

Introduced Fish

Your correspondent, Charles Clark (*Forest & Bird*, February 2004), says that while Fish & Game New Zealand has made 'much of the running in water issues' in the last few years readers should remember that introduced trout and salmon are predators on native fish.

Fish & Game signalled to Forest and Bird some years ago that it was prepared to help out where it could to protect the biodiversity of New Zealand's aquatic indigenous fauna. We have a long standing organisational policy prohibiting salmonid releases into catchments that have never had them before. And we do not have a closed mind to proposals for their removal in minor sub-catchments where a reasonable case can be made for that to occur on biodiversity grounds.

Yes, Fish & Game has focused on 'water issues', and Forest and Bird has joined us on some of

these initiatives; the most recent example being our 'dirty dairying' campaign to get the dairy industry to clean up its environmental act. For Fish & Game's part we have welcomed this 'strategically' approach with Forest and Bird as a very effective conservation tactic.

Water quality and stream flows protect trout and the pastime of angling, but also benefit indigenous fish and other recreational users. Recent Government documents identify 209,000 hectares of potential irrigation development (a 45 percent increase on the present) and 137 potential hydro schemes.

Surely we ought to be fostering and strengthening our strategic relationship when we face such powerful common enemies of aquatic habitat.

— BRYCE JOHNSON,

Director, Fish & Game New Zealand

Correction: the letter last issue was by Charles Clark, not Charles Garden.

Pig Damage

Since 1996, a volunteer group led by Laurence Gordon has managed over 800 bait stations in the Northern Pureora Mangatutu Forest to protect a healthy expanding population of kokako.

In this 2003-2004 season we estimate that 68 percent of the bait stations were ravaged by marauding wild pigs. Many bait stations were ripped from their mountings and a number were completely lost in the thick bush.

Investigations revealed that ARC pest control teams using talon in the Hunua Ranges had experienced similar problems with pigs.

We are left with the arduous task of repositioning all the bait stations up out of reach of the pigs — about 1.5 metres above ground. Groups around the country involved in similar protection work are well advised

to adopt this as standard practice.

— MIKE AND SHAREN GRAHAM
Waitakere Forest & Bird

Finding Places

The *Forest & Bird* magazine is really good and I look forward every time to the next issue. Sometimes I get a little bit 'homesick' for New Zealand because we lived there for one year.

Although I know New Zealand a little bit I always miss a little map with the area marked. For example where is Pauatahanui, or Manawatu Estuary, or Mangere Mountain? Please attach a little map to most of the articles in your magazine.

— ANDREAS WEBER *Switzerland*

Often, providing specially drawn maps is difficult for reasons of scale and space. Every effort is made to locate places through references in the text so they can be found in a New Zealand atlas.

Cunning sheep, that half merino and half synthetic breed.

It all started as a joke really. Someone said, "I wonder if you could cross a sheep with a polymer extrusion machine?"

See, we knew there had to be something that performed better than just wool or just synthetics.

The answer is 'Interwool design synergy': a bi-component fabric - fine merino wool and synthetic.

Performance bodywear greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Then of course we had to find a willing sheep, but that's another story.


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