

Flight



ISSUE 156 - JULY 2013



**DC Canada invites us
Bud Jones reward
AGM time again**

From the President

I said in my last Insight that I believed that there had been a better breeding season and that there were more birds around than has been seen in recent years. As I write this with the hunting season well underway this appears to be the case, at least in the lower North Island.

Why this has happened, when we have had the biggest drought in the last decade, I cannot guess but at least hopefully it will help turn the Mallard numbers around.

The Wairio Wetland Project has been very busy in the last two months with the establishment of a bund at the northern end using funding coming from the Game Bird Habitat Trust.

Tree Planting days were held on Tuesday June 25 and again on Saturday June 29, as always helping hands are made most welcome.

Remember about the AGM in Napier; send your registrations in ASAP.

Ross Cottle



Members passed away

It is with sadness that we note:

Rose Strahan of Kiwitea, Feilding, passed away on April 1 this year.
Robert Jary of Nelson passed away May 29 this year

Our sympathies are extended to their friends and families.

Membership renewals

Many thanks to members who have paid their membership already. To date (mid June) 68 percent of members have sent back their renewals so there are still a few outstanding memberships. Reminder letters were posted out. Unfortunately if we haven't received your membership renewal then this will be the last Flight magazine sent to you.

Any queries regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me via email – info@ducks.org.nz

Jan Abel

Membership secretary

Flight published by: Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.
P O Box 281, Levin 5540, New Zealand.
ISSN 1173-2776 www.ducks.org.nz

Advertising in flight per issue (ex GST).

Full colour back cover \$400, Full colour inside 350.
Full colour half page inside \$200, Black and white full page \$300.
Black and white half page \$180, black and white ¼ page \$90.
All to be camera ready. Discounts for long-term adverts.
Waterfowl adverts free to members.
Contact the Editor to book space or check discounts.
Contributions to Flight from members or other readers are welcome.

Deadline for copy for Flight 157 Sept 6, 2013.

Editing and Production:
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Printing: Lamb-Peters Print,
106A Main Street,
Greytown.

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Cover photo: A farm dam need not be a muddy hole, dedication can provide beauty and shelter.

Story page 7 Photo: Ewan McGregor.

DUNZ Conference and Dinner August 3-4

Have you booked for the AGM?

If not contact Jan Abel urgently. She might still squeeze you in.

The dates are August 3-4 at Napier's Bluewater Hotel and Quayside Conference Centre.

These gatherings are always fun, interesting trips and plenty of convivial company.

The close off date, especially for booking accommodation was June 26, but as always there is the possibility that a few late comers might get in.

The actual AGM will be held Saturday morning, and it will not take long as the bus trip is booked to leave at 10.30am.

John Cheyne has organised some attractions for us. Read about one of them below, the Pekapeka Wetland.

Pekapeka wetland earns Pride of Place award

One of the areas to be visited during the AGM weekend.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council was delighted to receive a Distinction Award from the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects at the NZILA Resene Pride of Place Landscape Architecture Awards for 2013 in April.

The citation for the award states that Pekapeka Wetland provides a range of experience opportunities for users and acknowledges the contributing work of Shannon Bray Landscape Architect.

Stephen Cave, HBRC's Operation Environmental Manager said "This is one of three awards for Pekapeka Wetland since 2009, realising its champion value and raising the awareness of wetlands throughout Hawke's Bay.

"The award from NZILA is a great reflection on the restoration work happening in Hawke's Bay and we are very honoured. It is estimated this award puts Pekapeka Wetland in the top five percent of landscape architecture projects undertaken throughout New Zealand in recent years."

The award recognises Pekapeka Wetland as a high quality interpretive site for wetland restoration. It is noted for integrating public accessibility with educational features, using local materials and stories.

Stephen is quick to acknowledge a number of the project's key supporters, particularly Shannon Bray, Waa Harris, Peter Dunkerley, the Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Stortford Lodge, Eastern and Central Community Trust and the preliminary work of Titchener Monzingo Aitken Ltd. Iwi groups plus many children

from schools (particularly Pukehou School) and Kiwi Conservation Club all played a key role in planting areas around the swamp.



Oh boy what a toy!
Duck decoy in action on Opening Day. These decoys, and other water fowl hunting apparatus, all designed to trick the ducks. As it becomes more technical is it adding to the thrill of the chase, or is it taking away from the thrill?
More photos on page 8.

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
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PO Box 281 Levin.



Ducks Unlimited New Zealand

38th Annual General Meeting 17th March 2012

9am at Powderhorn Chateau, Ohakune.

Welcome:

The President, David Smith, welcomed members to the 38th Annual General Meeting.

Many thanks to Di Pritt and Waimarino Wine Club for a very enjoyable evening last night.

David spoke of the end of his presidency – but still a lot of work to be done. DU faces a crisis in interest and membership. He spoke of the Boards time spent looking at alternatives in the drive for younger members. Advice was sought and some possibilities have come out of that. We could look at the possibility of getting together with all like organisations, e.g. Forest & Bird, Fish & Game, National Wetlands Trust, and Waterfowlers to form umbrella group to go to Government. This means that we would retain identity with no merger. There is a large amount of cross fertilisation over these organisations. However DUNZ could become a member with a stronger thrust on a national basis. As a result of the discussions at Board level David and John Bishop met with Tony Roxburgh some three weeks previous. They see some merit in the idea. DUNZ is seen as having the wetland expertise.

Tony Roxburgh, from National Wetlands Trust, was introduced to the AGM and gave his background. He reinforced David's comments and said that the idea of an umbrella group had a lot of merit. It had been raised with the Trust and they were comfortable at this stage of discussion. The forming of an alliance would give all individual small groups a voice. David then asked members to talk to Board members throughout the day and give some feedback. David now needs to step back and Ross Cottle has agreed to take over his role as President.

Apologies:

Lady Isaac, Kevin and Vietta Campbell, Alan Wilks, Ossie and Mary Latham, Euan Bidwell, Chris Bindon, Barbara Hanbidge, Gordon Pilone, Rob and Robin Borthwick, Lorraine Jensen, Wendy Simmons, Shonagh Lindsay, Myra Smith, Janet Denny, John and Diny Dermer, Graham Gurr, Dawn Pirani, Andrew Fulford, Sharon Cottle, Ken and Jacqui Barnes, Pam & Brian Maunsell, Adrienne Bushell, Peter and Anne Russell, Raeleen Mabin.

Motion: That the apologies tendered are accepted.

Moved: John Bishop, Seconded: James Martin.
Carried.

Minutes of the last AGM:

Circulated in Flight #150 and copies available at the AGM.

Motion: That the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as a true and complete record.
Moved: Ian Jensen, Seconded: James Martin.
Carried.

Matters arising from the 2011 minutes:
There were no matters arising.

Thanks to David Smith to be recorded and congratulations on appointment as Judge of District Court.

Presidents Report: David Smith
As circulated in Flight #150 and tabled.

Motion: The Presidents report is accepted.
Moved: John Bishop, Seconded: W Abel.
Carried.

Matters arising from the Presidents 2012 Report: There were no matters arising.

Financial Report: John Bishop
Presented at the meeting – as at March 31, 2011.

• Current Account	\$19,854
• Rapid Saver	\$9
• Term Deposit	\$46648

Accounts to be accepted subject to the review of engagement.

Due to the timing of the AGM this year the 2012 accounts are not yet finalised.

Motion: That the 2011 financial report be accepted.
Moved: John Bishop, Seconded: David Smith.
Carried.

Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust Report:
David Smith (tabled).

Reiterated that the nature of this investment means that it is a long term one that fluctuates, however we are almost back to the position of 2007 and the next 9 months should see an improvement.

Moved: David Smith, Seconded: Jim Law.
Carried.

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 Neil Candy and William Abel.

Nominations for the Board:

New nomination from Jim Law for Andrew Fulford. Has been a long term member of DUNZ and works in wetland restoration.
Moved: Jim Law, Seconded: Ross Cottle.
Carried.

Are there any other nominations from the floor? None.

Reports:

Wetland Care: William Abel (tabled).
Moved: William Abel, Seconded: Ian Jensen.
Carried.

Website Report:

(tabled).
Michelle Cooper (webmaster) covered off her report.

The website is getting a lot of hits – what is being looked at? Through the background information I am able to see the mostly looked at are news, duck facts and wetland facts and 69 percent of people are coming to DUNZ website directly. Quack Club now has 80 members. Five schools are using our resources.
Moved: Jim Law, Seconded: William Abel.
Carried.

Wairio Wetland:

Jim Law (Full report tabled).

Covered off report.

- Have raised profile and credibility
 - Maintaining good coverage in media
 - Looking to ratchet up project due to success
 - Need to update strategic plans
 - Making a case to DU Board for further funding.
- Moved: Jim Law, Seconded: John Bishop.
Carried.

Jim Campbell proposed a vote of thanks to Jim Law for his energy and hard work with Wairio and said that without Jim it all wouldn't happen.

Pateke: Full report tabled

Opuatia Report:

John Bishop - This project is in abeyance.

General Business:

- Received an email regarding DUCs 75th anniversary at Oak Hammock Marsh
- DUNZ AGM – to go back to winter time scenario. July/August. Aware that we need to keep costs down.
- Dart competition at Di Pritts last night raised \$46 with the winner getting 102 points in 2 shots!
- Ian Jensen spoke of Pharazyn Reserve - a KCDC project for the rehabilitation of an old wetland in Waikanae. Local schools are heavily involved but very light on members.
- Thanks to Liz Brook for Flight magazine.

Closure: The President thanked the Board for their work throughout the year. The meeting closed at 10.20am.

Presidents Report AGM 2013

After having stepped down from the role of President in 2011 it took me a little while to re engage my brain and thoughts back into the job.

But once the steady stream of questions and information started coming in (thanks to my very efficient and long suffering PA Jan Abel), things started to move along again. The rest of the Board stepped up and did whatever was asked of them to help me.

We have been progressing our association and possible collaboration with the National Wetland Trust. John Bishop and I had an informal meeting with Tony Roxburgh in April and we had a full Board meeting in Cambridge in August looking at all the possibilities.

We received some very good publicity when Board member John Dermer, and his

wife Diny, hosted HRH Prince Charles for afternoon tea at their farm and where John showed him the Wetland he had created in conjunction with DUNZ. Our Patron, Jim Campbell was also in attendance to push the conservation theme. The editorials that were printed in the local Manawatu and national farming papers went on for days.

Our flagship project the Wairio Wetland on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa continues along at full steam, with the injection of funding from central Government's "Clean Stream Accord" administered by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

This has allowed us to bring the timetable for work forward by at least four years and the progress is quite startling. Amazing what you can do with money, man power

and modern machinery.

DU's membership is still a concern, as it is still slowly declining, but what is of more concern is the lack of people willing to come on the Board and help us in our endeavours.

During this past year conservation in general and DUNZ in particular lost a great supporter with the passing of our Co Patroness Lady Diana Isaac.

She had helped us over a long period of time and will be sorely missed.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM in Napier for our annual catch up.

Ross Cottle

Pukaha Mount Bruce news

New era

Pukaha Mount Bruce in the Wairarapa welcomed Helen Tickner as its new general manager in May. The appointment was part of wider changes with the Pukaha Mount Bruce board taking over responsibility for the visitor centre and education programmes from the Department of Conservation.

Helen has experience in the tourism industry and has been heavily involved in the community and had been Services Manager at tourism agency Destination Wairarapa.

Bob Francis, Pukaha Mount Bruce Chairman recognised the significance of the

move for Pukaha, and said: "While it is the end of an era it is the start of a new phase for the Pukaha visitor operation which has been very well-served by DoC for the past 30 years".

Donated seats

Mitre 10 stores of Wairarapa have donated two hand-crafted bench seats. The Wairarapa Mitre 10s are already involved in an initiative to save the unique takahe – and these seats are another way they are providing support to Pukaha and the important work there.

Pain & Kershaw Mitre 10, Martinborough,

KJ Mitre 10, Pahiatua, and Mitre 10 Mega, Masterton, have come together to advance the company's national takahe rescue programme. There is only a small number of takahe in New Zealand and as recently as 50 years ago, they were thought to be extinct.

Two beautiful male takahe at Pukaha that are proven breeders, and they are hoping to have a breeding pair in the future.

Pukaha Mount Bruce is open 364 days of the year, check out the takahe and try out the donated seats on the way around the forest walk.

Director profile

Dan Steele

Dan has always been a keen bushman and hunter. Brought up on a farm near Taupo to first generation farmer and mother (Richard and Rachel), with a passion for New Zealand flora and fauna, he went on to attend an agricultural course at Massey University.

His enthusiasm for exploring new places took Dan away on OE but his passion for New Zealand bush remained and he returned to buy a property on the Upper Whanganui River. Traditional farming in this inhospitable area would always be a challenge but Dan had other plans; his ethos, to farm sustainably and to enhance the land that makes up his property, was to be the basis of his farming enterprise. A

working sheep and beef farm Blue Duck Station also sells Manuka honey and has opened its doors to tourists, with thousands staying in the station's four lodges every year. With the Whanganui River literally on the doorstep, the station is a popular gateway to the Bridge to Nowhere and Blue Duck now operates jet boats on the river for history trips and pick-ups.

The Station's core values are based around the conservation of its endangered wildlife, increasing the health of the native bush and rivers, and preserving the history of the area, at the same time educating visitors about the endangered New Zealand Blue Duck, other local native species and the history of the Whanganui.

Blue Duck Station has a vision to help New Zealand become the world leader in conservation so people want to buy our

products and visit our shores forever. The station has been granted three Ballance Farm Environment Awards and a DoC Services to Conservation Award.



Dan Steele: Blue Duck champion.

Bud Jones of Eketahuna was awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours.



Recognition for effort

For outstanding achievements and contribution to wetland creation, environmental protection, wetland and wildlife conservation and management, Bud Jones of Nireaha, at Eketahuna, was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in this year's Queen's Birthday honours.

Bud and his wife, Dr Elizabeth Jones, own Pokai Parera Farms in the northern Wairarapa where Bud has created wetland wildlife habitat including five large lakes and 21 smaller ponds spread over 85 hectares.

All the wetlands have adjacent complementary trees where he has personally planted over 30,000 native and exotic trees specifically for birdlife, beautification and enrichment of the countryside.

The autumn colours are consequently outstanding, with planting carefully designed to provide a spectacular visual image, with a combination of evergreen and deciduous varieties.

The wetlands are home to most of the native, endemic and introduced waterfowl and wading birds. The areas provide secure nesting, feeding and resting cover for the birds and also outstanding habitat for endangered species like the NZ Dabchick, NZ Scaup, NZ Grey duck, the Australasian grey teal, and many others. Many common wetland birds are present, including mallard duck, NZ Shoveler duck, NZ Paradise Shelduck, plus Canada geese, black swan, pukeko, herons, black and pied shags and others.

The trees around each wetland provide superb habitat for endemic, native and introduced song birds in large numbers, especially tui, bell bird, fantail, bush robin, morepork, welcome swallow, kingfisher and grey warbler.

Numerous exotic birds, including ring-necked pheasant, chaffinch, goldfinch, thrush, spur-winged plover, eastern rosella, yellowhead, silvereye, yellowhammer and many others are also present in Bud's extensive habitat.

Bud was a pioneer Director of Ducks Unlimited NZ during 1970s and 1980s, and is one of five DU supporters awarded a Queen's Service Medal.

A significant aspect of Pokai Parera Farms is a virtual wildlife oasis in the middle of a monoculture of agricultural grass where all of the lowland native forest has been cleared or destroyed, wetlands drained and wildlife habitat lost. The significance of this cannot be over-stated.

The property is protected in perpetuity by a Queen Elizabeth II Open Space Covenant.

Bud is an accomplished deer hunter, trout fisherman and waterfowl hunting enthusiast. Combine that with a 39-year career as principal percussionist with the NZ Symphony Orchestra and we realise he is an accomplished individual who has made a great contribution to the environment. Perhaps the most notable individual contribution made anywhere in the country.

Other members awarded a QSM in the past include:

Roy Dench, Lady Isaac, David McNeal, Neil Hayes, and now Bud Jones, all DU pioneers.

Neil Hayes.



Top: **Created beauty:** Effort provides picturesque reward, 2013.

Above same dam 2011.

Photos: Neil Hayes.

Ewan McGregor, *Hawke's Bay councillor, environmentalist and wetland enthusiast, would like to see more farm dams turned into attractive and useful wetlands.*

Farm dams for wetland

The vision:

To see farmland sprinkled with mini wetlands where hitherto there were none, enabled through the enhancement of farm dams by the exclusion of stock and the establishment of the margin in suitable flora.

New Zealand was once endowed with magnificent wetlands characterised by towering kahikatea with an understory of toitoi, flax, cabbage trees and other appropriate species. They teemed with bird and aquatic life. Virtually all have gone or been diminished by alien species, pollution and physical modification.

There is however an opportunity for some modest compensation and that is to convert open farm dams into protected wetlands.

With the subdivision of farms into ever smaller paddocks (enabling better stock management and pasture development), went the need to provide stock water. With land not endowed with natural reliable summer water went the need to trap water through the construction of small dams. This was greatly facilitated following World War II with the availability of bulldozers and later hydraulic diggers, which coincided with an upsurge in farming development. Thousands of small dams were constructed.

Later, the availability of that great farming (and horticultural) aid, polythene pipe, made many of these dams unnecessary, but many have remained as a back-up supply, or for duck shooting. (If still required for stock water limited access can be provided, or through a trough below the wall.) As few are fenced to exclude stock, their ecological development value is compromised. This is an environmental resource awaiting exploitation, but to realise anything like its full potential it will need a dedicated project.

What's in it for Farmers?

- Better water quality
- Much extended dam life through a reduction in siltation
- More recreational opportunity, especially duck shooting
- Landscape enhancement
- Added farm value
- Improved public and market image of environmental sensitivity
- Elimination of stock getting bogged or drowned.

What's in it for New Zealand?

- More ecological estate
- Stepping stones for native birds over land generally devoid of native flora
- Adornment of the New Zealand man-made landscape
- Further evidence in the international marketplace of national environmental commitment.
- Community participation possibilities are to involve school children (a willing farmer can make available and assist a school to develop and 'own' their school wetland), and the building of partnerships between urban duck shooters or environmental groups and farmers. Also the involvement of Iwi, especially young Maori, in return for the right to harvest eels.

Potential Supporters:

- Federated Farmers, representing landowners
- Iwi (eels a traditional food of Maori)
- Fish and Game NZ (Duck habitat)
- Department of Conservation (Environment)
- Other environmental groups such as Forest and Bird (Environment)
- Regional/Unitary Councils (Publicity and general moral, advisory and possible financial support)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Wetland Care NZ.



History: The dam above was built with a horse scoop at the turn of the last century and topped up in the 1958 with a bulldozer.



Transformed: The dam as it appears today.

Photos: Ewan McGregor.

Note: While enhancement has to be started from scratch, and the full establishment will take decades if large trees are involved, the process will begin with a 'clean slate' and not be impeded by established weeds, especially wilding willow which has degraded many wetlands and is difficult to control.

Formula for success:

- Specific to man-made water bodies – Wetland where there was none
- Promotion
- Recognition of success
- Measurement of success with each dam to be registered if desired
- Badge of honour with a front gate plaque and appropriate publicity
- Participation entirely voluntary, as would choice of species (native and/or exotic), and whether enhanced dams are legally protected through some form of covenant.
- The last five bullet points apply to the QEII Trust, and have been fundamental to its success.
- At the annual conferences of NZ Federated Farmers in 1975-6-7, the then Chairman of the Dairy section (I was there), Gordon Stevenson, progressively sold the concept of the QEII Trust. It was an idea whose time had come. Farm Dams for Wetlands could be an idea whose time has now come. But it will need promotion to excite the commitment of stakeholders.

Ewan McGregor

Opening day 2013 – Duck season



Sure footed Bernard Ward retrieves a duck.



John Pukaloski scans the sky for ducks.



Peter Gatchell waits for ducks to fly by.



Bruce Mitchell with more game for his bag.

For 30 years DU member Dave Gibbs has been hosting an opening weekend shoot for the start of duck shooting.

His property in the Manawatu boasts four ponds, spread around easy terrain, plenty of shelter to conceal the hunters, and not too far to walk to the vehicles.

Most of the usual group arrived on time, and the rain stayed away. As well as locals other shooters came from Rotorua, Cambridge, Napier and Foxton.

This year to record the event a TV3 crew, and a photographer and publicist from Starseed PR promoting Cloudy Bay wines, were along with an Auckland chef on hand to prepare and cook the freshly caught game.

Of course Cloudy Bay wines were available; insuring those present had the right wine to help the game go down. Native wood turned into hot coals was used to cook the duck. Apparently it tasted great.

The idea was to showcase the first of season wines, with the first of season fresh game. Pity I had to leave early...

Dave said it was a successful day with in excess of 80 ducks shot on the four ponds at his Manawatu property.

Liz Brook

Photos: Liz Brook.



Even more ducks for Bernard Ward.

Planting continues at Tawharanui

The weather was extremely kind to us out at Tawharanui for the two days, planting bagged natives on the western slopes of the park during Queen's Birthday Weekend.

These slopes are this year's project, taking the area out of farming and back into natives. A wet area runs right through the middle, which isn't so good for older people who get their feet stuck in the mud - then, over you go!! Quite entertaining to say the least!

The total plants for 2013 will be around 20,000 planted. Queen's Birthday weekend 9800 were planted! A great start!

More planting on July 2, and the next planting date is August 4, starts at 9am, and all hands are welcome.

The BBQ afterwards is always enjoyable and conveniently sited in the same area planted.

Pattie Williams

The Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Incorporated (TOSSI) looks after the sanctuary with hard work by members and volunteers. The area is 20km north-east of Warkworth and in the 10 years since TOSSI was formed it has been transformed into a natural habitat enjoyed by humans and birds alike.



Eatable?: Two-year-old finds a worm.

Photos: Pattie Williams.



Helping: Fourteen-month-old tries out the spade.



Apple time: A welcome break from digging.

Whio happy at Egmont

Peter Russell, Whio Captive Co-ordinator took the last five Whio for this year to be released at Egmont. Two males and one female were from Auckland Zoo. One female was from Orana Wildlife Park, a pair hatched at Peacock Springs and another male, a duckling lost from its parents on Egmont went to Peter for him to hand rear. He is now back home with the other ducklings.

"The birds all started feeding as soon as they got into the water," said Peter.

It was a busy year with 29 birds released at three locations. Ten released at Egmont, then six at Manganui a te ao, another six at Tongariro and the last five at Egmont.

Peter said it is thanks to Anne and her staff at Peacock Springs for the work they had done with rearing and hardening all the birds before release.

"It all went like clockwork. Thanks to Auckland Zoo for rearing two clutches from their pair and Orana for their clutch which was hatched at Peacock Springs. It was a good season and here's hoping for a better one this year," said Peter.



Freedom: Two males from Auckland and a female from Orana released at Egmont.

Photo: Peter Russell.

REGISTER NOW!

Top of the **FLYWAYS**

OCTOBER 5, 2013 IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Celebrate 75 years of wetland conservation in Canada with your DU family!

- Enjoy special presentations and news about DU Canada and our continental conservation work
- Visit DU Canada headquarters at the famous Oak Hammock Marsh
- Attend a special 75th Diamond Signature gala
- Experience the incredible sights and sounds of fall on the Canadian Prairies, and much more!

VISIT **ducks.ca/flyways** TO REGISTER.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands



**75 YEARS OF
CONSERVATION
EXCELLENCE**

**On a beautiful day there is no more beautiful place to visit.
Denise MacKenzie, Friends of Onoke Spit.**

All for the birds

Caspian Terns and Little Blue Penguins use Onoke Spit on the Wairarapa coast for nesting in an area where interesting wetlands also surround the area.

The Friends of Onoke Spit group was started by Denise and Dougal Mackenzie.

“We drive it really and have ongoing support from Forest and Bird and the Ornithological Society.

“We have lived down here (southern Wairarapa) since 1984. We loved the spit and are interested in the ecology, and the wild and rare bird nesting colonies there,” said Denise.

“About three years ago the Friends of the spit group became more active and have been working on predators for over two years now. Colin Scadden has been involved through the ornithological society monitoring for 30 years. Denise said he has taught them all they know. He is also involved with Pukaha Mt Bruce.

This past year is the first time the terns have bred for four years. About 20 pairs reared last season, and Denise said Colin taught them how to identify the nests. They average two chicks per pair, some have three eggs, but it is unlikely they rear three. There were 30+ chicks this year. At the previous successful breeding, chicks were tagged, but not this year.

A Black back gull colony breed successfully every year. The gulls and terns seem to work together to keep people away; there is evidence of the gulls not predated the eggs. The terns also fish up the river as well as at sea.

The group is trying to control the weeds and pests so plants that are meant to be there get a better go, and especially for the Caspian terns.

Hedgehogs and feral cats are two major pests. Predator control is on-going; more traps were due to go out in autumn.

Banded dotterel have increased since trapping, and variable oyster catchers too, lots of other birds visit.

A third planting was due to start from the back water end at the Kiriwai lagoon. “We have cleared gorse with help of DoC weed



Baby care: Caspian Tern feeding offspring, nesting area at Onoke Spit, Wairarapa coast.

Photo Pete Monk*

busters, and planted predominantly flax, some coastal area species and coprosma, only clear as much as we can replant, about 20 x 20 metres. We did three areas the first year, and last year two, this year a further block of about 300 plants,” said Denise.

Palliser Estate, funding and manpower, have adopted the friends of Onoke, and Kauhautā school are a big help with vehicles and manpower.

*Pete Monk:

“I shoot mainly flora, fauna, landscapes and other locations,” said Pete.

And he is “hanging out for that lucrative all-expenses-paid photo assignment...”

“My approach re conservation groups, trusts and charities is that images can be used free with permission and name credit. I’m a passionate conservationist and if my images help in some way attract more interest for a cause, that’s fine and good”.

You can find his work on facebook at www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.563531707008123.140602.100000538955731&type=3.

Wetland restoration at Otaki River estuary

Where the Otaki River runs into the Tasman Sea it is usual to find surf casters trying their luck and at the right time of year there will be whitebaiters with their nets along the river bank.

My parents had a batch at Rangiuiri quite near the river. A short walk from our place took us to the river mouth where my father would go surf casting. On the way we had to pass the local tip. It was out of sight unless you were a fisher person.



Wetlands: Otaki River estuary reclaiming the past.

Photo: Liz Brook

Last month for the first time in 35 years I went back. The tip has gone, and in its place the beginnings of the restoration of the estuary area.

A Friends of Otaki River project, in conjunction with Tangata Whenua, the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Kapiti Coast District Council, Fish & Game Council, assistance from volunteers, estuarine plantings started in 2010. Flax and dune grass and other natives now provide habitat to encourage wildlife back into the area.

Weed and pest management, along with the growing plants, provide feeding, roosting, and nesting for birds, fish and invertebrates including whitebait (inanga).

The river widens before flowing into the sea forming a lagoon, silt flats and swamp. The area is popular for swimming, fishing, whitebaiting, game bird hunting, walking, and picnicking.

Walking tracks make it easy to explore and eventually emerge at the river mouth where the surf casters wait and Kapiti Island provides a great back drop.

Liz Brook



Obituary

Bob Wood - Gone but not forgotten

Bob Wood passed away February 2013, aged 67. His funeral was held in Levin at The Salvation Army Worship and Community Centre.

Ducks Unlimited has lost a great friend and fundraiser in Bob.

Large numbers of our membership have enjoyed his humour, and suffered the good natured teasing and pressure to purchase from his auctioneering style, especially when he got to know you personally. Bob has performed at our AGMs and various chapter dinners.

Introduced to DU by member Gary Croad 19 years ago, it was DU that started him down the road of charity auctioneering. A natural, Bob had no problem squeezing the last available dollar out of a bidder's

wallet and frequently from members who had no intention of bidding. The auction has always been the highlight of the evening and everything Bob dished out along with his jokes was taken in good humour.

After the first DU auction Bob and Lynne went on to buy Corbans Auction house in Levin and ran that for many years before becoming a Real Estate salesman also in Levin.

Lynne, Bob's wife of 49 years was frequently at the dinners to add vocal support to his efforts and keep him focused on the job. Bob's time was always donated and he was always there when we needed him.

Bob helped a large number of very diverse organisations with their fundraising and was always generous with his time. Bob had a number of interests, a successful clay bird shooter and duck hunter, a horse breeder and racehorse owner. In his younger days he played rugby league and played representative softball for Wellington.

While a lot of very funny stories came with Bob, it was not widely known that at the Taupo AGM some years ago he had to sneak Mrs Brown, their elderly dog, into the hotel room in a carry bag. Lynne was away and the poor old dog could not be left anywhere else. It all went smoothly till Sunday morning when he took his bags out to the car before Mrs Brown. It should have been the other way around because she thought she was being left behind and



Money maker: Bob Wood at the DUNZ 2012 AGM.

was loudly barking when he got back to the room.

Bob had a few health issues over the last few years but was convinced Countdown was responsible for his diabetes. Working immediately opposite the store, their weekly irresistible specials on Coke and sugar laden soft drinks have a lot to answer for.

We have no idea how much Bob earned for DUNZ over the years, but the figure is considerable.

In 2003 DUNZ presented him with a special trophy in gratitude for his efforts. At last year's AGM in Ohakune, DUNZ presented Bob with the Bill Barrett trophy to recognise the effort and loyalty he had shown to DUNZ and wetland conservation in New Zealand.

Bob will be greatly missed.

William Abel



Reward: Ross Cottle presents Bob with the Bill Barrett trophy.

Mystery of Norfolk Broads revealed

The Norfolk Broads have existed for hundreds of years. Until recently, they were thought to be a natural feature of the landscape. In fact, they were ancient peat diggings.

First exploited by the Romans, the deep peat beds provided fuel for successive generations until surprisingly recent times. With rising sea levels, they eventually flooded, creating the present intricate course of waterways. Nowadays, the Broads are the United Kingdom's largest protected wetland and as such, support many different species.

From birds to mammals, the wildlife living on the Broads is richly varied and can often only be found in Norfolk.

The habitat is largely split into two categories; the fens and open water (the Broads themselves) and the drained grazing marshes.

The fens and open water are rich in species such as swallowtail butterfly, breeding

bittern and marsh harrier; the grazing marshes are characterised by drainage ditches with abundant water plants, water voles and also large flocks of wintering ducks and geese.

Abundant are mute swans, ducks such as the mallard, the tufted duck, Shelduck and Shoveler and black headed gulls as well as greylag and Canada geese. Reed beds hold a variety of warblers such as the Cetti's warbler, reed and sedge warblers, and also bearded tits with their distinctive 'pinging' call.

In terms of rarer species, the Broads are a stronghold for special species such as the bittern and marsh harrier. In winter, hen harriers can often be seen along with bean geese.

Norfolk is the last part of the UK to split from the continent and thus, animal species here such as Chinese water deer and American mink, are not found elsewhere in the country.

In the photograph renowned Norfolk Broads guide David McMaster explains the intricacies of the Broads wetlands to a party of New Zealanders and Australians with Odyssey Travel the university owned educational travel provider.



Renowned guide: David McMaster explains the intricacies of the Norfolk Broads wetlands.

Letters to the Editor:

Steel and lead shot

Dear Editor

Many thanks for the opportunity to list some of the key facts in the steel and lead discussion:

In the early 1970s Tom Caithness a waterfowl biologist with the NZ Wildlife Service and then the Dept of Conservation completed research on lead shot dispersal in shallow wetlands. Tom determined that within 14-days lead shot dissipated into the mud to a depth no dabbling duck could reach. Tom was a foundation member of DUNZ.

During 2001 and 2002 Murray Dench (also a foundation member of DUNZ) completed research in Waikato on autopsied ducks shot during two duck seasons, to determine the percentage of shot these birds carried in their gizzard. Murray's results were in line with research results in the USA - approximately 4 percent of the waterfowl autopsied had small amounts of lead shot in their gizzard. But Murray also found most of the autopsied birds were in a healthy condition before they were shot!

Twenty five years ago research in Germany concluded that steel shot in the environment had a far higher toxicity level than lead shot, and in the USA steel shot has caused numerous wetlands to display an impressive orange bloom!

We also now know that much research in the USA involved the force-feeding of captive waterfowl with lead shot. Many, but not all, of the force-fed birds died – but only after being fed far larger amounts than they could ever find in the wild.

No proof has ever been provided to show wild waterfowl that ingest lead shot do in fact die. If the ingesting of lead shot had ever been a serious problem people like me, who have spent much of their life involved with wetlands and waterfowl, would have found dead and/or dying birds all over wetlands!

Over 80 percent of waterfowl hunters using 12 gauge shotguns here use steel shot – because it is relatively inexpensive, but steel shot has a catastrophic effect on waterfowl; increasing crippling (birds shot and not recovered) from 7 percent with lead to an average of 50 percent with steel. For North America this means that the crippling factor eliminates well over 25,000,000 birds, compared to 350,000 with lead shot – and assuming 400,000 are shot and recovered in New Zealand each



Taumata Lagoon, Neil and Sylvia Hayes have spent the last 23 years - planting 7500 native trees and flaxes, creating new wetlands, eliminating over 4500 predators! Visitors welcome.

Photo: Neil Hayes.

season an additional 200,000 are shot and not recovered, compared to 28,000 with lead! This is a very serious crime against nature and a serious threat to the future of our waterfowl and to hunting!

Most disturbing about this is that western bloc governments - including New Zealand and Australia - knew all about the adverse effects of steel shot and increasing numbers of waterfowl enthusiasts believe the whole sorry saga is nothing more than another means of restricting shooting sports. Interestingly, few eastern bloc governments have a ban on the use of lead shot for duck hunting! This is confirmed by the fact that no study has ever been carried out to determine whether other duck species such

as; scaup, Pateke, Whio, shoveler, grey teal and grey duck carry shot in their gizzard! Mallards are surely not more important than our endemic ducks?

Whilst steel shot is just one of the reasons for the decline of mallard in New Zealand it is the most significant contributor to their demise and when added to other influencing factors – too many ducks being shot at with 5-9 shot semi-automatics, seasons too long, pond feeding, too many electronic decoys, electronic calls, predation, etc., coupled with insignificant waterfowl management, could eventually result in a ban on duck shooting – and the demise of the NZ Fish & Game Council.

Neil Hayes QSM CEnv PhD

Whio background

Thank you for an interesting Flight (April) we always enjoy keeping up with what is happening with DU.

Just a comment on the Whio article to fill in some points.

When we were living in Hamilton in 1977/1978 we received a pair of whio from Mount Bruce, they laid eggs but nothing hatched. The eggs were infertile, which happens with the first clutch sometimes.

We shifted to Rotorua in 1979, taking all our waterfowl including the Whio. It took a couple of years for them to settle down but they hatched a clutch in about 1981.

DoC captured some Whio from the Motu and delivered eight birds for flock pairing and passing onto other DU members. This made us the first private people to breed Whio in captivity.

Hope this is a bit more info into the background to the Whio and DU.

Dawn Pirani

Wairio Wetland Restoration Committee

from minutes of April meeting

Ken Barnes welcomed as a new committee member.

Don Bell advised spraying blackberry often not effective and a high pressure spray hose gets great results.

Status report Restoration matters:

Ross Cottle advised bulldozer work progressing well at Stage 4 and it appeared the bund wall enclosing the stage would be completed within the grant from Fish & Game's Game Bird Habitat Trust.

Ross provided an update of a meeting with DOC and Greater Wellington Council (GW) exploring ways to get additional water into the Wairio Wetland from the Mathews Lagoon or Boggy Pond or both. Benefit would be further filtration before that water, most dairy farm run-off, reaches Lake Wairarapa. Further work on water levels awaited, including improved high resolution photography before solutions could be progressed.

Additional noxious weed and release spraying conducted at Stages 1, 2, 3 & 4 by contractor Andrew Marshall in summer. This included treating willows and blackberry in fenced off area at Stage 4.

Jim Law heard the construction of the walkway on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa, west of the Wetland, was to start. This could ultimately have branch tracks into Wairio Wetland.

Work plan for 2013/14

1. Earthworks:

Includes the above work at Stage 4 and raising the outlets at Stage 1.

Grass sowing:

Ross and Jim Campbell to acquire seed and spread over the bund wall at Stage 4 and outlets at Stage 1.

Fencing:

Agreed a one hot wire fence with spring gates be constructed at the southern bund wall at Stage 4. Ross and Jim Campbell to arrange.

Tree Planting:

Plant protectors in open spaces to allow sheep to control fescue for the benefit of aquatic habitat was discussed particularly regarding Don Bell's recently designed "Grow Tector" planting system. Don offered to donate 100 of each these. Agreed these should form part of a research test monitored by Victoria University. Open areas to be behind a hot wire to exclude cattle. It was further agreed that 1000 Grow Tectors would be purchased.

Trevor Thompson advised \$5000 worth of plants ordered and will be on-site for planting days. He also ordered more plants to cover a VUW research test bed for Tapuwa Marapara. Trevor would check to see if plants were available from the seeds (Totora and Kowhai) collected at Stage 4 and given to Norfolk Road Nursery for propagation. He would also check on extra Flax, Carex and Toetoe for the Stage 4 southern bund wall. However, the previous idea of a Flax Paharakeke (nursery) would be deferred for discussion with Haami Te Whaiti. Trevor and his sub-committee would develop plans for planting days and arrange for OSH/planting advice prior to work starting. Andrew Marshall to be contacted to spot spray and assist on planting days.

Planting Date and Plans:

Two dates, June 25 and June 29, start time 9am for Committee, 10am for school children and others. To be followed by BBQs. Jim Law undertook to seek GW's (Toni de Lautour and Jim Flack) assistance with the local primary schools and the BBQs also with publicity and contact Taratahi Ag Training Centre.

Release Spraying:

Andrew Marshall and team to be contracted for release spraying in early spring and late summer.

Signage and Information Boards:

Signage deferred from 2012/13 should be constructed at Stages 2, 3 and 4 with an information Board sited within the wetland. Assistance of Jim Flack at GW to be sought.

Predator Control:

Tony Faulkner requested to keep the Committee posted on steps to introduce a coordinated predator control programme. Trevor advised focus should be on "fewer but well placed traps" especially as volunteers would likely be involved in monitoring the traps.

Actual 2012/13 Expenditure versus Budget:

Jim Law presented actual versus budget expenditure for 2012/13 as follows:

	Budget	Actual
Base Case – Stage 1:		
Earthmoving (Stage 1)	\$10,000	6,780
Boom Spraying		1,000
Spot Spraying		2,500
Weed Mats		1,000
Plants (Stage 1 Additional)	2,000	2,250
Plants (Stage 1 Original)	5,000	9,378
Contract Planting	0	2,347
Noxious Weed Spraying (Stage 1, 2 & 3)	1,000	407
Release Spraying (Stage 1)	3,000	697
Signage (Stage 2 & 3)		500
Total	\$26,000	\$21,859

Also agreed that further work could be done at a new Stage 4 to be created at the northern end of the wetland, contingent upon extra funds. This would be within the area already fenced-off and a scoping budget for Stage 4 was prepared.

A funding commitment was received from GW using its Wairarapa Moana Wetland Restoration Fund. Actual expenditure commenced but was limited to noxious weed spraying as follows:

Additional Budget – Stage 4:

	Budget	Actual
Noxious weed/plant and spot spraying	\$5,000	3,520
Plants	\$5,000	
Total	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$3,520</u>
TOTAL	\$36,000	\$25,379

To date, GW has made \$ for \$ payments in respect of plants (\$2,250) & contractor planting (\$973), a total of \$3,223. Jim Law advised he would submit the last invoice for noxious weed spraying (\$3,520) to Philippa Crisp at GW for payment.

Funding Update 2012/2013:

Amounts received were:

Ron Greenwood Trust	\$1,000
Estates of DU members, Bruce McKenzie	\$1,400
Ron Brooks	\$1,000
Rotary Club of South Wairarapa	\$2,000
Pharazon Trust	\$4,000
Nikau Foundation	2,715
Greater Wellington (GW)	<u>\$3,223</u>
Total	\$15,338

Thus 2012/13 expenditure and funding sources are as follows:

Total Expenditure	\$25,379
Total Funding - Third Parties	\$15,338
- Ducks Unlimited	<u>10,041</u>
	\$25,379

A further request for a refund for \$3,520 from GW will be made in respect of the last 2012/13 noxious weed spraying at Stage 4.

2013/14 Budget:

Based on agreed Work Plan the following Budget was approved:

	Budget
Earthmoving Stage 4 Bund wall & Stage 1 repairs	\$10,000
Grass Seed (Stage 4 bund wall)	1,000
Spot Spraying	2,500
Fencing (Stage 4)	2,000
Plant Grow Tectors	1,000
Plants (Stage 4)	6,000
Plants (Stage 3)	1,000
Contract Planting	2,500
Noxious Weed Spraying	3,000
Release Spraying (mid-Oct & March)	3,000
Signage & Information Board (Stages 2, 3 & 4)	<u>3,000</u>
Total	<u>\$35,000</u>

Funding Prospects for 2013/14:

Firstly and critically, continued \$ for \$ support from GW is anticipated.

Fish & Game's Game Bird Habitat Trust (GBHT) has granted \$9000 for water retention project at Stage 4.

Jim Campbell anticipated further grants from the Pharazon Trust and Jim Law advised he would seek assistance from the Nikau Foundation and Rotary Club of South Wairarapa.

Don Bell committed a \$1000 contribution of Grow Tectors.

Funding sources for 2013/14 appear to be:

Pharazon, Nikau Foundation, Rotary, Don & others	\$8,000
Ducks Unlimited	\$9,500
GW \$ for \$	\$17,500
Total	\$35,000

Strategic Plan

This work was outstanding and would be progressed by Jim and Ross following planting this year. Relevant data from committee members and a draft prepared by VUW Masters student, Aprille Gillion was to hand.

Next Meeting: July 16, Kilmore Lodge.



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