

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the  
NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton,  
on Saturday 6 April 2019 commencing at 11a.m.

### AGENDA

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**M. Young**  
**Chairman**

17/01/19

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,**  
**on Saturday 9 February 2019 commencing at 11am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** D. Cocks

**Councillors:** G. Annan, G. Avery, W. Howard, N. Juby, A. Kerr, B. Moore, P. Shaw,  
C. Sherrard, S. Smith, E. Williamson.

**Staff:** J. Dyer, A. Daniel, D. Klee, B. Wilson.

**Visitors:** R. Murray, R. Foster, R. Radonich, S. Lindeman, D. McCauley, R. Stephens  
(11.15), G. Ralph (1.30), J. Kellow (1.30), M. Williams (1.30), P. Hardy (DoC)

**1. APOLOGIES**

M. Young.

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**Smith/Judy CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER 2018:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Smith/Avery CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

None.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

An email was tabled from Dave Malcolm, Chairman of the Hamilton Fish & Game Association, nominating two of their longstanding members for Fish & Game Council Merit Awards. Councillor Annan spoke in support of the nominations. He emphasised the outstanding service that Michelle Houghton had done as secretary and treasurer of the club for the last 23 years. Councillor Annan also spoke on the support the club had received from John Finnerty who had donated the use of land on Collins Rd for a tree nursery some 25 years ago.

It was moved;

**that Michelle Houghton and John Finnerty be awarded Council's Merit Certificate for outstanding service and contribution to the Council, wildlife and conservation.**

**Annan/Smith CARRIED**

A letter from Lindsay Lyons, Chairman of NZF&GC, was received in reply to a letter sent by the Chairman (19/11/2018) commenting on the performance of the NZ Council and especially the excessive time spent in committee and the lack of consultation with regions.

Councillor Williamson expressed his disappointment with the reply from Lindsay Lyons. He considered that consultation with the regions was still inadequate as highlighted by the recent debacle over upland game properties. Councillor Juby informed the meeting that he had contacted Lindsay Lyons and received assurance that the letter from Auckland/Waikato Chairman would be tabled at the next meeting of the NZF&GC. Councillor Juby reminded Councillors that the NZF&GC had seven new Councillors and thus changes should be expected.

It was moved;

**that the correspondence be received.**

**Annan/Williamson CARRIED**

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Mr Wilson advised that the delegation by DoC to Fish & Game of the authority to issue permits to cull/disturb gamebirds was a very welcome initiative. However, he did note this would considerably increase the staff time spent issuing and following up of permits issued for the North Auckland special paradise shelduck season. Mr Wilson recommended that instead of issuing permits that the season is gazetted in advance as is standard procedure in other F&G regions including Northland.

In reply to a question Mr Klee provided an update of the Section 128 review of the consent conditions for the Whangamarino Weir. He advised that the scheduled meeting had been postponed and that F&G would be advocating for a whole scheme review rather than just concentrating on the weir. Mr Klee also noted that there had been significant staff changes at ICM.

Mr Wilson introduced the financial statements and emphasised that the auditor's recommendations had been fully implemented. Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that they would usually consider the draft budget for the 2019/20 financial year at their April meeting. However, this year the NZF&GC would be vetting the draft regional budgets in early April due to later dates clashing with public holidays. Therefore, a draft budget would need to be prepared by early March, and this would then be sent to Councillors for comment prior to the April council meeting.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive bi-monthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.  
Annan/Juby CARRIED

**8. WARD RANCH UPDATE:**

<u>General subject of each matter to be considered:</u>	<u>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:</u>	<u>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</u>
Legal action against Council	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(i)

Sherrard/Kerr CARRIED

It was moved;

that Council moves out of public excluded meeting.  
Annan/Smith CARRIED

**9. LAND AND WATER HABITAT TRUST:**

The Performance Report for the Land & Water Habitat Trust was tabled.

It was moved;

that the Performance Report for the Land and Water Habitat Trust for the Year ended 31 August 2018 be received

Williamson/Smith CARRIED

**10. HUNTING CODE OF CONDUCT:**

The report "Code of Practice for Gamebird Hunting" was tabled.

After discussion it was moved;

that Council agrees to the revised game hunting code of conduct becoming national policy and being included in the 2020 gamebird hunting regulation guide book.  
Smith/Williamson CARRIED

## **11. BEQUEST POLICY:**

The report “Fish & Game NZ Bequest Policy” was tabled.

Councillors welcomed the proposed policy and agreed that bequests could be a significant source of revenue for funding projects such as wetland purchase and restoration.

It was agreed that it was crucial that licence holders were made aware of the opportunity to leave a legacy.

It was moved;

**that the proposed national policy on the acceptance and utilisation of bequests be supported as national policy.**

**Juby/Avery CARRIED**

## **12. SETTING NATIONAL POLICY:**

The report “Setting National Policy” was tabled.

Councillors discussed the policy and agreed that it should be amended so that:

- 1) The period for Fish & Game Councils to consider proposed policy should be a minimum of at least two meeting cycles.
- 2) When NZ Council makes a significant amendment to proposed policy after consultation with regional F&G Councils, then the draft policy should go back to the regional F&G Councils for re-consideration (i.e. a second round of consultation).

It was moved;

**that the proposed policy on Setting National Policy, with the above amendments, be supported as national policy.**

**Smith/Williamson CARRIED**

## **13. OSH UPDATE:**

It was moved;

**that the OSH report be received.**

**Howard/Smith CARRIED**

Discussion followed on the operational requirements for the ATV due to recent Health & Safety recommendations by Worksafe New Zealand. Dr Daniel agreed that the OSH manual for the ATV would need to be updated.

## **14. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Smith informed that there had been a botulism outbreak at lake Te Koutu in Cambridge and that he had already removed some ten dead ducks.

Councillor Shaw expressed his concern that hunters were leaving loaded shotguns in maimais unattended and that this was not considered an issue for prosecution by the police.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.30pm

## 7. GAME PRESERVES:

The report "Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions" was tabled.

Councillors discussed the report with concerns expressed over the moving of commercial preserves to Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act by the Minister of Conservation, especially the setting of a precedent and where this could lead. The opinion was expressed that because commercial preserves had never been legal there should be no phase out period.

Mr Wilson provided a summary of current Auckland/Waikato F&G policy, which was that:

- Commercial preserves were opposed since they were illegal under the Wildlife Act.
- Council supported the syndicate model for the release of gamebirds.
- That duck hunting is only allowed on such properties on days when there are no upland gamebird shoots.

The Chairman invited visitors to the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

Mr James Kellow expressed his concern that any change to the Wildlife Act could also affect trout fishing and duck shooting opportunities and this should be avoided. Both he and Mr Guy Ralph had met with Martin Taylor and it was Mr Kellow's understanding that the Auckland/Waikato syndicate model would be adopted nationally.

Mr Rick Stephens praised the Auckland/Waikato syndicate model which he considered transparent and user friendly. He considered that the system wasn't broken but was working well. However, he was concerned that phasing out commercial operations would lead to a reduced demand for young stock and this would lead to much higher costs for small syndicates.

Mr Richard Radonich, a member of a syndicate in the Eastern Region, stated that he supported change to the Wildlife Act to allow for the hunting of upland game for a fee.

Councillors then addressed the five questions provided in the report prepared by Robert Sowman on behalf of the NZ Fish & Game Council.

1. Does your Council support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee?

*No*

2. Is there support for non-commercial (ie. where hunting is not being provided for a fee) upland game properties operated by families, private syndicates or friends to provide an immediate and guaranteed hunting opportunity?

*Yes, but only for syndicates rearing and releasing upland gamebirds with costs shared, but not providing hunting for a fee.*

3. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property for a fee?

*No*

4. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions without a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property without a fee?

*Yes, but not on the same day as upland gamebirds are hunted.*

5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on upland game properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other situations?

*No*

It was moved;

**that the answers above and the support of the Auckland/Waikato Council for the syndicate non-commercial model for upland game properties be conveyed to the NZ Fish & Game Council.**

**Annan/Smith CARRIED**

The Chairman asked if there were any remaining issues regarding upland gamebirds that the meeting should discuss.

Mr Stephens informed the meeting that he had arranged for the importation of a vaccine that had been approved in NZ for avian botulism. In reply to questions, Mr Stephens stated that each vaccine would cost about 44c and that a minimum of 10,000 doses would need to be imported. He noted that the vaccine could be stored for about 2 years.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.15pm.

# AGENDA ITEM 5

**Ben Wilson**

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**From:** David Nordell <Von-Noodlestein@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 March 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** Ben Wilson  
**Subject:** Grant Annan

Hi Ben,

David Nordell Pres. of the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Ass.

Last weekend we hosted the 25th Annual Fishing Contest at Lake Arapuni and I had the pleasure of presenting Grant Annan with a certificate of appreciation for his 25yrs commitment to the contest and being a prime organiser of the event over the last 25yrs. As you would appreciate this is quite an achievement and enormous effort from an individual, particularly in this day and age .

You will also appreciate first hand Grants efforts through the data collected at the competition over the last 20 od yrs and his other varying roles within Fish & Game including Duck banding and as a Ranger etc.

We were hoping you may also like to mark this milestone and recognize formally Grants efforts in some way. One option may be to present Grant with a Certificate & new season hunting licence which have just become available for example ??

If this doesn't fit within your practice of recognition please advise me as it is also an option the members had voiced.

Kind Regards

David Nordell

President,

Te Awamutu Fish & Game Ass.

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## Bi Monthly Chief Executive's Report

### Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting April 2019

#### OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

##### Project 5111 Drift diving

Drift dives were completed in the Waihou, Waimakariri, Mangatutu, Awakino and Whakapapa rivers. All rivers surveyed had fish populations similar to previous years with the exception of the Waihou where there was a significant decline in small fish. An attempt was made to drift dive the Whanganui River, but poor water quality prevented the survey (See habitat monitoring for details).

**Table 1:** Number of trout for each size class at five rivers in the Auckland/Waikato Region.

Year	WAIHOU		WAIMAKARIRI		AWAKINO		WHAKAPAPA		MANGATUTU	
	30-40(cm)	40+(cm)	30-40 (cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40(cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40(cm)	40+ (cm)	30-40(cm)	40+ (cm)
2015	25	4	*	*	6	3	1	18	2	9
2016	36	2	26	11	29	14	0	12	*	*
2017	66	21	*	*	10	23	0	11	2	2
2018	18	5	27	4	26	30	*	*	6	2
2019	12	4	11	0	11	16	0	15	5	4

\*River conditions were not suitable for a drift dive survey

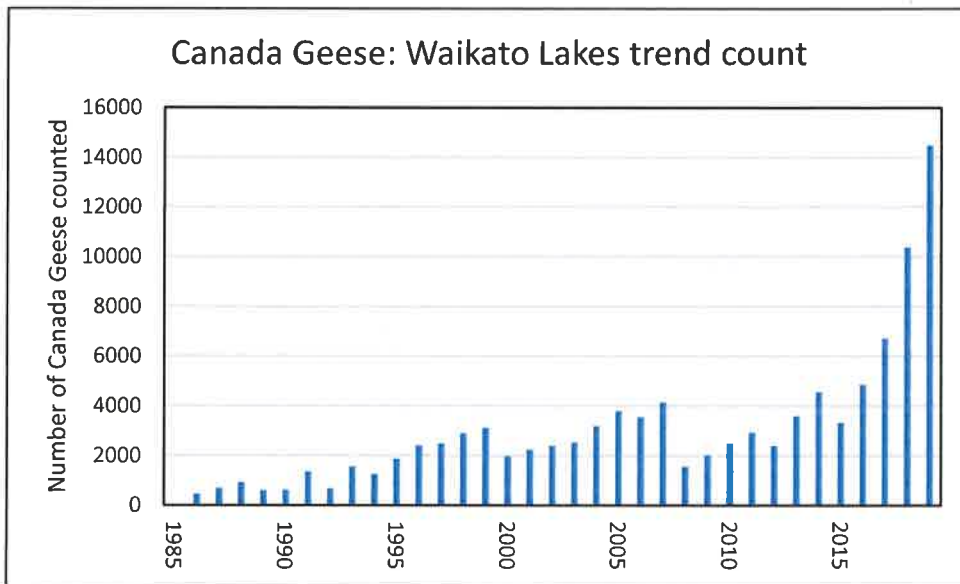
##### Project 5112 Banding

We aim to catch 3000 birds every year. This is based on catching 1000 on the Hauraki Plains and an average of 400 at each of our other 5 sites. High December rainfall certainly played a role at some sites, especially those banded early-mid January as nearby wetlands were full. John has experienced several issues at the Wellsford over the past few years and the new Aka Aka site this year. Ensuring catch rates in these areas next year remains our priority to achieve our target and get adequate spatial coverage.

**Table 2:** Banding catches at each location. No banding was carried out at the Aka Aka or Wellsford sites this year.

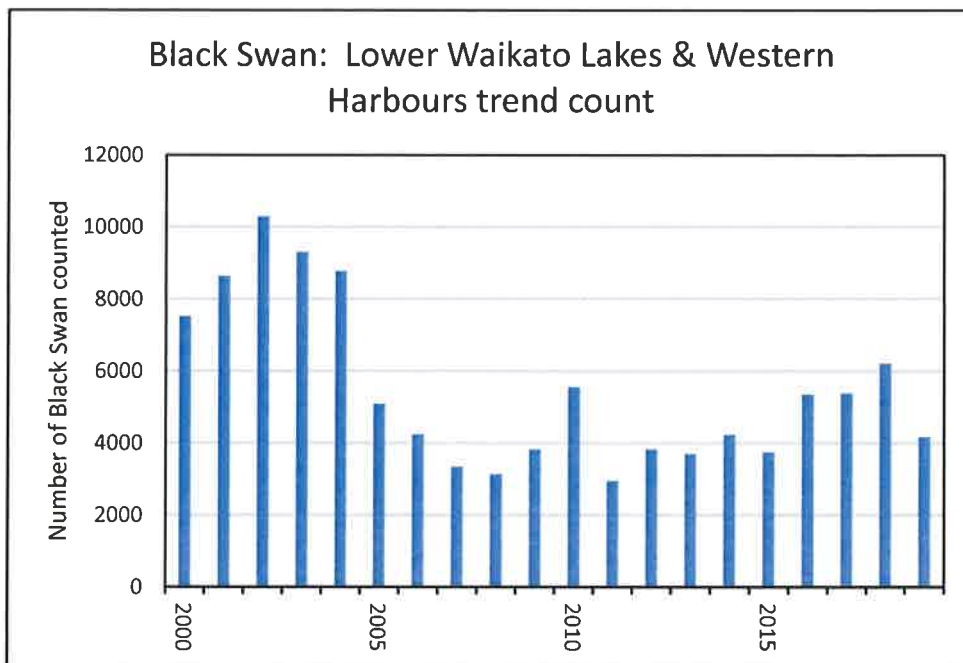
Banding Location	Site Manager	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hauraki Plains	David Klee	1153	1171	1422	1818	1449	1224
Te Awamutu	David Klee	502	417	557	786	806	478
Opuatia	David Klee	284	355	322	399	517	148
Aka Aka	John Dyer	181	274	264	507	399	0
Helensville	John Dyer	254	526	570	708	487	472
Wellsford	John Dyer	179	224	97	165	35	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2553</b>	<b>2967</b>	<b>3232</b>	<b>4383</b>	<b>3693</b>	<b>2372</b>

## Project 5116 Trend Counts



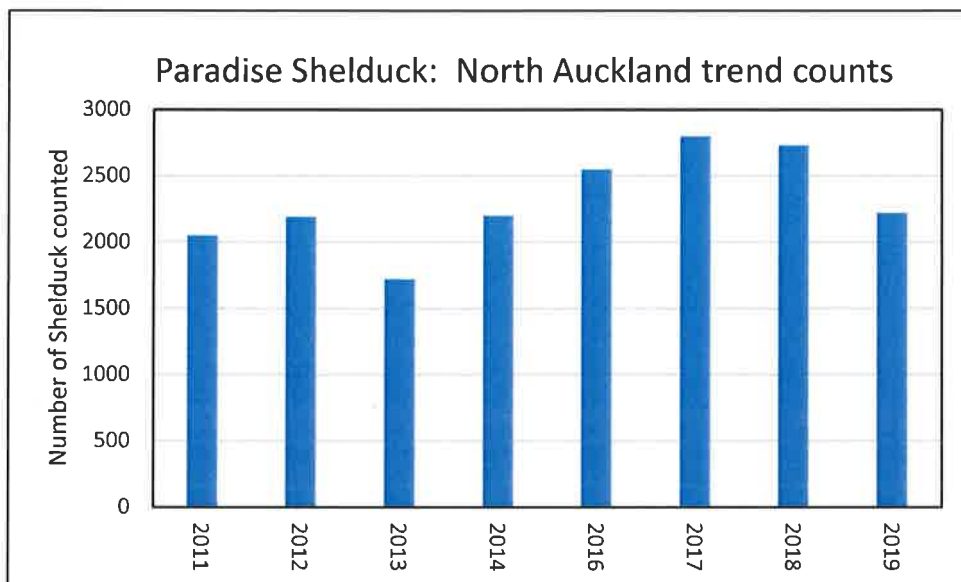
**Graph 1:** Canada Geese, 20-years trend count data for Waikato Lakes.

The trend count this year for Canada geese on the lower Waikato Lakes was 14,494. Their gamebird status was taken off in March 2011, and since 2015 they have doubled in numbers every 2 years (Graph 1).



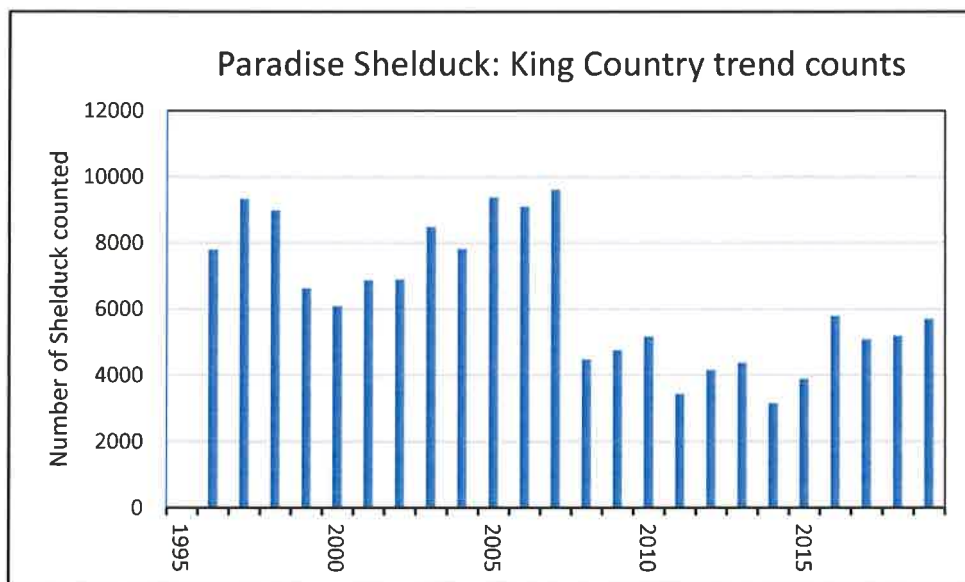
**Graph 2:** Black Swan, lower Waikato lakes and western harbours combined.

Swan trend count numbers in the Lower Waikato Lakes and Western Harbours combined were down slightly at 4,177 (Graph 2).



**Graph 3:** Paradise Shelduck, 20-years trend count data, King Country.

Rudi Hoetjes, the Northland F&G manager, very generously does our northern parry count. This year 3,370 parries were counted, (3,475 last year) but the trend counts in Graph 3 are based on the four sites that are surveyed each year.



**Graph 4:** Paradise Shelduck, 20-years trend count data, King Country.

The 2019 King Country paradise shelduck trend count shows that numbers remain below the threshold for having a special season (6,000 birds). After ground-truthing the initial estimate, the total number counted in 2019 was 5,715 shelduck (Graph 4). It appears that the 7 week main season, (May-June), for parries is now adequate to keep them from becoming a problem for farmers in this area.

### **Project 5117 Game Research**

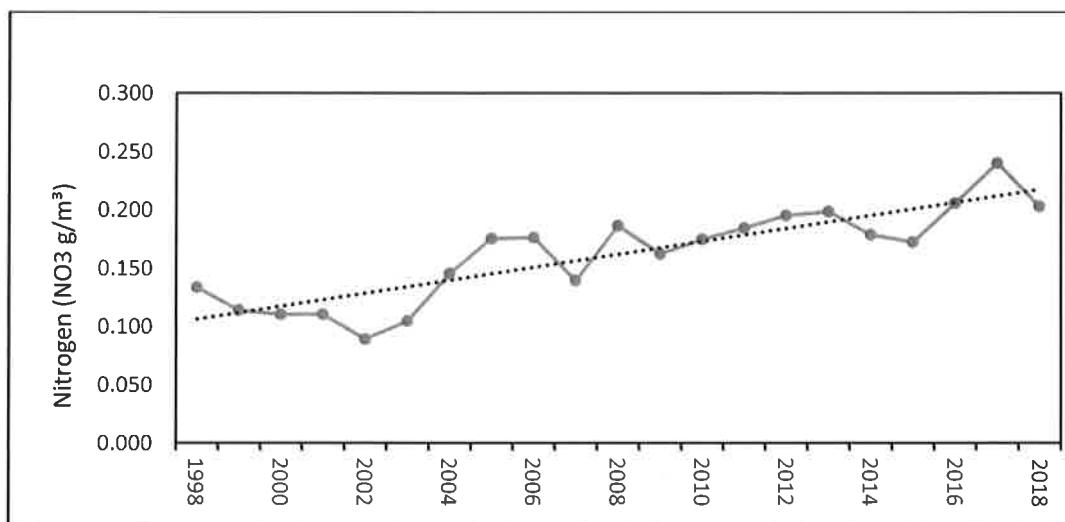
**Duckling Survival and Habitat, Project Manager: David Klee.** To evaluate habitat selection and use by mallard ducks during brood rearing, we identified and created 193 brood routes and 193 'random' routes. Combined, these buffers contain 11,248.93ha of habitat; 4,002.83ha in Southland and 7,246.09ha in Waikato. To date, 5,481.62ha have been digitized in Waikato study area (76% of total area in Waikato) and 2,765.58ha have been digitized in Southland (69% of area in Southland). This aspect of the project has taken longer than anticipated and timeframe extensions have been sought through to completion of the project. David has edited papers on the heavy metals research which will be submitted for publication.

**Meeting with WRC Staff regarding Geese and Swan.** David met with Michael Townsend, new team leader of coastal science and strategy at WRC. He has commissioned a literature review looking at the potential effects of geese and swan in estuarine environments in the Waikato Region. We have provided our trend count data and expressed an interest in being involved in any further work. This may require a hunter led sample collection from the western harbours. As Councillors are aware, swan and geese are being blamed for habitat degradation, high e-coli levels and decimating baby flounder populations. Further research to elucidate these alleged effects will be helpful for us to work collaboratively on management actions and setting sustainable populations levels for Swan in those areas.

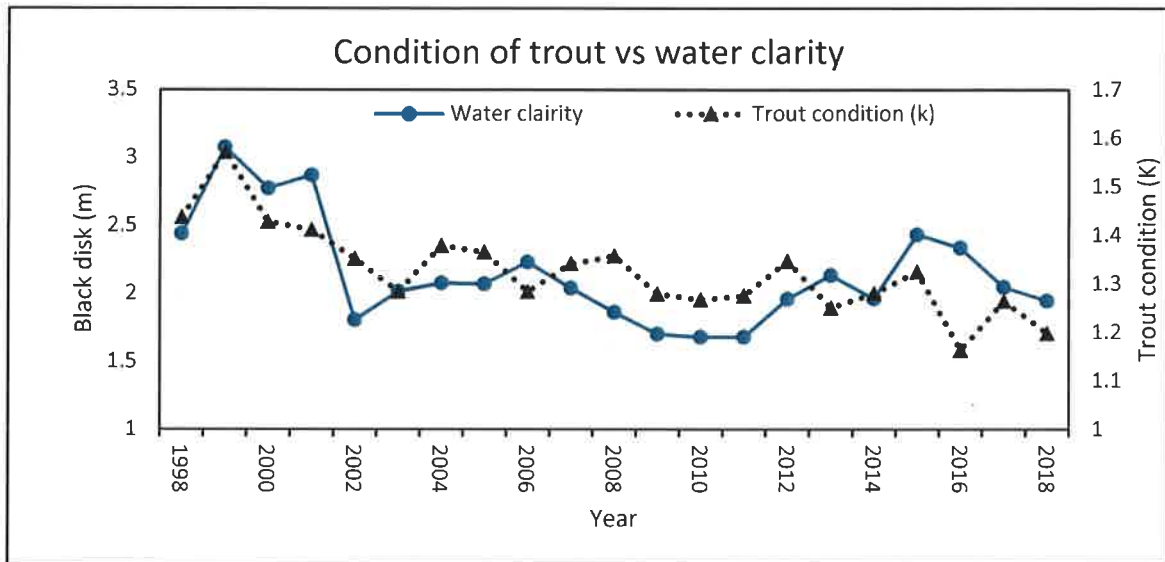
**Dr. Murray Williams:** John recently meet with Dr.Murray Williams, an authority on NZ waterfowl. Murray was able to debunk the idea that swan eat flounder. He said that the Northland Regional Council had extensively checked swan at Whangape Harbour and similar work had been done at Farewell Spit. Precisely no baby flounder were found in these swans. We sometimes get calls for swan culls to protect flounder in our West Coast harbours.

### **Project 5121 Harvest Survey**

Adam collated all of the fish condition data, converted to K (condition factor), from Lake Arapuni Fishing Competitions and compared this to water quality data from the Waikato Regional Council. Nitrogen has more than doubled in Lake Arapuni and water clarity closely follows the change in fish condition.



**Graph 5:** Mean annual Nitrate nitrogen NO<sub>3</sub>-N as measured in Lake Arapuni (Waipapa Dam) 1998-2018 by the Waikato Regional Council



**Graph 6:** Mean annual Water Clarity (blue line) measured by black disk (m) at Waipapa Dam and mean fish condition (K; black triangles & dotted line) from the annual Arapuni fishing competition 1998-2018.

**Project 5122 Gamebird Harvest Survey**

A Special Early Paradise Shelduck Season was timed to coincide with Northlands, (February 23/24). Also offered was the chance to control pukeko and black swan. Perhaps because of Cyclone Oma and all the Met’ Service dire warnings that it would be an extremely wet weekend, numbers of permits issued were well down to just 60, (about half the usual number). However, the rain only made a brief showing and those hunters that turned out were mostly little troubled by it.

**Project 5161 Trout Releases**

Adam has continued to do background work to be prepared to sterilise fish for Arapuni this season. The plan will be to borrow a pressure chamber and release 1000 normal fish and 1000 sterilised fish (all tagged).

**Project 5181 Control.**

**Swan:** John assisted Auckland Airport with the swan cull. His specific job being to make sure none of the birds that were disturbed flew back over the runway - using Bird-Fright shell-crackers. Two groups looked like they might but were turned back. We wouldn’t normally assist in this manner, but they needed someone suitable at short-notice.

**Botulism:** Thankfully it has been a quieter year on the botulism front than last season although we are aware of significant outbreaks have been detected at the Tuakau and Helensville Waste Water Treatment Plants. Hopefully this will abate with colder temperatures soon. The rains we got just before Christmas likely helped to recharge areas before the big dry hit. In total we are aware of 5 WWTPs that have experienced outbreaks and a few small outbreaks on farm ponds and the wetlands.

## OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

### Project 5211 RMA

**Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1:** This has consumed the majority of the RMA time over the last two months with substantial staff time required for freshwater ecology and fisheries evidence (full report attached as separate agenda item). The lack of a spawning habitat map in our current management plan was identified as a gap as there is higher protection required for spawning habitat. Creating a map based on field observations will be a substantial task involving both desktop and field work. This will be added to the annual work plan over the next couple of years.

**Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review:** A meeting was held between ourselves, DOC and ICM to discuss the weir and future wetland management options. Further technical work has been conducted which will be discussed at the meeting. We believe that it is in everyone's best interest to try and reach a solution that will avoid lengthy court processes. In order to facilitate this discussion it is planned that the managers of the respective organisations will get together in order to determine the best way forward for staff.

**Open Country Dairy:** After our meeting just before Christmas, David recently received an updated application. The main concerns we have is the proposed new year-round discharge to water (currently summer discharge is going to land). This could lead to some potentially significant increases of toxicants under summer low flow conditions. The other issue raised related to the lack of certainty when or if proposed upgrades would occur. The updated applications received now acknowledge some of the potentially adverse effects that we raised at the meeting, however, there do not appear to be many substantive changes to how these will be adequately addressed. Originally, we were told that the applicants would push ahead with lodgement, but it appears that this has now been put on hold again. If the applicant pushes ahead with the application in its current form, we will be forced to submit in opposition. This would be a disappointing outcome, given that we signed an M.O.U with the OCD in order to resolve these issues without going through the legal pathway.

### Project: 5231 Assessment & monitoring



Both staff observations and reports from anglers have indicated poor water quality in the upper Whanganui River since at least January despite a lack of substantial rain. Adam has

made multiple trips to investigate the issue in conjunction with drift dives and monthly water sampling. In early January staff attempted to conduct drift dives in the upper Whanganui River and found that water clarity was only 2.5m and had been over 7m on the neighbouring Whakapapa River the night before. Further investigation by staff has revealed that the water coming from the Lake Otamangakau valve that discharges into the Whanganui River is up to 4°C warmer and far more turbid than the river at the point of discharge. The discharge is negatively affecting the water quality in the upper Whanganui River and Adam has informed Genesis Energy that the current situation is unacceptable. The water that comes out of the valve is intended to cool Lake Otamangakau to enhance the DoC fishery during warm summer months. Adam will be meeting with affected parties in mid-March to discuss a solution. (The photos show Sample 17 from the Whanganui above the Lake O discharge sample 16)

### **Project 5221 Council Land**

**Pond Ballot:** A ballot has been held for 3 pond sites on F&G land; Pond 8 in the McKenzie Wetland, Pond 6 in the North Shepherd and Pond 1 in the Cocks Wetland. These generated a lot of interest and phone calls. Hunters ironically often asked the very same questions that the pond information supplied by staff had already answered! Mr Dyer then took 2 boat-loads of hunters in to the otherwise cut-off Pond 6 in the McKenzie Wetland at 9am on the Saturday before the ballot. They had a good day out, but someone else won this balloted site.

**Weed Spraying:** Councillors will be aware that we have had a wet year of it up till Christmas, but a very dry year since. John has been “making hay” by using this dry weather to do a very large amount of spraying. Many of our wetlands have 1,000-litre tanks so arranged that they catch rain water off a shed roof which is then diverted by spouting into the tank. These were mostly full around Christmas but are now nearly all empty, such is the demand for filling spray tanks. The spouting of several of these was in disrepair and John has since sorted that out ready for the next lot of good rainfall.

One of the sites sprayed is the McKenzie Wetland, so-called “Duck Hunter’s Crossing”. The woolly nightshade and gorse growing alongside the rail tracks meant that anyone looking up the curved tracks to see if a train was coming would have not have a lot of warning. John has since rectified this. A 50-litre tank is no fun to carry any great distance, though coming back empty was a lot easier! The tank’s electric motor however meant the reach into the gorse was a lot further than a manual back-pack sprayer.

**North Emmett Wetland:** The North Emmett Wetland was planted by Kauri Park Nurseries with some 8 thousand native plants. However 5 fat lambs from the adjoining lifestyle block have utilized a gap under the boundary fence to come and go as they pleased. Around 300m of our northern boundary now has a brand-new fence installed by a contractor to Synlait. A small section of the original fence, that under the eucalypts, was instead repaired. Last seen the lambs were on their side eating grass, not Coprosmas, like they’re supposed to.

**South Emmett Wetland:** This wetland is a Significant Natural Area under the new District Plan which means, under 3.2.7 Policy re management, that we may need consents to restore it the way we have the North Emmett. However, there is nothing to stop us from spraying weeds such as Glyceria. A start has been made on spraying regenerating willow under the power pylon lines there. It has been good waterfowl habitat that can be saved by this sort of action.

**North & Central Shepherd:** Yellow Flag in the Northern Wetland had a good hold but has just received c.800-litres of spray from F&G staff along and well out from all the internal tracks. Because the internal drains are mostly dry it has also been possible to spray several kilometres of these of willows growing in, over and beside them, also *Glyceria* in them and so on. Despite some speculation to the contrary, this yellow flag is now in an advanced dying state though the grass killed around it has sometimes shown up other plants that had been screened, giving the false impression these were regenerating.

A working bee of pondholders was also called by staff, (after no working bees for 2 years!), and approximately 20 turned up, pretty near everyone from the 12 ponds. A further 400 litres of Roundup and Meturon with an organo-silicon wetting agent was applied by the pondholders targeting yellow flag in particular.

Alligator weed is also present in 2 locations here. It has been removed from one of them and the second site is due to be sprayed very shortly by a local contractor.

**Piggott Wetland:** Large amounts of yellow flag have been removed from this Wetland along with bindweed and other plants growing thickly on the various fences. There is now practical walking access down both eastern and western boundaries to the Waikato River. The local pondholders have also had a working bee here to spray the internal tracks and so on. One group was using a grappling hook on their hornwort pondweed, towed by a 4WD and a quad, to good effect.

Landcare Research have offered us some smut fungus, (*Kordyana brasiliensis*), as well as a leaf beetle, (*N. ogloblini*), to control *Tradecantia*, ('Wandering Willy'), in the Piggott Wetland under the kahikatea tree stands there.

**Dean Wetland:** In particular, thick gorse and woolly nightshade in this Wetland has been targeted with a view to ensuring fence-lines are kept clear for maintenance and to satisfy legal requirements about noxious weed boundary set-backs.

**McKenzie Wetland:** This Wetland has been sprayed hard to ensure that the access for boats around the stopbank is kept open. This also assists with water circulation. It meant, for instance, that F&G staff were able to put on a boat for inspection of Pond 8 by ballot applicants, via a canal between Pond 10 and Pond 8 that had been cleared in the past by Mr Dyer. This needed to be re-cleared of floating and submerged logs the day before the inspection. On the day the boat also needed to be pushed in by John in waders, (too shallow currently for an outboard). There is no other way into this pond and two of the other McKenzie ponds are likewise water-access only. The vegetation around this improvised canal has had more than 50-litres of spray directed at it so should be a bit wider in future.

### Project 5231 Other Land

**Whangarata Wetland:** John has offered to support as referees an application for funding of a very large wetland by an overseas business group with property in Whangarata. The amount of yellow flag in this area has to be seen to be believed, looking like many hectares of planted maize. That's also on their list of things to do.

**Funding Applications:** David has completed one WCEET funding application for a wetland project being conducted with a local dairy farmer in the Maramarua drainage district. This a



joint project between the landowner, WRC and F&G. Another 3 applications are also being progressed although these may not be submitted in this funding round as further liaison is required with landowners to finalise the size, scale and relative contributions of the parties involved.

**Wetland Projects.** Earthworks have recently been completed on a property near Waeranga. This is a project on private land being managed by RiverCare and F&G and funded by the Landowner, GBHT and WCEET. David helped another landowner obtain his resource consent to conduct another large scale project near Miranda and earthworks have begun at that site. To date the consent process has cost in excess of \$5000 and further engineering assessments will be required. He will try and recoup some of these costs through remittance.

### **OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION**

#### **Project 5311 Access negotiation**

**Meeting with WAMS:** We met with the Walking Access Commission, at their request, to discuss their project to enhance public access in the Franklin – North Waikato area. This is not an area where we have many access issues; however, there is increasing interest by local residents in gaining access to our wetlands.

Adam has worked with several overseas anglers on access issues. Most are using WAMS but do not consider the issues of heat when looking for a fishing location so a fishing calendar or summer fishing tips page may be as necessary as telling them where they can go. The upper Waipa continues to be an issue for access.

#### **5331 Magazine/newsletters**

Our newsletter and the supplement for the preseason game magazine was produced.

### **OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE**

#### **Project 5431 Liaison Advocacy**

**Waikato Federated Farmers:** I gave a presentation to the Executive Committee of Waikato Federated Farmers on AWF&G and our concerns regarding water quality, wetlands etc.

**Fonterra:** Adam attended the Fonterra Oraka funding planning meeting where \$50,000 will be allocated to river enhancement projects over the next 3 years.

**Arms Act:** John attended a public meeting in Hamilton, (98 people turned up), to hear National MP Chris Bishop discuss radical changes to Arms Act administration. For instance, the number of Arms Office vetting staff has been drastically slashed, and many offices closed. Our would-be hunters will now have to travel considerable distances to their nearest office to sit their licence. That could potentially affect our hunter recruitment.

**OSNZ presentation:** David presented results of the mallard research projects to OSNZ members at their meeting in Papakura. David Lawrie whom many current councillors will remember from his time with F&G was in attendance and the talk was well received.

**Morrinsville Presentation:** David gave a talk to the Morrinsville F&G association. Topics of interest included the banding programme, research, population trends, harvest rates, wetland restoration work and botulism. The Morrinsville and Te Aroha club members spent a significant amount of effort cleaning up dead birds on the Howarth Memorial wetland last summer and we greatly appreciate their commitment to this unenviable task.

## **OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Project 5511 Ranging/Training**

**Angling:** Adam has been ranging on his water sampling trips and has checked 3 anglers in the field.

**Gamebird:** The February Special Paradise Shelduck Season saw John going to all the usual spots as well as many others seldom checked. Practically no one was in the field, (permit numbers were down to about half the usual amount this year). About the only thing present was paradise shelducks, sometimes in their hundreds, all standing around asking, "Are you sure it's this weekend?". John also used this opportunity to check out some botulism reports, referred to elsewhere, and also to talk to farmers about future hunter access. One had not allowed shooting on his large pond, for instance, because he considered the birds were still moulting this year.

**B. Wilson**  
**Chief Executive**