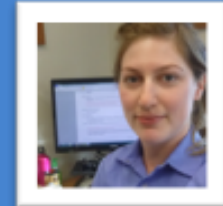




ICWT Newsletter

Issue 2 - Spring 2014



Editor: Sabrina Luecht

Wildlife Division – 2014/15 Season

Nine clutches of eggs have been laid by four pairs of black stilt, with further clutches still to be laid. The Kaki Recovery Programme is having its most successful season on record, currently being up to 168 black stilt eggs at the Twizel captive facility - which is where all the Trusts eggs are transferred to. This season will be the first where the Trust is to receive newly hatched chicks for hand rearing, and is also leaving the last clutches with parents for hatching. Soon we will also be receiving juveniles to hold until release in January and September.

This season has been poorly for orange-fronted parakeets, with just four clutches hatched to date. Last breeding season was the best yet in comparison.

The Trust currently holds eleven adult New Zealand shore plover, eight of those being breeding birds. They produce two to three clutches per breeding season. So far ten chicks have hatched. Two clutches are in the incubators, and three more clutches are to be collected for artificial incubation. Juveniles will be released on Motutapu Island and Waikawa/Portland Island.

The Trust currently holds two North Island blue duck breeding pairs, with the intention of holding a third pair. These breeding pairs can each lay three clutches per season, with an average of 6 eggs per clutch. The Trust has had a busy season with ducklings,

receiving many wild collected South Island blue duck eggs via the Whio Nest Egg (WHIONE) programme. We currently have 51 blue ducklings and two more clutches to hatch. 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 pairs are currently the most successful breeding pairs in New Zealand, laying three clutches per season, each raising an average of 18-21 ducklings. This season the Trust has hatched 40 brown teal, with three pairs re-nesting. The Trust is also holding 30 brown teal for release. A total of up to 160 brown teal may be held per breeding season.

The young South Island kaka pair made their first breeding attempt last season (infertile eggs), but have not re-laid this season.

The Trust is not facilitating breeding of tuatara this season, as there is currently a nationwide surplus.

No Otago or grand skink breeding has occurred to date this season.

Each season the Trust breeds mute swans and Cape Barren geese for donation to Ducks Unlimited New Zealand.

Emma Cournane, Jamie Ward, Ian Gebbie and George Maipi attended the September 2014 black stilt release.



Two endangered Canterbury spotted skinks temporarily held at the Trust, have been released into the Port Hills.



WELCOME! The Trust's quarterly newsletters are designed to provide you with updates, for distribution internally and externally.

Spring 2014 In Pictures

Kowhai



Blue ducklings



Kakabeak



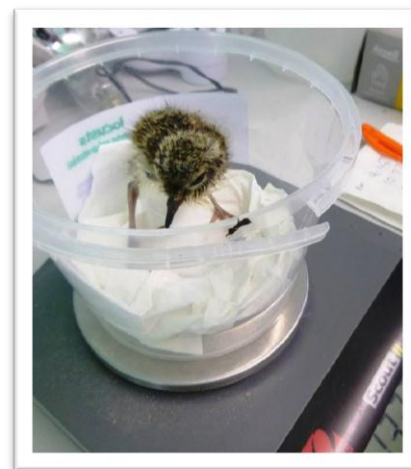
Mute swan gosling



Daffodils



New Zealand shore plover chick



Wild blue duck egg arrival



Mute swan on nest



Black stilt chick



Brown teal duckling

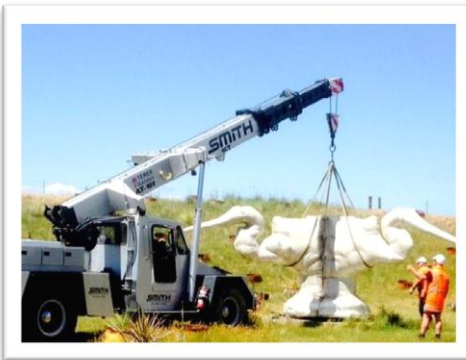


Orange-fronted parakeet



OUT AND ABOUT

Spring blossoms were out in full bloom throughout the property. Much maintenance work has been occurring, such as landscaping and planting at Lake Diana, and repairs of the Kotuku statue.



FAST FACTS

ICWT Facebook



1,970 Likes

60,000 Post Reach

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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

www.isaacconservation.org.nz



Take a Kid Fishing was held at The Groynes on Sunday 19th October 2014, where kids were thrilled to catch a salmon.

The Trust sponsors this event by contracting Fish & Game New Zealand to grow and supply 800 salmon for the ponds.

Volunteers show the kids how to catch a salmon, how to clean it and prepare it, and how to cook it. Rods, tackle and bait are available to children so all can enjoy a free fun fishing day.



In Brief

Michelle Ryan visited the Trust and accepted the 2014 University of Canterbury Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship. Michelle is now undertaking a MSc in Environmental Science, evaluating ice properties in the grounding zone of the McMurdo ice shelf, contributing to the understanding on effects of regional and global sea levels.

The Diana Isaac Cup was presented to the Garrett family at the Sensational Selwyn Awards. The cup was donated to the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust in 2012, to recognize outstanding efforts to weave native plants into the working lands of the Selwyn district.

Significant riparian planting, fencing and willow removal has taken place at Otukaikino River, in association with the Trust, Christchurch City Council, Ecan and Fish & Game NZ. The Trust owns both sides of the stream and endeavours to open a walking track at the site in the long-term.

Native planting efforts are underway at the north side of Lake Diana. Landscaping and re-vegetation is currently taking place.

The Isaac Theatre Royal (first opened in 1908) was reopened in November, which required special engineering and extensive restoration. Many organizations support the Theatre, including the Trust.

The rental property at 296 McLeans Island Road has now received extensive renovation by the Maintenance Division, with fantastic results.

Spaghetti Junction and the Y-intersection have been altered extensively over the past few months, improving visibility and overall safety.

Two weeks ago the Kotuku statue was loaded onto the back of a truck and driven off site for repairs following damage in the September wind storm last year. The statue will be reinstated in its stream shortly.

Wildlife Headquarters has acquired two herbivorous lawnmowers for the summer period, in case you are wondering why you spot two goats.

An endangered Australasian bittern was sighted in the wetland, and a New Zealand falcon near the bush aviaries – good spotting by Mike Robb!

New Zealand River Award 2014 Winner

We are proud to announce that the Otukaikino River (South branch of the Waimakariri River) received 1st place in the 2014 New Zealand River Grand Award for the most improved river in the country, and was also the winner of the Regional Award.

The Otukaikino River is a stunning multi-branched spring fed river with crystal clear water – located in Canterbury.

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust is dedicated to improving the water quality of the Otukaikino River, and has set aside land on its eastern boundary for extensive riparian plantings. Once the fencing off from stock and native plantings are completed, this area will be made available to the public for passive recreation in future, and will link in with an existing network of walking tracks.

The Trust has worked extensively with the Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury (Ecan), landowner David Shipley, and Fish & Game New Zealand. Arthur Adcock (park ranger at The Groynes) has been hugely instrumental, working with landowners to fence and plant the river banks. The weeding component is carried out by community workers, which clear willow, blackberry, gorse and broom; then plant and mulch the riverbanks.

The Otukaikino River measured a water quality improvement of 37.8% over the past 10 years, an outstanding result. The 2014 awards were based on the improvements in long-term decline of dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) concentrations - as excess phosphorus results in river pollution.

Groynes Park Ranger Arthur Adcock at Otukaikino River



Human-derived phosphorus sources in rivers are mostly from wastewater treatment plants, farm-shed discharges, accelerated erosion of phosphorus-rich sediments, and fertiliser run-off from farmland. Phosphorus causes the growth of algae and slimes on riverbeds, smothering the habitat of other freshwater organisms, and causes many other water quality issues.

Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) data from over 1,100 New Zealand freshwater sites was analysed to determine the award winners, if a statistically significant downward trend in DRP concentrations over the last decade was demonstrated.

The final check on a site's suitability for inclusion in the awards was made following discussions between the Morgan Foundation, city councils, regional councils and other stakeholders such as the Landcare Trust and Fish & Game NZ.

Thank You

An existing blue duck aviary

We wish to thank Hynds Pipe Systems Limited for a substantial donation made to The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. As part of a species review, the Trust proposes to build an additional blue duck aviary and this donation will contribute towards the construction of this new aviary.

This third aviary will significantly increase output, by gaining three additional captive bred clutches per breeding season.

In latter newsletters we will provide you with updates on the new blue duck aviary.



Staff Farewell



The Trust farewelled long-time Wildlife Keeper Shelly Harvey in September 2014.

Shelly worked for the Trust for seven years. Her past positions include three years at Orana Wildlife Park as keeper and head native keeper, and volunteering on the Chatham Islands with the Department of Conservation. Shelly is now back in the zoo industry.

Shelly's favourite part of the job was the satisfaction of releasing endangered wildlife into the wild.

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
Emma Cournane – Wildlife Keeper
Mike Robb – Wildlife Keeper
Jeremy Kumagai – Wildlife Keeper
Nicki Wells – Wildlife Keeper
Alan Harvey – Maintenance

Landscape Division

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

Maintenance Division

Jamie Ward – Builder
Andrew Smyth – Painter/Handyman

Andrew Smyth



Jeremy Kumagai



Welcome To New Staff

The Trust appointed Andrew Smyth as Painter/Handyman in the Maintenance Division in August. Andrew brings a wealth of painting experience, has a passion for restoration, and is excited about sinking his teeth into the many and varied projects, particularly in the Heritage Village.

The Trust appointed Jeremy Kumagai as Wildlife Keeper in the Wildlife Division in September. Jeremy is passionate about wildlife, and has a background in birds of prey. Jeremy has fitted in well and is straight into peak breeding season.

Heritage Village News

St Ita's Church

The Parish of St Ita's at Hinds in South Canterbury was opened in 1911. Parish Priest Dean James O'Donnell named the church after the patron saint of his home county Limerick.

By 2005 the parish was no longer functioning and the church was closed. The church was then relocated to the Heritage Village in 2006. If this church had not come to the Heritage Village it would have been utilised by a farmer as a hay barn. On Saturday November 5th 2011 the 100 year centenary of the church was celebrated. Most recently the church has been used for weddings.



Diana Isaac Memorial Fountain

The Diana Isaac Memorial Fountain at the Heritage Village greens was recently completed, installed in memory of Lady Isaac, founder of the Trust.

