



MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.



Kowhai Flat wetland, Tauherenikau, Wairarapa. Photo: Alan Wilks.

**Proud to support Ducks Unlimited
New Zealand Inc.
in their efforts to conserve
New Zealand's wetlands and waterfowl**

Flight



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

LIFE MEMBERS

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Keith Barnett, Turangi
Sir Peter Elworthy, Timaru
Tony Flexman, Pokeno
Lady Isaac, Christchurch
Stephen Loach, Dunedin
Adrienne Longuet, Wellington
Stewart Morrison, Bahamas
Laurie Piper, Leeston
Horrie Sinclair MBE, Outram
Bill Wilkinson, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND LIFE MEMBERS

Fred Bailey, Auckland
Mrs D. Barnett, Turangi
Euan Bidwell, Taupo
Michael Bourke, Kimbolton
Kerry Butler, Waipawa
Norman Cameron, Waiheke Island
Jim Campbell, Masterton
Canadian Airlines, Auckland
Les Cleveland, Dunedin
Brendan Coe, Lower Hutt
Mrs M.C. Davison, Wyndham
Equine Nursery, Te Puke
Craig Ewing, Carterton
Alan Fielding, Palmerston North
Brett Fotheringham, Auckland
Alan Gibbs, Auckland
Mr M.R. Grace, Hunterville
Andy Gurney, Featherston
Colleen Hansen, Masterton

Glenys Hansen, Masterton
Graham Henry, Wellington
Mr H. Honnegger, Otaki
Chris Hooson, Martinborough
Dr Michael Hucks, Taupo
Isaac Wildlife Trust, Christchurch
David Johnston, Reporoa
John Lindeman, Auckland
Norman Marsh, Reporoa
Mrs B. McConnell, Auckland
Don McCulloch, Upper Hutt
Brett McDonald, Outram
Marie McEntee, Auckland
Leigh McKinnon, Katikati
Peter McLeod, Christchurch
Ross Meads, Turangi
David Mitchell, Christchurch
Mark Newcomb, Auckland
Alastair Nicholson, Wellington
Arne Nielson, Masterton
Otamaire Trust, Hunterville
Matthew Paku, Masterton
Mr B.M.L. Pearce, Featherston
Mr E.M.W. Pearce, Featherston
Miss O.D. Pearce, Featherston
Mr S.B.L. Pearce, Featherston
Mr T.G.L. Pearce, Featherston
Pharazyn Trust, Waikanae
Cheryl Pirani, Albany
Dawn Pirani, Katikati
Ian Pirani, Katikati
Dave Robinson, Rotorua
John Sax, Auckland

Lois Tapp, Waipu
Murray Tapp, Waipu
Andre Terpstra, Murupara
Mr J.H.D. Ward, Huntly
Whangarei Native Forest & Bird-
Protection Society, Whangarei
Myles White, Dunedin
Craig Worth, Hamilton

INTERNATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

Tom Arvin, U.S.A.
Elton Ball, Australia
Mrs K. Ball, Papua New Guinea
Mr K. Ball, Papua New Guinea
John Belz, U.S.A.
Beatty Burke, U.S.A.
Duncan Campbell, Canada
Mrs Gina Campbell, U.S.A.
Hazard Campbell, U.S.A.
Robert Corrigan, U.S.A.
Al Cromb, Canada
Keri Cromb, Canada
Bill De Journett, U.S.A.
Mr & Mrs Dean, U.S.A.
John Egger, U.S.A.
Robert Ehrlich, U.S.A.
Eugene Engrav, U.S.A.
Pierre Fluyt, U.S.A.
Basil George, Wales
Denton Guthrie, U.S.A.
Mrs Pat Hall, U.S.A.
Gary Harrigan, U.S.A.
James Hulbert, U.S.A.
Garth Jackson, Canada
Tom Jernigan, U.S.A.
Donald Kaatz, U.S.A.
Bud Kapilla, U.S.A.
Mack Karnes, U.S.A.
James Konkel, U.S.A.
Omer Long, U.S.A.
Ken Lowry, Australia
Jean Luxford, U.S.A.
Mr & Mrs Middleton, U.S.A.
Barry Morrison, Canada
Herb Moulding, Canada
Andrew Nelson, U.S.A.
Mr & Mrs Nolan, U.S.A.
Mr & Mrs Nugent, U.S.A.
Tom Pearman, U.S.A.
John Pittenger, U.S.A.
Dr Tony Reiger, U.S.A.
Ward & Sis Reilly, U.S.A.
Edwin Roberts, U.S.A.
Don & Barb Rollins, U.S.A.
Paul Roman, U.S.A.
Dr Duncan Sinclair, Canada
Clark & Barbara Springer, U.S.A.
Robert Strahs, U.S.A.
Charles Thomas, U.S.A.
Richard Trethewey, Canada
John Walker, U.S.A.
Ebe Walter, U.S.A.
Thomas Williams III, U.S.A.
Mr W.D. Wright, U.S.A.

VISITING WAIRARAPA WETLANDS

by Nancy Payne
Auckland DU member

Over the New Year period, I took a group of forty-four Forest and Bird Society members to the Wairarapa. As well as seeing places of interest, we spent a day devoted to visiting a number of DU people and wetlands in the area.

After a visit to the Borthwick property gardens at Te Whanga and morning tea, we travelled to "The Sanctuary" at Bill Clinton-Baker's, Gladstone. The bus dropped our party at the gardens at the top of the hill from where we walked down to the ponds and Bill Clinton-Baker pointed out the various species of waterfowl there -paradise duck, mallard, grey duck, shoveller, scaup and others, including a chestnut teal.

The next call was at the Carterton Golf Club to view the wetland on the course. Here, two mute swans put on a performance.

Canada Flats, at West Taratahi, was the next point of interest. Here Howard Egan explained the property and talked about the ponds, birds and the water systems of the Wairarapa in general. Pearl provided afternoon tea before we took another look around the ponded area.

A visit to Home Lagoon on the western side of Lake Wairarapa had to be abandoned due to the weather, but the group was able to see where the lagoon was and see something of the

Ruamahunga river scheme and the drainage system which has affected the wetland.

Thanks to the DU "family network" and the members whose properties we visited, my group had a most enjoyable and interesting day and I was able to share some of the interests of the Society with other people and spread the message of the importance of wetland preservation.



DU's Bill Clinton-Baker discusses his Gladstone wetland, "The Sanctuary", with tour party members. Photo: Nancy Payne.

INSIGHT

Alan Wilks

President

I shall begin with a positive resume of Ducks Unlimited's current position. We own \$500,000 worth of real estate in the Sinclair and Pearce Wetlands. We have a steady membership of some 850, a dedicated board of directors and support from four chapters run by hardworking committees.

BUT... we have been operating in deficit for the past couple of years. As I have said in a previous "Insight", no matter how hard we tried to cut costs our revenue has not matched our expenditure. DU already had a debt on the Pearce Wetlands. After queries raised by Horrie Sinclair, the board's audit clarified the fact that donations made for wetland development had been used to partly fund the building complex on the Sinclair Wetlands. We had to borrow more to meet our obligations, which meant increased interest payments. With Sinclair operating costs of some \$15,000 a year, plus four issues of "Flight" and the cost of employing an executive director, we could not make ends meet.

To deal with this, the board decided to reduce debt by selling the Pearce Wetlands and to increase our income through a major membership drive with a rural mail pamphlet drop. Neither approach has been successful.

The Pearce Wetlands have not sold, mainly because of the lifetime grazing lease the previous owner holds. The pamphlet drop produced only a few members, due, I believe, to our inability in recent times to spend money creating wetlands. Ownership of the Sinclair and Pearce wetlands and our continuing Blue Duck and Brown Teal captive breeding programmes have not been enough to maintain public awareness of Ducks Unlimited.

At February's board meeting, we had to accept that our current membership base could not sustain the cost of an executive director and it is with regret that we have terminated Grant Dumbell's contract. Grant has served DU well for over eight years and has worked unstintingly for us, bringing expertise and energy to organising a truly businesslike and professional organisation which will stand us in good stead for the future.

I endorse the comments of past president David Smith in his last annual report: "I wish we could afford to employ three or four people of Grant's calibre." Grant - we wish you well for the future and we shall miss your efficiency and knowledge.

The year ahead won't be easy, but your directors have individually undertaken the day-to-day running of DU and are determined to reduce our debt and resume spending money creating worthwhile wetlands. With our dedication and your support, the future of Ducks Unlimited is assured.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Recognising Our Large Donors

Page 6

Book Review

Page 7

Blue Ducks Migrate to the United Kingdom

by Dr Grant Dumbell

Page 8

Another DU Wetland

by Ken Cook

Page 10

Game Keeping: Maintaining and Improving a Breeding Pond

by Thoma Bialas

Page 11

Lessons from The Kowhai Flat Blow-out

by Alan Wilks

Page 12

Visiting Wairarapa Wetlands by Nancy Payne

Inside front cover

REGULAR FEATURES

Insight

Page 3

Our People

Page 4

DU News

Page 5

In Flight Shopping

Page 14

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: Brown teal, Tiritiri Matanga Island - Grant Dumbell

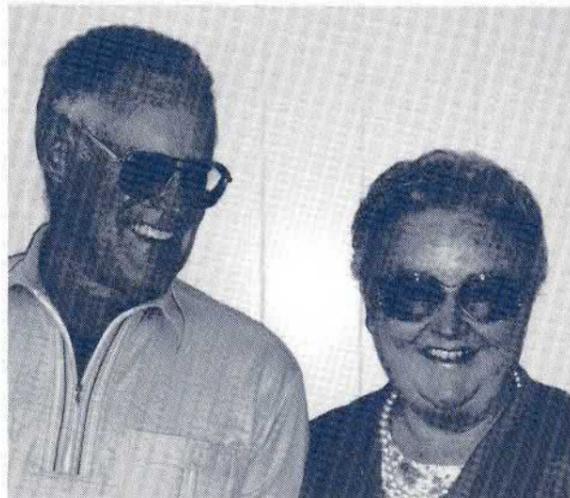
Flight is published by:

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc. ISSN 1173-2776
P.O.Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand.

Editorial Services: Gallery Books & Crafts, Box 99, Carterton
Printer: Lamb-Peters Print, 106A Main Street, Greytown

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-patrons	Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch Norman Marsh, Reporoa	
President	Alan Wilks, Greytown,	(06) 304 9729
Chairman	David Smith, LLB, Auckland,	(09) 298 4719
Vice-president		
/Secretary	Graham Gurr, Auckland,	(09) 489 5337
	Craig Worth, Hamilton,	(07) 847 7537
Treasurer	William Abel, Wellington,	(04) 586 2752
Directors	Ken Cook, Palmerston North,	(06) 357 5484
	David Johnston, Reporoa,	(07) 333 8453
	Glenys Hansen, Masterton,	(06) 378 9967
	Dale Stevens, Cambridge,	(07) 827 5151



JOYCE AND ROGER BROOKS

Joyce and Roger Brooks are enthusiastic DU members who live in Greytown in the Wairarapa and have a grownup family of three.

Joyce has the distinction of being raffle-book seller supreme! For the 1995 raffle, she sold thirty-two books and in 1996 knocked the opposition by selling a record forty-two books to win the prize of a hand-crafted pendant. She says she really enjoys doing it.

Joyce is a shareholder in the family trucking business and looks after the clerical side as well as being "at the beck and call of the phone" taking work bookings and generally being indispensable. Along with Roger she also enjoys fishing and the relaxing time at the water's edge "waiting for the fish to bite".

Roger started his agricultural trucking business forty-four years ago, carting livestock, fertiliser and hay. One of his main hobbies is deerstalking which he took up in his younger days after the war. Stewart Island has been one of his main target areas - he's been there about twenty times - and his only complaint is that the hills are getting steeper. Duckshooting is another favourite pastime, but his more recent interest and experience with wetlands and waterfowl have come through Alan Wilks with whom he has worked on a number of local projects.

Roger and Joyce are looking forward to retirement now that two sons are taking over the family business.

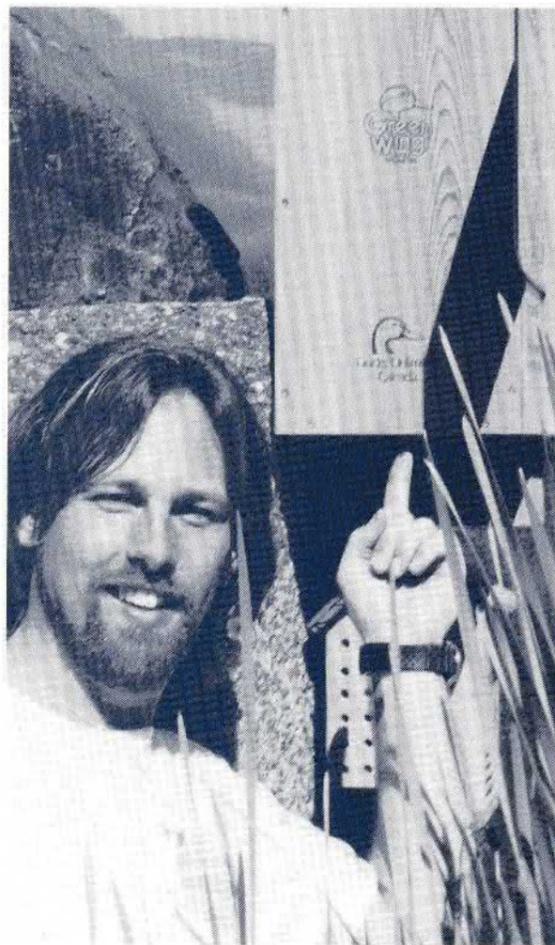
DAVID WILKS

David Wilks has been a DU member for over ten years (inspired by his father's involvement and his love of the outdoors). A graduate in Agricultural Science from Massey University, he has worked in agriculture in New Zealand and overseas. Over the last fifteen years he has been involved in DU projects in the Wairarapa, including wetland development and aviary building.

At the end of a four year overseas trip, David travelled in Canada for six months in 1996 and visited wetland projects in British Columbia and Alberta. The size of these operations emphasises the big scale of DU Canada's work - especially in Alberta, where it's common while driving along to see massive billboards proclaiming the vast area behind as the work of DU Canada.

"Oh, what it would be to have that kind of budget in New Zealand!" he says. "They've put a lot of emphasis on growing public awareness through an integrated promotional approach using billboards, posters and pamphlets."

Pictured by the DU display area in the Stanley Park Aquarium in Vancouver, David Wilks found this an excellent example of integrated public awareness work. They have a promotional video constantly running, "And a great display where kids can stick their heads inside and get a ducks-dabbling view!"



PRIZE-WINNING SIGN

Wildlife information signage at Palmerston North's Hokowhitu Lagoon came up recently with an award in the "Pride of Print" competition judged in Wellington. What became a joint effort between DU and the Palmerston North City Council started with local teacher, Sue Henderson, asking for information about the lagoon's fauna before visiting there with her class.

An interpretive sign was hatched and floated between DU, the city council and the local freshwater anglers' club. The sign was designed by the city landscape officer, Sandra Clearwater, who was privileged to use the rights to the illustrations of wildlife artist Elaine Power. Financial support was provided by ANZ Bank, Hunting and Fishing, Swift Print, Mooses Sportsworld, Paper Reclaim and L&D Sports. Process Signs of Napier made the sign which was installed by Ken Cook of the DU Manawatu committee.

The result has been good exposure for DU and a couple of first-class educational signs for schools and the general public. Hopefully, they will help appreciation of wetlands and their waterfowl and fish.



The new interpretive sign at Hokowhitu Lagoon. Photo: Alan Fielding.

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST

Flight had an interesting response to the request for a caption for the Howard Egan pukeko photograph taken on the occasion of Howard's 60th surprise birthday party and published in the January issue.

Unfortunately, very few of them were publishable! But we decided that the best came from Howard himself:

I don't go anywhere without my mother-in-law.

As he was the butt of the joke, Flight thought he should get the book token. (Wonder if there are any books on "How to live with a Pukeko"?)

Runner-up was David Yerex's entry: "I'll never eat here again. The bill is outrageous!"



1997

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

11 - 13 July 1997

Waipuna International Hotel and Conference Centre

Auckland

Make a note of the dates NOW

Enjoy a visit to the Queen City

Full weekend programme being organised

Limited Earlybird Registrations Are Available

Conference Registration \$50.00 per person

Accommodation \$145.00 per room per night

Send your registration to

David Smith
1997 Conference Convener
P.O. Box 9795
Newmarket
Auckland

DU ON THE INTERNET

DU Inc. America is now on the Internet. Anyone interested in what our partners in the States have to say about their operation and who is hooked into the Internet can try their address at: <http://www.ducks.org>

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

One of our directors, who shall remain nameless but who lives in Palmerston North, was recently approached and asked if he had anything to do with the New Zealand Cricket Association. He was somewhat taken aback by the question and replied in the negative.

The enquirer then said, "But you've got Ducks Unlimited on the door of your vehicle!"

At the time, our cricket team wasn't doing too well - but they've fortunately vindicated themselves since then.

FROM THE AUCKLAND CHAPTER

On the first weekend in February, 40 Auckland Chapter shooters held a simulated field shoot on Gary Peters' and Lorraine Craig's Waiuku property. Shooters competed over two 40 bird rounds. A spot prize of a Harrington Pardner shotgun was donated by Hunting

& Fishing Takanini and an enjoyable day raised \$500 for DU.

A field trip on Sunday February 9 started at Bob Hunkin's pond development at Rama Rama. His wetland showed what can be achieved in 20 years. The Churchill Wetlands Game Conservancy at Pukekawa was next. This borders on the Opuatia Stream and is the property of John Lindeman and partners. Lunch was at Lance Faulkner and partners' Opuatia Wetlands Trust and it was interesting to note that the only waterfowl seen there were grey teal. The field trip ended with a visit to a nearby wetland owned by tour organisers Graham Gurr and David Smith

Seventy-two members attended the Auckland Chapter's annual dinner and auction at McLennan's Lounge, Papakura. A crash which closed the motorway prevented some members attending but an enjoyable evening raised \$3,500.

THE FOXTON FIELD SHOOT

DU's simulated field shoot on Neal and Julie Candy's property at Foxton on March 23 was a boomer! One hundred shooters had come by 9.30am and when the Eketahuna squad arrived at the office, they were Squad 30, making some 180

shooters and one of the biggest shoots in the country.

The course was in low sand dunes, with lupin and boxthorn cover, with nine completely different stations and fifty targets. The Brian Hill automatic traps certainly helped set up a very demanding range of targets.

The first round was shot in calm, dry conditions with little wind all day. Drizzle around 4pm did not dampen the shooters' enthusiasm.

By evening, when it was obvious that not all would complete the 100 targets, it was decided to award trophies on the first 50 targets. Chris Parkinson took top spot with 47 and six other shooters scored in the 40s.

Sponsorship was by Andy Tannock's Hunting & Fishing and appreciated by the big crowd. The Miroku shotgun (a major attraction), sponsored by Hunting & Fishing, and drawn on the entry numbers, was won by No 32, John Hill. Over 100 prizes were distributed by the light of a Tilley at day's end. The day was a tremendous credit to Chapter chair, Neil Candy, and his small bunch of dedicated DU people.

Recognising Our Large Donors

The board decided some years ago that it would be fitting to recognise large donors by presenting a decoy to the donor. The decoys are specially carved to order for us by Steve Gibbs and are of a unique size.

Donations of particular amounts are recognised by the presentation of a particular decoy and the conferring of one of a series of titles. As well as those illustrated below, the decoys and titles include:

Conservation Sponsor (\$5,000) Grey Duck
Legacy Sponsor (\$100,000) Brown Teal

So far, DU has presented scaup, shoveller and blue duck decoys. A recent presentation was to Horrie Sinclair to recognise his generous donation of the Sinclair Wetlands to Ducks Unlimited.



David Smith (left) with Horrie Sinclair at Sinclair Wetlands. Photo: Grant Dumbell.



Foundation Sponsor (\$10,000), scaup

Heritage Sponsor (\$25,000), shoveller

Benefactor (\$50,000), blue duck

Hunted Duck

Her heart was pierced, his liver cut
The horror of the hunted duck ;
A careless shot, that maims not kills
Vicarious the hunter's thrills.
Mates for life, they'd run the gauntlet -
What's sport for some was simply torment.
Still among the reeds they lay,
Eyes afraid at break of day;
The dogs were close, their gaping smiles
belied the menace in their masters' eyes.
In life and death they'd flown in file;
Her heart stuttered, he tasted bile.

Patrick Marett

FROM THE EKETAHUNA CHAPTER

Chapter chair, Ross Cottle, has acquired from Masterton grain merchants ASGROW grain seed screenings in bulk which he has bagged and is offering to members at \$5 per bag for duck feed as a novel fund raiser. Anyone interested should contact Ross on (06)378 7408 or Manaia Road, RD5, Masterton .

BOOK

Review

Tim Porteus. *Native Forest Restoration, a practical guide for landowners.* Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Wellington, 1996. \$29.95. ISBN 0 908671 46 6

Reviewed by
Graham Gurr.

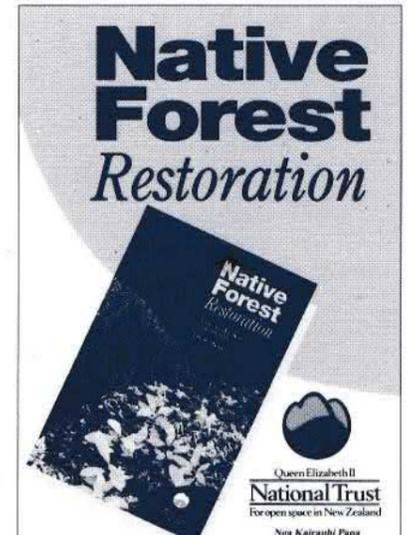
Published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, the 184 pages of this book make required reading for anyone interested in restoring, replanting, propagating or protecting any area of native forest. Spiral bound, so that it will lie open at any page, the book covers in ten chapters plus appendices just about anything anyone interested in native forest would want to know.

YOUR STORY IS NEEDED

Members' news, profiles, and articles are needed for every issue of Flight. Outlines of possible articles are welcomed, as are photographs, reports of visits, newspaper clippings or published magazine articles which may form the basis of a further article. Always welcome is advice and lessons learned from your conservation efforts in which other members will be interested. Members who wish to contribute will be fully supported with editorial help to develop and flesh-out their ideas for articles.

A NEW PRODUCTION TEAM

This issue of Flight has been produced by two Wairarapa businesses: printer Bruce Lambert of Lamb-Peters Print (Greytown) and Gallery Books & Crafts (Carterton). Gallery Books & Crafts is a publishing business operated by free-lance editor and journalist, Steve Oxenham. He publishes The Wairarapa Gallery Newsletter, a monthly arts magazine, works as a print and radio journalist, and provides public relations assistance to local arts organisations.



Native Forest Restoration:
A Practical Guide for Landowners
by Tim Porteus

- An essential guide for those managing, restoring or creating areas of native forest.
- Animal control and eradication techniques.
 - Weed identification and control methods. (Colour identification photos and detailed control methods for over 40 common problem weeds of native forests.)
 - Revegetation principles and techniques.
 - Propagating native plants. (Seed collection, cleaning and treatment suggestions for over 60 common native trees and shrubs.)
 - Site preparation and planting techniques.
 - Post-planting treatments.

A5, wire spiral bound and plastic laminated cover for easy use in the field, the handbook contains over 200 pages of technical information and advice. It includes 86 black and white and 46 colour photos and 11 line drawings. Price \$29.95.

ORDER FORM:
GST Tax Invoice. Price includes GST and Packaging and Postage.
Send to: QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington. Tel 0-4-472 6626, Fax 0-4-472 5578. GST Reg. No. 19-456-900.

Name _____
Address _____

_____ copies at \$29.95 = \$ _____

Payment method
 Cheque (payable to QEII National Trust) Visa
 Bankcard/Mastercard Expiry Date / /
Card No. _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Cardholder's Signature _____



BLUE DUCKS MIGRATE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

by Dr Grant Dumbell

Members will recall that a key task of "Operation Whio" was the export of unrelated male blue ducks to ensure the genetic viability of the United Kingdom breeding stock. This was achieved, after three years of planning, in February 1997.

In 1983 there was little co-ordinated blue duck conservation. Rod Hall, from the Wildfowl Trust in the UK, came to NZ to study blue duck. He hoped to arrange for fertile eggs to return to the Trust to establish blue duck in the world's largest waterfowl collection. This would bring the expertise of the world's foremost waterfowl conservation organisation to the assistance of blue duck. But as it turned out, Rod wasn't able to take eggs back to Britain.

However, in 1987, the Wildlife Service sanctioned the transfer of two pairs of birds to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Blue ducks were successfully bred in the UK and during the past decade WWT has had good breeding success. More importantly, they have built up valuable experience.

But there was a need for further birds. This became clear when DU reconstructed the pedigrees of all captive blue ducks, both here and in the UK. While the two females which went to the UK were unrelated birds, the two males were full brothers.

When one of the UK females died, the WWT was left with one founder female to be bred to - effectively, one male line. There were juvenile birds, but these were related to the adults. The lack of outcross to unrelated birds guaranteed that inbreeding would occur. The only unknown was how long it might take

before the effects of reduced productivity or infertility were felt.

In 1994 DU asked DOC for permission to transfer additional male birds to the UK to provide the much needed outcross. Permission was initially refused but when Tony Richardson from WWT rang in late 1995 to say that the situation was becoming critical, a joint approach was made to Bill Mansfield, the Director-General of DOC. Six months later we hadn't had a reply so we turned to Simon Upton, the new Minister of Conservation. He approved the issue of the permit and we were in business.

With the NZ export permit, Tony applied for a UK import permit. This gave us the quarantine restrictions we had to meet, so the next problem was getting the ducks to England in good health before the permits expired.

Canadian Airlines' Auckland, Hawaii, Toronto and London route was recommended to us. After explaining the

situation to Steven Rice, Canadian's NZ General Manager and one of the strongest supporters of DU's conservation work, on Christmas Eve we received clearance to ship the birds to the UK at no cost. Just as importantly, we were able to use the expertise of Canadian Airlines' cargo staff.

All we had to do was select the birds to go, get them to Auckland, have them pass a veterinary examination, design and build a crate to meet international air transport regulations and get US Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Canada permission for the ducks to travel through Hawaii and Toronto. Thankfully there are fax machines and international courier companies - the last of the documentation arrived just two days before the ducks were due to leave.

Three male birds made the trip. All have brothers still in NZ, so "Operation Whio" has not lost anything in terms of



Male blue ducks in temporary aviary before leaving for UK. Photo: Grant Dumbell.



Carolyn Harrington of Canadian Airlines with the blue ducks prior to loading onto the aircraft at Auckland. The ducks are in specially designed cages allowing feeding and watering without the need to open the cages en route. Photo: Grant Dumbell.



blue duck genetics. Two birds came from Staglands in Upper Hutt and the third from Auckland zoo. Before leaving, they were housed in a temporary aviary and checked by a MAF vet. En route they were checked by vets in both Honolulu and Toronto. They arrived in great shape at Heathrow on a cold February morning. Since then, they have spent 35 days in quarantine and have emerged to join the UK breeding programme in time for the 1997 breeding season.



Ducks Unlimited is extremely grateful for the help we received from Steven Rice and Carolyn Harrington of Canadian Airlines and for the support of "Operation Whio" breeders, without whom the project simply wouldn't work. In return it's hoped that DU will be able to transfer the expertise of WWT back to NZ to help with the captive breeding of blue duck as part of the recovery of this unique species. As this won't require a permit or vet inspection, the next chapter in the story will be able to be written a little faster than those completed so far.

Next time
you're booking
clients to
Canada,
Bear us
in mind.

Five flights weekly to Canada

Canadian Airlines
PROUDLY SUPPORTING DUCKS UNLIMITED

Another DU Wetland

by Ken Cook,
Operation Wetlands
Project Supervisor,
Palmerston North

In the foothills of the Tararua ranges, north of Masterton, a tributary of the Mikimiki stream tumbles down a meandering valley which is almost bare of vegetation except for the odd patch of secondary native bush. This is typical Wairarapa sheep country.

Enter Geoff Reid, who is not a sheep farmer. While considering planting a substantial area of radiata forest, Geoff consulted wetland creator Jim Campbell about the possibility of creating a wetland in the valley.

After months of frustrating delays seeking planning approval under the Resource Management Act and from the Department of Conservation, plus the Fish and Game Council, approval was finally granted in early 1996.

An excavator and bulldozer, under Jim Campbell's guidance, formed a substantial dam across the stream. The dam has a head approximately 100



The finished pond. Downstream is the site of the next development to go ahead soon, subsidised by DU. Photo: Ken Cook.

metres long and between five and seven metres high. The spillway is some four metres wide and has a strong bottom. There are no fish in this tributary at present, however the type of spillway built would allow access to fish.

A large island in the pond will allow a predator-free nesting habitat. The upstream portion has a large area of shallow dabbling and feeding water. Downstream is a boggy area which is about to receive the same treatment this year to add to what has already become a desirable wetland with mallard, paradise and canada geese breeding there this season.

Stage two, after more resource consent applications and so on, is about to go ahead. Ducks Unlimited Inc. will help with a thousand dollar subsidy.

This stage will be a different type of wetland from the initial development in that it will have the effect of ponding a larger area of shallow dabbling water.

As the area isn't grazed, Geoff Reid's wetland doesn't need fencing, so more money can be spent on the actual wetland development. As well, neighbouring properties have substantial wetlands, so this project complements the local scene from a waterfowl point of view.



Game Keeping :

Maintaining and Improving a Breeding Pond

by Thomas Bialas

As a qualified gamekeeper I am often asked about the secret of my success. The answers often surprise because it is everyday contact with and careful observation of game which give me the information I need.

The first rule of game conservation should be that the crop of game we are entitled to shoot is only the surplus we create by our own efforts through protection, management and rearing. As the duck shooting season approaches, I like to concentrate on the management of duck which, hopefully, will not only increase my bag for the year but also in future. The surplus is created in several ways.

First, long term management and development of the environment. This is a costly and long term investment, and anyone interested in doing so should consult a representative of Ducks Unlimited or contact their regional fish and game council.

Second, reducing the losses among wild game through predation, disturbance, farm operations and accidents. A good farm fence will achieve much, keeping stock and tractor away from your pond and protecting the edges for nesting. The disturber is usually you. Give your ponds a break - don't sneak in every time you are out there.

Predators are hard to eliminate. Spotlighting is not effective against cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats. Poison and traps are the only answers for these animals. My preferred poison is Rentokil poison laid out in small plastic bags. This is harmless to stock as only a small quantity is available at a time and it stays fresh in the bags until used. The only types of trap I use around a pond are the Timms trap (good for cats and ferrets), and the Gimpex see-saw (effective with stoats, weasels and rats).

Third, feeding your pond. Correct feeding achieves high game numbers in a



Moulting paradise ducks, Wenley property, Maraekakaho. Photo: Roger Wenley

short time. Environmental improvements or trapping will take longer to achieve noticeable results but are still the best management. Most flight pond owners are content to feed only during the shooting season. This will never give the best results, as your neighbour is doing the same.

Begin feeding as early as November and continue until the following September. Some ducks fed in July and August after the shooting season will always return the following year, with their friends, and may stay to breed.

Grain feeders are the answer. Hand feeding is too time-consuming and we disturb the birds every time we intrude on the pond. Having tried many models of feeder over the years, I prefer the Gimpex grain feeder. It has a unique dispenser and completely eliminates waste of grain and is ideal for maintaining small or large numbers of ducks all year round.

Grain, preferably whole maize, will stay in the Gimpex feeder until a game bird activates the dispenser by pecking it. The vibration from pecking will cause the grain to fall either on to the ground or into

the water. I prefer the grain to fall into water for ducks as they have to dive for it, which occupies them even more. This also keeps pukeko away from the feeder. Once ducklings are on the pond, I mix about a third of kibbled maize to the whole maize in the feeders. When adult ducks activate the feeder, kibbled maize floats on the surface for ducklings.

On our twelve ponds, duck numbers can vary from nil to three hundred at any one time. No automatic feeder or human hunter can forecast the amount of grain necessary to feed the ducks coming in. But the Gimpex feeder sits patiently until needed. One feeder can cater for up to fifty birds at a time, and the complete model costs less than a year's game licence.

With the low-priced Gimpex feeder and reduced grain cost, it's possible to feed throughout the year and establish a home population by simply attracting breeding pairs after the shooting season. In future seasons you will notice an increase in ducks returning to your pond after the shooting season.




**BEAUTIFY
YOUR WETLANDS
WITH
TREES**
- MANY VARIETIES
- TREES FOR BIRDS
- TREES FOR SWAMPS
- WHOLESALE PRICES
Freighted anywhere in N.Z. for your convenience
Send for your free price list from:
**Nick NELSON
PARKER**
CHEDDAR VALLEY NURSERY
R.D.2, OPOTIKI
PH (07) 312-4639


**WE
SUPPORT
WATERFOWL
AND
WETLANDS**

**SPORTWAYS
GUNSHED LTD**
49 NORMANBY ROAD
MT EDEN
AUCKLAND
Phone 09 631 5275, 09 638 7279

Lessons from THE KOWHAI FLAT BLOW-OUT

by Alan Wilks

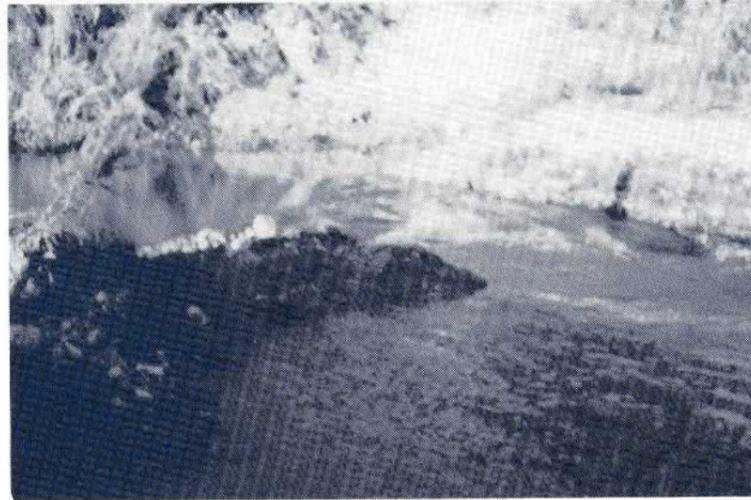
Nearly three years ago, Ducks Unlimited funded the earthworks which produced a pond on private land just north of Featherston in the Wairarapa (see the article in Flight, September 1994). DU had a written agreement with the then owner for funding the digger and the owner would fence the planted area.

The fence was built with help from Eketahuna Chapter members and DU provided and planted weeping willows and swamp cypress. The owner planted poplars and flax. All seemed to be going well until an inspection revealed that stock had been grazed around the pond, demolishing all the trees. The excuse was, "Oh, someone must have left the gate open..."

In an attempt to raise the water level in the pond, the owner dumped a load of boulders in the mouth of the spillway. The water continued to flow through the boulders which merely restricted the flow when it rained heavily.

Shortly afterward, the property was sold to a largely absentee owner. Approaches were made to try to resurrect the project, to which the new owner seemed amenable. But getting together proved difficult.

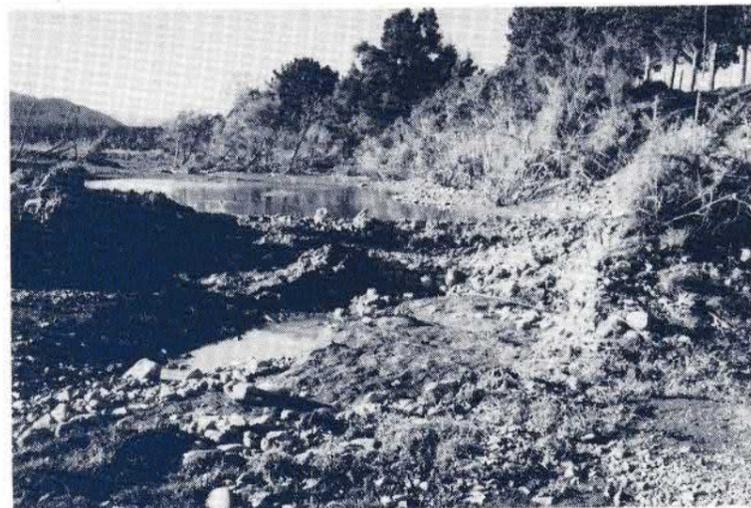
Then disaster struck. The new manager contacted DU to say that the dam wall had blown out after torrential overnight rain. Inspection revealed that further boulders had been dumped in the mouth of the spillway. This restricted the obviously considerable flow of water which had started to run over the dam wall. It would not have



The spillway blow-out, winter 1995. Photo: Alan Wilks.

been long before the dam would have been breached and eroded below the level of the spillway.

All was not lost. Although DU was loath to spend more money on the project, the manager advised that the owner appreciated the wetland and was prepared to fence it permanently and repair the dam. DU undertook to offer



The partially repaired breach (early 1997). Photo: Alan Wilks.

advice but nothing permanent could be done until the surrounding area dried out.

By March 1997, a meeting had been held with the owner and discussions were ongoing with the manager. The latter accepted DU's advice and the project was able to be reinstated.

The dam wall was repaired and the spillway widened and built up with bags of concrete reinforced on the lower side using the boulders which had originally caused the problem.

The water level in the dam was thus raised by 150 mm which has produced a greater area of open water and with the wider spillway it is anticipated that even in a

flood the dam wall will not be threatened.

The area of the wetland has now been permanently re-fenced with no gates and members of the staff who are extremely interested in the project have started planting.

DU has offered to provide trees and labour this coming winter to plant out the retired area with suitable species. We are grateful to the new owner for his foresight and support in creating another valuable wetland.

The following lessons can be learned from this exercise:

- An agreement with the landowner must include a clause stating that the construction is not to be altered without prior consultation with DU;

- When a creek is dammed, maximum water flow must be ascertained first to ensure feasibility;

- This project was originally undertaken in mid-winter at a time when the creek was running high and fill material was wet, which would

- have reduced compaction and allowed seepage under the dam;

- Fences must be permanent and not have gates;

- Regular inspections should be undertaken by someone from DU.



Kowhai Flat showing the repaired breach 18 months after the blow-out. Photo: Alan Wilks.



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl

YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member Please send me further information, I may join later.

Title First Name Surname Phone Fax

Address

Membership is available in seven categories:

Junior (under 16) \$10 Contributor \$35 Family \$50 Life (one payment) \$1000

Note: Bronze, silver, and gold sponsorships, which can be changed annually, include the membership fee of \$35.00 inc.GST. For the balance, sponsors will receive a receipt as proof of a tax deductible donation

Bronze Sponsor \$60 Silver Sponsor \$125 Gold Sponsor \$250

My donation of \$ is enclosed. Please find my cheque attached.

Please charge my VISA/MASTERCARD No:

Expires: Signature:

Please renew my membership each year and charge my credit card YES/NO

ALL DONATIONS TO DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC. ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
Please return to Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland. Thanks for your support.

Shopping

FOR AROUND THE POND



FENN TRAP MK 6

Deadly on ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats, these all metal traps are easy to set and are the ultimate quick kill tunnel trap. **\$30.00 each or \$50.00 pair**

FENN TRAP TUNNEL

These heavy duty moulded fenn trap tunnels are perfect for safely setting your Fenn Traps. Each tunnel can be used to house either one or two traps, depending on your set. As used by the Department of Conservation, they actually increase your catch rate. **\$35.00**



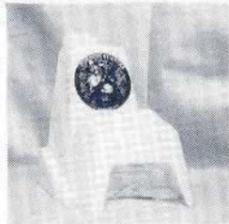
TIMMS TRAP

We now stock the well known and effective Timms Trap to complement the Fenn Trap. The Timms Trap is perfect for larger animals, such as possums and cats. Bait with either fruit or meat depending on your trapping target. **\$40.00**

BAIT STATION

This waterproof heavy duty plastic bait station is ideal for around your captive pond or aviary. It has a huge bait reservoir and can be used against possums, rabbits and rats. It really is a "set and forget"

predator control weapon to add to your trapping programme. **\$25.00**



GREY TEAL NEST BOX

As featured in "Flight" magazine, these Grey Teal nest boxes come in a prefabricated form ready to assemble and erect on your pond. They come complete with mounts ready to fit to your own post. **\$25.00**

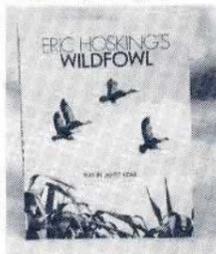
ESSENTIAL READING

NEW ZEALAND WETLANDS: A MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Far and away the most comprehensive New Zealand guide to managing wetlands. This has a load of answers to your questions about how to build a wetland, what to plant, what lives in a wetland, what legal controls apply and where to go for further information. This book is required reading for anybody who is serious about looking after wetlands. **\$25.00**

ERIC HOSKING'S WILDFOWL

A must for anybody interested in wildfowl this book is full of magnificent photographs by one of the world's foremost wildlife photographers. **\$20.00**



PONDS AND LAKES FOR WATERFOWL

Published in Britain by the Game



Conservancy, this book covers the development and improvement of waterfowl habitat with many interesting ideas. **\$54.00**

WETLANDS - DISCOVERING N.Z.'S SHY PLACES

An excellent book in which the author, a former QEII National Trust Regional Representative, visits wetlands of varying types throughout New Zealand. **\$15.00**

THE DU ART GALLERY

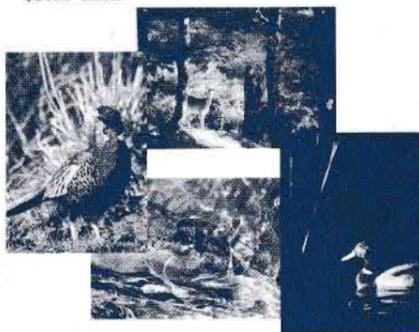
LIMITED EDITION ART PRINTS

There are five fine art prints by five New Zealand artists in this exclusive DU art series. All prints are signed and numbered limited editions. They come to you unmounted so you can match your choice of frame to your decor. The prints are:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Brown Teal | Pauline Morse |
| Grey Teal | Lex Hedley |
| Blue Duck | Paul Martinson |
| Shoveler | Russell Jackson |
| Mallards | Janet Marshall |
- \$45.00 each**

NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE CARDS

These beautiful greeting cards feature stunning photo's of our best known sporting wildlife. They are blank inside for you to personalise with your own message, and come with their own envelope. There are four cards in the series including Mallard, Pheasant, Sika Deer, and Rainbow Trout. **\$3.00 each**



WEAR YOUR SUPPORT FOR WETLANDS



DU SILK TIES

Our very attractive imported 100% silk ties all feature the DU duck head in gold. **\$40.00**

DU MONOGRAMMED POLO SHIRT

Our hard wearing white polo shirts are great casual wear. They feature an embroidered DU logo and come in sizes of small, medium, large and extra large. **\$30.00**

DU CAPS

These baseball style hats are one size fits all and are in a range of colours including black, red and blue. Keep the weather out of your eyes, whatever the weather. **\$15.00**

DU MONOGRAMMED CLOTH PATCH

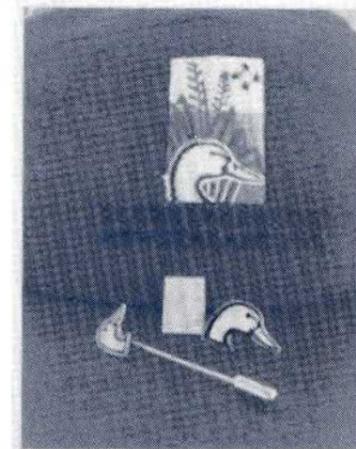
Our monogrammed cloth jacket patches

are available in navy and white. They have overlapped edges and can easily be sewn onto your jacket. **\$10.00**



DU LAPEL PINS

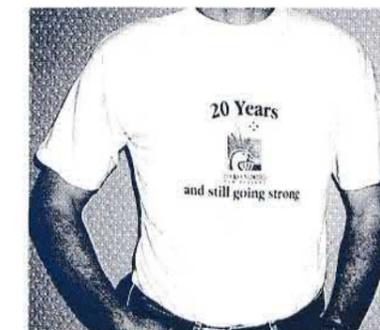
These look great on your jacket lapel. Styles include the DUNZ logo lapel pin, a duck head stick pin, a small duck head



lapel pin, and the large duck head lapel pin. Specify your choice. **\$4.00**

DU 20TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT

These cotton, unbleached T-shirts proudly display a silkscreened DU logo and come in sizes of medium, large and extra large. Great summer T-shirt, or wear it under your winter shirts for extra warmth. **Reduced to clear \$15.00**



DU DECAL

Show your membership with pride with our colourful logo in permanent vinyl suitable for cars, boats, bags, anywhere. **\$1.00**

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

Name: _____	ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Address: _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Phone: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PAYMENT DETAILS				
I enclose my cheque for \$ _____ as payment.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Please charge my credit card VISA/MASTERCARD	_____	_____	_____	_____
Card No. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Expires: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Prices include GST and Postage & Packing
 Tax Invoice Required Tick

TOTAL \$ _____

Send your completed order form and payment details to,
 Graham Gurr, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland. Ph: 09 489 5337
 Please allow three weeks for delivery.