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*Mallard hen with brood*

**WINCHESTER**

MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.

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NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED  
QUARTERLY  
WATERFOWL JOURNAL

# Flight



# DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INC.,

— FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS —  
PO BOX 44-176 LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND

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Cover photo: Home lagoon in all its glory.  
Photo Lloyd Homer. New Zealand Geological Survey.

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated is a private, non-profit membership organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration, creation and maintenance of wetlands habitat in New Zealand and to the propagation of the country's rare waterfowl as a valuable natural resource. The organisation was founded in May 1974 by a group of far-sighted conservationists and incorporated by them in June 1975 at Wellington, New Zealand. The national headquarters mailing address is PO Box 44176, Lower Hutt. "Flight" is the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated reached 2000 members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU memberships begin at \$11.00 pa for Junior to \$27.50 for full membership with provision for trade and life members. Membership of Ducks Unlimited carries with it subscription to this publication. To assure prompt delivery, members who move are urged to forward their new address along with current membership details to national headquarters. Letter and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated.

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## President's Report

Jim Campbell, President

With our recent Annual General Meeting exceeding all previous ones financially, I can only be inspired by the tremendous opportunity DU (NZ) has to gain momentum, especially after having once more witnessed the drive and determination that every person involved with the movement in Canada and USA has.

The film presentations at the 50th Convention in Winnipeg were so well presented, every person present was impressed. I'm sure the Canadians feel very proud of their achievements over 50 years, and are saying to NZ "keep up the good work, you are passing through exactly the same growth curve we did".

The projected growth in membership and finance for the next five years from Provincial Contributor Services spokespersons was for membership to exceed 100,000 producing income of \$35,000,000.

Coupled with the tremendous support from DU Inc, you have an enormous pressure group that recreates some 50,000 wetland acres annually. I feel the potential for our growth is enormous and we must support and co-operate with the Department of Conservation as we have in the past, and all other organisations involved with wetland protection and endangered species. A giant step forward was taken at our recent

board meeting when the decision to employ Dr Grant Dumbell was passed unanimously. Grant's work and research on the brown teal in Northland have given us very valuable information and this momentum must be maintained. To echo the words of Hazard Campbell, Chairman of the Board of DU, Inc. "the future, like the ducks is unlimited, we need to go forward with a singleness of purpose". With Derek Morrison, our Chapter co-ordinator, organising several new chapters this season, we have the opportunity to expand rapidly in many areas and increase our membership base which is important.

DU (NZ) will be hosting several top executives from DU Inc, Canada & Mexico from 11-18 September and an interesting itinerary has been arranged and I urge all members to attend any function that gives an opportunity to meet these colleagues from afar. Our attendance at both 50th conventions has been extremely important for New Zealand's future and I thank Iyn, Glenys, Ted and Warwick for their support in Winnipeg.

To all those people we had the opportunity to meet or be hosted by whilst on tour we say "thank you" and may some of your enthusiasm inspire us to greater efforts in New Zealand.

Special thanks to the Cronmiller's & Dunns on Vancouver Island, Anna and Norman Marsh at 100 Mile House B.C., the

Mouldings and Morrisons at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Allan Spellay, Brian Clampett and the Snyders of Saskatchewan and DU Area Office at Brooks, Alberta.

To the organising committee in Winnipeg a special "thank you", they gave us tremendous support.

Thanks also to Sandra and the Warehouse crew for packaging and shipping the items for our auctions, to Winchester Canada and the organisers for the opportunity to participate in the Sporting Clay event, to Wally Wells for generously donating the Stilt Decoy for our auction, Hank Walker for the many prints he has donated, and Ed Snyder for a magnificent Ringneck Decoy for our auction in Masterton.

A highlight of our tour was an evening spent on Heritage Marsh, Regina, with the Snyder family, observing vast numbers of waterfowl along with beaver and muskrats and a magnificent sunset later in the evening. Time is all too precious when one is exposed to the magnitude and diversity of species within such an area.

The keynote address by Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund at the 50th celebrations touched on many aspects of DU's work, Heritage Marsh being the first joint project by WWF & DU.

In closing I emphasise the DU (NZ) has enormous potential to preserve our wetland heritage for future generations. ■



Ducks Unlimited is a rapidly growing organisation. We would like Flight to reflect members interests and would request that you fill in and return the membership survey form.

## Membership Survey

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

If any details on your "Flight" address label are incorrect please correct them and send it back to us.

Your age: \_\_\_\_\_ Your occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you belong to any other conservation organisations?  Yes  No

2. Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you been a member of DU? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did you find out about DU? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you a regular duck hunter?  Yes  No

6. If you receive complimentary copies of "Flight" do you still wish to receive them?  Yes  No

POST TO: DUCKS UNLIMITED, P.O. BOX 44-176 LOWER HUTT

## Letters

### National Executive of Acclimatisation Societies

4 August 1988  
Mr J C Campbell  
President  
Ducks Unlimited  
PO Box 44-176,  
LOWER HUTT

Dear Mr Campbell,  
At Ducks Unlimited's recent Annual General Meeting you will recall that I endeavoured to raise the matter of DU's future relationship with the Acclimatisation Societies. My intention was to provide an opportunity for the membership to first learn of, and then debate, the divisive and self-serving position taken by the DU Board of Directors on the future of the Societies, in its submission to the Government's review of conservation quangos — a strategy that had been confirmed in conversation with a DU director at the time the submission had been lodged.

Discussion on this matter at the AGM had become all the more important with the obvious reluctance of those holding editorial discretion to publish the DU position in Flight magazine. Instead, the submission had been accorded only brief casual comment, and in a manner that sought to falsely

elevate its impact on the subsequent outcome, while at the same time totally misleading the membership on the content and significance of the true position taken, and of the actual option supported — option 2.

To this day the DU membership has no idea of the option supported on their behalf — an option that sought to replace the Acclimatisation Society system of 'user' day-to-day management and control, with State control and discretionary Ministerial allocation of day-to-day management tasks. Under this option the fish and game conservation effort would have been retained by the Crown in some locations, allocated to a variety of agencies in other locations, and generally fragmented throughout. Option 2 would clearly have been open to political favour and abuse, would have effectively removed the opportunity to create national policy and a stable management structure across the country, and would have generally diffused the conservation effort by fuelling the potential for interagency competition — something that all the key parties presently involved are trying to eliminate.

Clearly the public saw option 2 for what it truly was, and only nine of the 535 public submissions supported it — four of which had obvious DU connections.

There is no doubt in my mind that those who constructed the DU submission were manoeuvring towards a slice of the statutory action for DU — something I doubt the membership of DU would really want, and which, in my view, would greatly lessen DU's appeal to the many true 'waterfowl and wetland' enthusiasts that your organisation now successfully attracts.

Regardless of the Board's true motivation in this matter, the Government's decision in favour of the Acclimatisation Society system has now left DU in a most difficult position — and one that cannot simply be left to deal with time.

The Acclimatisation Societies, and probably many of DU's present

membership, now need to know exactly where DU wishes to position itself in the future. The record presently shows that DU favours replacement of the 'user' controlled Acclimatisation Society system with one of State control involving absolute Ministerial discretion in the assignment (and withdrawal!) of day-to-day management tasks. Other reforms promoted in the DU submission in support of option 2 are of no consequence, as they were not only included in other available options, but were being promoted by the Acclimatisation Societies themselves prior to the review beginning.

The central feature of the DU submission, and that upon which it was judged by the Government, was its declared support for option 2, as described above.

In concluding this matter my only advice is that whatever your Board decides, it should be stated in clear and concise language. An ambiguous statement either way will only serve to compound the disappointment and distrust that now exists.

Yours sincerely,  
W B Johnson  
Director



The above letter was received by the Board of Directors from Mr Bryce Johnson, Director of the National Executive of Acclimatisation Societies. The concerns outlined in the letter focus on Ducks Unlimited's decision to support Option 2 in its submission to the Quango Review Committee on the future of Acclimatisation Societies. It is appropriate for clarification of Ducks Unlimited's Quango Review submission

decision to print Option 2 in its entirety.

"This option enables the Minister to assign management to a variety of different agencies. It develops from the view that the growing professionalism and competence of the Acclimatisation Societies could lead to an organisation with the potential to manage much larger areas than it now does. Two competent nationally based organisations would not be needed and is unlikely to lead to the most cost-effective outcome.

At present both the department and the societies are not evenly balanced with respect to skills and regional involvement. There is also confusion over roles and functions because of legislative overlap in responsibilities. From this argument option 2 seeks to resolve this confusion over roles.

As a prerequisite, all legislative responsibilities over fish and game species would be rationalised under the Minister of Conservation. The Minister of Conservation would then assign management responsibilities as she/he deemed appropriate. Assignment could be to Acclimatisation Societies, the department, or to some other body. Assignment could be to a mix of agencies, reflecting the diverse skills and local considerations of the managing agency. This option would allow the flexibility to develop a new system from the present structure. There would need to be provision to ensure effective accountability measures were applied in each case."

The deliberations of the Board on the option were as follows.

The major reason that the Board supported Option 2 was that it perceived the possibility of gaining involvement in further endangered species recovery programmes which it has some experience in, combined with an excellent performance record. The effective sentences considered were the first sentence, paragraph 1, and the second and third sentences, paragraph 3. It is important to be aware that the Board interpreted the word "management" to relate to endangered species only, not fish and game. The Board also believed that, under option 2, Acclimatisation Societies would still exist and would continue to play the major role in fish and game management.

The Board made its submission in a genuine and forth-right manner and members were advised in FLIGHT 1/88, Issue 55, March 1988 as follows:

"DU made three submissions in respect of the reviews of environmental quangos — one on the future of the QEII National Trust, one on the future of the Environmental Council and the other on the future of Acclimatisation Societies. DU has had close associations with all three groups and has supported the retention of each organisation, but with the Environmental Council and the Acclimatisation Societies DU has made constructive comment on how the structure of these two groups might be improved. Copies of these submissions

## Letters

can be obtained from PO Box 44-176 on request."

Some 30 members wrote and requested submissions.

We consider that this was a fair and democratic procedure and we do not accept Mr Johnson's assertion of reluctance to publish the true DU position in FLIGHT magazine.

At the Ducks Unlimited's Board of Directors meeting at the National Wildlife Centre, Mount Bruce, August 6, the Directors were addressed by Messrs Johnson, McCulloch and Avery from the Acclimatisation Societies. They informed the Board that the Society movement perceived the Ducks Unlimited vote for option 2 as follows:

"That the vote was an attempt by Ducks Unlimited to gain statutory powers for some control of fish and game management. That the vote was aimed at the demise of the Society movement and that the Board had misread Option 2, the votes for which had been recorded by Government as being against the Acclimatisation Societies without reference to content.

While believing that there has been a

misunderstanding over the perceived intent of Ducks Unlimited's support for option 2, the Board of Directors accept the concerns expressed by the Acclimatisation Society movement and would like to unequivocally state the following:

"That the Board had no intention, inclination or desire to be involved in fish and game management. It is constitutionally inappropriate and logistically impossible. Further, we did not support Option 2 to facilitate the demise of the Acclimatisation Society movement.

In closing, the Board would like to pledge its full support to the Acclimatisation Society movement and to trust that the future holds a harmonious relationship for both organisations which in many areas have similar aims and objectives.

Yours sincerely  
Brendan Coe  
Vice President  
for the Board of Directors  
Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc.

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## New from DU Sales Dept

Baseball-style cap suitable for all outdoor activities. Available in Hunter Green with 5-colour mallard logo. One size fits all. \$22.00 from DU Sales Dept. See back page for ordering details.

# What's in a Name?

Credit: Soil & Water Magazine Winter 1987.

The Manganui-o-te-ao River is the third largest Wanganui River tributary, contributing about 12% of the Wanganui River's flow at Pipiriki.

Ever driven in a town in which a roadway changes name from intersection to intersection? And, where the road is a street and vice versa at every intersection. Confusing, isn't it? Then have sympathy for canoeists on a small river in the middle of the North Island — because no one seems to know what its real name is or if it's a river or a stream.

There is general agreement on the basis for the name (its something like Manganuioteao), but the exact spelling is where trouble arises.

That definitive publication of New Zealand place names, Wises "New Zealand Guide", says its the Manganuioteao River and describes it as "A tributary of the Wanganui River entering from the north-eastwards." It continues: "The headwaters of the stream comprise the Waimarino, Makatote, and Manganuioteao and the main highway passes by hairpin bends into the gorges of the latter two, which are of great scenic interest. The Main Trunk Railway crosses the Makatote Stream in the gorge by a lofty viaduct. The main headwater rises on the western slopes of Mount Ruapehu."

Fine, except that the same river, er, stream on Shell Road maps of New Zealand is labelled the Manganuioteao River while the publication "Catchments of New Zealand" issued by the New Zealand Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council in December 1956 says it's the Manganui-o-te-ao Stream.

The "Gazeteer of New Zealand Place Names", published by no less an authority than the now-extinct Department of Lands and Survey almost agrees with the Shell Road Map — it's the Manganuioteao, but it's a stream. However, all this aside, most people we know write the stream, er, river's name as the Manganui-o-te-ao, although, in a recent paper to the National Water and Soil Conservation Authority, it was continually called the **Manganuioteao River**.

The paper to NWASCA was written because a conservation order over both the river (for want of a better name) and the tributaries (the Waimarino Stream, the Makatote River, the Mangaturuturu River and the Orautoha Stream) was in line for recommendation to the Minister of Works.

The aim of the conservation order is to protect the outstanding recreational fisheries and wildlife habitat of the river and, in doing so, to also protect the highly valued recreational, scientific and historical characteristics of the river. The conservation order was applied for by the Minister of Internal Affairs, who stated that the wildlife and fisheries values of the river are so important that they must be protected in the national interest.

## Conditions

To achieve the desired level of protection the Minister of Internal Affairs sought the following conditions in the Order:

- i The order to provide for a prohibition on the granting of any right to dam any part of the Manganuioteao River.
- ii A prohibition on the granting of any new water rights which would interfere with the natural flows or levels of



The Manganui-o-te-ao River.

natural water within the area of the Manganuioteao River.  
 iii A general condition requesting that the Rangitikei-Wanganui Catchment Board and NWASCA do nothing that would mean that the order could not remain without change."

The application was accepted and a recommendation was made to the Minister of Works and Development that the application be processed as for a National Conservation Order.

The river meets at least three of the six criteria for ranking as an outstanding wildlife habitat in the National Wildlife Habitat Inventory and, as well, provides the habitat, in the river and its tributaries, for a comparatively large number of blue duck, an endemic and nationally threatened species.

Cont. on Pg. 15

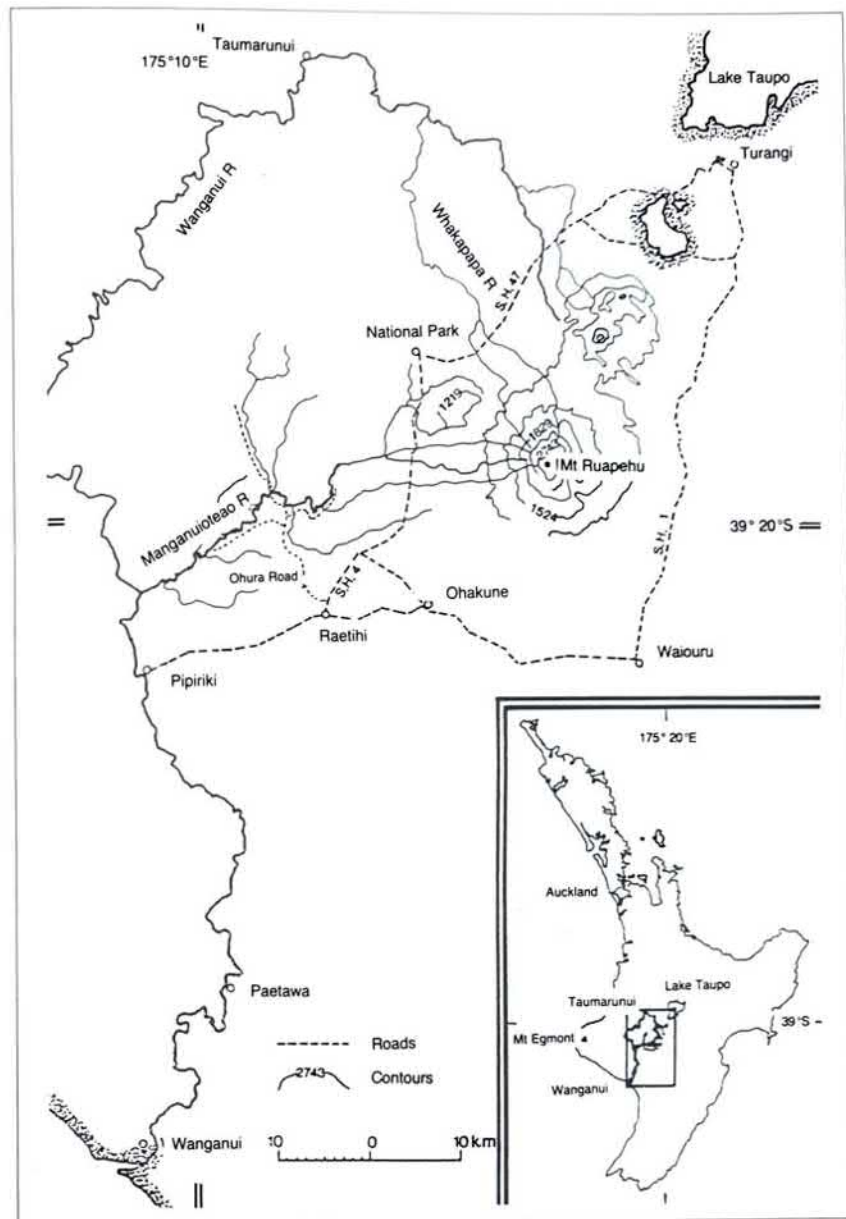


FIGURE 1. Location and setting.

# DUCKS UNLIMITED

## FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS

### The Broadlands Wildfowl Trust

This magnificent area is located at Reporoa, between Taupo and Rotorua, on the property of Mr Dave Johnston. Originally a low lying swampy basin that the effluent from the milking shed was pumped into, it also had a small stream meandering through the wetland.

Development consisted of a series of impoundments at intervals downstream that created lagoons behind the dam walls. As well, large areas of earth were scooped out to increase the basin area and islands were created at the same time. This work was carried out using diggers, bulldozers and a Euclid earthmoving machine. The dam walls are constructed of earth. As well, each dam has a flood control pipe through the wall that is blocked by a sluice gate operated on a winch system. Should the need arise, a bigger volume of water can be released downstream to prevent flood water spilling over and damaging the earth walls.

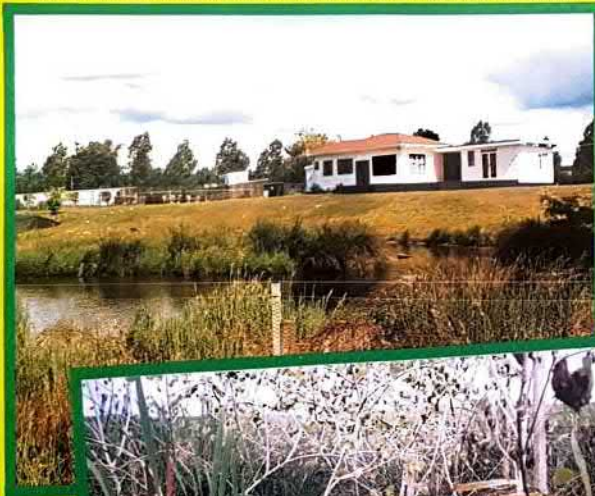
Planting and landscaping using a variety of deciduous trees, combined with a stockproof fence, have completed the creation of a very attractive area for waterfowl that would cover approximately twenty acres. A house was built on a rise some twenty yards back from the southern end of the wetland and it is designed so that the lounge/living area looks straight down the lagoons to facilitate observation of the birds. And birds there are aplenty.

Carolina wood duck, mallard, scaup, grey teal, paradise, grey duck, shoveler, Australian mountain duck, brown teal, Australian grass whistling duck, mandarin duck, mute swan, black swan, Canada geese, Cape Barren geese, New Zealand dabchick and many of the birds of field and forest. The grey teal and the Carolina's breed prolifically in the dozens of nest boxes that have been placed about the wetland. At the 1988 A.G.M. at THC Wairakei, a party of thirty Ducks Unlimited supporters visited the Broadlands Wildfowl Trust and walked around the area. It was a wet day, but the sight of so many birds of different species living in the wetland was impressive as was the scale of the entire development. All of the work was carried out by Norman Marsh of Taupo who has created a Wildfowl Trust that will serve as an example of what can be achieved with enthusiasm and dedication for waterfowl and wetlands. ■



The aviaries at the Broadlands Wildfowl Trust.

The house and viewing veranda which looks straight over the water.



### Home Lagoon

Keen Ducks Unlimited member Andre Terpstra's pond at Murupara. Andre has raised 30 Carolina wood ducks so far and he also breeds grey teal in good numbers. Mallard and grey ducks are also present. The pond is one of a series on a stream at his father's dairy farm. ■

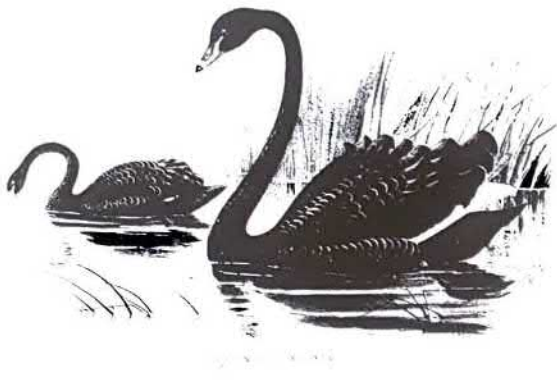
Photo: A. Terpstra.

Ducks Unlimited members will remember the Home Lagoon development programme that was publicised in an issue of FLIGHT last year. The area is difficult to observe from the road, it being a shallow basin that has areas of raupo and juncus sp. throughout. Ducks Unlimited were fortunate to be able to use the services of Lloyd Homer of the Geological Survey Department to take a series of aerial photographs that show the true extent and value of the wetland. Mr Homer is New Zealand's leading photographer for this sort of work and the quality speaks for itself. Ducks Unlimited would like to thank him and all those who supported the project, including the Wellington Acclimatisation Society and Norman Marsh for the restoration of this magnificent wetland area. ■

## THE WILDFOWL PAINTINGS OF HENRY JONES

Sixty vibrant watercolour paintings of ducks, geese, and swans by Henry Jones (1858-1921), faithfully reproduced at their original size to the very highest standard.

Foreword by Sir Peter Scott GBE DSC, Founder of the Wildfowl Trust. Text by Peter J. S. Olney, Curator of Birds at the Zoological Society of London, and formerly Head of Research at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.



### THE WILDFOWL PAINTINGS OF HENRY JONES

*The collection of paintings by Henry Jones is regarded as the Zoological Society's greatest natural history achievement. As birds of work I find it enormously impressive.*



Published by THRESHOLD/HARRAP 19-25 Ludgate Hill, London EC3M 7PD

#### The Artist

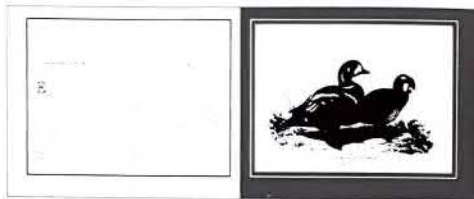
Henry Jones was born in Kent in 1858 and joined the Army at the age of ten years. Most of his military career was spent in India. Later in the 92nd Welsh Brigade of Foot He retired with the rank of Honorary Major in 1881. Back in England, he devoted the second half of his life to painting birds, and on his death in 1921 he bequeathed a collection of 1,211 watercolours to the Zoological Society of London. They are among the Society's most treasured possessions.

#### The Paintings

Henry Jones completed 232 paintings of wildfowl in adult plumages, including 32 showing eclipse and other plumages. We have carefully selected 60 of the best and the most interesting for publication.

#### The Text

The main text by Peter Olney provides basic information on each species' way of life, habitat, and distribution. It also includes much original research on the history of the species' discovery and classification. In addition there is a biography of Henry Jones, a list of all the Anatidae that he painted, a bibliography, and an index.



#### Format

Each painting will be printed the same size as the original (approximate image size 3.25 inches x 2.50 inches) on paper specially chosen to match that used by Jones. The plates will be individually mounted on cartridge paper pages of contrasting colour and texture. Page size will be generous (9 1/2 inches x 5 1/2 inches (more than 12 inches x 11 inches). The volume will contain a minimum of 282 pages.

#### Binding

Leather half-binding with matching cloth. Bound in boards on square half-binding. Soft cover and dust bands.

#### Publication

July 1987. The edition will be limited to 500 copies worldwide at a price of NZ\$150.

A full-colour prospectus is available giving further details of *The Wildfowl Paintings of Henry Jones*. If you would like one, simply complete the coupon overleaf and return it.

We advise you to act without delay as only 500 copies will be printed, and once these have been sold no more will be available.

# The AGM

The 1988 AGM, held at THC Wairakei was a great success and proceeds totalled an impressive \$30,000. Some 70 people attended the formal business of the meeting which was followed by two excellent speeches. The first was from Bryce

Johnson, Director of the National Executive of the Acclimatisation Societies. Mr Johnson outlined the events leading up to the Government's decision to give full control of fish and game to the Societies and it was interesting to hear about how the machinery of



Bryce Johnson addresses the meeting.



Auctioneer John Ward advising his audience on how much to spend

Government works. The second speech was from the Right Honourable Mr Ian McLean, M.P. for Tararua who spoke about his views on conservation and the future administrative structure under a National Government.

The dinner went well and the feature was the auctioneer, Mr John Ward of Upper Hutt who was helping out due to the absence overseas of Bill Wilkinson. John was magnificent and we are indebted to him for his skilful and expert assistance.

The visit to the Broadlands Wildfowl Trust was popular with some 30 people enduring the torrential rain to see one of the best wildfowl collections in the country. On the

## THE WILDFOWL PAINTINGS OF HENRY JONES

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## The AGM

Saturday the inaugural D.U. Golf Championship was staged at THG Wairakei's International course. The championship was won by Gordon Campbell (brother of Jim Campbell) who received a magnificent cup. Runner up was Laurie Boshell of Wellington and the Ladies' Cup was won by Life Member Adrienne Languet, also of Wellington. The Bill Barrett trophy was presented to Ian Pirani and it was one of the most popular awards for some time. The weekend finished with a pleasant coffee morning and a display of various sporting goods and books.



Well known Wairarapa farmer Bill Clinton-Baker with his wife Abbey Girvan looks on.

### List of Donors of raffles and auction items.

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Ian Pirani with the prestigious Bill Barrett trophy.

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### Penguin census proves heartening

Conservation Department staff have come up with heartening results in a census of one of New Zealand's rarest birds, the yellow-eyed penguin.

Numbers of the birds on Campbell Island, south of New Zealand, are much higher than expected, Conservation Department assistant research director Phil Moors said.

Two scientists working on the sub-Antarctic island for a year had found there were 1625 of the birds on the island, with about 1000 breeding pairs.

"It's very exciting. It's nice to have some good news about some of these species," said Dr Moors.

The birds on Campbell Island made up about 20 percent of the total population of yellow-eyed penguins, which were found only in southern New Zealand.

The Campbell Island penguins would form a good reservoir for the species at a time when other populations of the penguins were under threat.

Stocks on mainland New Zealand were declining because of threats to their habitat and food supply.

The penguins' food supply had possibly been reduced by commercial fishing or climatic factors, said Dr Moors.

The two scientists from Campbell Island, Roger Moffat and Peter Moore, were also carrying out a census of other bird species on the island.

### A bird on a stamp

You might ask what a Fijian museum, a Pukerua Bay artist, and NZ Post have in common.

They are all part of the 70c definitive stamp issue for the new fast post rates.

The issue was crafted by Pauline Morse, 37, a self-taught painter who says she has had a love of art all her life.

Mrs Morse says it was a visit to a Fijian museum eight years ago which first prompted her to begin bird and wildlife art.

"There was a guy there doing a book on native Fijian birds but he didn't have anyone to illustrate it — so I offered to do it for him," she said.

The book, *A Guide to the Birds of Fiji*, although not well known in New Zealand is "apparently in every hotel in Fiji," Mrs Morse said.

The Pukerua Bay woman was one of several artists from all over the country who were invited to submit designs for the stamp issue.

"Somebody in the Philatelic Department saw cards that I had produced about a year ago and asked me if I would submit one," she said.

Although the artist's name is not displayed on the stamps Mrs Morse said the issues will give her some exposure.

"I suppose if someone is really interested in finding the artist they could — the name is printed on the bottom corner of each sheet of stamps."

The Porirua Post Office was the scene of the launching of the 70c stamp which portrays a Paradise Shelduck — and Mrs Morse was on hand to autograph the first-day covers.

## D.U. News

Mrs Morse has eight more definitive issues for 10c to 90c stamps which will be released in November.

She said she loves painting birds and of the stamps she has designed some are common birds and some are rare.

### Cuts put rare birds closer to extinction

Research which could help save some of New Zealand's rarest birds from extinction has been stopped by Conservation budget cuts.

As part of austerity measures in the wake of the Budget, scientists at the Conservation Department have had their field work on endangered birds, plants, insects and mammals cut back severely.

The Conservation Department as a whole has about 9 percent less funds than last year, but cutbacks to the science and research directorate's budget are understood to be much more severe at 20 percent.

Directorate head Richard Sadleir said field research into almost all endangered species had been put on hold to trim operating costs.

Projects in progress on which no field work is being done includes research into kokako, kiwi, takahē, Campbell Island yellow-eyed penguins, kakapo, blue duck, marine mammals and giant snails.

Dr Sadleir said field trips by archeological staff to provide information for the Historic Places Trust on historic sites and buildings had also been cut down.

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society conservation director Gerry McSweeney said he understood cutbacks at the Conservation Department extended to the cancellation or postponement of all new research programmes.

Combined with restrictions on field work, this will have a severe impact on the three areas vital for conservation and for the department's expanded responsibilities.

The three areas were threatened species, coastal marine work and weed control.

### Bird smuggler gets toughest sentence yet

SYDNEY — A Canadian bird smuggler has been given Australia's toughest sentence on record for illegal animal trafficking.

Randal McBride, 31, a carpenter of Ontario, was caught last month trying to smuggle 37 Australian native birds to New Zealand in two specially modified suitcases.

A Sydney District Court judge yesterday sentenced McBride to two years' jail for attempting to export birds with an estimated value of \$A325,000 (\$NZ412,750) and attempting to import birds with an estimated value of \$A65,000 (\$NZ82,550).

The birds, including some endangered species, had been stuffed into narrow lengths of perforated plastic pipe and surrounded by chilli-bih cooler blocks.

McBride told the court he was to be paid \$Can6000 (\$NZ7620) for delivering the birds to New Zealand.

Before customs officers at Sydney Airport had a chance to open his suitcases, McBride said he must have picked up the wrong luggage, filled out a missing luggage form, and hurriedly left the airport.

The court was told the retail value of the major mitchell and gang gang cockatoos in the United States was about \$158,500 (\$NZ13,345) a bird, or \$1525,000 (\$NZ1,750) a pair.

### Chapter News

#### EKETAHUNA

Thanks must go to all Eketahuna Chapter supporters. Yes we did it again. We topped the list for funds raised by a chapter during the year. \$7500 was presented at the AGM at Wairakei.

Arrangements are well in hand for the 2nd Annual Dinner and Auction to be held at Solway Park Hotel Masterton, Friday 16 September 1988 at 7pm. There will be 14 international visitors from D.U. America, Canada & Mexico present at this evening.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Glenn Hansen, R.D.5 Eketahuna immediately for tickets. \$30 each. Auction items will be needed to make this evening a success.

On 5/10 October 1988 Sunday at 11am there will be a Simulated Field Shoot at the Eketahuna Gun Club grounds. There will be a Chapter Challenge Trophy up for competition. Why not get together a six man team. The Acclimatisation Society, SOS Savage Memorial trophy will also be shot for on that day. BYO lunch.

#### AUCKLAND

Several keen members have offered their assistance to re-ignite interest in the Auckland Chapter. As yet nothing has been finalized, but Auckland members can look forward to increased activity this year including an annual auction/dinner and other fund raising projects. D.U. will be participating in the Auckland Acclimatisation Society Game Fair being held in February 1989.

#### HAMILTON

Plans to hold a Simulated Field Shoot and other projects throughout the coming year are being made. More details as they come to hand.

#### WELLINGTON

A Field Shoot has been confirmed for 30 April 1989 and the successful annual dinner auction will also be a feature.

#### MANAWATU

A new Chapter has been formed. Andy Tannock and Don Pescini have already planned their first fundraising activity. A Game Dinner/Auction will be held on 8th October 1988. For further details contact Andy Tannock (065) 86-961.

#### NEW CHAPTERS

Are planned in Whakatane, Hawkes Bay and Dunedin. Hopefully in the next issue of "Flight" further details will be available for members in these areas.

#### CHAPTER FUND RAISING

During last year chapters raised almost \$17,000.00 as follows:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| EKETAHUNA —               | \$7,500   |
| WELLINGTON —              | \$6,000   |
| CENTRAL NTH IS. CHAPTER — | \$2,000 (D.U. Annual Clay Target Championships) |
| HAMILTON —                | \$1,550   |

### Generous Grant

Ducks Unlimited is delighted to announce that we have received a cheque for \$2,000 from the Marge & Gordon Allen Trust. The

money is to be spent at the Sinclair Wetlands. We would like to thank the Trust for their generosity.

## New Life Members

The list of DU Life members continues to grow at an impressive rate. Neil Hayes, Dulcie Barnett, Hazard Campbell, President of DU (USA) have recently become Life members.

## Memberships

We had an excellent response to renewal subscriptions, with close to a 70% strike rate from the first notice. A reminder notice is in the process of being sent out to those who have not yet renewed, and thanks to Brendan Coe and Lithographic Services Ltd., the notice is in full colour and lists some of DU's important achievements to date.

Horrie Sinclair tells us that he now has 240 members recruited.

It is also pleasing to record that the Auckland Acclimatisation Society has become a DU member which makes a total of 11 Acclimatisation Societies as financial members.

## Sinclair Wetlands Management Plan

Copies of the Management Plan are now available from Box 44-176, Lower Hutt, for \$20 per copy, inc GST & Post. The plan is by far the most comprehensive plan of its type produced in NZ and a copy is a must for the library of all who are interested in wetlands management.

## Guide to Wetlands Management in NZ

This booklet was discussed in the last issue of 'Flight' and in late July the first meeting of the supervisory committee was held at the Dept of Conservation Head Office in Wellington. The author, Robert Buxton of the Waikato Catchment Board, is making good progress and hopes to have the initial draft done by early November. The booklet will cover:

- Value of Wetlands
- Habitat requirements for wildlife, plants & fisheries
- Management guidelines
- Access, obligations, opportunities
- References — National conservation groups

## OPERATION PATEKE

Not quite a record season, but certainly impressive and it brings the total reared by members since 1976 to 1042.

1988 Brown Teal release programme  
Grant Dumbell and Neil Hayes travelled to Northland with a ute load of brown teal on the 29th July, 39 of which were released at the Mimiwhangata Farm Park in the morning of the 30th July. The release was ably assisted by the Park Ranger, Chris Smuts-Kennedy, and by Chris Bone who is a prominent Greenpeace member. Chris Bone has recently purchased a farm near Mimiwhangata and is keen to create brown teal habitat. On the afternoon of the 30th Grant and Neil travelled further North to Teapukapuka Island, off Russell, to release a further 6 birds onto recently created habitat.

## 1987-88 REARING RESULTS

The total number of Brown Teal reared by members for the past season 130.

| Successful breeders were as follows: |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Charlie Money, Dargaville            | 20 |
| Otorohanga Zoo                       | 4  |
| Wilf Wright, Waikanae                | 11 |
| Ann Graeme, Tauranga                 | 5  |
| Bill Clinton-Baker, Masterton        | 3  |
| Heritage Park, Auckland              | 7  |
| Wellington Zoo                       | 11 |
| Masterton Intermediate School        | 8  |
| Murray Dench, Hamilton               | 1  |
| Roy Dench, Ohaupo                    | 7  |
| Clayton Putt, Otorohanga             | 11 |
| Neil Hayes, Wainuiomata              | 3  |
| Mary Atkinson, Hamner Springs        | 3  |
| Jim Glover, Pauatahanui              | 4  |
| Hilldale Zoo, Hamilton               | 5  |
| National Wildlife Centre             | 16 |
| Ron Munro, Invercargill              | 2  |
| Glenys Hansen                        |    |

Since 1984 the following numbers of brown teal have been released in Northland.

| DATE     | WHERE            | NUMBER     |
|----------|------------------|------------|
| 4.8.84   | MATAPOURI        | 54         |
|          | MIMIWHANGATA     | 42         |
| 9.4.85   | MATAPOURI        | 30         |
| 22.6.85  | TAKOU BAY        | 45         |
| 9.11.85  | MOTOROA ISLAND   | 6          |
| 26.7.86  | MIMIWHANGATA     | 90         |
| 8.8.86   | KEAO             | 21         |
| 26.9.87  | MIMIWHANGATA     | 45         |
| 8.10.87  | MIMIWHANGATA     | 11         |
| 28.10.87 | TIRITIRI MATANGI | 6          |
| 30.7.88  | MIMIWHANGATA     | 39         |
| 30.7.88  | URUPUKAPUKA      | 6          |
|          | <b>Total</b>     | <b>395</b> |

To celebrate the start of Conservation Week the Department of Conservation had arranged for Fullers Travel to ferry people from the mainland to Urupukapuka to witness the release of one of the world's rarest species of waterfowl — and to plant trees around the wetland. Over 100 people turned up for the event.

Prior to the planting of trees, and the release of the birds, speeches were made by a number of people involved in the project — the Department of Conservation, Rotary, DU and the Whangarei Forest & Bird Society. Rotary had financed the wetland creation and fencing and the project is a credit to all involved.

Of course, islands can be an invaluable tool in the recovery programme for rare wildfowl, and will, we feel, play an important part in our brown teal programme. We only have to look at the release of brown teal onto Kapiti Island over 20 years ago to see how important islands are — ten birds were released on Kapiti in 1968 and today a small population is still surviving.

To date in operation Pateke brown teal have been released on Motoroa Island, Tiritiri Matangi Island and now on Urupukapuka.

In late October further releases are planned for Northland.

## Operation Whio

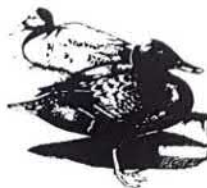
The latest news from the Wildfowl Trust in the UK is that they successfully reared the

Blue Duck at the Trust's Arundel centre. The bird was reared artificially and the parent bird given a clutch of mallard eggs. 8 mallards hatched successfully and all were reared.

As a result of the Blue Duck Seminar held in late April DU will play a far more important role in the Blue Duck Recovery Programme. As soon as the recovery programme is finalised we hope to print sections of it in 'Flight'.

## Operation Royal Swan

The Mute Swan recovery programme continues to go well and project supervisor, Jim Glover, reports that a list of members wishing to join the project has been compiled. But if you feel you have a suitable area for Mute's please write to Jim, c/- P.O. Box 44-176 Lower Hutt.



Cont. from Pg. 7

It is also the last unmodified trout river in the Wanganui River catchment. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has named it as being one of nine nationally important angling rivers in the North Island, being highly valued for brown and rainbow trout. The river also supports 11 species of indigenous fish (the greatest number of any Wanganui tributary), of which one species is regarded as being rare.

Historically, the river valley is important as a major area of early Maori habitation. Both the river and the valley were used extensively as a route into the central North Island by Maori and European settlers.

Although the conservation order was not applied for on the basis of the river's outstanding scenic values, these were considered as well. The late Department of Lands and Survey considered that the river and its surrounds comprise a landscape of outstanding scenic quality. Eggar and Eggar, in the 1981 Recreational River Survey, rate the river's scenery as "dramatic and impressive".

This survey also rated the *Manganui-o-te-ao* as one of nine New Zealand rivers of "utmost importance" and requiring protection for its recreational value.

In the NWASCA considerations, the river was called the

*Manganuiotao* because that was the decision handed down by the New Zealand Geographic Board when it considered the correct spelling of the river a couple of years ago. According to the Board's staff, the main consideration was whether the letter before the "i" should be an "a" or an "o". It was decided by the two representatives of the Maori people on the Board that it should be an "o". The use of hyphens in the name was decided against for cartographic reasons — hyphenated place names are not welcome on maps.

The name means, literally, "the big tributary coming from the clouds", which describes how it may be viewed from the Wanganui Valley, the clouds being those surrounding the central volcanic. Other meanings given to the name include "great river of the world" (Reed 1961) and "great and powerful waters of Rongomai" (Voelkerling 1980).

Whatever the river's name is, and whatever it means, a national conservation order process is in train for the water body and, with future users faced with resultant restrictions on the use of the river's water, one can foresee rich pickings for the legal eagles if the name stays in limbo.

Perhaps we could solve the problem by calling it Stretch of Water No 355510, which is the designated number given it by NWASCA. It may not be as lyrical or attractive as *Manganui-o-te-ao* but it's easy to remember (4x3 one oh) and it's definitive. After all, who cares about lyrical and attractive place names...?

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