



Waikanae Estuary

Photograph Eileen Thomas

Fur Seal

The fur seal which made its home in the Waimanu Lagoon has moved on to pastures new. Whilst in the lagoon it feasted on the plentiful mullet that lived there. A woman was walking two dogs with one off the lead, when the one off the lead spotted the seal, having a fish dinner, in the middle of the lagoon. After watching for a minute or two it launched itself into the water straight to the seal, paddling flat out. The seal didn't worry until the dog reached it. The dog stopped, started to sink, as the seal was stationary. So the dog started to splash with its front



feet, really hard to stay afloat. This was too much for the seal, it took off, dived away, surfaced, then dived away again like a porpoise in the water, it dived one more time and surfaced way down the other end of the lagoon, without its fish dinner. The dog took no notice of the frantic calling of its owner; it was too intent on finding where the seal had gone. When it eventually came back to shore the owner took off smartly with it. By this time the local residents were really

Favorite loafing spot below the weir

Look at my full belly

up in arms, and gave the woman the message in no small terms. "Keep your dogs on a leash around the lagoons." She did get the message. This episode didn't appear to worry the seal very much as a little time later it cruised down the middle of the lagoon rolling onto its back with its flippers in the air and seemed no worse for wear.



Is this your dog?

Thomas the Goose

After being a step-father to around Seventy three swan cygnets, Thomas the goose has become a father for the first time with a brood of his own kind. He is at least twenty eight years old and has never had a mate of his own kind before. [See the love story serial in archives]



Happy Feet, the wandering Penguin [3000 kilometers from home]

Happy Feet, the emperor penguin was released far to the south of New Zealand in the Southern Ocean. A tracking monitor was attached, glued to his feathers, which, after a few days must have come adrift as all trace of him was lost.



Photograph Jack Penman

Poem for Happy Feet

Local woman Elaine Martin won a competition with a poem, the prize a couple of hours with Happy Feet at the Zoo.

“When I visited Happy Feet in his ice chamber at Wellington Zoo the smell of fish was over-powering! He was fat, shiny and sleek and obviously in very good condition. His ice chamber had oblong mirrors on the walls so he could see himself as though he was in a small group of his contemporaries.

I think the pleasure people got from being able to see and help save this creature and the kudos and respect the zoo staff got from making it possible, far outweighs the cost in time and effort and expense. We shouldn't ever put a price on our stewardship of living things. For me it was a very joyful event!”

Elaine Martin.

Poem for Happy Feet.

*The wind blows hard,
The temperatures plunge,
The sky is dark,
The waves rampage,
I'm tossed.*

*My flippers are weak,
And my energy's gone,
I've struggled so far,
And had nothing to eat,
I'm lost.*

*I'm all alone
In a foreign place,
The sand's too dry,
Stones have no taste,
I'm beached.*

*Before I know it,
I'm surrounded,
Human's concern
Here abounded,
I'm blessed.*

*Weak and helpless,
I don't enjoy it,
The stares, the fuss,
The skill, the focus,
I must rest.*

*I'm going home,
I heard them say,
For me these people,
go all the way,
I'm stoked.*

Bar-tailed Godwit



Look what turned up in our estuary a couple of days ago. I wonder if it travelled from Siberia or if it wintered over in New Zealand?

Photograph Mik Peryer

Black Swan

Not only did Thomas the goose, father a brood, the swan who had been sitting on the nest by the little steel bridge has also produced. I love the way she is lifting her wing to allow Eileen Thomas to photograph the babies.

Hits this month-- twelve thousand one hundred and thirty one

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking

