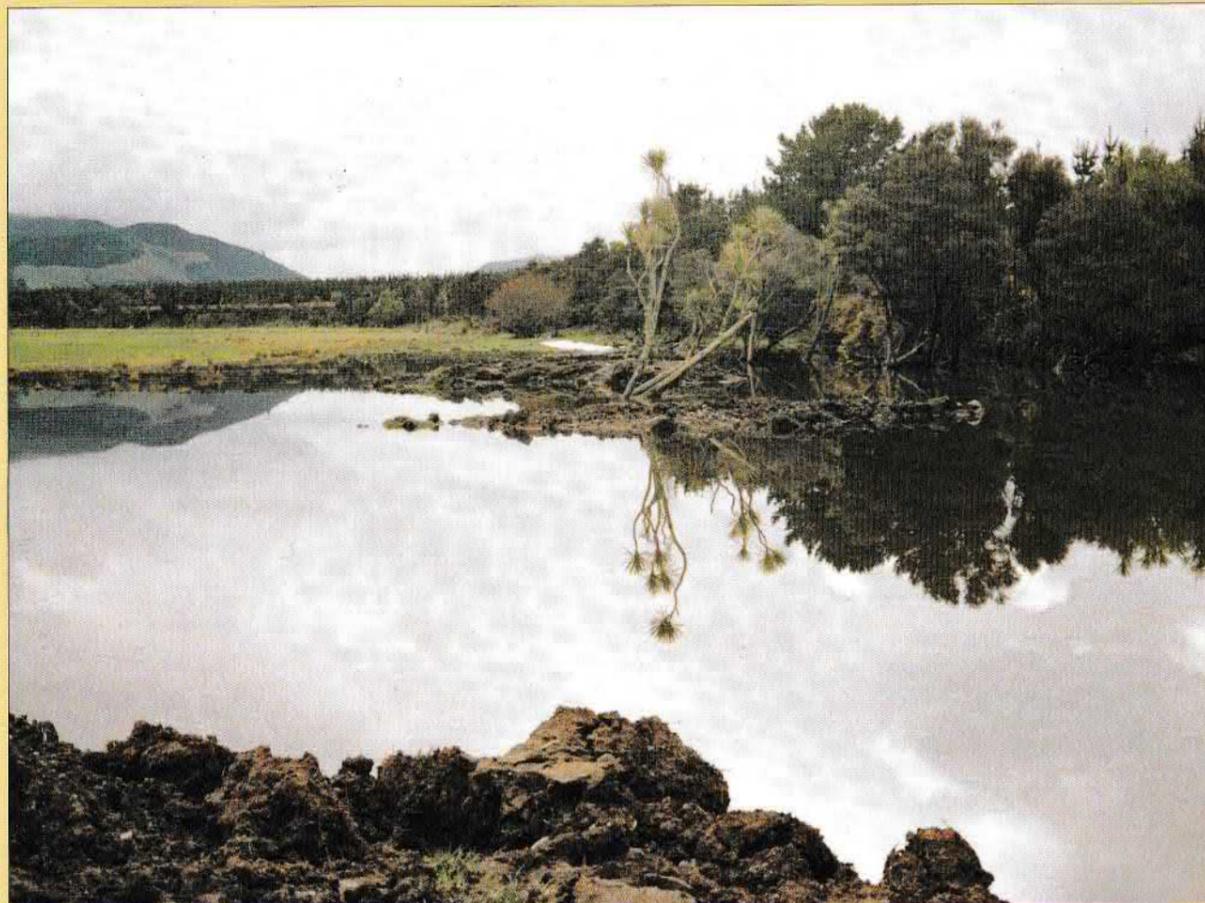


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SEPTEMBER 1994
ISSUE 81

FLIGHT



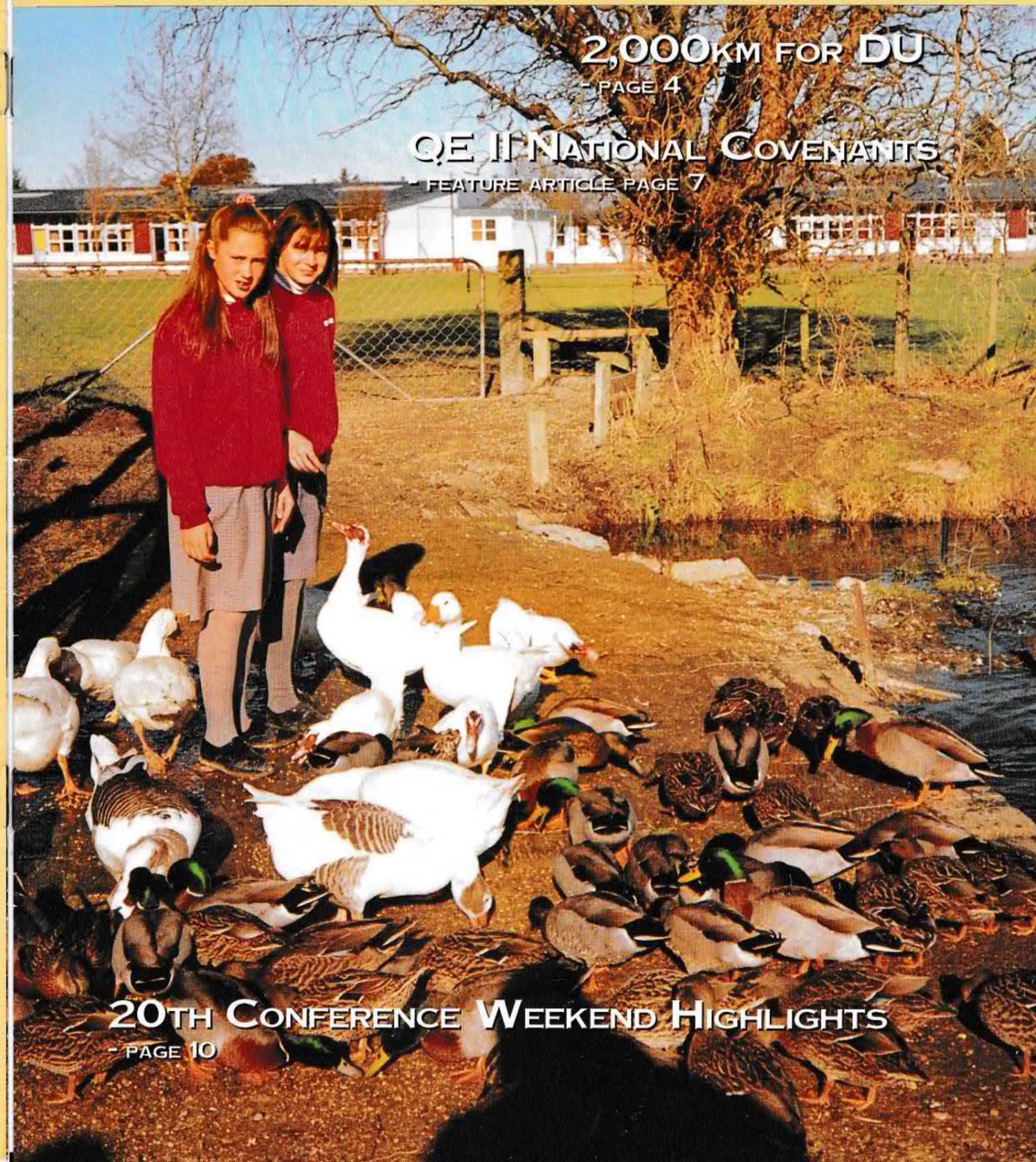
DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC. in association with Ducks Unlimited Canada, USA, Australia and Mexico

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DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.,

PO BOX 9795 AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary membership based society dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand wetlands through:

- wetland restoration and development
- breeding programmes for threatened waterfowl
- advocacy and education of wetland values

By these means we seek to ensure the ethical and sustainable use of wetland resources by all existing and future users.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-PATRONS: Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch, Norman Marsh, Reporoa

PRESIDENT: David Smith, LIB, Auckland (*"Whio" Supervisor - Blue Duck*) - Night 0-9-292 8873

CHAIRMAN: David Rice, LIB, Auckland (*"Gretel" Supervisor - Grey Teal*) - Day 0-9-299 8330

VICE PRESIDENT: Alan Wilks, Greytown (*"Pateke" Supervisor - Brown Teal, Pearce Wetlands Supervisor*) - 0-6-304 9729

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dr Grant Dumbell, Ph.D., Auckland - Day 0-9-625 9002

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William Abel, Wellington

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CONSERVATION ADVISOR: Professor John Craig, Ph.D., Auckland

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Fred Bailey, Auckland	Alan Fielding, Palmerston North	Dave Johnston, Reporoa	Mathew Paku, Masterton
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Jim Campbell, Masterton	Euan Bidwell, Taupo	Mr Murray Tapp, Northland	Mr H. Honegger, Otaki
Cheryl Pirani, Auckland	Andre Terpstra, Murupara	Colleen Hansen, Eketahuna	Brent Fotheringham, Wellington
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Myles White, Dunedin	Les Cleveland, Dunedin	Craig Ewing, Carterton	Dawn Pirani, Katikati
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Mark Grace, Hunterville	Mark Newcomb, Auckland	Marie McEntee, Auckland	John Sax, Auckland
			Alan Gibbs, Auckland

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Mr & Mrs Clark Springer, USA	Robert Ehrlich, USA	Peter Pund, USA	Al Cromb, Canada
		Sis & Ward Reilly, USA	Keri Cromb, Canada

COVER PHOTO: Two of the Masterton Intermediate Waterfowl Monitors at work.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Smith, President

The last quarter has flown past. The pace of our lives seems to get faster. It is increasingly important that we allocate specific time to organisations such as DU otherwise the work will be done by fewer folk as time progresses. It is even more important these days to have balance in our lives, your contribution to DU projects, dinners and outings will help you achieve such balance, help DU and will be fun at the same time. We will endeavour to let you know what is happening in our area. Give it some thought - you will enjoy it.

The single big event over the last few months was our 20th Annual Conference in Palmerston North. One of our most successful yet, judging by the unsolicited comments made. It was a pleasure to host

Stew Morrison, Canada's Executive Vice President, and Australian directors Tony Sharley and Clive Huggan, over for the weekend. Their contributions were very well received. I hope that those of you who attended were able to meet with them. It was also a pleasure to meet many old and new members from all over the country. DU is, after all, as much as about people as it is about ducks and habitat.

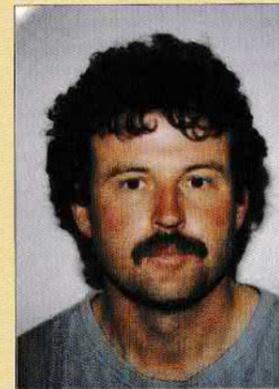
The rest of our work continues. Grant Dumbell and Alan Wilks tripped north to release this year's crop of Brown Teal. Alan gives you details in this issue.

Operation Wetlands saw the Kowhai Flat

project in the Wairarapa well under way with all the earth works done and the water backed up. Fencing was under way when I visited and planting will start soon.

The Board also approved two further wetland projects in the Manawatu and another will be considered on at our November meeting, along with one in Wellington.

We could do much more. We are actively working to dramatically increase our membership through individual contact with members. If each of you introduce two new members, that alone would increase our wetland projects ten fold, and if those new members introduced two new members we look forward to your call.



WILLIAM ABEL

William has been a member of Ducks Unlimited for four years, the Wellington Chapter Chairman for three, and was recently elected onto the Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Lower Hutt, William is a manufacturing jeweller by trade. After spending 6 years in jewellery retail he now supplies the retail trade.

William and his wife Jan raise pheasant, kakariki and other aviary birds at home, are partners in a 6 acre wetland near Wanganui, and have recently purchased their own 60 acre wetland "retreat" near Manukau in the Horowhenua.

Eventually he sees himself working from home, pottering around on the wetland and creating a wildlife sanctuary.



GLENYS HANSEN

Glenys has been a member of Ducks Unlimited for 9 years, a director for 7 years, and a committee member for 8 years. Her role on the board is that of National Treasurer.

Glenys works at the Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre as Conservation Officer-Administration.

Born and raised in Eketahuna, she and her husband Ted live on the family farm "Tidsfordriv".

She became involved with the Wildlife centre as a volunteer in 1984, joining part time as receptionist in 1987, then full time from 1988. Working with endangered species and conservation education have been her most interesting roles.

She started the Eketahuna Chapter in 1985 and served on the committee until 1993.

Ted and Glenys also have a 64 acre block west of Masterton for their retirement. Building wetlands and planting trees is a pastime they both enjoy.

Glenys has also spent 10 years as a Brownie Leader. She now enjoys having guests through Farmstay, spinning and knitting.

2,000KM FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED

Before I became a DU director and Operation Pateke Project Supervisor, I had no idea what was involved, and thought members might like to know what we can get up to outside our quarterly board meetings.

This little trip started a couple of weeks after the AGM when I left home in the Wairarapa at 8am to meet Grant Dumbell, our Executive Director, at Wellington Airport. His arrival time was 9.30am, and all was going well until an accident on the Hutt Road brought traffic to a lengthy standstill. Nothing looks more lonely and forlorn than a DU Executive Director waiting to be picked up.

Our first call was the QEII Trust where we had fruitful discussions on wetland covenants, then to Wellington Zoo to pick up a couple of waterfowl they didn't want. A quick lunch and off to the Patents Office in the Hutt to talk about progress on the registration of our duck head logo. By mid afternoon we were at Staglands Wildlife Park at Akatarawa where John Simister gave us a conducted tour of the park and Grant was able to talk blue duck. John is one of our more successful blue duck breeders.

Staglands is well worth a visit as it covers numerous acres in a very natural setting, with several large walk-through aviaries which allow close contact with a wide range of New Zealand birds and waterfowl.

We were home in Greytown by 6pm for a well earned drink and a meal, and general DU business.

BROWN TEAL

Most of Tuesday was spent trying to reorganise our brown teal programme to comply with DoC's request to reduce the number of birds we produce until more secure habitat is found for their release. We

ALAN WILKS

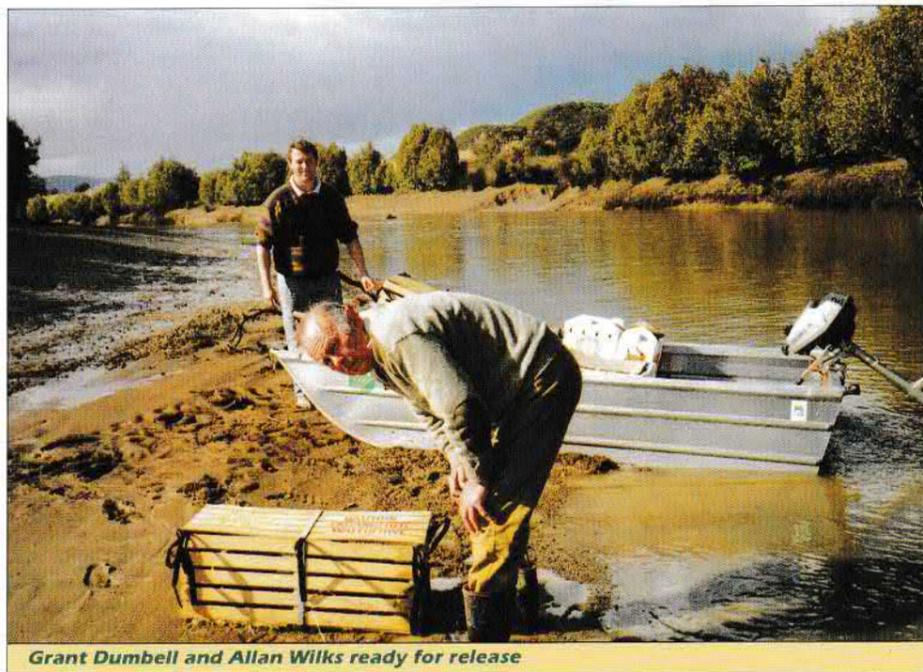
were trying to do this without losing the support of our breeders, and to retain the potential to get back in full production.

By late afternoon I had brown teal leg-band numbers running out of my ears so I took Grant to see the new Kowhai Flat Wetland which is only 10 minutes from home. He pronounced it "a little boomer" and suggested we use it as a model for future DU developments on private land.

Wednesday we finalised our breeding

7am. Paired, boxed and recorded at Jim's and we were heading north by 9am. Did a tyre on my ute the other side of Taihape (a recent retread too) but reached Otorohanga Kiwi House by 2.30pm where Eric Fix helped us catch, band and box another 30-odd birds (brown teal, not kiwis).

Next stop Hamilton Zoo just before they closed, so we only boxed their birds, having decided to sex and band them on release, and headed for Auckland which we reached after twelve and a quarter hours.



Grant Dumbell and Allan Wilks ready for release

programme, called on Melvin Pike at Carterton, picked up a pair of birds and headed to Jim Campbell's where he was holding 48 brown teal. These had been collected up over the last few months either from our lower North Island breeders, or flown north from South Island breeders, some as far away as Invercargill. We sexed, banded and recorded, sorting out four pairs to retain for breeding stock, then home to organise crates and gear ready for an early start the next day.

ON THE ROAD

I kissed the dog and patted my wife goodbye, and we were out the gate at

and then Grant still had to collect a trailer to transport the boat next day and didn't get back till 10.30pm. I was fast asleep. As I dropped off I realised that there were 103 brown teal in the ute, five per cent of the world's population!

NORTHLAND AND THE HOKIANGA

First thing Friday we loaded the boat and watered the birds -literally, with a watering can, to provide vital moisture and prevent them from overheating while in transit. Away by 7.30am to the DU store on the North Shore to pick up the outboard

motor and then off to Waipu to collect Murray Tapp. We had met Murray and his wife Lois at the AGM and they had kindly offered hospitality for the trip, and Murray was keen to join us for the release.

Arrived at Opua Wharf (used by car ferry to Russell) at midday, just an hour late, where we met up with DoC staff and boat and handed over 47 birds for imminent release at Waikino Cove, and Moturua and Urupukapuka Islands. I estimate the cost to DU to breed, raise and transport those 47 birds (exclusive of added breeder input) would be about \$1500.00, but of course they are priceless.

Reached the Hokianga and had the boat in the water and loaded with crates by 2.30pm, and had some difficulty getting down the river as the tide was right out. We grounded several times with Murray making comments like, "Some of the people on board are as useful as a bicycle in a boat!" I thought he was talking about himself. The boat and motor which Dow Elanco generously donated to DU is ideal for this sort of work, tides notwithstanding. Being flat bottomed, it draws little water and the crates stack easily.

We found a suitable river beach, and banded and recorded the Hamilton birds and released a total of 56. I am left with a golden memory, the sight of about 20 of the birds on the other side of the river

feeding and splashing in the sunlight, and I muttered a little prayer, "Please survive!"

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The manager of the property close to the release site told me that brown teal from the October release (see January 1994 Flight) were still being seen and heard (and Grant's keen ear had picked up the sound of one or some as we'd approached the area) but unfortunately he had found two birds which had been predated and he knew of one that had been shot. He was very supportive of the work we are doing and spreading the word among the shooters. The fact that some of the October release had survived for at least 10 months is good news.

The bad news was that when we got back to the vehicle the windscreen was a sheet of lace, the result, no doubt, of a stone from a passing truck. We had a two and a half hour drive back to Waipu and the first three quarters of an hour it rained! If you have ever driven any distance with no windscreen you will appreciate the condition of the three frozen figures who arrived at the Tapp establishment. All I could think of was a large gin and a hot shower! After several of the former and one of the latter, and a gorgeous meal provided by Lois, I was prepared to forgive Murray his

comments about a bicycle in a boat.

Next morning back to Whangarei where I had booked the Hilux for a new windscreen, and a meeting at 9.30am with John Beachman of DoC, the newly appointed leader of the brown teal recovery group. We had a rewarding couple of hours with John establishing where DU could positively fit into the recovery programme, and back to Waipu for lunch with a windscreen! The hospitality we received from Lois and Murray will never be forgotten. I have always said it is people that are the foundation of DU.

Arrived Auckland late afternoon and after a quick meal provided by Grant's wife, Marie, we were off to a meeting with our President, David Smith.

Next day we cleaned up the gear and loaded the ute with prefabricated grey teal nest boxes for use in the Wellington area.

LOST IN TRANSIT

Monday morning I was on the Auckland motorway by 6.45am heading home. How I finished up in Waihi I will never know, I'm really just a country boy. Home by 6pm to pat the dog and kiss my wife, and three days later we were off to north of Turangi for a board meeting. So that's "how I spent my holidays". I don't begrudge a moment of it, because I believe in DU.

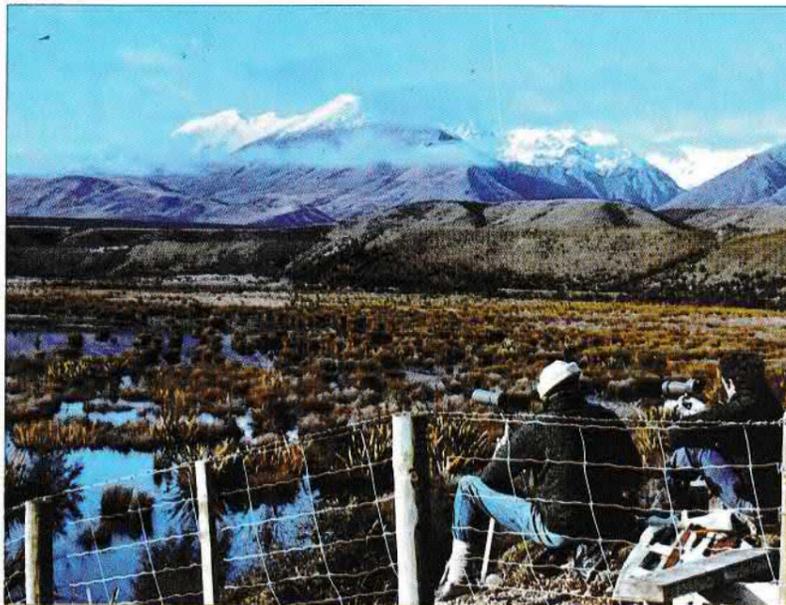


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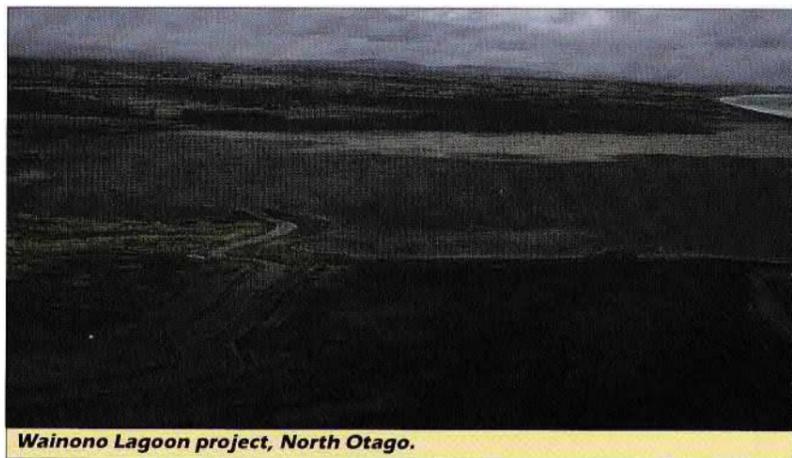
The Southland Fish and Game Council's spectacular Redcliffs wetland.

The wetlands have very good landscape values and Fiordland National Park is an impressive backdrop. "It supports a very wide range of waterfowl and other water bird species like bittern, crakes and fernbirds. The area was heavily vegetated with carex and flax, and there was very little open water. We did a lot of planting of native species such as kowhai, cordyline and hebes. After three years of monthly observations on the change and structure of the wildlife population we could clearly see how it developed, and we wrote the management plan and asked for an open space covenant. The whole thing was financed by game bird hunter licence fees, but in real terms at least 50 per cent of the utilisation of the area is by absolutely protected species. Hunting is prohibited because there are off-site values for hunters."

National Trust covenants provide protection in perpetuity for natural open spaces. One of the major benefits of this

method is that the landowner retains ownership of the land, with the National Trust becoming a trustee of the covenanted portion of the property. The covenant continues with the land once the property changes hands, so legal and physical protection is guaranteed into the future.

If you are thinking about protection for a



Wainono Lagoon project, North Otago.

wetland on your property, or on the property of someone you know, the first thing to do is to contact your local National Trust regional representative. Throughout New Zealand there are 16 representatives working part-time for the Trust. They can be contacted through the Trust's national office in Wellington on phone (04) 4726626 or fax (04) 4725578.

The next step is for the rep to visit the site to assess the values present merit protection. A full study of the natural and other habitat values takes place with a report going to the Trust's board for consideration. If the Trust board decides to offer the landowner a covenant, the Trust may pay up to half the cost of any new fencing required, and the survey costs involved in putting the covenant in place.

The main funding source for wetland protection has been the NZ Lottery Grants Board, whose help is gratefully acknowledged. The Trust often works in with local authorities and groups like Fish and Game Councils, the Department of Conservation, and Ducks Unlimited to protect valuable wetlands. Local councils may often give rate relief on covenanted areas in recognition of the voluntary protection the landowners are taking.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MINUTES OF DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE COACHMAN HOTEL, PALMERSTON NORTH
JULY 16 1994**

The President, Mr David Smith, called the meeting to order at 1.30pm and introduced The Hon. Dennis Marshall, Minister of Conservation, to formally open Ducks Unlimited's 20th Annual General Meeting.

Mr Marshall then spoke about the common ground that he and his department have with Ducks Unlimited and how both can, and do, work towards the same goals. He felt honoured to be present and to be able to formally declare the 20th AGM open.

David Smith thanked the Minister for his address and stressed the need to keep clear channels of communication open. He then formally welcomed the overseas visitors who had come so far to be present at the AGM, Stew Morrison from Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Tony Sharley and Clive Huggins from Ducks Unlimited Australia. He also welcomed past Directors and long time members Jack Worth, Ian and Dawn Pirani, Mark Timms, Cilla Morrison and Chris Hooson.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Rice, President for 1993/4, gave his President's Report which will appear in the July issue of "Flight".

TREASURER'S REPORT

Glenys Hansen tabled the 1993/4 annual financial accounts which will appear in the July issue of "Flight", and moved to reappoint Eastwood Bourke as auditors for the 1994/5 financial year. This motion was passed by the members present.

ELECTION OF FOUR DIRECTORS

William Abel, Ian Lyver, Carolyn Hooson and Ken Cook were nominated from the floor and duly elected.

At this point a special presentation was also made to Jim and Raana Campbell in recognition of Jim's contribution to the Board of DU over the last sixteen years. Jim thanked the meeting and paid tribute to the



President David Smith acknowledges Jim Campbell's contribution to DU over many years with a presentation box of duck calls, and flowers for Raana for her support.

members who worked to make Ducks Unlimited the success it is.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report, to appear in the July issue of "Flight" was presented by Dr Grant Dumbell. David Smith thanked Grant for his report and made mention of the work Grant performs over and above the call of duty.

PROJECT REPORTS

These were presented by the Project Supervisors - Ken Cook (Operation Wetlands), Alan Wilks (Operation Pateke), David Smith (Operation Whio), David Johnston (Operation Royal Swan), and David Rice (Operation Gretel). All reports will be published in the July issue of "Flight".

BREEDER AWARDS

The Brown Teal Breeder of the Year Award went to Hamilton Zoo, the Blue Duck Breeder of the Year went to Staglands and the Royal Swan Breeder of the Year went to Sig Bronger.

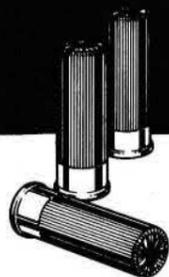


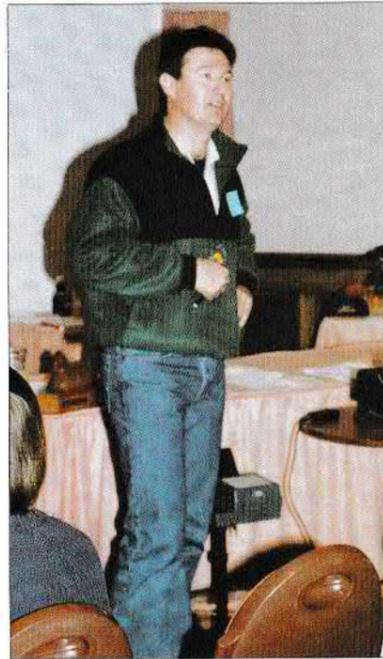
The Minister of Conservation, Hon. Dennis Marshall, addresses the AGM and formally opens the meeting.

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Tony Sharley, DU Australia, takes us through a slide presentation of the work and challenges facing DU Australia.

GUEST SPEAKERS

David Smith introduced Tony Sharley from DU Australia who gave a presentation on the work and challenges of establishing Ducks Unlimited in Australia, and expanded on its first major wetland project.

Stew Morrison followed with a presentation on the international family of Ducks Unlimited and the common goals that allowed each organisation to give and gain support from each other. He closed his address and presented a cheque for US\$7500.00 to DUNZ. This contribution came from an international trust fund in recognition of the achievements of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand over the last twenty years.

Stew himself was then presented with an Honorary Life Membership and Life Member Pin by David Smith. This was in recognition of Stew's many years of personal and professional support for DUNZ in his capacity as Executive Vice President of DU Canada.

Grant Dumbell introduced the guest speaker, Alan Saunders of the Department of Conservation's Threatened Species Unit. Alan's address covered the whole spectrum of the challenges that face threatened species in New Zealand and some of the possible solutions that were in the future.

David Smith thanked Alan for his address

and called for General Business. With none forthcoming, he declared the meeting closed at 4.06pm.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Unfortunately, the photographs that were taken during the evening presentations were not able to be published due to a fault with the camera - yes there was film in it! Fortunately two cameras were used over the weekend so we do have some photographs to publish of the Conference Weekend.

The MacMaster Trophy, a conservation award for school projects, was awarded to Masterton Intermediate and was accepted by Mrs Raana Campbell on their behalf.

The Bill Barrett Trophy was awarded to DU Bahamas and was accepted by Stew Morrison on their behalf.

The Chapter Challenge went to Manawatu Chapter with a total of over \$10,000.00 raised during the last year.

LARGE DONOR PROGRAMME AWARDS

David Smith formally announced this new series of awards. They are designed to acknowledge substantial donations made by any individual or organisation to Ducks Unlimited New Zealand. A feature will appear in the January issue of "Flight" covering each of the levels within the programme and the award associated with those levels. There will also be coverage of the various presentations.

However, two preliminary presentations were made at the AGM, the first recipient, Mr Brendan Coe, was presented with a miniature scaup decoy hand carved by Steve Gibbs. Stew Morrison accepted a miniature blue duck on behalf of DU Bahamas.



A few of the faces at the AGM.



Auctioneer Mark Cederman haggles between two bidders during the auction.



Immediate past Director Chris Hooson during Sunday's "Predator Control" workshop.

INAUGURAL MACMASTER TROPHY PRESENTATION

The Andrew Dixon MacMaster Trophy was donated and funded by Dr Tony Reiger, retired American teacher and Life Member of DUNZ, in memory of his father-in-law.

The trophy is a conservation award for school projects associated with wetlands and waterfowl, and carries a cash grant of US\$250.00. It is intended to be a catalyst for further funding and was trialled in the Wairarapa for the first time this year, eventually to be contested for nationally.

MASTERTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL RECEIVE MACMASTER TROPHY

There are three parts to the Masterton Intermediate Waterfowl

Programme:

1. FRIDAY AFTERNOON ELECTIVE - WATERFOWL STUDIES

The Waterfowl Studies group consists of 10-12 students who meet for 1 1/2 hours on a Friday afternoon, for 5 consecutive weeks. The Friday afternoon programme takes

place 4 times during the year, with a different group of students being involved each time.

During these sessions the group:

- discusses the importance of the wetland and why it is such an important freshwater ecosystem,

- finds out about the various waterfowl found in New Zealand, some being endangered, and how groups like Ducks Unlimited are trying to protect them and develop successful breeding programmes,

- visits our own wetland area in the school grounds, observe and draw the various waterfowl, discuss the importance of suitable habitat, food and other needs, predators etc,

- chooses one type of waterfowl to research and draw, recording as much information as possible about the bird, eating habits, habitat, nesting etc. This information is shared with the group at a later date,

- have a guest speaker. Mr Jim Campbell from Ducks Unlimited, spoke to us about the need to conserve our wetlands and protect our waterfowl. Other programmes

being developed by Ducks Unlimited locally, nationally, and internationally, are discussed also.

- we visited Mr Jim Campbell's wetland area on his farm and identified many of the waterfowl that we have been learning about. We also check out the habitats, nesting places for breeding, and ways of dealing with predators. It's always a fun time and we have a picnic lunch and a ride in the Chev, plus a few chocolate treats (thanks to Raana Campbell)! A great way to end an important programme that is proving to be very successful.

We evaluate the programme:

2. WETLAND DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

This is an in-class programme developed on a syndicate basis where students are involved fully in groups of 10-15 for two weeks twice a term.

3. WATERFOWL MONITORS PROGRAMME

This involves volunteer students throughout the school during weekends and holidays. School time is also allocated for daily feeding.

Objective

To provide a further area of management and study for our pupils.

Plan

To continue landscaping the area immediately upstream of the existing dam by:

- establishing a walkway,
- planting more blocks of native trees and flaxes,
- building a range of nesting boxes.

The school has its own waterfowl enclosure with its own "pets", a black swan called Ziggy and a duck called Donald, amongst NZ scaup, Carolina wood ducks, NZ shoveller, brown teal, many mallard, and a peacock.



Alan Wilks presents MacMaster Trophy to Frazer Mailman, Headmaster Masterton Intermediate

WATERFOWL REPORT OVERLEAF

MASTERTON INTERMEDIATE WATERFOWL REPORT

Hi! We are two from one students from Masterton Intermediate School. Our names are Alisa and Kylie. We are both 11 years old and are waterfowl monitors which we had to be trained for.

Every Friday at morning interval all the waterfowl monitors from different classes around the school meet in a particular classroom to discuss the roster and work out who is going to be on duty and on which day. Most of the time we get rostered in pairs.

Over at the waterfowl enclosure there are lots of different species of wildfowl. We have a black swan called Ziggy, a peacock,

and a white duck called Donald. We have recently got some white and grey geese. We have also got some New Zealand scaup, Carolina wood ducks, New Zealand shovellers, brown teal, and plenty of mallard ducks that fly into the open pond. Every time we go across to the waterfowl area we have to clean the netting, which is the dirty part of the job.

The geese and sometimes other wildfowl eat bread, but most of the time they eat barley and wheat mixed together. There is an enclosure which some of them are kept in. It is rather big and we have a key to get into the enclosure.

Sometimes you can run into the occasional problem such as no food, or people dropping their rubbish in the pond and blocking up the drains.

To be a waterfowl assistant you have to be reliable and responsible for everything you do. We can go to the waterfowl pretty much any time we like as long as we go.

We have a duck called Donald who is very tame and we can feed him out of our hands and it doesn't hurt.

Being a waterfowl monitor is a lot of fun and it's a great opportunity to learn about some of the different kinds of waterfowl.

by Kylie Wilson and Alisa Trotman

KOWHAI FLAT WETLAND

Last year DU was approached to give advice on the development of a wetland on a property owned by Craig and Angela Thomas at Tauherenikau, just north of Featherston in the Wairarapa.

One pleasant Sunday afternoon in November, Howard Egan, Jim Campbell and I visited the farm and agreed the project was a piece of cake. An all-year-round creek ran through a depression at the base of a terrace, and building a wall some 80 metres long to block the creek would flood a reasonable area. Jim set himself up in the middle of the lowland with his trusty level and we drove pegs to where we thought the water would reach, and we suggested to Craig Thomas to "put a wall across there about so-high, a wide spillway at the western end and the water will back up to there" - all very technical!

Craig got in touch with us again in March of this year to say he wasn't in a position to go ahead with the project just yet but if we could fund the earthworks he would fence and plant the area. The Eketahuna Chapter had just been asked by the board to come up with a project for funding during this financial year, and they considered several submissions and decided this one was best. This was put to the board of DU at the May meeting and \$500.00 was the amount to be spent. I went away wondering how much could be done for \$500.00 with digger hire at \$90.00 per hour, but it is our members' money we're spending and we have to be careful.

As Johnny-on-the-spot, I seemed to be

ALAN WILKS

landed with organising the project, so the first thing was to book the digger. I contacted Elliot Hargreaves of Bruce Buchanan, Masterton, to come and look at the job. Now Elliot is an artist among digger drivers and was personally trained by Jim Campbell who told him "If you want to dig a wetland with straight edges you're no use to me". Elliot agreed it was a simple job and he'd be there in a week.

Getting a digger is a bit like getting a plumber! After numerous phone calls and "I'll be there on Tuesday" claims, I stopped phoning Craig with the monotony of "Oh he's got a couple of days more work but he'll be there this week", and the machine did eventually arrive on Friday 22 July.

Eight o'clock Monday morning I was there with my companion Roger Brooks, a keen DU member, whose wife Joyce sells more raffle tickets than one could think possible, 10 books to the end of August and she was asking for more! It kept bucketing down and the creek was running full bore, and it wasn't until Friday 29 July that Elliot was able to do the job and that was after numerous inspections and phone calls.

I had told him we had a budget of \$500.00 and before he started work he dropped the bombshell. It had cost \$173.00 to get the digger onto the job! I took it upon myself to instruct him to do five and a half hours with the digger and I would argue with the board for the cost of transport.

Expert that he is, Elliot had the job done within time with the wall built, spillway cut and a couple of islands thrown up. Plugging where the creek had run through the new wall was the last part and the water started to run over the spillway in 20 minutes. Three hours later the pond was full and just about reached the pegs we'd put in.

Next day Roger Brooks gave me a cheque for \$173.00 to cover the transport. That's the sort of member generosity that makes the effort worthwhile.

The fencing is underway and Craig Thomas has started planting. An acre of water and five acres fenced off - another successful DU wetland project.

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BOOK REVIEW

RARE AND ENDANGERED NEW ZEALAND BIRDS
PETER GAZE

Published by Canterbury University Press Soft Cover

This worthwhile 73 page guide to the 16 most endangered bird species in New Zealand features a written description of each bird, a pencil sketch, and a colour photograph. The written text includes an informative background on the bird and its habitat, in some cases a management segment detailing the efforts in managing the bird and its habitat, and a "where to see" section both captive and in the wild.

Of most interest is the inclusion of both the blue duck and the brown teal, with specific mention of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand's involvement in the recovery management of both these species.

Interestingly, the recurring factors linked to the decline of each species is the constant predation and loss of habitat, something that Ducks Unlimited has been promoting

for several years.

Priced at \$19.95, this is an interesting reference guide that provides plenty of information and will certainly be added to my bookshelf.

The author, previously with the Wildlife Service, is currently employed by the Department of Conservation.

Chris Hooson

EVENT CALENDAR 1994

October 30 - DU National Sporting Clay Champs, Eketahuna Gun Club. Contact - Glenys Hansen (06) 375-8474

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C. WETLANDS - DISCOVERING NZ'S SHY PLACES. GORDON STEPHENSON
A lovely little book, in which the author, a former QEII National Trust Regional Representative, visits wetlands of varying types throughout New Zealand.
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D. KEY TO THE WILDFOWL OF THE WORLD
Easy to use bird identification field guide.
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