



**FOREST  
& BIRD**  
MANAWATU

MANAWATU FOREST AND BIRD

# Twig and Tweet Gazette

October and November 2004

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Mayor Silent on Local Environment Issues

*"Being environmentally aware is often said to be too costly, but votes are still free."*

Your local committee has ferreted out PN mayoral candidates' environmental stances, using a survey with questions in six areas: community involvement, energy, green space, transport, waste, and policy. The entire survey is re-printed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Mayor Mark Bell-Booth chose not to respond to the survey, in a move that disappointed us. This came as a surprise, as the mayor has volunteered of his own time at tree plantings and other community-oriented environmental events in the past 3 years. Mr. Bell-Booth stated that the LTCCP document adequately stated his views on environmental issues in the city, and expressed concern that the wording of our questions indicated we expected respondents to be accountable for their answers.

Other candidates responded to the survey much more positively. When asked "What are the three primary targets you have for improving the natural environments of Palmerston North?" Marilyn Craig said she would enforce landscaping upon completion of building plans, promote waste reduction, and support the work of the environmental network in the Manawatu.

Michael Feyen indicated he would protect green space (including Pit Park) and provide ready access to it, support and ensure completion of the Bike Plan, and develop a sustainable energy project for Palmerston North. The project may include water-efficiency systems and solar energy capture.

Heather Tanguay stated she would implement the Greening Strategy for Palmerston North, implement the waste management policy following a round of consultation, and move forward with a recycling plaza.

Regarding transport, Ms. Craig advocated for a Council-run "hopper bus" service around the inner city, and a car pool policy for Linton and Ashhurst. Mr. Feyen indicated strong support for cycling and improved public transport in the city. Ms. Tanguay expressed ideas similar to Mr. Feyen's, with an added emphasis on neighbourhood links via walkways.

Despite the mayor's refusal, we feel the survey was a success, and sheds light on enhancing our natural and built environments. The candidates who did respond showed a high level of initiative and awareness about environmental issues, and a willingness to support community-oriented projects to improve the local environment.

### Stories inside:

<b>Speakers get a Reshuffle</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Advocacy Opportunities!</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Spring Calendar</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fun and Friends at Fensham</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>'Blue Zealand' Visits Palmy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>The Hoiho - rarest of all</b>	<b>9</b>

### Conservationist's Calendar

- **9-10 Oct:** *spring weekend workparty at Te One*
- **23-25 Oct:** *Enjoy Labour Weekend at Taranaki*
- **30 Oct:** *Spring workparty at Strahan Bush*
- **13 Nov:** *Spring workparty at Keebles Bush*
- **20 Nov:** *Day trip on the Rangiwahia Track, western Ruahines*
- **28 Nov:** *Welcome to the Birds at the Manawatu Estuary, phone Joan on 06 369 1277 for details*

## >>> the survey the Mayor refused to answer <<<

In a letter to Manawatu Forest and Bird dated 10 Sept 2004, Mark Bell-Booth refused to answer this survey. His letter cites several concerns, including his concern that we may expect respondents to be accountable for their survey answers. We most certainly do.

Marilyn Craig, Michael Feyen, & Heather Tanguay answered “yes” to each of the first 11 questions. Arshad Chatha declined comment on questions around green space and policy. Questions 12, 13 and 14 elicited thoughtful answers from each respondent, which have been summarised in the story on page 1 of this newsletter. Happy Voting!

### **Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird Vote for the Environment 2004 Palmerston North Mayoral Candidate Survey**

1. Will you actively support all Palmerston North councillors having to undergo training regarding the Resource Management Act?
2. Will you actively support implementation of the Greening Strategy for Palmerston North?
3. Will you actively support measures to promote public transport and improve public transport options?
4. Will you actively support retention of existing public green space and additional provision of green space in Palmerston North?
5. Will you actively promote the use of robust environmental performance targets, which go beyond measures of satisfaction, in PNCC State of the Environment reporting?
6. Will you actively support the PNCC Zero Waste policy?
7. Will you actively promote measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in Palmerston North?
8. Will you actively support the re-establishment of PNCC advisory groups, including the Walkways Advisory Group and the Cycle Advisory Group, by the new Council for another three year term?
9. Will you actively support PNCC adoption of the Pit Park concept plan?
10. Will you actively support the development of a regional park as an asset to the community, including a wildlife sanctuary in Turitea Reserve, passive recreation areas within Hardings Park, and multi-use recreation areas in the Gordon Kear Forest?
11. Will you actively support implementation of the Bike Plan (Council policy in the Transportation Management Plan)
12. What are the three primary targets you have for improving the natural environments of Palmerston North, and how will you achieve these three targets?
13. Inefficient transport is one of the most environmentally damaging factors within Palmerston North. What types of traffic demand measures will you actively support?
14. Community buy-in is essential to the success of a Zero Waste policy. How will you achieve community buy-in to the PNCC waste management strategy?

# Branch Night Speakers Get a Reshuffle!

all these presentations are from 7:30 pm at Te Manawa

## 12 October

~The QEII National Trust~

working with landowners to protect natural features on private land

presentation by **Peter van Essen**  
Manawatu & Wanganui QEII Representative



Peter's talk will provide examples of local covenant success stories, along with an overview of the structure and operations of Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and its covenanting capability. The Trust enables New Zealand landowners to permanently protect natural areas, landscape features, or archeological sites. The talk also will include an update on the work of the Trust in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region.

## 9 November

~Hot Property~

Habitat Selection by Saddlebacks and Robins on Ulva Island

presentation by **Kate Steffens**  
MSc, University of Otago

Kate has just completed her research into habitat selection by South Island Saddleback and Stewart Island robin on Ulva Island. Ulva Island is a small predator free island within Patterson Inlet, to which many species have been translocated including rifleman, mohua, saddleback and robin. Kate studied the settlement patterns since the translocation of saddleback and robin to look at preferred habitats to further our understanding of successful translocation. Come along for an interesting evening's talk~ about birds birds birds!



## 14 December

“Of albatrosses and the Falklands”

presentation by NZ Bird Photography Expert  
**Brent Stephenson**



Photograph by **Brent Stephenson**

[www.ecn-vdml.com](http://www.ecn-vdml.com)

© Brent Stephenson 2004

“Being able to participate in the John Ridgway ‘Save the Albatross’ Voyage in January 2004 was the chance of a lifetime. Forty-one days at sea in a 57 foot ketch, in one of the roughest stretches of ocean in the World - not many people can admit to being stupid enough to round Cape Horn on their first sailing voyage!”

“Not only were the birds and marine mammals amazing, but the crew, isolation, and risk of the whole journey made for an unforgettable experience. Being able to then spend six weeks on the wind-swept Falklands, getting to know the people and seeing the incredible abundance of sub-Antarctic wildlife was the icing on the cake.”

~**Brent Stephenson**

# Conservation Advocacy Opportunities

## MFish folds under industry pressure~ proposes ten-fold increase in needless slaughter of protected NZ sea lions

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is proposing to allow the fishing industry to annually kill over 598 of the world's rarest sea lions, which are unique to New Zealand, a ten-fold increase over the 2003 'kill quota' of 62.

"It's hard to believe a New Zealand Government ministry could countenance such a major slaughter of a protected New Zealand marine mammal species" said Forest and Bird's Senior Researcher Barry Weeber in a statement to media. Many of you will remember Barry from his excellent "Blue Zealand" presentation to the Manawatu Branch in August.

Each year the Minister of Fisheries sets a quota for sea lion kills. This year is the tenth anniversary of the introduction

of the kill quota. Barry proposes that instead of an annual kill quota, the Government should establish a marine mammal sanctuary around the Auckland Islands and exclude trawlers fishing for squid. Squid trawling is the primary killer of NZ sea lions.



Dianne Haist, your Manawatu Forest and Bird advocacy coordinator, has sent a letter on behalf of the branch to the Minister of Fisheries, clearly conveying our dismay at the choice to needlessly slaughter these protected creatures.

Should you wish to submit your own letter, the address is Hon David Benson-Pope, Minister of Fisheries, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Urge him to drop the neglect, start the respect, and really protect the protected marine mammals!

## ?? Cape Kidnapped ??

13 September 2004

### HELP US SAVE THE CAPE!

Cape Kidnappers Protection Society is challenging consent given by the Hastings District Council to allow the development of luxury accommodation within an area designated an Outstanding Natural Feature in the Hastings District Plan (section 12.2.1).

Despite this type of development being a non-complying activity and 77 times larger than allowed in the District Plan, a Hearings Committee voted 4-3 to give American billionaire Julian Robertson permission to build 24 chalets within the protected area, only 175 metres from the Black Reef gannet colony.

We are supporting the appeal to have the proposed development moved 400 metres south, outside the protected zone. A decision will be made in the Environment Court in October. To fund the legal battle to protect this area, and ensure the Hastings District Council abides by the District Plan when giving permission for future developments, we need YOUR help.

We are appealing for donations - big or small, private or corporate - to meet the legal costs of the Environment Court hearing. If you would like more information, or would like to contact us please email [help.us@savethecape.co.nz](mailto:help.us@savethecape.co.nz) or visit our website [www.savethecape.co.nz](http://www.savethecape.co.nz) Thank you for help - together we CAN make a difference!

Kindest regards,

**The Cape Kidnappers Protection Society**  
**Te Matau A Maui**

PO Box 1463, Hastings

## Urgent Call for Submissions Great Barrier Island Marine Reserve

2 October closing date!!

This reserve proposed for the east coast of the island is up against strong organised opposition from recreational fishers. Conservationists are urged to make submissions in favour of the proposal. In your submission, be sure to state that your submission is in support of the proposal. Here are some highlights of the proposed reserve:

- ∞ Home to over 80 sub-tropical and temperate fish species.
- ∞ Home to rocky reefs rich in biodiversity.
- ∞ Includes inter-tidal areas exceptional algal diversity.
- ∞ A buffer against potential fisheries management errors outside the reserve.
- ∞ A rich source of fish for adjoining areas which will remain available to fishers.

Submissions via email to:

[greatbarrierisland@doc.govt.nz](mailto:greatbarrierisland@doc.govt.nz)

Submissions via fax to:

09 377 2919

Submissions via post to:

Director General of Conservation  
DOC Auckland Conservancy  
Private Bag 69-908

## ~ The Spring Events Calendar ~

### Weekend of 9–10 October Te One Bush, Kawhatau Valley

Fancy a weekend of fresh air, fun and fulfilling hard work? Come and join the Te One team. Sycamore control is our aim for this beautiful, river terrace, bush remnant, at Te One, in the Rangitikei region. Sycamores will need to be pulled out, lopped or sawn, and poisoned using glyphosate or Vigilant.

Gear required: tough, waterproof gloves, loppers, pruning saws - whatever you are able to bring. You will also need warm and waterproof



The Kawhatau Valley

clothes (just in case), a warm sleeping bag, a pillow case, your own breakfasts and lunches, and food to share for an evening meal.

Enjoy staying in a beautiful old colonial homestead, with an open fire, and convivial company. Give Sally Pearce a call on 06 359 4326, or email to [sallylpearce@yahoo.com](mailto:sallylpearce@yahoo.com), for further information. Looking forward to hearing from you. We need to know numbers, by the weekend prior to the trip, to allow for the organization of transport and accommodation.

### Labour Weekend 23–25 October A Taranaki Experience

Excursion organizer Henk Jenssen promises a fun-filled and diverse weekend exploring the natural wonders of the Taranaki region. If you've wanted a chance to see Taranaki with some natural history experts and friends, this is the trip for you!! Give Henk a ring today on 06 357-4877 as it is essential that he get your name and a deposit for lodging bookings as soon as possible. See you there!

#### *options a plenty!!!*

Are you unable to make the dates we've set, or just keen to find out about other conservation activities in the area? The Environment Network Manawatu runs a great calendar of local conservation events, ring 356 8199 ext.7780 or go online at:

[www.environmentnetwork.org.nz](http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz)

### Saturday 30 October~ 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Work Party at Strahan Bush, KIWITEA

Swing into spring with a Forest and Bird workparty!! Following on from last autumn's successes, we'll be traveling again to KIWITEA (near Kimbolton) to continue cleaning up a bush patch at the edge of the rising downlands of the Manawatu. Plan to bring a smile and a pack lunch~ gloves, handsaws, and pruning shears won't go amiss either! Give Brent Barrett a ring on 06 357 6962 for details, or just show up at the PN council carpark (Church Street across from NZ Post and Fat Ladies Arms) at 9:00 a.m. on the day to catch the carpool. See you there!

### Saturday 13 November~ 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Keeble's Bush workparty

Having warmed up our bush patch fixin' skills two weeks prior, we'll pay another visit to an old favourite spot, and one of the best examples of native bush just on our door. Keeble's Bush is a fantastic nature reserve just south of Palmerston North that boasts some massive specimen trees and a long history of loving care from Manawatu Forest and Bird among others! Gloves and gumboots and tools please. A carpool will be leaving from the carpark in Church Street across from NZ Post, and plan to return by 1 p.m. Give Peter van Essen a ring on 355 9076 for details.

### Saturday 20 November~ 9 a.m. start Rangiwahia Track and Spring Flowers

Enjoy a daytrip on one of the most beautiful parts of the western Ruahines with our own Vic Vercoe (a.k.a. the orchid man). An experienced trip leader, Vic is sure to offer lots of colourful stories about the Ranges and the wonderful array of native plants you will find there. If the track is still closed by slips, Vic will have lined up an excellent alternative so the trip will go ahead! If you plan to go, give Vic a ring on 06 357 5419 to find out details. A carpool will be available from the carpark in Church Street across from the NZ PostShop. Sturdy footwear, water, and warm waterproof gear are advised. Bring a friend, it'll be a fine day to introduce them to forest and bird (and Forest & Bird)!

## Fun and Friends at Fensham

**7 August 04.** On a sunny morning, 8 members of Manawatu Forest and Bird headed for Carterton, under the able leadership of Alan Hawkins. Upon arrival, we met Mike Lynch, along with Geoff and Jenny Doring (all of the Wairarapa Branch of Forest and Bird) who were to be our tourguides for the day. Our goal: Fensham Reserve: 31 hectares of native and regenerating lowland bush just 5 km from town centre. Along with 18 hectares of adjacent pasture land, the reserve is owned by Forest and Bird national office. Public access to the reserve is encouraged, with picnic tables, toilets, and a 1 hour board-walked loop track.

On entering the reserve's forest, the success of the Forest and Bird volunteer's management activities and the significance of the forest were immediately clear, with a dense undergrowth shadowed by taller

specimens of Totara, Beech, Manuka, and Kahikatea (including 2 giants!). With funding from the Greenwood Trust, many plants have been labeled to help the public (and us Forest and Birders!) to an improved knowledge of native plants. Approximately ½ way through the walk there is a lookout area with great views of low lying farmland and up into the distant ranges.

While birdlife seems to be minimal during our visit, wetter areas with the forest are apparently home to the rare mudfish. Bats are also reported to inhabit the forest. Outside of the forest, some wetland areas have been overcome by the invasive plant sweet blue grass, in particular fed by the nitrogen excesses in farm run-off. Some success in controlling this plant has been had by planting native carex grass to compete for space and light.

One day per year, the public are invited to join the Wairarapa branch in planting at the reserve. As this was that day, these people were lucky enough to receive our hearty moral support!! After lunch at the reserve, we followed Geoff and Jenny for a drive to their off-the-grid home, where we were shown the solar panels and windmill this couple use to generate electrical power, and had a pleasant chat over a round of hot drinks. All the comforts of home, with none of the power bill~ what a great experience!

All in all, this was a most satisfying day seeing a healthy and growing forest block owned by Forest and Bird, and having the excellent opportunity to be guided through by a friendly group of like-minded conservationists.

~contributed by  
Chay Cotter

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## Does Central Government Seek to Gut the RMA?

While the media outlets regularly feature soundbites of New Zealand government saying they will not gut the Resource Management Act (RMA), evidence gathered by Forest and Bird head office staff suggests otherwise. As a refresher, the RMA is the only really useful tool in the environmentalist's legal toolbox, in that it gives everyday people like you and me the chance to help ensure that proposed developments are done in an enviro-friendly way.

Now much maligned as damaging to business and blocking the national interest, central government has decided to give the RMA a re-write. Forest and Bird acknowledges that the RMA can be improved, for instance with additional resourcing for local government to deal with large consent applications. What we are concerned about is changes allowing "Think Big" type projects in the "national interest" to over-ride local environmental concerns.

When the NZ Herald (16 Sept 04) asked Associate Environment Minister David Benson-Pope if **local environmental concerns might have to give way to the national interest**, he said: **"It is not inconceivable that in major nationwide infrastructural projects, the national interest might be the predominant factor."**

Erosion of local say over environmental matters is of very serious concern to Forest and Bird. After all, most environmental damage is in fact local, to your streams, your lakes, your mountains, your estuaries, your forests, your wetlands, and your seas. To allow a return to "Think Big" projects is a major step backwards in policy by central government.

*Forest and Bird supporters are advised to write to central government leaders and express their concern for the future of clean and green NZ if a gutted RMA is ram-rodged into legislation.*

# Welcome!

A warm welcome to each new Manawatu Forest and Bird member, we look forward to seeing each of you at our branch meetings, work parties, and excursions soon!

- ∞ R M Aitkenhead
- ∞ Ginny Barker
- ∞ Jason Blair
- ∞ Mrs Fay Butts
- ∞ Rebecca Fitzpatrick
- ∞ Ms Kaori Fumoto
- ∞ Ian Langstaff
- ∞ Jo McVeagh
- ∞ Kevin J Wells

## Manawatu Committee Contacts

ideas or questions~ we love hearing from you!

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Donald Kerr	353 7631
<b>Secretary &amp; News:</b>	Brent Barrett	357 6962
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sally Pearce	359 4326
<b>Feilding Contact:</b>	Alan Hawkins	323 0583
<b>Membership:</b>	Peter Herbert	355 8212
<b>Conservation Advocacy:</b>	Dianne Haist	354 2626
<b>Work Parties:</b>	Jane Carver	355 8212
<b>Kiwi Conservation Club:</b>	Caroline Percy	021 264 2789
<b>Annual Programme:</b>	Viv Nicholls	353 2305

Our email address is [forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com](mailto:forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com)  
If you are online, look at the national Forest and Bird website, [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) and locally hosted website [www.environmentnetwork.org.nz](http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz) for more information

Thank you to Christine Thomassen for the fishy artworks created on this newsletter!! ~the editor

## Kaitiaki and Conservation

The September branch night featured a unique opportunity to learn about the history, current state, and future of Maōri perspectives on conservation in New Zealand.

Todd Taiepa, the PN City Council's Maōri affairs coordinator, presented a talk on the history of settlement in New Zealand, and the attitudes of indigenous people both toward the loss of homeland and identity, and toward their conservation.

Todd spoke openly about what sustainability means to indigenous people, and how it is strongly tied to relationships

among people, and between people and land, and the need to maintain the integrity of those relationships.

Questions from the audience included a desire for insights into local iwi perspectives on the Manawatu River, and the continued debate over the foreshore and seabed.

Todd gave a very open presentation, which was well received by the audience and has served to open a lot of minds and to foster new opportunities and ideas for creating positive links between conservationists, whether they be Maōri or pakeha.

## Happy Birthday!!

### "Twig and Tweet Gazette"

Celebrating a full year of bringing you local, national, and global conservation news and views in the Manawatu!

#### Save your Trees & Postage Fees!!

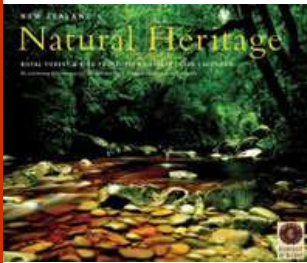
If in future you prefer to receive the FULL COLOUR edition of your newsletter by email rather than on processed trees, send a request to [forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com](mailto:forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com)

Our friends at **Environment Network Manawatu** (ENM) online host your newsletter at <http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz/>. ENM is an umbrella agency for environmental groups whose role is to encourage and support initiatives in the Manawatu area that have benefits for the wider community. Interested? Contact **Adie Leng** on (06) 356-8199 ext 7780 or [econet@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:econet@pncc.govt.nz)



## ~Forest and Bird Merchandise Available~ stylish new t-shirts along with 2005 calendar and diary set

You have a great opportunity to get into the spirit early this year, and favour your family and friends with all good things Forest and Bird. Yet again, head office has organized the production of a spectacular full-size calendar and image laden diary set for 2005. The wall calendar features stunning pictures of Stewart Island, Taranaki, royal albatross, and whio among the twelve.



The 2005  
calendar



The 2005  
diary

The diary, featuring a tui and golden kowhai flowers on the cover, is organized in a “week at a glance” format, with a gorgeous nature picture on facing pages. Calendars are \$14, diaries are \$23. Both come with mailers.

Forest and Bird t-shirts with a great new design featuring the words “protecting our wildlife and wildplaces since 1923” are also now available. The shirts



are a high quality type, available in either a blue fitted shirt for women (shown above), or a sage coloured unisex shirt. The t-shirts sell for just \$35, and are a fantastically fashionable way to promote Forest & Bird.

Ring Sally on 359-4326 to place your order today!

## ‘Blue Zealand’ Sails through Palmerston North

Ever had a look beneath the waves of our blue seas? Barry Weeber, a Forest and Bird staff member spends every day doing just that~ by investigating NZ fisheries reports and policies. His work is a major part of the marine conservation campaign run by Forest and Bird, and is regularly featured in national media outlets.

We considered ourselves really lucky that Barry joined us at our August branch night, and gave a multi-media presentation on the current state of our fisheries. In case you weren’t one of the 80-odd who could attend on the night, you should be told that our NZ fisheries are in a shocking and sorry state.

Barry recently completed a

comprehensive review, looking at fish stocks, by-catch, death of marine mammals, and other impacts on the environment. He is now campaigning to get the information out to the public and to government.

The facts are, not one of the 60+ fisheries in the southern oceans gets a green tick, each has a failing on one or more of the environmental quality marks. For instance the squid fishery not only brings tasty calamari to the table, it also kills hundreds of sea lions and other marine mammals because of the use of trawling rather than jigging technology.

Forest and Bird is putting a huge effort into educating the public on this matter, on the

premise that consumer choice is a major driver for fisheries, and that a market for “clean green” fish can be used to lure the fishing industry away from it’s current heading and toward environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Barry’s talk had a fantastic amount of detail, vivid graphics, and a strong message~ while we fight to save the kiwi on land, we must also focus real effort on that part of New Zealand that contains most of our biodiversity~ the Blue Zealand beneath the ocean seas. For more from the campaign, including a guide to healthy consumer and policy choices for our precious oceans, ring head office or check their website.

# Ruahines in August

Up at dawn

Full moon wondrous on horizon sinking

Frost still **settled** on the lawn

Climbing, tramping --- mind is thinking

First hill sets the heart pumping

Majestic **Rimu** --- survivor of the changes

**Ruahines** --- pulse and muscles thumping

Climbing through damp flora of the ranges

Sidling tree lined saddles, searching for deer

Crownferns, **Rata**, Horopito, Totara all around

Sliding down steep tracks into the clear

Senses alert to the life in **nature** found

Down to the riverbed, always on guard

Carefully **crossing** the cold mountain stream

Rock to rock with access barred

Waterfalls cascade --- white waters gleam

One way past --- rock face to **traverse**

Pulling, crawling, climbing straight to the **peak**

Satisfaction, conquered --- situation adverse

Hanging **ropes** --- decline not for the meek

Abseiling down into wet trees

Hands seeking the safety of knots to hold

Racing of **heart** and shaking of knees

Swinging from light and into the cold

Now racing against **time** and light

Back to where we started from, before dark

Speed, **urgency**, tired mustn't lose sight

One more hill --- struggled up into carpark

Elation, Wonder, **Adventure** beyond compression

Wet, Tired, Aching, but complete **satisfaction**

by **Mary Lewis ~ August 2004**

Provided courtesy of Alan Hawkins

A pair of hoiho (*Megadyptes antipodes*) return from a complete days feeding in the Southern Ocean. Also called yellow-eyed penguins, the hoiho are endemic to New Zealand, which means they are found only in New Zealand.

## The World's Rarest Penguin

My first sight of a yellow-eyed penguin was from a cliff-top hide near Oamaru. It came surfing in from the wild southern ocean, scrambled in the shallows to get up on its feet, shook itself dry, and after a quick glance along the deserted beach it toddled off towards its roost for the night. Some time later another of these tall handsome birds came in from the surf, followed by two more, then another all by itself. Eventually all five penguins had marched up the beach on their sturdy bright pink feet and disappeared into the coastal scrub. The Maori knew their piercing night time calls to each other and named them hoiho "the noise shouter".

The hoiho is the least social of all penguins. It prefers privacy and treks a long way to find it - secret nesting and roosting sites have been found up to 1 kilometre from the ocean. Perhaps there's a reason why they keep to themselves: the hoiho is the only member of the *Megadyptes* genus and is thought to be the descendant of the first penguins that lived in New Zealand 27 million years ago!

-story by **Rae Nicholls** and art by **Chris Thomasen**

