

Look where my new book "The lost cows of Kapiti" has taken me!



Kerry the Farmer, Mik and Moira Peryer with Susan Wildblood, the wonderful book illustrator and the Te Horo school children.



### Te Horo School visit

In the top photo Kerry the farmer is dressed up as a cow and is telling the cow story, with me projecting the story up on the screen for all the kids to see. In the second photo, the kids were shown all about how the tanker transports milk from the farm to the factory and we have Kerry the farmer distributing milk to the children. When I penned the story of the lost cows of kapiti I had no idea where this story would take me! It has



taken me to most of the schools, kindergartens and pre-schools in the Hutt Valley, Levin, here on the Kapiti coast and beyond with my sights set on a lot more yet. I have found, apart from some local book shops selling it, if I call on local businesses I invariably manage to sell to the receptionists. In the short time the book has been published, I have shifted a lot of books! Note Kerry's cow head and hooves on the box.

Rose reading my cow book to Brendan in Yorkshire England. { *It does get around!* }



### **Little black shags**

The little black shags were featured in last months newsletter. They are still feeding within the Waimanu lagoons in packs, diving under the water and feeding on the little fish, of which there must be quite a number to satisfy this many shags. It is a regular occurrence, with the little redbilled gulls hovering over the shags hoping to be able to pinch the fish off them as they surface. It must work at times, as the gulls are quite persistent. We also have the Caspian terns fishing the lagoon regularly, diving from high with folded wings and sometimes catching a fish, although this isn't always the case. It's only the large Caspian terns who do this in the lagoons, the little white-fronted terns tend to stay out to sea taking their food around the breaker line, but sometimes checking out the lower levels of the river.

Here the little black shags are, resting in the shag tree after the feast.

Two pied shags resting on the footbridge. If you go really quietly you can walk slowly past them.



### **Swans**

The swans have hatched their five cygnets. They have taken them down from the top lagoon where they had nested, over the roadway to the bottom lagoon. Lets hope the mature swans on this segment of the lagoons leave them in peace and don't bully them, as they have the adolescent swans.

**Hits last month --Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty one.**

**Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae**