

## Waikanae Estuary Newsletter No 163 August 2020

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### Waikanae the wild bird Capital of New Zealand



#### **The Waimanu Lagoon.**

The local council has been lowering the water level of the lagoons to reduce the weed as the sun helps to keep it in check, also, they have been doing some maintenance to the weir and need the water level to be reduced to assist this. The reserantant bird population just love the reduced water level as it allows them to feed where before it was too deep, now, new mud with all the goodies birds love has been exposed. Around the perimeter of the lagoon there is a bank of lovely mud leading to the water's edge and allowing the birds access to the lower water and mud.

#### **New Swan Family**

The last couple of months I have been talking about the swan that lost it's partner just as her seven eggs were hatching. She hatched six, one egg left on the nest didn't hatch! Then one cygnet died a couple days later and two were taken to Craig's with injured legs. There is a lot of long grass and brambles where the mother swan had taken her cygnets and we think wading through this is how the cygnets injured their legs. This left one survivor. Then look what happened - something we had never seen before! Mother ended up with a boyfriend! Another male swan stepped into the breach and fostered the one remaining cygnet and its lone mother swan. The two swans and the young cygnet are inseparable.



The swan in the middle is the new step-dad.

Am I pleased to be back home --Thanks Janine





Elizabeth Taylor Photographs

### **Black Swan**

About eight weeks ago this swan was seen on the edge of the lagoon huddled up looking miserable and not moving, being attacked by the other swans. It had an injured foot and as they use their feet to help propel themselves through the water as they take off it could no longer get up enough speed to fly- it was in a bad state. Along came Janine who picked it up, put it into a large crate, and off to Craig Shepard's rehabilitation establishment it went to be nursed back to health by those wonderful caring people at Craig's. Bringing it back eight weeks later to the lagoons was a joyous occasion. It waddled out of the crate, onto the grass, then into the water it went. Once in the water it ducked under, up and down many times, getting a really good dunking, diving right under then up again. It was making up for the time it hadn't been on the lagoons and in the water. It then took off-- the first time in eight weeks! It flew just above the water back and forth quite a few times, just so happy to be back in its home territory. The other swan is looking on as much to say "What are you doing and where have you come from".

*Mik Peryer the birdman of Waikanae*

*Hits last month--Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred & Thirty Five.*

