

## Waikanae Estuary Newsletter

No 91 September 2014

<http://www.kapitibirdtours.co.nz/>

The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve is a Nationally Significant Reserve

*Waikanae Estuary bird tours 9051001*

### Swans



The nesting swans featured in last month's letter now have these three cygnets with one hitching a ride on mum's back. They laid five eggs, one of which didn't hatch and one of the hatched cygnets disappeared---three survived.

There is a lot of activity on the lagoons at the moment. There are six cygnets about two weeks old with very aggressive parents. The cob is intent on protecting his brood and is spending a lot of his time chasing the younger mature swans away from the youngsters. He comes up on the grass and has taken to running flat out with his feet helping to propel him along. Then out stretches his neck and if it can catch the other swan which is equally intent on getting away, will peck its backside. Then will go back to its brood and talk to its partner as it raises and lowers its neck. The young cygnets take this in and learn how to be aggressive.

There is also one other nesting swan on the same lagoon and this could mean trouble!

### Tourists

It's not the time of the year for many tourists although we had a lovely young lady from Italy who lives in Venice visit the other day. She was at Victoria University studying for four months. So she hopped on the train to Waikanae station enjoying the scenic ride from Wellington which we take for granted then on a local bus with the helpful driver to Barrett drive between the two lagoons to start her tour of the reserves. The weather was beautiful with sunshine and no wind. What a pleasure it is to show our wonderful area to a tourist like this. Twenty-four bird species were on show –this without really trying, the birds are just there for all to see. And the fact that there are lots of people, dogs, horses and cars about, works to our advantage, as the wildlife get used to all this activity and just stay put –not like on the larger lakes and estuaries where they will take off at the slightest disturbance.

The response I get from such people makes me realise what a delightful place we live in and I dare to say don't really appreciate.

## The Kapiti Coast Photographic Society's Estuary exhibition



The Kapiti Coast Photographic Society's exhibition was officially opened at the Paraparaumu Library by the Mayor, Ross Church, featuring world class photographs of the Waikanae Estuary.

Everyone was extremely impressed with the range and the quality of the work. The Mayor was very excited about the professionalism and range of the images - he even purchased one of Gavin Klee's images. Charles Fleming's daughter Mary McEwen was also present, and purchased one of Peter Beddek's prints. The food and wine kindly provided by KCPS members was fantastic.—Neil Gordon

### Red-billed gulls

The red-billed gulls like to vent their fury at times especially if there is food involved and other birds get in the road. This bird was taken at Waikanae quite a few years ago while the one on the right was shot at Hokianga Harbour in the far north by Graham Brown. How often do you get to see a bird's tongue?



**My new book is selling very well and is still available.**

[See last month's newsletter]

**Hits last Month—Twenty three thousand two hundred & ninety two**

***Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae***  
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking