

## Appraisal Report

**Public Office:** Department of Conservation / New Zealand Film Archive  
**Scope:** Unappraised film items held by Archives NZ created/received by the Wildlife Service of Department of Internal Affairs, and continued/inherited by the Department of Conservation.  
**Disposal Type:** One-off appraisal  
**File Ref:** 2007/4244

### Appraisal Circumstances

Archives New Zealand is currently undertaking a project to appraise material that has been received by the organisation, but not yet appraised and accessioned for public availability.

This is an appraisal of 487 film and video items sent to Archives New Zealand in 1999, from the New Zealand Film Archive as part of a larger transfer<sup>1</sup>. As they were not authorised for transfer at the time, they were kept in temporary storage and have remained unappraised until this time.

The material has been assessed by the Senior Audio-Visual Advisor and an Archives New Zealand Appraisal Section staff member for their long term value.

### Description

The material offered for appraisal consists of:

#### Films:

346 films, videos of varying formats generated or received by the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs<sup>2</sup>, dating from 1955 to 1982. They have various provenances, including the National Film Unit, Wildlife Service, New Zealand National Mountain Safety Council, and Television New Zealand (TVNZ).

There are also a small number of items created by international organisations (BBC, National Geographic), that were received and used by the Wildlife Service. While it is difficult to ascertain how these items were used by DOC, the most likely scenario is that they informed documentary staff within the National Film Unit and the Wildlife Service on current developments in film making.

#### Rushes:

141 unedited rushes (working prints of the film related to a subject or time) of native birds taken by the Wildlife Service on New Zealand's outer Islands (Adams Island, Chatham Islands etc). These are on reversal film stock.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that three copies (where available) plus all rushes of each film produced by New Zealand entities be retained as public archives. These films provide important information on the documentation of New Zealand's native plants,

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<sup>1</sup> Archives NZ job file number 99/79

<sup>2</sup> The Wildlife Service was amalgamated into the Department of Conservation when it was established in 1987.

wildlife and ecosystems. They also present valuable research material for Archives New Zealand and researchers (documentary filmmakers, historians etc) for use in their own projects. After consultation with the Senior Audio-Visual Advisor it was decided that the three best copies of each film should be retained as a master, back-up master, and viewing copy, in accordance with film preservation best practice. The preservation masters guarantee that film content is safeguarded and that the condition of the original film will be shielded from unnecessary handling. The rushes are marked for retention as they contain film that was not included in the final cut, thus provide additional footage of interest to researchers and a clearer picture of the overall filmmaking process<sup>3</sup>.

The films created by international organisations are not deemed public archives as they are reference copies of film produced internationally, which are already held in international collections<sup>4</sup>. While they may have been used as reference material to illustrate international trends in filmmaking, there is no evidence to suggest these particular films informed or influenced filmmaking in New Zealand. These films will be offered to the Film Archive for accession, otherwise it is recommended that they are destroyed.

### **Disposal Arrangements**

It is recommended that the Senior Audio-Visual Advisor be contacted before disposal actions are carried out to ensure that the best three copies of each film and all rushes are correctly identified and retained.

Signed:

[NAME REMOVED]  
Appraisal Archivist

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<sup>3</sup> *The Film Preservation Guide: The Basics for Archives, Libraries, and Museums*, The National Film Preservation Foundation, 2005. Retrieved 06/22/2007 from <http://www.filmpreservation.org/>

<sup>4</sup> For example, 'Wildlife in the Rockies' (1964) is held by National Film Board of Canada.