The newsletter for local people helping science, the region and the environment

friends OF CAWTHRON

NEWS | NOVEMBER 2009

Welcome to the first edition of the *Friends of Cawthron* community newsletter

Friends of Cawthron is for people wanting to support science, the region and the environment by helping Cawthron.

Through this newsletter we aim to keep you in touch with how grants, donations, bequests and sponsorships are used as well as give you some of the latest events happening at Cawthron.

It was a love of science and the foresight of Nelson philanthropist Thomas Cawthron that led to the establishment of the Cawthron Institute, now a world leader in aquaculture, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The man behind the name had a nose for business and a thrifty nature which helped Thomas Cawthron build a fortune that he shared, usually quietly, with the community. He was known for helping anyone in genuine distress, paying the medical bills of poor families and willingly supporting disaster relief funds.

Cawthron had a successful career as a shipping agent, trader and merchant investor. Once he retired he turned his attention to philanthropy. When the Nelson Institute Library and Museum burned down, he gifted 500 pounds towards its rebuilding. He also bought and gifted the Lukin Collection of Maori artefacts to the Institute and supported efforts to establish the Nelson School of Music, gifting and lending money and donating a pipe organ.

Cawthron financed the construction of the Church Steps, paid for a section of the chains and posts along Rocks Road, and financed extensions to Nelson Hospital and the building of a nurses' home. In 1913 he bought and donated 1000ha near Dun Mountain to the city, to be known as Cawthron Park.

But perhaps the gift that he is best remembered for is when he died in 1915 leaving the residue of his estate for the establishment of an "industrial, technical school institute and museum", to be named Cawthron Institute.

It is in honour of his philanthropy and to further support science, the region and the environment through the philanthropy of others, that the Thomas Cawthron Charitable Trust was established. The Thomas Cawthron Charitable Trust receives donations, grants, bequests and sponsorships to support the work of the Cawthron Institute. The financial support can be used through scholarships for student researchers, doctoral fellowships, or to support specific projects.

Cawthron Institute is a publicly owned, independent, research centre committed to supporting the balance between New Zealand's economic interest and the need to preserve our unique environment for future generations.

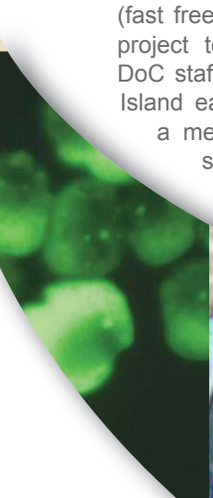
Your support as a *Friend of Cawthron* will help us to invest back into the environment and back into science to support our community.

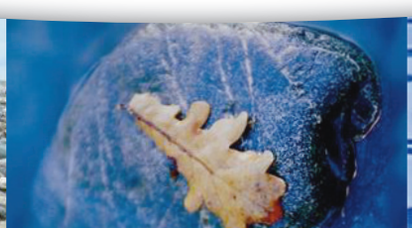
McKee Trust Helps the Kakapo

Three years of generous donations from the McKee Trust are helping Cawthron scientists to assist in kakapo conservation.

Preserving the diversity of the kakapo gene pool is a major goal of DoC's kakapo recovery program – and Cawthron scientists are assisting through their specialized expertise in cryopreservation and sperm biology. The McKee Trust has provided a total of $45,000 to fund Cawthron's investigations into cryopreservation (fast freezing) of kakapo sperm while DoC is also funding the project to the tune of $20,000. A Cawthron scientist joins DoC staff and avian sperm expert Dr Juan Blanco on Codfish Island each kakapo booming season to help with developing a method for freezing the kakapo sperm, assessment of sperm from different males and artificial insemination. A cryopreservation bank has been established and it is hoped that in the future these samples can be used for artificial insemination. Serean Adams says it's physically exhausting and demanding to do such technical work 'in the bush' but something they feel proud to be part of; "We know that the sperm survive freezing and thawing in terms of viability (i.e. live/dead) but the real test is to one day get a live chick born from the cryopreserved sperm. That's what we're aiming for". It's a long pro cess, as not only are specific cryopreservation techniques being developed and adapted as they go, but the trials also have to fit in with kakapo breeding seasons, which are dependent on the irregular fruiting of a critical food source, rimu trees. DoC's latest assessments show that the Cawthron kakapo team will have to wait at least until the summer of 2011 for the next breeding season and further trials.

Cawthron's skills in sperm cryobiology are assisting DoC in preserving the genetic diversity of kakapo. Photo credit: Don Merton





No Flies on Arnie

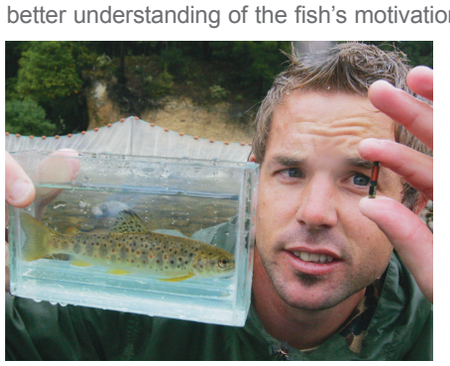
What do Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Cawthron Institute have in common?

The answer is a love of trout. For Arnie, it's all about fishing for them and for Cawthron it's about preserving the stocks, and studying their life and habitat. And the two collide seamlessly in a worldwide fly fishing charity that Arnie and many other famous and generous fly-fishing fanatics support called the One-Fly Challenge Trust.

Jacob Lucas inserting a PIT transponder into juvenile brown trout in Rainy River.

Put simply, a group of these philanthropic fishers get together in various locations here in New Zealand where they pay to take part in a competition using only one fly to try to catch the most and largest fish. The day's festivities usually end with a fund-raising auction.

The One Fly Challenge Trust then looks for valuable and relevant causes to donate their funds to and happily they chose Cawthron to progress a project researching the movements of Brown Trout in the Rainy River, a secondary tributary of the Motueka River. Their generous financial donation of $5,000 helped fund Otago University master's degree student Jacob Lucas to tag and then study movement of 300 fish using special antennas with help from a Cawthron and Fish & Game team. While adult brown trout return to the Rainy River each year to spawn, little is known about when and why the juvenile fish leave the waterway. Cawthron Institute freshwater ecologist Dr Roger Young said the project provided crucial information about the importance of Rainy River brown trout in replenishing stocks in the Motueka River downstream. "If we can get a better understanding of the fish's motivation for leaving their spawning grounds it will also provide information which could help in the management of water resources." The data has now been collected and initial indications are that juvenile trout reared in the Rainy River make a substantial contribution to the world famous fishery in the Motueka River. The One Fly Trust funded research will now be incorporated into a wider Integrated Catchment Management study on the Motueka River this summer.



Jacob with transponder and tagged trout ready for release back into Rainy.

Glenhaven Popular with V.I.Ps

The new Glenhaven Aquaculture Centre, north of Nelson is getting a lot of attention in the coming months. Opposition Leader Phil Goff will be making a visit to Cawthron on the 10th of December. After a briefing he will be taken on a tour of the new Centre. The Rotary Club of Nelson will also get to see how the new large-scale oyster nursery at Glenhaven operates when they visit on the 18th of February next year.

Wine Testing

Cawthron's new laboratory service for export certification of wine got the once over by two MPs recently. Food Safety Minister Kate Wilkinson and Colin King MP were excited to be able to see the lab in action, certifying wine destined for the European Union.

Boulder Bank Clean Up

Earlier in November over a dozen Cawthron staff plus Nelmac management staff braved the wind and headed down to the Boulder Bank to pick up rubbish. They managed to cover a huge area - all the way from the Glen township to the sewerage treatment plant and then along Boulder Bank Drive to SH6. There wasn't that much litter on the bank itself, but just behind it or in estuary areas where things collect there were plenty of plastics and the odd vehicle part!

Friends Membership Form

I/We wish to join the Friends of Cawthron

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode:_____

Email: _____

The Friends membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

- ☐ $25.00 Student or Senior
- ☐ $50.00 Individual
- ☐ $100.00 Family

Thank you for becoming a *Friend of Cawthron*. We value your support and will be in contact with you shortly. Please make cheques payable to *Thomas Cawthron Charitable Trust* and post to Cawthron Friends, Private Bag 2, Nelson 7010.

- ☐ I / We enclose a donation of $_____
- ☐ Cheque
- ☐ Credit Card - VISA / Mastercard / AMEX / Diners

Expiry date: __ / __ Signature: _____

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If you would like to discuss sponsoring a student scholarship, supporting a research project, making a donation or leaving a bequest, or if you would like more information, please contact:

The Secretary
Thomas Cawthron Charitable Trust
Ph: (03) 548 2319 ext. 390
Email: board.secretary@cawthron.org.nz

All donations are tax deductible within normal allowable limits.

- ☐ Please send me information on how I can leave a gift in my Will and invest in the preservation of our unique environment.