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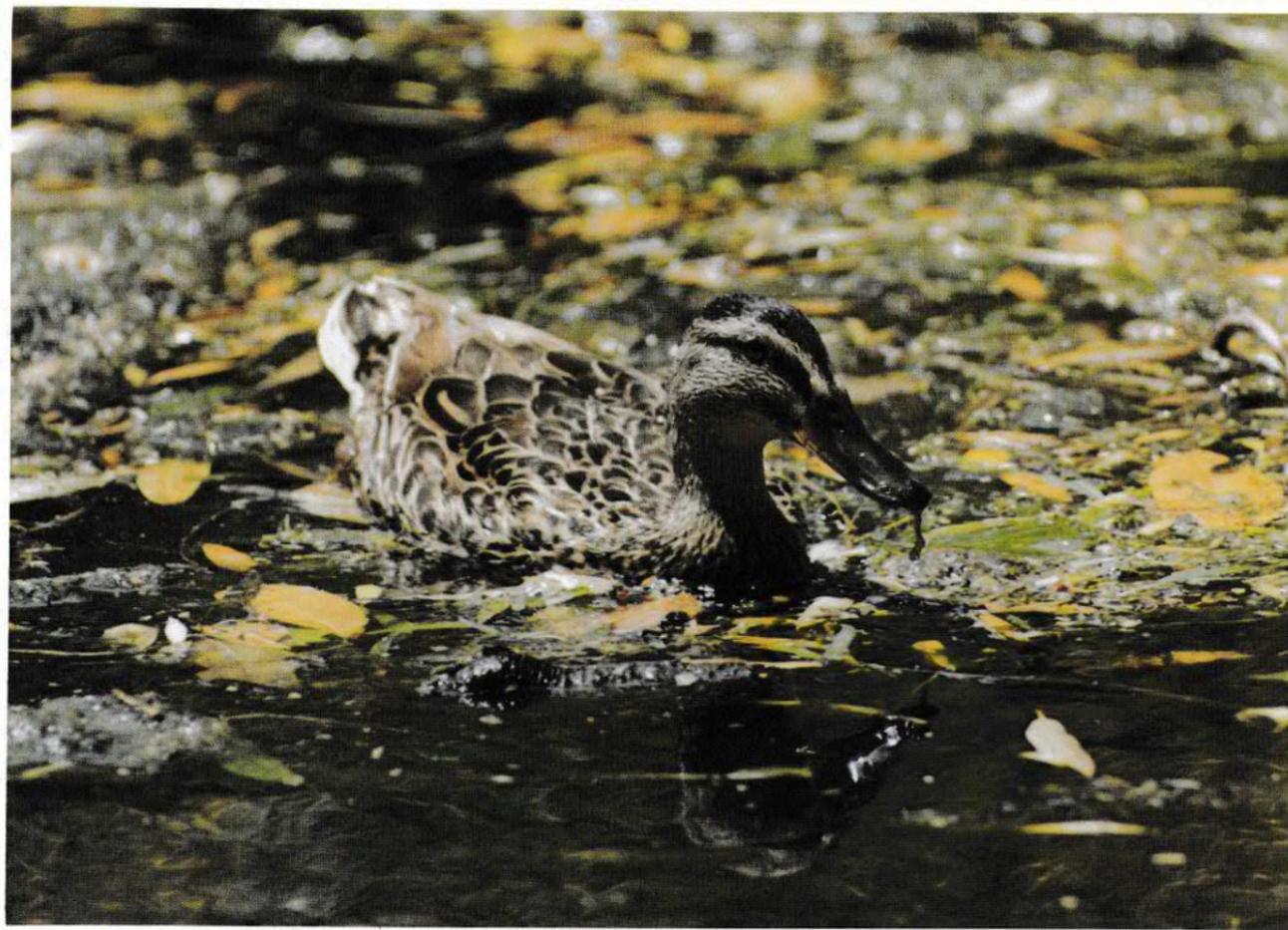
Flight

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NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL

\$4.50



Mallard hen. Photo: Glenys Hansen



WINCHESTER®

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— FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS —

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Presidents Report

In spite of the country going through an incredibly bleak period, DU has continued to enhance its position as New Zealand's major waterfowl and wetlands conservation group.

The successes during the past year are a tribute to our membership, to our six chapters and to the DU Board of Directors. Externally the Department of Conservation has financially assisted with the Brown Teal programme and with the Blue Duck captive breeding programme. Ducks Unlimited in the USA and in Canada once again assisted with our fund raising efforts, with an impressive supply of auction items. Sponsorship from British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation programme in getting Grant Dumbell to the UK for the founding of Wetland Link International was very gratefully received; as was a 300 pound contribution from the British Council, in Wellington, to assist with Grant's travel costs whilst he was in the UK.

Other major highlights during the past year have been;

- * The production of four top quality issues of FLIGHT, with some excellent articles/illustrations. It's great to see people wanting to publish articles in FLIGHT. Again we owe much to Brendan Coe and his company, Lithographic Services, for magnificent support in the production of FLIGHT. We are also indebted to those companies who have continued to advertise in FLIGHT and who have done so for many years - particularly Winchester New Zealand, Reloaders Supplies and Rod & Rifle magazine.
- * The PATEKE, WHIO, GRETEL, BRANTA and ROYAL SWAN projects all had an excellent year, with well over 100 brown teal being reared, 10 blue duck being reared and over 30 mute swans being reared. Grey Teal and Canada's have seen further population increases, and thanks to Ducks Unlimited, Canada geese now feature on the

game licences of most North Island Fish & Game areas, but it is unfortunate that we do not receive more financial support from the country's 50,000 waterfowl hunters.

* On the financial side we made further inroads towards eliminating the Pearce Wetlands mortgage. Fund raising for the Pearce Wetlands continues to go well and I hope to see further progress in this area during the current period. Our chapters again performed miracles in raising a fraction under \$30,000 during the year. One major move we hope to see in the short term is some of the chapter money going directly into habitat in the areas in which the money was raised.

* Whilst membership growth has not seen the increase we all dream about, numbers have increased steadily during the year and I would like to thank all who have helped with the membership competition. All we need is a membership figure of around 2,500 to cover all our administration costs - including FLIGHT. Please see what you can do to help achieve this figure.

* One of the main reasons for DU's continued success is the fulltime employment of Grant Dumbell. Grant has placed DU New Zealand on a very professional footing and his expertise and enthusiasm is well recognised both here and overseas. Grant married our secretary Marie early this year and I know you will all wish them well and I hope they will enjoy working together on DU affairs. Grant is currently taking a serious look at our Constitution. The aim of this review is to ensure that DU is able to continue to expand in all directions, maintain clearly defined management roles, provide chapters with a sound management base, provide a wider range of membership options, and so on. Our two lawyers on the DU Board are assisting with this review.

* The national raffle was again a highlight and this year's raffle should again be a winner - with a quite superb original painting of a pair of grey teal by Lex Hedley being the first prize. Lex exhibited some of his outstanding work at the 1989 annual conference. He is at present in British Columbia for a couple of years and has rapidly become one of BC's prominent artists.

* During the year we were able to contribute further funds towards scaup and brown teal research and in a practical manner we have been assisting Massey University's grey duck research with a supply of captive reared grey ducks. This year we are assisting research on Canada geese, blue duck and brown teal.

A major occurrence during the past year was the establishment of a new administration to manage Freshwater fisheries and gamebirds. Twelve Fish & Game Councils were established to replace the 24 acclimatisation societies. A national Fish & Game Council was also established. During the past year, transitional fish and game councils have done an outstanding job of establishing the new structure on a very sound base. The next period looks certain to see some changes on the DU Board of Directors and I would like to thank all Directors for their support and wish newcomers to the Board a long and pleasant involvement. I would also like to thank our Patron, Lady Isaac, for her enthusiastic support for what DU is attempting to achieve and for her continued support for the ROYAL SWAN project. Thanks also to all project participants and all DU members for helping DU achieve its objectives. Due to health reasons I will be standing down as DU President, but will continue on the Board of Directors. Jim Campbell has generously offered to fill the gap for the remaining year of my term and David Rice has been appointed Vice President.

Neil Hayes PRESIDENT

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Cover Photo: The 1991 Du Artprint.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated is a private, charitable, non-profit conservation organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration, creation and maintenance of wetland habitat in New Zealand, the propagation and conservation of the country's rare waterfowl, and the advocacy of wetlands as a valuable natural resource. This is achieved through six projects each with specific aims. These are: "Operation Pateke", the reduction of the threatened status of the New Zealand brown teal through the release of captive bred birds and wise habitat management; "Operation Gretel", to increase the number of grey teal in New Zealand through the provision of suitable nesting habitat; "Operation Whio", the conservation of blue duck through the release of captive bred birds to expand the species range; "Operation Branta", to establish the Canada goose in the North Island as a valuable recreational resource; "Operation Royal Swan", the conservation of Mute Swan through the establishment of a captive breeding population; and "Operation Wetlands", to preserve, create and manage wetland areas through direct funding, technical assistance and public education of wetland values. The scientific study of wetlands and waterfowl is also encouraged through direct funding.

The organisation was founded in May 1974 by a group of concerned conservationists and incorporated by them in June 1975 at Wellington, New Zealand. Membership, in four categories, is open to anyone who supports the organisation's objectives. Junior membership is \$11.00 per annum. Full membership is \$30 per annum. Trade membership is \$45 per annum. Sponsor membership is a minimum of \$60 per annum and Life membership is \$600.00. Membership carries a subscription to "Flight", the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited which currently reaches 2000 members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. Letter, manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. To assure prompt delivery, members should send subscription renewals and changes of address to National Headquarters at PO Box 44-176, Lower Hutt. Any views expressed by contributors in "Flight" are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated.

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When going to "Pot" makes good sense

BY ALAN FIELDING

Manawatu Chapter

Much has been said recently about environmentally acceptable and unacceptable methods of effluent disposal, particularly in relation to the Wellington experience.

It is amazing to read of claims of "environmentally acceptable" disposal of effluent in the ocean - claimed "acceptable" presumably because the effluent is thoroughly treated and screened before discharge. Such extravagant claims lose sight of the nutrient aspect of these systems. The question needs to be asked: "Why are we prepared to feed the ocean with precious growth nutrients, most of which were of land origin?" Can this possibly be "environmentally acceptable?" It might be to the short-sighted, but examining it on a long-

term basis and on a biospheric one at that, it certainly isn't an intelligent, acceptable answer.

It seems to me more than a little ironic that while the capital city argues, a little town not 1½ hours away has got on and very successfully solved the sewage problem.

The Levin disposal system is a safe and proper solution to an environmental problem facing every community - a solution that is the result of nearly 10 years investigation into five alternative methods of disposal.

The 4 year old Levin scheme costing \$3.2 million is the largest land disposal scheme in the country and is one of few such schemes in New Zealand using effluent irrigation in pasture establishment and afforestation.

Levin Borough effluent was formerly discharged into Lake Horowhenua, where despite excellent treatment, the nutrient

addition, in particular of nitrogen and phosphorus, produced grossly accelerated eutrophication with predictable side effects on all other users.

Lake Horowhenua is a shallow structure typically 1.35m deep, an ancient dune lake of aeolian origins, nearly 2 sq kms in area with a catchment area from agricultural lands, wetlands and the Borough of Levin. The lake's outlet to the sea is via the Hokio Stream through Hokio Beach.

Apart from the earlier effluent disposal use, other uses of this lake include boating, fishing, waterfowl refuge, sea cadet training, passive recreation and landscape diversity.

Today Levin's sewage treatment plant, upgraded in 1966, provides a 3 stage high quality treatment for the town's effluent which is then pumped at an average rate of about 6.2 million litres a day to the effluent disposal area in duneland 7 km away. About 15% of this volume is of non-



A wetland in the 'Pot' area - many waterfowl frequent these small Wetlands.

domestic origin. Within the disposal area is a natural depression popularly called "The Pot". With no overland drainage, it is an ideal site for effluent storage prior to irrigation. The "Pot" is 7 ha in area, up to 8m in depth and holds approximately 425 million litres.

From the "Pot" the effluent is pumped to the irrigation systems in the surrounding area where final disposal takes place onto the land. This irrigated area covers 50 ha and can receive the equivalent of 100 mm of rain per week delivered through 42 km of pipes and 2500 sprinklers. Most of the irrigated area has been stabilised with grasses, the growth rate of which can only be described as astonishing. Following this initial stabilisation process, *Pinus radiata* has been planted and is expected to perform extremely well with the water and nutrient application.

It is only at this point that this unconventional system becomes limited in its application. *Pinus* species and in particular *Pinus radiata* are of course well known and well proven timber trees from a landscape and market-place point of view - rather too much so! Many other timber species, both indigenous and exotic are suitable for growing on dunes under these conditions. Hopefully some further thought will be given to the choice of trees for future plantings - thought that might accommodate a more sound economic investment and greater visual variety as well.

Application of effluent to soil not only produces growth of crops but also has the advantage of soil organisms providing further treatment of the effluent. Eventually, when this effluent reaches the ground water and flows into an open water-course it is virtually clean water.

The idea of land application of effluent is not really a new one but perhaps simply a rediscovery by the engineering world during the last 10 years or so. Europe has had several systems in operation for over a century, in South East England for about two centuries, in the Far East for

The JIM CAMPBELL Decoy Carving Trophy

This trophy will be competed for annually by carvers from around New Zealand. The competition will be judged and the trophy awarded at the Annual Conference.

Get your entry in for the 1991 inaugural competition

1991 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Tokaanu Hotel (formerly T.H.C. Tokaanu)

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July 1991.

I/We will be attending the 1991 Annual Conference

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

My/Our pre-registration fee of \$50.00 is enclosed

I/We will require accommodation for the nights of _____

Number in party _____

Number in room required _____

My/Our deposit for accommodation of \$80 per room is enclosed.

Please charge my Visa/Bankcard/AmEx/Diners

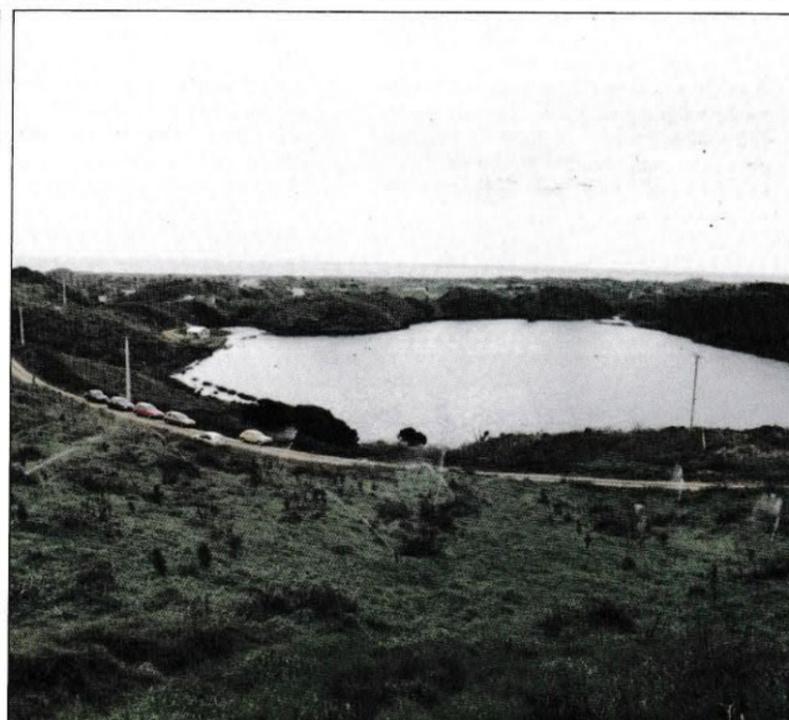
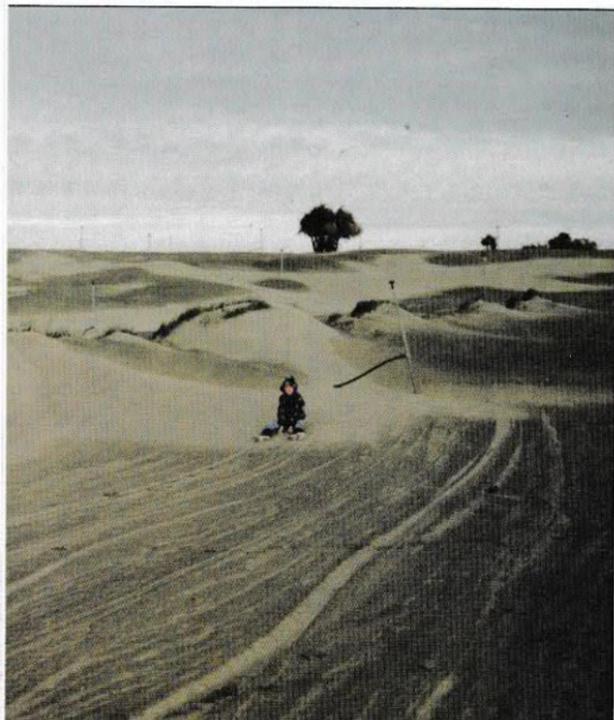
Number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please return this form, with your \$50 pre-registration fee and \$80 accommodation deposit (if required) to:

Diane Pritt, c/- P.O. Box 44-176, Lower Hutt
Phone (0658) 58-016



Unstable sand country actively eroding before being seeded and then irrigated with effluent - and the result. The 'Pot' - heart of the Levin Borough effluent disposal scheme. Note the luxuriant vegetation and some of the 2500 sprinklers in action.

Report

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC

We have audited the financial statements comprising the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Income and Expenditure Account, together with the Notes thereto, in accordance with accepted auditing standards and have carried out such procedures as we consider necessary.

In common with other organisations of a similar nature, control over the income prior to it being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

In our opinion, the financial statements give, subject to the possible effect of the limited control over the income referred to in the preceding paragraph, a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 1991 and the result of its activities for the year ended on that date.

EASTWOOD AND PARTNERS
Chartered Accountants
Bannister Street
MASTERTON

30 April 1991

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Accounting Policies

The general accounting policies recognised as appropriate in the preparation of these financial statements are:
The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.
Revenue earned and expenses incurred are matched using cash accounting.

Reliance has been placed on the assumption that the Society is a going concern.

Particular Accounting Policies

The following are the particular accounting policies which have a material effect on the measurement of results and financial position and are unchanged from last year.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is written off on a straight line basis over the estimated economic lives of these assets. The estimated economic lives are:

Buildings	50 years
Equipment and machinery	5 years
Furniture and fittings	5 years

STOCKS

Stock has been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value on a FIFO basis.

Stock purchased for Operations is expensed when purchased.

2. FIXED ASSETS

	Cost or Valuation \$	Accumulated Depreciation \$	1991 Net Book Value \$	1990 Net Book Value \$
SINCLAIR WETLANDS				
- Land	73000	-	73000	73000
- Buildings	23395	18532	21486	21953
- Furs, & Fittgs.	8788	4907	3881	5088
- Equip. & Mach.	2503	1220	1283	1783
PEARCE WETLANDS				
	110000	-	110000	110000
	427686	24659	403027	409404

The land has been valued in accordance with a Government Valuation dated 1 July 1986.

Report

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 1991

	1991 \$	1990 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Westpac	-	1161
Accounts Receivable	3423	703
Payments in Advance	1500	-
Inventories	8753	9799
GST Recoverable	3034	2788
Investment	-	7957
	16711	22408
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank - Westpac	5923	-
Term Loan Westpac (secured)	5000	10000
- Sinclair Wetlands	5000	13000
- Pearce Wetlands	3148	-
Rural Bank - Pearce Wetlands 1st Mortgage	53742	62000
Accrued expenses	1667	-
	72813	86667
WORKING CAPITAL (DEFICIT)	(56102)	(64259)
FIXED ASSETS see schedule	403027	409404
NET ASSETS	346925	345145
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Balance 1 April 1990	272145	269337
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1780	2808
	273925	272145
Balance 31 March 1991	273925	272145
Revaluation Reserve	73000	73000
	346925	345145

Treasurer.....
9/4/91
President.....

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT SINCLAIR WETLANDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991

	1990	1989
INCOME		
Grazing	5005	3272
Sundry Donations	2160	1671
TOTAL INCOME	7165	4943
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Managers Allowance	5000	5000
Rates	1876	1952
Telephone	552	619
Electricity	124	122
Bird Food	1519	160
Travel Expenses - meetings	1551	984
K/M Buildings, plant & Machinery	4389	361
Weed & Pest control	56	2260
Fertiliser	1671	794
Insurance	891	-
Publicity & Advertising	2025	2693
Drainage	-	154
Professional Services	-	730
Sundry	22	593
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	19676	16422
Interest on Term Loan - Westpac	1094	2171
DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE		
Display Ponds, fencing, trees	2601	11815
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	23371	30408
TOTAL EXPENDITURE/INCOME (Deficit)	(16206)	(25465)

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991

	1991 \$	1990 \$
INCOME		
Subscriptions - Life	5822	4933
- Full	19346	18698
- Junior	346	295
- Trade	800	576
- Br. Sponsor	1600	1339
- Sil. Sponsor	333	-
- Gld. Sponsor	662	-
TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	28914	25841
Donations - A.G.M.	14610	16408
- Chapter	29500	42900
- Sincl. Wetlands	2160	1671
- Pearce Wetlands	8755	7395
- Sundry	3685	3153
TOTAL DONATIONS	58710	71527
PLUS OTHER INCOME		
Grazing - Sinclair Wetlands	5005	3272
Profit - National Raffle	5225	6354
Advertising 'Flight'	1954	1018
AGM Conference fees profit	1297	930
Profit - 'Royal Swan' project	388	690
Profit - Sales Trading A/c	6488	6911
Interest	782	2368
Research Contract	8000	-
	116763	118911

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991

	1991 \$	1990 \$
EXPENDITURE		
Administration:		
- Professional Ser. Audit	200	801
- Advertising & Publicity	1010	1696
- Bank fees & C/C Comm.	1116	1023
- Printing & Stationery	2336	1782
- 'Flight' production	15942	11729
- Tolls & postage	4492	3978
- Travel & Bd meetings	6817	5092
- Interest - P/W	8660	14660
- S/W	1094	2171
- sundry	620	1394
- Chapter setup cost	250	-
- Wetlands Trust	105	-
- Sponsorship	119	-
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	42761	44321
Projects:		
- Whio	808	273
- Gretef	312	70
- Pateke	2932	1968
- Wetlands	1399	3870
- Sinclair Wetlands		
- Op. Exp.	19676	16422
- Development	2601	11815
- Pearce Wetlands		
- Op. Exp.	4638	844
- Study Grants	1140	750
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	33506	36012
Research - G Dumbell	30000	27500
General:		
- Freight & Duty	807	1452
- International Visitors	198	-
- Ornithological Conference	784	-
Depreciation	6927	6818
TOTAL EXPENSES	114983	116103
Excess Income/Expenditure	1780	2808

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC SALES ITEMS TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 1991

	1991 \$	1990 \$
Stock on Hand 1/4/90	9799	6583
Purchases	5472	11276
Sales	13006	14971
Stock on Hand	8753	9799
PROFIT FOR YEAR	6488	6911

FIXED ASSETS SCHEDULE AND DEPRECIATION 31 MARCH 1991

	Cost or Valuation Book Value 1/4/90	Purchases	Depreciation	Amount	Book value 31/3/91
Sinclair Wetlands					
- Land	73000	-	-	73000	73000
- Buildings (1988)	21953	-	over 50 years	4670	21486
- Furs & Fittgs (1988)	4503	-	over 5 years	1501	3002
- Figs & Mach (1987)	222	-	over 5 years	210	112
- Furs & Fittgs (1990)	585	-	over 5 years	146	439
- Equip & Mach (1990)	1561	-	over 5 years	390	1171
Furs & Fittgs (1991)	-	550	over 5 years	110	440
Pearce Wetlands					
	110000	-	-	-	110000
	409404	550	6927	403027	

DUCKS UNLIMITED CLAY TARGET CHAMPIONSHIP 1991

Sunday 14th July 1991 (start 9am)
(the day after DU AGM)

Hosted by Taupo Gun Club

- * 25 targets Skeet
- * 20 targets Points Score
- * 20 targets Single Barrel
- * 10 pair Double Rise
- * 15 targets Sparrows
- * 25 targets Single Rise

Entry: \$79.00 includes compulsory \$2.00 sweep per event + \$2.00 compulsory High Gun. Paid out \$1.00 to event HOA, \$1.00 to shooters grade 50%, 35%, 15%.

Shootoffs: Only for HOA or First in Grade - other tied share sweeps one metre rearward movement per break until 22 metres then first miss basis.

Medals to: Event HOA plus first in each A, B & C grades - Sash to Championship High Gun over all events.

THE PEARCE WETLANDS

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S WAIRARAPA WILDERNESS

During 1988, Ducks Unlimited purchased the Pearce Wetlands, a 309 acre piece of the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa, and one of the last areas of shoreline still in private ownership. We made this bold move once it became apparent that the Department of Conservation, crippled by Government imposed funding cuts, could not take up their option on the property. In our ownership, the area's outstanding wetland values will be protected for the future, something that could not be guaranteed had someone else beaten us to it.

And outstanding its wetland values truly are! This area is used by a staggering array of birds, something which is hard to imagine when standing on its flat, soggy, landscape. Yet it is these very characteristics which make it the jewel in Lake Wairarapa's crown.

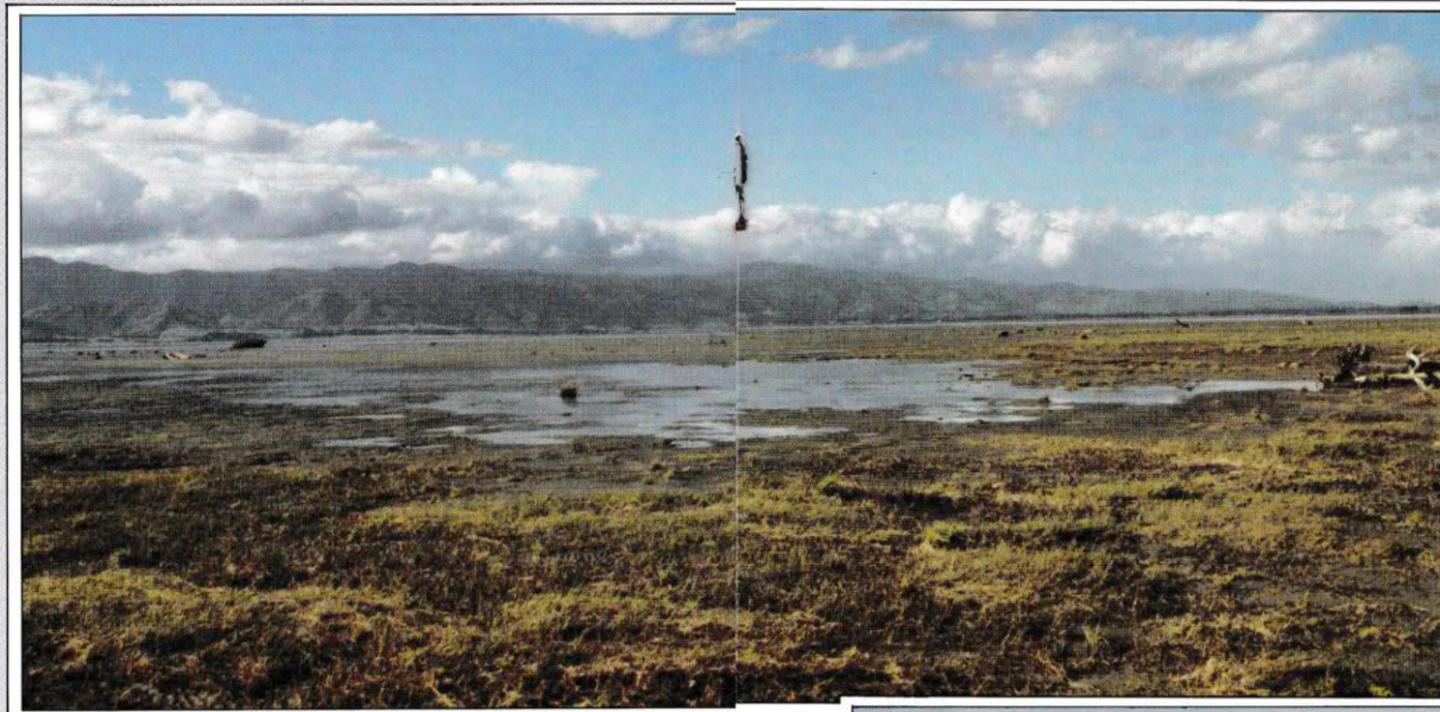
When the nor-westers blow the lake reclaims the area and floods it completely. When the weather is more settled, the waters recede and the flocks of ducks, geese, swans, stilts, herons, oystercatchers and dotterels move in to feed the shallow pools that remain.

Spring migrations bring waders with names like Yellowlegs, Greenshanks, and Sandpipers from Siberia and Alaska, while winter migrations may bring the Black Stilt, the world's rarest wader, from the braided riverbeds of Canterbury. The odd Australian visitor also appears, whether it be a Glossy Ibis or a Chestnut-breasted Shelduck.

In order to let the secret of the Pearce Wetlands out, Ducks Unlimited is now launching a Pearce Wetlands fundraising drive. Members who wish to contribute to this project can help by simply clipping the coupon and sending a donation. As with all Ducks Unlimited's fundraising, contributions are tax deductible and we will issue you with a receipt.

However, if you want to become more closely involved with the project, Ducks Unlimited is offering a strictly limited number of Foundation Sponsorships. Should you wish to have more information about this scheme, please send us the coupon below indicating your interest. We will mail you our in-depth brochure, "The Pearce Wetlands: An Introduction", which outlines, in more detail, the benefits of becoming a Pearce Wetlands Foundation Sponsor.

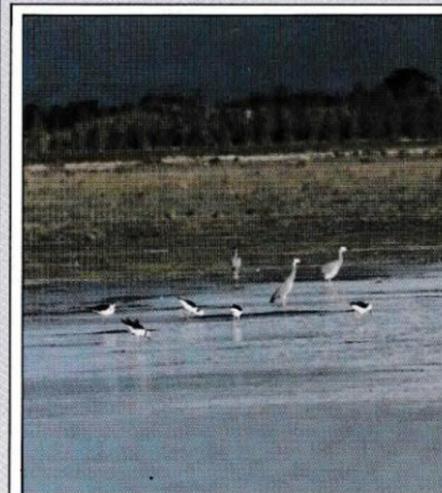
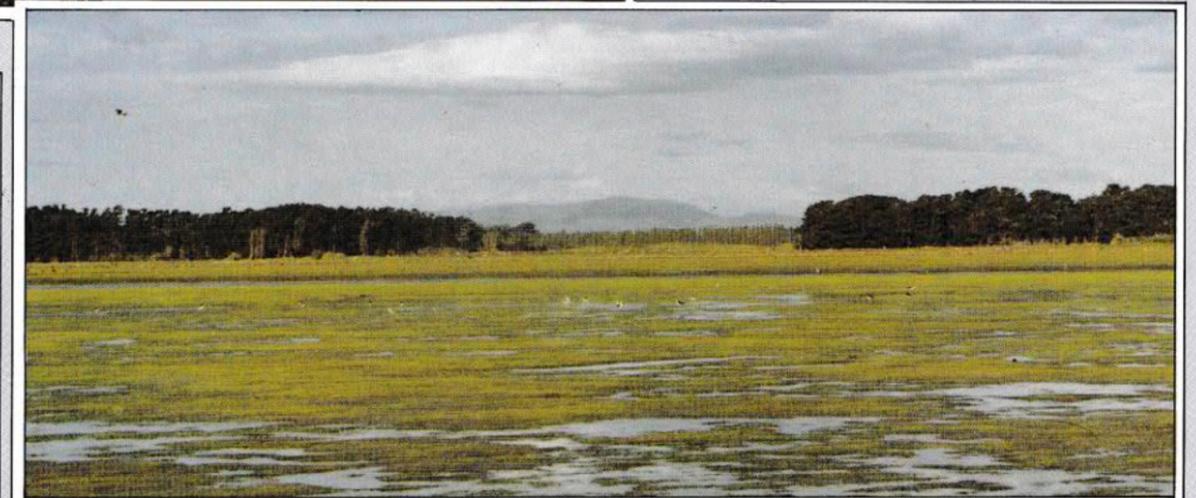
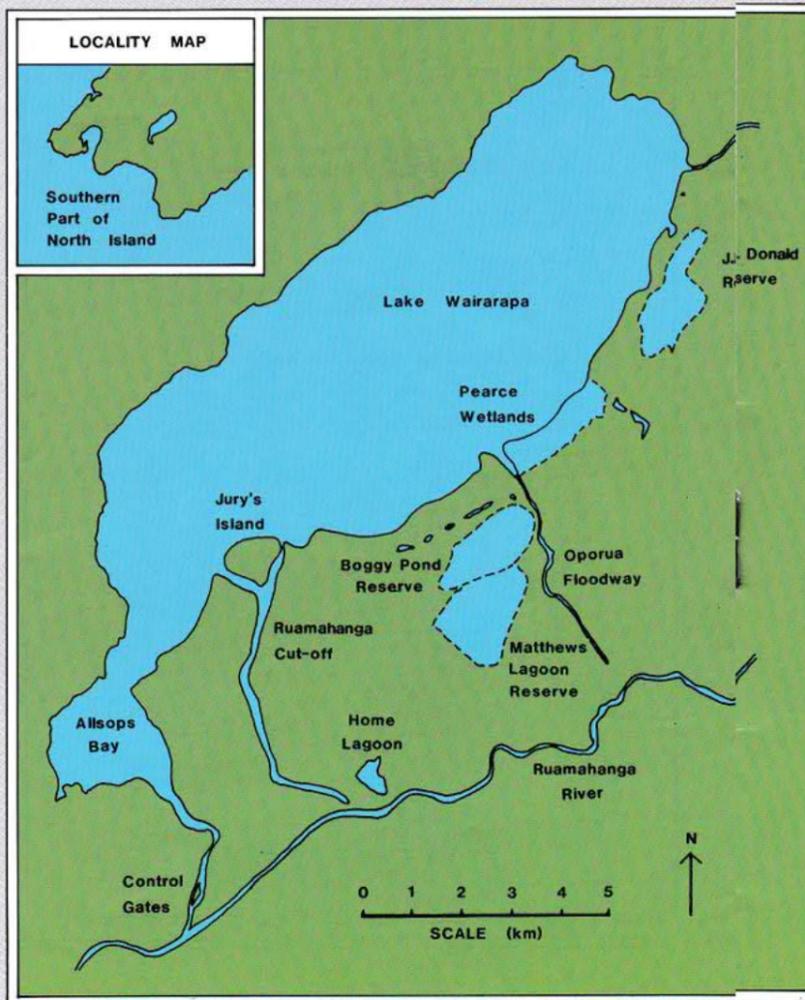
If you are "For Waterfowl and Wetlands", as we are, you will realise that this project is a significant undertaking for Ducks Unlimited. We hope you will support our continuing development by supporting the Pearce Wetlands.



Views of the Pearce Wetlands. A magnificent area for waterfowl and wading species.



A shoveler drake, a common species at the Pearce Wetlands.



Pied stilts and herons on the wetlands.

PEARCE WETLANDS FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Please send me more information on becoming a Pearce Wetlands Foundation Sponsor YES / NO

Please receipt my donation of \$ _____

My cheque is enclosed YES / No

Please charge my VISA / BANKCARD No. _____

Expires _____ Signature _____

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Wetlands link international

BY GRANT DUMBELL

INTRODUCTION

A long held objective of Sir Peter Scott's Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has been the establishment of an international umbrella group to act as a linking network for kindred wetland conservation organisations from around the world. After much planning, Wetland Link International is now a reality, and as a result of some substantial sponsorship from British Petroleum Plc, a formal launch for WLI was held at Slimbridge on Friday 15 February.

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand became involved in December last year when we were invited to become a founder member of WHO, and to have a representative at the inaugural meeting, which was held over two days prior to the official launch.

This in turn became possible when Rod Hall, a long standing friend of Ducks Unlimited made available sponsored air travel to Britain, as part of the British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation scheme. Further support was also arranged by Slimbridge, through the British Council, to cover our costs in Britain.

As a result, I left Auckland on February 9 and flew directly to London arriving at Heathrow as Britain was in the grip of one of its coldest winter snaps for several years. The timing of this cold snap couldn't have been better as it forced the migratory waterfowl to postpone their departure from Britain just long enough to keep Slimbridge brimming with birds for the official launch of WLI. It also meant the outside temperature varied between about -6 deg C or -8 deg C or 0 deg C, so many feeding areas were frozen

over, again forcing the birds into the haven of Slimbridge for a daily feed. By using an air bubbler on the bottom of the main "Swan Lake" just enough open water was retained for the several thousand ducks and several hundred swans in residence when I arrived at Slimbridge.

The two day working programme began on February 13 when all the invitees gathered at Slimbridge and met with the WLI co-ordinator Dr Jane Claricoates, and the meeting Chairperson, Doug Hulyer, the Director of Education for all the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust centres across Britain. Also present were Dr Mike Moser the Director of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, which is headquartered at Slimbridge, and Tim Jones from RAMSAR.

Together, the invitees represented wet-



Swan Lake at Slimbridge during my visit.

land conservation sites from the Hunter Valley in Australia, Chesapeake Bay in the U.S.A., Trinidad and Tobago, the famous Mai Po Marshes in Hong Kong, and from Brenne in France. Our representation included both the Sinclair Wetlands and the Pearce Wetlands so, apart from Africa, most of the world's major geographical areas were represented. From these founder members it is hoped to expand WLI into Singapore, Morocco, Pakistan and Italy in the short term, with further sites to be added when possible.

ROLE AND FUNCTION

The first objective of the meeting was to define the role of WLI to ensure that it did not duplicate the activities of existing organisations such as IWRB and RAMSAR. As a result, WLI will specialise in the expertise required for the development and running of wetland centres whether they be primarily for conservation, education, or research, an aim that was embodied in the organisation's mission statement. Therefore: "Wetland Link International is an independent, non-profit association dedicated to fostering professional excellence among wetland conservation and education centres and promoting worldwide awareness of wetland values".

Once WLI's role had been more clearly defined, the charter by which it would operate was then considered. Because of the international scope of the organisation a Secretariat has been established to provide for the day to day running of WLI. This will be headquartered at Slimbridge. An Executive Board has also been established to provide the necessary long term direction, and a three year planning cycle has been adopted. The first Executive Board is made up of the founder members of WLI whose immediate goal is to reshape the charter of WLI and have it adopted. Once this has been achieved the first triennium will begin, and it is envisaged that the Executive Board will meet once every 18 months. Funding for this first three years has been provided by BP.

Membership of WLI will be open to all organisations which run, or are planning to develop wetland centres, however, because of the non-profit nature of these organisations annual subscriptions will only be a token fee. The bulk of WLI's funding will have to come from international or corporate sponsorship. Profit-making and governmental organisations will also be able to hold membership of WLI, however, they will be restricted to associate membership and will not be eli-

gible to sit on the Executive Board. This will then preserve the charitable nature of WLI which will eventually be registered as a British charity.

PROJECTS

A list of short term objectives was the third priority of the meeting. If WLI is to effectively function as a network then it must have sufficient information about both its member organisations and their sites so that this can be shared with other organisations. As a result, a site/centre register is being established and all members will compile lists of their areas of expertise and organisational skills, along with a list of their needs for future centre development. This way WLI can easily match strengths and weaknesses and can provide help for any centre that wants it. Further information such as management and development plans, will also be deposited with WLI so that these are easily available to other organisations.

Several further projects were also adopted and were delegated to various members. This way specific information can be gathered, collated and made available on subjects such as community liaison and public relations, building design and visitor management, education and

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Feature Article

interpretation facilities, habitat management and aviculture, and fundraising. All of these are vital for the successful establishment and development of new and existing wetland centres wherever they may be, so having the information in one place will be very useful. These projects will be carried out over the initial establishment phase of WLI.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The guest list for the official launch of WLI numbered over 140 and included MP's, representatives from many conservation organisations, local bodies, and universities. British Petroleum was also represented by several senior executives. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State officially launched WLI and during his speech announced the listing of Britain's 46th Wetland of International Significance. This brings the U.K.'s total area of wetland preserved under the RAMSAR convention to well over 210,000 hectares which is a major commitment to wetland conservation when you realise that New Zealand has listed just five sites covering a total of less than 40,000 hectares, despite our far smaller population than Britain.

For the launch, each WLI founder member also erected a large display of their sites and after lunch a series of videos and talks were given about each site for the guests. A guided tour of Slimbridge was also conducted and the day finished with the regular feeding of the magnificent Whistler Swans on the thawing lake immediately in front of the observatory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This co-operation between Ducks Unlimited New Zealand and Wetland Link International will further raise our international profile and will give us access to much expertise that will be helpful in our own conservation programmes. Conversely, we can now make a more effective contribution to international conservation with the result that our efforts will be more widely known. This is especially important given that New Zealand is small and does not share migratory wildfowl with the rest of the world.

We are most grateful to Rod Hall, British Airways Assisting Nature Conservation, The British Council and The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust for making it possible for us to be involved in this exciting international wetland conservation development. Without their support, DUNZ would not have been represented at the launch of WLI.



D.U. News

NEW ADDRESS

Recently, the postal address for Ducks Unlimited was moved from Lower Hutt to Auckland. Notification of this change was on the membership renewals which were sent out in April. The new postal address for all correspondence is: Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc P O Box 9795 Newmarket AUCKLAND.

ANDY TANNOCK

D.U. Director, Andy Tannock, has recently been elected as a councillor on the Wellington regional Fish and Game Council. As a result, Andy has decided to step down from the D.U. Board and will not seek re-election as a member's representative at the A.G.M. in July.

The Board wishes to thank Andy for the valuable contribution he has made to Ducks Unlimited, both as a director and as the founding chairperson of the Manawatu Chapter. Under his direction, the chapter has developed into the success it is today. Andy's continued support of D.U. will be an asset and we wish him well for his new challenge.

AUCKLAND CHAPTER DINNER AUCTION

The annual Auckland Chapter Fundraising dinner was again held in late March at the Sorrento on One Tree Hill. A total of \$3,700 was raised, which took the total money raised by the chapter for the 1990/91 financial year to \$11,000.

The committee would like to thank all members and friends, who attended the evening, for their support. Special thanks are also extended to those people and businesses who again supported the evening by donating items for the auction.

TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND UPDATE

The Brown Teal released onto Tiritiri Matangi Island are continuing to breed well. This season, one of the original pairs released in 1987 produced three broods. In addition to this, birds have now been confirmed at four different locations on the island and successful breeding has been confirmed at three of them. One of these new breeding records involved an unbanded female which can only be a sec-



DU Director Chris Hooson's wetland in the Southern Wairarapa.

MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION

The winners in the quarterly "Flight" membership competition are

**G. B. Copp of Blenheim
and F. Rouse of Blenheim**

Both win copies of our book "Wetlands: Discovering New Zealand's Shy Places". To be in for the next draw simply fill out the attached coupon, or send us a copy, and both you and the new member you introduce will go into a draw to receive prizes from the D.U. Sales Dept. The more members you sign up, the more chances you have of winning. The draw for the September issue of Flight closes on 10th August.

Ducks Unlimited subscriptions are:

Life Members \$600

Gold Sponsors \$250 per yr

Silver Sponsors \$125 per yr

Bronze Sponsors \$60 per yr

Trade Members \$45 per yr

Contributor Members \$30 per yr

Junior Members (Under 16) \$11 per yr

Ducks Unlimited New Member Competition

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Address: _____

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DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 9.30 - Registration Desk opens
- Chapters Meeting
- 10.00 - Captive Waterfowl Breeding Workshop
- 11.00 - Tree Planting Workshop
- 12.30 - Buffet lunch (not included in registration price)
- 2.00 - Annual General Meeting opens
- Welcome from the chair
- Apologies
- Confirmation of 1990 A.G.M. Minutes
- 2.05 - President's Annual Report
- 2.10 - Financial Report for 1990/91
- Appointment of Auditors for 1991/92
- 2.15 - Election of four Directors from the floor
- Ratification of any other matters
- 2.20 - Executive Director's Annual Report
- 2.30 - Report on "Operation Wetlands"
- 2.35 - Sinclair Wetlands' Manager's Report
- 2.45 - Report on "Operation Paleke"
- Presentation of the Brown Teal Breeder of the Year Award
- 2.55 - Report on "Operation Who"
- Presentation of the Blue Duck Breeder of the Year Award
- 3.05 - Report on "Operation Royal Swan"
- Presentation of the Mute Swan Breeder of the Year Award
- 3.15 - Report on "Operation Grete"
- 3.20 - Report on "Operation Branta"
- 3.25 - Editorial Report
- 3.30 - PRESIDENT'S SHOUT
- 3.45 - Presentation of the Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc Artist of the Year Award
- 3.50 - Guest Address
- 4.05 - Guest Speaker - Mr Don Merton QSM
- 4.45 - Presentation of the Bill Barrett Trophy
- 4.50 - General Business
- 5.00 - Annual General Meeting Closes
- 7.00 - Annual Conference Dinner
- 8.45 - Annual Conference Fundraising Auction
- 10.00 - Refreshments

D.U. News

ond generation bird. The two releases of Brown Teal on Tiri have, therefore, been an outstanding success.

Thanks to Ray and Barbara Walters, the DOC rangers on the island, for their help and assistance in updating D.U. on the progress of these birds. A full article on Tiritiri Matangi Island is planned for a later edition of "Flight".

URUPUKAPUKA ISLAND UPDATE

After a long absence, four Brown Teal were recently reported from Urupukapuka Island in the Bay of Islands. Like Tiritiri Matangi Island, two releases of Brown Teal have been made on Urupukapuka Island, but as yet we have not seen the same level of success as on Tiri.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND UPDATE

During May, D.U. Executive Director Grant Dumbell, DOC Auckland Conservancy Advisory Scientist Dr Anne Stewart, and D.U. scientific Advisor Associate Professor John Craig visited Great Barrier Island to assess the status of Brown Teal on the island. Initial results indicate that there have been marked changes in both the number and distribution of birds on the island, and this will be the subject of a report yet to be submitted to DOC. Once this report is complete, a summary will be published in "Flight".

OPERATION WHIO

The Blue Duck Captive Breeding Group met in early May to assess the success of last year's breeding season. The final figure for the number of Blue Duck bred in 1990 was 10 birds, a 150% increase on the previous year's results. As DOC has recently removed two young female birds from the wild for the captive breeding programme, the number of paired birds in the programme this year will be at an all time high.

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Ducks Unlimited has just gained a new life member in Mr G. Henry from Wellington. Ducks Unlimited appreciates the support it receives from all its life members, both here and overseas, and a list of them appears in the front cover of "Flight". We have also recently re-established contact with one of our early life members, Mr Bob Eberhardt from California.

SPONSOR AND TRADE MEMBERS

Since the last copy of "Flight" we have received many Sponsor and Trade Memberships, which are gratefully acknowledged.

Gold Sponsor: Mr Brendan Coe
Mr David Smith

Silver Sponsor: Mr J. A. Tocker

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Ms Diane Pritt
Mr David Rice
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Olin Corporation NZ Ltd
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Staglands
Teletronics
Wanganui District Council

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions are now due and the first reminder was sent out to all members in early April. If you have not received a renewal form, due to a recent change of address, please forward your subscription to our Auckland postal address with notification of your new address.

GET WELL SOON

D.U. President Neil Hayes recently entered hospital for surgery. Ducks Unlimited wishes Neil all the best for a speedy return to fitness and we are sure that Neil and Sylvia's wetland in the Wairarapa, "Gretel Lagoons", will be an ideal setting for Neil's recovery.

D.U. INC AND D.U. CANADA CONVENTIONS

During May, D.U. Director David Rice represented D.U.N.Z. at the D.U. Inc convention held in San Deigo. Approximately 1300 people attended the convention, which was held over a four day period. Grant Dumbell and Marie McEntee will also represent D.U.N.Z. at the D.U. Canada Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia, later this month. Grant will also visit D.U. Canada headquarters in Winnipeg and will look at projects in both Calgary and new Brunswick. These visits serve to further develop our contacts with Ducks Unlimited in North America.

SPONSORSHIP FROM WANG EXPRESS

Ducks Unlimited has recently received valuable sponsorship from Wang Express in the form of computer supplies. These include both printer ribbons and fanfold paper which will help to reduce our overheads. Ducks Unlimited is very grateful to Mike Keown of Wang Express who arranged the sponsorship for us.

NATIONAL SALES ITEMS

BOOKS

Duckshooters: Sportsmen & Conservationists	20.00
Complete Book Australian Birds (Readers Digest)	85.00
Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World	14.50
Ducks, Ponds and People	14.50
New Zealand Birds	11.30
The Hawaiian Goose	25.50
Ponds and Lakes for Wildfowl	36.00
Wildfowl by Eric Hosking	50.00
Wetlands by Gordon Stephenson	15.00

STATIONERY

DU Ballpoint Pens Clic Bic - per box of 10	11.20
DU Maxipens - per box of 10	11.20
DU Maxipens - single	1.50
Janet Marshall Bird Cards - set of four	6.00
Ornithological Society Bird Cards - packs of 10	6.00
Waterfowl Writing Paper and Envelopes - set of 10	9.00
Waterfowl Note Paper and Envelopes - set of six	6.00
Postcards - Mute Swan/Brown Teal 10 pack	4.00

APPAREL

DU Hat - Blue/Grey (one size fits all)	25.00
DU Jersey - Red/Green/Blue (state size) ..	76.00
DU Polo Shirt - Dark Blue	40.00

BADGES

DU Decal	1.20
DU Cloth Shoulder Patch	9.60
DU Canada 50th Anniversary Badge	5.60
DU Duck Head Badge - Large Gold	6.75
DU Duck Head Badge - Small Gold/White & Green	5.60
DU Duck Head Stick Pin	5.60

GENERAL

Limited Edition Art Prints	
Blue Duck Art Print by Paul Martinson (Members Price)	85.00
Shoveler Art Print by Russell Jackson (Members Price)	85.00
Mallard Art Print by Janet Marshall - numbered & unsigned	49.50
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DU Duck Head Flag 62cm x 44cm	41.00
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DU Key Ring Nail Clippers	4.20
DU Letter Opener	4.20
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