



THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST

A study in conservation

Issue #15 Autumn 2018

CONSERVATION

NEWS



Michelle Foster 1967 — 2018

With sadness Michelle Foster died peacefully on 24 April 2018. Michelle was ICWT contract accountant until her resignation during October 2017. Michelle also worked as an accountant for Isaac Construction Limited. Michelle won the respect and admiration of all her work colleagues through her warmth, readiness to smile and laugh, her dignity, strength and kind-heartedness.



Rob Smit joins our Landscaping team and has brought with him valuable experience including extensive native plantings and weed eradication.



Gemma Martin is our new Wildlife Keeper and already a valuable member of the team



Josh Forrest has previously worked in two other wildlife institutions and has a passion for conservation.



Wildlife



Landscape



Heritage Village



Scholarships



Maintenance



News in brief



Landscaping news;

Thank you to the ANZ Banking staff volunteers who spent a day mulching, weeding and planting here, followed by a tour of our Wildlife Department.



Abi Toomey, our ANZ Relationship Manager, is seen here holding our friendly Tuatara named Big Boy.



The Landscaping team have been particularly busy, including preparing for both the Isaac Family day and hosting the ANZ volunteers.

New gardens have been created around the relocatable buildings that have been brought onto site and these are now really taking shape. More gardens are in the design stages and we are delighted to increase the pockets of native plantings across the Isaac site.



Ian Gebbie, one of our landscape gardeners, chose to celebrate his birthday this year by leaping from an aeroplane!!!

The Isaac Staff Family Day 2018

This February we opened Peacock Springs to all Isaac Group Staff and their families, to showcase the work we achieve in conservation. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the games, BBQ lunch and all the children's activities, plus the tour of the property to view the wildlife, aviaries and the Isaac Heritage Village.





Wildlife news;

Orange Fronted Kakariki

64 Orange Fronted Kakariki have been bred this season from only 4 pairs of birds which is an outstanding achievement. The juveniles have all been released into the Arthurs Pass region and our breeding pairs are having a brief rest, before procreation commences again in July. A larger proportion of the females were released in the Poulter Valley where 3 wild males have been seen, so hopefully these captive bred females will attract the wild males and mate, so that we can collect their eggs, to boost the captive bred genetic bloodlines.



Leigh Percasky has been appointed Assistant Wildlife Manager.

Leigh will be helping with the management of our captive breeding operation, which has increased significantly, due to increased production and new aviaries being built.



NZ Shore Plover

Thankfully, the avian pox has finally cleared and the remaining 8 chicks that were held back from the first release are back to full health and will soon be released to close this season.



Unfortunately during the summer Rodger and Roxy had a fall-out due to Rodger's aggression to Henry next door with Rodger then deflecting this aggression onto Roxy. This aggression caused Roxy considerable stress, so we had to provide her with respite care in a separate aviary.

Come winter we will be introducing Rodger and Roxy to another pair of young birds for flock mating. This will allow Rodger to reconsider his present marital status and we hope will either improve Rodger's behaviour towards Roxy, or perhaps he may choose a different partner going forward.



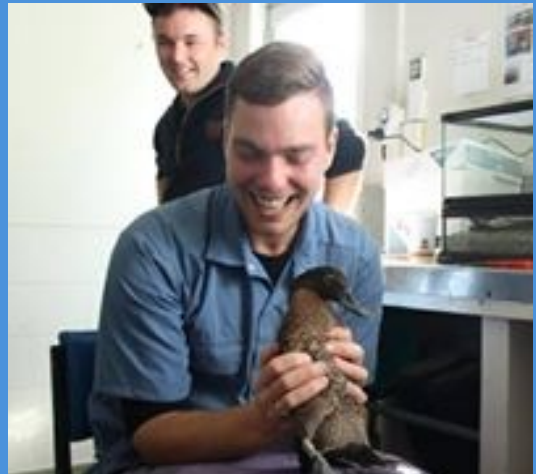


“Brown Teal Week” in the Wildlife Department;



All New Zealand Brown Teal bred in captivity, are centralised here at our facilities to be pre-conditioned prior to their release.

In the first week of May, 72 juveniles were wormed, weighed and banded, plus fitted with transmitters, before released in the Janszoon managed area within the Abel Tasman National Park.



Swans Donated to Ducks Unlimited

Swans and cygnets were recently donated to Ducks Unlimited and the proceeds from the sale of these birds goes towards wetland restoration. One of our adult males was particularly aggressive, so will be re-homed where he can't get up to any mischief!



Otago Skinks

Triplets born to our older pair are thriving and our younger pair have produced their first offspring too! Otago skinks are found only in Otago, are omnivorous and can eventually grow up to 30 cm in length.





Scholarship News



Claire McCorkindale, the Lincoln University Isaac Scholar, has completed the first year of her masters degree with excellent academic results. Due to the Kaikoura Earthquake, Claire has needed to change her thesis topic to now look at farmer behaviour under the Amuri Irrigation Scheme. The scheme requires farmers to develop a Farm Environment Plan. The overall goal of the scheme is to improve water quality and environmental performance in the region.



Sophie Hale our Canterbury University Isaac Scholar has taken a four-week extension for her thesis submission, (now due late May) as the scope of her meta-analysis has exceeded what was expected.



Maintenance News

The new Isaac Construction Ltd Administration block has been structurally upgraded with double glazing to be installed next week. This old classroom is being renovated to very modern building standards.

While excavating for this building Lance Stewart and James Currie found this plaque dated 1954.



Torch was Sir Neil Isaac's nickname. Does anyone recognise this plaque or know of it's background? If so, please contact Trust Management.



The Holcim building has also been structurally upgraded with a new roof to be installed shortly.



News In Brief

Fencing of the Isaac Farm walk, an extension of the existing Isaac Loop Track along the Otukaikino, is nearly completed and we hope to have this track open to the public mid winter!

In January the West Melton Water Zone Committee, plus staff from Environment Canterbury and the CCC, visited the property to view the headwaters of the Otukaikino Stream.

The Cathedral Choristers enjoyed a development day singing in the Lake House again this May. Lady Isaac who was herself a Canon Almoner, always enjoyed these talented young boys having their choir practise here in the first day of each term.



Water and Wildlife habitat Trust brought a group of children to fish at Lake Woodley here recently. Interestingly, recent research indicates that children who spend more time outdoors have a reduced occurrence of asthma.



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Heritage Village News



The Vintage Machinery and Transport Show

Peter Jones our painter has demonstrated a real passion for the oldest truck in our fleet, the Morris Commercial, purchased by The Isaac Construction Company in 1951. This would have been the pride of the fleet and still retains that title now, thanks the conservation efforts and care that this truck has received for nearly 70 years!

Peter has led the AMP Christchurch Show Vintage Machinery parade several times now, plus exhibited this truck at the Vintage Machinery and Transport Show, Steam Scene and the Christchurch Santa Parade.



Who's who?

ICWT Administration

Rob Clarke—Executive Trustee

Bill Luff—Trustee

Alister McDonald—Trustee

Bruce Rule—Operations Manager

Catherine Ott—Administration Manager

Wildlife Division

Anne Richardson—Wildlife Manager

Leigh Percasky—Assistant Wildlife Manager

Sean Kavanagh—Wildlife Keeper

Josh Forrest—Wildlife Keeper

Leonie Heyder—Wildlife Keeper

Jemma Martin—Wildlife Keeper

Maintenance Division

Hamish Milne—Builder

Bill Waterman—Apprentice Builder

Peter Jones—Painter/Handyman

Landscape Division

Rachel Brewer - Landscape Gardener

Ian Gebbie—Landscape Gardener

George Maipi—Landscape Gardener

Rob Smit—Landscape Gardener

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