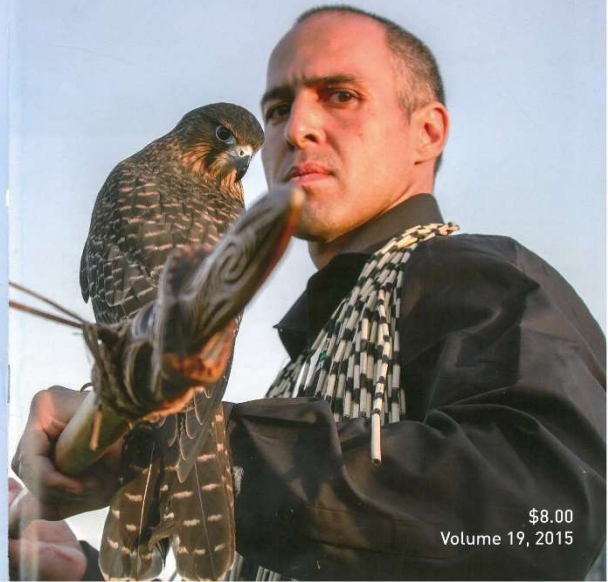


WINGSPAN

BIRDS OF PREY FOR OUR FUTURE



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

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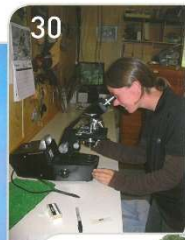
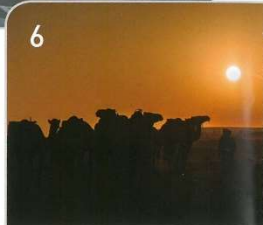
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cover image by Rachel Murray, Victoria University, Wellington

Another busy year for Wingspan! 2016/17 has continued pretty much as we left off last year – full speed, and sloping ahead. As ever I am constantly surprised at what Wingspan and our wider family of supporters achieve every year.

We have made great progress in all areas of our work:

➤ Another successful trip to the International Fauna Festival – once again providing Wingspan with the opportunity to showcase New Zealand's birds of prey and culture on the world stage.

➤ We are in our second year of the "On the Wing" partnership with Rolena Museum. Although not rare to see birds of prey in urban settings internationally, this is an innovative programme for New Zealand. Despite some setbacks, we believe this programme is an important step towards securing our indigenous wildlife in our early landscape.

➤ 2016 has seen an expansion of our conservation programme with the release of three captive-bred kaurua in Martinborough. This is a five-year programme aimed at restoring the kaurua population in the southern Wairarapa, which has great local community, tax and vineyard owner support.

➤ Great strides have also been made developing our children's education programme, with the addition of the Raptor Recruits educational resource. This is a fabulous resource for both school groups and visiting children alike.

Taking flight

In addition to our research, breeding and conservation initiatives, visitor numbers have also continued to grow quickly. This is very exciting as it means we are continuing to reach and educate a growing number of New Zealanders and international visitors about our unique birds of prey.

However, it also means that we are very quickly growing out of the need in Paradise Valley. Our tenancy is up in 2017, and with our conservation and education programmes growing, it is time after 10 years at our current location, for Wingspan to hedge.

Preparing for this has been an area of particular attention for the Wingspan Board over the last 18 months. This has involved:

➤ adding governance and business expertise to the Board to complement our conservation and research capabilities;

➤ continuing to support staff development and expanding our capability;

➤ strengthening our partnerships with local community, iwi, local and national business community, Lakes District Council and Department of Conservation; and

➤ supporting a summer scholarship grant at the Victoria University School of Architecture to develop fabulous concept designs for our new home.

This makes it an exciting (but very challenging) time for Wingspan. Through all this change, it is important to the Board that our new Centre keeps our sense of family and purpose at heart – the birds, conservation, research, and education that has been developed by the Wingspan team over the last 23 years.

Unfortunately this will not be inexpensive and the Board is exploring a wide range of funding opportunities to build on the already considerable support we are getting from supporters, sponsors and partners. Please look out for more on this and how you might be able to help over the coming months.

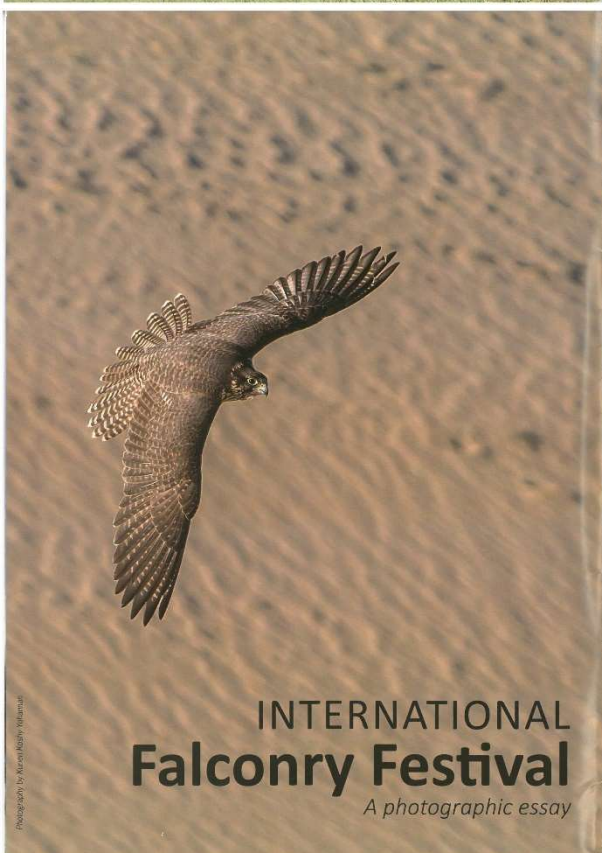
People count too

This year I would like to particularly recognise the valuable contribution of our volunteers. In 2016, more than 100 volunteers contributed thousands of hours helping Wingspan do what it does – their contribution cannot be under-valued – feeding, filing, mending the shop, educating visitors, cleaning, maintenance and gardening. On site, this also includes the amazing volunteer network at Rolena Museum supporting the "On the Wing" programme for the second year running, and we value the added volunteer efforts supporting oodoom research in the field.

I would like to especially recognise one of our longest-standing volunteers and supporters – Mary Sjaal – although remaining an ardent and actively interested supporter she has stepped down from active duties this year. Many of you will know Mary well from your visits to Wingspan, where she steadfastly manned the counter every weekend for eight years. I, along with the other Trustees, were delighted to be able to recognise Mary's contribution with the Raptor Award for birds of prey conservation.

Finally, as ever I want to thank our wonderful team at Wingspan for all the great work they have done again this year. Sadly we have to say good bye to Alison and Ineke who, after several years of great work, have both decided it is time to move on to new things. Thanks one last time to you both for your next challenges.

Jonathan Ridge



Photography by Aaron Kishy, Islamabad

INTERNATIONAL Falconry Festival

A photographic essay



DESERT

Raptors have captured our attention, and our imaginations for centuries. Evidence of Man's long relationship with birds of prey goes back more than 4000 years, from Arabia, China through to Mesopotamia.

In December 2016 a festival for falconry was held to further celebrate the UNESCO inscription of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity. A heritage passed down from generation to generation around the

world. A rich cultural history given recognition and status alongside music, art, dance, and literature.

To celebrate the UNESCO inscription and in memory and respect of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Emirates Abu Dhabi Falconers Club kindly hosted the third International Festival of Falconry in the white sand desert of Al Ghayayyan, and the city of Abu Dhabi.



CULTURE



The first four days in the desert were shared with 1000 falconers housed in Bedouin tents, immersed in different cultures, embracing language, with hawks, eagles, falcons, camels, horses and dogs (Selukil).

During the day, workshops and presentations were held on topics such as veterinary, conservation and rehabilitation aspects of birds of prey. To avoid the midday heat, hunting excursions into the desert took place before daybreak, as well as falcons, hawks and eagles being trained in the mornings and late afternoons.

In the evenings it was banquets and feasts, incense, campfires and stories.



Photography by Kerrie Kosty Johansson



Five representatives from New Zealand were sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Falconry Club to attend. These included Noel Hyde, Debbie Stewart, and Ineke Smets representing New Zealand falconers; Nicolas Dillon as the artist representative and Kerrie Kosty Johansson as photographer to record the event.



FESTIVAL

The largest multi-cultural event in the world (next to the Olympics) with 82 countries represented including 1000 sponsored falconers, thousands of visitors, school children, and tourists at Al Forsan, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



Noel Hyde and Koho - Celebrating falconry as a World Heritage



From all corners of the globe falconers wore their best dress in celebration of falconry as part of their culture.

As the artist representative for New Zealand Nick Dillon had two magnificent paintings of the New Zealand falcon on display within the gallery tent.



Photography by Kerrie Kosty Johansson



Our children are our future. Thousands of children attended festival stands at Al Forsan. Through education we ensure that traditions, like falconry and conservation, are passed down and continued.



KAPAHAKA

Ka Pai Haere Mai!

The 'Super 8' Al Air Kapahaka Group, led by Peter Rihia-Tamaki.

Their performances and support of the New Zealand delegate made a huge impact.

With a lone guitar they sang waka and in closing, their outstanding and memorable haka performance, stamped the festival.

Thank you Peter Rihia-Tamaki, Iliriana McKenzie, Sappalopea Grace Sarroa Saleapulu, Teresa MacDonald, Doree Tito-Nekere, Victoria Posimani, Jantzen Kapapa-Iroha, Liam Kalouzi. Your performance and first public appearance was awesome!



GRAND PARADE

Helicopters and security buzzed the arena of Al Forsan with the arrival of dignitaries, royal families, Ambassadors, and the special attendance by the Crown Prince III Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. No pressue!

The display marquees were closed up, participants dressed in traditional costume, and raptors were held on the gawtlat, glow or mangala. We all gathered in the heat of a Middle Eastern afternoon, surrounded by a depth of culture and history, and camaraderie.

The New Zealand team lined up ready to enter the arena for the first Grand Parade of Nations. Organisers were keeping a steady flow of each country's representation going through the gate, keeping distances between us as steady and as close as possible. We were positioned about halfway in a long line between some 80 different countries. We stood straight and proud holding our flag, and country name tag. Our falcon karearea 'Koha' roused in anticipation. Flanked by warriors and their 'ta'aha', we walked slowly forwards.

The silence was broken with a loud cry 'Kia hira rai' Everyone started to give us space. With background deep chants and heavy breathing 'ooh, ooh, ha, auel' gaining momentum, the audience went quiet. Microphones were not needed, everyone knew we were coming. Faces turned towards the gate in anticipation, cameras were raised, like the hairs on the back of our necks, and we entered the arena.



In front of the marquee of seated dignitaries a fierce war challenge was performed by our warriors, flashing eyes, long tongues, that sent shivers down spines. Cameras rolled, the crowds clapped, big screens recorded the action and it was broadcast from the UAE TV to the UK BBC.

The Aotearoa New Zealand team had arrived with pride, strength and unity.

Aue, aue, aue, ho... Ho.



Rene Seidi and Josh Hemg are students of Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa (The New Zealand school of Maori weaponry) and members of the UAE branch of the school, Koraha Te Tau.

Both Rene and Josh, supporting Wingspan's efforts to conserve Karearea, acted as kaitiaki (guardians of Koha, NZ falcon resident in UAE).

They were the warriors of Aotearoa during the Grand Parade of Nations.

As guardians they symbolically protected the group with weapons (ta'aha) alongside spiritual practices of prayer, and belief in the presence of their ancestors.



Without question the International Falconry Festival was an outstanding experience transcending national, racial, religious and geographic divides. The Kiwi Team were honoured, and humbled to be part of this historic event and very proud to celebrate alongside of friends and new friends the falconry cultures of the world.

As a New Zealand delegation we remain excited by the experiences we brought home to further our work. We hold our heads high with the respect and respect from our mentors and contemporaries in terms of falconry, education, advocacy and culture.

We are also grateful for the opportunity the festival provided as a conduit of our New Zealand Maori culture, shared and celebrated in a faraway land with other countries, but also between us.

In just ten days, the world became a smaller place.

Debbie Stewart



The second consecutive year of the 'On the Wing' project continues to make conservation history as the only ever city release of a threatened species in New Zealand. A Wingspan initiative, in partnership with the Rotorua Museum, continues to bring the spectacular karearea New Zealand falcon and the community together. From a background of captive management, rehabilitation, research, and public awareness, the second consecutive release has once more been marked by personal stories and close encounters.

In December 2014, two young female karearea falcons were welcomed to the Government Gardens by local iwi and Museum staff, then transferred to the 'back box' (artificial nest) on top of the Museum. Rooftop cameras were fitted strategically in and around the back box. Colour and metal identification bands were fitted and transmitters were attached on the falcons with backpack harnesses.

The two young falcons were released on 2 January 2015. They were a little older on the release day than the falcons of the previous year, and were eager to be rid of the confinement of their release box. Within hours of the box being opened, they were perched on the roof of the historic museum, running over the serracotta tiles, losing their balance on rainings, and attempting their first hesitant flights. They were 'toddlers' with awkward clumsiness.



Photography by Julie Parsons

14 | Wingspan

learning how to run, how to fly and sometimes falling with 'tailing' wings off the building.

Hatupatu, a male falcon (named after the legendary Te Arawa hunter) was one of the falcons released from the Rotorua Museum the previous year. We waited in anticipation to see when Hatupatu would discover the new young falcons in his territory. We didn't have to wait long, on the first day he was seen atop one of the high spires, on patrol, he was on guard, and in charge!

Another successful Trade Me auction was held to name one of the newly released falcons. The falcon previously known as 'orange' (in reference to her coloured leg bands), was named 'Maia' by the winners of the auction. Rotorua locals Robert and Yvonne Skellern chose the name because it means bold, courageous, capable and confident. The second female karearea, banded 'black', was named 'Kurangaikuku' recognising the female character from the well-known Te Arawa story of Hatupatu and the Birdwoman.



The first few days after the release were not without incident, and kept Wingspan, Museum staff and volunteers busy or regular call-outs. On two occasions, Maia became disorientated after landing on the ground

near the Museum cafe) and unable to reach the release platform from under the verandah.

Kurangaikuku initially sought cover within dense scrub of a thermal area, close to the lake but not without significant dangers of boiling mud pools, fumaroles, and sulphur vents. She was eventually tracked to the front of the Polynesian Pools. Both falcons needed to be caught, and taken back to the top of the Rotorua Museum, and re-released from their back box.

On the arrival of Hatupatu, both females would vocalise loudly whenever they saw him. Hatupatu quickly assumed

the role as their foster father, and daily he caught food for them, including rodents, sparrows and starlings. Their behaviour delighted volunteers and visitors to the gardens, who were able to witness spectacular food passes and natural parental behaviour.

Thousands of people have been enchanted by the falcons' activity, and the community engagement once again has been significant.

In effect, with Hatupatu fostering them, this 2015 urban release has been no different than what would happen in the wild.

Threats

Research shows that the three biggest problems facing populations of our threatened falcon karearea include deliberate persecution, electrocution, and introduced pests. This has been scientifically proven, and occurs in that order. Sadly, all are the direct cause of human-based activities. For the bigger picture rationale, these factors along with others, result in up to 75% of karearea not surviving to their 1st birthday.

Of the three falcons released in 2014, only 'Hatupatu' survived to adulthood. The Wingspan team was saddened by the death of 'Tama' (Tamatekapua) in December 2014 due to electrocution in an urban area less than 400 metres away from his release site. But it was 'Te Rangirua' (Wahū, affectionately known as 'Maureen') that we remain shocked by.

As the result of deliberate human injuries to her (eg. loss and wing compromised her survival). Despite intensive care over eight weeks, her condition worsened and she was euthanased.

On the 2015 release, it was Maia that also needed additional attention. We suspect a combination of magpie attack and wire strike to have caused a greenstick fracture to one wing.

Thankfully with some six weeks care at Wingspan she was able to be re-released. We are thrilled that Hatupatu has pair bonded with her, and all going well, we hopefully anticipate some brooding success later in the year.

But as this journal goes to print, we remain anxious about Kurangaikuku. Anecdotal reports to Wingspan, Department of Conservation, and the NZ Police suggest further deliberate harm. The Department of Conservation takes persecution of Absolutely Protected species very seriously, and such actions could result in prosecution under the Wildlife Act 1953, a penalty of up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000.

The success of the falcon karearea releases would not have been possible without the support of the Rotorua Museum staff, including Stewart Brown, Pamela Lova, Jo Daugherty, Kathy Nicholls, and with Julie Parsons coordinating an army of volunteers.

Rain, hail, and shine they were spotted with aerial and receiver equipment tracking the young falcons everywhere from the Government Gardens, the Lakeland, the Rotorua CBD, the Redwoods, to Mount Ngongotaha and Tinotongo. We acknowledge the awesome commitment from Museum staff, plus volunteers Pat Cowbourne, Chris Fuller, Barbara and David Gatley, Ann-Elise Miles, and Heather Willis.

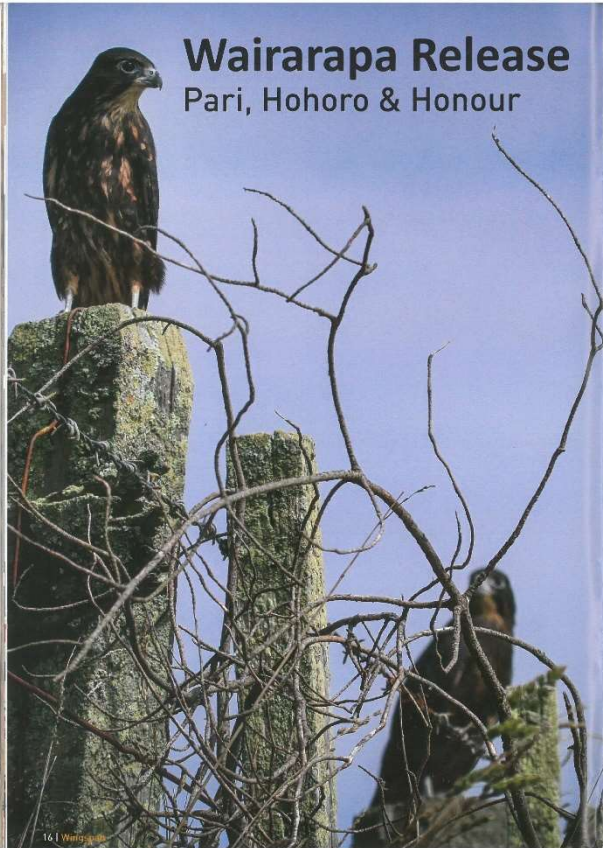
We also recognise Fiona Gillan, Joanne Gray, Gary and Phillipa Jenkins, Lesley Miller, AJ and Phil Painter, Vanessa Rogers, Betty Shephard, and Gale Wilcox.

On behalf of the karearea, who cannot thank each of you personally, your efforts have been appreciated.



Photography by Julie Parsons

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Wairarapa Release Pari, Hohoro & Honour

February is a busy time at Peluser Estate's Coustou vineyard in Marlborough. The last day of tucking of the wires has to be completed before the rats go on to protect the grapes from the flocks of starlings and blackbirds arriving in town. These smart birds are determined to spend the autumn feasting on ripening grapes.

Meanwhile two young Kārearea (or NZ bush falcon) are on patrol. They seem to have focussed on this vineyard as the best spot to hunt, even though it is six km away from their nest. The male (Pari) and female (Honour) falcons patrol the shelter belts where small birds hide. The falcons stand on roof tops and branches where they can get a good view. Their hunting success is variable and while the small birds don't like them, they don't go far to get out of the way. The young Kārearea are still inexperienced hunters and waste energy on following strong fast birds and then having to drop out of the chase. On other occasions they make a mid-air kill and take their prey to the ground to eat.

It is only four months since Honour and Pari – and a third falcon chick Hohoro – hatched at Wingspan Birds of Prey aviary in Roturua. These chicks' father is Lee and mother Rita.

At the end of October 2015 when the chicks were 2 weeks old, I went to Roturua to collect them. Until then I had never seen a falcon. Now I get to see them close up, watch them fly, and handle the young chicks while Andrew from Wingspan banded their legs and fitted transmitters. It was really very exciting and I could see why people become so attached to these unique birds of prey.

Back in Marlborough we received a fantastic welcome from the community. Rangitane kaumātua Mike Kawana welcomed the chicks, and about 50 neighbours and supporters had their names in see a factory truck close up. The method for release of these Kārearea is known as 'back release' and using this system the chicks spent the next two weeks in a nest box at their new home in a vineyard being fed anonymously and going out, imprinting on their new home and a stand of pine trees about 50 metres away. Once the falcons were released these trees became their 'home' and they still return to them each night to sleep.

The project has had great support from both Wingspan and the Marlborough community. 'Wairarapa Winegrowers' was the major sponsor and we also had support too from 'Wines from Marlborough', individual wineries, Marlborough residents, and Wingspan supporter Bowley Guy.

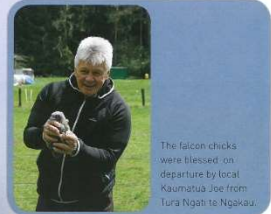
We had volunteers to help with trapping and they worked hard at getting muskfield and feral cat numbers down in the months before release. Similarly our monitoring volunteers were very dedicated and out in all weathers when the chicks were first released and at their most vulnerable.

Unfortunately all this wasn't enough to protect the female Hohoro, who was blown away in strong winds three days after release and then survived another four days in a gully in a neighbouring farm where we were feeding her. She must have been disoriented as she didn't seem to be trying to get back to her nest and we couldn't catch her. She was taken by a predator overnight a week after we opened the back box. This was completely devastating for me personally as well as for the Wingspan staff, and the volunteers who had been keeping an eye on her. We had to console ourselves with the fact that we still had two strong and feisty Kārearea ready to take the next steps towards becoming independent.

Honour and Pari have taught themselves to fly and to live alone. They practice aerial acrobatics by play fighting with each other and pretend to be grown up predators by taking on hawks and magpies. At first they learned to hunt for insects off the ground and, on one occasion, one of them was seen stealing a mouse off a cat which had just caught it. Finally they developed the skill – at least, sometimes – to catch small birds.

We have a permit from DOC to translocate 15 Kārearea chicks in total, and so we hope that in coming years wild NZ bush falcon will be a frequent sight around the district, and that they will be as welcome in vineyards as seasonal helpers.

Jane Lenting



The falcon chicks were blessed on departure by local kaumātua Joe from Tura Ngahi to Ngakau.

Treasure & Huggie

Wild moreporks in the Far North



In early January 2014, Wingspan received an interesting email about a pair of morepork that had taken residence in a shed located in the rural setting of Doubtless Bay, in the far North. Colin and Delwyn Trigg first realised they had a resident morepork five years ago when, much to Colin's dismay, he noticed bird droppings on the boat cover. Unfazed by mowers, bikes and chainsaws, the morepork became a familiar sight and with help from their grandchildren became affectionately known as 'Treasure'.

After a few years the Triggs had the pleasant surprise of finding a second, darker and smaller morepork perched next to Treasure in her favourite spot in the shed. Although this second owl didn't stay as regularly as Treasure, it soon had a name of its own, 'Huggie'. Keen to encourage both moreporks to stay, Delwyn contacted Wingspan to ask for some advice.

Moreporks can sometimes be a common sight for people, especially in more rural settings with old stands of native bush in the area. Our first suggestion was to leave the outside lights on, as this attracts insects, the perfect food for moreporks. It was brilliant when the outside light was on to often see Treasure perched on the clothesline and hawking the moths.

Another suggestion was to construct a dark alcove for the moreporks to roost near their favourite spot within

the shed. This way they could feel more secure and stay hidden, away from birds such as Tuatua that would harass them during the daylight hours. This suggestion was a success, and before the 'where' was even nailed onto the wall the pair were using their new roost. Punga and fern fronds provided the perfect cover.

Then a visit to Wingspan sparked a new idea, would the morepork pair breed if they had a nest box? Using a template from the breeding boxes used at Wingspan, Colin constructed and installed a new nest box for Treasure and Huggie which they readily accepted.

Arriving home one day in mid-January, the Triggs had a third morepork staring at them – a fluffy, big-eyed chick had hatched and was quickly named 'Twinkle'.

Like many of New Zealand's native birds, moreporks are at risk of being predated by introduced pests. By providing them with a safe roost and having food available for them to hunt, Colin and Delwyn's residence offered the ideal conditions for the moreporks to breed.

They are still graced by Treasure, Huggie and Twinkle's presence to this day, and are delighted to have them around. In fact, the infamous morepork family is so popular that many visitors stop in to say "hello" to them before knocking on the door for a cup of tea.

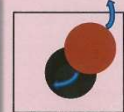
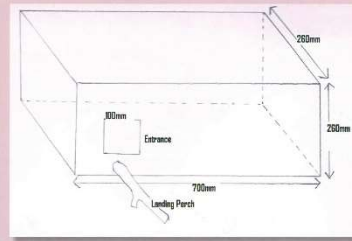
Build your own morepork nest box

There is nothing better than hearing moreporks calling on a still evening; sometimes people are lucky enough to see them swooping at moths attracted to outside lights. Here we have provided a basic design to help you build your own morepork nest box, so that you too may be able to encourage and enjoy moreporks in your own backyard.

Note: The entrance can be a round or square hole 100mm wide and the floor of the nest box layered with small bark chips at least 5 centimetres deep. Creating a hinged lid on door on the side of the box, allows for easier cleaning and the ability to check if the nest box is being used by owls.

Tips for the best site to install the box:

- Choose a dark, quiet, sheltered area in a stand of trees, or on near the roof of a shed or barn, to position the box.
- The nest box should be situated well off the ground.
- If placed in a tree, a metal strip around the tree trunk will protect any nesting morepork from pests such as stoats, cats and possums.
- Cleaning the box annually will eliminate the risk of disease. This is best done during winter when morepork are not breeding.
- Trapping for rats, stoats and feral cats in the area will further reduce the risk of any morepork getting predated.



A small viewing window on the side allows for inspection. A simple round piece of wood can be nailed to allow for viewing.



IN THE FIELD

The Genetics of the New Zealand Falcon

The New Zealand falcon is New Zealand's only endemic bird of prey. They are tricky in that they vary considerably in size and colouration, over and above sexual dimorphism that is common in raptors. This variation has caused taxonomic confusion since its earliest observation.

George Forster, painter on HMS Resolution, collected a falcon specimen in 1773 during James Cook's second voyage to the southern continent. William Bayly on board HMS Resolution noted two kinds of "small hawks" at Queen Charlotte Sound (McNab, 1974). Whether they were different sexes, ages, morphs or species such as harrier and falcon is unknown. During this time the New Zealand falcon was assigned a number of scientific names including *Falco novaeseelandiae* Omelet 1788, *Falco brunnea* Gould 1838, *Falca australis* Hombt. et Jacq 1841, *Falco harpe* Forster 1844, and *Falco ferax* Peale 1848 (Medway, 1976; Gill et al., 2010).

Now, the New Zealand falcon is defined as a single variable species with three recognised morphs or races that are referred to as the Bush, Eastern and Southern, and these appear to differ in colour and size (Fox, 1971). I wanted to look into this description of the falcon in more detail in my recent Master's thesis with Assoc. Prof. Steve Treweek at Massey University using morphological analyses and population genetics. Through many different techniques and methods I was able to identify two clear size morphs in New Zealand falcons corresponding with the North and South Islands (see Figure 1), this division however was not clear in the genetic markers I looked at.

In New Zealand we see many instances of species being represented by somewhat distinct forms on the two main islands of New Zealand (Butler, 1868). In addition

to relative minor differences in colouration, individuals of South Island races tend to be larger than North Island individuals, resulting in taxonomic treatment as subspecies and species pairs. For example size differences have been reported in the extinct Laughing Owl (*Sceloglaux alaudipes*) (Gill, 1966), and also a number of other New Zealand bird species. I am hoping with further research we will be able to understand the genetic structuring present in the New Zealand falcon in more detail.

We also need to understand the reasons behind the size differences present. Are the falcons responding to different environmental pressures such as temperature and haat that changes between the islands? There is still a lot more research to do and a lot we still don't know about our beautiful falcon!

Lena Orlley

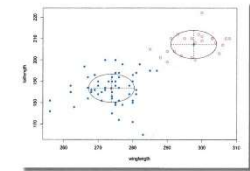


Figure 1: Relationships between wing length and tail length of female New Zealand falcons (n=94) observed using Males (N=4). Ellipses indicate two clusters: blue and red representing North and South Island individuals.



Wind and Wildlife

In October 2012 a Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts was held in Melbourne, Australia. The aim of this conference was to share results of studies looking at the impact of wind farms on wildlife within Australia and New Zealand, as well as highlighting key areas for future investigation.

One of the papers presented, Wind Farms and Biodiversity: Improving Environmental Risk Assessment is a collaborative piece by IKG Baptye and Wingspan trustee Dr Laurence Barea, looks at the collision risk with wind turbines for New Zealand falcon.

To read the abstract try this link into your web browser:
http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-017-9492-9_3

Driven by Nature.

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Gull

Falcon Sightings

Falcon sightings are reported to Wingspan throughout the year, with the most common reports occurring during the spring when the falcons are nesting, and the autumn when juveniles are wandering. Sightings of falcons are reported by recreational hunters and trampers, landowners, or from forest estate managers and contractors, such as KauriGard, Timberlands and PF Olsen Ltd. Some falcons are even spotted in the back yard! But occasionally we receive correspondence a little more out of the ordinary, or about other birds of prey seen in New Zealand.

Help us understand more about these wonderful birds and report any New Zealand falcons you see by sending an email to wingspan.nz@gmail.com

The required details include date observed, location (from Google Maps), number of birds seen, and a description of the activity observed.

Wingspan would like to acknowledge the imaging provided by Eanrup Hawley, and AMG Web Designers for the website update.

I saw one white-throated nighthawk! It was a single bird hunting a whelk. It appeared to be a juvenile but I can't say for certain as it was a quick fly-by.
 Sarah Jameson, Wellington 23 July 2014



We have a pair of falcons living close to our house in a forestry block. I just went up where they're nesting to show my father and for the first time actually saw where its nest is and it has around four chicks that have hatched.
 Jethro Marshall, Hawkes Bay 29 Nov 2014



We spotted a Karearea flying quite low at eye height outside the window of our car. It was keeping pace as my husband accelerated then it snatched off towards some trees.
 Natalie & Evert Kooze, Torrance 27 Aug 2014

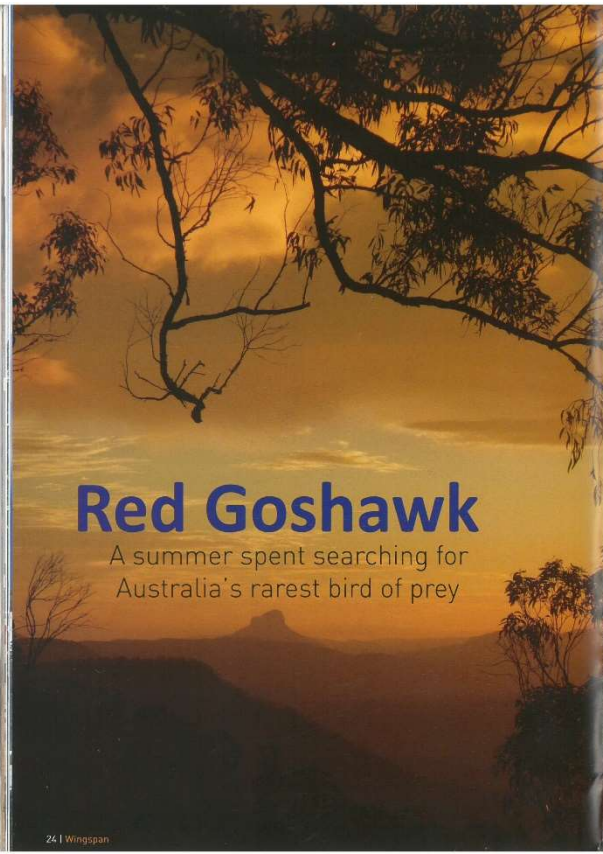


Tonight we saw a falcon sitting on our bird bath 20 metres from our house!
 Cameron Lutzon, Bay of Plenty 20 Nov 2014



I saw a falcon chasing some chaffinches. It chased a single bird until it was so high that it was almost out of sight, then gave up and chased a small Teek until it was out of sight and this was with binoculars!
 Sarah Jameson, Wellington 26 Aug 2015

We often have a visiting Karearea and we finally got some photos of it. The bird is ages silent except the robbers who cause quite a ruckus at its appearance!
 Gregoire Duffresne, Nelson 21 Sep 2014



Red Goshawk

A summer spent searching for Australia's rarest bird of prey

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With its enormous taloned feet, rufous-striped body, powerful hooked bill and crested head, the Red Goshawk is nothing short of spectacular. Although this bird of prey has never been considered common in Australia, it once bred throughout the tall eucalypt forests that stretch from southern New South Wales up to Cape York and across the Top End. Today, however it is thought to be Australia's rarest bird of prey.

I first heard of the Red Goshawk over 15 years ago, when a colleague returned to New Zealand from a trip to tropical Queensland. In a hushed voice he leaned across the restaurant table and with wide eyes told me he had seen a Red Goshawk. A seed was sown.

Requiring large tracts of biodiverse habitat, the Red Goshawk naturally occurs at low densities. As a result, it is well known amongst the birdwatching community as a very difficult bird to find and it seems no wonder that sightings of this species are few and far between. On the other hand, experts were concerned that the number of reports from the public had begun to decline and renewed effort was required to establish how Red Goshawks are doing, especially in South East Queensland.

So it was that I found myself packing up my hammock, billy and binoculars ready to head out into the Aussie bush. But before I set off I needed to speak with those that had gone before me; local Queensland Red Goshawk experts Greg Czuczura, Rod Hobson and David Stewart.

As they regaled me with stories of their adventures searching for this enigmatic bird three things became apparent - searching for this bird was going to be hard work. I would need to get out into the less populated parts of Queensland and it would require a great deal of patience on my part. Overall, one thing was clear - this was not going to be easy!

Starting in December 2014, I bush camped for the next four months, spending dawn until dusk searching for Red Goshawks deep in the Queensland bush. My weeks typically involved hiking into the bush early Monday morning, bush bashing around until I found a good vantage point, camping for the night at that spot and then moving onto another vantage point the next day, until I finally came out of the bush on a Friday evening to head home, restock supplies and wash the weeks grime off.

Having only relatively recently moved to Brisbane from New Zealand, I have to admit to the Aussie bush initially being a rather intimidating experience for me. If it wasn't snakes taking me by surprise as I walked through the bush, cicadas making my ears ring or ticks and leeches making me bleed, the heat and humidity was doing its best to desiccate my wimpy delicate white skin. Mind you, camping in places like the Lost World Plateau in Lamington National Park more than made up for these trying work conditions, and everywhere I went, I was astounded by the abundance and diversity of wildlife. After five months I had spent a total of 470 hours searching every corner of South East Queensland. But all in vain, as sadly I was unsuccessful in locating a single Red Goshawk anywhere I looked.

So what does this mean? Well, it's certainly not looking good for Red Goshawks, as this suggests their range has shrunk significantly in recent times. Most distressing, this finding has implications for environmental health in Australia. Like the New Zealand falcon, the Red Goshawk sits atop an intricately interconnected web of plants and animals, and their absence from an area illustrates that these connections are being broken. In both cases, action is needed if their decline is to be arrested.

Dr Richard Sooton



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Urban Eagles

Successes of the urban Crowned Eagle in South Africa

- Helicopter surveys of the cliff nesting sites of Verreux Eagles in the Cederberg Wilderness area, Western Cape.
- Nest counts and GPS tagging of Cape Griffon Vultures at several breeding colonies in the eastern Cape.
- Assisting with BirdLife South Africa's surveys of the vast Blyde River Canyon for the elusive Taita Falcon, Mpumalanga.

- Several weeks in the enormous Kruger National Park, surveying the Martial Eagle population and fitting birds with GPS telemetry.
- But aside from these distractions, my purpose here has been to study the conservation ecology of the urban eagle.
- The African Crowned Eagle is Africa's third largest, and widely distributed throughout forested areas of sub-Saharan Africa. Populations are declining in many regions. The environmental pandemic of humanity includes: deforestation, bush meat harvesting, and extensive persecution harming Crowned Eagles - activities which are all quick to be identified causing great loss of tropical biodiversity. However, in special circumstances, the landscapes of greatest human population density, the metropolitan city - may provide rare havens for some threatened species.



URBAN HAVEN

Human landscapes, particularly urban development, grow at the expense of wildlife and biodiversity. For a select few species though urban habitats provide rich pickings. In the metropolitan core a few paucal species such as pigeons, mynas and sparrows can be superabundant. Indigenous urban-adapting species are better represented in the suburban and greenspace areas. Where native predators adapt to urban challenges, these can be opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and meeting conservation goals.

Durban's suburban districts have been developed on rough topography, terrain intersected by river gorges and ravines flowing to the Indian Ocean. Nature forest has persisted in several gorges while habitat restoration and suburban landscaping has resulted in the afforestation of vast suburban sprawl. Oddly the invasive tree, Sydney Blue Gum, has a key role. The rapid growth, huge stature, and radial branching structure make Blue Gum an ideal nesting tree. The Crowned Eagle, African Fish-eagle, Black Sparrowhawk, and Harrier-hawk often nest in Blue Gums here. This large mosaic of greenspace

and suburbia appears to support great biodiversity in the metropolitan district, including more than 400 bird species, and medium predators such as Caracal and Crowned Eagles. Indeed Crowned Eagles appear to have exceptional breeding productivity in this environment.

Domesticated humans are invariably accompanied by companion animals, and plenty of them. The ever-present fear of losing a cat or small dog to a wild predator is part of life here. Speculations have been rife as to the frequency and ecological importance of posts to Crowned Eagles, so we developed a study using time lapse nest cameras. This method proved exceptionally successful and documented the prey choice of Crowned Eagles; much more efficient than legging the equivalent (over 1,500 days, dawn to dusk) of direct observer time, and accurately identifying the large prey animals.

In total, 12 nests and over 900 prey items have been recorded showing that despite close associations, domestic animals (mostly chickens) account for less than 6% of the total prey used to provide food for the growing nestlings in summer.



Photography by Shane McPherson

The male '15' has just arrived at the nest with the peas and headquarters of an adult Blue Duker - a type of forest antelope (4 kg live weight). '15' is also carrying a GPS transmitter.

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CROWNED EAGLE RESEARCH

For the last three years I have been based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg. Successful acceptance of the MSc thesis has precipitated a conversion to a PhD degree.

The final year in 2016 will make conclusions on population demographics, indicating atypically high productivity in this extremely modified landscape. Identifying threats to survival can improve conservation and mitigation goals. Currently, juvenile survival in this population appears at most risk from persecution, electrocution, and collisions with lines, windows and cars - all anthropogenic impacts. See more at [facebook.com/CrownedEagleResearch](https://www.facebook.com/CrownedEagleResearch)

Shane McPherson

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & CLIMATE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

SUBSIDIARY | CLIMATE | PEOPLE

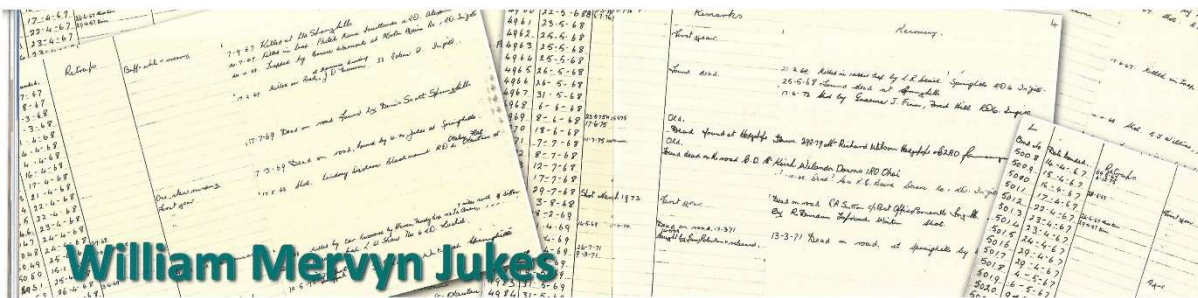
eThekweni Municipality - University of KwaZulu-Natal

Joint Research Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

PIETERMARITZBURG

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William Mervyn Jukes

Some fifty years ago, not far from Springhills in Central Southland, Mervyn Jukes, a local farmer and self-taught ornithologist, did something truly remarkable.

Over a period of seventeen years, working alone and in all seasons, he trapped, banded and released an astonishing 2163 harriers.

A true Southlander, born August 18, 1917 in Invercargill, Mervyn spent most of his early years at Hedgecove, where he worked on the family farm. Just before World War II, he married Helen Carmack, served in the Home Guard and in 1946 purchased a farm at Springhills. In 1948 he built a family home out of untreated pine. As he told his son Geoff, 'the birds were singing in it one day and I built a house out of it the next.'

Ever practical, he often made use of skills gained as a youngster; his early experiences of 'fencing' rabbits paid off when his first tractor was acquired through the sale of their skins. Unsurprisingly, it wasn't long before Mervyn, always a hard worker, was regarded as the best farmer in the district.

In 1936, some unusual birds found nesting on the farm were identified by ornithologist Barrie Heather as spur-winged plovers, at that time newly arrived from Australia. This discovery, and contact with another bird man, soon inspired an interest in bird study. Always a passionate advocate of the place of birds of prey in the natural world, Mervyn then went on to establish a banding program for Australasian harriers.

Unsuccessful at first with a caddis rabbit trap, but always looking for a better way of doing things, Mervyn tried a manually-operated 'cow net', then settled on a large, modified English rook trap made from pipe and netting. Set within sight of the kitchen window and cleared after each day's work, this trap, simple in operation, was immensely effective. Attracted to a bait, usually a dead animal, harriers found their way to the top of the trap, dropped through an entrance, and were unable to exit.

Mervyn's very first capture and journal entry is particularly interesting. In early October, 1963, he trapped an exceptionally rare, almost pure white harrier, L-3562, which was then occasionally seen around the district.

Over the years, the number of birds captured, banded and released steadily increased. Multiple catches, especially in autumn and winter with lots of inexperienced juveniles about, were not unusual. Mervyn once caught 14 harriers in a single day. A good number of birds, 220 in all, were also re-trapped, several on a number of occasions. Over a twelve-month period, a record-setting male was taken 27 times, sometimes on successive days. Some harriers were re-trapped over long periods of time. One dedicated survivor, banded as an older adult, was taken twice, an impressive ten years apart. Mervyn's journal also demonstrates just how dispersive some harriers can be. While most bands were recovered in Southland and Otago, others turned up in Canterbury, Westland and as far north as Marlborough.

His journal further illustrates the fate of some of those individuals. Most were recorded as 'dead on road', 'killed

in trap, or simply 'shot'. Several others, 'found dead', likely succumbed to disease, injury, or starvation. A few ended their days trapped in fences, were shot while harassing farm animals, or unwisely ingested strychnine.

In July, 1971, Mervyn renewed an old acquaintance when L-3562 was re-trapped at Tussock Creek, just a few miles south of Springhills. Almost miraculously, this individual harrier, so obvious in the landscape, had survived for eight years.

At about this time, always ready to share his long experience of banding harriers, Mervyn very kindly advised me on setting up a harrier banding program near Lake Kihimhi, Waikato. In turn, in the late seventies, I was delighted to combine Mervyn's experience with my own to assist Dr David Baker-Gabb when he banded harriers near Tangimoena, on the Rangitikei River.

From the day he banded L-3562, to the moment he captured his last harrier, Mervyn's fascination with these

wonderful birds never waned. And yet, by the summer of 1980, now in his early sixties, his work with harriers was drawing to a close. His last journal entry, dated July 6, 1980, records the banding of a large female, L-1370.

It is a great pleasure to now read through Mervyn's journal. His research, carried out over such a long period of time, unsurpassed in numbers, contains historic, irreplaceable data on the dispersal and mortality of harriers in Southland. It is a significant contribution to raptor biology in New Zealand.

William Mervyn Jukes, always helpful, pleasant in conversation, father of five sons, harrier man, passed away on September 22, 1991, aged 77 years. His house of untreated pine, built so many years ago, is occupied to this very day.

Lex Alfred Hadley



Photography by Deborah Hayward



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Birds of prey, as apex predators, live at the top of long food chains. Their presence, or absence, can indicate the health of ecosystems in which they live.

Studying what a bird of prey hunts and eats allows us to better understand how it interacts within the environment, and in cases where raptors are threatened or endangered, research can assist with conservation management.

WHAT BIRDS OF PREY EAT - BONE, FUR & FEATHER

Birds of prey are predators; they hunt and feed on other animals. Their diets consist of meat but also the fur, feather and bone from the prey they eat and, in some cases, insects too. This roughage is very important for a raptor's digestive system and necessary for its health.

PELLETS

Anything that a raptor can't digest it will cough back up in the form of a pellet called a casting. In the wild some birds of



A collection of pellets

Cast - To bring up indigestible parts of a meal. This is a very important process for a bird of prey as it clears out the crop and cleans bacteria from the crop walls.



Dissecting a pellet

prey can be hard to spot, and even harder to see hunting, so collecting these casts of bone, fur and feather is a very useful and effective way to determine a raptor's diet.

Once collected these pellets can be teased apart and the fragments of bone, fur or feather can be examined and identified.

REFERENCE COLLECTION - BONES AND SPREAD TAILS/WINGS

In order to correctly identify the prey remains found in pellets, or at the roosting and nest sites, it is useful to have a reference collection of known prey species. These can then be used for comparison as many feathers and bones can look very similar yet belong to different species.



Prey species study skins - reference collection



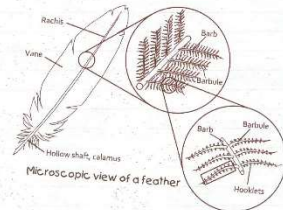
Prey species bones - reference collection

MICROSCOPE - SMALLER FRAGMENTS

Sometimes the feather remains are only tiny fragments, making them impossible to compare with a reference collection. Using a microscope to look at the barbs allows us to identify even the smallest of feather fragments.



Feather under microscope



RAPTOR RECRUITS

At Wingspan we're very mindful that children visiting the Centre are the future of conservation. Not only is it about educating these children, but it is also about getting them inspired and excited about what's in their own backyards. When we're no longer able to look after the wildlife it will be up to the next generation to ensure the environment is treated with respect.

As part of a new initiative, Wingspan has now started a section of its educational programme just for the kids.

Raptor Recruits. It is all about being protectors, working as a team and fighting extinction!

This educational drive is aimed to further engage kids while visiting the Wingspan Centre and to get them thinking about the dynamics of conservation and biodiversity. Over time Wingspan will be offering more fun activities, competitions, projects and take home messages for the Raptor Recruits.

Education booklets

This colourful 16 page booklet is coming soon to the Wingspan shop! It contains great information and fun activities that can be completed during your visit to the Centre.

As you complete certain activities you are sure to collect special stamps from the Wingspan staff and go in the draw to win a falcon soft toy. There is even a special Raptor Recruit magnet for those who finish the whole book!



Secret logo - Our Wingspan Raptor Recruits secret logo - look out for this around Wingspan as it indicates special activities or clues to questions in the education booklet.

Why couldn't the owl use the computer? It ate the mouse!



What birds spend all their time on their knees? (Hint: 10/20/20)



What kind of bird doesn't need a comb? (1 sea piece)

WHO'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?



Annual bird counts are a great way to keep track of species numbers and population sizes. By obtaining this kind of information we get an understanding of the health of an ecosystem and can find ways to better care for the environment.

Complete the checklist below to see how much biodiversity you have in your garden or local park. Find a nice place to sit and spend half an hour recording what bird species you see.

Do this once each season and see if you notice any changes in bird numbers.

Which birds are native?
Which birds do you think are introduced?

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12		9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16		13	14	15	16
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12		9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16		13	14	15	16
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12		9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16		13	14	15	16
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12		9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16		13	14	15	16

WHERE'S KOHA

Koha is a New Zealand falcon toy that even sounds like a real falcon! Koha is Wingspan's latest initiative to be a 'travelling ambassador' for his species, helping raise awareness of karearea. He is a fun educational tool to spread Wingspan's conservation messages and generally promote birds of prey.

We'd love to see what Koha gets up to!

So we'll be encouraging people visiting different locations around New Zealand, and across the globe, to upload photos of him onto the 'Where's Koha?' Facebook page.

Why don't YOU get your own koha today!

GET YOUR OWN KOHA TODAY!

At only 20cm high, and with realistic sound, Koha makes a great travelling buddy and interesting talking point.

How many different places can you take Koha to visit? Take photos and upload them onto Koha's Facebook page.

Where in the world will Koha be seen next?

Koha can be purchased directly from the Wingspan Centre or the online gift store at www.wingspan.co.nz

'Koha' - a New Zealand Maori word meaning a gift, or present.

HERE AND THERE

Raptor Award - Mary Staal

The Wingspan Raptor Award was first established in 2008 to recognise individuals, groups, and/or organisations for their outstanding efforts and contributions towards the research, captive management, public awareness (education) and rehabilitation of birds of prey in New Zealand.

In a surprise announcement, Mary Staal, of Rotorua, received the 2014 Raptor Award for her dedication

and tireless efforts toward raptors and promoting the Wingspan programme.

Mary has worked as a volunteer for eight years, contributing over 3200 hours of her free time to greet visitors and maintain 'front of house' each weekend. During week days, when not at Wingspan, Mary remains busy handing out brochures and discussing the importance of birds of prey with those keen to listen.

"Conservation and, *more in particular*, restoration and rehabilitation of our bioregions and ecological systems appear to be largely driven by volunteers. Wingspan is no different in this respect, but Mary certainly is!"

Congratulations are simply not enough – the award is the best we can give to Mary, and she keeps on keeping on!"

—Ruid Kienpaste



Recently a novel has been published and distributed in the Netherlands, 'Marian's Odyssey' written by Henri Patinck and co-authored by Mary Staal. Based on real life, it is a story of tragedy, drama, and action.

Always keeping Wingspan in mind, Mary suggested that her share of royalties from the book sales were to be contributed to the programme in celebration of the life of her friend Marian.

Onsite

In order to support and conserve birds of prey we need to understand them. We need to know what factors are limiting their long term survival and what actions can be taken to remedy the issues faced. Without question, research is vital to any conservation project. Wingspan is proud to hold the only research collection on birds of prey in New Zealand outside a University or Museum.

Autopsy Workshop – Under the guidance of professional taxidermist Noel Hyde, Wingspan staff had the opportunity to up skill and learn further about the autopsy of specimens.



This is important to gain information about cause of death, but also preserves specimens as study skins for the onsite 'research and reference' depository.

Wingspan People

New Adventures for some of Wingspan's staff

Many people visit Wingspan to experience the afternoon flying displays. For some, the visits have been multiple, and as a result they get to know our small staff team more personally.

At Wingspan we have a strong focus on our raptors, flying displays. However, it is also about our people, and in particular, we recognise and acknowledge the efforts and contributions of two of our staff:

Alison Lambertson

Alison had been Wingspan's Administration Manager for the last seven years, and a supporter of the trust since first established in 1992. Having more of a 'behind-the-scenes' role means that many of you may not have ever met Alison, but she has played a vital role in keeping Wingspan on the financial straight and narrow.

We would like to thank her for all the hours balancing books and saving receipts! It has been a pleasure having her as part of the team, and she will be missed!



Ineke Simts

The Wingspan staff are all very good at multi-tasking, Ineke's official role has been no exception, and over the past five years officially given the title in charge of PR/Communications, Ineke's artistic flair has kept our journal looking fresh, and most recently she has developed some fabulous education initiatives. Ineke, as a key staff member both in the office and outside, is never happier than when outdoors flying her birds.

You could say that she is 'spreading her wings' and venturing overseas to expand her work with birds of prey. We take this opportunity to thank Ineke for being such an integral part of the Wingspan family and journey. We wish her safe travels and look forward to hearing of her adventures!



Offsite

At Wingspan we know that awareness incites passion and knowledge, and leads to appreciation. This is why education and advocacy is fundamental to the Wingspan conservation programme. Our staff value opportunities to host talks and presentations off site, and further engage people in the community.



On the Wing – Museum Presentations In conjunction with the second urban release of falcons in the Government Gardens, presentations were given at the Rotorua Museum. (With a little help from Mojo, a seven year old male falcon, as an ambassador for his species).

Sir Peter Blake Youth EnviroLeaders' Forum 2015

Once again spreading environmental messages, Wingspan staff presented conservation initiatives to some of New Zealand's future environment leaders.



WINGSPAN WELCOMES VISITORS

Sharon Harris Shaarso

Ruid Kienpaste, Wingspan Patron

Levi Olley

Mike Chum Play It Strange

Brian Fair, Head of Currency, Reserve Bank of New Zealand

Nigel Barton with Binky

Wonderful place nestled away >>> Lash Rivendell

Two months since last visit, still great! >>> Brad, Zoe & Ella

Brilliant set up, beautiful birds and amazing staff >>> Philippa Stubbs

Had a great time. Glad we could help the conservation effort >>> Emily & Brad Rufus

If you like birds of prey, this is definitely worth a visit >>> John

Unexpectedly Awesome! >>> Dunedin Kiwi

We enjoyed ourselves so much that a return visit is already in the cards! >>> Iishwiler 1916

This was the best \$50 spent. (\$25 per person) on our Rotorua stay and we're spreading the word >>> nzcan4

Though a small unassuming set up, the work these passionate people do will blow you away >>> Happy 1811 027

To learn about these amazing birds and to be up close with them was magic >>> Paulin Mike

Visited Wingspan?
Head to Trip Advisor or Facebook to add your review. We would love to hear how much you enjoyed your visit!

LAKE CHALICE WINES
proud supporter of Wingspan since 2007

Help us continue helping them. With every case order on our website www.lakechalice.com we will donate \$25 to Wingspan. Just write 'Wingspan' in the order form where it says 'Middle Name'.

This advertisement is fully sponsored by Lake Chalice Wines.

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Volunteers and Acknowledgements

With only three full-time staff, volunteers remain a vital part of the Wingspan programme. This year Wingspan has recorded more than 551 volunteer hours on site. All of this work would not be possible without the support from a large force of volunteers and supporters! From avian cleaning and maintenance of the grounds, to tracking down falcons around the Rotorua Museum, Wingspan would like to thank all those giving up their personal time to help us and the conservation of birds of prey.

Wingspan would like to extend a huge thank you to the many onsite volunteers for their assistance with the daily jobs at the Centre:

- >>Den Hocking
- >>Stephen White
- >>Di Riedle
- >>Kayla Brett
- >>Lida Harteman
- >>Liz Koek
- >>Claudia Schultze
- >>Madhumita Kala
- >>Beverley Guy
- >>Pam Scott
- >>Vaseem Mirza



Dan Hocking Lida Harteman



This year Wingspan even had some visits from international helpers:
Hannah Edwards
 Australia
Laura Doudard
 France
Rachel Guiley
 Raptor Keeper,
 Birmingham Zoo, USA



There always remains the need for raptor food such as rabbits, hares, ferret pigeons and ducks. Thank you to the following people for helping keep our hungry raptors fed.

- >>Alan & Lyn Barnes
- >>Eastern Region Fish & Game staff
- >>Hilary Prior
- >>Nigel Wadhvani
- >>Gus Knipers
- >>Roni & Rebecca Watts
- >>Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Wingspan would also like to thank Black Stallion Photography for donating a lovely canvas of Atareta, raffled on Valentine's Day. LOVE Karearea.
 Winners: Harley & Dylan McDowell



- >>> A special thank you once again to Julie Parsons and her exceptional team of volunteers who have been busy tracking the falcons at the Rotorua Museum. Julie has been chief co-ordinator and our extra set of eyes to watch over the young released falcons.
- >>> A huge special thank you to Rachel Stewart of Taranaki, who has edited many of the articles for this year's journal edition.



Hacking it

Hacking is the term used to describe the release of captive bred raptors into the wild. Essentially, it is the construction of an artificial nest and release platform. The birds imprint on the hack box which provides shelter and secure protection, and supplementary foods are provided until the birds become independent and disperse into the wild.

 Sponsor: Eddie & Peter Craddock M.H. 37253 (left) - dark green (right) Release Site: Orangi	 Sponsor: Renee & Greg King King green (left) - Metal (K) 4388 (right) Release Site: Waipunga	 Kurangatoku Sponsor: Robert Farrel Metal (K) 10963 - Black (right) Release Site: Orangi
 Sponsor: James McCarthy M.H. 42274 (left) - White (right) Release Site: Orangi	 Para Sponsor: Rangi Kiriwai Metal (K) 43798 (left) - no band (right) Release Site: Waipunga	 Maia Sponsor: Robert & Prouse Skelton Orange (left) - Metal (K) 10899 Release Site: Orangi
 Sponsor: Maria Scraggs Metal (K) 43241 (left) - Yellow (right) Release Site: Orangi	 Bobbo Sponsor: The F. Woodborough School Metal (K) 43241 (left) - Yellow (right) Metal (K) 43241 (right) Release Site: Orangi	<p>BAND COMBINATIONS Left: leg loop band over lower band; Right: leg loop band over lower band Metal band key: The letter indicates the size of the band, combined with individual identification number.</p>

Wild Chicks

Every year falcon chicks are banded within Kaitiaki Forest. This is in-situ monitoring and conserving falcons in their natural habitat.

A band combination is unique to an individual bird and if a falcon is sighted and the band noted, important information about dispersal, pair bonding and age can be determined.

SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON
 Just \$20 to donate towards the research, banding and release of a wild caught falcon. See page 57 for more details.

'Rangi'
 Sponsor: Te Unga E2 Inc.
 Bands: H-30782 (left) - No band (right)

'Peggy'
 Sponsor: The Unga E2 Inc.
 Bands: H-30782 (left) - No band (right)

 Sponsor: The Unga E2 Inc.
 Bands: H-30782 (left) - No band (right)

 Sponsor: The Unga E2 Inc.
 Bands: H-30782 (left) - No band (right)

 Sponsor: The Unga E2 Inc.
 Bands: H-30782 (left) - No band (right)

'Haimanu'
 Sponsor: Wily Lockwood
 Bands: no band (left) - K-14280 (right)

 Sponsor: Clare & Robyn Bards
 Bands: K12316 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Miki & Kara Phillips
 Bands: K-14278 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Whanao Hahione
 Bands: H-32532 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Whanao & Laina Butler
 Bands: K-12316 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Nicki Tweedall
 Bands: K14275 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Kiriwai Parris
 Bands: K14284 (left) - No band (right)

'Alfie'
 Sponsor: Graham Cook
 Bands: K12316 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: James Loud
 Bands: K14286 (left) - no band (right)

 Sponsor: Judith Brown
 Bands: no band (left) - K-14285 (right)

 Sponsor: Julie Green
 Bands: black over yellow colour bands (left), Metal (K) 38368 (right)

 Sponsor: Andrew Gibson
 Bands: Metal (K) 38374 (left), Black over pale green colour bands (right)

SUMMER SUBANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

NEW VOYAGES 2015 AND BEYOND

Over twenty five years ago, Christchurch biologist Rodney Russ started a small family business on a way to create wilderness ambassadors who would advocate and support conservation efforts. The result is Heritage Expeditions, an internationally recognised leader in expedition cruising and responsible travel. Heritage Expeditions pioneered expeditions to the Subantarctic and Antarctica, the South Pacific and more recently, the Russian Far East on board the 50 passenger Spirit of Endurance.

Birding Down Under: The Definitive Subantarctic Adventure

18 November - 3 December 2015 from US\$574 per day
Experience the Albatross Lullabies of New Zealand and Australia's Subantarctic Islands. The Shag, Bounty, Antipodes, Campbell and Macquarie Islands hosts the most diverse collection of seabirds in the world. There is potential to see charismatic, feed Camels, Penguins, numerous Albatross species and more elusive birds such as the Magenta Petrel, the Campbell Island Noddy and the Auckland Islands Scaup.

Galapagos of the Southern Ocean: Penguins and Albatrosses

3 - 16 December 2015 & 20 December 2015 - 3 January 2016 from US\$547 per day
Explore the Shag, Auckland Islands, Campbell and Macquarie Islands, home to a range of unique wildlife including emperor penguins, great frigatebirds, albatrosses, Penguins, playful sea lions and more. Sea Kayaking available at additional cost.

New Zealand Subantarctic Islands

18 - 22 December 2015 from US\$587 per day
Look for the Shag, Tattler and Fantail as well as the Shag, wander your way around wildlife rich Endless Island and search for the endemic Campbell Island Flightless Noddy and Tropicbird among many other species.

Subantarctic Islands: In Focus

2 - 12 January 2016 from US\$507 per day
Enjoy a rare opportunity to join celebrated wildlife photographer Ted De Roy on an expedition to exclusively photograph New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands. Sea time will be spent on those islands in pursuit of the very best natural history images with Ted leading workshops designed to help you frame your perfect shot.

Contact us to request a brochure featuring expeditions in the South Pacific, Subantarctic, Antarctic and the East of Russia. Bird lists and expedition logs available on request. Pay in NZD - contact us for a rate today.

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Heritage Expeditions
Antarctica • Western and South Pacific
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

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Photography by Bruce Stalton Photography



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Julz ♀
Originally from Keingaroa (2008), found after breaking her wing hitting a deer fence. At just one year of age she laid her first eggs and has over the last five years successfully bred, and fostered chicks each season.

Gold: Chris & Enkhjargal Morgan
Silver Sponsor: Taupo Bird Rescue.
Bronze Sponsors: Charlotte Johns, K & V Ellis, Archeology Resources

Kaha ♀
Kaha came to Wingspan after having a surgery at Wellington Zoo. Initially found by a member of public, a metal pin was inserted to repair her broken right wing. She will likely become a breeding bird due to her restricted flying ability. Kaha was reportedly very "frosty" to zoo staff in Wellington, so was given the nickname "Kaha", short for Kia Kaha, due to her strong nature.

Sponsorship Available
Lee ♀
Lee was one of three chicks rescued from Keingaroa Forest during the 2014 breeding season. Brought in as an egg because the parents were struggling, he was raised at Wingspan before being paired up with Rita. At only 8 months of age, Lee became a father to three chicks of his own. He set a record as our youngest ever breeding falcon.

Absolute Sponsor: Beverley Guy
Millennium (aka "Millie") ♀
Regarded as our resident drama queen, Millie was originally bred at Wingspan and raised by the staff. Millie is one of our star performers at Wingspan delighting crowds in the daily flying displays.

Absolute Sponsor: Millennium Hotel Returua
Contributing Sponsor: Gloria Shruball

Mojo ♀
Captive bred at Wingspan, but rescued at one day of age after almost being killed by his parents. After having such a traumatic start to life, he is now an energetic and spectacular little falcon during the flying displays.

Absolute Sponsor: Kaimai Brewing Company
Ozzy ♀
"The Spine" is our oldest bird flown in the displays. Over his 11 years, he has been seen by thousands of visitors, and a fine advocate for his species. When he was very young he was described as being a bit shaky on his feet with an altitude problem, so he was named after Ozzy Osbourne.

Gold Sponsor: Andrew Masey.
Silver Sponsors: Paul & Tracey Vandenberg.
Bronze Sponsors: Majcraft Ltd, Charlie Foster & Tracey Wheeler, Hayden & Hamish Chapman

R2D2 ♀
Originally from Taupo he arrived at Wingspan from Massey Vets (Palmerston North) with a broken wing. Now paired with Julz, and since 2009 have successfully bred every year, and fostered other falcon chicks.

Gold Sponsor: Chris & Enkhjargal Morgan
Silver Sponsors: Graham & Blanche Lubbock.
Bronze Sponsors: Craig Irving, Caroline Rodgers, Sam Dunlop

What's in a Name

FALCONS

Alli ♀
Originally from Nelson, Alli has permanent injuries after being deliberately shot. Important for the Wingspan breeding programme, she has fostered eggs and chicks, and is now paired with Wink. **Absolute sponsor: Neel and Alison Lambert**

Atarefa ♀
The contortionist. Trained by Andrew Thomas and for the last six years has featured in the flying displays at Wingspan, amazing her audiences with her foot flight, lure work and manoeuvres on the wing. Named after the late Atarefa Maxwell. **Absolute sponsor: Kath McIndoe**

Ayoia ♀
She was found injured on a farm in Maungatua, Otago. She was unable to fly and had trouble standing upright. After training revealed she struggled to fly, she was paired up with Hamdam to form our second Eastern breeding pair. **Sponsorship Available**

Fovea ♀
Fovea was found as an orphaned fledgling in Mapara Forest. Fovea has been named after the part of the eye that is responsible for sharp central vision. Ironically, now, as due to her old age she has developed a cataract and has limited sight. Over her breeding years, she has helped us raise 23 chicks, (some as a foster parent rather than a full parent). **Gold Sponsors: Mark & Patricia McKenna**

Hamdam ♂
He was a rescued chick from Otago in 2013. He has been paired up with Ayoia to become part of the captive breeding programme. Hamdam is named after Sheikh Hamdan - the Crown Prince of Dubai, where falconry is still very popular. **Gold Sponsor: Andrew Christie.**
Silver Sponsors: Peter & Judith Nicholls, Graeme Smith.
Bronze Sponsors: Caroline Rogers

Icarus ♂
Found on the Napier-Taupo Highway, he was sent to Massey University in Palmerston North, who found he had a fractured right wing and was unable to fly. He is a young male, and we hope to pair him up shortly. "Icarus" comes from a Greek legend of a demi-god who flew too close to the sun and burnt his wings, leaving him flightless. **Absolute Sponsors: Hastings-Havelock North Kiwi Conservation Club**

Rita ♀
Found with a broken wing in Raihiti, Rita was brought to Wingspan after medical care at Massey Vets (Palmerston North). Unable to fly again, Rita has been paired with Lee and will play an important role in the captive breeding programme. **Gold Sponsors: Russell & Denise Maylin, Rosemary Banks**

Shaheena Tetsuko ♀
Shaheena meaning female falcon in Arabic, and Tetsuko meaning Lady or Steel. She lives up to her name, with many of the staff reluctant to even step into her aviary. After being hand raised and unable to be released, she loves Debbie and is used for advocacy on and off site. **Gold Sponsors: Catherine Pierard & Rupert Steinbeis, Garry & Erin Burt.**
Bronze Sponsors: Ilse-Marie Ert-French

Wink ♂
Wink was originally found in a nest in Waihoga, he was found with a stick protruding out of his eye! He has recovered from his injury and has retained most of his vision. He is now paired with Alli, and their offspring contribute towards annual releases in the South Island. **Gold Sponsor: Brian & Les Turner**
Silver Sponsor: Lindsay & Alison Moore
Bronze Sponsor: Brian & Vivian Mansel

MOREPORKS

Frodo ♂
In 2012, Frodo was rescued as an egg from the breeding pair Nestor & Wairuru. He has been hand-raised by Wingspan staff and is now used for advocacy work. With his short stature and hairy feet, Frodo of course has been named after the Hobbits in the film series "Lord of the Rings". **Sponsored by the Wingspan Team**

Nestor ♂
Amazingly, Nestor was found by a kayaker, as an adult bird, floating in the Tenggari River. After recovering in Waihiuroto, he was transferred to Wingspan to become part of the breeding programme. He has been named after one of the oldest and wisest of the Greek Kings, Nestor of Gerenia. **Sponsorship Available**

Wairuru ♀
In 2005 Wairuru was found with a broken wing in Taupo, brought to Wingspan and is unable to be released. Now paired with Nestor she is helping Wingspan breed and release morepork into the wild. **Silver Sponsor: Maxine Powick.**
Bronze Sponsors: Murray Horlor, Archeology Resources

Whisper ♀
Originally brought to Wingspan as a rescued egg from Keingaroa Forest in 2007, Whisper was artificially incubated and hand-reared. Wingspan nurtured the beautiful morepork at Wingspan, and is an excellent foster mother for other new chicks. **Absolute Sponsor: Edward & Wendy Goodwin**



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In Memory of DAVID EWEN GILMOUR

1963-2014



Photo by Debbie Stewart

Comedian, politician, biker, charity man, wessie, auctioneer, and a really bad dancer.

Best known as 'Ewen the Wessie' his career went into top gear as the winner of the Billy T comedy award in 1997, followed by some notoriety serving on the Waitakere City Council and the Waitako Onehero-Taakoa Community Board. Not just the funny man, Ewen will also be remembered for his sense of community, and genuine love of helping people.

For Wingspan, he helped fundraising as the MC and auctioneer for our 2008 and 2012 auctions, helping raise a total of \$40,000.

On one occasion Ewen gave us a call. "Hey, I'm gonna be down in a month to Wingspan for a bit of a 'bash', a bit of 'variety', I thought I'd bring a few mates to see the falcons". No problem Ewen.

The day arrives, one Ewen is loading two ambulances, two police cars, three buses, eight fire engines, fifty cars, and

120 of his friends in fancy dress. "You're in charge Ewen Gilmour ... take it away."

We celebrate Ewen Gilmour. Thank you for making us all smile, thanks for helping kids, thanks for helping Variety Bash, thanks for helping raptors, thanks for helping Wingspan ... now ... a Whisper away. Going to miss you.



Photo by Noel Mueller

QUICK FACTS DID YOU KNOW? WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST SINCE 1992! 23 YEARS OF RAPTOR JOURNEY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE	TOTAL KAREAREA NZ FALCON BREED AT THE WINGSPAN NATIONAL BIRD OF PREY CENTRE 81	Total number of birds of prey released 212	RESEARCH WINGSPAN HOLDS THE ONLY RESEARCH DEPOSITORY OUTSIDE OF A MUSEUM OR UNIVERSITY IN NEW ZEALAND. TOTAL NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PUBLISHED 42
EDUCATION How close to a threatened species?	THE WINGSPAN FAMILY OUR FACEBOOK LIKES 4,035	FLIGHT DISPLAYS OF FALCONS AND HAWKS 5,734	
NUMBER OF KIDS WHO HAVE HELD A KAREAREA FALCON ON THE GAUNTLET 47,368	TOTAL NUMBERS OF MEMBERS COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE 2,338		



Photograph by Michelle Murchison

Wingspan offers unique, once-in-a-lifetime raptor opportunities. Don't forget your camera!

Open daily 9.00am-3.00pm
 Best time 1.30 pm ready for
 2.00 pm Flying & Training Displays
 1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua
 Casual Visitors Welcome
 Group (10+) Tours by appointment
 Adults \$25.00, Seniors \$20.00, Children \$10.00

RAPTOR EXPERIENCE
 An extra behind-the-scenes hosted tour of the breeding, research and display facility with a Wingspan falconer. Perfect for those interested in a unique interactive experience in addition to the daily flying display. Bookings in advance please as the tour is limited to only six people daily.
\$100.00 per group (plus admission per person)

SCHOOL VISITS
 Wingspan offers a unique educational experience for students.
\$80.00 Group Tour Fee and then just \$8.00 per person.

DONATIONS
 If you wish to contribute towards the Wingspan programme, donations are welcomed.
 Donations of **\$5.00 or more are tax deductible within New Zealand.**

WINGSPAN MEMBERSHIP
 Wingspan membership includes the annual journal, a special Wingspan member's pin on joining, plus year round complimentary admission to the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre.
Individual - \$45.00 per annum; Family \$100.00 per annum (for couples and families residing at the same address)

SPONSOR A NEW ZEALAND RAPTOR AT WINGSPAN
 Name the bird, receive a colour photograph, free admission to the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre, and special acknowledgment in the annual journal. Subject to availability - Call Wingspan for more information.
Absolute Sponsor: \$1,000; or Gold \$500; Silver \$300; Contributing sponsors \$100.

SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON
 Name the bird, receive information on band numbers and combinations, a photo tablet, plus free admission to the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre. Subject to availability - Call Wingspan for more information.
New Wild bird sponsorships are assigned and mailed each year with the annual journal. \$200.00 per falcon.

LIFETIME SUPPORTER
 Includes the benefits as a Wingspan member and supporter, including lifetime subscription to the annual journal, special Wingspan pin and complimentary admission **\$1,000.00**

SPONSOR AN AVIARY/CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
 Sponsorship is welcomed for specific raptor research projects, rescued birds, breeding pairs, including naming rights. Formal registration and signage within the aviary facilities with logo branding. Specific project costs on application. Limited availability.
From \$5,000.00 per annum

NEW CENTRE DONATIONS & GIFT MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!

DISCLAIMER: If condition of an original bird sponsorship changes, the sponsorship will be nullified and open the opportunity to reassign sponsorship.

BEQUESTS AND SPECIAL MEMORIALS - BY ARRANGEMENT. PLEASE CONTACT THE WINGSPAN OFFICE.

How you can help

As a volunteer organisation and charitable trust, donations to the programme enable us to provide the research and education that we are passionate about. Our research and education people about our unique birds of prey.

Member # _____ **New** **Gift**

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Donate with a signed up for e-newsletters

Become a member and share the journey

Family \$50 Individual \$25 Lifetime \$1000

Sponsor a wild or captive bird

Wild bird status

Captive bird (from \$1000)

Make a donation

\$50 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Requests Contact Wingspan for more information

FAST PAYMENT OPTIONS

Online (secure server) by credit card
 www.wingspan.co.nz

Direct Credit (secure server) - Account # 03 5165 50607390
 Please send membership number and name of cardholder to: membership@wingspan.co.nz
 Send cheque to Wingspan, PO Box 993, Rotorua 3040

Please fold inleaf, with your personal details on the inside, and tape along the edge before posting

Wingspan Bird of Prey Trust
PO Box 993
ROTORUA 3040

Sender:

Fix Stamp Here

OWN A BLACK STALLION PHOTOGRAPHY CANVAS

RAISE MONEY FOR WINGSPAN

Black Stallion Photography has teamed up with Wingspan to offer high quality canvases of images captured at the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre.

Orders for A4, A3 and A2 canvases can be placed online via the 'Shop' link on the Wingspan website.

All profits from the sale of these canvases go directly to Wingspan to help them care for and rehabilitate injured birds, carry out research and educate more and more people about New Zealand's unique birds of prey.

Black Stallion Photography
www.blackstallion.co.nz

WINGSPAN
 BIRDS OF PREY FOR OUR FUTURE