

## **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF**

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&GC business, please don't hesitate to contact your local ward councillor or the office.

### **Matters arising from Council Meeting 10 February 2018**

1. **Merit Certificate:** On the recommendation of Richard Tyson, on behalf of EPCM, Council agreed to award a Certificate of Merit to Mr Lance Dickey in recognition of his forty years of outstanding service to Fish & Game.
2. **National Salmon Committee:** Council agreed to support the establishment of a Fish & Game NZ National Salmon Committee.
3. **Banding sites:** Councillor Kerr inquired whether alternative banding sites had been found to replace the sites no longer available. Mr Dyer replied that it was looking encouraging that another site would be available near Wellsford. At the Aka Aka site the landowner was no longer willing to host the banding programme and thus other sites were being considered. Mr Richard Tyson spoke on his attendance the previous Saturday at the Wellsford banding day and emphasised that he was most impressed with the high volunteer turnout and especially the enthusiasm of the younger helpers. It was a great day, and Mr Tyson thanked John Dyer for his organisational efforts.
4. **Meremere Cleanfill site:** Councillor Cocks requested an update of the Meremere cleanfill site application by Ward Demolitions. Mr Wilson replied that he and Anna Sintenie had recently met with the applicant and expressed their concerns over the impact of water flows from the proposed site to the North Shepherd Wetland. An EIA had not yet been received.
5. **Multiple rods:** Dr Adam Daniel was asked to prepare a paper for Council on the use of multiple rods in coarse fishing waters.
6. **Release of captive reared mallards:** Extensive discussion took place on the memorandum: Release of Captive Reared Mallards, prepared by Robert Sowman and Andy Garrick. The submission by Jeff Niblett was also considered. There was agreement that Council opposed the commercialisation of mallard hunting and that there should be no changes to standard regulations.
7. **2018 Fish & Game elections:** Councillor Sherrard stated that the NZ Council was looking at the online licence purchasing process for licence purchasers to opt in/out of being an elector. Council agreed that the NZ Council be asked to confirm that licence purchases will need to opt in/out of being an elector
8. **DOC predator traps:** Councillor Juby advised that boxes for DOC predator traps are available from the Waikeria Prison for free. Contact details available from David Klee.
9. **Russel Gaston:** Councillor Annan informed Councillors that Russel Gaston was very humbled to receive his Merit Certificate from Council. Mr Gaston died just after Christmas, and Councillor Annan complemented Mr Wilson on his eulogy given at the memorial service on Mr Gaston's contribution to F&G. The service was well attended with over 200 people in the small community hall.

## Matters Arising From Chief Executive's Report

- **King Country Paradise Shelduck flight 2018:** At 5,192 shelduck, numbers counted this year were 102 birds up on last year, but down on 2016, (5,796 shelduck). The threshold for holding a Special Paradise Shelduck Special Season, even a very limited one, (youth/mentor hunts), is 6,000 birds counted and we are well short of that this year.
- **Black Swan Trend Count, Western Harbours and Waikato Lakes 2018:** Trend count total numbers at 6,221 are up 800-odd swan on last year and the year before when they hovered at 5,366 – 5,388. These birds are most common on Aotea Harbour, (1,917), Kawhia Harbour, (3,018) and Taharoa Lakes, (592) to the south of these western harbours.
- **Canada Goose Trend Count, Western Harbours and Waikato Lakes 2018:** Canada geese may have had their gamebird status lifted, but this has just caused them to perversely increase in number, as we all along said they would to those officials who would not listen. This year 10,387 were counted in the trend count, each year being well up on the previous. Those wanting a Canada goose will be interested to know the counts on Lake Whangape, (2,499), Waikare, (1,561), Rotongaro, (1,915) and Waahi, (820). The other goose hotspots on trend count day were Raglan, (1,281), and Kawhia Harbours, (1,067).
- **Te Kauwhata Proposed Private Plan Change 20:** Anna Sintenie wrote a further submission to support our submission on this. No new issues have been raised; and we are now waiting for the Council Report.
- **Fonterra Te Rapa and Fonterra Te Awamutu consent applications:** Anna Sintenie made a submission on the Fonterra Te Awamutu consent application and is in discussion with Fonterra regarding potential mitigations for the temperature issue and the framework for future reviews of the consent and improvement to the operations of the site over the proposed term of the consent.
- **Waikato District Plan review:** Mischa Davis prepared a submission on the Plan review. We want to ensure that recreational gamebird hunting and freshwater fishing are included as permitted activities in all rural areas in the Plan and further that development occurs away from areas that are valued for their amenity and recreational characteristics such as wetlands and lakes. Further we want to ensure that maimai are allowed to be built up to 10m<sup>2</sup> without a resource consent and also that all earthworks required for wetland creation, maintenance and enhancement are allowed to occur without a resource consent. We also want to ensure that policies are included that recognise the importance of maintaining public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.
- **Water Quality Study:** Adam and David conducted the first Whanganui Water quality sampling trip. Suspended solids, temperature and conductivity samples were taken at 17 locations in the Whanganui headwaters in the Tongariro Forest Park.
- **Bait Stations:** We managed to secure 300 OSKA bait stations at no cost from TB free NZ to help the Franklin Club augment their operation occurring on the lower Waikato River. OSKA stands for One Station Kills All and was developed in collaboration with TbFree New Zealand.
- **Guardians of the Whanganui River:** Met with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, the governance entity for Whanganui iwi for the Whanganui River Settlement. Discussion was on the formation of a strategy group, Te Kōpuka, which Fish & Game would have a representative on, to determine the implementation of the treaty settlement via a strategic plan (Te Heke Ngahuru). The settlement provides for \$30 million to be used to address the health and wellbeing of the river. Dame Tariana Turia, and Turama Hawira have been appointed to the office of Te Pou Tupua which was established under the Whanganui River Treaty settlement to act as the human face of the river (Te Awa Tupua).