



# THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST

*A study in conservation*

## CONSERVATION NEWS

Summer 2017/2018

Issue 14

### Can we bring back the Orange Fronted Kakariki from the brink of extinction?

Previously declared extinct twice, the rarest of our native forest bird needs urgent help, as there are no more hidden populations elsewhere.

*Thanks to our captive breeding programme, DOC acknowledge that ICWT has saved this beautiful little bird from extinction.*

However an enormous pool of resources and effort must be made to bring this species back from the brink.



A new alliance that has been formed between Christchurch Helicopters, (of which Ritchie McCaw is pilot and Director) and DOC. Christchurch helicopters provide free translocations of captive raised birds to the Arthurs Pass valleys, have created a "Give a Little" link for this parakeet on their website, plus raise the profile of this little birds dire plight.

DOC too are focussing their efforts with increased predator control, giving our juveniles a better chance of survival once released.



Wildlife



Landscape



Heritage Village



Scholarships



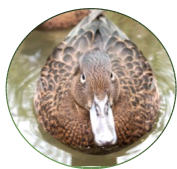
Maintenance



News in Brief



Administration.



# Wildlife News

*At the end of November we were taking care of over 300 birds and reptiles on site, as part of our captive breeding programme – this is the most we have ever had here at Peacock Springs!*

## Orange Fronted Parakeets (OFPs)

Thankfully it's been a super successful season with the OFPs, with only 4 pairs, we are on track to release nearly 60 birds this season!

Our "One clutch wonders" have produced 2 successful clutches this season, with a total of 10 chicks from this pair.

There were two releases during February, liberating 16 birds into the Poulter and Hurunui Valley in Arthurs Pass. Another release is planned soon, and we are filling up again.



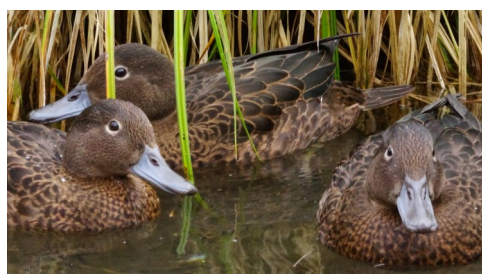
Some birds are being held back to create new pairs. Our most valuable bird genetics wise, is a male called Poldark, who has a choice of two lovely ladies. Hopefully he picks well and raises lots of little chicks!

We also have 2 pairs of Red Crowned Parakeet (RCP) to act as foster parents to the OFPs. We are trialling this now with one OFP egg under our broody

female RCP. Hopefully it hatches and fledges, as this will be a great way to increase productivity of the OFP.

## Brown Teal

We were holding up to 100 juveniles for the December 2017 release and are back up to 80 again for release at Young Nicks Head and the Abel Tasman National Park.



To date, our pairs have each laid two clutches and we anticipate a 3<sup>rd</sup> clutch before winter. We are presently flock-mating wild and captive bred birds to make up new pairs for ourselves and other intuitions. Love is in the air!!

## Shore Plover

It has been a breeding season



of challenges for Shore Plover. 4 pairs who produced 21 chicks with 3 eggs left to hatch.

Unfortunately, an outbreak of avian pox has delayed releasing



any birds to the wild, however the birds affected are being treated and we expect to release them in the coming months. A new vaccine is currently being trialled which if effective, will help us to avoid future outbreaks.

## Black Stilt

A record for collecting wild eggs with over 200 recovered! These eggs have a high risk of being predated if left to be raised in the natural environment by their parents, so alternatively, are incubated and raised in captivity.







We are presently holding 60 juveniles over winter before their release in the spring.

Of our 3 pairs, only 2 have bred successfully this season. The 3<sup>rd</sup> pair made several nests, but unfortunately no eggs have been laid to date! This pair may be retired for next season.

### Blue Duck / Whio

ICWT is focussing its efforts on the South Island Blue Duck breeding programme to preserve the genetic differences from the North Island species.

Construction has commenced for a new South Island Whio

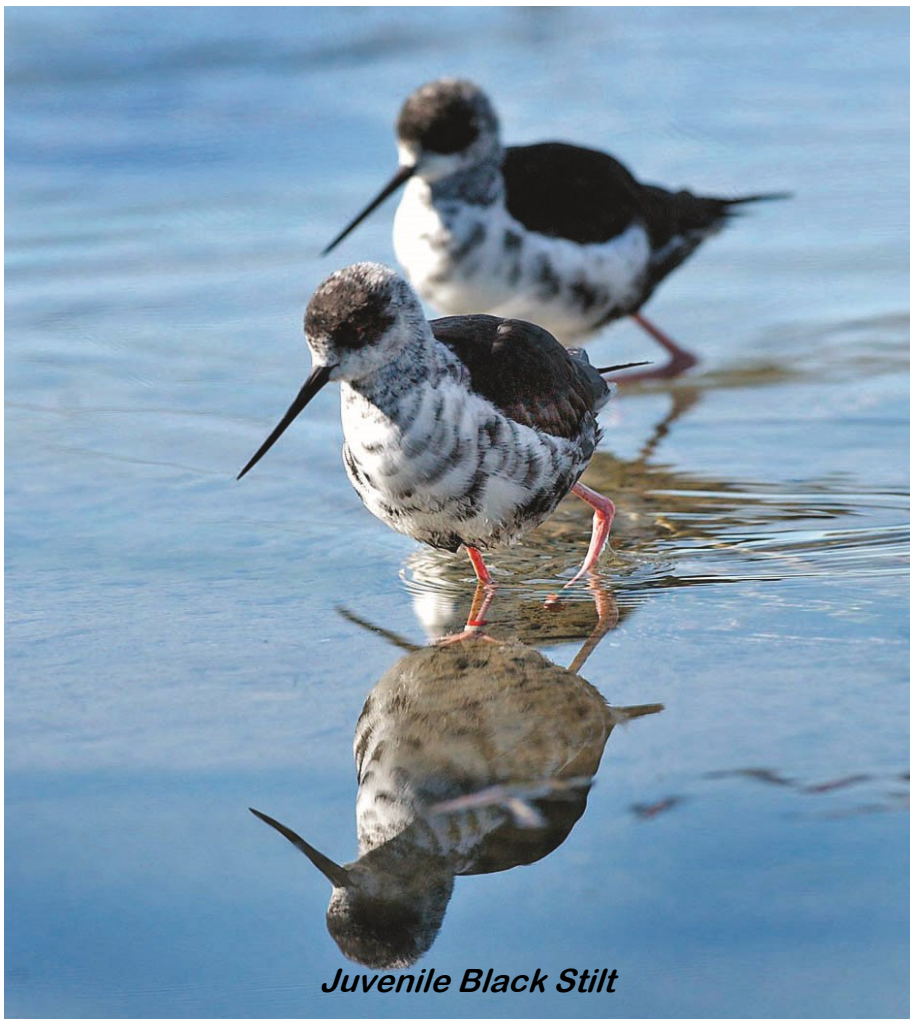
aviary, to be named the “Hynds Blue Duck Aviary”, in acknowledgment of their financial contribution towards our new waterfowl enclosure. This aviary will increase our existing breeding capacity of Whio.

This aviary will provide for 2 additional breeding pairs, plus a holding “hallway”, sandwiched between the two larger separations, that can be opened for flock-mating or alternatively closed off to hold newly formed pairs.

42 South Island whio hatched in captivity throughout the South Island this year, with 12 having already been released in the Hokitika area (Arahura and Taipo)

Some of the ducks from the northern rivers of the South Island are being held back for flock-mating to form 2 new pairs to be held in the new Hynds Blue Duck aviary.

Like the Black Stilt, eggs are collected from the wild, to prevent predation plus to increase the genetic diversity of the captive breeding programme.



*Juvenile Black Stilt*

***Anne Richardson our Wildlife Manager celebrates 26 years of working for ICWT this year. Anne has contributed significantly to the success of our captive breeding programme.***





# Scholarship News

## From Lincoln University

Congratulations to Courtney Hamblin, the Isaac Scholar from Lincoln University, who has now completed her MSc in Conservation and Ecology with first class honours.

Courtney visited the Trust and provided us with a copy of her masters thesis "Colony dynamics and social attraction in black fronted terns, *Chlidonias albostratus*".

The results of this study can also be applied to other colonizing birds and will be a valuable tool to assist other endangered bird species.



*Courtney presenting ICWT a copy of her recently completed thesis .*

## Following on from Courtney

Claire McCorkindale is the newly appointed Isaac Scholar. We look forward to learning more about her studies on Carbon sequestration potential of native species on the Puhi Peaks Station, Kaikoura.

Courtney is studying for a MSc in Natural Resource Management and Ecological Engineering.



## Canterbury University;

Sophie Hale is our Isaac Scholar at Canterbury University who visited just prior to Christmas, providing us with a presentation on her thesis to date, focussing on biodiversity offsetting to aid both economic and conservation goals.

Sophie Hale is studying for her MSc in Ecology.







## News in brief.

The Department of Conservation Canterbury/Aoraki Conservation Board hosted the annual conservation awards, sponsored by The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. Rob Clarke, Chairman of Trustees presented the awards together with Mick Abbott from DOC



The West Melton Water Zone Committee, plus staff from Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council, visited the property to view the headwaters of the Otukaikino stream.

Rob Clarke gave a presentation providing an overview of the Trust, including its objectives and activities.

A grass fire on the sheep farm was quickly extinguished by the NZ Fire Service and we remain vigilant, mitigating against fire hazard.

Unfortunately another boy racer losing control of a car has caused damage to our boundary fence. The inconvenience and cost to ICWT defers resources away from worthwhile causes.



## Landscape Dept

Sadly we bid farewell to Ian Archer who has departed for Melbourne and city living. We will already miss his energy and passion.

Our plantings have survived surprisingly well in the summer heat, with minimal irrigation, helped by the mulch we always spread generously at planting.



We have now completed the second culvert at the Otukaikino, instrumental for the formation of the Isaac Farm walk, that we hope to open this autumn.



## Building and Maintenance Dept.

Peter has completed painting the cottage know as brick sided Peacock Street and the result is outstanding.

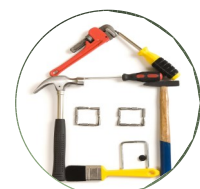


Hamish and Bill have almost completed the new quarry office and are beginning to turn their attention to seismic strengthening of the Isaac Workshops.

Seismic strengthening of the Isaac laboratory has been completed and the lab team are delighted with the improvements that were undertaken simultaneously.

Hamish and Bill repaired a hay shed on our sheep farm, ready for harvest and storage.

There was a big push prior at Christmas to renovate of the bathroom at one of our residential houses following a slow hidden leak that had caused damage. Both our tenants are very grateful!





# Heritage Village News

## The Papanui Jail

Papanui got its own police station in 1879. Associated with the police station a small jail was constructed, situated adjacent to the police station.

Housing eventually encroached upon these facilities and the now redundant jail found itself at the bottom of a residential garden!

The homeowners contacted Lady Isaac to inform her they “had a jail in the bottom of their garden and would she be interested?”. (Perhaps their children had grown up, left home, so the owners found it superfluous to use?)

Lady Isaac readily agreed to move the jail permanently to the Heritage Village for restoration. Stocks were built beside the jail as they were a common form of punishment, used as humiliation for crimes not considered severe, such as blas-

phemy or drunkenness.

The jail was moved to the Heritage Village and restored in September 2009.



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Po Box 20 440, Bishopdale  
Christchurch 8543 ph 03 359 8962  
Email; [enquiries@isaacconservtion.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@isaacconservtion.org.nz)  
[www.isaacconservation.org.nz](http://www.isaacconservation.org.nz)

## Who's who?

### ICWT Administration

Rob Clarke—Executive Trustee  
Bill Luff—Trustee  
Alister McDonald—Trustee  
Bruce Rule—Operations Manager  
Catherine Ott—Administration Manager

### Maintenance Division

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

### Wildlife Division

Anne Richardson—Wildlife Manager  
Josh Forrest —Wildlife Keeper  
Leigh Percasky—Wildlife Keeper  
Sean Kavanagh—Wildlife Keeper  
Mark Forrester—Wildlife Keeper  
Leonie Heyder—Wildlife Keeper  
Hannah Murdoch—Wildlife Keeper

### Landscape Division

Rachel Brewer - Landscape Gardener  
Ian Gebbie—Landscape Gardener  
George Maipi—Landscape Gardener