

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 7 April 2018

- 1. Ross Goodin:** Councillors acknowledged the recent passing of Ross Goodin, past president and life member of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society. Councillor Sherrard spoke on the contributions made by Ross Goodin to fish and game management both in the local district and regionally.
- 2. Fish and Game Elections:** Councillors agreed that it should be stated on hunting and fishing licences whether the licence holder was enrolled as an elector for the Fish and Game elections.
- 3. Bait stations:** Councillor Howard updated the meeting regarding the bait stations obtained by the Franklin Acclimatisation Society. Bait stations have been allocated to the Piggott Wetland (40), Aka Aka Wetland (30), and 80 were given out to members at the AGM.
- 4. World Wetlands Day:** A letter was tabled from Tony Roxburgh, Chairman National Wetland Trust of NZ, thanking Fish & Game for our support at the recent World Wetlands Day.
- 5. Appointment of F&G nominee to Te Kōpuka:** Councillors discussed the appointment of a F&G nominee to the Te Kōpuka, an advisory strategy group established as part of the Te Awa Tupua settlement for the Whanganui River. It was agreed that Glen Maclean be nominated for the position.
- 6. 2018/19 budget and operational work plan:** The draft Operational Work Plan for 2018/19 was extensively discussed by Councillors with concern expressed over the potential for a huge increase in prosecution costs due to reparation no longer being a viable alternative.
- 7. NZF&GC meeting 16 – 18 March 2018:** Councillor Sherrard summarised the main points arising from the recent meeting of NZF&GC. Both Councillor Sherrard and Mr Martin Taylor (CE of NZF&GC) answered questions on a range of issues including:
 - Why much of the meeting was held in “Public excluded session”
 - An update on the Guide Licence, with the application recently sent to the Minister of Conservation
 - Concerns over the long-term viability of the national legal fund given the large number of applications by regions.
- 8. Capture reared mallards:** Mr Rex Murray spoke on capture reared mallards and expressed his disappointment with Councillors and staff over their lack of consultation with hunters who had an interest in releasing capture reared mallards. Mr Murray acknowledged that habitat was crucial, but he believed that the local mallard population needed a kick start. Mr Murray also believed that banding capture reared mallard wasn't necessary. Councillors acknowledged that they were concerned over the potential commercialisation of mallard hunting based on capture reared mallards.
- 9. Whanganui River trout tagging programme:** Councillor Juby raised the issue of the low tag return rate from the Whanganui River trout tagging programme. He reported that a local fish tackle distributor has offered to sponsor the programme by providing products as reward for tag returns. Councillors agreed that the offer to provide sponsorship of the Whanganui River trout tagging programme be accepted in principle.

Matters Arising From Chief Executive's Report

- **Drift diving:** Drift dives were completed on the Waihou, Mangatutu and Awakino Rivers.
- **Banding:** All up another good season with plenty of birds around and great catches on the Hauraki Plains, Opuatia and Te Awamutu, which partially compensate for some of the poor catches in other areas. John Dyer is busy finding replacements for some of the other northern sites. Some of these have failed to fire for some time and it has become uneconomic to continue with them. Just 16 days after one of our ducks was banded at Opuatia this year, it then surfaced on Mare Island, off New Caledonia. Some years back another of our NZ mallards turned up also 16 days after banding in Vanuatu. While most of our mallards are stay-at-home types, the odd ones have also undergone these long journeys to New Caledonia, Lord Howe Island and so on.
- **Botulism:** Unfortunately, it's been a terrible year for botulism in our region. We have been busy working with territorial authorities, DoC, WRC and local hunters to organise carcass removal and conduct dispersal activities.
- **Clevedon Quarry:** Adam Daniel and Mischa Davis have managed to settle the Clevedon Quarry negotiations. The quarry improvements will include continual monitoring of turbidity in adjacent streams, installation of a truck wash and paving the access road to prevent dust.
- **Te Kauwhata Proposed Subdivision:** The Hearing for this was held in early March. By hearing stage, several changes had been made which were supported by Fish and Game:
 - Changes to infrastructure requirements to ensure that a feasible wastewater system could be relied on to support the development when land use consents are determined, and that these consents could be declined if no feasible option was shown to be available.
 - Changes to notification status of the lakeside walkway;
 - Inclusion of an alligator weed management plan.At the time of hearing no further amendments had been made to manage the effects of the new land uses (dense living within 32 – 100m and an equestrian centre) on gamebird hunters on the lake, or the effects of increased predation on nearby birdlife at Lakes Waikare and Kopuera.
- **Te Awamutu Wastewater consent applications:** Anna Sintenie submitted on the consent applications for the Te Awamutu WWTP. The discharge increases the level of some contaminants in the Mangapiko Stream and also downstream in the Waipa and Waikato.
- **Crusader Meatworks discharge to land consent (next to the upper Waimiha Stream):** Anna prepared a submission on this consent application that included a request for much more comprehensive monitoring of the Waimiha Stream, inclusion of an avian (botulism) management plan, and reductions in nitrogen leaching over the length of the consent.
- **North Emmett Wetland:** We have been approached for an area of wetland to develop to offset work done as part of the construction of the proposed Synlait Dairy Factory at Pokeno. We proposed that they clear the choking weed on the North Emmett Wetland and restore the open water there as well as plant the margins in native plants.
- **WCEET funded wetland projects:** With the unseasonable wet weather again this year we experienced some delays to getting machinery into sites to start wetland projects. With the slightly more settled weather in the last month we have been making up for lost time and have nearly caught up with project timelines.
- **Evans Road Wetland:** Work has commenced on the Evans Road wetland which Fish & Game successfully negotiated as part of the mitigation package. 30,000 m³ of earth need to be shifted within the wetland to ensure the correct hydrological regime is created. The project should be finished by the end of April.