

Monthly Newsletter
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Our wonderful wild Guests

As the seasons change so does our wild birdlife. One day we have babies, the next they have fledged and away they go to all the far corners of New Zealand. This is the second of our monthly newsletters. It's our attempt to keep you informed and perhaps excited about our wonderful wild friends of the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.

Mik and Moira

The Oystercatchers

Our brave oystercatchers who rather foolishly nested on the sand spit right where everyone and his dog goes have lost their fight to hatch their egg. Both the egg and the oystercatchers have disappeared, it really was inevitable.

We had a pair nest on the sand spit a few years ago when there was a lot more sand and the tide didn't cover the area as it now does. Some helpful people put up a sign on a pole stating "*nesting birds don't disturb*" and what happened? Some nosy people read the sign went up to the nest, frightened the birds off and a blackbacked gull swooped in and the chick was dinner



oystercatcher

Pied Shags

Our pied shags were settling down in the large macrocarpa tree on the Waimanu lagoon with two nests being established when we were hit with a storm of gale force winds thunder, lightning and rain. This was just too much for our shags to take and they relocated to the safety of the river where they found shelter.

We have a suspicion that these shags are juveniles and maybe they have been kicked out of home to establish their own colony. When the storm abated back to the tree they came, let's hope they can raise a family here in the Waikanae Estuary as they are the first of their kind to even look like nesting.



Pied Shag

Little Egret

The little egret I talked about last month has been having a hard time of it. The red billed gulls think the estuary is theirs and quite regularly dive bomb our poor little egret. He was minding his own business fishing by the weir when six red billed gulls flying past bombed him. He didn't move just pulled his head in as they dived, then two gulls landed close by and screeched at him, our little egret ignored them all.

I was showing tourists around the other day when it flew over going as fast as it could, which isn't very fast, with around half a dozen red billed gulls chasing it and again dive bombing it, this time in flight.

I think it's because this bird is the only one of his species on the estuary and the other birds don't like him invading their patch.

He's lovely to watch when he's feeding, he has a tendency to prance around in the shallow water almost as if he is chasing shadows and darts this way and that after his food.



Red billed gulls

Waikanae Estuary Restoration

Our care group was having its first planting day of the new season on Saturday the 14th of April at 9am at the northern entrance to the reserve off Manly St, however it has been decided to postpone the planting due to the dry conditions and have a weeding day instead. Same time same place.

Everyone is welcome to be part of this worthwhile and ongoing project.

Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve



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Mik's Eco Tours

Kapiti Bird Tours
Delivering
Nature Coast
KAPITI HOROWHENUA *experience*

A logo for Kapiti Bird Tours featuring a white egret standing on a blue background with a grid pattern.

*Hope you have enjoyed your copy of our monthly
Newsletter---Moir & Mik*