

8 NGAIO Paddock

Through the gate are the first plantings carried out by the Trust at Tavora in 1994. Initially a windbreak of flax and ngaio were planted around the perimeter to provide shelter for more tender plants that were planted behind eg. Hall's totara and broadleaf. When the Trust purchased the land there were remnant trees from the coastal forest that existed pregrazing. These trees are still visible today and include, ngaio, kowhai, narrow leaved lacebark, lowland ribbonwood and cabbage trees.

Planting in the Ngaio Paddock still continues to fulfill the Trust vision of coastal forest extending from the adjacent Goodwood Bush through the paddock and eventually down to the sea.



You have now completed the walk.

Follow the yellow markers to the locked gate at the roadside and then proceed left (south) along the road to the car park. Please be alert for cars along the road as there are many blind corners.

Please return brochure to box at gate. Thank you.

Yellow-eyed penguins

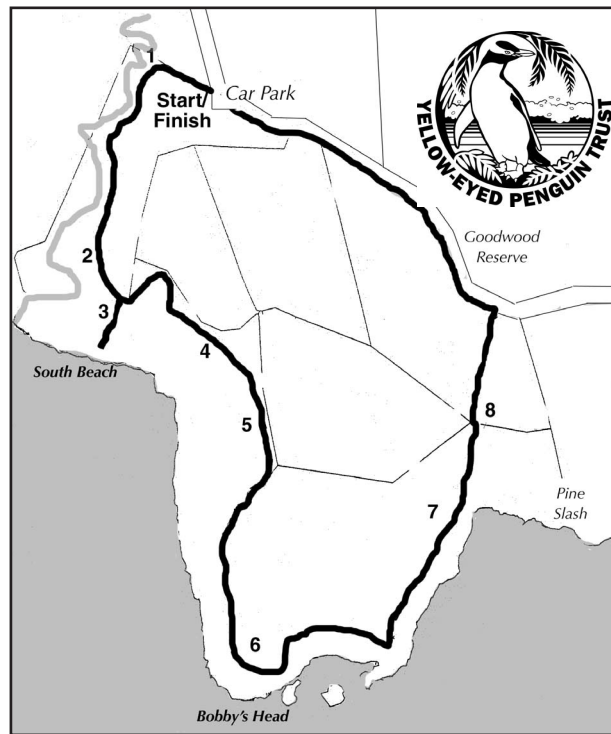
(*Megadyptes antipodes*) or Hoiho (noise shouter) are shy birds - if you are lucky enough to see one, please do not try to get close to them. Tavora Reserve was purchased primarily for the protection of yellow-eyed penguins. Normally they are out to sea during the day except during nesting season. You may hear the birds calling to each other. If you do come across a penguin **please do not disturb.**



COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF PLANTS AT TAVORA RESERVE

black mapou, *Pittosporum tenuifolium*
broadleaf, *Griselinia littoralis*
cabbage trees, *Cordyline australis*
Cook's scurvy grass, *Lepidium oleraceum*
cushion plant, *Scleranthus biflorus*
flax, *Phorium tenax*
glasswort, *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*
golden sedge or pikao, *Desmoschoenus spiralis*
Hall's totara, *Podocarpus hallii*
kanuka, *Kunzea ericoides*
kowhai, *Sopora microphylla*
lemonwood, *Pittosporum eugenioides*
Leptinella dioica

lowland ribbonwood, *Plagianthus regius*
manuka, *Leptospermum scoparium*
marram grass, *Ammophila arenaria*
narrow leaved lacebark, *Hoheria angustifolia*
ngaio, *Myoporum laetum*
saltmarsh ribbonwood, *Plagianthus divaricatus*
bachelors' button, *Cotula coronopifolia*
shore spurge, *Euphorbia glauca*
sand convulvulus, *Calystegia soldanella*
sand coprosma, *Coprosma acerosa*
sand tussock, *Austrofestuca littoralis*
three cornered sedge, *Schoenoplectus pungens*



www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

THE YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST
PO Box 5409 • Dunedin • 03 479 0011 • yeptrust@gmail.com

TAVORA RESERVE GUIDED WALK

In 1993 the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust secured this land for the purpose of improving and enhancing the breeding habitat for yellow-eyed penguins present. They named the area Tavora which is an ancient Maori name for penguin. At the time of purchase there were very few natural values remaining. Intensive farming practices over past decades had destroyed much of the natural vegetation.

Over the years many organizations and volunteers have worked intensively at the Reserve restoring the vegetation and despite the difficulties of working in such a dry environment, the results have been remarkable. The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people.

This sheet will guide you through the Reserve. Follow the yellow & black track markers from the car park along the stream to the beach at the South end, then up the hill heading north along the cliff track where the track markers will lead you through the Ngaio Paddock. This area contains remnants of the original coastal forest which has been enhanced by more recent planting.

The track then joins the road which will take you back to the carpark.

Please stick to the marked track as the cliff edge is very steep and unstable in some areas.



DUNE PLANTING AT PUBLIC PLANTING DAY.

YEPT
4/08

1 RIPARIAN PLANTING

Follow the track along the natural contours of the stream passing through an area being developed to improve the stream ecology and recreational appeal of the area. Some of the larger shrubs and trees were planted in 1994-95. A selection of colonising plants that were used include flax, *pittosporum* sp, cabbage trees etc. You may also notice several Hall's totara planted by the Trust's first patron Lady Reeves in 2000.



2 WETLAND

Occasionally the mouth of the stream becomes blocked and as a result the area is prone to flooding. Only plants that can tolerate waterlogged soils can exist here. Native wetland turf communities consisting of glasswort, bachelors' button, *Leptinella diocia*, and three cornered sedge and some shrubs eg. saltmarsh ribbonwood, appear to have survived despite grazing. On the higher edges manuka, flax and on the south side of the stream ngaio have been planted.

Riparian planting undertaken alongside the stream has increased water quality. Native eels and galaxiids have been recorded in addition to grey herons, spotted shags and paradise ducks.

3 DUNES

In 2001 the Trust began work to return the dune system to its natural state. Essential to this process is the replacement of introduced marram grass with the native golden sedge or pikao.

Pikao creates a more mobile dune with a lower flatter profile. A natural dune system dominated by

pikao also contains a greater diversity of plant species. The shore spurge, sand tussock, sand coprosma, Cook's scurvy grass and sand convulvulus have all been planted here. To the right of the stile remnants of a cushion plant can be seen. New initiatives for this area include the creation of a totara dune eco system immediately behind the pikao dunes. Return to the track leading up the hill towards the north end.



SAND CONVULVULUS

4 MAINLAND PLANTINGS

The vegetation at the bottom of the slope is part of some of the original plantings at the Reserve. Planting at this site took place from 1994-96 and was carried out by Mainland cheese staff, one of the Trust's original and primary sponsors. Growth here has been very spectacular and it gives an image of what the whole Reserve might look like in the future. Increased vegetation has also brought birds back to this area to eat the fruits and disperse seeds!

Around the track at the top of the hill a lowland Spaniard (*Aciphylla subflabellata*) has been recorded, probably resulting from lack of grazing.

5 VIEW OF DUNES

Leave the track and approach marker 5. From this vantage point you can see the work under way on the dunes below. Work at the southern end was initiated in 2004



and involved artificially reshaping the dunes to make a suitable environment for pikao. Planting will continue at this end to complete the dune redevelopment. More established planting is seen at the northern end. These dunes have a natural gently sloping profile created by the native vegetation planted here.



NZ FUR SEALS

6 ROCKY HEADLAND

The convergence of the Southland current and the cooler waters offshore provide a rich supply of food for not only yellow-eyed penguins but also a variety of marine life including marine mammals.

Stay on the track and look down at the rocks below and you may see NZ fur seals (*Arctocephalus forsteri*) that frequently haul out on the rocks below. Orca (killer whales) have also been observed passing by. Here the rare cress (*Lepidium tenuicaule*) grows on exposed cliff edges.

7 LOOKOUT SEAT

The cliff face of the bay to the north of the seat is the main area used by nesting yellow-eyed penguins.

The area is prone to slips. In 2000 only 2 nests were left from an original 10 counted in 1983. Nest boxes have been installed, two of which are visible on the cliff face.

Each year trap lines are set to protect the nests from mustelid predators (ferrets and stoats). From the seat follow the yellow track markers up the hill towards the farm gate.



LOOKING NORTH