



Photograph Deb Finn

This is what the little isthmus beside the weir looked like before the Waikanae Estuary Care Group planted it out in August 2007. It is where a herd of 42 cows ended up, munching up on the newly planted plants. This didn't appear to worry the plants very much, in fact, I think it was beneficial for them to get an early pruning and fertilizing. It cost the cow's owner a sizable donation to the Care Group .

[See newsletter No 68 October 2012]



Photograph Cherie Palmer

This is the picture postcard it is today.

Thought this may be of interest from locals holidaying in Spain.



We are Waikanae folk holidaying in Senxenxo, Galicia, Spain. We have walked from Porto and notice some very Kiwi things The wood pigeons look suspiciously like ours. Same size, similar plumage, but fly differently. The coast is also covered in many Pohutukawa. The Spanish believe they have a 400 year old Pohutukawa tree and they were the first to visit NZ. This tree is just north of us in la Corruna. Some say they took the tree to NZ first.

Graham and Bernadette

Pecking Order

Liz emptied out all the scraps left over from Mik's 80th birthday party onto her front lawn. In flew the large black-backed gulls and the little red-billed gulls, who started screeching and squabbling over the food, gobbling it up as fast as they could. The black-backed gulls hurried over and chased off the smaller birds. On the escarpment above the river where this was taking place, the boss of the hill, a ring-necked pheasant, strutted over and all the other birds parted and the pheasant had his fill. Even the large black-backed gulls kept their distance and if the pheasant made a move in their direction they smartly moved away. Pheasants have been living on this part of the river estuary for a very long time. Years ago one could be recognised by it's gammy foot, it had a limp. This particular bird lived for around ten years and raised many young. It would walk along the bank, stop every now and then, flap it's wings and crow as if to let everyone know this was his territory.



Photograph Roger Smith



The little black shags have been hunting the Waimanu Lagoon adjacent to the shag tree where I thought there would be no fish left for them to hunt, as the pied shags in the tree regularly fish there. Just shows that there must be more little fish in there than we realise.

Around four years ago I decided to write a children's book about true wildlife stories within the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve and the adjacent lagoons. I needed a conduit so that I could travel the length and breadth of the area talking to the birds and animals and getting their true stories. I settled on a seal as I needed it to be able to travel from Kapiti Island up the river then back down through the Waimanu lagoon to the Waimeha then back to the sand - spit where unfortunately the seal got chased off the sand by a large black dog, into the sea and back to Kapiti Island. I managed to finish the story before the seal went back to Kapiti. Finding a very good artist has given me the push to do something about it, apart from the fact that my time is marching on! This may be ready by Christmas -- not sure which one.

Thirty Nine Thousand two Hundred & Thirty nine Hits last month.

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae

Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking