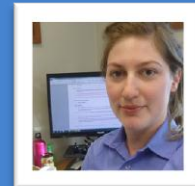




ICWT Newsletter

Issue 1, Winter 2014



Editor: Sabrina Luecht

Wildlife Division – 2013/14 Season

The Trust currently holds 44 black stilt/kaki juveniles which will be released in early September. On average 120 captive bred/reared juveniles are released annually between the Trust and the Department of Conservation captive breeding facility in Twizel.

The Trust currently holds thirteen adult NZ shore plover/tuturuatu, eight of those being breeding birds. They produce two to three clutches per breeding season. This season we had 29 eggs laid and 26 chicks hatched. Twenty juveniles were released at Motutapu Island and on a private island in the Hauraki Gulf. Two juvenile females were held back for breeding, to flock mate with remaining unpaired males.

2013/14 was the second best breeding season for our orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki karaka, in terms of total numbers of birds released (42 on Tuhua Island). Overall it is the best season to date, as more birds were bred from fewer pairs. The Trust also received a wild clutch of eggs to foster rear (to add new genetics to the captive breeding programme), which occurs every three years on average.

The Trust currently holds two North Island blue duck/whio breeding pairs, with the intention of holding a third pair in the near future. These breeding pairs each laid three clutches this season with an average of 6

eggs per clutch, and 23 ducklings fledged. In recent breeding seasons the Trust has raised a total of ~35 blue duck ducklings (including wild collected South Island blue duck eggs from the Whio Nest Egg (WHIONE) programme. Each season the Trust also receives North Island blue duck juveniles bred by other captive institutions, which are transferred for pre-conditioning in the raceways prior to release into the wild.

The Trust's brown teal/pateke pairs are currently the most successful breeding pairs in New Zealand, laying three clutches per season, each raising an average of 18-21 ducklings. Each season the Trust also incubates and hand rears wild brown teal eggs collected from North Island sites. The Trust also holds brown teal for other captive institutions, holding up to 160 brown teal per breeding season in total.

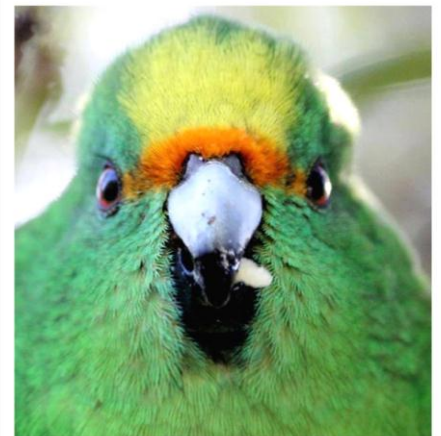
The Trust's young South Island kaka pair made their first breeding attempt this season, eggs were infertile however. Hopefully this means next season will be the real deal!

The Trust successfully bred its first Otago skinks this season, a huge excitement! These two offspring are the first ever western Otago skinks to be bred in captivity.

The Trust currently holds four adult tuatara,

WELCOME!

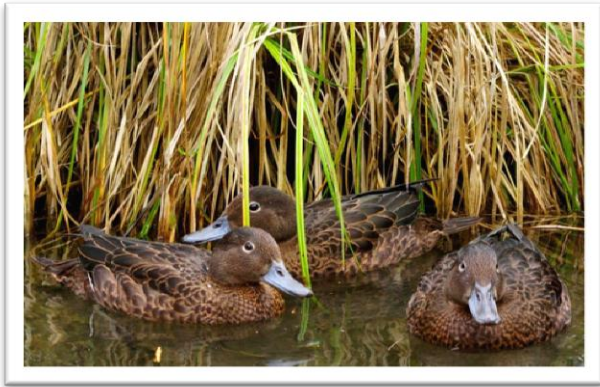
This is the first of the Trust's quarterly newsletters, designed to provide you with snippets and updates, for distribution internally and externally.



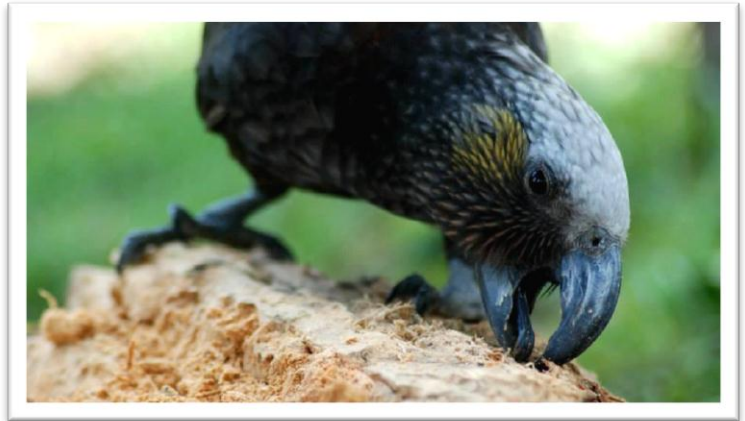
eight 10-12 year old unsexed juveniles, four two year old unsexed juveniles, and four one year old tuatara.

The Trust breeds mute swans and Cape Barren geese for Ducks Unlimited NZ (DUNZ) each season. The offspring are donated to DUNZ for sale to private holders. Profits are used for wetland restoration. This season eight mute swan cygnets and five Cape Barrens were produced.

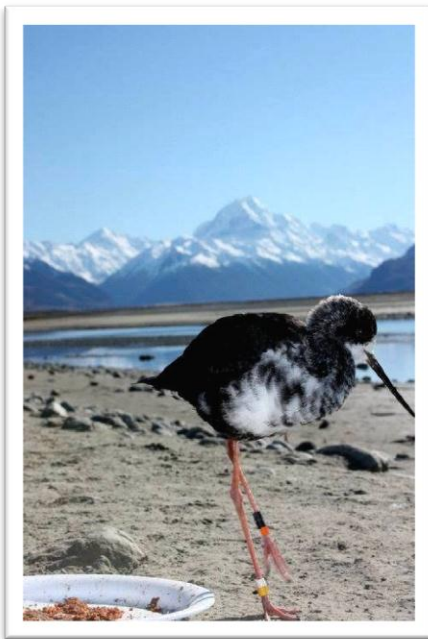
Brown teal/pateke juveniles



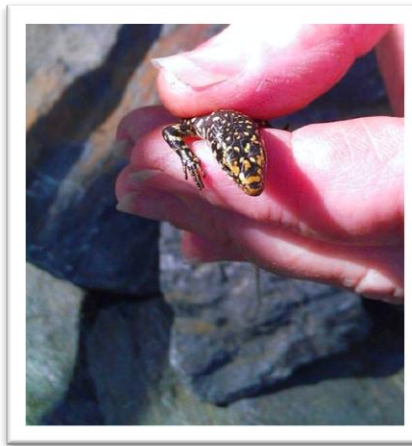
South Island kaka feeding



Released black stilt/kaki juvenile



Western Otago skink baby



Black stilt/kaki chicks



NZ shore plover breeding pair



Blue duck/whio ducklings



Tuatara hatchling



Orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki chicks



NZ shore plover chicks



Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship 2014

The Trust is delighted to announce that Michelle Ryan has been awarded the Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship for 2014. Michelle is an outstanding University of Canterbury student who has just completed her BSc, majoring in Physics and Geology, and is now undertaking a MSc in Environmental Science.

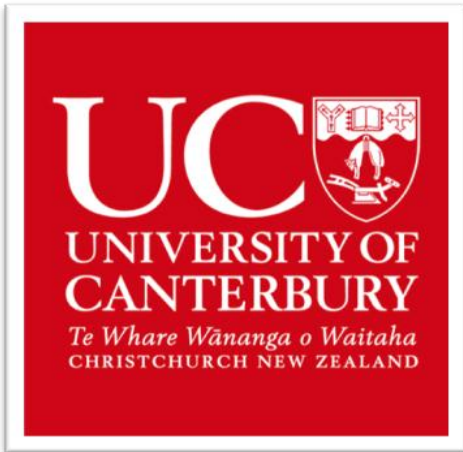
Michelle's MSc thesis will measure and evaluate ice properties in the grounding zone of the McMurdo ice shelf (using ground penetrating radar systems). Her thesis will be part of a larger research theme, feeding into the New Zealand Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Directions and Priorities 2010-2020; contributing to the understanding of the ice sheet affecting regional and global sea levels.

Sir Neil himself visited Antarctica during the late 1950's with a contingent including renowned New Zealand artist Peter McIntyre. During this trip Sir Neil developed a deep appreciation of the Antarctic region.

The Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship in Environmental Science was amended in 2014 and replaces the Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship in Geography/Environmental Science, which was established in 1987 in memory of Sir Neil Isaac (1915-1987), who had a lifelong enthusiasm for enhancing relationships between people and the environment.

See:

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/ScholarshipSearch/ScholarshipDetails.aspx?ScholarshipID=6935.1598>



OUT AND ABOUT



Landscape and Maintenance Divisions

The bush aviaries received an overhaul in tree cutting, planting, weeding, mowing, and roof repairs. The raceways also received much needed attention, a job well done!

FAST FACTS

ICWT Facebook



1,375 Likes

50,000 Post Reach

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Isaac-Conservation-and-Wildlife-Trust/409424942495457>

www.isaacconservation.org.nz



Operations Manager Bruce Rule was recently appointed as a representative for the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board. This is an important role that will also indirectly benefit the Trust as both parties plan a ten year strategy. The term is for three years, commencing 1st July 2014.

See:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/nz-conservation-authority-and-boards/conservation-boards-by-region/canterbury-aoraki/board-members/>

In Brief

On 24th March, ANZ volunteers put in a hard days labour at the Sir Neil Memorial Garden. They transformed the gardens and thoroughly enjoyed their subsequent tour of the property.

Repairs to the Kotuku statue are underway, following damage in the September storm last year. Wet ground conditions have stalled work and we are waiting for spring before continuing.

Family Day on 23rd March resulted in a fantastic turnout. Staff and family were able to enjoy delicious food, bouncy castles and rides, a display of machinery, a tuatara encounter and a Peacock Springs site tour.

Deccan Landscapes have commenced work on installing the fountain Lady Diana Isaac purchased many years ago. It was intended for the Historic Village and will be a stunning addition to the village green. The project is close to completion and will be designated as a memorial to the late Lady Diana Isaac.

Many will have noticed the construction of the secondary stop bank running through the property. This resulted in Interblock shifting premises. Hopefully the stop bank will never be required!

The Cathedral Choir utilise the Lake House approximately six times per year as a rehearsal venue. Lady Diana Isaac had a special affinity with the Christchurch Cathedral and loved to see the choir enjoy the Lake House.

The Vintage Machinery Club enjoyed visiting the Heritage Village in April. It was quite a sight to behold, with the vintage cars taking over the village!

The house at 296 McLeans Island Road has had a makeover. The Maintenance and Landscaping Divisions have worked on this property for several months. The house is now sporting a new roof, double glazing, wall and ceiling insulation, new fences, and painted inside and out. The house looks terrific, thank you to all involved. The tenants from 130 McLean's Island Road have temporarily moved in, as EQC work now commences there.

Logging commenced at the 'Shipley' forestry blocks that were wind damaged from the September storm. Expected duration is 10 weeks.

There is a new farm manager and worker on the dairy farm, and they are enjoying settling into their new role. It's a busy time and those early morning starts are not to be envied!

The Trust donated \$5,000 to the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust again this year, for native planting to create green corridors in the Selwyn district. The Trust has also donated \$5,000 to BRAID and towards native planting at Otukaikino Stream (2 km site of retired land).

The Trust property boasts some 300 roses, and rose pruning is underway.

Three Wildlife Division staff will be attending the Wildbase Recovery Conference on 13-15th August, which will involve presentations on native fauna conservation, rehabilitation, health issues and community projects.

Diana Isaac Cup



The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust congratulates the Garrett family (Phil, Andrew, Amanda, Ethan and Alanagh) for winning the Diana Isaac Cup at The Sensational Selwyn Awards dinner last Saturday night.

The Diana Isaac Cup was established in 2012 with the objective of recognizing outstanding efforts to weave native plants into the working lands of the Selwyn district. Lady Isaac donated the cup to the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust. The Cup is jointly awarded by The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust and the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust to a person or group of people who best meets this objective.

Lady Isaac stated: "The incorporation of native plants into the working lands of Selwyn will bring environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits to the region. This award embraces the principle shared by my late husband Neil, of combining conservation with commercial venture - and I hope to encourage and recognise those who also espouse this vision."

The Selwyn district faces a huge challenge in relation to biodiversity, with less than 0.5% of natural land cover remaining. However a huge opportunity exists to weave resilience into the working landscape through the creation of native wildlife habitats along fence-lines, roadsides, shelterbelts, waterways and gullies; that will ultimately assist in the development of a wildlife network linking the foothills to the coast. This award recognises landowners and organisations that share this vision and are making a contribution to restoring native biodiversity alongside their land-use activities.

Trust Staff

Trust Administration

Rob Clarke – Executive Trustee (Chairman)
Alister McDonald – Trustee
William (Bill) Luff – Trustee
Bruce Rule – Operations Manager
Catherine Ott – Administration Manager
Michelle Foster - Accountant

Wildlife Division

Anne Richardson – Wildlife Manager
Sabrina Luecht – Wildlife Project Administrator
Shelly Harvey – Wildlife Keeper
Mike Robb – Wildlife Keeper
Emma Cournane – Wildlife Keeper
Nicki Wells – Wildlife Keeper
Alan Harvey – Wildlife Keeper/Maintenance

Landscape Division

Bill Waterman - Landscaper
Ian Gebbie - Landscaper
George Maipi - Landscaper
Rachel Brewer – Landscaper/Caretaker

Maintenance Division

Jamie Ward – Builder



New Staff

The Trust appointed a new Wildlife Keeper in February. Mike Robb is enjoying his new role and has settled in well. Mike previously worked for the Department of Conservation and Queenstown Birdlife Park.

The Trust appointed a new Landscaper/Caretaker in March. Rachel Brewer's responsibilities are for the Clifton Homestead, Heritage Village and Lake House. Rachel is an enthusiastic addition, and the Trust is delighted with her achievements. Rachel will also be propagating native plants. Rachel previously worked for Oderings Garden Centre.

Heritage Village News

Robert Coup House

The Robert Coup House originates from Robert Coup Road in Kaiapoi, Canterbury. Originally 8,000 acres of farmland surrounded the house.

The Coup family arrived from England in 1854. William Coup built the house for his wife and two sons in 1857. Ships ballast was used for the house piles in its original location, with the house sitting on top of this pile of stones and not tied down in any way.

The Coup family's intentions of developing a wooden mill ensued, with William's son Robert Coup becoming one of the first shareholders of the Kaiapoi Wooden Mills.



Staff Farewell

On 1st August the Trust farewelled Trevor Potroz, who is leaving after nine years of dedicated service as painter and handyman. Trevor started with the task of assisting in the restoration of the buildings in the Heritage Village, but his scope soon widened to encompass many other buildings. The results of Trevor's high standard of workmanship can be admired throughout the Heritage Village, where he has played an important role in returning buildings to their original former glory. Trevor has a wealth of knowledge on these historic buildings and takes great pride in their appearance. We all wish him a very happy retirement!

