



# WHAT'S UP DOC?

March 2024



Image: Warren Simpson, DOC

## 26-year-old bat could be Aotearoa New Zealand's oldest

Meet 'T7787,' a long-tailed bat matriarch that's just been awarded the title of Aotearoa New Zealand's oldest known bat!

She was caught this summer as part of an ongoing pekapeka monitoring programme in the [Eglinton valley, Fiordland](#), and determined to be a record-breaking 26-years-old.

Our Principal Scientist, Colin O'Donnell, leads the bat monitoring work and remembers catching T7787 back in 2000 when she was a young mother. She's since produced a pup every year for 20 years and will now be the matriarch of many bat generations. Despite a few grey hairs she seems to be in good overall health, and is showing signs that she's now stopped breeding.

The old age of T7787 indicates that predator control in the Eglinton valley is having a positive effect on long-tailed bats in the area. Prior to 2000, the population was declining by 5% per year, but that has been reversed and is now growing by 5% thanks to large-scale predator control using trapping, bait stations and aerial 1080.

[Read more here](#)

## Connect with nature

### Pureora Hunting Competition

Dates for this years competition have been announced, so get set to hunt deer and pigs from 16 March through to the prizegiving on 28 April.

[Read more.](#)

### Round fin, call it in

Seen Hector's dolphins? Public sightings alerted us to two Hector's dolphins in the Firth of Thames, and helped us determine where they originated from.

[Read more.](#)



Image: DOC



Image: Jan McGillivray ©

## What to do in a wildfire

Larger, more intense wildfires are on the rise in Aotearoa. Here's how to prevent and respond to them, just in case.

[Read more.](#)



Image: DOC

## It's Whio Awareness Week!

We are excited to be celebrating Whio Awareness Week on 18-24 March. With less than 3,000 whio left nationwide, we need your help to spread awareness and share the whio feels!

Genesis Energy has partnered with us since 2011 to ensure the survival of whio through the Whio Forever Recovery Programme. Follow @WhioForever on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates and more information on how to get involved this Whio Awareness Week.

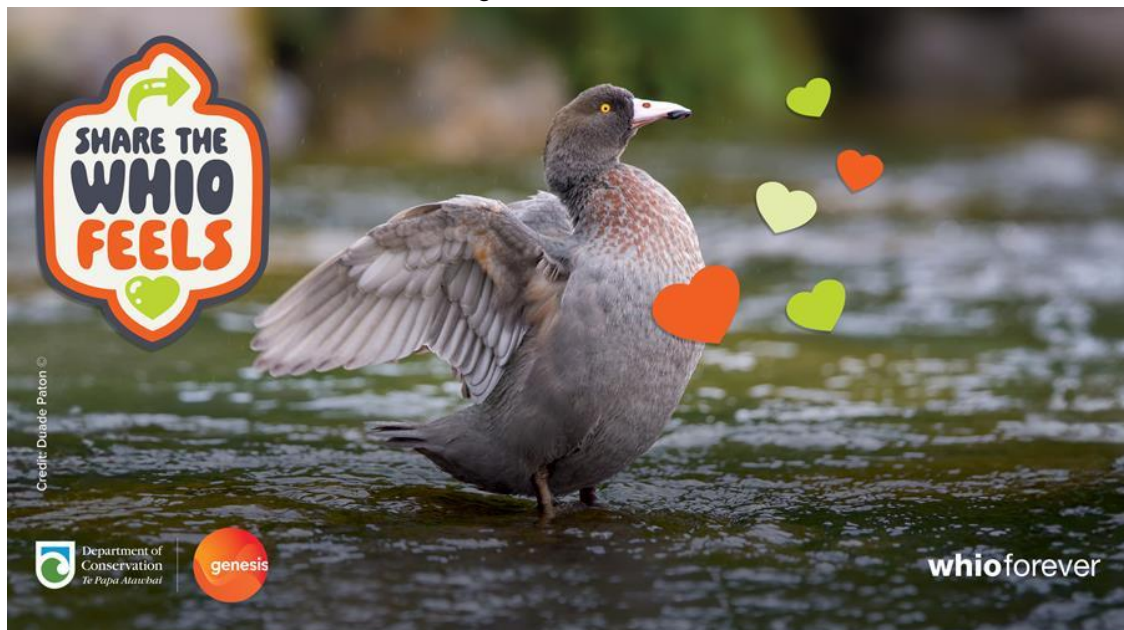


Image: Duade Paton ©

## Read about our work

## Plastic kills albatross chick

A 10-day-old toroa/northern royal albatross chick has sadly died from ingesting soft plastic regurgitated by its parent.

[Read more.](#)



Image: Dunedin Wildlife Hospital ©

## Scholarships for tech

New biodiversity technology and data analysis projects stand out in this year's successful DOC scholarship applications.

[Read more.](#)



Image: Sabine Bernert ©

## 19 gulls dead from attack

A suspected domestic dog attack has left 19 native tarāpunga dead in Kaikōura, prompting us to remind everyone to keep dogs under control in coastal areas.

[Read more.](#)



Image: Andrew Walmsley ©

## Native snails in trouble

We have some of the most spectacular land snails in the world, but a recent report shows they're sliding to extinction.

[Read more.](#)



Image: Maria Brooks ©

## Watch our DOC stories

## Get packing for the TAC

Planning to trek the Tongariro Alpine Crossing? Here's what to take with you to have a safe and enjoyable day out.

[Watch here.](#)

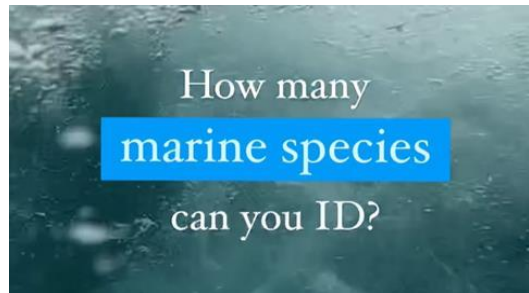


Video: DOC

## Think you know your fish?

How many marine species can you identify in this footage from a recent research dive in the Long Island - Kokomohua Marine Reserve?

[Watch here.](#)



Video: DOC

## Plight of the Southern NZ Dotterel showcased in short film

[Southern New Zealand dotterels](#) are one of the rarest birds you've never heard of. A constant threat of predation by feral cats and other introduced pests has put overwhelming pressure on the species, resulting in them being declared 'Threatened – Nationally Critical.'

In April 2023, there was estimated to be only 126 birds remaining.

A new short film showcases the plight of the Southern NZ dotterel, and the passionate rangers that drop everything to protect them. Watch the trailer for 'Underbirds: The Fight to Save the Southern New Zealand Dotterel' [here](#).

A big thank you to our supporting partner, [the NZ Nature Fund](#), for helping make the work of the Southern Dotterel Recovery Programme possible.

[Watch trailer now](#)



Video: University of Otago

## Listen and learn more

### Sounds of Science podcast

Dr. Andrew Digby does a deep dive on the science of kākāpō management, recalls weird behaviour he's observed, and explains some of the big challenges the population are facing, including disease outbreak and low fertility.

\*\*This is only part 1, so more kākāpō chat is on its way!

[Listen to Episode 30: All things kākāpō with Andrew Digby, part 1.](#)



Image: DOC



## Photo of the month

We were sent this photo of a soggy kea having a preen outside Moturau Hut after a decent amount of rain hit the Kepler track. Weather can be extremely changeable this time of year, so make sure to pack your wet weather gear if you're heading out on an adventure.

 : [Alison Match](#) ©

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