

**Wellington / Kapiti, is the wild bird Capital of New Zealand, with more wild birds than anywhere else in the country!**

Thomas the Goose in Retirement from the estuary, at Craig Sheperd's Bird Rehabilitation Trust, Johnsonville.



What a grand retirement home for our 35 year old blind goose! Craig has had him for twenty-four months now and look how good he looks. He has lovely grass to walk on and nibble at, a fence to keep him safe, a blind mallard duck for company and a large pool to swim in. He always knows where he is as when he touches the soft netting he moves inward and when his feet hit the row of tiles around the pool, then he knows again exactly where he is. He spends his time on the grass or in the pool. In the evening Craig picks him up and takes him inside for the night, to a warm bed with shredded paper to lie on. There waiting for him is his supper in a large dish, with rice, kibbled corn, lettuce, grated carrot and a large water trough to bath in. And he also has his mate, the blind duck, for company.



Iris contemplating Thomas feeding.



Iris brought him some goodies to eat. He is looking good. Not bad for a 35year old blind gander, the step-father of 68 cygnets over six years. See newsletters No 79--78--77--76. and others.

Craig and Eileen getting up close and personal.



## Craig the 'Duck man'

I look after approx 450 waterfowl every year including ducks, ducklings, geese and swans that are mostly orphaned and sometimes injured. The people who I have met through this interest are amazingly helpful and caring. Through my water fowl care I have been on the board of the Wellington SPCA, I have worked at the Rena Oil Spill as a wildlife rehabilitator and I have become involved in all sorts of bird and animal related projects. I am the vice-chair of Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of New Zealand [WReNNZ] but equally as important I have become part of the Brown Teal [Pateke] Captive Breeding Programme. I have three pair of Brown Teal that are breeding and the offspring will be released to help repopulate New Zealand with this critically endangered bird. Out of all that I do with birds in my lifetime, my Brown Teal work if successful will make a difference for the future generations of New Zealanders. I love caring for my ducks, geese and swans.



To show your appreciation of what Craig has done for Thomas and others go to.

<http://www.duckman.co.nz/donate>.

This mallard duck has made the pot plant on Craig's patio it's nesting site for the last few seasons. At first glance its hard to see.



Craig on his back lawn with his feathered friends

Mik, Receiving the Mayoral Special Award 2015



Mayoress Vicky, Mayor Ross Church, Wildlife Photographer Gavin Klee. Michael and Moira Peryer.

**Hits last Month—Sixty Six thousand seven hundred & forty six**

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