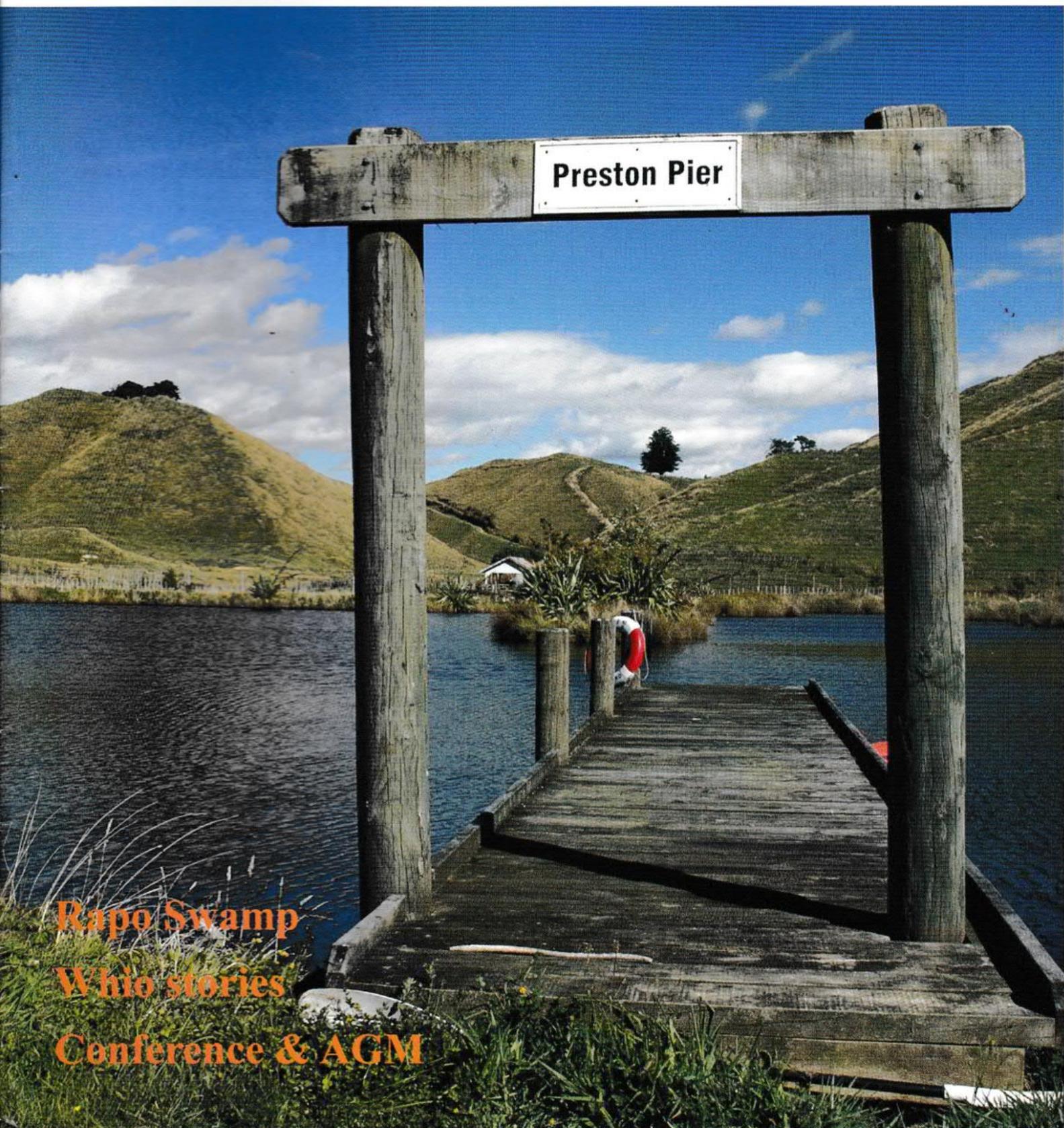


Flight



ISSUE 151 - April 2012



Rapo Swamp
Whio stories
Conference & AGM



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 the following new members

Jeanette Wills of Greytown
Allan Bourne of Auckland
Wairakei Golf & Sanctuary at Taupo
Tony Roxburgh of Te Awamutu
Alistair Plimmer of Featherston
Don Robb of Raetihi

Members passed away

It is with sadness that we note the following deaths.
Our sincere condolences go to their families.
Gary Croad of Picton
Roger Brooks of Greytown

Membership renewals will be posted out soon.

Wetland in Canberra

The Banksia Street, O'Connor wetland is one of three water bodies constructed in Canberra during 2010-2011. Together these wetlands improve the quality of urban stormwater entering the iconic Lake Burley Griffin. As well as enhancing water quality and detaining floods they provide a diverse aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the suburbs. At the much larger Dickson and Lyneham wetlands, harvested storm water will be delivered to irrigate local sportsgrounds instead of potable water.

One of the unexpected consequences of the development of the Banksia Street wetland is how it has been embraced by the community and provides a destination for individuals, community groups and educational institutions.

Although only 1250 square metres in area, this wetland provides informal recreational opportunities for locals. Pedestrians stroll along paths or sit quietly to observe water birds and eastern long-necked tortoises. Children veer from the path to get closer to the water's edge and create pathways through the native grasses. They play imaginative games focused on 'catching' fish and yabbies and construct cubbies from sticks. It's rewarding to see primary school-aged children interacting with the 'natural' environment in the suburbs.

The wetland has become a focus for field trips and community events. Local primary students and Girl Guides have participated in planting and Waterwatch activities. Recently ANU School of Art students visited the inner-north wetland and are designing sculptures that respond to the site.

As part of an engagement strategy a number of community events have been organised at Banksia Street. These aim to promote the Wetland Development Programme and have a sustainability focus. The Banksia Street Wetland Carers played an active role in planting and maintaining the wetland. Thousands of macrophytes, grasses, groundcovers, ephemerals, climbers, shrubs and trees from local provenance stock were planted over 10 community planting days. Tree guards were installed to thwart marauding cockatoos. In the coming years, volunteers will play a role in weeding, replanting and monitoring the water quality of the wetland. A local resident trained in herbicide use has tackled invasive couch and Chilean needle grass. It is anticipated that a volunteer will be recruited to collect information on frogs for the Frogwatch census which occurs in October each year.

Edwina Robinson.

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Black and white half page \$180, Black and white 1/4 page \$90.
All to be produced camera-ready.
Discount for long-term ads - ask Editor
Waterfowl adverts are free to members. Please contact the Editor with any suggestions or to book a space.
Contributions from members and other readers, including photographs, are welcome.

Deadline for all copy and illustrations for July Flight No 152, by June 8, 2012.

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From the Editor

Usually this spot is reserved for the President to let members know what is happening – or not.

David Smith has recently been made a District Court Judge, and as such can no longer hold a position of responsibility in an organisation such as Ducks Unlimited. David is now based in Palmerston North and will also be residing at court sessions in some of the smaller towns in the central North island.

Ross Cottle, who has been our Chairman, has agreed to take on the role of President for the next year.

For my part – taking note of comments in the member survey about Flight magazine – I do intend to follow up on some of those ideas.

Keeping the content specific to wetland and wetland fauna and waterfowl could become rather boring and repetitive. Also the comment not to try and compete with Forest & Bird was wide of the mark. While some of our members are also members of Forest & Bird, and other similar organisation, there are many more who are not and therefore do not see those particular publications. Most members I have met seem to be rather an eclectic bunch, interested in a wide range of topics.

A few members are helpful about sending in material for publication. To those people I am extremely grateful. I would like to receive more from further afield and about a wider range of topics of interest to members.

Letters to the Editor would be good. After a nudge in that direction a couple of issues ago three letters arrived – what joy. Since then nothing.

Send photos of your wetland or wetlands, or your birds or a story about your observations around your own ponds and birds. A good photo, jpg is best about 1mb or higher, and a caption to tell us what it is about, would be a good start.

Two important points: Subs are due and you will be receiving those this month – or very soon. The other important thing, and you will read this in the Presidents report (page 7), the AGM is moving back to its old time slot of July.

Liz Brook

Editor



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Subscription time

Increased costs have forced us to increase the subscription/membership cost.

The Board of Directors has very reluctantly made the decision to stop the organisation going backwards with its costs.

The last increase in subscriptions was 2005/2006 year. Since that time DUNZ has absorbed the increases in postage, printing and also recently the increase in GST.

The prices will all go up by \$10 on each category with the exception of the Junior (under 16) and Life category.

New invoices will be sent out from early April. If you choose to pay via Internet Banking please include the invoice number as a reference.

Jan Abel

Administration



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: Preston Pier - not the usual wetland adornment.

Photo: Liz Brook.

Mountain trek



Exhilarating: Sandra Pipes and Co reach the top of the second chair lift.



Anticipation: DU members wait patiently but with slight trepidation, for the first chair lift.



Spectacular: A slight haze obscured the far horizon, but the view was still wonderful.

Wetland tour



Proper pond: Started in 2005, the lake and pier is the fulfilment of a dream.



Swan lake: A more recent addition to the wetlands, three miamias are in place.



Ultimate hay ride: A unique way to travel for some of the group.



Hanging on: A novel experience for the passengers.

Celebrations country style



Hostess: Di Pritt in the kitchen and looking the part.



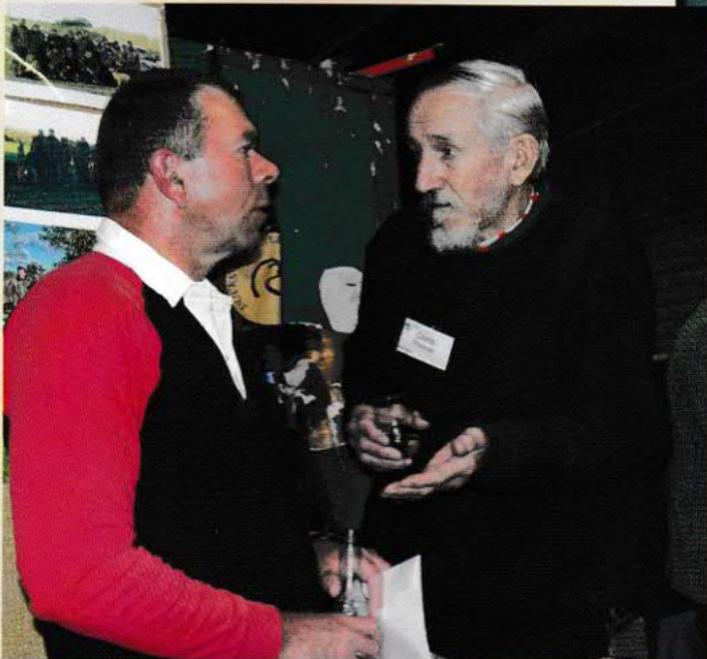
Top chef: Wine club member Ralph Berry being distracted by Ron Frew.



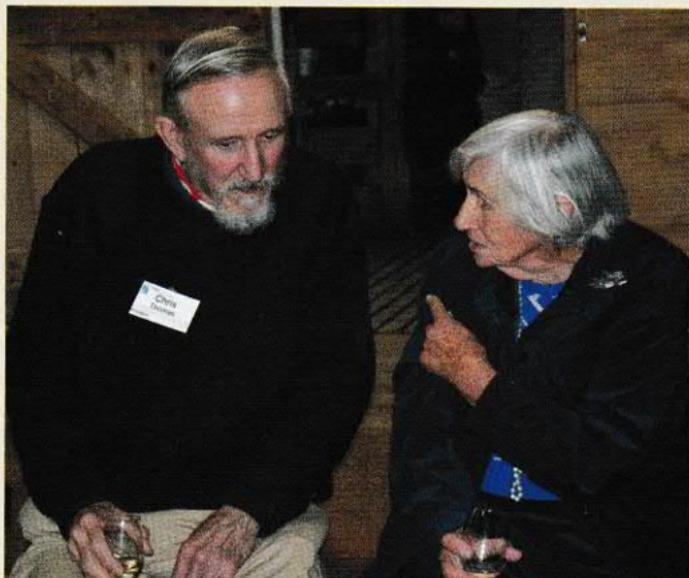
Catch up: Audrey Pritt left, and Lorraine Jensen.



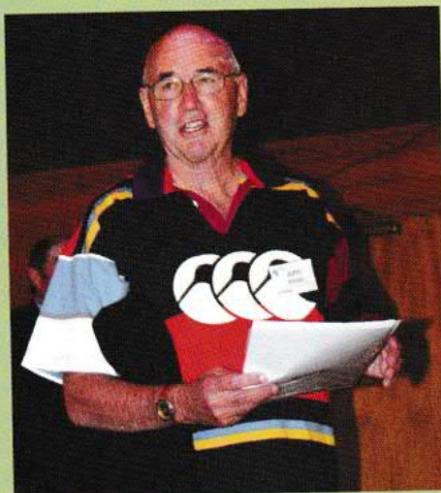
DU chat: Jim Law and Jan Abel, plenty to discuss.



Animated: Kerry Oates left in earnest discussion with Chris Thomas.



Circulating: Chris Thomas talking with Nancy Payne.



Financials: John Bishop gives the meeting the good and bad news. We are not broke, but we could do better.

Wairoa wetland report to AGM - summary

There was a significant shift in focus at Wairoa during 2011/2012. Restoration proceeded with 2300 plants going in at Stage 3 and a scientific research project put in place with a Masters student from Victoria University assigned to Wairoa. The student, Bridget Johnson, designed a research project that trialled alternative site preparation, different plant cluster and different maintenance regimes. Results will be monitored and if cost effective can be used at other restoration sites. The years work cost \$15,000 and was again financially supported by the Nikau

Foundation, Rotary and the Pharazyn Trust with the balance from DU. Earth works and planting about 2500 flaxes and trees is planned for 2012/2013. About 1000 Toi Toi, flax and cabbage trees will be planted on raised areas. A recent site inspection indicated that quick gains could be obtained through noxious weed control, spot spraying and in-fill planting. It is hoped financial supporters will continue to assist. Wairoa is starting to be seen as a success story by the wider community.

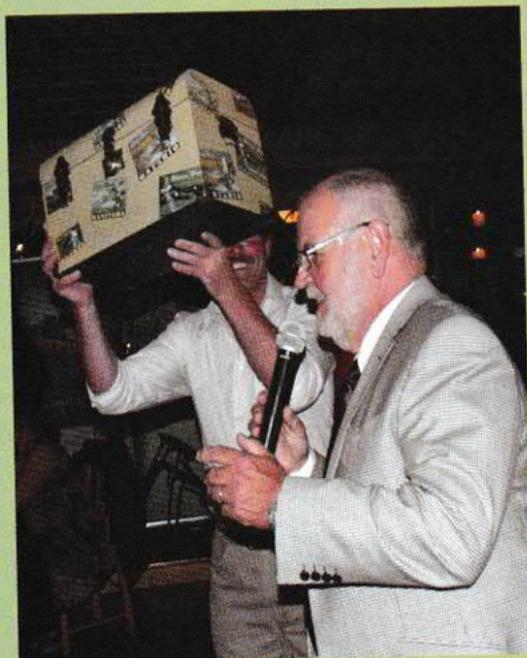
Way of the future



Lucky last!: Barb Dempsey collects her raffle winnings.

Webmaster Michelle Cooper presented a breakdown to the AGM of what is happening with the Ducks Unlimited web site. Daily total hits is often well above 300, and monthly hits has seen the highest at 13049, though usually it is less than that. Browsers mostly look at News, Duck facts and Wetland facts. Downloading is usually for Wairoa maps, Pateke news, conference pdf, membership form, Wairoa update and nesting box. Michelle said the site receives about 69 percent of its visits per month from people directly looking for the site. The remaining visitors, 41 percent come through a variety of methods, the largest through the Google search engine. The QuackClub currently has 80 members including schools and organisations.

Michelle said she is working on sponsors for prizes for the competitions and asks if anyone knows who would like to supply child related prizes then drop her a line. Michelle also sees an opportunity for the QuackClub website to provide more resources for teachers and kids to use. There would be no additional costs to DU. DU and QuackClub are both on Facebook where we apparently have lots of followers and friends. Michelle sees unlimited potential in our Facebook presence. If you are a Facebook user Michelle suggests you post a paragraph or two about DU on your Facebook wall. Posting increases the DU sites activity, so that is good. She has other ideas for future resources and school initiatives. Sponsors would be useful. www.ducks.org.nz



Canadian trunks: William Abel auctioneers assistant holds the item while Bob Wood squeezes the last dollar. The trunks sold for \$150.



Trophy surprise: Ross Cottle presents the Bill Barrett trophy to Bob Wood for his outstanding contributions to Ducks Unlimited fundraising events. Bob was stunned, and then thrilled to be honoured in this manner.

Photo: Julie Candy.



"Simply because a 'mainland island' has a wetland, a predator-proof fence and predator control programme does not make it suitable for the release and survival of Pateke." Neil Hayes

Brief notes on the use of Mainland Islands for the release of captive reared Pateke. Neil Hayes QSM. 2012.

A recently published paper on this subject can be found at: www.nzes.org.nz/nzje/new_issues/NZJcol35_3_312.pdf
The paper is: Are predator-proof fences the answer to New Zealand's terrestrial faunal biodiversity crisis?
(Paul Scofield, Ross Cullen and Maggie Wang. New Zealand Journal of Ecology. Vol. 35, No. 3, 2011)

An Abstract from this important paper: "A review of pest-exclusion fences throughout New Zealand shows the goals of fence projects are frequently not achieved and cost-benefit analyses often do not adequately quantify ongoing costs. The creation of these sanctuaries enclosed by predator-proof fences often creates small expensive zoos surrounded by degraded habitat that will never be able to sustain the animal and plant species contained within the fence. We examine what fence proponents and conservation trusts believe they are achieving and ask whether the evidence available demonstrates that fenced areas are capable of fulfilling these objectives."

The paper confirms what the Brown Teal Conservation Trust had to say about the use of 'mainland islands' for the release of priceless captive reared Pateke: that the use of release sites such as – Travis Wetland in Christchurch, Tawharanui Open Sanctuary at Warkworth, Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay, Zealandia in Karori and Warrenheip in the Waikato, where close to 1000 Pateke have been released – is 'pouring priceless Pateke down the drain'! All these areas are out on a limb, no wild populations of Pateke have ever been recorded there, the habitat is unsuitable, Pateke food requirements are absent, there are no suitable adjacent wetlands for any progeny survival and population expansion.

Simply because a 'mainland island' has a wetland, a predator-proof fence and a predator control programme does not make it suitable for the release and survival of Pateke or justify the release of c1000 Pateke into such places that are unlikely to ever make a contribution towards Pateke survival. Based on a cost per Pateke of \$1000 that's \$1,000,000 of public funding 'down the drain'! Plus huge transportation cost and the thousands of dollars contributed by Australia's Banrock Station Wine!

By contrast, the successful recovery of Pateke on the Coromandel Peninsula – from less than 20 wild Pateke in 1999 to over 600 in 2012



Delightful ducks: Brown teal/Pateke at one of the Hayes' aviaries. Photo: Linda Feringa.

– Tutukaka in Northland – from zero Pateke in 1999 to several hundred in 2012 and on Great Barrier Island – from 200 in 1999 to over 500 in 2012. With successful recovery generated by – historic quality habitat, predator control, habitat enhancement, plus the release of captive reared Pateke on the Coromandel and in Northland.

Other areas along Northland's east coast also well suited for major increases in Pateke numbers are: the Purerua Peninsula, Takou Bay, Kaeo, Parekura Bay (just south of Russell), Tutumatai, Whananaki, Whangaruru, Matapouri, Mimiwhangata, Pataua, Ngunguru, and many more. When a population of at least 3000 Pateke have been established on the east coast of Northland the recovery programme should move to the west coast, where, with predator control, tremendous potential also exists for Pateke expansion.

Note: Full details on the use of 'mainland islands', including details about the unique features of Pateke can be obtained from the Flight Editor or me at naltd@actrix.co.nz

Neil Hayes

Prickly problem plant

A nasty weed *Datura stramonium*, more commonly known in New Zealand as Thorn apple is one to be avoided, and removed if possible. All parts of the plants contain dangerous levels of poison and may be fatal if swallowed by humans or animals, including livestock and pets.



Deadly: This fine specimen was growing in the Wairarapa.

Photo: Liz Brook

According to Wikipedia other common names include jimson weed, devil's trumpet, devil's weed, tolguaicha, Jamestown weed, stinkweed, locoweed, datura, pricklyburr, devil's cucumber, hell's bells, moonflower and, in South Africa, malpitte and mad seeds, is a common weed in the Solanaceae (nightshade) family.

It is an erect annual herb forming a bush up to 1–1.5m tall. The leaves are soft, irregularly undulate, and toothed. The fragrant flowers are trumpet-shaped, white to creamy or violet. They rarely open completely. The egg-shaped seed capsule is walnut-sized and either covered with spines or bald. At maturity it splits into four chambers, each with dozens of small black seeds.

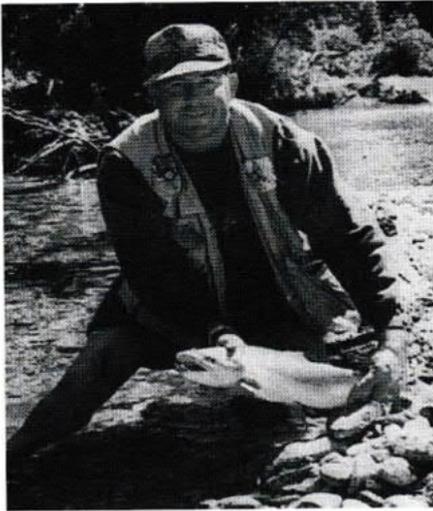
It grows wild in all the world's warm and moderate regions where it is found along roadsides and in dung heaps. In Europe, it is found on wastelands and in rubbish dumps.

The seed is thought to be spread by birds. It can lie dormant underground for years and germinate when the soil is disturbed. People who discover it growing in their gardens, and are worried about its toxicity, have been advised to dig it up or have it otherwise removed.

Parts of the plant, especially the seeds and leaves, are sometimes used as a hallucinogen. Many hospitalisations, and some deaths, are reported from this use.

Thanks to Wikipedia.

Obituaries DU Stewarts



Gary Croad

Photo supplied by Ross and Alice Hood.

We were very saddened to hear that Gary Croad (67) had passed away suddenly on March 1, 2012.

Gary was a foundation member of Ducks Unlimited and also a great supporter of the Acclimatisation Society movement at a time when it was under attack from several quarters.

He was one of the people who gave us the confidence to fight for the long tradition of involvement of those New Zealanders who had a full appreciation of the resources in this country which produce the opportunities to explore the special experiences to be found in unique corners of our surroundings.

The fact that Gary saw the value of protecting our resources for the benefit of all New Zealanders and was prepared to devote his valuable time and energy towards those aims clearly confirms him as one of those to whom future generations owe a debt for the heritage he helped create and pass on.

There are some fringe benefits from having known Gary. Many of them concern his jokes and stories and his sparkling personality.

Gary was always going to enjoy life as it came to him but beneath his ready smile and infectious laughter there was an ever present awareness of principles on which a lifetime of integrity and respect are built.

We pass on our heartfelt condolences to Nancy and family.

Don McCulloch and Andy Tannock



Roger Brooks

Roger Brooks, a Ducks Unlimited member for 20 years, died on March 1, 2012, he was 82-years-old.

He was a good friend and hunting partner of Alan Wilks who introduced him to DU.

Roger and wife Joyce was Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. He ran a very successful trucking business in Greytown which continues to be run by his family.

A tireless worker and a great supporter of DU Roger will be sadly missed.

Our condolences go to his family.

Ross Cottle.

Energy boost for Whio

A brighter future for Whio as the result of a joint effort by Genesis Energy and Department of Conservation (DOC) to create breeding and predator protection for whio and will hopefully help to increase the numbers of one of our most endangered species.

Genesis says latest breeding season in the Tongariro forest area resulting in 206 new ducklings – nearly a 10 percent boost to the total national whio population – at one breeding site alone.

Whio are rarer than kiwi and this breeding result is a welcome boost for the little ducks. It is estimated there are less than 3000 remaining.

DOC Director-General Al Morrison said this is the result of eight years of focus on whio recovery sites in the central North Island. "The involvement of Genesis Energy has contributed enormously to this record breeding result."

Genesis has committed to work with DOC on whio recovery for

five years, with new programmes due to be implemented nationwide doubling the number of secure whio breeding sites, protecting more river margin, and boosting pest control efforts."

DOC and Genesis are working with Ngati Tuwharetoa, the Central North Island Blue Duck Trust and Forest & Bird.

As well as funding, Genesis provides technical expertise and staff support for recovery and monitoring, and national advocacy support. Work underway in the Tongariro Forest includes: monitoring of key whio populations; surveying; protection of existing blue duck habitat; and pest control.

Last year, DOC and Genesis Energy signed a partnership under which Genesis extended its support of whio recovery to a national level – providing \$2.5 million over five years, boosting spending on whio recovery to over \$1 million per year.

To view whio recovery work in action, go to: <http://youtu.be/hrbzbL1iA>

Heavyweight insect released

Threatened wetapunga, New Zealand's largest insect, have been released on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

To help secure their survival 25 wetapunga were released on the pest free island in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park last December.

Wetapunga are New Zealand's largest insect "An adult female can measure 10 cm long and with its legs it covers your whole hand," said Department of Conservation scientific adviser Dr Chris Green.

Wetapunga are one of the heaviest insects in the world. Adult female wetapunga grow to 35 grams, five grams heavier than a house sparrow. Some can weigh as much as 50 grams.

"Despite their size and fearsome appearance wetapunga are quite docile and are a threatened species," Chris said.

"Due to animal pests, and the destruction of native forests, they've been wiped out on the mainland and all the Hauraki islands with the exception of Little Barrier Island (Hauturu).

"Making Hauturu pest free by eradicating kiore rats ensured wetapunga were able to survive there. We've seen wetapunga double in numbers on Little Barrier since we removed the rats. But it's very risky having the entire population of a species in one location."

"To protect wetapunga from the risk of extinction we've taken adults from Little Barrier and successfully bred them in captivity. We're now moving captive bred wetapunga to new pest free island homes," said Chris.

"It can take up to two years for them to reach adulthood and their eggs have to be in the ground for 10 months before they hatch. We need to be patient but we believe these special giants will survive and thrive on their new pest free homes," Chris said.



Wetapunga: As big as a man's hand and released on a predator free island. Photo: Nick Hirst. DOC.

Against the odds at ZEALANDIA

A kākā chick, the last hatched at Zealandia - presumed so close to death his nest-minders had a body bag ready for him - has delighted conservationists by hanging on to life - with some sisterly help from his nest mates!

Volunteer kākā nest monitor coordinator Judi Lapsley Miller said "We named him Aroha (the Maori word for love) and I'm sure his sisters would agree - they are very protective of him."

The runt, referred to as a "he", came from the last, unusually late egg to be laid in a clutch of five.

"Kākā usually lay an egg every second day until they get three, and then start incubating. They then lay up to two more as insurance, continuing on the every-second-day cycle. So it's usual to have a laggard in the nest, but it's usually only up to four days younger than the others and soon catches up" said Judi.

It was assumed the fifth egg was a dud. But in early December the small chick was spotted.

"The fourth soon caught up to the rest, but the fifth (Aroha) struggled. We assumed the worst - it was too much younger and wouldn't be able to compete for food and would die," Judi said.

Voluntary nest monitors were checking the progress of the clutch and found the siblings were very protective of it. Somehow it started putting on weight and feathers. However Aroha was also developmentally further behind. When microchipped on January 15 he was "feisty and interested in the world", but still much smaller than a normal kaka chick.

Once the chicks fledge the mother would still be feeding them all and if they move too far away from the nest box, she may have trouble provisioning every one. Conservation Manager Raewyn Empson said, "Based on survival of chicks that have fledged from nest boxes in the sanctuary in previous years this chick has at least a 50 percent chance of survival, possibly higher." At press time for Flight (late March) Aroha was still alive.

Extra information:

Aroha's parents are founder birds at Zealandia and have been breeding since 2003.

Aroha is still too little to sex. The other chicks in the nest are all thought to be female.

ZEALANDIA is managed by Karori Sanctuary Trust, a not-for-profit charitable



Kinda cute: Kaka chicks in the nest. Photo: Zealandia.

community trust. The vision is to restore this corner of New Zealand as closely as possible to the way it was 'the day before humans arrived'.

Founded in 1995, in 1999 it became the world's first fully-fenced eco-sanctuary. It has, to date, re-introduced 17 locally or nationally-endangered species into a wild state, including tuatara, little spotted kiwi, hihi and giant weta.

Algae protects our water, produces oxygen, and is part of the food chain.

Freshwater algae

Green slime and brown scum on stream beds - not usually unattractive however, it is a vital part of stream ecosystems.

Algae are simple, aquatic, plant-like organisms that do not have true roots. Many are single-celled so can only be seen using a microscope, while others grow in filaments or mats that are quite conspicuous. Algae have chlorophyll and can make their own food through the process of photosynthesis. Freshwater algae types

The main groups of algae found in streams are the green algae (Chlorophyta), red algae (Rhodophyta), blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria) and diatoms (Bacillariophyta).

Green algae: Green algae often look like strands of green hair flowing in the current. Spirogyra is a common green alga.

Red algae: Red algae, such as Audouinella, uses a different part of the light spectrum it is able to grow in places where the other algae can't, so tends to be found in shaded places such as under rocks or banks.

Blue-green algae: The chlorophyll in the alga Cyanobacteria is not in chloroplasts but diffused throughout the cell. Pigments, other than chlorophyll, contribute to their colouration so cyanobacteria are not usually bright green. Nostoc is another cyanobacteria that is often conspicuous in streams. It looks like bubbles of firm jelly attached to the rocks. The 'bubbles' are

masses of small chains of cells.

Diatoms: Mats of brown growth, fluffy masses or slimy layers on rocks are some of the ways diatoms appear to the naked eye. Gomphoneis forms thick, glistening, light-brownish mats on river substances and is often mistaken for didymo. Didymo has much larger cells and grows in tougher, more fibrous mats.

Why are algae important?

- Algae produce oxygen as a waste product of photosynthesis. Cyanobacteria are amongst the most ancient forms of life and they have been contributing oxygen to the world's atmosphere for the last three billion years.

- Cyanobacteria are able to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. All organisms require large amounts of nitrogen for their metabolism and cyanobacteria play an important role in making atmospheric nitrogen available in nutrient cycles.

- Algae help to 'purify' water by absorbing nutrients and heavy metals from streams and rivers.

- Algae are the basis of most aquatic food webs. They are food for many small aquatic invertebrates, and in turn, these small creatures are food for larger animals such as fish. Algae also provide important habitats for invertebrates and fish. Without organisms that can capture energy from the sun by photosynthesis, none of the higher organisms would exist.

- Algae can be valuable indicators of environmental quality. Many are sensitive to changes in pH, in nutrient levels or in temperature. Monitoring species abundance and composition can be useful to identify changes in water quality caused by changes in surrounding land use.

A "must have" for all hunters!

Serious hunters this is for you - hunting calls for your smart phone. These calls have been recorded by the Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers (NJFF).

There are over 35 separate calls, intended for 13 different species. A brief explanation and a short description of what sort of call it is supposed to imitate, and what the usage for such a call would be is included. NJFF emphasise that absolutely no recordings of live animals were used.

Most of the species are commonly found all across Europe including calls for red fox, mallard, gray goose, pink-footed goose, roe deer, red deer and more. All text is in English.

So there you are, anyone looking for a birthday present, or possibly early Christmas present could consider one of these for the hunter in their family. Even more fun is possible as these calls can be set up as a ring tone on your mobile phone.

Interested? The NJFF Hunting calls cost €2.76, and can be downloaded both for iPhone/iPad and Android. Happy hunting!





Dam geese: Canada geese flock to the large dam in autumn.



Looking north: - A lookout provides a view over the peat land area, here looking across the smaller dam in the midst of manuka dominant shrub land with regenerating forest behind.

For the hunters among us this is a book review that could set you on new hunting reveries. It is from the website www.huntingreport.com If you haven't visited, this site is a treat in store.

Wingshooting The World

By Gary Kramer

Through the words and images of award-winning photographer and writer Gary Kramer, Wingshooting the World takes readers on a visual journey to the far corners of the globe in search of waterfowl, doves, partridge, pheasant and a host of other winged quarry.

Containing 300 pages and more than 600 colour photos, this volume is the most ambitious book ever attempted on the subject of worldwide bird shooting. Wingshooting the World highlights 30 destinations in 17 countries, from the snow-capped peaks of Iceland and the boreal forests of Canada's Northwest Territories to the veldt of South Africa and the vast marshes of Argentina's Parana River. In between, are destinations in the US, Mexico, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, UK, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain and New Zealand.

Lodges range from elegant trains in Scotland, castles in Hungary and Slovakia and lavish estancias (large estates) in Argentina, to comfortable lodges in the US and Mexico. You will be transported to wingshooting locations that you may know well and scenes that you have probably only dreamed about. A well-travelled sportsman with a lifetime of experience or an armchair reader, Wingshooting the World will help you relive the memories and dream the dreams.

Large format 24 x 20 cms. Price: \$85. Shipping NZ: \$45.

SERN field days celebrate private wetlands

The Southland Ecological Restoration Network (SERN) had two field days following the National Wetland Restoration Symposium in March. Members visited four private wetlands. These photos are from the Munro's Wetland at Mokotua. More from the Wai Symposium and the SERN field days in the July newsletter.



Moat: - A boundary for the QEII covenanted peat land is provided by a moat system, protecting the habitat for waterfowl and fish.

Ready for the Duck Shoot

May and duck shooting just a few days away. Take note and remember these important safety rules.

Firearms Safety Code

The seven basic rules of the Firearms Safety Code are:

- treat every firearm as loaded. Check every firearm yourself. Pass or accept only an open or unloaded firearm;
- always point firearms in a safe direction. Loaded or unloaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction;
- load a firearm only when ready to fire. Load only the magazine after you reach your shooting area. Load the chamber only when ready to shoot. Completely unload before leaving the shooting area;
- identify your target beyond all doubt. Movement, colour, sound and shape can all deceive you. Assume colour, shape, sound, and shape to be human until proven otherwise;
- check your firing zone. THINK! What may happen if you miss your target? What might you hit between you and the target or beyond? Do not fire when you know others are in your firing zone;
- store firearms and ammunition safely. When not in use, lock away the bolt, firearm and ammunition separately. Never leave firearms in a vehicle that is unattended; and
- avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms.

Good judgement is the key to safe use of firearms.

A copy of the Seven Basic Rules of the Firearms Safety Code can be downloaded from www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Saddlebacks return to Tawharanui

Tieke (saddlebacks) are back on the Auckland mainland for the first time in more than 150 years. Ninety of these endangered birds were released into the open sanctuary at Tawharanui Regional Park during March.

Sandra Coney, Chair of the Auckland Council's Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum, said the return of this vulnerable species will test the success of Tawharanui as a pest free open sanctuary.

"We have brought back kiwi, pateke, robins and whiteheads," she says. "And bellbirds and kaka have returned to the park of their own accord."

"Tieke (saddlebacks) disappeared from the mainland in the mid to late 1800s, as a result of predators – especially rats.

"We hope, they can once again have a stronghold on the mainland."

The tieke came from Lady Alice, Red Mercury and Mokoia Islands – 30 birds from each.

Massey University's Dr Kevin Parker said, "Birds from three different populations tests the practicality of combining a variety of genetic backgrounds. The benefits lie in strengthening genetic fitness and population health.

"We are looking to see if these birds, with different song, will be willing to pair and breed," he said.

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society (TOSSI) Chair Steve Palmer said this release is a great way to mark TOSSI's tenth anniversary.

NZ Parks and Conservation Foundation, Birdlife International Community Conservation Fund and Forest & Bird also contributed to the project.

About tieke (saddleback)

- A single population remained on Taranga (Hen) Island.
- A total population of around 7000 birds now lives on 15 pest free islands.
- The only other two mainland saddleback populations reestablished, are at Zealandia and Bushy Park.



Rare bird: Saddleback Tieke in full cry.
Photo: Martin Sanders.

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- 1 Issue 1 Dynamic Ducks
- 2 Issue 2 Pateke (Brown Teal)
- 3 Issue 3 NZ Lizards
- 4 Issue 4 Whio (Blue Duck)
- 5 Issue 5 Wetland Plants



To be released in April

- 6 Issue 6 Fantastic Eels

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