

Waikanae Estuary Newsletter No 100 June 2015

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

The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve is a Nationally Significant Reserve

Waikanae Estuary bird tours 9051001

WE HAVE REACHED A MILESTONE WITH OUR ONE HUNDREDTH NEWSLETTER!

When I started to write my first newsletter I never gave much thought as to where it would lead me. I just thought it might be of interest to some people. Now, one hundred episodes later I realise just how popular it has become. People like to know about the daily lives, loves and family squabbles of our Estuary friends. I think looking at it from a lay person's point of view rather than from a scientific one, has been the key to its success, as having up to one hundred and seventy thousand hits on the web in a month, with around twenty to thirty thousand hits the norm does say something.



Over the last eight years it has led me to take my stories, through a power-point presentation, to thousands of adults and children from Wellington through the Hutt Valley to Hawke's Bay, to talk once a month on local radio Beach FM and weekly recordings on Access Radio. My second book features stories from my newsletters.

How do I celebrate? This I don't know, so I will just do what I do most months and that is to say to my wife Moira "I just haven't a clue what I am going to put in this month's newsletter". She always replies "something will crop up" and it does. Having local photographers send me their photos is a great help as it allows me to pitch a story around the photos and now and then someone will phone in with something of interest. Experts also help me with their scientific knowledge and encouragement.



What I do like are people from all over the world corresponding about the newsletters. For example, David from California sent me the article by New Zealand scientist, Dr Bishop about the native frogs not having tadpoles. I was able to correspond with Dr Bishop and learn more about them. Sarah from England informed me about the earlier sighting of the fernbird and a lady in San Francisco cried, after receiving my email about the demise of Henry the black swan and the breaking up of the eternal triangle. This is all very encouraging and exciting.

Photographs Roger Smith



MIK'S BIRDS

**There was a man whose name was Mik who lived in
Waikanae
He kept a watch on all the birds as they went flying by
Well, some lived at the ocean's shore
And some lived up the river
And Mik wrote up the stories here, he is so very clever**

**And one day Mik he had a thought - this is such awesome
fun**

**Why don't I share the stories here?
They're good for everyone**

**So Mik invited friends and neighbours, put it in the paper
Come join with me observing birds on land and wing and
water**

**There's ducks and geese, swans, herons, terns
And spoonbills sifting mud
Shags and pied stilts, oyster-catchers, gull flocks on the flood
Tui, warblers, swallows, pipers, and pukeko eating grass
Paradise ducks, kakariki parrots are calling as you pass**

**Later Mik with cup in hand was gazing on the view
Had a thought to make a book to treasure all year through
So now the word has got about of birds of earth and sky
And all the joy that's to be had with Mik of Waikanae.**

Deb Burton



Hits last month—Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Two

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking