

Hawksbury Lagoon update November 2018

As I write this, it is clear from all the lambs and blossoming trees that spring is here once again. I do think this past winter has been rather mild, making the trips to town not the sometimes nail biting experiences that they can be. At the Hawksbury Lagoon we are seeing small fluffy bundles making an appearance, there are already six mallard ducklings just below our place with alert parents keeping a watchful eye out for predatory gulls. I don't think that there as many ducklings and cygnets as usual though and it is hard to know why. Our project to prick geese eggs continues for the third year running, in an effort to manage the increasing numbers. I was surprised after speaking to several people over the past few days to be told by some of them that they had never walked the lagoon causeways. As you'd expect I suggested that they would find it a very pleasant and interesting walk, especially on a lovely sunny day. I seem to spend too many words in these articles telling people to not do this or that (I'm sure you know what I mean) but really our aim is to have people enjoy visiting the lagoon and to appreciate the natural environment and its wildlife, right here within our midst. After seeing the terrible weather events which other parts of the world seem to be experiencing on a regular basis, we are so lucky to live here in a relatively safe and temperate climate. I hope those of you who haven't explored some of the areas of interest within this coastal area will take the opportunity over the next few months to do so, there is lots to see and do, including walking the lagoon causeways and heading down to the beach. At our planting day last month, we carried out replanting on the Maori easement, which was a much easier task than planting on the causeways. We look forward to seeing the area regenerate over the next few years.

For those of you getting My Food Bag we would be happy to use the compostable wool packs which are included, on our next planting day ?March. They are ideal for placing around the base of the shrubs. Just collect them up and contact me after January next year ts.mckewen@gmail.com or 4657499.

Shirley McKewen

Chair

Hawksbury Lagoon committee