

Tracking down wetland trails

One of the first tasks that the Trust wants to tackle is to develop a register of wetland trails around the country. If you know of any wetland trails in your area, we'd love to hear about them, so please drop us a line. We're also keen to identify key sites where we could help develop wetland trails in the future and would welcome your nominations. Please contact our Chairperson David Lawrie (see address below) if you can help. Phone 09 238 6369 or email lawrie@ps.gen.nz

Return Address:
NATIONAL WETLAND TRUST
23 St Andrews Terrace
HAMILTON

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE TRUST

To submit a contribution for the next newsletter, please contact:

Tracie Dean
c/- Department of Conservation
Box 112
HAMILTON
Ph 07 858 0012
Email TDEAN@doc.govt.nz

For a copy of our draft business plan, please contact:

Bev Clarkson
Ph 07 858 3730
Email Bev@landcare.cri.nz



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Become a foundation member of the National Wetland Trust! The \$10 initial family subscription is valid until March 31, 2001.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone no: _____
Email: _____

Occupation/interests/other affiliations: _____
Subscription: _____
Donation: _____

Please make cheque out to National Wetland Trust and post with this application form to:

Doug Emmett
Treasurer National Wetland Trust
23 St Andrews Terrace
HAMILTON

Wet & Wild!



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL WETLAND TRUST

No. 1, Winter 2000

Welcome to the first newsletter of the National Wetland Trust.

The Trust was formally launched on World Wetland Day, February 2, at the Hamilton Zoo, and Trustees were elected at our first Annual General Meeting. We aim to produce this newsletter quarterly to update you on our activities and our progress towards protecting and enhancing wetlands across New Zealand. We welcome new members - please share this newsletter with other people and organisations who are interested in wetlands and conservation issues.

In this issue we'll tell you about progress on our business plan, which will serve as a kind of road map so we can move forward with clear purpose. We also introduce you to the National Wetland Trustees - there are 12 of us in total with a range of skills and experience relevant to the tasks at hand.

We've also included an article relevant to wetland protection in New Zealand. We invite Trust members and interested parties to submit contributions for future issues of the newsletter. If you have a point of view or an issue that you'd like to put forward, we are happy to consider publication, space permitting.

Have a happy wetland winter!

David Lawrie
Chairperson

Getting Down to Business!

The Trustees have been busy drafting a business plan for the National Wetland Trust to ensure a clear path towards achieving our goals. The draft plan builds on the Trust's original pamphlet, expanding on the vision, outlining key messages and objectives, and leading into a series of tasks for the Trust to work through. The completed plan will also be used to explain our goals and objectives to potential sponsors and funding agencies.

As it stands, the Trust's vision, or ultimate goal is "the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders, and the enhancement and restoration of wetlands throughout New Zealand". The objectives supporting this goal are:

1. Increased appreciation by all New Zealanders of wetland values
2. Increased understanding of wetland processes by policy makers and landowners at national, regional and local levels
3. Proactive commitment to wetland enhancement and restoration throughout New Zealand
4. Communication of key wetland messages to targeted groups and the New Zealand public

Objective 1 includes the task of establishing and maintaining a National Wetland Centre - a strong focus of the Trust when it was first formed back in October, 1999. However, the old adage "don't try to run before you've learnt to walk" definitely applies! While the Centre remains an important goal for the Trust, our focus for now is to complete the draft plan, invite feedback and work on securing funds to help realise some of the tasks ahead.

We also recognise that our Trustees are currently all from the Waikato region. But don't despair - this geographical bias doesn't mean we will be focusing all our efforts in our own patch! The current Waikato focus just means it is easy for us to meet together in the early stages of the Trust's life. We fully intend to be a National Trust in more than just name, so we invite expressions of interest from people across the country in supporting our Trustees to find their feet. We'd love to hear from you if you would like to be actively involved.

We would also appreciate your comments on our draft business plan. - To receive a copy, contact Bev Clarkson (Secretary) on 07 858 3730 or email her at bev@landcare.cri.nz.



What does Bio-What? mean for wetlands?

By Gordon Stephenson

Bio-What?, the preliminary report of the Ministry for the Environment's Ministerial Advisory Committee on biodiversity on private land, was launched on 9 March. Appropriately, the event took place on a farm and was very well attended. The Minister for the Environment, former Minister for the Environment, Director General of Department of Conservation, people from regional and district councils, non-governmental organisations and of course the Ministerial Committee themselves were all there.

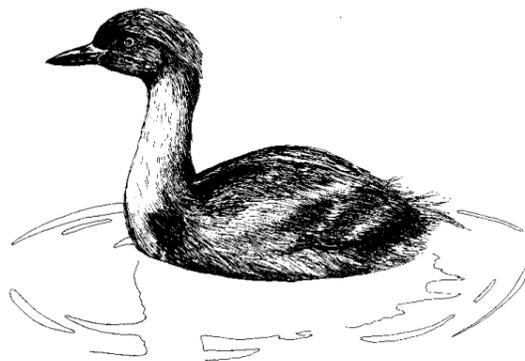
There is no doubt that the maintenance and enhancement of our indigenous biodiversity are becoming major political and managerial issues. Not least is the under-rated and complex problem of wetlands.

One problem is that there are so many different types of wetlands, from kettleholes to coastal mudflats, from peat domes to peat lakes, from braided rivers to bogs. Although they may not actually all be on private land, their management requirements frequently depend on how neighbouring landowners manage their land. Unless all parties understand the reasons for management, endless troubles can ensue.

On the other hand, there are thousands of small wetlands within farms where care and protection of wetlands is a better and more sustainable option than drainage. Increasingly, landowners are appreciating this fact, an attitude unthinkable in the earlier or even recent pioneer phase of our history.

The Bio-What? report stresses the need for a non-prescriptive and non-regulatory approach, with rules and regulations used only as a final resort. The report also discusses what should be included in a National Policy Statement (under the Resource Management Act), and most importantly how to offer guidance to regional and district councils in fulfilling their responsibilities towards biodiversity.

The National Wetland Trust has prepared a submission on the aptly named Bio-What? report.



Editor's Note

The Ministerial Committee is due to report back to the Minister for the Environment by the end of July with final recommendations on how to sustain indigenous biodiversity on private land. The closing date for written submissions was June 16, 2000. Contact the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington for more information or check out the Bio-What? website at www.biowhat.co.nz.

Get to Know Your National Wetland Trustees...

David Lawrie – Chairperson

David is a Principal in a Land Surveying and Land Development Consultancy in Pukekohe. He holds a diploma in Land Surveying and a diploma in Town Planning and is a member of both the Survey and Planning Institutes.

David has been actively involved in conservation organisations for a number of years with his main passion and hobby being the study of birds. This is reflected in his involvement in the following organisations:

- New Zealand Fish & Game Council
- Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council
- Miranda Naturalist Trust since 1975
- Ornithological Society South Auckland Region
- Waikato Conservation Board
- New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust.

Bev Clarkson – Secretary

Bev is a wetland plant ecologist who works for Landcare Research, Hamilton. She currently leads a collaborative PGSF-funded research project on New Zealand terrestrial wetlands, which involves researchers from Landcare Research, NIWA, DoC, and University of Waikato. Her expertise is in the functioning and restoration of restiad peat bogs.

Bev is a member of the Waikato Conservation Board and the International Society for Wetland Scientists. Her goal is to aid in the success of restoration projects by helping to develop practical restoration guidelines based on a greater understanding of functional processes.

Doug Emmett – Treasurer

Doug Emmett is Manager of the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council based in Hamilton. Doug is a life-long keen hunter and angler and consequently has a long history of both professional and practical involvement in wildlife and wetland management. Before the establishment of Fish & Game Councils, Doug was Executive Officer of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society. Doug was admitted to the NZ Society of Accountants in 1974 and also holds qualifications in Systems Analysis and Marketing.

Ian Boothroyd

Ian Boothroyd is a Project Director at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). Ian leads the "Biodiversity of Freshwater Organisms" research programme, and is involved in a variety of freshwater projects.

Prior to joining NIWA, Ian was Environmental Monitoring Manager at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, and prepared their first State of the Environment Report. Ian completed his BSc (Hons) and MSc in the UK before completing his DPhil in freshwater biology at the University of Waikato. His interests lie in the ecology of freshwater invertebrates, and their use in monitoring and ecosystem management. Ian is also President of the New Zealand Limnological Society and an elected Councillor of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Tracie Dean

Tracie Dean is a Senior Technical Support Officer for the Department of Conservation, based in the Northern Regional Office (Hamilton). Tracie has been with the Department for just over two years, working on freshwater issues. In this role, Tracie has a national overview of freshwater issues and provides support to Conservancy staff.

Before joining the Department, Tracie worked for NIWA (Hamilton), as a member of the Freshwater Fisheries Research Group. At NIWA, Tracie worked mainly with native freshwater fish, which are her main interest. Tracie graduated from the University of Waikato in 1995 with a MSc (Hons).

Angelina Legg

Angelina Legg is an Environmental Education Facilitator at Environment Waikato (Waikato Regional Council), based in Hamilton. Angelina has been with Environment Waikato for almost three years, working first in the science group as an educational writer. She recently joined the Council's education programme and now works with Landcare groups and sustainable agriculture education.

Before joining Environment Waikato, Angelina worked for Taranaki Regional Council as a policy analyst, specialising in sustainable land management. She also wrote the Taranaki region's first State of the Environment Report. Angelina graduated from Waikato University in 1994 with an M.Soc.Sci (Hons), majoring in geography and resource planning.

Gordon Stephenson

Gordon is a semi-retired farmer from Waotu (near Putaruru). He is a Trustee and judge for the Waikato Farm Environment Award. He is a Trustee of the Hauraki Gulf Charitable Trust. He chairs South Waikato Forest and Bird, the Advisory Committee for the Regional Environment (ACRE) and the Waikato Peat Management Advisory Group.

Gordon is author of the book "Wetlands: Exploring New Zealand's Shy Places". He initiated the QEII National Trust and was deputy chair for 10 years, was a member and deputy chair of the Environmental Council for 12 years and member of the Lincoln Council for nine years. He was also a member of the Waikato Conservation Board for eight years and chairman for four years. He was awarded the CNZM in 1998 and in 1992, he and his wife Celia, received the Loder Cup for conservation. He is an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects and Honorary Life Member of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

Darryl Reardon

Darryl is Sales Manager of a Holden vehicle dealership in Auckland. He has had a 25 year association with the previous Acclimatisation Society, now known as Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council – of which he is currently chairman. Darryl has had several years of involvement in the restoration of wetland areas and the on-growing of wetland plants. He also brings to the Trust his extensive business experience in sales and marketing.

David Sharland

David lives in Te Kauwhata where he is the Kiwihost of Herons Ridge Farm Stay. Prior to emigrating to New Zealand from Vanuatu, he was in the hotel and tourist industry in England. He is a Fellow of the Hotel and Catering International Management Association.

He is currently a member of the Maori Tourism Development Board and on the advisory board to Tourism Waikato. As a past chairman of North Waikato Tourism he is part of the executive and takes an active role with the Te Kauwhata Community Committee. His particular interest with the National Wetland Trust is in the promotion of wetlands as both an educational and tourist venture to improve awareness of natural biodiversity.

Hori Awa

Hori is Waikato Tainui and has a background in the retail and insurance industry. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Waahi Whaanui Trust and a Director of Raukura Moana Fishing Limited.

Hori is extensively involved with local community projects. He is currently an elected representative of Te Kauhanganui and Te Kaumarua – Tainui Tribal Governance, and Te Kaumarua – Tainui Tribal Executive. He is also on the Waikato Conservation Board and a Trustee on the Waikato Community Trust. Hori provides a Maori, particularly Tainui, perspective for the National Wetland Trust.

Keith Thompson

Keith is a senior lecturer in Ecology at the University of Waikato in Hamilton. Keith specialises in ecology and management of wetlands, peatlands and the land-water interface. He is also a committed conservationist. He received the 1990 New Zealand commemorative medal for services to conservation and this year one of the Department of Conservation's first wetland conservation awards for his role in wetland protection and research. Keith has also served time as a RAMSAR Australasian representative on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Scientific and Technical Committee.

Sheila Watson

Sheila is the Environmental Manager at Mighty River Power in Hamilton. She has an environmental planning background and is a member of the Resource Management Law Association. Sheila is experienced in developing resource management plans, strategic planning for roading, assessing mining permits on conservation lands, and protection of natural areas. She currently specialises in management and use of natural resources e.g. water, minerals, land.

STOP PRESS!



The National Wetland Trust has just been awarded a grant of \$115,000 from the WEL Energy Trust. The National Wetland Centre could be closer than we think! Wonderful news for wetlands and thanks to WEL Energy Trust.