

THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST

A study in conservation



ICWT NEWSLETTER

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Historic Robert Coup House

This historic building originates from **Robert Coup Road** in Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch, where it was surrounded by 8,000 acres of farmland. The house was built by **William Coup** for his wife Catherine, and sons Robert and John in 1857, having arrived from England three years prior with the intention of developing a woollen mill. William's son Robert Coup later became one of the first shareholders of the Kaiapoi Woollen Mills.

Ship's ballast was used for the house piles in its initial location, with the structure merely sitting on ballast stones and not being secured in any manner. The rear of

the house, a later addition, has since been removed to restore it back to its original size and layout. The house was salvaged by ICWT and relocated to the **Heritage Village** in 2008. It has now been restored back to its original condition, providing a typical example of a prosperous merchant family home.



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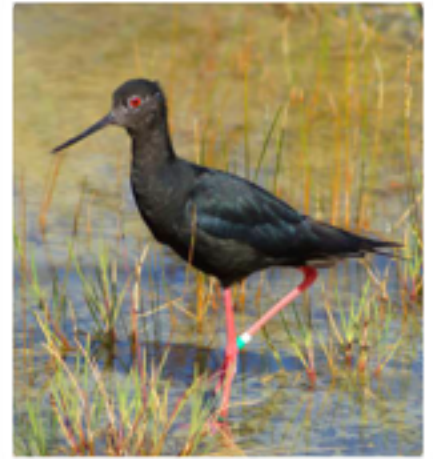
**Wildlife
Division**



ICWT News

Wildlife Division

Black stilt: ICWT is currently at near full capacity for the critically endangered black stilt, with 60 birds on site. A release of around 50 juveniles is scheduled for mid-August. The breeding pairs will soon start nest building and copulating again. Great news were received by the Kaki Recovery Programme last month, with Global Wildlife Conservation funding \$500,000 towards a replacement black stilt breeding aviary in Twizel.



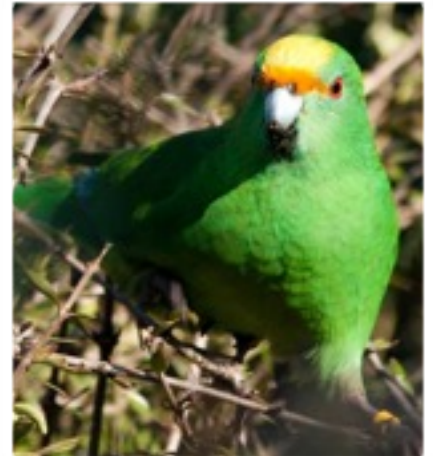
New Zealand shore plover:

ICWT released the last two shore plovers from the past breeding season, which had been retained from the earlier release. Birds are now being moved around on site, as well as with Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre, so that flock mating can be initiated to create two new breeding pairs.

Orange-fronted parakeet:

ICWT has begun to flock mate a wild chick with two captive bred females to form a new pair. One of the pairs, a female whom lost her first male and was recently

given a young male to keep her company, is now incubating eggs. Two other pairs are currently nest prospecting, even though it is still winter.



Blue duck: ICWT is still creating a captive breeding population for South Island blue duck, the first time this has been attempted. One allotment of sub-adults has been flock mated to date, with a pair transferred to Kiwi Birdlife Park. The remaining 7 birds were released on the west coast on the upper Styx (4) and Arahura (3) Rivers near Hokitika, where they originated from as wild collected eggs. The North Island blue duck pairs are currently in rest mode until the breeding season begins later in August.

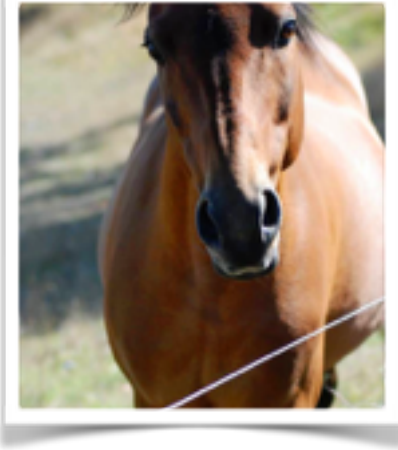
Brown teal: ICWT has just finished flock mating orphaned juveniles which originated from

Great Barrier Island. Pairs have been sent to other captive institutions and one pair is being retained as one of the current captive pairs is soon being released. In May 20 juveniles were released at Hadfield Clearing in Awaroa, Abel Tasman National Park. This was a collaboration between ICWT, the Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon. The next release is scheduled for later in August.



ICWT News

ICWT warmly welcomes **Perry and Jackie McConachie** onto the dairy farm, and **James and Lisa Thomson** onto the sheep farm. The dairy farm milking plant is being upgraded to meet new Fonterra standards.



Lady Isaac's last steed of her former British riding pony stud, **Master Caper**, now has a paddock mate, Frosty a Standardbred, with the two now firm friends.

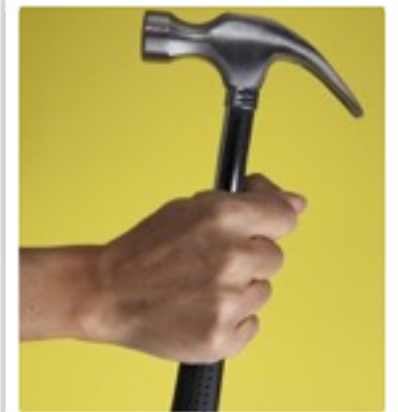
An additional 2,000 natives have been planted over the past two months along the **Otukaikino River**, with the loop track proving popular with walkers. A culvert will shortly be installed to complete stage 2 of the Otukaikino track, named the Isaac Farm Walkway. We are currently targeting broom and making some good ground in eradicating this pest species from planting areas.

Maintenance Division

ICWT is in the process of painting the exterior of the Heritage Village's **historic brick-sided cottage** which originated from Peacock Street.

Seismic strengthening of the engineering workshops is soon to be underway.

The **Green Shed**'s interior has been completely renovated for use by Isaac Construction as training rooms.



Landscape Division



ICWT undertook **native planting** of the swale at the new Isaac Construction fuel stop, with 2,000 natives being utilised.

Exotics continue to be removed from the Isaac Conservation Park, with willow and pines removed from the sides of waterways in the wetland. Thank you to 4 Seasons Tree Care for working safely in this environmentally sensitive area.

ICWT continues **crack willow and self-seeded alder removal** from the water fringes, as part of its long-term goal to plant native kahikatea instead.



Rose pruning is currently in full swing, with over 300 roses tended to between Clifton Homestead and the Isaac Construction offices.

Scholarships



Courtney Hamblin, the current Lincoln University Isaac scholar, is presently completing her M.Sc. thesis and ICWT looks forward to receiving a copy soon. Her thesis is looking at the ability of social attraction (e.g. decoys and audio playback) methods as a conservation tool for the **endangered black-fronted tern**.

Most terns are seabirds but the black-fronted tern uniquely lives and breeds inland, only visiting the coast to feed in autumn and winter.

Habitat loss, human disturbance, introduced predators and weeds are key threats to survival.

Black-fronted terns and other braided river birds have therefore been the focus of a range of conservation actions in attempts to increase their productivity.

Despite this there are ongoing challenges and efforts continue to bring this species back from the brink.

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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