

THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST

A study in conservation



ICWT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7

SUMMER

MARCH 2016



Wildlife Division - 2015/16 Season

It was a late start to the captive breeding season this year, which was mirrored by wild populations. This was likely due to the severe winter.

BLACK STILT: Only two out of our five pairs bred this season, which significantly lowered production, as there is currently only one other breeding pair at the Department of Conservation facility in Twizel. There was very high water in the wetland during spring and early summer, which likely did not help the situation. We are presently at full capacity, holding 45 juveniles, as Twizel's aviary collapsed from heavy snow during winter. The Trust is assisting by holding more juveniles prior to release in August.

1

BREEDING SEASON

2

FAMILY DAY

3

HERITAGE VILLAGE



2016 Scholarships
Congratulations to
Sophie Hale &
Courtney Hamblin



In Brief
Latest News



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“Extinction is a REAL threat, but it doesn’t have to be. Funding and resources can change everything.”

NZ SHORE PLOVER: Four pairs bred this season, with the fourth pair being a bonus - as they were young birds from last year’s flock that were not expected to breed yet. The three established pairs all laid three clutches each. Unfortunately we have avian pox in the juvenile population this season, meaning six juveniles had to be returned after release on Waikawa/Portland Island. Twelve birds are currently held indoors, receiving salt baths and medication. It may be up to three months until a release can be attempted, a set back for one of our most critically endangered species.



ORANGE-FRONTED PARAKEET: Five pairs bred this season, three are new young pairings, two of which have only laid one clutch so far. Our best pair are on their fourth clutch for the season. 36 juveniles were released on the mainland at the South Branch Hurunui valley. They are doing well, already pairing up with wild birds and breeding. The Department of Conservation found when releasing on the mainland (compared to predator-free islands) it is much more successful to first hold the birds in temporary aviaries, then carry on supplementary feeding around the release site.

BLUE DUCK: Wild collected egg numbers via WHIONE were down this year, with the Trust only receiving six clutches from Karamea, Hokitika and Te Anau, two of which (Styx River genes) are being held back for flock mating to begin a South Island blue duck captive breeding programme for the first time. The remaining juveniles were released in Karamea and Milford. The two captive North Island blue duck pairs produced five clutches this season, which have all been released in the central North Island. We have switched one of our North Island pairs for a pair from Kiwi Birdlife Park, as they had not bred successfully there. The female is very valuable genetically, and a move to our aviaries will hopefully initiate breeding.

BROWN TEAL: Six pairs produced two clutches each this season, with several pairs being on their third clutch. In January 80 birds were released at Te Henga/Bethell’s Beach wetland near Auckland. Another 80 juveniles will be ready for release at Young Nicks Head in Hawke’s Bay in May. The Trust continues to be the largest breeder and rearer of this once endangered species.



Heritage Village

The Stables originated from 133 Merivale Lane in Christchurch. These stables were used to house coaches and other equipment for use by the homestead which was owned by Dr Robinson. The doctor also farmed 200 acres of farmland behind the homestead on Papanui Road. The top floor was used as an area for the coach driver.

The stables have recently undergone maintenance works, along with several other heritage buildings.

News In Brief

The Trust's oldest tuatara male, Big Boy, recently became a conservation mascot for a day - assisting DOC Threatened Species Ambassador Nicola Toki on Quail Island to promote Project Wild Thing and island preservation.

A huge thank you to the ANZ staff who volunteered to weed the stop bank, which they planted with natives last year. We appreciate their hard work.

New plantings on the tertiary stop bank on the north side of Lake Diana have shown extraordinary growth. We are continuing to plant the full perimeter of this Lake.

National Party MP's Matt Doocey (Waimakariri) and Scott Simpson (Coromandel), who is the Chair of Local Government and Environment Select Committee, visited the riparian planting project along Otukaikino Stream. Matt had visited previously and wished to showcase the conservation work being achieved by the Trust.

The Maintenance Division have put a new roof on the brooder room, where hand reared chicks are held after hatching.

The Maintenance Division have repainted the St Ita's Church, Beveridge St Cottage and The Stables. They are now making Sawyers Arms Cottage watertight.

The Trust donated railway huts to Omaka Scout Camp, at Otukaikino Stream.

Facebook



Have you wondered what goes on in the Wildlife Division? You can follow our conservation work via our Facebook page!

Peacock Springs is a unique captive breeding facility, for the endangered species it breeds for release into the wild.

Our page has 8,325 likes and an audience of over 260,000 people!

Find the Facebook link here: www.isaacconservation.org.nz

facebook

8000
Page Likes

2016 Scholarships - Congratulations!



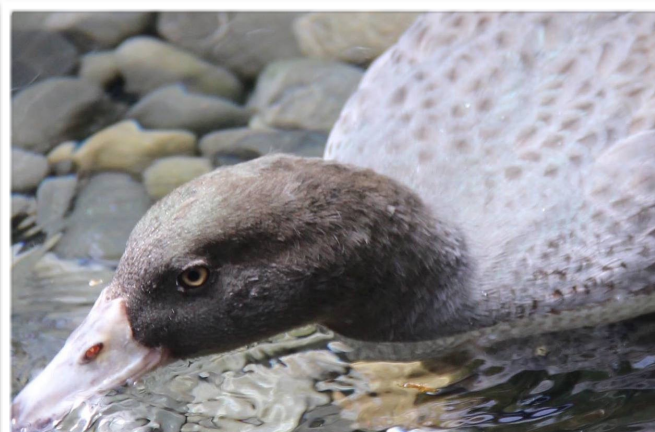
Congratulations to Sophie Hale, the 2016 recipient of the Sir Neil Isaac Scholarship at the University of Canterbury. Her M.Sc. in Ecology will address minimising the uncertainty of the creation and implementation of biodiversity offset projects in New Zealand, aiding the decision-making framework and site suitability.

Congratulations to Courtney Hamblin, the 2016 recipient of the Diana Isaac Conservation Scholarship at Lincoln University. Her thesis will focus on the effective conservation management of the endangered black-fronted tern, with two main objectives: 1) the suitability of social attraction (decoys and call lures) as a conservation strategy, 2) determining habitat specifications of breeding colony sites.



Isaac Family Day @ Peacock Springs

Family Day was held on Sunday 13th March, to showcase the huge contribution that The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust makes to the conservation of endangered species. This provided Isaac Construction staff, their families and many others the opportunity to enjoy a great day out and learn more about some of New Zealand's rarest species.



Meet The Editor

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

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust

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