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Ducklings explore their pond at Sam Denfords property "Artesia Springs", Tauranga



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Flight

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DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

1996 NEW ZEALAND WATERFOWL CALENDAR

Following the success of their Sika Deer Calendar, Rifleman Publications are proud to present their 1996 calendar on New Zealand's unique waterfowl.

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Diane Pritt, **Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc**
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INSIGHT

David Smith
President

When you received and opened this issue of "Flight" I'm sure you immediately noticed the changes that have occurred since July. These have been instigated for many reasons, including cost. Printing a full colour magazine four times a year is expensive, and every dollar spent on "Flight" is a dollar that is not spent on wetlands.

All our design work is now under one roof. Lithographic Services still print "Flight" and their sponsorship is greatly appreciated. In a future issue, we will be asking for your comments on the magazine with a members survey. Watch for this as we need your input to give you the best value for your subscription.

Enclosed with this issue is our DowElanco sponsored Gift Membership card. With Christmas fast approaching why not give a friend or family member a subscription to DU. They receive 16 months for the price of 12 and we will send them a card telling them of your gift. We can even have it arrive on a set date. Membership growth is our current focus and we are grateful for DowElanco's support.

Included in this issue is our 1994/95 Annual Report and review of the Conference. These give you a roundup of our recent achievements and the great support we received from our sponsors and contributors. Look also for the feature about the Pearce Wetlands. We have now secured the permanent protection of this valuable wetland after seven years of hard work. I believe every member can be proud of our success with this large, expensive project.

However, our success is tinged with sadness following the tragic loss of Tim Harington and Earle Barbarich in a boating accident on Lake Wairarapa. Tim has been deeply involved with wetlands in the Wairarapa and we carry his obituary. Earle and his wife Yvonne are the force behind Rifleman Publications and their 1996 waterfowl calendar is a tribute to Earle's skill. You can purchase a copy through our usual DU mail order. We have also lost Mike Keown who gave us help with the design and introduction of our new logo and has supported us over recent years. Our deepest sympathies go to the families and friends of Tim, Earle and Mike.

I wish you all the best for the coming festive season and hope you will enjoy reading our new look "Flight" magazine.

OUR MISSION

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

- wetland restoration and development
- conservation 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.

Cover Photo: Water supply lake north of Marton. Photo by Alan Fielding

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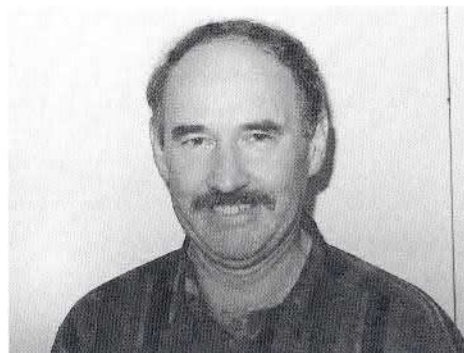
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JOHN BISHOP

John is the General Manager of DowElanco (NZ) Limited. As an employee of Dow for 28 years he held management positions in Sales and Marketing in both Hong Kong and Australia before returning to New Zealand when DowElanco was formed in 1990. He was appointed to the Board of Ducks Unlimited in May 1995.

To complement his business interests, John is an executive member of the New

Zealand Chemical Industry Council, Chairman of a forestry partnership and a breeder of thoroughbreds which, hopefully, are increasing in speed! As a keen game bird hunter, he has taken out a licence for 30 years and has hunted with the same team for most of that time.



DAVE WEST

Dave has been a member of Ducks Unlimited for over 10 years and is the

Chairman of the Manawatu Chapter. He has always had a keen interest in wildlife, particularly birds, and as a youngster, growing up in Kaitia provided plenty of opportunity to pursue this interest.

A veterinarian by profession, Dave teaches Production Animal Medicine at Massey University, and has travelled to other parts of the world to visit vets and farmers. A trip to South Africa was the most memorable and a visit to The Wildfowl And Wetlands Trust Slimbridge Centre in the UK was 'amazing'.

Dave, and his wife Anne, own 55 acres of sand country with wetland habitat. After five years of work this is beginning to reach its potential. Dave's other interests include hunting, and clay target shooting. In this, he has been a member of the National Macintosh Team.

OBITUARIES

Mike Keown

The directors would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Mike Keown, a long time supporter of Ducks Unlimited, following his recent death. Mike was a familiar figure at Auckland Chapter dinners and provided professional advice to Ducks Unlimited through his company, Print Masters. He died on 9 August, aged 44, after a year long battle with cancer. Our condolences to his wife, Angela, and their children, Gina, Kelly, Sarah, Elitia, John and Adam. Mike's spirited bidding and good humour will be sadly missed.

Graham Gurr

Tim Harington

If ever an organisation was designed with one person in mind, Ducks Unlimited and Tim Harington were the perfect match. Tim died tragically in a boating accident on Lake Wairarapa on 31 August.

Preserving habitat for waterfowl, and the dedication and commitment needed to fulfil that aim were no deterrent to Tim. Over the last twelve years Ducks Unlimited has taken many of Tim's leisure hours whether it was cleaning our very messy nesting boxes, catching geese for banding or capturing the elusive swan cygnets, Tim was in up to his elbows, knees, or other parts, wading around the ponds and lakes he loved so much. Tim's administration abilities were evident too, when he held the position of Chairman

of the Eketahuna Chapter for three years.

The Wario block, in the southern Wairarapa, was one of Tim's projects and through his determination, the area now supports a wide variety of birdlife who, no doubt like Tim, consider it a paradise. His vision of preserving wildlife is evident to those who have seen his breeding aviaries for the beautiful Carolina ducks.

Tim Harington has left his mark on the landscape of our wetlands. His flight through our lives has been a strong migration into our hearts and memories. He will be sadly missed. Our thanks to Shelley and his family for sharing him with us. Our heartfelt sympathy extends to you all.

Ross Cottle



NORTHLAND FIELD DAYS

In March this year, Ducks Unlimited mounted a display at the three day Northland Field Days held in Dargaville. This is the largest show in Northland and is attended by some 60,000 people. Our display concentrated on our work with Brown Teal as Northland is the last stronghold on the mainland for these birds.

Northland is also seeing the development of large irrigation storage ponds and this has already led to some problems with the impacts of Paradise Shelduck which use the ponds as moulting sites. The Ducks Unlimited display was mounted in conjunction with the Welsh Black Cattle display of Shirley Jenkins so visitors to the site certainly had a lot to talk about.



It's hard to appreciate, from a photograph, the sheer size of the new walk-through aviary currently under construction at Hamilton Zoo.

calendar for a 100 target Sporting Clay shoot at Eketahuna. The programme includes the Fish and Game Council Team Shoot, the Sos Savage Memorial Trophy and a Chapter Challenge. Teams will consist of five shooters. The cost of this 50 target shoot is \$25, with an optional extra 50 targets for \$10. Don't forget to bring your lunch. All enquiries should be made to Glenys Hansen (phone 06-3758474 evenings).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE VISIT TO HAMILTON ZOO

Despite the pouring rain the night before, Saturday morning of the Conference Weekend dawned like spring which encouraged about 20 members to take the trip to Hamilton Zoo. After a short video presentation, our guide, Peter Smits, led us through the picturesque setting of the zoo following a wooden pathway which linked several beautifully maintained enclosures and elevated visitors to the best vantage point to view the animals.

The birds were not shy and the various species of monkeys were making the most of the winter sunshine, laying out soaking up the rays. The big cats paced in their enclosures and the waterfowl wandered around pecking in the vain hope someone

had emptied a bag of food pellets onto the ground.

The piece de resistance of the visit was the partly constructed walk-through aviary which, when completed, will be magnificent. The enclosure covers a huge area and will feature a waterfall and pond. It will be planted to provide the most natural habitat for the large numbers of birds it will house. In fact, when it is finished, and the planting is well established, it will be hard to imagine you are in an enclosure.

The zoo, originally established by Murray Powell, and now belonging to Hamilton City Council, is very attractive, well maintained, and definitely worth a visit next time you are in Hamilton.

CONSERVATION CORPS UPDATE

In the last issue of 'Flight' we reported on a new initiative being undertaken by the Wairarapa YMCA to educate young people in aspects of wetland conservation. The first 20 week course is almost complete and the response has been extremely positive from those taking part. An additional bonus is that the Wetland Area Conservation Corps have joined DU as a Bronze Sponsor.



Grant Dumbell 'manning the stand' at the Northland Field Days.
Photo Shirley Jenkins

WETLANDS SPONSORSHIP

The Department of Conservation and Corbans have teamed up to promote the conservation of wetlands. Corbans have released a new white wine called "Waimanu" and a portion of the sales profits will go directly to wetlands conservation. Keep an eye out for Corbans "Waimanu" at your local wine store.

EKETAHUNA CHAPTER SHOOT

Mark Sunday 29 October on your

EKETAHUNA CHAPTER

October 15 was set for a tour of Wairarapa wetlands. A bus was chartered and took members to a champagne brunch at the Carterton Golf Club, where DU has been involved with the enhancement of a wetland area, Canada Flats, the property of Howard Egan and Pearl Pike, Taratahi Training Farm, to view new ponds there, and J. Foreman's wetland at Tannery Corner. An exotic stop followed at Jan and Bill Clinton-Baker's to view Carolina Wood Duck and other waterfowl, ponds, aviaries and gardens. The last stop was a BBQ at Hidden Lakes, the property of Brian and Dinny Abraham's.

The mid winter Christmas cabaret and dinner, held on 5 August, was a success, thanks to all who attended. Although our main aim was to enjoy ourselves, the presence of some superb auction items from DU Canada proved too much of a temptation for some (no names mentioned!). Everyone enjoyed a superb meal, fine company and tasteful entertainment. A 'select' range of silent auction items topped off an excellent evening all round. Much appreciated were the funds raised through the many raffles and generous auction bids which totalled over \$2,000.

MANAWATU CHAPTER

The chapter's annual fundraising dinner and auction will be held on October 14 at The Coachman Hotel, Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North. This great evening only costs \$38, and includes a fare of game dishes and entertainment in the form of an auction - where else can you get a laugh out of watching people spend their money? Our last year's auctioneer Bob Wood, has been practising and warming up for the event.

MacMASTER TROPHY

TO GALATEA SCHOOL

"I'm thrilled that the board of DU has seen fit to award our school the MacMaster Trophy and we are very grateful for the \$400 received. I'm amazed at how an idea has snowballed and is now involving so many people and will continue to do so for the next few years, and am very happy that all my children will be involved with the project. The school board is sending DU a letter of thanks and Tim White, our principal, will be at the AGM to accept the award."

Regards, Paul McCarthy"

DU received this letter following the award, to Galatea School, of the Andrew Dixon MacMaster Memorial Trophy. This is awarded annually to a school conservation project which benefits New Zealand waterfowl and wetlands.

GALATEA CHILDREN IN CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Deborah Taylor, Galatea School

Pupils at Galatea School, in the eastern Bay of Plenty, have formed a partnership with DoC and Environment Bay of Plenty to help replant the Horomonga riverbank in native plants. The project is expected to continue over the next ten years.

During the 1960's the Catchment Commission planted the riverbanks with

willows. These are now very large and creating problems so Environment BoP is removing them in sections and replacing them with native plantings from seed sourced within the local area.

The major part of the school project is propagation and planting over 5,000 native trees near the Horomonga River bridge to maintain the river in its correct channel. The school is also using the river area for studies of the stream, birds, and freshwater flora and fauna.

The project began with a field day in November 1994 involving Galatea School, DoC and Environment BoP. The pupils were shown the work being done on the river and carried out experiments, including measuring water flow.

In March 1995 the pupils completed seed collection and a stream study. Senior children took part in a trout programme. Seeds were collected from the Urewera National Park and are being processed and germinated ready for potting. As seedlings must be grown for 12 to 24 months before planting a shade house has been erected on the school grounds.

DOC has provided information on species to collect, assisted with seed collection and provided help with propagation of the plants. DoC has also provided some

finance to help with the costs of the project while Environment BoP and Task Force Green began clearing the willow trees and fencing off the planting site on 1 May 1995.

This project allows pupils to learn about a local conservation issue by making a personal and practical contribution. By helping children to learn about, care for, and appreciate their local environment they will continue to be aware of conservation issues as adults.



Galatea School Principal Tim White accepting the MacMaster Trophy.

PERMANENT PROTECTION

for Pearce Wetlands

*By Grant Dumbell
Executive Director*

INTRODUCTION

In 1988 Ducks Unlimited purchased the 309 acre Pearce Wetlands on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa. In July this year we secured their permanent protection with a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant. This covenant is registered on the title and is binding on all owners of the land. It still provides for existing uses as grazing is important to maintain its habitat values. Management of the property will now be guided by a management plan.

AN OUTSTANDING WETLAND

Lake Wairarapa is the most important wetland in the southern North Island, and one of the largest in the country. It is subject to a National Conservation Order

and undertook the biggest survey of wildlife on Lake Wairarapa following the Wairarapa Catchment Board's proposal to drain 6,500 acres of lake bed and adjacent wetlands. This identified the importance of the whole eastern shore as habitat for a bewildering array of wildlife.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Because lake levels vary by up to a metre, land along the eastern shore varies markedly. This is further increased by westerly winds which pile water on the shore lifting local water levels by more than a metre above lake level. When combined with the very flat shoreline it means the Pearce Wetlands will periodically flood, while at other times, flats extend out into the lake for one

interspersed with patches of turf. The Oporua Floodway has some grassy banks leading to bare sandflats.

BIRDS

Eighty species of birds have been recorded from Lake Wairarapa. These include common species, such as Mallard and gulls, and rare species, such as Black Stilt. The Chestnut-breasted Shelduck may also arrive from Australia.

The 1982-83 survey showed the Pearce Wetlands to be the most important section of eastern shore for waterfowl. Up to 4,000 ducks were present, a staggering 20% of the 20,000 on the lake. The wetlands were heavily used by Black Swan, Mallard, Grey Teal, and Shoveler



A view of the Pearce Wetlands after flooding. Photo Grant Dumbell

and satisfies several criteria for gazetting as a wetland of international importance. The Pearce Wetlands lie immediately north of the Oporua Floodway forming a link between the Boggy Pond / Matthews Lagoon Reserves and the J.K. Donald Reserve. These pond habitats are associated with and complement the main lake.

In 1982-83, the Wildlife Service

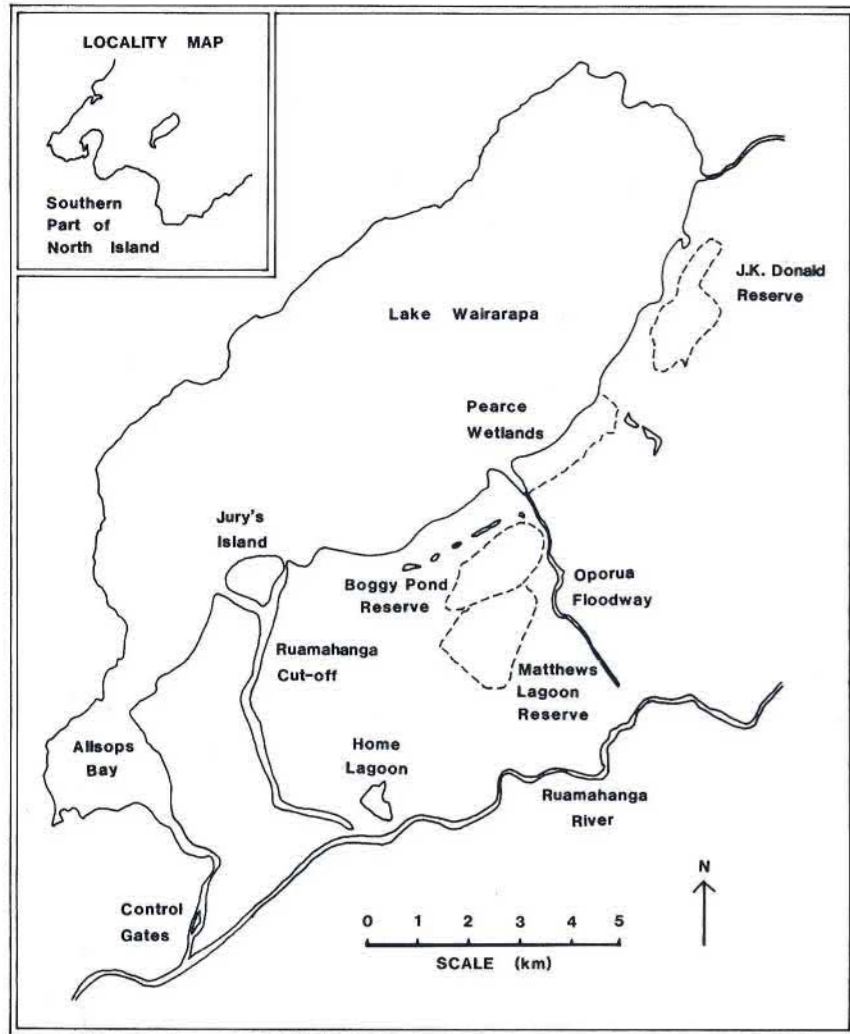
kilometre, making them the widest areas of marsh on Lake Wairarapa.

VEGETATION

The largest short rush flats on the eastern shore are on the Pearce Wetlands. These are bordered by large areas of native turf and enclose shallow pools. The turf forms an arc of vegetation extending into the lake, cutting off two large backwaters and enclosing an intricate mosaic of pools

and supported the largest numbers of Paradise Shelduck on the eastern shore. The Oporua Floodway supported Grey Duck and Canada Goose.

The Pearce Wetlands were also important for waders. Large flocks of over 700 Pied Stilts were seen and Banded Dotterels, and Oystercatchers also favoured the area. Migratory waders, like Golden Plover, Godwit, Yellowlegs, Greenshank,



The location of the Pearce Wetlands.

Turnstone, Knot, and Sharp-tailed, Pectoral and Curlew Sandpipers were also found. For some of these, the Pearce Wetlands are nationally importance.

Other wetland birds were also in large numbers. The largest flock of Black Shag was found in the Oporua Floodway, while White-faced Herons were most common on the Pearce Wetlands. The rare and secretive Bittern, and the Spotless Crake were found in the floodway and the majestic Royal Sponbill has also been seen.

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S ROLE

Ducks Unlimited bought the property when DoC was unable to. This ensured it was maintained as an important wetland, and since 1988 the Pearce Wetlands has been a major project. The purchase was funded from \$48,000 which

came from specific donors while the balance of the purchase price, interest, and management costs have come from general fundraising. The Pearce Wetlands have cost Ducks Unlimited \$180,000 and with the covenant now in place they have been permanently protected for less than \$600 per acre.

As our wetland expertise is in the conservation of wetlands by creation and enhancement, the Board has decided that long term ownership of the Pearce Wetlands is not in our best interests, especially now the open space covenant is in place. After ensuring the wetlands are permanently protected we can redeploy our funds, by selling the property to a long term land holder. The property will be offered for sale by tender and it is hoped to complete this before the end of the financial year to put DU into a strong

position to pursue the conservation of other wetlands.

The successful and cost effective protection of this important wetland has only been achieved through the support



David Smith signing the covenant on behalf of Ducks Unlimited. Photo Grant Dumbell

of our contributors and the Board of Directors is most grateful for the wide ranging support the Pearce Wetlands have received. If any member would like a copy of the open space covenant, the draft management plan, or the financial statements for the Pearce Wetlands please write to P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.



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AGM Minutes



Auctioneer Mark Cederman extracts the dollars from the pockets assisted by Chris Binden.



John Beachman talks about the conservation of brown teal in Northland.

Minutes of the 21st Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc Annual General Meeting Glenview Hotel, Hamilton 15 July 1995

David Smith called the meeting to order at 1.45pm. He welcomed everyone, especially the familiar faces, original board members and guests who were present. He then called for apologies and made mention of the members from south of the Desert Road who had to turn back because of the closure of the road due to snow.

Apologies were received from: Mark Newcomb, John Bishop, Jim Campbell, William Abel, Jan Abel, Raana Campbell, Mike Bourke, Bill Clinton-Baker, Jan Clinton-Baker, Ian Pirani, Dawn Pirani, Chris Hooson, Tom Calthness, June and Sig Bronger, Doug Crawford, David Wilks, Neil and Julie Candy, Marie McEntee.

The minutes of the 1994 AGM, as published in the September 1994 issue of 'Flight', were accepted as a true record of that meeting on the motion of Ian Lyver (seconded by Nancy Payne).

David Smith presented his Annual President's Report. He thanked David Rice for his contribution during his time as President and Chairman of the Board, and thanked sponsors for their support over the past year. He also spoke about the need to communicate to both members and the wider public and stressed that wetland

conservation needs to remain our focus if we are to succeed with our four and ten year forward plans.

David reported on progress with the Sinclair Wetlands Management Committee and made special mention of Sir Peter Elworthy as Chairman and Roger Sutton as Chairman of the Otago committee. He also spoke about the New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust and its growth to aid Ducks Unlimited with its conservation programmes. David noted that the Trust is now contributing about \$5,000 per year to Ducks Unlimited.

David praised the work of Grant Dumbell, the Executive Director, and thanked the Board for their work and support during the year. He outlined the results of the first Chapter Forum recently held in Palmerston North and added that communication must always be two way.

Glenys Hansen presented the Treasurer's Annual Report and outlined the Financial Statements. She then moved the adoption of the accounts (seconded by Diane Pritt) and moved that Eastwood Bourke be reappointed as auditors for the 1995/96 financial year (seconded by Diane Pritt). The meeting carried both motions.

David Smith spoke about the composition of the Board and noted the following directors were standing for reelection: Carolyn Hooson, Ian Lyver, John Bishop and William Abel. As there were four appointments to be made and only four nominations, Di Wilks moved they be appointed (seconded by Diane Pritt). This motion was carried.



It wasn't the biggest crowd we've had - but lively.



Steve Gibb's carving of the blue duck awarded him the Carver of the Year trophy.



Dave West (left), Chairman of the Manawatu Chapter, winners of the chapter fundraising competition.



An impressive array of auction items.



David Rice is the recipient of the Bill Trophy in recognition of his services to Ducks Unlimited.

Grant Dumbell then presented his Executive Director's Annual Report. He spoke about forward planning, the expansion of Ducks Unlimited, wetland habitat, membership and advertising. He thanked DowElanco, the Manawatu Chapter, and the donors and sponsors for their help and support over the past year. He then answered questions from the floor relating to his recent appearance on ATV and at Field Days.

Project Supervisor reports were presented by Ken Cook (Operation Wetlands), Alan Wilks (Pearce Wetlands and Operation Pateke), David Smith (Operation Whio), and Dave Johnston (Royal Swan). Grant Dumbell noted that Operation Gretel is currently being reviewed.

The meeting discussed matters of General Business raised from the floor including the costs and benefits of the Sinclair Wetlands, starting a Waikato Chapter, and Ducks Unlimited's relationship with Fish and Game Councils. This ended the formal part of the AGM.

David Smith then introduced the speakers who included Murray Powell, who spoke about the establishment of Hamilton Zoo, and John Beachman, who spoke about the conservation of Brown Teal in Northland. Both speakers answered questions after their addresses.



Annual Report

1994/95

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Smith

INTRODUCTION

This is my first President's Annual Report since I took over from David Rice in April last year. May I open my report by offering DU's thanks to David, who led us through two difficult years, and to all DU's members and contributors for their support over the past year. Without that support, DU simply wouldn't exist.

I have found the past year both stimulating and frustrating. The stimulation has come from our successful 20th Anniversary Conference, held in Palmerston North last year, and the increasing efforts we have committed to wetland conservation. The frustration has come from the increasing need for wetland conservation and the realisation that DU could do so much more with greater resources.

The expansion of our resources has been the main focus over the past year and our aspirations have been encapsulated in our ten year forward plan. The thrust of this is to direct DU into more active conservation, to expand our membership

and to continue to make improvements to our finances. From a financial point of view we are continuing to make good progress, however, our liabilities remain a concern and will be the focus of the Board during the remainder of this year.

SINCLAIR WETLANDS

Ducks Unlimited assumed the chair of the Management Committee at the beginning of the 1994/95 year. As Chairman I need to record Ducks Unlimited's gratitude to Sir Peter Elworthy for the successes he achieved during his two years at the helm of this important project.

My first task was to pass over \$63,000 which completes DU's outstanding development commitments for the Sinclair Wetlands. These funds have been used to restart development as without further facilities the large investment already made would not have been able to serve visitors to the wetlands.

Waterfowl display ponds have been enlarged, wetland pathways have been further improved, an interpretation video has been commissioned, and the video and catering facilities have been finished. Static displays have also been started. The local committee now have links with a tourism promotion group so the Sinclair Wetlands can be more widely promoted.

In March, Roger Sutton retired from the chair of the local committee and on behalf of DU I thank him for his efforts. Roger's work with Southland Acclimatisation Society and now the Sinclair Wetlands has ensured he leaves a lasting legacy to New Zealand wetland conservation.

It was at the DU Conference in 1985 that we became the proud owners of this jewel in New Zealand's wetland crown. The progress that has been made is a tribute to everyone who has contributed to this project over the past decade.

NEW ZEALAND WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

The Trust has passed its fifth anniversary, having been established in 1990 with just \$10 capital. It is charged with the development of a strong capital base for each of DU's projects and has now passed the \$50,000 mark. As these funds are

capital, they insulate DU's projects from periods of recession and give our projects a guaranteed income over and above our own fundraising. To date, the Trust has passed \$8,000 to DU and this is growing by around \$5,000 per year.

During 1994 the Trustees approved a ten year plan with the main objective to raise \$440,000 by 2004. This total will include 50% for wetland conservation, 35% for waterfowl conservation, 10% for Life Member support and 5% for wetland and waterfowl research. After the first year of this plan it is pleasing to note the Trust is 17% ahead of budget. I would like to thank all the Trust's contributors, especially Neville Newcomb Reprographics who have committed to five year's of financial support.

SUMMARY

Much hard work has been done during the year and recognition must be given to our Executive Director, Grant Dumbell, for the hours he has put in. Many are outside normal hours, and our thanks are in many ways inadequate. Grant and Marie became proud parents of Hannah during the year, another successful breeding project.

I also want to thank the Directors for their support. The Board is working harder and longer, and by and large it is done with good humour and grace. What must be understood is that DU is a voluntary charitable organisation. Directors have jobs and families to tend to and can only contribute so much. The organisation could do much more if members joined in where possible - introduce a new member, attend a local dinner, join a chapter committee. The more people that are involved, the easier it becomes.

The Board is working to improve communication with both chapters and members. A Chapter Forum was held in Palmerston North recently and while the format needs tuning, it was a start we are keen to build on. I now regularly write to Chapter's to keep communication flowing. This is a two way process and we are keen to hear from members as feedback is important for the development and success of our organisation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Dumbell

PLANNING

The forward planning for our third decade of conservation rested on the belief that we should state what we wanted to achieve by our 30th anniversary and while this needed to take account of our current position, it need not be limited by it. The result was a plan requiring a large expansion of DU, and a much stronger emphasis on wetland conservation.

We have called our plan "Wetland Conservation Action: The Third Decade". Within it are nine objectives organised into three areas; Wetland Conservation, Membership, and Financial Management.

Under Wetland Conservation we aim to complete 165 wetland projects before 2004. This requires us to do three projects in Year 1 and to increase this by three per year, every year, giving six in Year 2 and 30 in Year 10.

Under Membership we are aiming for 7000 members, an annual turnover less than 10%, a network of 17 chapters and an average membership per committee of less than 400. This will provide core income from subscriptions and allow us to better service members through a wider chapter network. A low turnover requires a focus on membership retention as well as recruitment.

Under Financial Management we aim for annual fundraising above an average of \$100 per member, to eliminate term liabilities, and increase expenditure on conservation to over 70% of expenditure. These require a focus on efficiency and debt reduction and commitment to expand our conservation expenditure to build the 165 wetland projects mentioned above.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our forward plan contains no specifics on how to achieve our objectives. It is the "how" questions we have addressed over the past year as answering these is the secret to our success. Success with membership is the key to all else so we have used new recruitment techniques to gain members from within and outside

our existing membership.

DIRECT MAIL

The efficiency gains and new technology we have introduced in recent years have allowed us to begin using direct mail. The first was to people who had let their membership lapse and yielded 43 new members. The second was to people identified by phoning every member in Manawatu and asking them to identify two people interested in conservation. This achieved a staggering 16% response rate. The third was to every adult member in New Zealand to promote gift memberships. The main costs were met by sponsorship from DowElanco and at the half way mark, this mailing has already broken even.

The mailings made over 2100 contacts, gained 72 new members, and we made a profit. Given the future revenue we will receive from renewals, we estimate net income to be in excess of \$16,000. Our next challenge is to expand the list of contacts to whom we can approach as our trials have shown these techniques to be effective and profitable.

PROMOTIONS

Recruitment from outside our membership relies on us lifting our profile, and providing contact points for interested people to be able to join DU. We have produced a large banner and flag for use with our display units, and last summer we erected displays at the Masterton AMP Show, the Northland Field Days and the National Clay Target Championships. We are planning more displays this summer, and have been asked to mount a display at the Otorohanga Kiwi House giving us exposure to its large number of visitors.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is very effective to increase profile, but is expensive. From a specific donation we were able to produce two advertisements for magazines, and the first placement was in "Rod and Rifle" magazine. This was sponsored by the magazine and will be seen by over 10,000 people, at no cost to DU. As funds allow we will consider the placement of advertising to carefully target groups of potential members.

We are also reviewing ways of starting a distribution network for the pamphlets donated to us by DowElanco. These are very effective in recruiting members and our challenge is to find ways of getting them into the hands of potential members.

SUMMARY

By converting potential members into financial members we can translate their support into wetland conservation. The results we have achieved in the first year suggest our membership objectives are within our capabilities.

I would like to close by thanking DowElanco for their continuing support of our membership programme, the Manawatu Chapter who compiled the contact list for our direct mailing, and the donors who have supported our advertising. Thanks are also due the members who decided to join DU as a result of our campaigns, and to David Smith who personally signed the 2100 letters we sent out during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Glenys Hansen

The 1994/95 financial year resulted in a deficit of \$23,319 following a reduction in revenue and increase in expenditure, compared to the previous year. However, it is important to note that although revenue was down on the previous year it was ahead of budget. Furthermore, the deficit recorded this year was smaller than the \$28,000 surplus recorded during the previous year.

Revenue included over \$18,000 of donations to "Operation Wetlands". These funds have been employed as specified by the donors and have funded a markedly higher expenditure on wetland conservation projects. In addition to this expenditure, the Sinclair Wetlands project recorded an annual deficit of \$16,450 to take the accumulated deficit for this project to \$85,477.

While revenue from chapter fundraising appears to have markedly declined, this is due to the non accrual of revenue from fundraising events which were held late in the year and had not been received into the national account as at balance date. In addition, the Manawatu Chapter

received \$5,000 for wetland conservation, as a result of a successful grant application. These funds have been recorded as Wetlands revenue.

The accounts were again audited by Eastwood Bourke of Masterton and an abridged version of our annual financial statements are enclosed with this issue of "Flight". Should any member wish to receive a copy of the complete set of accounts they can be requested from P.O. Box 9795, Auckland.

OPERATION WETLANDS

Ken Cook

During the last year, Ducks Unlimited undertook its largest wetland programme for many years. I would like to highlight the main achievements of "Operation Wetlands" and point out that we achieved the first year's objective of our conservation programme as set out in our 10 year forward plan.

HOME LAGOON

A new water source has been provided for this wetland on the Te Hopai Station property of Denis Handyside in the southern Wairarapa. A channel has been excavated to Home Lagoon from a culvert in the Ruamahunga River stop bank to enable control of the water levels in the lagoon and to avoid the very low water levels experienced in the past. The channel is fed from a control valve which can be opened when the river is at medium flood level. As there is very little fall from the culvert to the lagoon this was a technical project which involved careful planning of the excavation work. The end result is very satisfying.

MAKERUA WETLAND

Following frequent flooding at Makerua, near Palmerston North, some of the new stop banking was eroded. This required the bank to be repaired and raised a little. More importantly, a 600mm pipe and a flap valve have been installed to allow water to enter the wetland at a lower level, and be retained there. Waterfowl breeding on the excavated ponds has been very successful in this first season.

FIELDING PROJECT

DU assisted Sue and Alan Fielding to

reestablish a wetland on their property at Tokomaru near Palmerston North. This involved rebuilding a poorly constructed dam which had failed some years ago, and carrying out considerable work on the catchment leading to the 1.5 hectare pond. There is now about three hectares of water, with considerable edge and shallow areas and a good water source from a spring which flows right through summer.

GENERAL

In addition to these projects, a number of others were approved during the year and I will review these in a later report. During the year there have been many new ponds and wetlands created with no financial input from DU. Nowhere is this better illustrated than by the wetlands created by Glenys and Ted Hansen on their Matahiwi property near Masterton, which recently featured in "Flight".

However, wetland drainage still continues, despite restrictive legislation. Two cases have recently been brought to the attention of the Manawatu/Wanganui Regional Council. In both cases no consent was applied for yet Council allowed the drainage to continue. Our pleas seem to fail in the face of "economic development of productive land". All DU members should bring to the attention of their councils instances of wetland drainage, no matter how small.

PEARCE WETLANDS

Alan Wilks

A year ago I reported concern over accretion on the property. Two visits were made during the year but we found it difficult to confirm any great change. The wetlands are in good heart with large numbers of waterfowl. Twenty five members visited the property for recreational purposes during the year.

Mr Pearce recently sold about 80 Ha at the southern end of his farm. Our new neighbour on part of our eastern boundary has surveyed our common boundary, fenced it, and built a new stopbank. This is an advantage for Ducks Unlimited so with the approval of Wellington Regional Council, and under DoC supervision, we granted permission for the borrow of some material from our side of the new

fence to construct the stopbank.

The Board is currently finalising details for an application to the QEII National Trust to place a covenant on the title to protect its conservation values. It is envisaged this will be in place shortly.

OPERATION PATEKE

Alan Wilks

The Brown Teal captive breeding programme has been restructured during the past year, and the compilation of a stud book is well underway. The Threatened Species Unit of DoC requested that we reduce our output to 40 birds a year until new release sites can be identified which are more successful than those used in the past. They advised that further releases will only take place on islands.

The number of breeding pairs has been reduced to 24, held by 14 breeders, and last season they produced just over 40 birds; which is very close to the DoC target. Should the need arise, our existing breeders could quickly increase their output with additional breeding stock.

By last August, we had a total of 103 birds for release. DoC wanted 17 for island releases and 30 for an experimental release at Waikino Cove in the Bay of Islands. We have received no information about the outcome of these releases.

The Department issued DU with a Hokianga release permit for the remaining 56 birds. When we were there (Flight, September 1994), it was most encouraging to hear Brown Teal still in the area, from the October 1993 release, and to receive reports of sightings just before our visit. We can only hope that the Hokianga proves to be a long term successful release site.

OPERATION WHIO

David Smith

The 1994/95 Blue Duck breeding season included 18 pairs and nine single males held in captivity at 17 locations. During the year Kowhai Park in Fielding and Sig Bronger in Tauranga joined the programme as breeders while Orana Park joined as a holder of surplus male birds.

Breeding output for the season was seven ducklings raised from two pairs. John Simister from Staglands has again won the Blue Duck Breeder of the Year award with a total of four ducklings. Russell Langdon of Ashburton successfully bred the other three ducklings.

During the year four males and two females were lost. One male was killed by a stoat who gained entry to an aviary and another escaped when a flood damaged the aviary. The other four birds died of natural causes including one male who was 18 years old.

DU has been sponsoring Blue Duck feeding research at Massey University and this identified that captive birds can carry a high parasite load. Massey have advised on possible treatments and this will be discussed with breeders.

The redrafting of the Blue Duck Recovery Plan is progressing and DU is looking forward to this being completed as it is crucial for the guidance of Blue Duck conservation. We believe it will shortly be circulated for comment.

OPERATION ROYAL SWAN

David Johnston

During the past three months I have been in contact with breeders of Mute Swans. It is disappointing to report that the spring breeding season has been very poor possibly owing to wet and cold weather. Although we have had a poor season the interest in the project is very bright with more names than ever on our lists.

The other bright spot is that we now have an even larger geographical spread of pairs. I am hopeful of a better breeding season next year to help protect this wonderful species.

EDITORIAL REPORT

Carolyn Hooson


'Flight' is progressing well with issues not having gaps to fill and material generally being published in the next issue. This has encouraged members to submit articles and it is pleasing to see the efforts of members who are self confessed non-writers. However articles of a technical nature are in short supply.

I am encouraging chapters to report events through DU News, no matter how small. This is an important part of the magazine as it allows members to stay in touch.

Following the redesign of the sales section, more orders have been received. Advertising rates are being reviewed so they are comparable to other publications and we will be able to seek new advertisers once we have completed a planned membership survey.

A computer would assist me with preparing material for "Flight". This would allow articles to be keyed in advance, more time for editing, more flexible deadlines and easier assessment of the material in each issue. An Apple Macintosh would give compatibility and is easier to use!

In general "Flight" needs more information both by and for members, however, I am happy with the magazine and thank all contributors for their efforts during the year.



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