

THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST

A study in conservation



ICWT NEWSLETTER

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New Zealand's Fauna & Flora - Our national monuments

"They are our national monuments. They are our Tower of London, our Arc de Triomphe, our pyramids. We don't have this ancient architecture that we can be proud of and swoon over in wonder, but what we do have is something that is far, far older. No-one else has kiwi, no-one else has kakapo. They have been around for millions of years, if not thousands of millions of years. And once they are gone, they are gone forever. And it's up to us to make sure they never die out." Source: Department of Conservation.

Sage words by **Don Merton**, the New Zealand conservationist best known for saving the black robin and kakapo from extinction. He pioneered capture and translocation techniques as management tools in the recovery of endangered New Zealand species, and authored or co-authored ~150 publications.

Don had a life long involvement in wildlife conservation, specialising in the management of endangered species since he completed a traineeship with the New Zealand Wildlife Service in 1960. He was a senior member of the Department of Conservation's Threatened Species Section and the Kakapo Management Group until his retirement in April 2005. Don passed away on 10 April 2011.



ICWT News



Canterbury
Mudfish



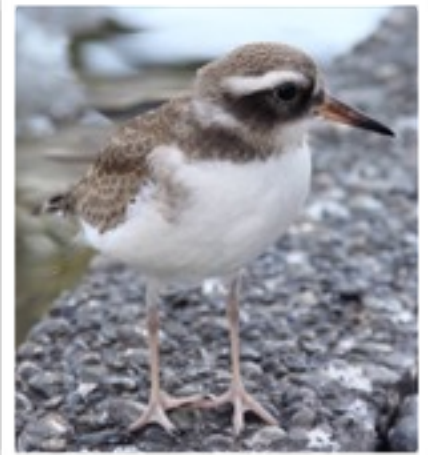
Heritage
Village

Wildlife Division

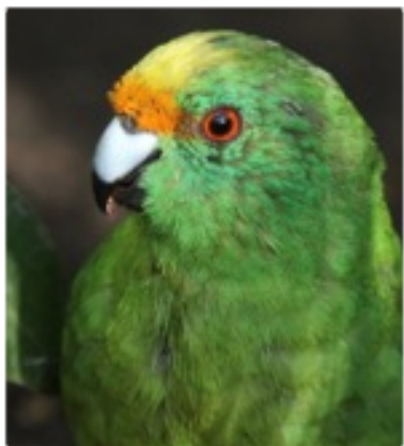


Black stilt: IWCT is currently holding 61 black stilts. The three breeding pairs are now having time off post-breeding season, while the 55 juveniles are continuing to mature until their release into the wild from August onwards.

New Zealand shore plover: One of the pairs had their 4th clutch, after removing the chicks they parent raised. Due to the cooler weather we hand reared the last chicks, and put artificial eggs under the pair - the first time we have done this. The release of 11 juveniles to Waikawa/Portland Island was postponed from March



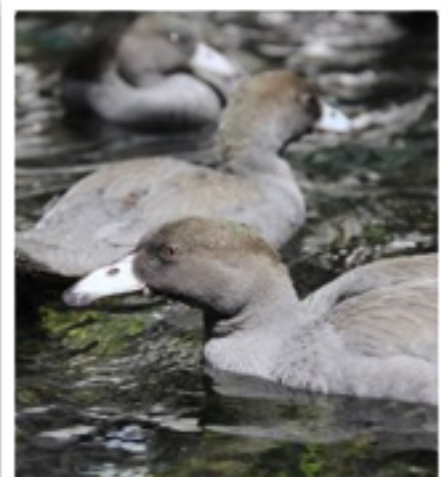
to 28 April, due to several slight injuries requiring time to heal. We have held back 5 juveniles for the captive breeding programme, 2 males and 3 females for breeding at the Trust and Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre.



Orange-fronted parakeet: ICWT received a red-crowned parakeet pair from Willowbank Wildlife Reserve in March, to use as foster parents for orange-fronted parakeet eggs. A critical breeding female, Gabby, is back on track, having raised multiple clutches. A wild clutch of two chicks arrived in April via the Department of Conservation, which are being fostered by Gabby. Consequently Auckland Zoo received two captive bred chicks from ICWT, and they now hold 6 orange-fronted parakeets from ICWT. Maintaining genetic diversity of the captive population with incoming wild clutches, is key to providing genetically diverse birds for release to supplement declining wild populations.



Blue duck: The last 8 North Island blue duck juveniles of the season were transferred to the Department of Conservation hardening facility in Turangi in March, before their release into the wild. 16 South Island blue duck juveniles are being retained for flock mating.



Brown teal: Close to 100 brown teal were on site towards the end of the breeding season, with the third release taking place in March. Brown teal can breed year around and some pairs currently have ducklings. In May 20 brown teal juveniles will be released in the Abel Tasman by Project Janszoon, with another 20 juveniles being released on Resolution Island in Fiordland.

ICWT News



Congratulations to **Claire McCorkindale**, the newly appointed recipient of the Lady Diana Isaac Scholarship in Nature Conservation at Lincoln University. Claire has completed her B.Sc. majoring in Conservation and Ecology, and is now commencing her M.Sc. Her thesis will focus on carbon sequestration potential in native species at Puhi Peaks Station, Kaikoura. Claire enjoyed her recent visit to ICWT, to learn more about the achievements of the Trust.

Walkers are enjoying the **Isaac Loop Track** (Stage 1) , part of the restoration project along the Otukaikino River. Work will soon commence on the **Isaac Farm Walk** (Stage 2). A new culvert will need to be installed, plus extensive fencing and gates to form a corridor to Coutts Island Road. Restoration of

waterways such as the Otukaikino is vital, with so many of Canterbury's water bodies undergoing extreme declines in quality.

We farewell **Kathy Hackett** who joined the Wildlife Division to assist during the busy breeding season. Thank you for your hard work Kathy!

The **remote cameras** inside aviaries for orange-fronted parakeet, black stilt, NZ shore plover and blue duck, have captured plenty of interesting behaviour, all of which can be viewed on the ICWT Facebook page.



ICWT fortunately came through the summer without any fires. We continue to work closely with the NZ Fire Service to **mitigate against fire risk**. We have installed pumps for firefighting, halt spark hazardous activity in hot weather, and minimise fire fuel by mowing and weed-eating.

A new lease has been signed with **Fish & Game** for their continued use of the lower raceways for salmon and trout. This is where all the fish are raised for the annual **'Take a Kid Fishing'** event.



The Trust has recently purchased many **more traps** (mustelid and live cat) for the Isaac Conservation Park. Feral cats in particular continue to be sighted on the property, despite ongoing predator control.

ICWT welcomes **Perry and Jackie McConachie**, new Dairy Farm leasees, commencing 1 June 2017; as well as **James and Lisa Thomson**, new sheep farm leasees, commencing 1 July 2017.



Anne's 25 Year Service



ICWT acknowledges and congratulates **Wildlife Manager Anne Richardson** for her 25 year long service to the Wildlife Division.

Anne's wealth of knowledge, expertise and passion for the species under her care, contributes directly to the success of the captive breeding programme of endangered species for release into the wild.

The Wildlife Division is made up of an excellent team of Wildlife Keepers, in great part thanks to Anne's management.

ICWT looks forward to many more wildlife successes to come over the years Anne!

Canterbury Mudfish

Canterbury mudfish are **critically endangered**, and are the most threatened of New Zealand's mudfish species.

They are only found in a limited number of waterways in the Canterbury Plains, between the Ashley River and the Waitaki River. Their swampy lowland habitat consists of wetlands, pakihi, pools in swamp forests and slow-flowing streams and drains.

Mudfish are a very special fish, having the ability to survive during times when there is no surface water - something most other fish cannot do!

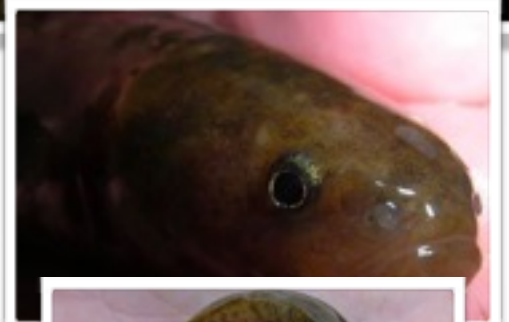
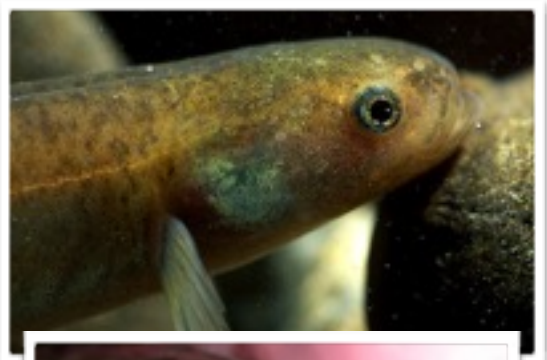
ICWT holds the largest Canterbury mudfish population (with many individuals transferred to the conservation park over time), as well as the largest Canterbury mudfish on record.

In April Department of Conservation biodiversity ranger **Anita Spencer** transferred 33 mudfish into one of the 'otter ponds', with another 24 mudfish transferred into a pond at the salmon farm.

Both are great sites and we feel confident that if they are kept eel free that the mudfish will thrive. More mudfish will eventually be

transferred there, particularly to mix up the genetics. Once another three ponds are eel proof, more mudfish will be moved into these areas from the big pond.

Anita thanks ICWT "for the massive effort Anne Richardson and the Wildlife staff have put into securing these sites. It is lovely to be able to do the monitoring and have any problems fixed immediately. You are wonderful! Mudfish are remarkable animals, all they need is to be left alone by humans and other fish, and they will thrive. Thanks for all the great conservation work you do for mudfish."



Maintenance Division

A **relocatable office** arrived on site to be converted for use for the **Isaac Construction Ltd laboratory** team. This has been a huge undertaking by ICWT builder Hamish Milne and his assistant Bill Waterman.

Another **relocated building** arrived on site that will be utilised by Isaac Construction Ltd as an office building.

Painting of the roof and exterior of the **Isaac Construction Ltd administration offices** has now been completed by painter Peter Jones, a 3 month long project. The yellow Isaac branding on the sills and pillars looks terrific!



Landscape Division

During summer, we focus our attention on **mowing and weed eating** grass, to reduce a potential fuel supply in the event of fire.

This summer we have also reduced the number of **wild alder** from stream sides, with the intention of replacing this exotic invasive species with native **kahikatea** (white pine).

Our **crack willow** eradication programme is now in its fourth year with successful results.

Native planting continues across the conservation park, such as the swale around the fuel stop.



Facebook



Follow the ICWT's work via Facebook!

We keep followers up to date with conservation efforts and inspire people to make a difference.

Our Facebook page has over 12,200 likes and an audience of over 300,000 people.



Find the Facebook link here:
www.isaacconservation.org

Heritage Village



This historic cottage is one of two houses built side by side in Christchurch's Peacock Street in 1905.

At the time Peacock Street housed servants who worked in the large homes lining Bealey Avenue.

For the purpose of the Heritage Village this home is now referred to as **The Policeman's House**, due to its proximity to Papanui Jail.

In 1905 urban development continued to grow, with the emergence of vocations to provide self-sustaining industry for basic household items.

This urban development saw the proliferation of schools, churches and community associations; and Christchurch increased in size to become a small city.

The cottage arrived at ICWT in 2007 and has been fully restored since then.

Who Are We?

ICWT Administration

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

Wildlife Division

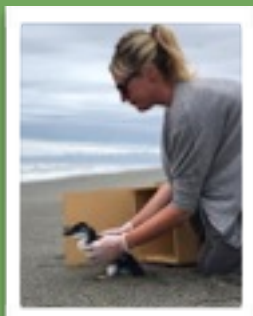
Anne Richardson – Wildlife Manager
Sabrina Luecht – Project Administrator
Josh Foster – Wildlife Keeper
Emma Cournane - Wildlife Keeper
Leigh Percasky– Wildlife Keeper
Leonie Heyder – Wildlife Keeper
Nicki Wells – Wildlife Keeper
Hannah Murdoch - Wildlife Keeper

Landscape Division

Ian Gebbie - Landscaper
George Maipi - Landscaper
Rachel Brewer – Gardener/Caretaker
Ian Archer - Gardener

Maintenance Division

Hamish Milne – Builder
Peter Jones – Painter/Handyman
Bill Waterman - Builders Assistant



Meet The Editor

Sabrina Luecht began working for the ICWT in 2013 as a Senior Wildlife Keeper. Since then she has been appointed as Project Administrator. Sabrina's forte is endangered species conservation, communications, education and media.

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust

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