

Confused chicks need helping hand

By EMMA DANGERFIELD

With a very successful translocation programme nearing completion, road users around Kaikoura are being asked to be vigilant and keep an eye out for fledgling hutton's shearwater chicks.

Huttons Shearwater Charitable Trust treasurer Lindsay Rowe said chicks were easily disoriented in wet conditions and were inclined to mistake street-lighting shining down on the wet road for moonlight on the ocean.

Once they have landed they cannot take off again, he said, making them susceptible to being

hit by vehicles or attacked by cats and other animals.

Vanessa Chambers, of Seal Swim Kaikoura, and Cameron Shaw of Whale Watch Kaikoura found 16 chicks over night last Thursday, one of which had been injured by a cat.

They released nine of them and took a further seven to Mr Rowe, who was going to take them back to the peninsula colony and put them back into empty nest boxes where they would recover and have another go at flying the nest when ready.

In previous years as many as one hundred chicks had been found in one night, he said.

If anyone comes across fledgling huttons shearwaters on the roads around town, they are asked to take them to the Conservation Department (DOC) office on Ludstone Rd in the first instance, where there is a drop box specifically for the chicks.

The box is checked each morning and DOC staff will ensure their safe release, either back to the colony or directly out to sea.



Further hutton's shearwater story Page 8

Confused: The community is being asked to keep an eye out for young disoriented hutton's shearwater chicks on the roads. This chick is one of several rescued by Vanessa Chambers, left, and Cameron Shaw, on Thursday night. Photo: EMMA DANGERFIELD

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11			12		13		
14	15			16		17	18
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24							25

ACROSS
 1. Near or foreseeable future (6)
 5. God Defend New Zealand is ours (6)
 9. The Black Stilt is the only NZ bird of this species (6)
 10. Remove outer covering (6)
 11. Long Indian dress (4)
 12. Nazi symbol (8)
 14. Go beyond (6)
 16. Dreary (6)
 19. South Island ski field (8)
 21/22. New Zealand winner of Australian Idol (4,6)
 23. Downhill ski race (8)
 24. US pilot who was first to exceed speed of sound, Chuck ___ (6)
 25. Visible, but distant (6)

DOWN
 2. Strait north of Stewart Island (7)
 3. Slope (7)
 4. Become familiar with (3,4,2)
 6. Idiots (colloq) (5)
 7. Extreme bravery (7)
 8/13. Long-running comedy duo (7,3,6)
 14. Type of bet (4,3)
 15. For many years, NZ's favourite model of car (7)
 17. Maintain (7)
 18. Pua (7)
 20. Superman actor (5)

SOLUTION 1398
 Across: 1. Cooch, 4. Absell, 9. Seatoun, 10. Unite, 11. Icon, 12. Madeira, 13. Ivy, 14. Oban, 16. Crew, 18. Ask, 20. Top Town, 21. Ache, 24. Elite, 25. Imitate, 26. Matata, 27. Entry, Down: 1. Cossie, 2. Ottago, 3. Hoop, 5. Blue duck, 6. Edifice, 7. Leeway, 8. Enemy, 13. Indolent, 15. Baptist, 17. Stream, 18. Anvil, 19. Remedy, 22. Chart, 23. Dice.

Complete this crossword and bring it into the Kaikoura Star Office by 3pm next Wednesday

Name

Phone

Address

Congratulations winner of crossword 1398 Hinga Fell

Each week's winner will go into a monthly draw to win a prize from Paper Plus Kaikoura

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'Go to' man will be sorely missed

By SAM MORTON

Police are investigating if speed or alcohol was a factor in a crash that killed Kekerengu man Ian Walls early on Saturday.

Mr Walls, 55, best known as "Chubb", was killed when he crashed his vehicle on State Highway 1, about three kilometres south of Ward.

Tasman District police communications manager Barbara Dunn said Mr Walls had left a house in Ward at midnight on Friday.

He was found a kilometre away from the house by landowner Lindsay Green about 8am on Saturday.

Mr Walls' vehicle ended up on its roof in a paddock. It is believed his body was flung from the vehicle. He was the only person in the vehicle, Ms Dunn said.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash.

Members of the serious crash unit from Nelson were at the scene during the weekend, investigating the cause of the crash. Mr Walls' body has been taken to Nelson for an autopsy. This would help the police investigation which would look at whether speed, alcohol, fatigue or mechanical errors played a part in the crash.

"The break in timing [of the crash] suggests the man was left for hours, before he was found by the landowner," Ms Dunn said.

A friend, Ian Partner, said Mr Walls would be remembered for his love of crayfish and his passion for the Crusaders rugby team.

His death had left a big hole in the small community of Kekerengu, Mr Partner said.

"He was the 'go to man' in the town, someone with the tool box to fix anything, big or small. Chubb was that real sort of character every community needs, you know someone who was respected and loved by everyone."

Mr Partner met Mr Walls about 15 years ago, when "Chubb" first stopped at his petrol station in Ward to fill up. Regular visits sparked a friendship and they soon became best mates, he said.

"We got to know each other and realised we had mutual interests in rugby, rugby league that sort of thing.

"After that we used to go out and do things together quite a bit. He was really easygoing and we'd often be winding each other up."

He fondly remembers fishing trips near Kaikoura with Mr Walls. The pair would go out on Mr Walls' boat, and wouldn't return until they had a bucket full of crayfish, Mr Partner said.

"His knowledge of the sea was incredible.

"Chubb would know to the nearest square foot where the cray was. He was unbelievable.

"He will be sorely missed, that's for sure."