

Waikanae Estuary Newsletter No 42 August 2010

www.kapitibirdtours.co.nz partners to Nature Coast Bird Trail www.naturecoastbirdtrail.co.nz

Waikanae Estuary bird tours 9051001



Pests

Eric from DOC helping Jaime Eaton from Kena Kena School place some peanut butter on an ink pad which is then placed into a plastic tunnel. Pests run through, leaving their footprints so they can be counted, to see how many are in the estuary reserve. From there, if it's necessary traps can be installed for control. The Kena Kena school children are very much involved with the Estuary Care Group as are the Waikanae school children. In addition, both schools put up and on grow plants provided to them by the Care Group and return to the estuary the following winter to plant them out in the estuary environs.

Eels



Under the fresh water of our estuary lagoons we have a healthy group of eels. They live in harmony with most of the other inhabitants although the large ones do like to partake in the odd young duckling now and then. Like all the rest of our estuary life they also have to be aware that it's the survival of the fittest and be on the look out when the shags are hunting. They make a lovely meal, especially when smoked, but the numbers are very much in decline. The eels live in the fresh waterways until it's time to reproduce when off to the sea they go. They migrate to the tropical Pacific Ocean swimming around five thousand kilometers to somewhere near Tonga to have their babies, then die. Over a period of time the tiny transparent babies make their way back to New Zealand and the rivers where it all began. So it's not only the birds that migrate.

Stories

It's amazing how these little stories just keep popping out of my head each month. However, it would be nice if anyone out there had any little nature stories that may be able to be incorporated into my newsletters, as this head of mine is getting older by the day.



Enjoying Moira's home baking

**The true story of Henry the wild black swan and Thomas the white goose
documenting their thirty year sojourn on the Waimanu Lagoon at Waikanae
New Zealand
Part six**

I had a ring from a lady as she had spotted one of Henry's cygnets in distress. It had a fish hook down its throat, had swallowed the line and a large steel washer which must have been the sinker was hanging from its beak. I enticed it out of the water with some bread, and then reached down to pick it up but it kept moving away from me so in the end I rugby tackled it. I put it in a large cardboard box and took it down to the Raumati Veterinary Clinic where Andrea, the Vet, removed the hook by threading it back out through the side of the neck.



She also removed the large nylon ball of twine which had lodged further down its gullet and which was full of food and other decaying material.

Andrea rang me very pleased that they had successfully operated on the bird. She had no sooner put the telephone down when the cygnet suffered cardiac arrest. It was given heart massage, oxygen and mouth-to-beak resuscitation. It recovered but then went to sleep and had everyone worried as for a while we thought it was not going to wake up! Obviously the whole operation had taken its toll and the young swan just needed time to recover. When it did arouse itself, seemingly no worse for wear, I returned it to its parents and siblings. It waddled into the creek and was greeted by the other swans, everyone happy to have their family back together again.



This saga is featured as a serial over the next few months

Hits this month ----**11312**

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae

More wild birds visit Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve than any other area in the Wellington province

Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking