



## Kiwi Club off to flying start

The new Kiwi Conservation Club was successfully "hatched" by Conservation Minister Helen Clark at a ceremony at Wellington Zoo in June. As well, branches around the country did their part in introducing the club to the media and people in their area.

The response to the club has been overwhelming, due both to the mail out we did with the May magazine, and also the fact that the club has a permanent slot on TV's *After School* programme. It may be a cliché, but it does demonstrate the power of TV – this time it's good to see "good news" making it on the TV screens. In a matter of a few weeks, literally thousands of children had written in to the Society seeking more information. Let's hope they all end up as members.

Special thanks have to go to the Conservation Department, who have done a tremendous job in helping the club in its juvenile stages, in particular Bev Abbot, DoC education officer at Central Office.

To judge from the letters from children, Forest & Bird's new club has tapped a deep well of concern for the environment. Considering that some of these children will be our land managers of tomorrow, it augurs well for the future.



Kiwi shares a reflective moment with Claire McSweeney after he was hatched by Helen Clark.  
Photo: Gerard Hutching

## Public to have their say

The result of the conservation quango review has been good news for conservationists.

More than 60 national park boards and conservation park advisory boards, plus various other quangos, have been replaced by around 20.

To replace the National Parks and Reserves Authority, the N.Z. Conservation Authority has been created. Forest & Bird, along with Federated Mountain Clubs and the Royal Society have a legal right to be represented on this important body. In the early days of the review, indications were that this legal right of representation would be dropped.

The Guardians of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri have been retained as public interest bodies dedicated to watch over the future of these lakes, threatened by the possible Government sale of Electricorp. If the corporation is sold, the West Arm power station will be as well, and control over lake

## Hands off South Westland

*A determined bid by the Forestry Corporation's regional manager David Hilliard to set aside some South Westland World Heritage forests for logging led to some top level lobbying recently by our resident kiwi.*

*Mr Hilliard, who has been sitting on the Blakeley Committee along with conservation representative Kevin Smith, has been pressing for logging of prime forests, including Hunt's Beach, containing one of the finest remaining kahikatea stands in the country. Just before a meeting of the committee, on June 7, members of Forest & Bird and the Maruia Society protested in front of the Forestry Corporation's Head Office in Wellington. Then kiwi, fresh from being hatched to launch the Kiwi Conservation Club,*



presented Forestcorp's chief executive, Andy Kirkland, with a letter expressing our concerns.

*We hope this last minute pressure may help in saving the forests, but the report of the Blakeley Committee is still to confirm that.*

levels might then be in the hands of a private company. Chairman of the Guardians, Dr Alan Mark, said it was encouraging to see the Government's faith in public input into decision making.

Finally, one of the principles of Forest & Bird's Tongariro Declaration – that national parks should be managed as single entities and not have their management decisions split between regions – has been adopted. This will mean, for example, that management decisions over the West Coast side of Arthur's Pass will be the same as those over the eastern half. Beforehand it was split between West Coast and Canterbury DoC management.

## Contorta Pine project

Tongariro National Park staff are again calling for volunteers in the fight against contorta pine on the slopes surrounding the park.

For the past 20 odd years volunteers have done a tremendous job in cleaning up the park after it was thought the noxious weed would completely take over. In some cases tramping clubs have been coming back year after year and have come to treat the job as a sort of holiday – the work is not too tough and it is certainly rewarding.

You will get to stay out (usually in tents) high on the mountain and at night there is always a camp fire and plenty of camaraderie. You will be supplied with food and assistance will be given with travel costs to Tongariro. If you feel you could help with this worthwhile project, write to Rob McCallum, PO Box 10, Ohakune.



Volunteers pulling contorta pine out on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. Photo: Gerard Hutching

## Books Received

### The Greenpeace Book of Antarctica: A

*New View of the Seventh Continent (Macdonald \$45.* Greenpeace have covered all the bases in this lavishly illustrated book: from geology, ocean animals, land flora and fauna, exploration, through to the conservation debate over the future of Antarctica. The photographs, maps and graphics are superb; Greenpeace have done the cause of an Antarctica World Park a power of good with this publication.

**Icebound** by Stephen Knight (Century Hutchinson, \$24.95). A blow by blow account of the trip to Antarctica which set up Greenpeace's first overwintering party. Knight is an independent journalist who is not afraid to question some of the conservation organisation's activities, but ultimately is fair in his approach. The insights into the treatment accorded Greenpeace by the US and New Zealand bases are revelatory of the unfortunate attitude taken by two members of the cosy Treaty "club".

**Extinct Birds** by Errol Fuller (Viking/Rainbird, \$59.95). This beautifully designed book starts with the depressing prefatory comment: "This is perhaps the last time that this subject will be approached both comprehensively and in a single volume. In 15 or 20 years . . . there will be just too many extinct species!" Any New Zealander reading the book will be disturbed to see how frequently New Zealand's name crops up in association with extinct birds. Let us hope we do not contribute to further extinctions.

### New Zealand Geckos: A Guide to Captive Maintenance and Breeding

by R.P.V. Rowlands (NZ Herpetological Society, \$5.00). A useful handbook for anyone interested in the subject. It makes the point that captive rearing is no substitute for saving habitat and warns would-be enthusiasts that only two species may be collected from the wild. Drawings of these would have been useful in identifying them. If you would like a copy, write to NZHS, 146 Carnoustie Drive, Manurewa, Auckland, including \$1 for postage.