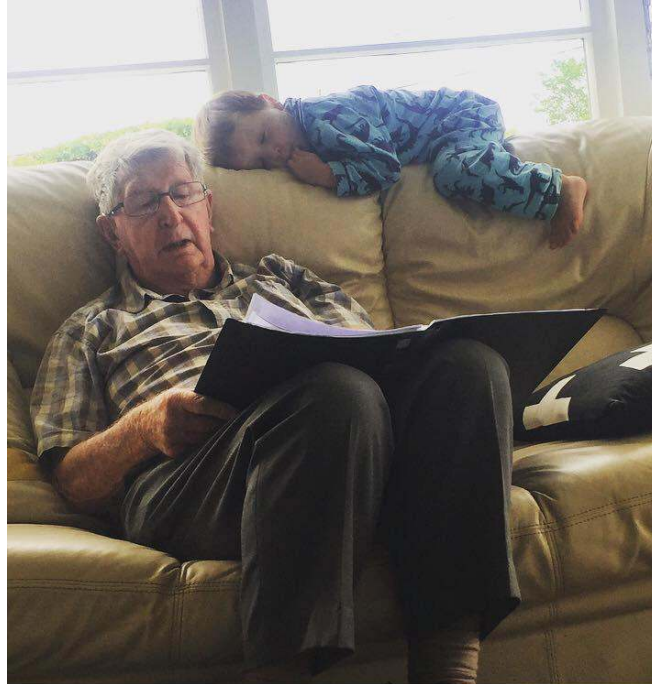


Waikanae Estuary Newsletter No 121 March 2017

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

Waikanae the wild bird Capital of New Zealand



Mik testing the draft of his new children's nature book on his great-grandson "Nico"

{ They are not both sleeping just engrossed. }

This book is well under way although it may be a month or two before it's published!

The goose in the photograph by Sue Barton, is looking very bad, apparently it has what is called "Angel Wing". This is something some birds get and I may be wrong but it must be akin to a human with a club foot. Apparently it has to live with it which is very sad as it can't fly, however it seems to be reasonable comfortable. Some birds end up with both wings outstretched.



**Falcon**The tui was in the top-most branches of the large tree and quite a distance below was what looked like a larger tui. A third tui flew in to land in the tree then pealed off and started to do the aerobatics tuis love to do. I presumed that it was a mating dance. The tui persisted diving towards the tree then away it would go, then back again. The second larger bird was not a tui at all it was a falcon and out of the tree it flew swooping low then away it went with its swift flight. The tui flew after it, keeping to one side, but the falcon was too fast and our tui was soon left behind. I really don't know what the tui was trying to do, chasing after the falcon. It was taking a risk if the falcon was looking for its dinner



Nga Manu Images

### Red-billed gull in distress

Two HUHA girls "Issi" the inspector and "Libby" her assistant very efficiently rounded up the injured red-billed gull, netted it and put it in a box supplied by Clive. Off to the vet it went. The red-billed gull didn't survive, having a broken wing and other problems, so it is not now suffering. It's very hard when an injured bird is spotted on the Estuary, everyone wants it to be nursed back to health then released back to the wild again. In a lot of cases this isn't possible as being wild birds they range far and wide and have to be in excellent health. It's the survival of the fittest that is the law in the wild.

HUHA

[Help U Help Animals]

k



Libby the HUHA girl

### Black Shag

We have had a black shag arrive at the Reserve that has shown no fear of humans and because of that it is in great danger of being attacked by a dog off the leash - as not all people control their dogs - or being run over by a car or even by a car door being opened as it's looking to be fed. Upon seeing a car arriving, as you can see in the photograph, it flies straight at the car then struts up to it and is looking for food. Realising it needed to be relocated to a safe place I contacted DOC. They picked it up and took it to the Wellington Zoo where they are going to assess it and perhaps relocate it to a secluded area with no humans about. This is what happens when humans with good intentions feed the wild birds and in this instance, this bird has become reliant upon them.

A friend spoke to a couple of KCDC people doing water sampling this morning. They reckon it might be a shag picked up about Xmas time (suffering toxic algae problem) which was sent to DOC, then to Makara and now brought back here because it originated from here and needs to return to its original home. Because of its treatment period it has become very familiar with humans.



**| Hits last month—Forty Eight Thousand six Hundred & Seventy seven.**

*Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae*

Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking