



The Ashley

A Riverbed First



Left: Fluffy balls of fur, two wrybill chicks lie well camouflaged among the greywacke riverbed shingle. *Centre:* The curious wrybill, the only bird in the world with a sideways turning beak, breeds in the braided river beds of the South Island's east coast. The proposed Ashley Riverbed Reserve should go some way towards securing the future for this declining species. *Right:* Wildlife Officer Ken Hughey shows, from left, Nicola Stevens (pupil), Barbara Spurr (teacher) and Keryn Rickerby (pupil), wrybill food on the underside of a rock. Nicola and Keryn accepted the Young Conservator of the Year (1986) Award on behalf of their class. All photos Dean Kozanic.