

Frogs

For the first time in a long while, the frogs can be heard croaking within both the Waimanu and Waimeha Lagoon in quite significant numbers. I don't know what this is telling us, but it must be telling us something. I wonder if the local council is aware of this, as they are draining the lagoons, lowering the water level to get rid of the build up of weed and under water growth. Lets hope they are not also killing the frog's eggs. The birds rather like the water level to be reduced as it gives them access to the mud and goodies that were previously in water that was too deep.



Wikipedia

{ These frogs are Aussie Invaders See newsletter No 96 and 97--2015 }

Oystercatchers

Amongst other birds, the oystercatchers are breeding on the sand spit, with various pairs and their young. See photograph by Bob Cubin . These guys have only just hatched and the parent birds are not at all happy with the photographer and have been venting their disapproval in no small manor.



They crook their necks, display their large orange bills and squawk their loudest while running around in circles. If you turn away they will fly at you and whack you on the back with their wings-- they always attack from the rear. They are very brave and I bet they are also a little scared.

Just out of the eggs

Mik's Children's Books

I have finished my saga about Sammy the seal's adventures within the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve and lagoons, featuring over fifty species of birds over four books. The little children can take note of the birds and both the children and parents will be able to identify them, whilst strolling around the reserve.

My next children's book is a beauty, its all about the **lost cows of Kapiti.**

How can you loose forty two cows and where did they come from?

Another true story



The unveiling of the plaque commemorating Thomas the Goose's life at Waikanae



Photograph Roger Smith

Peta Mathias--Mayor Guru--Pinky Agnew -Mik- Craig Shepard

We had an unveiling of the plaque commemorating Thomas the goose's sojourn on the Waikanae lagoons.

The local council supplied a large bolder and set the plaque, supplied by the Waikanae funeral home, in place to be unveiled by Pinky and myself. The local Access Radio and their merry men set up a loudspeaker with Todd Zanner as the compere. We had the story told by yours truly. Craig told of the years blind Thomas spent in rehab at his bird rescue establishment, then Pinky recited her epitaph followed by Peta telling how she heard of the story whilst touring India and, as she was writing a book about exotic love stories, she accepted my invitation to come on down to the celebrations.

Guru extolled the fact that the birds showed love and tolerance which should be taken on board by us all.

After the unveiling everyone spread out their rugs and a communal picnic was enjoyed by all.



Photograph Roger Smith

Twenty two thousand and eleven Hits last month

This is the first newsletter for 2019 I only hope I can keep them coming, as I have for the past twelve years, with more stories about our feathered friends on the Waikanae Estuary and lagoons. Regards Mik.