldwin.

Photo: © Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Carver's Award of Excellence in 2006. Frank was a talented craftsman, carving his own decoys and building his own wooden boats. He taught many working decoy carving classes, helping to re-establish the tradition of decoy carving Manitoba.

Barclay Kennels, under Frank's careful direction, has produced yellow and black Labrador Retrievers for hunters since 1982.

Frank loved the preparation involved in a good meal and delighted in the consumption of the feast. He shared this passion through cooking classes taught in his own home where participants prepared and tasted various game dishes.

Over the past two years he researched and wrote a book on the preparation and cooking of waterfowl. He had almost completed the task at the time of his death.

A celebration of the extraordinary man's life was held in June 2011.

## Wetlands – a tourist destination

Wetlands and Tourism is the theme for the World Wetlands Day 2012 and is linked to the theme for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, COP11: Wetlands, Tourism and Recreation, to take place in June this year in Bucharest, Romania.

Wetland tourism has benefits both locally and nationally for people and wildlife – benefits such as stronger

economies, sustainable livelihoods, healthy people and thriving ecosystems.

At least 35 percent of Ramsar Sites around the world record some level of tourism activity and this percentage is consistent throughout all regions. It is important to consider tourism in all wetlands – not just those designated as Ramsar Sites – since the Contracting Parties to the Conventional are committed to managing all wetlands.

It is worth noting that tourism is one of the many services that wetlands deliver. Ensuring well-managed tourism practices in and around wetlands and educating visitors on the value of wetlands contributes to their health and the long-term benefits wetlands provide to people, wildlife, economics, and biodiversity.

To date, the Ramsar Convention has not had a specific focus on wetlands, tourism and recreation.

# DUNZ Survey Comments

Here are comments members sent in for the recent DUNZ survey. The AGM in March presents an ideal forum for more discussion and possibly more ideas.

## Suggestions to improve DUNZ

### Identity/Outreach

- Consider a change of name to align it with our wetland conservation work.
- Build a connection to the National Wetland Trust.
- Review role and strategic plan and consider establishing closer working relationship with other wetland conservation organisations such as the National Wetland Trust and Fish and Game – for the overall benefit of wetlands.
- Make the relationship between DUNZ and Wetland Care NZ clearer, even to our existing members. Promoting Wetland Care work would be more attractive to non-members and wider communities.
- The idea that swamps (raupo, flax), are “unproductive” and need to be “improved” by creating open water for hunting species, e.g. mallards (that should logically be considered an invasive exotic pest), is an outdated concept, like draining wetlands for farming. This issue turned me off DU more than any other. I haven’t continued my membership.
- We need to recognise our own members’ work more, as a Northland chapter member I sometimes feel this is the forgotten chapter.
- Fund a South Island wetland development project.
- We need to cater both for the hunters and the wetland conservationist and/or wetland developers who don’t hunt.
- Move away from game/pest bird species and focus on recovery of native species.

### Education

- The Quack Club concept duplicates what Forest & Bird do, and will cost a lot more to be done properly, including children’s trips and training coordinators. Some of the content used so far is immature and the crossword is confusing. If it’s to be effective it needs to be more of an educational tool, targeting primary schools.
- If possible, tie in what we do with the school curriculum and see if there is a ‘fit’ that teachers may be able to pass on, including the DUNZ messages regarding Wetland Values, as part of what they teach students. Children learning about wetlands, wetland values and DUNZ in their regular school lessons will have long term benefits to them, to NZ and to DUNZ.

### Events and Promotion

- More promotion needed to the rural farm audience on the specific benefits of membership and involvement. It would be good to hold farm open days in conjunction with other organisations, and advertise these more widely.
- More field days to see how others have developed wetlands, perhaps bus trips with picnic lunches we bring ourselves. More advance advertising of events like field trips to wetlands.
- This year is the first time for many that we have not attended the AGM weekend simply

due to it being moved to Easter weekend. We can never attend in Easter so I am hoping the AGM/Conference will shift away from Easter.

- Wetlands are made up of specialised plants and animals (invertebrates, fish, birds,) some of which are endangered and some that are sustainably harvested. The future of the organisation is partly dependant on recognising and promoting this.
- Bring together the hunting folk, many of them farmers with possible wetland sites, and the conservationists. Ask members who know of such properties and encourage those owners to join up. When there is a DU event (such as looking around improved wetlands), ask members to encourage and bring along friends and neighbours who might be encouraged to become members. Invite possible members to local dinners, even to the Conference dinner if applicable.
- I would like to see members from all around the country more involved. There is a strong and dedicated bunch in the lower North Island. There must be some similar people in the South. How can we encourage those folk to take a more active part in DU?
- You don’t seem to have much activity up around the Wairarapa. Is there any chance that a member up this way could maybe hire out a pond for day or two over the shooting season? Happy to pay for the privilege and maybe some of the charge could help fund DUNZ.
- Target the increasing ranks of the baby-boomers, younger generations are busy creating families and wealth and don’t have the time available, although we can try to appeal to them by assisting with tasks such as restoring a wetland, and organising family day picnics.
- The diminishing interest of younger people is endemic to many organisations, we need to attract a new generation of younger members that may not necessarily believe in the organisation that attracted me.
- With DOC currently cash-strapped I recommend a task force is established to research the value of expanding the relationship between “them and us” in both endangered bird species and wetland conservation areas, providing we get more recognition of our contribution than we’ve had in the past. Given their current rationalisation and diminishing resources they may welcome our involvement in projects they previously preferred to keep to themselves.
- DUNZ has an image amongst my “conservation” friends that is for duck shooters, and not being duck shooters, they don’t consider joining.
- Push for duck shooting season to be brought forward for the April school holidays so school students have an opportunity to go duck shooting.

### Political Activity

- Between 1974-1992 DUNZ had an incredibly high public profile and around 1200 members, it actually featured in three major TV1 programmes. Today with a non-

political philosophy DUNZ has no public profile and very few members. We appear to have no one driving us forward. We need a public relations activist to flood the news media with a mountain of positive publicity about what we are doing. No conservation group can survive today if it’s non-political.

- We need to be more vocal/political on water pollution not only in ‘Flight,’ but also in other media. We are not pushing our wetlands development story to the general public.
- Promote a ban of 1080, as it’s destroying our wildlife and ecosystems.

### Structure/Finances

- Our wetland is in a charitable trust. This has proved beneficial in many ways including financial, as rates are exempt and GST on development costs are returned to the trust.
- Increase the subscription costs to cover raffle tickets.

### Suggestions for improving Flight magazine

- Articles which show wetland construction details like dam structures, pond shapes, planting margin, construction management, shooting regime, water quality, feeding, draining and flood control, such as how overflow pipe systems are created and work.
- More information on planting for wetlands.
- A regular column from a wetland scientist or someone working in predator control.
- More on predator control, research findings, topical information re wetlands and water quality, more links between articles and sections, more coherence, it often seems quite random.
- More information on the politics that affect wetlands and waterfowl conservation.
- Information on wetlands open to visitors, and small maps of the locations of wetlands that are described in stories.
- More practical ‘how to’ articles on wetland restoration and predator control, with before and after pictures, discussing problems encountered and solved.
- Stories on areas of interest duck shooters, as they are the main wetland developers, so emphasise the importance of what they do in wetlands conservation.
- More on specific waterfowl species such as Grey Teal, and which species you can purchase. An article on a duck species each issue with tips on how to rear them.
- An article on the ecosystem benefits of wetlands, and the invertebrates that inhabit them.
- Keep the magazine content specific to wetland and wetland fauna, don’t try to compete with Forest & Bird.
- Advice on ETS for wetlands.
- More articles on birds – and specifics of attracting them, i.e. bird feeders, edge of pond feeders, etc.
- Keep the bird species mentioned to just waterfowl as there are other organisations representing other bird species.



# Sandy - the bird rescuer

On Fridays at the Feilding stock saleyards, just by the dog sale pens, it is not unusual to find a woman carefully feeding a small bird. It might be a sparrow, a thrush, or a duckling.

Sandy Wilson, one of the operators of the sheep weight crate at the sale, is a dedicated rescuer and reviver of orphaned, injured or unwanted birds and sometimes animals. As very small birds need to be fed every half hour, they end up experiencing a day at the saleyard.

"I get quite a bit of ribbing from some of the men," says Sandy.



**Khaki Campbell:** Stevie has no eyes, but gets help from her Pekin friends.

Photos: Liz Book

Her urge to help injured birds goes back many years. She worked for the Wellington SPCA and that led on to feral cat trapping, then her own business, cat trapping, pet feeding and walking.

Eventually she moved to Palmerston North to do a Vet nursing diploma at UCOL. She started taking injured birds from the local SPCAs, also doing locum vet nursing in Wellington and Paraparaumu. It involved a lot of travelling, and that "got a bit much". She has now been doing the Weight Crate job for seven years.

Her present home on the Tararua side of the Pahiatua Track is an idyllic and ideal place for her. The large and attractive old garden provides the space for a variety for animals and birds.

Chooks, ducks, at least one goose, cats and dogs all seem to have the freedom of the garden, and apparently live in harmony with each other. Round the back are a couple of sheep and more ducks,

The goose came from the SPCA as a gosling, "She really needs a mate, but then again perhaps not!

"I take the wild birds from the Manawatu SPCA. Sparrows, thrushes, all sorts. I keep them quiet and they get good food. It is a basic diet, lots of greens, spinach, root veggies all minced up. Soaked cat biscuits, eggs. But you can't give them water while they are young.

"Ducklings get chick crumbles - they do well on it. Wheat and maize, or pellets soaked as well."

As they grow they have the freedom to come and go from their enclosures.

Some birds are released around the property, others go to homes. Sandy said: "Magpies take up to two years to grow up. When they are ready to mate they go. It is best



**Tender care:** This duckling had a broken leg, under Sandy's care it has come right, though still walks with a limp.

to release magpies back where they came from.

"Sparrows only take about two months - they grow up quickly.

Ducks stay until they can fly. They return to breed in the nearby stream. Stevie a Khaki Campbell has no eyes. The other ducks help her. Sandy said the Pekins are the highlight of Stevie's life. "They are quite noisy and she loves hearing it when they come around."

Sandy never knows what animals or birds she will be looking after next. Hedgehogs were among her early patients, and she still has a soft spot for them.

# Boardwalk opens at Tawharanui

Ribbon cutting for the official opening of the new Mangatawhiri Boardwalk over the wetland, and The Thompson Track at Tawharanui last November by Rhys and Sheila Thompson were early TOSSI officials on the committee and recently RhysThompson has been a volunteer helping to build the boardwalks. The track linking the boardwalks is now called The Thompson Track.

Paul Williams has been a past Chairman of TOSSI and is now the organiser of the nursery and the thousands of native plants that are worked with and then planted annually at Tawharanui.

Roger Williams (no relation to Paul) designed and helped build the boardwalks. Les Cave, also a past Chairman had come for the occasion and Patte Williams is standing in the back ground right.

All are volunteers and those present enjoyed a lovely BBQ lunch after this ceremony and their morning tasks in the park.



**Grand opening:** Holding and cutting the ribbon, from left Rhys Thompson, Paul Williams, Roger Williams, Sheila Thompson and Les Cave.

Photo TOSSI Tawharanui.

## Pukeko pleasure

As usual I enjoy reading 'Flight' with all the news of recent happenings in our wetlands.

The October Issue 145 was particular noteworthy for me because it featured my favourite wetland bird in the article "Rare White Pukeko" with coloured photos. In the 10 years in our wetlands and with hundreds of pukekos being hatched, I have never seen this rare event. I do wonder if any of our members have seen a white pukeko in their wetlands? By the way, the article said "it is legal to shoot pukekos". Is this correct? I only thought they were fair game during duck season? Can one of our shooter members respond?

Gordon Pilone,  
Pohangina Wetlands.

## Pateke progress

Congratulations on another impressive issue of FLIGHT – the name of DU's journal being the brainchild of Ralph Adams MBE in 1974 when he was Director of the NZ Wildlife Service.

I was particularly pleased to read that – at long last – things are starting to happen for Pateke in Northland, and on the Purerua Peninsula. Purerua was first used for the release of captive reared Pateke during the 1980s and in spite of no predator control Pateke did well and maintained a viable population for some years. Fortunately thanks to private groups instituting major Kiwi predator protection programmes on the Peninsula, which has been a mind-boggling success, so on the back of this, together with a seven hectare lake, mangrove swamps, farm dams, etc, the future for Pateke in Northland should be assured.

Pateke are also being released near Ngunguru and there is lots of great work going on in Northland to protect our endemic species.

Neil Hayes QSM

## Sadly missed

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand recently lost a very good friend with the death of Dr Frank Baldwin in Canada. Frank was a larger than life character, large in stature, intellect, humour, and generosity right down to his larger than life 10 gauge shot gun. With Dr Sinclair, Frank was instrumental in kick starting DU Australia where some of us first met him. He will be sadly missed by his friends and family both here and in Canada.

David Johnston.  
(see obituary page 10)

## TOSSI turns 10

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc (TOSSI) celebrates its 10th anniversary on March 10.

A pest proof fence was established at Tawharanui Regional Park in 2004. It encloses more than 500 hectares of sanctuary for native species. Predators are kept out and wetlands have been established.

The Society has been successful in introducing a number of species including Pateke ducks in 2008 and 2010. These ducks are breeding well and the increasing flock is spreading into areas outside the park.

Banrock Station winery and Ducks Unlimited generously donated \$30,000 as well as wine to TOSSI for use in a recognition event in which Auckland Regional Council (ARC) and TOSSI

celebrated this achievement in 2008. In March this year, TOSSI will again present "Art in the Woolshed". A biennial event at Tawharanui, and the major fund raising effort. To open this exhibition, a reception is planned for the volunteers, supporters and ARC members who have contributed to the success of this venture. Tawharanui Regional Park sanctuary east of Warkworth is open to the public.

## Manipulation of wildlife

A contentious issue for the trophy sport sector of NZ.

A landmark recommendation has been adopted by CIC at its Council Session in Madrid last November. It deals with manipulative and intensive management in the breeding of wildlife species such as artificial insemination and tightly controlled breeding systems that aim at the

commercial production of ever larger horns or antlers, a variety of colour morphs and even hybridisation between closely related species or subspecies.

Manipulative practices taken from domestic livestock production, increasingly observed across all continents, not only make a mockery of the honoured traditions of hunting, but pose a real and present danger for the integrity of biodiversity. CIC invites governments, wildlife managements authorities, landowners as well as national and international hunting associations and conservation NGOs to join forces in preserving the wild in wildlife.

More information: [www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php?id=807](http://www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php?id=807)

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC Headquarters, PO Box 82, H-2092 Budakeszi, Hungary  
E-Mail: [office@cic-wildlife.org](mailto:office@cic-wildlife.org) Web: [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

## DU Membership form

YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member

Please send me further information, I may join later.

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

Address.....

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