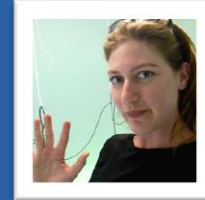




## ICWT Newsletter

Issue 6 –Spring 2015



Editor: Sabrina Luecht

## Wildlife Division

Only two out of five **black stilt/kaki** pairs are breeding this season, perhaps due to the severe winter. One individual from an old pair has a badly broken bill, so is no longer in breeding condition, while the other two non-breeding pairs are still in their first year here. The two breeding pairs have already laid two clutches each, which were transferred to the Department of Conservation facility in Twizel. They are currently incubating their third clutches, which will be left in the aviaries for incubation and parent rearing. The first chicks will be returning from the Twizel facility soon.

**New Zealand shore plover**



**Black stilt**



A slow start was experienced to the **NZ shore plover/tuturuatu** breeding season, most likely due to the severe winter. Three out of four NZ shore plover pairs are breeding. The fourth pair has not bred this spring, due to a grumpy male. The first clutches have been lifted for artificial incubation, with eight chicks hatched. Two second clutches have been lifted, with another due shortly. The third clutches will be left with the pairs to rear. Chicks will be directly transferred to offshore island holding aviaries, rather than to Trust aviaries, a new move to minimize dispersal (due to hatch site fidelity). Department of Conservation monitoring on Waikawa/Portland Island recently reported five pairs on eggs and one pair with a chick.

Orange-fronted parakeet

The breeding season for **orange-fronted parakeet/kakariki karaka** began poorly, but we now have five pairs breeding – three pairs for the first time. One of these pairs had ten eggs, hatching nine chicks in their first clutch – which is fantastic! The first release is scheduled in early December, with a follow up release in late January. The Department of Conservation has decided to trial releases on the mainland again (the second time this has been undertaken) – in the South Branch Hurunui valley. The approach will be slightly different this time, with holding aviaries to be used on site prior to release into the wild.



Blue duck



Our two **North Island blue duck/whio** pairs have laid two clutches (7 ducklings) and three clutches (9 ducklings) respectively. We have received five wild **South Island whio** clutches (Motueka, West Coast and Fiordland) from the Department of Conservation via the Whio Nest Egg (WHIONE) programme, with 22 ducklings hatched so far. It is yet to be decided by the Whio Recovery Group whether any South Island whio juveniles will be retained in captivity for a new captive breeding programme, or whether all will be released into the wild.

Brown teal

All seven **brown teal/pateke** breeding pairs have laid their first clutches, with 34 ducklings hatched in total. Laying of second clutches has now begun. Two older pairs have been released on Rotoroa Island in the Hauraki Gulf, making way for a clutch of orphans coming off Great Barrier Island – providing new genes for the captive breeding programme. The Trust continues to be the major breeder in producing the largest brown teal output for release into the wild.



# In Tribute – Diana, Lady Isaac

Sir Neil and Lady Diana Isaac first acquired Clifton Homestead and 5 ha of land at Harewood in Christchurch in 1954. After establishing the site as the location for their family home, the site also soon housed the Isaac Construction Ltd office. In 1957 gravel extraction began, with Sir Neil and Lady Isaac inspired to rehabilitate the land extensively post-quarrying. **This resulted in the formation of the first of many waterways and the formation of The Isaac Conservation Park (Peacock Springs).**

**In 1977 The Isaac Wildlife Trust was founded** to ensure the continuity of this work. The purview of the Trust was expanded to include not just the creation of Conservation Park but also to assist with the increasing need for protection of endangered bird, reptile and plant species. This was a labour of love for Sir Neil and Lady Isaac. They worked on it together every year up until his death in 1987. Lady Isaac then took over the Trust's chairmanship, growing the property considerably, and **establishing The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust in 2009.** Since its simple beginning in 1957 the estate has expanded to cover some 1100 ha, including an expanded quarry operation, salmon farm, general grazing and farmland.

**Lady Isaac passed away peacefully at the age of 91 on 23 November 2012. This November marked the third anniversary of her death.** Lady Isaac created and left a legacy. She was a legend with huge passion. **Amongst her many achievements, wildlife conservation surely rates as one of her greatest.** Lady Isaac was a well-known conservationist, businesswoman and philanthropist. She was an outstanding champion for Canterbury and her contribution to New Zealand was exceptional. Lady Isaac's legacy will endure in perpetuity through the The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, the Isaac Theatre Royal, the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation, and the creation of scholarships at both Lincoln and Canterbury Universities.



## OUT AND ABOUT

Clifton Homestead gardens; vintage Isaac truck; and Take-A-Kid fishing.



## In Brief

**Wildlife Headquarters** have been fully repainted, with all **brooder rooms** also fully renovated in time for chick hatching.



The **salmon hatchery** (leased to Aoraki Salmon farm) has had roof repairs completed.

Earthquake repairs are being undertaken at **Clifton Homestead**, which will take some time to complete.

The native planting on the north side of **Lake Diana** is growing extremely well, with the native planting in front of the **Lake House** is also looking superb.

The **Cathedral Choir** boys continue to enjoy utilising the Lake House for practice at the beginning of each term.

The **Otukaikino River** bridge is now spanning the stream, and the riparian planting programme is steam rolling ahead. Further fencing-off from stock has been completed.

**Z Energy** staff from throughout New Zealand attended an Otukaikino River native planting day on 12 November. They all proved to be as "energetic" as their company name suggests!

A storm in **September 2013** resulted in **windfall**, requiring an ongoing clean-up. The last areas to be completed were Lake Woodley and the fish pads.

The **Sir Neil Memorial Garden** near the waterfowl aviaries has had a major renovation and looks wonderful.

**Crack willow eradication** is underway in the wetlands by Landcare Services.

The annual **Take-A-Kid fishing** event was held on 18 October at the Groynes fishing lakes, supported by the Trust and Fish & Game.

**Matt Doocey's** (National Party - Waimakariri MP) recent site visit was a significant event.

The **vintage Isaac Construction Ltd truck** (a late 1950s Morris Commercial) featured at the recent Christchurch A&P show parade. This beautifully restored truck was once considered the pride of the fleet!

Our **Facebook** page is nearing **5,000 Likes** and now has an audience of up to 260,000 people! We have uploaded a mammoth 5,560 photos to date to showcase our captive breeding work.

## ICWT FACEBOOK

4,846 Likes

Find the link via our website:

[www.isaacconservation.org.nz](http://www.isaacconservation.org.nz)

# 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 – Project Administrator  
Josh Foster – Senior Wildlife Keeper  
Mike Robb – Wildlife Keeper  
Leonie Heyder – Wildlife Keeper  
Nicki Wells – Wildlife Keeper  
Kathy Hackett – Wildlife Keeper

## Landscape Division

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

## Maintenance Division

Hamish Milne – Builder  
Peter Jones – Painter/Handyman



American **artist Dr Pat Latas** visited New Zealand several years ago, seeing sites such as Codfish Island (Kakapo Recovery Programme) and the Trust to sketch critically endangered parrot species, amongst others. Pat says illustration of the natural world has been her passion since she can remember. Drawing has been an integral part of her life and an excuse for many adventures – travelling to many parts of the world. Her love for birds is her primary inspiration, being a veterinarian ("bird doctor) by trade, as well as an artist.

On behalf of Rob and the Trust team – a season's greeting and happy holidays to all our readers. Please note that the Trust office will be closed from 12pm on 23 December 2015 until 11 January 2016.



# Heritage Village



## The Coach House

The **Coach House** is a Victorian cottage from Dyers Pass Road. It was built in 1923, by the owners as a home for their unmarried son. When their brick house was demolished to clear the section for a new home, the Coach House had to be moved. Lady Isaac's late niece Anne, was married to the owner Peter Oakley and because of this relationship with the family, the Coach House was transferred to the Heritage Village for restoration, instead of being demolished.

St Ita's Church



Historic **St Ita's church** has been undergoing extensive maintenance repairs, including roof replacement and painting. The church was a parish from Hinds in South Canterbury, first opened in 1911. By 2005 the parish was no longer functioning and subsequently closed. The church was then salvaged and relocated to the Heritage Village in 2006.

Restoration will soon commence on **The Stables**, which originate from 133 Merivale Lane in Christchurch, and were used to house coaches.