



**WINGSPAN**  
BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITABLE TRUST 1992  
P.O. Box 993,  
Rotorua, New Zealand



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Members Complimentary Issue

# WINGSPAN

## BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

JOURNAL 2009 - Volume 13



- Meet 'TAHI'
- ... one of a kind
- Digital Eggs!
- Falconers Fare Results!
- Hoodwinked
- Falconry Down Under
- Hawking in Idaho
- Banding Together
- ...plus more

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**WINGSPAN**  
BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

*Established for the research, captive management, rehabilitation, and public awareness of New Zealand birds of prey.*

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1992  
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One of Wingspan's life members, who visits quite regularly, has recently presented the Trust with a very generous donation. Part of this has been designated to produce this year's 2009 Journal, with the balance destined for Wingspan's capital fund, set to purchase property in the future. Thank you.

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Photo by Jason Searle.

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### FOREWORD - Ruud Kleinpaste

#### Madness or Passion?

It's a very fine line that separates passion from absolute and utter madness. You can see that all around you, especially in politics, but also in conservation and sustainability.

New Zealand has always been a world leader in conservation technology, no doubt caused by the sudden awareness that we've imported too many exotic and destructive species in our very short history. Even Homo sapiens itself should be listed as one of those species and our specific name 'sapiens' has to be one of the very first contenders for review within the International Standards of Zoological Nomenclature. I'll explain why in a moment.

Conservation in New Zealand has always been full of passion. Remember Don Meron and his team of heroes, caring black robin eggs from their parental nest to foster parents' abodes? Howling gales, steep coastal terrain, hardship without comfort... and all for the benefit of the last remaining handful of small, black-in-bred birds.

Around the same time in our history, Dick Vetch and a team of what can only be described as "mad buggers", tackled the eradication of cats on a large, steep island in the outer Hauraki Gulf. Seemed like a good idea at the time, but no-one really anticipated they'd get the last cat off Little Barrier. Oh yes, they did!

Just remember: in the past they did all this by hand. No fancy technology, no narrow-spectrum baits or pheromones, no GPS or tiny transmitters, and neither was there much money for this work. Apart from technology, not much has really changed these days.

We remain working on innovative captive breeding techniques for endangered species. And while we are at it, we design systems that allow the maximum genetic mingling of characters, genes and DNA (requiring really small forceps and a microscope!). In the mean time we research the best way to restore certain ecotypes with botanical elements as well as vertebrates, fungi, bacteria and invertebrates. Mind you the latter components are very much "work-in-progress", but we are at least thinking about all the biota that forms a sustainable ecological system.

Offshore islands have led to "mainland islands", trapping and baiting programs

without costly excluder fences allow for an even wider extension of safe areas for our native wildlife. Surely, our goal is to restore all parts of New Zealand, so that we won't need any fences around exclusive parcels of golden habitats or continuous baiting and trapping strategies to take out the exotic intruders. Maybe we won't get quite that far, but I suppose it's a nice target.

*"Conservation is on the move, not just in terms of innovative technology, but especially in the world-wide recognition that is about much more than saving endangered species and restoring bits of habitat".*

The latest phrase is Conservation Medicine (boring as that ding for PR purposes), but easily hitting the nail on the head when it comes to focussing our target. Just like healthy paddocks produce healthy grass and healthy meat, healthy vegetable gardens produce healthy vegetables, healthy orchards grow healthy fruit and... so will healthy ecosystems produce a healthy environment. Put all this together (you'll find that it's all connected) and the end result is a healthy bunch of people!

I realise that this conservation medicine is a rather anthropocentric argument, but I prefer to look well beyond the human race for the benefits. First of all, it gives a new impetus to why we 'do' conservation (everything is connected and every species benefits) and secondly it puts a serious value on the process, thereby removing it from the realms of "hand-outs" and "sponsorships". The value is absolutely enormous; Biodiversity is worth more than the trade in those so-called carbon credits (just a thought!).

So, while you Wingspan-ers do your wonderful things in Aotearoa, there are people that have no respect at all



for biodiversity or conservation – they shoot and kill the very birds that are needed to keep us all healthy.

*Homo indocilis* is my proposed nomenclature (rude, un-teachable and hard-headed); it's a nice name to describe our collective impact on the globe too.

As we battle on towards the future, you, Wingspan-ers, are absolutely

in the right place, whether you're a volunteer or a sponsor, a falconer or just a mad supporter. You breed them, train them and set them free; you give them a sporting chance and a future. You even use the birds as natural pest control in orchards and vineyards – a PR story that should make world headlines!

You are a vital cog in the restoration plans for Aotearoa and I salute you,

along with all the visionaries that went before you and all those that will come after you.

Whether it's passion or madness – it was born out of respect!



## Australian Barn Owl - *Tyto alba delicatula*

Barn Owls are one of the world's most widely distributed land birds, as well as the most intensively studied of all owls. They lay between four to seven eggs and breed readily in captivity. They are supremely adapted to nocturnal hunting. The heart-shaped facial disc forms two concave troughs running along the side of the face, and the asymmetrical positions of the ears – the left ear is higher than the right one – allow the birds to determine the location of sounds. When the owl turns its face towards the source of a sound, the orientation of the disc is slightly downward on the right and upward on the left. By comparing the extremely fine differences in timing of the sounds in both ears, the owl can determine the direction of the sound caused by potential prey.



Photo Jason Scott

Australian Barn Owls are vagrants or stragglers to New Zealand, having been reported on only eight previous occasions in this country – from such places as Westland, New Plymouth, Auckland and Little Barrier Island.

A call at midnight in early April 2008 from Kevin Matthews grabbed our undivided attention. He informed us of an injured Australian Barn Owl, *Tyto alba delicatula* on farmland in Kaitiaki, Northland. Plans were immediately put into place to hire a vehicle and the following day Mia Jessen and Noel Hyde set off to retrieve the injured bird.

## TAHI... THE ONLY ONE - Noel Hyde

On arrival the owl was found in a very distressed state, the left wing was severely broken, and from the birds low weight and body condition we estimated the injury had occurred up to four days previously.



The x-ray shows the head, shoulder, and wing, clearly shows the severe break.

Mia, with her extensive raptor veterinary nurse training, (including three years at the Abu Dhabi falcon hospital in the UAE), skillfully bandaged the wing, re-hydrated the bird, and because it was too weak to feed for itself began to force feed it along with antibiotics. We spent three days in Kaitiaki until the owl was strong enough for the journey back to the Wingspan Centre, but in the evenings, along with Kevin and Endover, Mark and Jo Thompson, we observed the courtship and postings of another two birds.

On arrival back inRotorua, 'Barnie' as the owl affectionately called, was taken to Ian MacKenzie and Russell Cove of Central City Vets for x-rays. These showed a badly broken left humerus and on the 10 April 2008 the wing was internally pinned in order to give the bird a chance to heal.



Photo Kevin Matthews

Every three to four weeks Barnie was taken back for x-rays but unfortunately after four months there was still no sign of the bone healing. Because the break was so severe and near the end of the bone, we knew that Barnie would never be able to fly again, but we wanted to explore every avenue to try and retain the wing.

On 6 August 2008 Barnie went in for surgery again, this time to remove the internal pin and try an external feature of the humerus. Unfortunately, two months later x-rays showed that the bone was still not healing, so after a total of nearly seven months of intensive care and trying to save the wing, amputation was the only option remaining.

Barn Owls can be hard to sex, and since we needed to know for management reasons, a plucked feather was sent to Massey University to determine its gender by DNA analysis. A week later we knew that Barnie was in fact a girl, and from her plumage, and with help from David McNeill in Nelson, we were able to ascertain that she was a

young bird. As a juvenile, she could possibly live for 19 years in captivity, whereas wild barn owls have life expectancies of as little as 3 years. As she can still potentially breed, we began contacting zoos and private individuals all over New Zealand to see whether we could find a mate for her, but all our enquiries told us that the last barn owls in captivity in New Zealand died out in 2007.



Photo Kevin Matthews

On October 18 2008, Wingspan held a fund raising, charity auction dinner, which included the sponsorship and naming rights for this special bird. Ironically, the successful bid was won by Ian and Lily Mackenzie of Central City Vets of Rotorua, they had already donated all their time, surgical procedures and treatments but this bird and her story had captured their hearts. They named her 'Tahi', meaning one – she is so very special and is now recognised as the only Australian Barn Owl in captivity in New Zealand.

In December 2008, Tahi was moved into the new enclosure, and her first time on public display. Her aviary is themed as a 'barn', and while adding visual impact, the display items have purpose and offer Tahi benefits of behavioural enrichment. Wagon wheels provide additional climbing and access opportunities, nesting provides her purchase while climbing and grunts and passes offer different substrates and perching options.



## Where to from here?

- Other than Tahi – the Australian Barn Owl in captivity, is now extinct in New Zealand.
- The Department of Conservation (DoC) has advised Wingspan that the remaining pair of Barn owls in Kaitiaki, as vagrants, are protected by the Wildlife Act (1953). Should they breed successfully in the wild, their eggs and progeny are also protected, so Wingspan would not be allowed to source a mate for Tahi from these birds.
- The New Zealand representative for the Captive Management Advisory Group (CMAG) and the Australasian Regional Association of Zoos, Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA) advised that to apply for a permit to import Barn owls from an Australian Zoo would require an Import Health Standard (I.H.S.) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).
- Wingspan was also advised that an IHS application would be difficult at present as MAF Biosecurity do not currently have the resources to complete a new one specifically for Barn owls. At the moment, 25% of all animal I.H.S. development resources are devoted to prioritised zoo work, and there are no resources within MAF to increase this. Wingspan would require application before the next prioritisation round in about two years time. Wingspan's application would be assessed against numerous criteria on how having this I.H.S. would benefit New Zealand.

Recent importations of exotic species into New Zealand (such as crocodiles, flamingoes) that do not occur here naturally, would suggest Barn owls, as occasional vagrants, have a real claim to New Zealand, and an application for their importation should have potential.

While not possible for another two years, Wingspan intends to apply for an I.H.S., and hopefully provide Tahi a partner to reestablish a captive population of Barn owls. Wingspan hopes to provide the opportunity for all New Zealanders, including future generations, to see and enjoy these beautiful and remarkable birds.

## CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Staff and volunteers have continued to gain management experience and knowledge for the captive propagation of raptors, and with resources improving, and continued support from community and network organisations, the 2008-2009 raptor-breeding season has been very successful.

### Digital Eggs

Debbie Stewart

New technology and updated equipment have featured in Wingspan's incubation and rearing programmes this season. Egg incubators such as the new R-com unit have provided alternative incubation opportunities for eggs of different cycle phases or different species, while the new Brinsea brooder has added new options for the rearing of chicks, complementing the equipment on hand.



The tools of trade have changed a lot over the years. Hand-turning of eggs every two hours during incubation has been superseded by automatic 'turners', with eggs either cradled and gently rocked from side-to-side, or positioned on moving platforms. Temperature and humidity controls that once relied on simple heat lamps, rubber bands and fans have now been replaced with digitally set controls - accurate within just 0.10 C.

During incubation, eggs can also be 'candled' with a strong light bulb or torch. As the name suggests, this was originally a simple candle, positioned behind an egg in a darkened room. Eggs with white and/or thin shells could be checked for fertility, growth and development during the incubation cycle. However, eggs that have darker pigmentation and/or from thicker-shelled species (such as New Zealand falcons) are difficult to candle accurately, and these remain risks with increased heat build-up, and handling that might stress the embryo within the shell. At the Wingspan Centre high light intensity/low temperature candlers are used, but growth and development progress remains difficult to determine, and weak or dead embryos hard to establish.

The latest technology at Wingspan has included the purchase of a digital egg monitor, specifically imported from the United Kingdom. Completely portable, simply powered by a 9V battery, the main body of the unit is divided into two main sections. One side features a front load compartment where an egg, removed temporarily from the incubator, is placed onto a sensor pad. The left side of the unit includes a digital read out screen and control buttons. Incredibly, this egg monitor amplifies, by 20,000 times, the heart rate of the developing embryo.



The use of this digital egg monitor at Wingspan has already shown some incredible results, and has been used effectively for a number of owl, hawk and falcon eggs. In the first instance, it has provided confirmation of fertility, and the unit clearly shows a visual heart readout of the embryo within the fertile egg. A test trial before the breeding season, showed domestic chicken eggs had an identifiable heart rate at just four days of incubation.

Heart rates would change during the course of the incubation cycle. Mid-term incubation readings of 240-280 beats per minute (BPM) were recorded. But prior to hatch the readings would be more erratic - the chick would rest before hatching and the heart rate would be lower than usual at around 190 BPM.

*Wingspan gratefully acknowledges the support provided for this year's programme and purchase of new equipment. In particular, Auckland Zoo for their generous support, and the Spirit Weaver Gallery in Canada with auction proceeds from the Rex Human exhibition 'Ngā Mana a Tāne'.*



### Rescues and Releases

Andrew Thomas

This last breeding season has been Wingspan's most successful to date. Five falcon chicks released into the wild were from two separate clutches produced by Fovea and Tibboe in the Kaiparua Timberlands (KT) aviary.

Their first clutch was fostered to the Lake Challice falcons, the second clutch of eggs were left with the pair in the KT aviary, and for the first time they successfully reared their chicks. All five of these captive bred falcon chicks were released into the wild at Te Awamutu, as part of a continued 'hatch' release programme coordinated by Wingspan members Laurie and Jan Hovord.

The Te Awamutu release programme has now continued for three years and it is anticipated that some of the birds released from this site will soon be breeding. A local farmer in the area came through Wingspan and reported that he had a pair nesting on the back of his farm. Neighbouring farmers, as a result of their involvement and subsequent monitoring of the birds, have also become falcon enthusiasts. They are proud to be involved in the programme and now have a personal interest in its success.



A juvenile female falcon was released back into the wild in Taihape. Originally found in a paddock and unable to fly, she was transferred to Massey University Veterinary Clinic before transfer to Wingspan for further assessment. Within a few weeks she had gained weight, was confidently able to fly around her aviary, and considered suitable for release.

An Australasian harrier hawk, approximately two weeks old, was found on the road verge in Manakau, 15 minutes north of Rotorua.

Named 'Gravel', he was reared at the Centre until he had fledged and was able to fly confidently in the aviaries.

In February he was released back at the site in which he was found.

He flew off quite strongly before perching in punga amongst some tall pine trees, taking in his new surroundings.



Last summer, a local mountain biker riding in the Redwood Forest glimpsed a bird fly from underneath the track as he rode around a corner. On closer inspection he found the nest of a morepork with two eggs within a cavity below the track. Rotten logs marked the nest entrance but the nest burrow had partially collapsed. The eggs were removed and carefully carried out of the forest using a chully-bin with a hot-water bottle inside.

Once the eggs were safely back at the Wingspan Centre they were checked with the egg monitor and then placed into an incubator. One of the eggs was badly soiled and confirmed dead-in-shell - a likely death early during the incubation period.

The remaining egg hatched two weeks later, however was a very weak chick. Despite attempts with delicate hand-feeding and intensive care, the chick struggled to eat, barely made any weight gains, and died three days later.

The early embryo death in the first egg, and the very weak chick that hatched, showed they had both been adversely affected by disturbances during incubation.

It is likely that the female morepork would have flushed from the eggs each time a mountain biker rode over her nest burrow.

We hope that next year this female morepork might think twice before nesting underneath another mountain biking track.

Returned to the same area where she was found, she was seen flying confidently into the distance with a magpie hot on her tail. She easily out flew the magpie, and with strong determined flight she continued in the direction of a patch of native bush several kilometres away.

### Morepork Breeding

Andrew Thomas

Wingspan's only pair of morepork, Nestor and Wairimu, improved on their breeding success of the previous year, by successfully hatching two chicks during the season.

Continuous monitoring by staff is important during this time, and Wingspan's infra-red camera surveillance recorded the pairs courtship, copulations and incubation behaviours. However, additional checking of the nest several days after the hatch, showed the chicks varied considerably in size. As a result, a management decision was made to remove one chick from the pair to ensure that both chicks would survive.



The chick was removed at nine days old, and placed into a special brooder. This chick was later named 'Brinsea' after the brand new equipment donated by Auckland Zoo. Brinsea was hand reared, then as a young fledged owl transferred off-site to

Hamilton. Brinsea will return to the Wingspan Centre later this year.

The other chick remained with its parents, eventually showing more independence from his parents by roosting away from them during the day. This young owl, named in honour of owl lover Rupert Steinbeis, was released successfully into the wild in January 2009.

Whisper also came into her breeding cycle this year and during this time she would sit and present herself to staff for copulation - a very rare sight to see. The event was captured using a digital video camera, and is likely to be the first time that this behaviour has been properly documented.

Whisper eventually laid two (infertile) eggs in a corner of her aviary and began to incubate them. She was left to brood them for the natural incubation period before the eggs were removed.



*Birds that are hand-reared from a young age are often called 'imprints'.*

*Imprints can be the ideal birds for advisory purposes. Owls in particular are more active during the day than wild birds, and have little fear of people. But they are also important within captive breeding programmes.*

*The ability to control and manipulate imprinted birds' breeding cycle is unparalleled compared to parent-reared birds. They can be used for fostering of captive-reared clutches, reared eggs or chicks from the wild.*

*Brinsea and Whisper are both imprinted birds and unrelated, and it is hoped that artificial insemination can be considered for this pair in the future.*

### FINE FEATHERS



*The age-old falconry technique of imping, is probably best described in today's terms as 'feather excisions'. 'Imp' originates from the Latin word 'impono; to put, place, or set in. In falconry, imping is the procedure or art of repairing a hawk's broken or damaged feathers.*

*Left: Mia Jesson imping the tail of a morepork owl prior to release.*

Predatory birds require excellent plumage of their main flight surfaces to optimise their chances of obtaining food.

Each year Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust receives injured harrier hawks, moreporks, and the occasional falcon that require some form of rehabilitation. Many have damaged plumage in need of repair, and can be given a quicker chance of getting back on the wing, by the use of the ancient falconry art of imping.

Wingspan prepares the dried spread wings and tails from raptors that have died, and with these feathers replace broken or damaged feathers of live birds. The operation is only necessary and suitable for the major flight and tail feathers which may have more than a tip broken off. These larger feathers are hollow towards the end, which goes into the birds' flesh.

If a feather is broken, it can be cut at the start of the feather vane, and another corresponding feather from a dead bird be cut so that it will join, end to end, with the cut stub and of the correct length in relation to the adjacent feathers. The replacement feather should be from the same species and sex, and impied in the correct position and alignment.

Two corresponding feathers are required to replace one feather on a live bird. The second feather is stripped of its vane, and the central shaft is cut to length to provide the 'needle' to join the feather to the stub.

This needle, being feather keratin, has the same curvature, strength, lightness and flexibility of a natural feather, and is glued into place to sit perfectly in line to its adjacent feathers.

Once the imping process has been completed, if done well, it should be almost impossible to detect when looking at the bird, and these impied feathers will be pushed out and replaced naturally by normal feathers during the bird's next moult.



*Ozzy's tail makeover - Photo Boyd Robertson*

### Impact! The tail end of it...



*'Ozzy' - Ozzy's tail in need of repair with missing feathers and showing the severe tips of all 12 feathers, demonstrating the imping of the central tail feathers (decks).*



*Noel Hyde provides Ozzy a complete 'tail right' of all 12 feathers, demonstrating the imping of the central tail feathers (decks).*



*'After' - The completed impied tail.*

## PAST PRESENT FUTURE - Dr Richard Seaton Where to next for New Zealand falcon research?

*In recent times the amount of research being carried out on the New Zealand falcon, kararewa, has greatly increased. As a result, our understanding of this diurnal species has really improved. Despite this, the Kararewa remains a relatively poorly studied bird and there is still much to learn about this unique little falcon.*

It has been a while now since I first ran bleeding from a falcon nest in the name of research. Debbie Stewart introduced me to the "falcon handshake" in the summer of 2003, and although my doctoral research on falcon has ended, I am lucky enough to now have a paid job that involves running around after this bloodthirsty little bird. Consequently, all things falcon continue to be at the forefront of my daily life and hence I was cogled into writing this article.

A list of areas for potential research topics involving falcon would be almost endless. As a result, this article is not intended to be an extensive review of what has been done and what could be done; rather, it is intended to provide some food for thought. Above all I hope it stimulates people's inquisitive sides and maybe sparks some budding researchers and enthusiasts into action. For a long time researchers were discouraged from studying this species because of a belief that it was simply too difficult. Recent research efforts prove that with determination and some lateral thinking this is simply not the case (although it does of course remain a challenge!).

With the encouragement and support of Wingspan some amazing facts about this truly unique species have been uncovered. What follows is an overview of the history of New Zealand falcon research and an outline of some of the potential areas that we should maybe concentrate on in the future.

### The Past

No article on the history of research on any New Zealand bird would be complete without mentioning Buller. His work in 1880 was the first extensive collation of knowledge on New Zealand's birds and this of course included the New Zealand falcon. However, it was Sir Joseph Banks, of the Endeavour, who is thought to have been the first European to observe the species in 1770. John Latham in 1773 may have been the first person to call this falcon the New Zealand falcon, but this name was not officially adopted until the species was fully described for the first time by Gmelin in 1788.

These early descriptions, although often lacking any scientific rigour, served as the world's first documented encounter with the New Zealand falcon. Many of the observations made remain true today and I am sure many of you will relate to some of the entrancing quotes recorded at this time.

*"One day walking along near the margin of the forest, my hat was suddenly knocked off my head, and at the same time I heard a shrill cry. On looking up, I found it was one of those outrageous little Sparrow-Hawks that had attacked me, and which, after sitting a*



*... moment or two on a branch, again perched on me, and although I had a large stick, with which I tried to knock it down, it repeated its attack several times." -Sir J Van Haast, 1888.*

Although many observations and notes were made after the late 1800's the next major work of note was possibly that of Nick Fox who carried out his doctoral research on falcons in the 1970's. This work, more than any before, gave us an in depth insight into the habits of this species, describing in detail the general biology of the species, including defining the three forms we recognise today.

Advances in captive breeding techniques then ensued both here and overseas but published research on falcon biology once again went through a bit of a lull. However, by the early 1990's this began to change with members of the Raptor Association taking up the challenge and Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust being formed. Research at this time included an MSc study by Laurence Barea on the biology of the bush form of the falcon at the Magara Wildlife Management Reserve in the central King Country, a description of the dispersal patterns of three fledglings in Upper Hunt by Steve Lawrence and Chris Gay, and the compilation of the first nationwide survey of breeding falcons since the 1970's.

occur there will survive. New Zealand's fauna should be something that lives around us daily, not just when we venture out into the wilderness. Research into how falcons interact with all of the landscapes various components is vital to the ongoing survival of this species and in bringing this species into all of our daily lives.

On this note, why are falcons not found nesting in our cities like similar species overseas? Many New Zealand cities are relatively green places and are often not far from areas of suitable falcon breeding habitat. Indeed, juvenile falcons are reported from within cities every winter, but why do they not settle and breed there? There seems to be abundant prey available, with many exotic species of birds apparently thriving. Is it then because of predators such as the ever-present household mozzie? Or, as the Falcons for Grapes Project has illustrated in the vineyards of Marlborough, is electrocution from un-insulated power poles a problem? Most likely it is a combination of all of these factors along with a lack of suitable nest sites.

But, is it possible to reduce the effects of some of these, and even to encourage them by providing artificial nest structures? How wonderful would it be to see a falcon flying down the street on the way to the dairy in your garden or out of your office window, a site commonly seen in cities elsewhere in the world? Again, it is a matter of shifting our focus. Cities may be unlikely to support a falcon population alone, but within a landscape that regularly provides for them, maybe their numbers can be restored.

Introduced predators also have a great influence on the numbers of falcons in New Zealand. It is a well-known fact that mammal predators such as stoats, cats and possums negatively impact many of New Zealand's native birds. The falcon is no exception and may well be vulnerable to predation at the nest site. The details of the impacts of these predators on falcons however remain poorly understood, especially in their bush and tussock habitats. Shockingly in this day and age, one of the worst predators of falcons are humans.

Wingspan, the Raptor Association, Falcons for Grapes and DoC all regularly receive reports of falcons being shot. I think there is no doubt that the incidents reported make up just the tip of the iceberg of the numbers actually shot, and so it seems highly likely that "nuisance falcons" are being shot on a regular basis nationwide. Public education along with public pressure and prosecutions are probably the key to remedying this, but research into when and why this occurs can also play a vital role.

Overall, although we have made great advances in our understanding there are still large gaps in our knowledge on the biology of this species. The focus of the research questions I pose above is quite obviously biased towards

### The Present

More recently, falcons were discovered breeding in pine plantations by Debbie Stewart and Noel Hyde of Wingspan. Initial studies found this to be occurring nationwide, and led to falcon tracking research by Dr John Holland using cutting edge satellite transmitters.

These studies in particular led to me carrying out my doctoral research on falcon in Kaingaroa Forest, a large pine plantation in the central North Island. Many of you will

have read the results of this study in previous editions of the Wingspan journal, but for those of you new to Wingspan it broadly described the ecology of the species in this habitat and attempted to advise forestry managers as to how best manage their estates for falcons.

Perhaps most importantly, it highlighted the importance of this novel habitat to the ongoing survival of this species, with the highest known densities of falcons in New Zealand being recorded in Kaingaroa Forest.



*Monitoring the falcons of Kaingaroa including Shane McPherson, Richard Seaton and Dave Bell.*



*"A falcon a day keeps the doctors away!" From left: Dr Richard Seaton, Dr Laurence Barea, Dr John Holland and Dr Nick Fox.*

Since then the number of studies carried out in pine forests has increased exponentially with research spanning many facets of falcon biology. Much of this research has been fostered and supervised by Dr John Holland and Dr Ed Minor at Massey University and they continue to encourage and support many students in studying falcons. Wingspan has also played a vital role in supporting this research and it continues much of this work, with the support of our membership, by leading an ongoing monitoring program in Kaingaroa.

The Falcons for Grapes Project, led by Nick Fox and Colin Wynn, is now in its third year, and along with Wingspan, is making great advances in the advocacy, captive management and release of falcons. One aim of this project is to scientifically establish whether the falcons being released over the vineyards have a measurable effect on the grape harvest by reducing the damage caused to the fruit by exotic pests. To that end Sarah Kross has begun her doctoral research on this project at Canterbury University and in conjunction with the Falcons for Grapes team.

Research in the private sector on falcon is now also on the increase with many energy companies beginning to research the potential effects of wind farm construction on falcons as part of the resource consent process. Active research at proposed wind farm sites nationwide is being undertaken currently to allow us to better advise energy companies on the most appropriate locations for these installations and the best way to avoid any negative effects.

### The Future

Although it is possible to see falcon in many places in New Zealand, the falcon remains a threatened species and the numbers of this species are potentially declining. The low numbers largely seem to be due to a lack of suitable nesting habitat. With large areas of New Zealand being covered by land practices that provide little suitable nesting habitat, it is important to understand how falcons interact not just on a local scale, but on a wider, landscape level, and how the matrix of different land uses interact to affect the numbers present overall.

For example, we now know that falcons will breed in young pine stands, but how large do plantation forests need to be to provide enough of this habitat type to sustain a breeding population over the long term? Will very small farm forestry blocks support a falcon pair when the trees are young? If so, what happens when the trees grow larger? Will they move from nesting in pine forest to nesting in bush or other habitats and vice versa? How large an area of suitable habitat is required to sustain a viable population for a given habitat type?

Does suitable habitat need to be present in one large block, or is it better to be fragmented throughout the landscape? How far do they disperse? Are the three forms of the NZ falcon genetically distinct or is there gene flow between them?

Although intensively farmed agricultural land often provides little in the way of suitable nest sites itself, when this is in a matrix of other habitats, farmland may offer relatively rich pickings for hunting falcons, as many exotic passerines thrive in this habitat. In fact, falcons are often found breeding in small remnant patches of bush and tussock amongst larger areas of farmland.

Is a landscape dominated by a wide variety of land uses all mixed in together therefore the most appropriate for falcons? Could such a fragmented landscape provide more hunting habitat and more diverse prey for falcons, and in so doing encourage higher densities overall?

The most important task in conserving New Zealand's unique fauna is how to manage wildlife within the highly modified landscape that we find ourselves today. Gone are the times when we can simply rely on looking over the species wilderness away and cross our fingers that the precious that

*Being members of Wingspan, and the heart of the raptor community in New Zealand, is a huge contribution to the research and conservation of this species and every one of us plays a part in its success.*

conservation. There are many, many exciting and rewarding areas of research that we can follow on this wonderful bird, many of them purely theoretical and of immense interest to any raptorophile.

However, my personal feelings are that the need for the conservation of the species is so great that research that focuses on practical outcomes for conservation must take priority. That is not to say that theoretical studies will not benefit the species, but I encourage any research scientist to think before they start, not only "what do I want to know", but how does this fit into the bigger picture? How will this knowledge contribute to the ongoing persistence of this species?

Being members of Wingspan, and the heart of the raptor community in New Zealand, is a huge contribution to the

research and conservation of this species and every one of us plays a part in its success. I hope that this article has encouraged some of you to pull out your binoculars and notebooks and start trying to answer a few of these questions. Piece by piece, bit by bit, the jigsaw will continue to come together.

There is no doubt that researching birds of prey is a challenge, but the rewards from doing so are great. On a personal note, working with and researching falcons has not just been a chance to work with a remarkable species, but to work and make friends with a group of amazing and inspiring people.

*Foing may it continue!*



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## KAINGAROA FOREST 2008-2009

The New Zealand falcons within Kaingaroa Forest continue to draw interest and attention, and this year further surveys and monitoring concentrated on the main areas where the breeding density is highest. To be acknowledged is Timberlands Ltd for their continued support of this project, but also the Wingspan members who have contributed by sponsoring individual falcons.

### Banding Together Shane McPherson

Kaingaroa Forest: a hundred thousand hectares of pine and fir. The forest has been planted in stands of identical age, mostly around 100 Ha in size, a patchwork quilt laid across the central plateau. Clearfelled rotting vegetation, jagged branches, and pine stumps. In the summer heat, sunshine glares off the bone white branches sticking out from rows of detritus, each row separated by 50 metre strips of bare pines, recently planted with 30cm high pine seedlings. It tends not to paint an image of beauty, but this environment is rich in life. Clearfells are mostly surrounded by maturing pine trees, providing shelter and nesting opportunities for many insect eating birds.

An entirely altered habitat, introduced birds have thrived here: magpies, hawks, and an overabundance of finches of all types. But Kaingaroa supports an impressive number of natives also. Whimbrels are by far the most abundant, shining and long-tailed cuckoos, robins, terns, warblers and fantails are aplenty. Iau, bellbirds, fernbirds, pigeons, and kaka also feature from time to time. All this energy flowing through the food chain culminates in Kaingaroa's top predator – the falcon. Nesting only in the clear-cut compartments, these falcons don't build nests – they lay an egg right there on the ground, often with a cover of branches and lined with dead leaves and pine needles.

Kaingaroa supports a very high density of falcons, and this population is the longest studied in New Zealand. Wingspan

began banding falcons here in the early 1990's and again has had an important role to play this year.

Many people have come together to support the monitoring and discover as much as possible. With support from Timberlands, the front line forestry crews, Wingspan sponsors and volunteers trudging over endless clear-cuts, and Massey University students using new surveying techniques, we were able to monitor 20 breeding pairs during the season.

After the slash in clear-cuts has had time to break down it must be prepared for another round of planting. Forestry crews in 20 ton diggers turn over the soil and create rows of decaying slash – essential wind breaks and frost protection for the seedlings. Fresh cut slash is a magnet for small birds, and falcons are readily attracted to nesting in these areas.

An important part of our work is to survey and alert forestry crews of the presence and timing of these nests. Often they beat us to it, and this year the forestry crews let us know of four nests in areas of operation. Able to avoid three, the nest sites were marked and left undisturbed, while one was too close to danger and the eggs were rescued and taken to the brooding facilities at Wingspan, where one egg later hatched and the chick fostered by a captive pair.

You can support and participate in our efforts to protect and learn from this amazing population of falcons. For the first time last year, wild chicks were offered for sponsorship – the funds going directly to the monitoring project. Sponsors and Wingspan members also had a unique opportunity to see, watch and photograph banding hundreds of hectares of clear-cut – with the pleasure and satisfaction of discovering



Clear cut compartment with adult female falcon and nest of pine needles. Photo Shane McPherson

## IN THE FIELD



On a visit to Kaingaroa forest in mid-December, Andrew Thomas and I were privileged to get an exceptional look into the private life of a falcon. It all started, as many adventures often do, with a slight mistake of our planned route. Fortunately it was on this "new" road we caught the glimpse of a male falcon.

### Two Flys on the Wall Mia Jessen

Judging from the purposeful and direct flight, the falcon was heading across a stand of mature pine trees into a large, hilly, and newly felled compartment. It looked perfect for falcons, and so our hopes were up that a more thorough search might reveal a pair of nesting falcons there.

We planned our search of the compartment, including the numerous miniature "canyons", and started in opposite directions. A couple of hours later, we were both back at the starting point, with no indication of a falcon's presence and wondering how we could have missed them.

An authentic imitation of the falcon's "kekking" call was produced by Andy – a last attempt at drawing some attention. Amazingly, we watched a falcon in view over the hilltop. With great excitement and a feeling of relief, we sloped up the hill and there at the top, found the male falcon perched on a slash pile.

He was a fine looking falcon. With a mix of the dark brown and sparsely marked juvenile feathers on the back, and many fresh moulted adult feathers on the breast, we could see he was one year old. He looked back at us, slightly curious, and then flew across to the opposite hillside where he perched on top of an overturned tree stump. Through binoculars we could see him, he sat there looking comfortable with one leg tucked, and we slowly moved closer to get a better look at him.

We didn't seem to worry him, so with care we edged closer, soon standing just fifteen metres away! We stood motionless watching every fascinating detail of his actions; large watchful eyes looking straight back at us, but not being alarmed by our presence. He went on to preening his feathers, neatly arranging them all into place. Eventually he finished the task and hopped down to the base of the tree stump. There, he was comfortable enough to lie down on his belly, laying there for ten minutes and occasionally closing his eyes almost shut.

Feeling refreshed from this "powernap", he got up and returned to preening his feathers again, all the while keeping a watchful eye on small birds moving around on the hill. These birds too seemed to keep a watchful eye, and they

uttered high frequency alarm calls, letting everyone around to keep on alert.

Thirty minutes flew by and Andy and I cautiously backed away and made our way back to the car. It seemed a fluke we had been allowed into what would normally be the personal space of a wild falcon! New Zealand falcons are generally very trusting, but sadly unaware that people can, in some cases, be the deadliest creatures they share the planet with.

Arriving back at the car and recounting how lucky and privileged we had been, we heard the loud territorial call of the falcon. He was chasing a harrier that had obviously got too close for comfort. Confident on the wing with superior speed and agility, he beavily claimed the airspace, and starting bombing and stooping on the hawk. The harrier got the message and left fleeing from the area.

But while the falcon soared, he spotted from his vantage point another bird. This time, the opportunity good enough to tempt his instinct and his appetite. Plummeting down with stiff and powerful wing beats, twisting and turning until he was on a blackbird's tail, and making this otherwise well-known, garden loving bird pull some equally smart and spectacular aerial manoeuvres. With only inches to spare, the blackbird found cover by diving headlong into piles of pine slash.

But with the increased numbers of prey available over the summer months, and with a whole year of experience and survival behind him, he is well on "top of the game". While still a young bird, it seems that this falcon has identified the hill as a fine territory, and one that he may be able to entice a future nest spring.



Photo Mia Jessen

THREE new nests. A chance to show others the amazing placidity of chicks, participate in the banding program, and give an insight into the falcon's world was definitely a highlight.

The uniquely coded leg bands allow us to identify individuals into their adult lives. Many falcons and pairs are seen from year to year, and this season just over 50 falcons were seen, 30 of which were banded and 13 unbanded. More are added each season and this year another 18 chicks and two adult females were banded.

The studies and discoveries that can be made from such ongoing research can only improve as the years go by.



Gary Jenkins



Mia Jessen



From left: Angela Livingston, Iara van Mourik, Stephen White, Ross Baker, David Jones-Parry, Jason Steah, Shane McPherson

## Quick Facts 2008-2009 season

Total falcons seen	51
Breeding pairs discovered	20
Failed nests identified	6
(3 of these nested)	
Banded falcon chicks	18
New banded adults	2
Banded adult birds identified	30
Unbanded adults seen	13

Compartments surveyed	79
Area surveyed	12,000 Ha
Total birds banded within Kaingaroa Forest since 1995	224

## Classic Hits

Of the 38 species of falcons found worldwide, the New Zealand falcon might not be considered the largest, the smallest, nor the fastest – they are however internationally identified as the "meanest". The aggression of karearea is well recognised, and thought to be a result of evolving in this country without any natural predators or competitors. They are simply unafraid of everything and everyone. The breeding season with their strenuous defence of nesting territory simply demands respect.



New Zealand falcons deflected from any direction. Watch to the side, behind, and, in front!

## YOU CAN SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON!

In an effort to support and contribute towards the monitoring of Kaingaroa falcons in seasons to come, sponsorship of individual birds is now available. Your donation will contribute to the active field research of New Zealand falcons in the wild.

For a donation of \$100 you can name the wild bird, receive information on band numbers and combinations, a colour photograph, and updated summary when your falcon has been located, plus free admission to the Wingspan Birds of Prey Centre, and acknowledgement on the avary sponsor board.

Sponsors for 2009 – 2010 Kaingaroa falcons are now being accepted – Wingspan welcomes new sponsors for next season including Sheree Tutwell, Celtic River Trust, and Ian and Maikie Neimeijer. The following photographs capture some of the chicks of last season and their sponsors (note band combinations of colour codes and metal bands are marked left leg right leg).



<p><b>Tee (Ear and ovary) Female</b> Band Combination: Light Green / Metal (K14459) - Dark Green. Sponsor: Vicky Ellis of Wellington</p> <p><b>Van Dee Female</b> Band Combination: Light Green / Metal (K14458) - Red Sponsor: Patsy Schwabe for the Van Dijk grandchildren, Jay, Leon and Sanka</p> <p><b>Hastings Male</b> Band Combination: Yellow / Metal (H17993) - Dark Blue Sponsor: D.E and A.E. Hastings of Felling</p> <p><b>Marjorie Female</b> Band Combination: Yellow / Metal (K14461) - Red Sponsor: David Jones-Parry of Cambridge</p> <p><b>Winnie Female</b> Band Combination: Dark Green / Metal (K14462) - Yellow. Sponsor: Graham and Blanche Labbeck of Te Puke</p> <p><b>Eartha Female</b> Band Combination: Black / Metal (S80403) - Yellow Sponsor: Pam Oliver of Waikato Island</p> <p><b>Whetu (star) Female</b> Band Combination: Orange-metal (K14100) / Yellow Sponsor: Steve and Lindy Robinson of Waikato Island</p> <p><b>Charm Female</b> Band Combination: White / Metal (S80399) Red Sponsor: Nancy Naylor of Rotorua</p>	<p><b>Indiana Male</b> Band Combination: Light Green / Metal (H17958) - Yellow Sponsor: Doreen &amp; Robyn Curtis from United Kingdom for Dr. Richard Sutton</p> <p><b>Matangi (breese) Female</b> Band Combination: Orange / Metal (S80396) - Dark Blue Sponsor: Suzz Phillips from North Shore</p> <p><b>Haleona Female</b> Band Combination: Yellow / Metal (K14473) - Orange. Sponsor: Angela Borgegosa of Barcelona, Spain</p> <p><b>Jean Female</b> Band combination: Yellow metal (K14461) / Light green. Sponsor: David Jones-Parry of Cambridge</p> <p><b>Kincaid Male</b> Band Combination: Light Green / Metal (H17892) - Light Green Sponsor: David Kincaid of Lower Hutt</p> <p><b>Iris Female</b> Band Combination: Light Green / Metal (K14469) - White. Gift sponsored by Iris Hamilton from Kim Hammond and Andrew Huane</p> <p><b>Alex Female</b> Band Combination: Black / Metal (S80395) - Dark Green. Sponsor: Alexander Darlington from the United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Sam Male</b> Compartments #: 231 Band Combination: Light Green - Orange / Metal (H17897) Sponsor: Gregor Morandini from Cambridge</p>
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## FALCON SIGHTINGS



Photos from left: Hilson in Nelson (adult male), High Daries in Rees Valley (juvenile female), John McGill in Milford Sound (adult female), Jeremy Mitchell in Lake Hayes Queenstown (adult male)

Falcon sightings are reported to Wingspan throughout the year, with the most common reports during the spring and summer when the falcons are nesting. Falcon sightings in your area can be registered online on the website or by sending the information directly to the Wingspan Office. The required details include date, location (with a map reference or GPS reading), number of birds seen, and a brief description of the activity observed.

Wingspan acknowledges the mapping provided by Camnag Hawley, and AMG Web Designers for the website update.

Sightings of falcons are reported by recreational hunters and trampers, landowners, or from forest estate managers and contactors such as Kaitiaki Timbrelands and P.F. Olsen Ltd. Some falcons even in the backyard! But often we receive correspondence a little more out of the ordinary, or about other birds of prey seen in New Zealand.



Dear Friends, On the 22nd October I came across a NZ falcon (I think), in fact was dive bombed by it at the Piano Flat camping and picnic area, beside the Waiata river in Southland. While crossing a swing bridge over the river and nearing the far side, I became aware of a bird making repeated sounds and then as I sighted the bird as it moved closer, I realised that its annoyance was directed at me and I had to duck as it flew at me. I believe I heard another bird close by but never saw it and my suspicion was that they were nesting close by. I'm not sure though as this was the first time I had seen one of these and I am not familiar with their habits. This is a popular camping and picnicking area and there will probably be a lot of people there over Labour weekend. Best Wishes,  
-Morris Giese, Invercargill

On the 25th October, my birthday, I was staying with friends at Waiata in northern Southland and went taken up the Waiata valley to Piano Flat which was a Chinese gold mining area. About 20 odd kms up river there is a rest area and a narrow one person suspension bridge. Although not keen, (on my 71st birthday!), I gingerly crossed the bridge and as I reached the end I heard a scream and received a thump on the back of the head. My companion had started to cross the bridge so there was no return until she had completed the crossing and we could both retreat. We were dive bombed about 15 times - the screaming is very loud and scary. My friend, a local, went back at the weekend and in the absence of birds was able to photograph 3 speckled eggs on a rock ledge almost at ground level. Telling the story to locals later at Waiata the birds are well known and the locals call them sparrow hawks. Later that day I saw one fly over the town with a bird in its claws. I hope this is some help.  
-Noel Ashton

## FALCONRY



"Falconry is the sport of taking wild quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey."

### Falconry Down-Under - A Brief History Noel Hyde

The earliest record for falconry practiced in New Zealand is from the 1920's. Since then, we have the early recollections of 1960's falconry, and photographs, from Geordie Bennett, in the book written by his brother 'A Geordie Down Under'. There are anecdotal records of two falconers flying birds in the Mackenzie country in the early 1970's, along with Jerry Andrews who practiced falconry in the hills behind Palmerston North.

In 1977, UK falconer and raptor biologist Dr Nick Fox founded the Raptor Association of New Zealand (RANZ) while in New Zealand completing a PhD study on New Zealand falcons. The aim of the Raptor Association was to encompass everyone's interests in raptors - whether it be research, rehabilitation, or falconry.



The late Norman "Norm" McKenzie with white harrier hawk.

At this time the New Zealand Wildlife Service allowed falconry with harriers. Indeed, the founding meeting of RANZ was falconry in the Waihopai valley in Marlborough. Several members had harrier hawks, and Nick Fox took quarry with falcons he had trained for his studies investigating hunting behaviour.

As RANZ evolved, a permitting system was put in place for those wanting to fly birds, including a written and practical test. Several keen and successful falconers emerged at this time and into the 1980's, these included Norman McKenzie, Albie Wilson, John Powell, Lex Hedley, Andrew Tolan, Pat Malone, Rob Wheelahan, Laurence Barea, Debbie Stewart, Noel Hyde, Dean Thomas, and Matt Wong. During these years lots of phone calls were made late into the night as enthusiastic people shared their experiences or sought



The first Raptor Association of New Zealand field meet, 1975 Beathopai Station, Waihopai, Marlborough.



From left: Alison Paton in Nelson Lakes (adult male), James Bishop (aged 12) in Colerua (two juvenile females), Derek Binnie in Marlborough (juvenile female).

Yesterday, 7 December about 7.30 pm, on the south bank of the Clutha river about 2km from the outlet from Lake Wanaka. I saw one bird dive onto a rabbit, then another joined in to the backen up the riverbank. This was among trees along the river.

The rabbit took load excepting to being attacked, and when I went a little closer the birds took off one into a tree, the

other onto a low branch only about twenty feet from where I stood. We looked at each other for a while, it was a beautiful bird. The rabbit was in a poor way, couldn't move its back legs, so I assume they had broken its back - impressive. I crept away to leave them to their dinner, but very excited to have seen all this.

Regards  
-Abner McLean, Otago

## Australian Visitor

The Nankeen kestrel, *Falco cenerrubice*, is one of thirteen species found worldwide. While more scarce in Tasmania, they are widespread and common on mainland Australia. Considered a frequent straggler to New Zealand, these birds have been recorded on numerous occasions, but never managed to establish here.

Kestrels are capable of taking small birds on the wing however they have an unmistakable hunting method of hovering. Facing into the wind with tail spread, they drop in stages before plunging to the ground to seize their prey.

In May 2008 an Australian Nankeen kestrel was photographed in the Aorua-Okaiaia district of south Taranaki. Wingspan was able to confirm this kestrel as a juvenile female in its first year - indicated by the very pale face and the dark spots on the back (these markings become finer as the bird gets older). Males have a grey tail with black subterminal bar, and greyish on the head.

Other kestrel sightings sent to Wingspan during the year included a kestrel spotted at Pokaka (near National Park), and also an unconfirmed report of another seen over a vineyard in Hawke's Bay.



In May 2008 Wingspan was sent this photograph, that we were able to positively identify as a Nankeen kestrel.



The late Jerry Andrews, with "birds" in the hills behind Palmerston North.

advice. The '80's saw many of these people flying hawks. Members had mini field meets, hawkking rabbits with ferrets and dogs as well as others enjoying recreational falconry on their own.

In 1987 falcons were flown at Wellington airport as a trial into their effectiveness as a bird control measure, but due the airports coastal vicinity and the sewer outfall at Moa point, the ever-present gulls were persistent, and the trials were abandoned. More success was had when falcons were flown at Okaiaia Airforce base near Palmerston North.

With the disestablishment of the Wildlife Service and the emergence of the Department of Conservation (DOC), it became clear that although there had been no change in the law, the situation regarding falconry was being governed by personal interpretation by various individuals within the department. However some falconers continued flying harriers.

In the early 1990's, the closing of the raptor facility at Mt Bruce (Eketahuna), enabled the opportunity for others to work with these birds. The occasional injured or orphaned falcon became available to train and fly during the course of rehabilitation, and this quickly built up a larger resource of experience and expertise.

While getting these birds fit and hunting prior to release, these falconers enjoyed great success, taking a variety of quarry with New Zealand falcons including pukeko, mallard duck, spung-winged plover, muggie, rabbit, pheasant, and a sundry of other species, even a ferret!

This allowed a deeper understanding of the behaviour and hunting capabilities of these remarkable falcons.

In 2006 Falconers Birds of Prey Trust became a corresponding member of The International Association of Falconry, representing Oceania. The organisation (IAF) is dedicated to representing and preserving falconry worldwide within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.

In July 2007, falconers Debbie Stewart and Noel Hyde proudly represented New Zealand at the biannual International Falconry Festival held at the Englefield Estate in Reading England. Standing alongside falconers from 36 countries during the Grand Parade of Nations, Debbie and Noel were there to support the cultural and conservation interests and achievements of falconers, both in New Zealand and worldwide.

In 2009 Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust will again represent the falconry interests of New Zealand at the 2nd International Falconry Festival, as part of a submission to have 'falconry' recognised by UNESCO, as an intangible cultural heritage.

Wingspan, the Falcon For Grapes Project and Raptor Association of New Zealand, continue to receive regular enquiries about the status of falconry in New Zealand. So, what is the future of falconry in New Zealand?

At present the sport of falconry is not legally recognised in New Zealand, however falconry techniques are used, in the rehabilitation and conservation management of birds of prey.

After joint submissions to DOC in 2007 on the 'Review of Level of Protection of some New Zealand Wildlife' by Wingspan and the Falcon For Grapes Project (see Wingspan Journal March 2008 Vol 12), the future for legal falconry with harrier hawks in New Zealand looks promising.

The present situation in the Australasian harrier is partially protected and listed on 'Schedule 2'. This means that landowners may kill harriers on their land if the birds are causing injury or damage to property. DOC states, "there is an ongoing need to allow landowners to carry out occasional localised control of harriers, particularly early where they start to prey on free range poultry".

Within the department's review findings and recommendations, it adds that "conservation managers currently require permits to undertake harrier control to protect endangered species, despite landowners not requiring permits to protect farmed poultry. This is clearly anomalous".

"The recommendation is for the Australasian harrier to be moved from Schedule 2 to Schedule 3, and a notice published allowing landowners to kill harriers on their land if the birds are causing injury or damage to property, and allowing conservation managers to kill harriers where they pose a risk to endangered native species. The partial protected status quo remains, but calling for conservation benefit will no longer need a permit."

Wingspan believes this policy allows certain user-groups, including landowners, farmers, game farmers and DOC, a general permission to kill harriers, but discriminates against other user-groups such as falconers, who would like to train healthy live harriers and fly them.

As a non-lethal alternative, these nuisance harriers can provide a recreational resource in their own right.

Wingspan hopes that with the development of policy, regulations and a permitting infrastructure, the use of harrier hawks for recreational falconry can be a legal possibility in the future.

## DUCKHAWKING IN IDAHO - Dr Laurence Barca

The pond erupted in a shimmer of grey, blue, black and orange as a dozen migratory mallard flew off... all except a drake. At the flush the falcon, waiting on 300 feet above the pond, folded its sickle shaped wings and streaked towards its target. Striking the 1.2 kg mallard drake on the head, the falcon picked up and winged over to settle on the ducks, now on the ground barely 60 metres from the edge of the pond. I bricked my neck over and took breath. Maverick who hopped off the duck as I flinched it over and exposed its breast. As usual he waited and then hopped back on and began to eat. I allowed him a three-quarter crop of his bloody petrel muscle. Twenty minutes later I hooded him and placed him back of the truck with the Duke's peregrine and we started the four-hour drive back to our southern Idaho home.

Such are the fond memories I have of the five years Christine and I spent living on the outskirts of Boise, Idaho, arguably the best state in the USA for falconry. Maverick was a male gyr x barbury hybrid falcon flying at 600 grams, similar in size to a large female New Zealand falcon, only much faster! There were other falcons too, passage prairies, more peregrines, gyr x peregrine and gyr x saker hybrids, but he was the best. Fast, persistent, consistent, versatile and deadly.

I picked him up from the breeder in Reno Nevada in June 2000. He quickly sat hooded on the back seat during the 6-hour drive home while I anticipated the upcoming hunting season—much to do before the duck season opened in October. In Idaho, the hot summer contrasts with the cold winter. Afternoon temperatures above 35C<sup>2</sup> are typical and training is best conducted in the mornings before the day heats up. So each morning for the next few weeks another falconer and I met at day break in an area of expansive grassland near my home. A week after training started, Maverick was flying free. Three days later he was chasing released homing pigeons that could out fly him and teach him the advantages of height.

Typically we would arrive on the top of a ridge or the training area in the cool of the awakening dawn. We often saw coveys of Hungarian partridge on the way—something I introduced to him later that winter. I'd strike his hood and, upon removing it, Maverick would scan the horizon, bob his head, rouse his feathers, perhaps pump before opening his wings and pumping them a few times before leaving

the fist. Normally, he would head out to the west in a huge arc, climbing all the way and diminishing in size until he appeared as a small pulsating dot on the horizon. Making his turn back towards me he would continue to climb as he expectedly returned. Upon the release of a strong flying homing pigeon he would flicker into a stoop, which was usually evaded by the pigeon. The flight then became a long relentless pursuit interspersed by many stoops, twists and tight turns until the pigeon out flew him. Sometimes the pigeons made mistakes, which they only did once! In this manner he built up aerobic capacity and stamina as well as developing hunting skills. I was able to predictably convince easy duck slips for him early on and this helped him to develop a search image and abilities in handling the larger quarry. Early on, once the duck season had opened, he lightly clipped many ducks in the wing or body as he learned what was successful. By the end of the season and into his second he almost always struck ducks in the head, usually killing them outright.

Traditional duck hawking involves training the falcon to 'wear-out' high above the falconer and flushing ducks off small ponds or punching them between two or more people and flushing off ditches. By the time the duck season opened in early October, Maverick was consistently waiting on, but with little patience—I had to flush quickly or he would look for other opportunities! On more than a couple of occasions I was glad I was using radio telemetry. When catching a falcon it is important to set up hunting scenarios that maximise the chance of success so that the falcon builds confidence. Hunting ducks off ditches can be tricky because



Left: Maverick on green-winged teal; Centre: Maverick with female Prairie falcon after successful flight on mallard; Right: Female arid night: Prairie falcon on mid winter plumage.

unless flushed hard between two or more people, the ducks often make it back to the water just in front of the falcon. Consequently, I restricted the first two months of hunting to small ponds where a clean flush was guaranteed.

About an hour from home were a series of high desert ponds that usually held ducks – mallard, green-winged teal and the occasional pintail. The typical scenario involved either scanning the pond with binoculars or creeping up to the bank and listening before releasing the falcon to verify ducks are present. The anticipation is always high on the drive out and increases dramatically when the intended quarry is confirmed as present. After a quick check that the transmitter is operating, then removal of the jesses, the hood is struck and the falcon allowed to fly at its leisure—usually leaving the fist within 30 seconds or so. An experienced falcon usually starts to climb quickly and focuses its flight over the pond.

Once they see the falcon in the air the ducks remain 'pinned' to the pond until the flush, upon which they burst from the waters surface with wildly flapping wings, splashes and much quacking. The falcon's stoop is fast. You cannot watch both the flush and the whole stoop and I quite often missed the beginning of the stoop in my efforts to make sure the flush was clean and the ducks were over dry land. Maverick's first kill followed the above scenario—a drake mallard flushed from a stock pond.

Many more followed with more contacts being made than kills while he learned what worked and what didn't. By the end of the season he had become quite proficient. In his second season he was deadly!

Maverick was a versatile bird. This was exemplified in his ability to take flying ducks in a direct flight off the fist. This style of flight was very different from that described above. During the mid-Idaho winter several thousand ducks would congregate in some flooded semi-frozen fields near my home. Flight preparation would start with inspecting the fields from about 500 m away to check the presence of our quarry.

Once confirmed as present, I'd get Maverick ready and slip his hood. Leaving the fist and flying into the wind he would cover the distance quickly, climbing all the way. The ground would erupt with thousands of ducks and falcon and flock would merge as one.

Following the flight with binoculars I'd spend the next 10 minutes watching stoops, throw-ups, climbing and racing across the sky. Many strikes and finally either a head strike

and a sprawling duck, or a bind and both tumbling to the ground. Exciting stuff!

Alas Maverick is gone now, and I too have moved on. The memories of this gaudy little falcon and the other falcons I flew, are etched in my mind and carry me through the days when I do not have a falcon flickering high above my head with the anticipation of a flush before me



Laurence, Maverick and his pointer with central Idaho pheasant.



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Typical Idaho high desert hawking country home of logg grouse.

## FALCONRY FESTIVAL



In July 2009 the world's second Falconry Festival is to be held north of London, United Kingdom. Hosted by the Hawk Band in conjunction with the International Association of Falconers (IAF), with support from the Emirates Falconry Club, and International Wildlife Consultants (IWC).

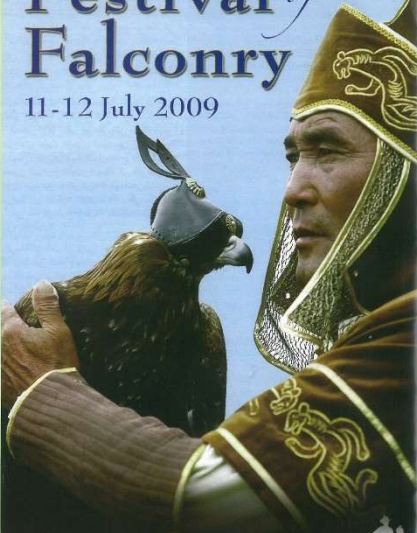
This festival is envisaged to be another special event to celebrate more than 3000 years of falconry, the varied culture and rich history from more than 40 different countries.

An invitation has been extended to Wingspan representatives to attend and represent the cultural and conservation interests of falconers in New Zealand.

Wingspan will be represented on this world stage by Noel Hyde, Debbie Stewart, and Andrew Thomas. Attendance possible due to the generous sponsorship support from Don Grant and Yoko De Hooever of Taosun Ray Herbs in Motueka, Ron and Joan Couchman of Rotoma, Emirates Falconry Club and International Wildlife Consultants, Shane McPherson, and Mia Jensen.

Thank you for making this possible.

The Second International Festival of Falconry  
11-12 July 2009



Reading, England  
Join us in a celebration of our global heritage of falconry  
www.falconryfestival.com

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## WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST ANNUAL AWARD



Award nominations open to individuals, groups, or organisations, to recognise the outstanding efforts and contributions towards the raptors of New Zealand.

Nomination categories are aligned with the Wingspan objectives and include research, captive management, public awareness (education), and rehabilitation of birds of prey in New Zealand.

The Wingspan Board of Trustees will judge the nominations according to these categories, but also consider volunteer input, community involvement, creativity, effectiveness, and other initiatives.

Nominations should be addressed to the Board of Trustees, Wingspan, PO Box 993 Rotorua, and describe, in detail, the activity or project contribution. Additional supporting information and references welcomed. Nominations close 30th July of each year.

The Award Winner(s) to be announced September each year following Conservation Week. The Winner(s) receives an award of \$2,000, and the annual trophy – falcon bust in bronze – a limited edition sculpture by Mike Norris, and acknowledgement articles in the annual Wingspan Journal and website.

WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY CENTRE  
1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua  
Ph/Fax 07 357 4409  
Website www.wingspan.co.nz Email wingspan@stra.co.nz

The Award trophy remains the property of Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, and is to be returned to the Wingspan office by 30th July of each year. A Judge, the decision of the Board of Trustees is final.



Congratulations to Andrew Thomas as the recipient of the 2008 Wingspan Award. Andrew completed his Masters degree studying New Zealand falcons in Kaingaroa Forest, with particular attention to the breeding behaviour of nesting pairs. The Board of Trustees unanimously selected Andrew in July, presenting him with the 'surprise' award during the Falconers Fare.

Subsequent to the award presentation Andrew has joined the Wingspan team as a raptor aviculturist at the Centre. Pictured above is Andrew training a New Zealand falcon 'Akretia'.

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## FALCONRY ART & CRAFT



I had the incredible privilege of spending five weeks at Wingspan as a volunteer, learning various aspects of falconry, falconry, falconers and hoodmaking.

Just prior to letting the bird fly, in effect focusing the bird's attention only on the intended prey, to ensure food on the table.

Debbie proved a wonderful teacher, with Noel doing periodic "quality inspection", as I spent countless hours absorbed in trying to master the ancient art. Of course, as a hoodmaking apprentice, I was also "on display", being included in the list of must-sees for the visitors. Not many people have had the opportunity to see a hood slowly taking shape, and I was able to hoodlink many a fascinated visitor into believing that I knew all about the differences between various hoods, their uses and history... even how to make a real hood from scratch!

There are many different kinds of hoods, with patterns involving one to several pieces of leather, and different methods of threading the braces. The most common are the one-piece Anglo-Indian, and the more complicated three-piece Dutch hoods. Other hoods include the Arab or Bahmani, Indian, Pakistani, or American, British "Game Hawks", Kazakh, Khan and Ferrag Duceo, with many variations by master hoodmakers, some even designing their own hoods.

A complicated set of geometrical drawings convert the measurement of the distance between the bird's eyes to the pattern of the correct size of hood (such as the Anglo-Indian hood), after which it can be cut from high-quality leather of uniform thickness, grain, and colour (such as calf-skin or kangaroo), and dyed. The two seams are stitched simultaneously, using waxed thread, with the needle being

### Hoodwinked! Michelle du Toit

Falconry is one of the oldest hunting methods used by man, having been practiced by various cultures for some 3000 or more years. The art of hood making is as ancient as falconry, with the same patterns and methods being passed down through the ages and still in use today for individually handcrafting hoods – an art in itself.

The function of the hood is to blindfold a bird, "hoodwinking" or fooling it into believing it is night. In Arabic, falconry hoods are called burqa, while it is known as a ruffer in European falconry. The French word for a hood is chaperon, and in fact the hood does have rather the same effect as a chaperone. It gives the falconer some degree of control over his bird, and allows him to choose whom and what she may meet. A carefully made hood should not allow even a pinprick of light to reach the bird's eyes. In complete darkness, the bird will remain motionless, in order to reduce risk of injury. In this state it is easy to transport, band, examine or otherwise handle a bird, without needing to physically restrain it.

In addition, hoods are used to avoid aggression amongst falconers' birds when in close proximity to one another. When hunting, the falconer would often keep the hood on the bird with the braces open until suitable prey has been spotted, and strike (remove) the hood



pushed diagonally through the leather such that the stitches are invisible on the inside (in the more complicated Dutch hood, the stitches are on the inside and invisible on the outside).

Stritching is done while the leather is wet and supple. A wooden or resin block, in the shape of the skull of the species for which the hood is made, is used to shape the hood after the stitches are set – as the leather dries, it shrinks, and takes the form of the block. These can be used to work and mould the leather onto the block, bringing it to a high polish.

A button (lano) is made in each of the two braces, after which they are carefully woven through three slits on either side of the back of the hood – more recently, braces are made of Gore-Tex rather than leather. Pulling on the knotted ends of the braces will open the hood, while pulling on the longer, un-knotted ends will close it. As the bird is generally perched on the falconer's left hand, the right hand draws the braces on the left of the bird's head, while the matching brace is gripped using the teeth.

The noptkon, usually with a leather or feather plume (traditionally the breast feathers of the raptor's first prey – a "feather in its cap"), is used to handle the hood. The beak opening is carefully modified to fit the individual bird for which the hood is intended, to ensure that the cere is not chafed and that the hood fits snugly while still allowing the bird to cast.

It was very satisfying to finally see my works of art on Wingspan visitors, and it certainly adds a feather in one's cap to add "Falconry Hoodmaking" to your CV! Not only is it wonderful to learn such an ancient skill, but the hoods themselves will out-compete anything else on the marketplace as an attention-grabber and conversation piece.

So I encourage you all to join Wingspan's hoodmaking workshops in the spring if I weren't on the other side of the globe I'd be the first in line!



"Ye old" hoodmakers - Michelle du Toit with Debbie Swan, August 2008

## "Hoodwinked"

The ancient falconry craft of hoodmaking. A unique two day workshop course at the Wingspan Centre, Rotorua.

10th – 11th October 2009.

A first to be held in New Zealand, and will appeal to falconers, craft artists, veterinary nurses, bird rehabilitators, historians, or just to experience something completely different!



Designed as an introductory course to make your own traditional Anglo-Indian hood, understand the art, and capture your imagination.

Limited to just 10 placements, with course fees including tuition, leather, course notes, morning and afternoon snack, and catered lunches.

Wingspan members: \$300.00  
Non-members: \$350.00  
Bookings essential.

### Friday 9 October

1.30pm Wingspan Centre including Museum, Raptor Displays and Breeding Aviaries.  
2.00pm "Close Encounter of the Bird Kind!" Free flying with New Zealand falcons.  
3.00pm Course Introduction, Meet and Greet registrations, and refreshments.

### Saturday 10th October

9-12pm: History, hood types, applications, graph & cut patterns, working with leather.  
12-1pm Lunch (provided)  
1-5.00pm Leather dying and stitching.

### Sunday 11th October

9-12pm: Hooding, stitching.  
12-1pm Lunch (provided)  
1-5.00pm Hood braiding, noptkon plumes.

Contact Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, PO Box 993, Rotorua, phone 07 357 4469 or e-mail wingspan@extra.co.nz.

## RAPTOR ART FOR WINGSPAN

### MIKE NORRIS



Mike Norris moved to New Zealand in 2003 and by the following year started exhibiting his work at the Ferner Galleries in Auckland and Wellington. Also selected to exhibit at the prestigious "Birds in Art 2005" Exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in the USA. Mike has a love of wildlife and natural history, and describes the unique bird life in New Zealand the main inspiration for his work. This donated item is a New Zealand falcon reproduced as a life size solid bronze bust sculpture. A limited edition of 24 – there are only a few remaining. For more information check Mike's website at [www.mikenorris.co.nz](http://www.mikenorris.co.nz)



### NICHOLAS DILLON



Self-taught Marlborough artist Nicholas Dillon, has painted and drawn from an early age, with his first exhibition at just 18 years old. Nicholas has exhibited around the world, including 'The Birds in Art Exhibition 2005 and 2007', at the internationally prestigious Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA. He depicts birds and wildlife, and exhibits in galleries and museums throughout the world, a catch phrase being "Paintings that fuse the beauty of birds, light and the environment".



Two original collectable artworks were kindly presented for the 2008 Wingspan auction, featuring two watercolours worked from study sketches done in the field.

Left: "A pair of New Zealand falcons seen in a large eaglehawk near Takaka, Golden Bay, Marlborough", Right: New Zealand falcon, Upper Waitutu Valley, (currently on loan and on display at the Wingspan Centre courtesy of successful bid winner Laurie and Ben Richardson of Auckland).

For further information visit [www.nicolasdillon.co.nz](http://www.nicolasdillon.co.nz)

### REX HOMAN



Rex Homan is a renowned artist and contemporary woodcarver with his own unique personal style. During May 2008 Rex showcased a solo exhibition of 45 sculptural works at the Spirit Westler Gallery in Vancouver Canada. The exhibition included two charity auction items to benefit bird conservation. Rex and wife Patii generously chose the proceeds of the auction to be shared by Wingspan and the Kivi Recovery Programme.

Further, Rex also donated to Wingspan an exquisite carving of karearea as a fundraising item during the 2008 auction.



Rex's works are made from New Zealand swamp kauri, each original sculpture include original certificates of authenticity, including artist registration with "Toti Ltd". The works are in high demand internationally [www.spiritwestler.com](http://www.spiritwestler.com)

"The New Zealand falcon was renowned for its ferocity and aggression by old time Maori. It was considered that a Warrior wearing the plume of karearea was asserting that he had the attributes of the bird. Many tribes also believed Karearea were brought to earth by Tane - their designated role to convey to, and from, the Gods".

### BARBARA STAAL



Auckland artist and photographer Barbara Staal, has been a wonderful supporter for Wingspan over the past year. Not only presenting a donated auction item (and additional works) at the Wingspan auction, Barbara donated proceeds of her exhibition held at the Lakeside Cafe, Rotorua earlier this year, including a promotional raffle. 'Feathered friends' that found its way to the matted piece of Wingspan member Barry Barton.

Barbara's exhibition of bird photos was described as a mix of native and sea birds - and sometimes with a dash of humour! Formerly of Rotorua, Barbara now resides in Auckland whilst maintaining close ties with Rotorua.

### JAMES RADFORD



James Radford of Rautangata Lithography Studios in Northland has been producing some spectacular images of New Zealand's extinct raptors.

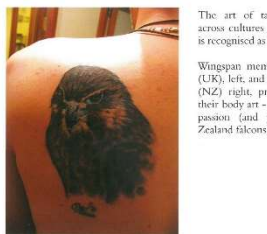
James uses a stone printing plate of natural limestone from the quarries of Solnhofen, Bavaria (the same quarries where Archaeopteryx lithographica fossils were first discovered). The 200,000,000 year old limestone weighs 75 kilos, is the rarest form of limestone on Earth, and very hard to come by!

The purest limestone ever discovered, drawings are completed with soap-based crayons that are slightly acidic. The image becomes 'fossilised' as part of the stone, allowing ink to be applied and print from it. A total fluke of nature, the process only works with this one type of limestone. After printing a limited number of prints, the stone is often resurfaced – the original print is lost.



Left: James Radford working on the 200,000,000 year old limestone. Top Right: A night time image – an artists impression of New Zealand's extinct Laughing owl. Right: Hand drawn and etched actual size of the world's largest eagle, Harporagornis and 'Disk'.

### RAPTOR TATTOOS



The art of tattooing extends across cultures and history, and is recognised as an art form.

Wingspan members Dave Bull (UK), left, and Dave Hinchings (NZ) right, proudly show off their body art - illustrating their passion (and pain) for New Zealand falcons.





## FALCONER'S FARE Wingspan FUNraising Auction 2008

A celebration of more than 15 years as a registered charitable trust, 5 years from the grand opening, and more than 500 raptors through the raptor programme. Wingspan welcomed members, volunteers and guests to the 2008 Falconer's fare and celebration dinner.



### Blow me down with a feather! Don Grant

I've hadn't enjoyed myself so much in Rotorua since the heady days of the late 80's, when Government Gardens was THE place to be for boogie nights at Tudor Towers nightclub, nowadays the wonderful Rotorua museum.

So what did most of you miss? Only the superb FUNraising auction for Wingspan, the 'Falconer's Fare', held on Saturday 18 October, 2008. It all started in Fairy Springs Road, at the Skyline Skyrides complex, where attendees were warmly greeted by Wingspan staff, a glass of bubbly in hand and then whisked skyward towards Mt Ngongotaha in a silky smooth gondola.

Once at the top it was helmets strapped tight, ball gowns lifted, then off speeding down the slopes on the luge, stopping midpoint amongst a grove of Redwoods - the venue being a splendid marquee perched on the side of the mountain. Mind you, one or two guests forgot to stop and had to go back up to the top for another luge ride. One even managed to spin off his car, landing in a big puddle of mud, which necessitated a hasty retreat home for a shower, and change of clothes.

Drinks and nibbles were ready after our exciting ride and I was getting pretty excited myself, having heard that Amy Stewart was going to be the opening act. Now for those of you haven't heard of Amy, I used to often rock to her famous disco hit from the 70's, 'Knock on Wood' down at Tudor Towers. So imagine my SURPRISE when a young 18-year-old local Amy Stewart took the stage with an acoustic guitar under her arm. I must admit, she was certainly better than the original Amy, her voice ringing pure and true and not loud like the music we used to love to listen to (...and a sure sign I'm now middle aged!). I wish Hayley Westener's manager had been there. 'To use the local lingo, she was 'awesome'!

The capacity crowd of 170 was then introduced to our MC for the evening - the irreverent Ewen Gilmour, known to most kakis as the most famous living 'Wester', and he was proud of it too! Ewen regaled us in his speech talking about his favourite subject - himself! Very funny, witty, cheeky and bold - Ewen was the perfect Master of Ceremonies, having young and old rolling in the aisles with his earthy humour.

Dinner was scrumptious, before the auction itself got under way around 9pm. And I must say it was a splendidly hilarious auction. With Yoka De Hommer taking the many donated articles around the tent for a closer inspection by guests, Ewen was hard at work hustling the crowd into "getting the gorse out of their pockets".

The array of magnificent articles defied belief. Fine hotel accommodation and dining, plus original paintings, handmade Persian rugs, antique George III malachite chifforier bookcase, books on our natural flora and fauna, backstage pass to Auckland Zoo, Lake Challice double magnum of wine, signed \$5 notes from Sir Ed Hillary and lots more.

Many of the items were sold via Trade Me online, with the auctions closing at various times throughout the night, coinciding with the live show. Some of

the special items sold live included Rotorua City Wets sponsoring the beautiful Australian Barn Owl (see story page 5), a Rex Homan kauri sculpture bought by the Spirit Westler Art Gallery in Canada, the Mike Norris bronze falcon of '42 to Lake Challice Wines, the impressive artwork by Nicolas Dillon, and the exquisite Haha reconstruction from Wildmount reaching reserve and going to most appreciative owners in Auckland.

Just on \$20,000 was raised for the evening, the money earmarked for capital reserves so that Wingspan can one day purchase its very own dedicated property for advancing conservation of birds of prey in perpetuity.

I would also like to mention the huge amount of work that went into this auction. Debbie Stewart and Noel Hylee spending months working behind the scenes to secure donated goods and ensuring the evening was so successful. They also had many volunteers helping that weekend, including Chris Gay, Richard Scaton & Fleur Maseyk, Laurence Barea, Mary Staal, Noel & Ali Lamberton, Mia Jessen & Shane McPherson, Don Grant & Yoka De Hommer, Matt McDonnell, Simon Melser, Andrew Warner, Barbara Staal... it is indeed quite a list!

So mark your calendars folks! 2012 is the date for the next Wingspan charity auction. We'll let you know in 2011 that we are once again on the hunt for beautiful, interesting, arty, creative and fascinating articles to help raise those all important funds that will help finding a new permanent home for Wingspan.

Anyone got a block of land they want to donate?

Really?

Will blow me down with a feather!

*Heads & Tails was a unique way of starting the live auction for those attending the Falconer's Fare. Guests were invited to stand from their seats with 'heads on heads', or 'hands behind backs' at Ewen Gilmour flipped the coin. Three lucky winners went home with awesome prizes!*



MILLENNIUM  
HOTEL  
ROTORUA

*Mounted photograph of '42' New Zealand falcon, Millennium Hotel (Rotorua) accommodation for two (including dinner and full buffet breakfast), and... a special treat*



*... a framed mounted five-dollar note signed from the late Sir Edmund Hillary.*



## FALCONER'S FARE - Auction Final Results

The Falconer's Fare auction was divided into three separate categories including online bidding on 'Trade Me', 'silent bidding' items with bid sheets, plus the 'live auction' during the course of the evening. Without question all the items were special and unique - all personally donated specifically for the raptor programme. Wingspan thanks sponsors, contributors and bidders for making this a fantastic auction event.



- **Duxton Okawa Bay** Rotorua, accommodation, dining and breakfast \$230.00 • Traditional embroidered sampler handcrafted by **Mary Staal** \$700.00 • **Bokhara rug** handmade from Lahore, Pakistan \$300.00 • **Antique Mahogany bookshelf** \$2500.00 • **Cavalcade Jigsaw puzzle** \$40.00 • **Catalina** limited edition photograph \$40.00 • **Wingspan Lifetime Membership** \$750.00 • **Sir Edmund Hillary** signed five dollar notes \$240.00 and \$266.00 • **Wingspan Raptor Aviary** sponsorship \$400.00 • **New Zealand** limited edition **Barbara Staal** (2 of 15) \$200.00 • **Rodri Silverware** cutlery set \$93.50 • **New Zealand Uncirculated coin** set \$102.00 • **New Zealand Birds** - signed by **Paul Gibson** \$55.00 • **City Nature** by **Robert Brockie** \$55.00 • **Why Cats Paint** signed by **Burton Silver** \$50.00 • **New Zealand Birds in Focus** signed by **Geoff Moon** \$60.00
- Know your New Zealand Birds signed by the author **Lynette Moon** and photographer **Geoff Moon** \$50.00
- **Michael Mc Dermott** falconry scene limited edition \$51.00
- **Sonia Frimmel** original oil pastel \$260.00 • **Ruru** mouserpork owl by **Sam Clark** \$160.00 • **Generation Magic** original oil painting by **Debbie Stewart** \$400.00 • **Ewen Gilmour** autographed photo \$70.00 • **What Bird did that?** signed by **Burton Silver** \$130.00 • **Pauline Morse** limited edition print, framed and mounted with New Zealand falcon stamps \$400.00 • Sponsorship for the **Australian Barn Owl** \$600.00 • **Auckland Zoo, Zoom! Sea lion** tour \$240.00 • **Balls** signed by **Dan Carter** and **Honor Dillon** \$450.00 • **Auckland Zoo's** original painting by **Kashin** the elephant \$350.00
- **Blue Duck Lodge** two nights accommodation for up to 4 people \$520.00 • **Lake Challice Wines** double magnum Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 \$650.00 • **Falcon** bronze sculpture by **Mike Norris** \$800.00 • **New Zealand falcon** original water-colours by **Nicholas Dillon** \$1250.00 and \$1750.00 • **Rex Homan** kauri sculpture \$2150.00
- **Haha**, reconstructed pair from **Wildmount** \$2500.00



### FLYING WITH THE STARS

*Conservation is not only the breeding and management of a rare and threatened species. It is also about advocacy and public awareness to inform and educate about New Zealand birds of prey. This education focus is often recognised and captured by national (and international) personalities and media.*

From top left:

- **Le Radu** - Ombudsman from Australia • **Whinchat** TV filming 'Annual Academy' hosted by **Jeremy Maguire** for TVNZ 6
- **Burton Silver** - cartoonist & author with **Whisper** • **Johnny Kendrick** of **Wagyu** - New Zealand's own 'bird call man'
- **RG** - **Reg Grundy**, producer, publisher, photographer, Australia & Bahamas
- **Great Southern TV** filming 'Birdlands' hosted by **Jeremy Wells** for TV1



## HERE AND THERE

Throughout New Zealand people are working hard to conserve and study wild birds of prey. Here we look at some of the activities and achievements of the past year.



### MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Headed by Dr John Holland of Massey University's Natural Resource Management section, students continue making research headlines when it comes to New Zealand falcons.

- Binshi Thomas is near completion publishing her work monitoring falcons by satellite telemetry.
- In October Gerry Teng (pictured left) recorded the falcon calls of the Wingspan birds at the Centre. Subsequent field tests using these recordings have had promising results.

### WAIKATO UNIVERSITY

Dr Jonathan Banks (right) with student Jess Ebdling from the University of Waikato, Hamilton, were able to utilise Wingspan's research collectors for DNA sampling.

Preliminary results are anticipated mid 2009.



### RAPTOR ASSOCIATION OF NZ

The Raptor Association of New Zealand held a special Executive Committee meeting at Wingspan in August 2008.

Please note the website for RANZ has been upgraded with a new address: [www.raptorassociation.co.nz](http://www.raptorassociation.co.nz)



### MAIMAI CREEK

It really is Hawk's Bay!!

Another exciting project with raptors in New Zealand has been the initiative of Hawke's Bay vineyard, Maimai Creek in Mecanee.

Wild Australasian harriers have been familiarised to the vineyard with food provided on special feeding trays - the hawks presence effectively scaring away the grape-snobbling starlings and sparrows.

Operations Manager Rob Beard reports the results have been very encouraging and has already noted significant reduced pest damage and increases in crop production.

For further information: [www.maimaicreek.com](http://www.maimaicreek.com)



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## BEHIND THE SCENES

Volunteers are a vital and integral part of the Wingspan programme. The Centre would simply not survive, or be the success it is now, without the immense efforts, hours, and dedication of individuals, members and community groups.

Current opportunities of voluntary work include:

- Visitor Support - Shop: ticket sales, refreshments, cleaning, enquiries, guiding, hosting.
- Display Maintenance - Gardens watering, weeding, sweeping, cleaning.
- Museum Care - display windows, cleaning, dusting, display signage, framing, cataloguing.
- Grounds Maintenance - lawn mowing, pruning, weeding, painting.
- Pest Control - onsite trap maintenance, resets.
- Feed regimes - Food preparation, storage, ordering, pick-ups, supply of prey items.
- Administration - Journal and newsletter mail outs, members updates, volunteer co-ordination.
- Research - nest monitoring (captive/wild), data entries, database constructions, volunteer co-ordinators, writing and publishing.

*If you would like to help out, Wingspan welcomes any enquiries or volunteer initiatives - as Wingspan moves into the future, new opportunities will evolve to meet the conservation needs of the programme.*

*For further information, or to apply to become a Wingspan Volunteer, please contact the Wingspan office.*

Wingspan also receives a lot of support each year from companies, members and visitors donating goods and services to the programme. While we quip that financially the programme is 'hand-to-beak', it is these generous contributions that make a big difference - small and large they are all highly valued. For those contributions not mentioned elsewhere in this Journal we would like to personally acknowledge the following people who have helped during the course of the year.

Mary Staal for promotion, from house and retail contributions and Stephen White for the Roturua (and district) brochure drops and promotions. Avary garden maintenance by Chris Gay, Simon McVior, Laurie and Bev Richardson, and Andrew & Jolynn Mold. Avary volunteering and work experience included Emma Crawford and Rachel Riley (both from Massey University Palmerston North), and international members Michelle du Toit (South Africa), Silke Kruk (Netherlands), and Sara Testoni (Switzerland).



From left: Sara Testoni with the hare in action, Shane McPherson of Degeville with New Zealand's largest eagle, and Terry Donovan with BNZ Queen St. Auckland Branch staff playing 'lynx'.



### Food provided for the raptors at the Centre

Prey items have included hare, rabbit, pigeon, pheasant, duck, and mice. A big thanks to Gus Knoppers and Environment BOP; Dave Hutchings, Peter Wells, Scott and Bev Thomson, Mia Jessen, Lorraine Pattison, Cliff Bunker from Auckland's EcoLab, and Ron & Rebecca Watts.

### Products and services

MYOB accounting programme, computer, copier and digital video camera from Don Grant and Yoka De Jhouwer of Taranaki Bay Herbs, books and photographs from Geoff and Lynette Moon, display garden plants from Chris Gay, Barn firewood from Dave Hutchings of Lockwood Roturua, sound system and microphones from Noel and Ali Lamberton Villa Productions, camera from Allan MacGillivray. Artwork by Mike Norris, Res Horran, Nicholas Dillon, Janet Marshall, Pauline Morse, Kate Tester-Smith, Barbara Staal, and Sam Clark. Chris Morgan and Eshkibargal Bazar display material from Mongolia in the museum. Retail items including souvenir matchboxes donated by Phillip and Margaret Fry, and Wingspan bird series cards and envelopes from Edward and Wendy Goodwin, fridge magnets from Alex Whitman.

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## MARLBOROUGH FALCON CONSERVATION TRUST

Tessa Anderson

Four years ago the Falcon For Grapes programme was established in Marlborough. The aim to increase the numbers of the native New Zealand falcon back onto the Wairau Plains.

There was a great synergy within the programme, as the falcon is a fearless predator, particularly when it comes to small birds that are devastating to the wine industry, in terms of damage to ripening grapes.

With support from the Department of Conservation, a number of young chicks were relocated from the wild, where they were constantly under threat from predators such as goats, pigs, feral cats, and of all things, hedgehogs.

Given the birds lay their eggs in craggy outcrops, rather than nesting off the ground, the risk to the young chicks is extreme in the wild. Using nesting barrels, situated in trees, the relocated chicks were given a second chance at life.

Last year however, one of the major sources of funding for the programme was withdrawn, and it looked as though the early successes would all be for nothing. Thankfully Dr Nick Fox from International Wildlife Consultants (UK) and the Emirates Falconers Club came to the immediate rescue, providing further funding to ensure the programme didn't fall over.

From this scenario the Marlborough Falcon Conservation Trust was established. Again the aim is simple - to increase the numbers of native falcon, within the wider Marlborough area.

Educating the public at large is a major aim of the trust, along with raising funds that can be used to improve the programme in the years to come.

All money raised will be used to improve the lot of the falcon in the future, whether that be through work on the ground, or providing the materials required ensuring the safety of the birds.

If you would like any further information, visit the Trust's website: [www.marlbcn.org](http://www.marlbcn.org) or email: [FalconConservation@gmail.com](mailto:FalconConservation@gmail.com)

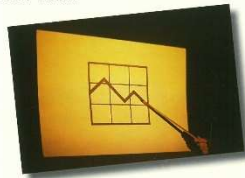


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## A WING AND A PRAYER

### Recession! Sick of it yet?...

Don Grant



No matter which way we turn in today's modern world we are bombarded with messages about the economy. The doom merchants continue to hit us with headlines or headlines about the downturn, how bad the future will be blah blah. As Michael Crichton so aptly wrote, we live in a 'State of Fear' - cracker of a good book by the way, if you want some interesting reading.

I can remember the Cold War, how we were going to be either toasted by a nuke (I even remember The Press headlining with 'Russians could target ChCh' due to the garden city being home to operation Deep Freeze - the U.S. scientific programme for Antarctica) or frozen to death in the Norder winter that would follow a holocaust.

During the mid eighties our 'State of Fear' became the Aids epidemic, followed by SARS, a giant meteor smashing into Earth, then Y2K, Britflu, Global Warming, Peak Oil and now they are starting to talk about a depression. It's enough to get most people depressed!

But hang on a minute... what about Mother Nature and her wildlife? You don't see them sitting around looking morbid, worrying about which catastrophe will get them. Flora and fauna are all busy just surviving from day to day, continuing that wonderful cycle that has been happening every day for billions of years.

Only now, since man has rapidly developed their society, some of those flora and fauna are struggling to survive - which is why you are reading this magazine. Wingspan is 17 years old this year - since 1992 advocating for the survival of the NZ Falcon.

Surviving Aids, SARS, flooding, Y2K, birdflu and peak oil, Wingspan's most challenging struggle to date now appears to be on the horizon - recession. This is when people stop

spending, stop travelling, stay at home and won't go on holiday. Wingspan relies on tourism and donations. There are no government grants to help them. Wingspan literally lives from hand to beak.

Trouble is the birds don't know this. They still need saving, feeding, nurturing, releasing. Over 500 NZ birds of prey have now been cared for, reared, and released through Wingspan's programme.

It is so important that this work can carry on. When Yoka (my wife) and I first heard about Wingspan back in 2005 we wanted to visit and see a New Zealand falcon first hand. Arriving at the visitor's centre we were very impressed with everything that Wingspan stood for but especially the dedication with which volunteers had soldered on for 13 years without government assistance.

We wanted to help so went back to Motueka and started dreaming up ways to do this. Using our skills, we've been able to help streamline their books, introduced MYOB accounting and helped at the charity auction this year - many other volunteers do far more work than we have.

As well as the increasing number of volunteers helping reduce costs, all birds are released at the first opportunity; recreational hunters provide prey for the captive birds to eat which reduces the foodbill. Local vets continue to donate services, fundraising auctions and raffles, increasing the entry fee and membership slightly has all helped to keep the wolf from the door.

So how can you help? That's easy! Just convince one friend, family member, business associate or colleague to join Wingspan as a member. That's all we need - just one. If every member currently renewed their membership and found one new member Wingspan will weather the recession and eagerly battle a new state of fear.

Of course we still need donations and if you can afford a little more then please think about sponsoring a bird or emailing the trust to see if they need anything. Yoka and I have decided to include Wingspan in our will. That part was a no-brainer; we wouldn't need the money since we're gone though I'm hoping Wingspan won't get it for a while as I've just turned 44!

But you never know! One thing I am certain of though, I'm not taking any notice of the recession. Like the falcon and numerous other birds and plants in Mother Nature who carry on day to day we're ignoring the recession and getting on with living.

That's what life is all about really - enjoying your family and friends, nature and helping others where you can.

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## SHOP WINGSPAN

Some new fund-raising initiatives are now being promoted at the Wingspan Centre, and sales of these products contribute directly to the raptor programme. The following items will be of interest.

A first to ever be produced in New Zealand, and the first of their type featuring the growth development of ruru (morepork owl) (Whisper) and karearea New Zealand falcon (Millennium). Reproduced as laminated posters, with high resolution images captured from egg to first flight. This is a quality production worthy of framing. This is a quality production with photos images by Andrew Warner and graphic artwork by Jane Reed of SeeRed Visual Communication, worthy of framing - just \$25.00 each.

**Souvenir matchboxes** featuring Buller's prints of New Zealand's birds, donated by Phil Fry. Collect at set Only \$1.00 per box.

**Blank card** New Zealand falcon from artist Janet Marshall - a popular card at the Centre. \$3.00 each.

**Limited edition prints** by Pauline Morse. \$35.00 each.

**Blank card** New Zealand falcon from artist Janet Marshall - a popular card at the Centre. \$3.00 each.

**Greeting cards** featuring the raptors at Wingspan by artist Wendy Goodwin - with envelopes. \$5.00 each.

**Presentation folders**, including photographs of Wingspan's raptors at the Centre. \$10.00 each.

**The award-winning hard-cover book** by Geoff Moon - 'New Zealand Birds in Focus - a Photographer's Journey. A mist for Wingspan members! \$30.00

**WINGSPAN** now available!  
T-shirts & Polo Shirts  
GET AIRBORNE!  
Classic T-Shirts - Available in XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL - \$30.00 each  
Polycotton Polo Shirts - Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL - \$40.00 each

## SPONSORS

FAITH CHOICE WINES MARLBOROUGH  
CENTRAL OTAGO PEREGRINE  
Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust  
KAINGAROA TIMBERLANDS  
Canmap Hawley  
CENTRAL CITY Vets  
Raptor Rehab  
TE PUIA  
SWAZI NEW ZEALAND  
the southern trust  
ZIP HUTT VALLEY  
WIRARAPA WINGSPAN FOREST  
PRIME EXPLOSIVES TAURANGA  
TASMAN BAY Herbs  
ORONA CHILLI 'N' PEPPERS  
DUXTON  
MILLENNIUM HOTEL ROTORUA  
AUCKLAND ZOO Live Every day.  
Wildmount



OSZY

'Oszy' is a male (tiercel) falcon, kindly sponsored by Ross and Julie Bailey, of Manawatu Manufacturing Jewellers in Palmerston North.

Oszy arrived at just 10 days of age from Upper Hutt in November 2004. He was named after 'Oszy Osborne' because he was a bit shabby on his feet but with an attitude! Oszy is one of the main display falcons at the Centre, and is pictured here with his sponsor Ross.

**RUBY**  
Ruby is the 'show-girl' at Wingspan and is considered to be the 'Div' of all the falcons at the centre. Her role is important for display and advocacy and she is free flown most days at Wingspan. Originally captive bred at Otouwhanga, at 13 years old Ruby is the oldest female at the Centre. Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclar - a kawi couple living in Sydney, Australia, are the sponsors of Ruby.



## IN THE MEWS - New Zealand Falcons - Karearea



**KATE**  
Originally rescued as one of two eggs from Kaingaroa Forest 5 November 2008. Kate subsequently hatched on the 3rd December. She was handreared to 10 days old and then foster parent raised by Ali.

Kate has been gift sponsored to Rupert Steinbeis and Catherine Pierard of Lamilton.



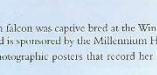
**KAITIAKI**  
Kaitiaki is sponsored by Edward and Wendy Goodwin of Tauranga. She has been at the Centre since 2004 and was given her name to reflect the Maori word for guardian or carer. Kaitiaki was transferred to an off-site aviary and paired with a male falcon during the 2008 breeding season. While the pair produced no chicks, she made her first attempts at egg laying. Indeed, producing her first clutch of 5 eggs!

For the 2009 season, Kaitiaki will be paired with Tarawera.

**TARAWERA**  
Tarawera is a male falcon; originally captive bred in 1997 and is the brother of Ruby. Tarawera is kindly sponsored by Mount Tarawera Ltd, whose generous support of the Wingspan programme recognises and honours the Karearea that frequent and stride the skies above the famous volcanic mountain.



**MILLIE**  
'Millie' the Millennium falcon was captive bred at the Wingspan Centre in October 2008. Millie is Ruby's older sister, and is sponsored by the Millennium Hotel, in Rotorua. Millie features in the photographic posters that record her growth and development - a first for New Zealand falcon.

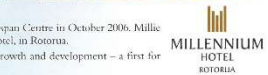


**KOTARANI**  
Through the initiative and drive of Zachary George-Neich, Wellington's Scots College students held a multi-day to support the conservation of New Zealand falcons. With a generous \$1,000 raised, the school has sponsored a young male falcon, and named him Kotarani - the Maori name of the school.

In May 2008 Kotarani originally from Wellington, was diagnosed with lead poisoning, the causes unknown. Unfortunately, this falcon cannot be released into the wild, and will be part of the breeding programme.

**ALI**  
Originally from Marlborough, Ali is an adult female falcon, permanently injured as a result of deliberate illegal shooting. Ali has become 'Mother Superior' - producing eggs this last season, but also continues to foster and rear a number of chicks from other falcons.

Ali is gift sponsored to Noel and Ali Lamberton and Villa Productions of Rotorua, in recognition of their support of the Wingspan programme from earliest beginnings.



## WINK

From Marlborough, this male was found at a wild nest site, literally 'poked in the eye with a sharp stick'. Found at just a week of age, the stick was removed but had caused a bad infection and permanent damage to the left eye. Partially blinded this falcon was unable to be returned to the wild. He has since been transferred to Wingspan to be paired with Ali, also originally from Marlborough. Successful breeding from these birds is anticipated by 2010, and young chicks produced by the pair will be returned to Marlborough towards the 'Falcons for Grapes' release project.

Wink is yet to be formally sponsored. Enquiries can be made to the Wingspan office.

**JULZ**  
Julz (pronounced 'Jewels') and with reference to Romeo and Juliet) arrived as an injured juvenile falcon in February 2008. Despite surgical attempts to one wing, she is unable to be released into the wild.

**R2D2**  
Originating from Taupo, but found injured and taken to Massey University Veterinary Department. R2D2 arrived as a juvenile male in April 2008, the causes of his injuries remain unclear however a permanent drooped wing prevents sustainable flight and he will remain permanently in captivity.

Chris Morgan and Enkhjargal Bazar from Mongolia are the sponsors of both Julz and R2D2; in celebration of the raptors found worldwide, their passion for raptors, and their cultural falconry heritage. Pictured is Chris Morgan, with Mum Margaret, modelling Mongolian falconry equipment. Both are wearing the traditional hats of Mongolia and Chris demonstrates the right eagle glove and wooden brace (an arm rest needed due to the weight of their eagles), while Margaret holds an eagle feeding tray.



## MOJO

Mojo is a male falcon now in his second year. Bred at the Centre, Mojo was almost killed by his parents and was subsequently hand raised after being abandoned by the pair.

Mojo was trained by Mia Jessen and considered the fastest falcon at the Centre. He is kindly sponsored by Noel Davies of Auckland.



## SLOAN

Named after Rachel and the late Bill Sloan who were the first to register as Wingspan members in 1996. Sloan originally arrived injured from Opawa in 1994 with a broken wing. Unable to be released Sloan was one of the main captive pairs, breeding from 1996 through to 2002.

Sloan was 'retired' to warmer climes at the Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre with Robert and Robyn Webb. Sadly Sloan died last year at 10 years of age, and remains the oldest known longevity record for a New Zealand falcon.

**JET**  
Jet, one of four orphaned falcon chicks, arrived at the Wingspan Centre from Kaingaroa Forest in November 2005. Now fully-grown and mature, Jet will be part of the breeding programme. Wingspan thanks Gary and Annette Hall from Wairuku and their family who have generously sponsored Jet since 2006.



## TUHOE

"Tuhoē" an adult male NZ falcon is an important part of the Wingspan captive breeding programme. Gift sponsored by Malcolm McIvor of Wellington. Tuhoē is named after the Māori tribe, and as a warrior of strength.



## FOVEA

Fovea is named after part of the eye that gives falcons sight about eight times better than humans. Fovea is a female originally found as an injured juvenile in Mapara (2002), and is paired with Tuhoē.

These two falcons have been together as a breeding pair since 2005.

Their first clutch of eggs of the season were laid early September 2008. These were removed and fostered to another pair (Taveera and Tū) – the female 'Aareta' remains at Wingspan, while the two chicks that hatched transferred to Te Awamutu for release.

The second clutch of eggs from the pair were laid a month later, and the pair successfully (and for the first time) hatched and reared three male chicks. These chicks also subsequently released into the wild.

A total of five of male (fifteen) chicks were subsequently released to Te Awamutu during November and December 2008. Wingspan acknowledges the following falcons and their sponsors:

## TCHIKAKAMUS

Banded Left White 5380382

Named by Laurie and Jan Hoeverd, coordinators of the Kakapū release programme - Chikakamus is a Canadian first name that will further frame during the Winter 2010 Olympic villages at Whistler, British Columbia. The name is alleged to Laurie and Jan's son Aaron who lives there.



## MOKUYI

Banded Left Orange/117891

Mokuyi is sponsored "In memory of Professor David McCoolie who died doing what he loved - cleaning up toxic wasteland to enable its productivity again. David was a great admirer of birds of prey and was given the name of 'Mokuyi' as a token of gratitude by the chief of an American Indian tribe. Stride the skies David - love from your family".



## STRIDER

Banded Left 1117894 Right Dark Blue

Sponsored by Brian Turner of Auckland.



## PARKINI

Banded Left Red 117896 Right Dark Green

Sponsored by Andrea Parkin of Taupo.

## FIORI

Banded Left 117895 Right light green

Sponsored by Jill MacDonald of Tauranga in tribute to the late George MacDonald, a keen birdman and Wingspan supporter since 1996.

## ATARETA

Dedicated in honour of the late Atareta Maxwell of Ngati Rangiwewelei who died in 2007. Blessed with an amazing singing voice nurtured by her talented mother Kalu, Atareta's life belonged to the world of entertainment as she promoted Maori culture and Aotearoa as a tourist destination acting as Ambassador on countless occasions.

The falcon Atareta was captive bred at the Wingspan Centre in October 2008, and Atareta commenced training with Andrew Thomas by January 2009. This falcon fast becoming an ambassador for kararua.

## OWLS: Whisper, Wairuru, Nestor, Rupert

Always popular to visitors at the Centre, these ruru are very special. The successful breeding of these birds is detailed in this edition on Page 9. The Morepops sponsor team includes Mary Staal, Laurie and Bev Richardson, Andrew and Johnny Mold, and Rupert Steinbeis.



## MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Indicates Honorary Members & Life Members (services, materials and/or contributions of \$1000 or more).

### NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS

- ALEXANDRA**  
Louis Joyce 2008
- ASHBURTON**  
Derek & Helen Binnie 2003
- ASHHURST**  
Arthur Anyon 2006  
Debbie Hewison 2006
- AUCKLAND**  
Grant & Sarah Abbott 2001  
Anderson family 2006  
Ian & Margaret Ashley 2009  
Auckland Zoo 2008  
Peter Baker 2009  
Russell Balmforth 1996  
Kathleen Barrow 1997  
Mark & Belinda Bartley 2007  
Peter Bayless 2001  
Bevan Family 2008  
Daren & Sherie Black 2009  
Alistair Bloomfield 2006  
Julian Brook & Janine Creser 2008  
Lorraine Brook 2009  
Chris Brown 2009  
H & D Brumalow 2009  
Kirsty Chalmers 2006  
Cedric & Helen Chambers 2008  
Scott & Tanya Cleland 2009
- Ann Collins 2004  
Cornell Family 2007  
Bruce Craig 2008  
Noel Davies 2008  
Martin Dixon 2001  
Ileanor Duff 1996  
Robert DeBall 2003  
Fairweather Family 2008  
John Denton 2007  
Amanda Fowler 2003  
**Phil & Margaret Fry 1997** ✦  
Jos Fryer 2008  
Mike Gething 2008  
Andrew Gibson 2006  
Ewen & Cathy Gilmour 2008  
Mike & Sharon Graham 2002  
Jeremy Green 2004  
Andrew Hales 2006  
Bevan Family 2008  
Alistair Harlow 2001  
Steve & Anna Hayes 2005  
Alistair Harlow 2001  
Mark Hoyle 2009  
**Penny Hunt 2002** ✦  
Richard & Maggie Jakob-Hauff 06  
Glen & Glennis Jennings 2008  
Ross Jury 2004  
John & Adrienne Powell 2004  
Jean Prins 2005
- Paul Kretel 2008  
Marissa King 2009  
Rund Klempaste 2008  
Dayne & Toni Laird 2007  
Colleen Luxton 2008  
Catherine McClintock 2006  
Christine MacFarlane 2009  
**Allan MacGillivray 2002** ✦  
Brendan McMahon 2005  
Jill Marchant 2004  
Pat Mathews 2009  
Bryan Mawhinney 2007  
Mark Mitchell & Tina McLaren 2008  
Andrew & Johny Mold 2007  
Barry & Julie Mold 2008  
Leslie Morris 2006  
**Lynette Moon 1992** ✦  
Ruth Nisbet 2005  
Mike Nudds & Kris O'Connor 2007  
Paul O'Shea 2008  
Pearce Family 2008  
Murray Pedersen 2002  
Catherine Peck 2006  
Georgia Peury 2006  
Kevin Philpott 2004  
Jillian Potter 2004  
John & Adrienne Powell 2004  
Jean Prins 2005

- Raptor Rube 2006  
Bruce Reiddell 2001
- Laurie & Bev Richardson 2006** ✦  
Maryanne Richardson 2008  
Charles & Jennifer Robb 2007  
Nathan & Rachel Royce 2006
- Carol Ryan 2003** ✦  
John Sanders 2004  
Tim Severne 2008  
Nicholas & Colleen Smith 2008  
Peter, Maeda & Jane Smolira 2006
- Michael & Barbara Staal 2006** ✦  
Andrew Stafford 2005  
Michael Stedman 2008  
Wendy Stephens 2006  
Jim & Kathy Stevens 2006  
Ian & Hilary Sully 2003  
Julie & Len Store 2005  
Rosey Tecklenburg 2008  
Ashley & Josephine Thomson 2001  
Brian Turner 2005  
Elizabeth Vaneveld 2006  
Caleb Waddell 2007  
Waters Family 2005  
Ron Wats & Rebecca Dilce 2008
- Alex Wisman 2003** ✦  
David Wilkes & Jennifer Leigh 2006  
Wyatt Family 2007

- BLENHEIM**  
Redwood Pass Vineyards 2001
- Phil & Sue Binnie 2001** ✦  
Chris & Lynne Boyce 2002  
Don Cromarty 2001
- Nic & Charlotte Dillon 2008** ✦  
**Lake Chalce Wines 2001** ✦  
Ian Lyall 1996  
Edwin O'Donnell 2006  
Jim Shield 2002

- CAMBRIDGE**  
John Brooking 2009  
Elizabeth Denham 2006  
Ron Dunne 2007  
Bria Jacobson 2002  
McDonald Family 2007  
Gregor Morandini 2009  
Graeme & Alison Parle 2006  
David & Liz Jones-Parry 2005  
Elizabeth Scott 2006
- Rachel Sloan 1996** ✦  
Jenni Stedman 2002  
Rob & Marie Stedman 2005  
Megan Swan 2009

- CHRISTCHURCH**  
Jane Arnott 2006  
Jonathan Ewing 2007  
Ray & Marce Goldring 2009  
S.A. Ingey 2003  
Thomas & the Johnstone Family 2008

- McGowan Family 2008  
Lynn McGinnis 2005  
Brian Roff 2007  
Kate Tester 2008
- CLIVE**  
Kathleen Allan 2005
- COROMANDEL**  
John Veysy 1996
- DARFIELD**  
Rob Lawrence 2005
- DARGAVILLE**  
Gordon Lambirth 2008
- Shane McPherson 2004** ✦  
**Mia Jessen 2007** ✦  
Dianne Simpson 2008
- DUNEDIN**  
David Luing 2004  
**Steve & Yvette Lawrence 2006** ✦
- FEELDING**  
Jacob Amarens-Poole 2009  
Clare & Tanya Crawley 2009  
D.E. & A.E. Hastings 2006

- GISBORNE**  
Doag Bell 1996  
Crawshaw Family 2007  
Kate McDonald 1996
- HAMILTON**  
Greg & Kata Addison 2007  
Aaron Bailey 2007  
Warren Bailey 2007  
Ashley Barea 2008  
Emily Barca 2008
- Laurence & Christine Barea 2008** ✦  
Clive & Frances Bleaken 2005  
Hugh & Zoe Clifford 2001  
Tony Fenton & Johlene Kelly 2007  
Carol Jarvis 2008  
Lynette MacDonald 2006  
Maseyk Family 2007  
C. & E. Poorman 2008  
Vicky Prior 2008  
Darbara Reid 2007  
Andrew Ross 2006  
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Soc.  
Inc. Waikato Branch 2002  
Oliver Russel 2008  
Reg & Gail Sailer 2005  
D. Nijbrands, Ralph & Kevin  
Ostertag 2006

- Rupert Steinbeis & Catherine Pieder 2008** ✦  
Waikato Ornithological Society of  
New Zealand 2003  
Angela Wickham 2004

- Keith Wilkinson 2005  
Brian & Elaine Wilks 2008
- HASTINGS**  
Terry & Molly Smith 2008  
Roberts Family 2009
- HOKITIKA**  
Cameron Bloomfield 2006  
Ryan Bloomfield 2006
- INVERCARGILL**  
Gloria Harris 2009  
Rebecca Munroe 2008
- KAIKOHE**  
Peter, Suzie & Bill Lindner 2005
- KAITIARA**  
Kevin Matthews 2008  
Mark & Jo Thompson 2008
- KAIKATI**  
John & June A'Court 2006  
Brian & Elizabeth Anthony 2009  
Greg & Leslie Bettrides 2006  
Sherry Boulton 2007  
Alex & Jan Ellery 2006  
Maurice & Gail Frank 2006  
Maggie Jack 2006  
Les McDonald 2006  
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Robyn Skelton 1997  
Wendy Stewart 1997  
Lewis & Gemma Thorp 2006

- KAWERAU**  
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Judy Beer 2008
- KIMBOLTON**  
Ond, Goss & Baker Family 2007
- LEVIN**  
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Mayclair Family 2007  
Greg & Pauline Moffat 2007  
Christine Moyle 2005

- LOWER HUTT**  
Richmond Atkinson 2005  
Susie Curry 2007  
Dr Gordon Hewitt & Dr Pam Hyde  
2006  
Murray Horler 2001  
David Kinsaid 2001  
Dan Mahoney & Ann Bell 2006  
Lynette & John Robinson 2005  
Jonathan & Helen Rudge 1996

- MARTELL**  
Christian Jensen 2003
- MANAPOURI**  
Pauline Nicholson 2004
- MANGAKIRO**  
Janet & Loyal Collins 2005
- MANUKAU CITY**  
Mike Hogan 2006
- MARTON**  
Zach Turner-Steele 2007
- MASTERTON**  
Merilyn Barratt 2007  
Patricia Kennedy 2007  
Joanna McVeagh 2006  
Denis O'Leary 2009  
H & D Brumalow 2009  
Sherie Tidwell 2009
- MATAMATA**  
Pam Gore 2002  
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Caron Stewart 2003  
Colbus Van de Riede & Eileen Rene 2008

- MORRINSVILLE**  
Chris & Margaret Thomas 2005
- MOTUEKA**  
**Dou Grant & Yoka De Houwer Tasman Bay Herbs 2005** ✦
- MT MAUNGANUI**  
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- MURUPARA**  
Satherley Family 2007
- NAPIER**  
Kevin Baker & Anne Prescott 2007  
Phil Flanagan & Sally Cann 2009  
Virginia Wilson 2006
- NEILSON**  
Sally & Murray Win 1996  
**Janet Marshall 2003** ✦  
Debbie Oliver 2004  
Lena Olley 2008  
**Jan Reed 2008** ✦

- NEW PLYMOUTH**  
Eve Cozzi 2007  
David & Terry Gould 2004  
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Dylan Van Winkel 2006  
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- NORTH SHORE CITY**  
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Michael Coutanche 2004  
Brian Gannon 2003  
Darcy & Jack Loundon 2008  
Resher Family 2009  
Suzi Phillips 2001
- OHAUPO**  
Mary Geurts 2006
- OHAKUNE**  
Mike Craig & Davina Mott 2004
- OHOPU**  
Karen Balley 2008  
Malcolm Hutton 1996  
**Don & Teresa McConchie 2007** ✦
- OPONONI**  
Harold & Jenny Barlow 2005
- OPOTIKI**  
Wiremu Baker 2006  
Tom & Marie Cass 2007  
Greg Gedson 2005
- OTAGO**  
Shane Riley 2004
- OWHONGO**  
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- PAEKAKARIKI**  
Terry & Helen Kennelly 2009
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**Ross & Julie Bailey Manawatu Manufacturing Jewellers 2002** ✦  
Phil & Sue Batley 2007  
Jesse Conklin 2008  
James Crowe 2007  
Craig Irving 2006  
John Mitchell 2006  
Diana Moraghan 2003  
Richard & Elizabeth Morton 2009  
Peter Munn 2005  
Graham Richards 2008  
Matthew Salmon 2008  
**Richard Seaton & Fleur Maszyk 2003** ✦  
Roger Slack 2003  
Amy Stewart-Badger 1992  
Faye Templeton 2004

- PARAPARAUMU**  
Pamela Oliver 2004  
**Scott & Karen Parker**

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Peter & Gail Wenman 2008
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Sandie Hebbard 2007
- PLIMMERTON**  
Allan & Gillian Dodson 2006
- PORIRUA CITY**  
Mark Bathurst 2009  
Brian Brown 2006  
Paul Jansen 2008  
McBride Family 2008  
**Pauline Morse** ✦  
**Mike Norris 2004** ✦
- PUKEKOHE**  
Ewart Family 2008  
Wendy Farrow 2009  
David Laurie 2000  
Pat Scyb 2001

- PUTARURU**  
Craig & Cheryl Andrews 2007  
Bill Cameron 2002  
Chris & Ann Gilbert 2005
- QUEENSTOWN**  
Tony & Viv Campbell 2008  
**Greg Hay - Peregrine Wines 2002** ✦

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Loretta Dixon 2004  
**Malcolm & Julie McDonald 2004** ✦
- RANGIORA**  
Rowe Family 2008
- RAUMATI**  
Linley & Raas 2006  
Robert & Rania McGee 2008
- REPOPOA**  
Marvyn & Ange Hinte 2006  
Rachel Lang 2006  
Anna Stevens 2009
- ROTORUA**  
Jacqui Ammen 2008  
John Andersen 2004  
Dawn Angrove 2007  
Marygold Argent 2005  
Jacqueline Arstal 2008  
Christine Ashe 2005  
Eleanor Adcroft 2007

Luke Ashley 2008  
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August Family 2008  
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Mary Barton 2007  
Gayle Bell 2008  
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Iva Henbaw 2004  
Jeanette Blackburn 1996  
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Christine Burr 2007  
J A Cade 2006  
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**Cammap Hawley 2001** ♦  
Norman & Jill Cameron 2005  
Russell Champness 2006  
James Christer & Dawn Williams 2007  
Wendy Christensen 2003  
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Suzi Clemens 2002  
Bill & Dorothy Clouston 2006  
Jim Coburn 2005  
Grant & Kate Colbert 2008  
Don & Shari Cole 2007  
Dr Richard Colgrave 2007  
Sandy & Anne Cooper  
Te Ngae Lodge 2007  
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B & C Croker 2005  
Kevin & Jill Crowe 2005  
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Elphick Family 2005  
Dick and Helen Everts 2009  
Tony Falcina 2009  
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Joe Fleet 1999  
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Daniel & Nicola Gapes 2009  
Keith & Anna Garraat 2007  
Kelly Giblin 2005  
Andrew Gifford 2007  
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Brian & Kate Gore 2006  
June Grant 2007  
Wendy Grant 2009

Rose Gray 2006  
Rob & Brenda Gunn  
Rob's Automotive 2009  
Hagge 2005  
Banking Sunders Family 1997  
**Brent & Shirley Hardy 2001** ♦  
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Paul J Hayes 2007  
Barugh & Heather Heather 2004  
Bisak Hedayat 2009  
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Milan & Reeve Hildreth 2007  
Paddy Hodgkiss 2008  
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Dave & Chris Hutchings 2007  
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Nigel Johnson 2003  
Jacob Jones-Henderson 2003  
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Lorraine McIndoe 2005  
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Dorothy McKenzie 2007  
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Tim & Mary McLay 2009  
Doug McLellan 2003  
Doug & Fiva McMillan 2002  
Christie McNelly 2005  
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Miller - Carr Family 2006  
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Alan Newman 2003  
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P F Olsen Ltd 2007  
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Paradise Valley Springs 1997  
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Ray & Norah Purser 1998  
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Cathie Reeves 2007  
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Terna Robinson 2007  
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Jan Rozska 2006  
Doris Scott 2009  
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Tony Todd 2004 ♦  
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Daniel Voss 2007  
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Jean Anderson 2008  
**Charlie Beardson 2007** ♦  
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Brian Black 2008  
G W & J Butler 2001  
Alan Chung 2008  
R K Clowther 2008  
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Andrew & Cella Mason 2001  
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**Heseline Truss 2005** ♦  
Gideon Anderson & Viv Lord 2006  
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Darrell & Yvonne Blewett 2008  
**Chris Gay 2004** ♦  
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Prue McIvor 2006  
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Peter & Libby Chandler 2008  
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Fred Graham 2007  
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Sharon McGregor 2007  
Danielle Southcombe 2007  
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Dean Thomas 2007  
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Sue Baldwin 2007  
Ian & Jocelyn Bell 2005  
Paul Gibson 2007  
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Steve Corin 2008  
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Alan Deane 2007  
Roy Dibley 2006

Vicky Ellis 2007  
Chris George 2006  
George-Neich Family 2008  
Brad Henderson 2003  
Matthew Henderson 2001  
Irene Ford Family 2007  
Ron & Carolyn Goudswaard 2007  
Malcolm MacRae & Janet Green 2008  
Mike Malanchuk 2005  
Monnes Family 2008  
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Lloyd Morrison 2006  
Shirley Nairn 2003  
Nisbit Family 2008  
James O'Leary 2007  
Nick Peetz 2004  
Kevin & Marie Rikley 2008  
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Barion Silver 2008  
Rob Stewart 2008  
Fiona Sturrock 2006  
Ian & Gill West 2008  
Rosie Zwart 2006  
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Iroy Baker & Mandy Hague 2007  
T. Fitzmaurice 2002

Derek & Kerry Godding 2002  
Andre Hamman 2003  
Neville Harris & E Greig 2003  
Finn Kamphorst 2002  
Raewyn Kingsley-Smith 2006  
**Don & Teresa McConchie 2007** ♦  
Lesley Price 2006  
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Des & Val 2005 ♦  
**WHANGAREI**  
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Johnny Kendrick 2009  
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Robin Long 2006  
M Ritchie 2007  
Wendy Rowe 2009  
Robert & Robyn Webb 2007  
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George & Nina Calder 1996  
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INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

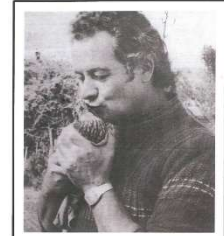
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Samantha Sinclair 2009  
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Frank & Helen Sutton 2006  
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Irene Adam 2008  
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Lex Hedley 2007  
Ken Hooske 2004  
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Felicity Hefferman 2007  
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Ian & Maïke Niermeijer 2009  
Andre & Françoise Ouin 2008  
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**Chris Morgan & Enkhjargal Bazar 2008** ♦  
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Coo & Betty Boeye 2009  
Rennie Demontie 2006  
Lotty Staal 2008  
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Michelle du Toit 2008  
**SPAIN**  
Ivar Van Mourik 2007  
Angels Tortegrosa 2007

**SWITZERLAND**  
Sara Testoni 2009  
**UK**  
David Asschenick 2009  
David Brill 2006  
Sikander Bawa & Tracy Hellens 2007  
Mike Clark 2008  
Robin & Doreen Cuts 2007  
Alexander Darlington 2008  
**Dr Nick & Barbbo Fox 2004** ♦  
Mr & Mrs James 2009  
Terry Mitcham 2007  
Tony & Jennifer Ormstein 2005  
Phil & Joyce Seaton 2008  
**USA**  
Kenneth Archambault 2008  
Matthew Clement 2005  
Charles & Karen Goetz 2004  
Paul Johnson 2006  
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Charley & Cece Schoettlin 2004  
Dick Satchell 2007  
Ken Wolfe 2007

OBITUARY - IN MEMORY

DENNIS FORDHAM 1944 - 2009



The raptor community of New Zealand has lost one of its most passionate devotees.  
Dennis Fordham was London born, and after the early loss of his father he joined the Merchant Navy Sea Training School, and it gave him the chance to see the world.  
Dennis's early life in New Zealand was eventful and interesting. Jumping ship with a friend while docked in Bluff, he went on to find employment with a circus doing odd jobs but mainly looking after the main attraction, the elephant. When the circus reached Monseka he left to go working picking tobacco.  
He married Terri in 1966, going back to London to manage hotels and also took up an apprenticeship in carpentry. Returning to New Zealand with their first child Kester, they moved to Akatarawa in Upper Hutt where their second child Rowan was born.  
From an early age Kester had been fascinated with birds of prey and Galloway, and through his son's interest, Dennis developed his own passion. This shared passion became a major part of Dennis's life,

especially after they both joined the Raptor Association of New Zealand (RANZ), and helped build raptor aviaries at Mount Bruce, Wairarapa.  
Dennis became very involved in the association, participating in fieldtrips to survey and band birds. He attended open days, became the furniture officer - making hawks and gloves for members, the librarian, and then executive committee member.  
Dennis also helped develop and run the original RANZ training courses and was instrumental in fostering new members interest. He rehabilitated many injured hawks and falcons as well as training both hawks and owls for films. Dennis was always very proactive in his advocacy for New Zealand's birds of prey. The family property became transformed with beautiful aviaries surrounded by native bush, and he quickly became known as the 'Birdman of Akatarawa'.  
Over the years, Dennis was always keen on the annual trips into the Pinnacles on the south Wairarapa coast, and the Otongoroa valley in the hills behind Wellington, to band and survey falcons.  
We remember fondly those ventures with Steve Lawrence and Chris Gray as we stopped for rests along the track through the Rimutaka Forest Park, each year becoming a little harder with our various aches and pains, laughing and joking feeling like "Last of the Summer Wine".  
Sadly, Dennis passed away from a subcutaneous abscess on 2 October 2008. On behalf of RANZ and Wingspan, a small bundle of assorted raptor feathers were placed on his casket.  
Dennis will always be remembered for his passion and dedicated contributions for raptors - his help and inspiration to those around him, his quiet, calm and thoughtful manner, but with a quick smile or belly laugh never far away.  
A lovely man and a lovely friend to all that knew him.  
Neil Hyde and Susie Curry

## THE LAST WORD - A Life Remembered

**GEOFF MOON, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S., M.A.C.V.Sc., Hon FRS.N.Z., A.R.P.S.  
1915 - 2009**

*On Friday 13 March in Auckland, Geoff Moon passed away, aged 93, after a long and amazing life. Geoff was born in China in 1915 where his English parents were living while his father worked in a managerial position for Shell Oil. The family moved back to England but Geoff moved in 1947 to Warkworth, New Zealand, where he worked as a veterinarian.*

*Geoff was awarded the OBE in 1994 for his services to the veterinary profession and photography. He was an Honorary Fellow and Patron of the Photographic Society of New Zealand, and Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain. He was a Waitakere Arts Laureate, and Patron for Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust.*

*Geoff was a world-renowned wildlife photographer specialising in ornithology. He published more than thirty books about New Zealand birds, wildlife and their natural habitats and environment. He was widely recognised within this country and internationally, and he will be remembered for his contribution to research and documentation of New Zealand's birdlife.*

- NZPA New Zealand Herald, March 2009.

Geoff Moon had so many attributes, lots of labels, and he was good at all of them. His veterinary skills, photography and writing, his ornithology, and study of natural history. He was a real gentleman; a pioneer, an author, and an educator. Geoff had many labels, yet of them all he would tell us he wanted to be known as a 'naturalist'.

His passion for New Zealand flora and fauna was undeniable. Geoff was a true mentor who inspired and impressed many. A prolific author, it seems all bird enthusiasts have a Geoff Moon book in their library. But he was particularly passionate about raptors, and with his interest, experience and enthusiastic support of Wingspan he epitomised the role of Patron.

Geoff would talk about his childhood days when he first built a hide to watch nesting sparrow hawks. In New Zealand he built hides to watch falcons and hawks. But of all the birds he studied and photographed, ruru morepork remained his favourite.

Nesting biology of moreporks was a personal interest and he was a great help when Wingspan first started to breed them. Geoff, with his wife Lynette, would visit the Centre and offer advice. Geoff would suggest a longer box rather than a deep box. He'd tell us the diameter of the entrance that might work best, and to fit a solid branch on the outside ready for young owlets to perch and wait for food passes. He would emphasise keeping detailed notes because very little was known about the intimate details of morepork nesting behaviour.



It was a real highlight to first introduce him to 'Whisper', a morepork chick at the Centre. Geoff melted at the small ball of fluff, and the conversation would bounce between discussions on growth and development, but would also extend to the 'language'. Not only did Geoff have a good eye but he a good ear as well. He understood bird vocals - would describe their calls, purrs and growls, and would effortlessly imitate them.

Geoff didn't just look 'at' the birds, he looked 'with' them. That was his point of difference. His images backed up his observations, giving an intimate insight into the private life of birds. His photography and publishing has allowed us all an opportunity to share and celebrate those moments and journeys with Geoff.

A lifetime spent caring for and studying wildlife - a passing of an era. He will be missed.

