



Vanessa Owens our wonderful illustrator working on Mik's children's books "Kapiti Adventures of Sammy the Seal." Having finished the first and second, she is now well into the third of the series.

*"By Golly you lot pong" said Sammy
"No we don't" said the pied shag!*

Little black shags

There were four little black shags feeding right on the edge of the river where it was very shallow. Their backs were out of the water and they were scooting along on their feeding run chasing the little fishes.



photograph Colin M McKenzie

There must have been a school hard against the bank. Overhead were three redbilled gulls just hovering above the shags, following them downstream. I suspect they were hoping to be able to feed on any leftovers from the shags feast. Again we have an interesting interplay between the species.



Kingfishers

Kingfishers are like a magnet to our local photographers and others. They make such a good photograph with their lovely colouring and their swift darting flight as they dive for their food.

Isn't Roger Smith's photograph of this kingfisher a beauty!

Harrier Hawk



I wonder if this is the same harrier hawk that Pam Stapleton has been photographing sitting on a post on one leg? [see newsletter No 131 January 18] It looks as if it was favouring first one leg then the other. In Roger Smith's shot it certainly looks as though it has problems with its talons, with them crossed and looking unnatural.

The Shag tree

Look what has happened to the shag tree. It was eleven years ago that the pied shags found this healthy tree on the northern segment of the Waimanu lagoon. With up to eighty birds roosting most evenings and I don't know how many nests with young in, it is slowly being killed by the shag's corrosive dropping. At times there are quite a variety of other birds using this tree to roost in. We have kingfishers, starlings, sparrows, royal spoonbills, rosella, little shags and little black shags all in the tree at some stage or another.



Photograph Colin M McKenzie

My new Book "Eleven Years of Adventures on the Waikanae Estuary"

When my computer played up and I thought I may lose all my 133 newsletters going back eleven years, I decided to make them into a book. What a lovely book of 276 pages it has become with coloured photographs on each page! I have had 110 books printed, and sold them all in a couple of weeks. People indicated they would like a hardcover version. To get a very small print run with hardcover is extremely expensive, so I had half a dozen printed, which also sold straight off. I have another run being printed at the moment.

If you go back to newsletter No 134 April-- in the archives page, you will get all the information about the book.

Hits last month—Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred & Seventeen
Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking

New E/mail address -- michaelperyer@gmail.com.