



Hoiho

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Good things take time

CELEBRATING OUR 21ST BIRTHDAY WITH MAINLAND



"Mainland has set out to ensure the survival of the yellow-eyed penguin becomes a vital issue for all New Zealanders and to show people how they can each help with its conservation"

ALAN MCCONNON, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR,
MAINLAND DAIRY PRODUCTS, 1990

By Lala Frazer, a founding YEPT Trustee

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's initial goal of protecting and enhancing coastal land in order to stop the ongoing decline in habitat and penguin numbers looked as though it might come to a full stop after the 1987 stock market crash, before it had ever begun, when an amazing offer of financial help arrived in 1990.

Mainland Dairy Products offered to donate \$50,000 a year in return for using our logo and promoting our aims (a sum increased to \$75,000 per annum only a year later). It was a win win situation. They effectively spread information about the yellow-eyed and our goals, while encouraging brand loyalty to their cheese by tying it to a coupon return scheme. Not to mention that their local staff were given time off to help out on planting days.

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, while successful locally at getting out the message that our penguins were endangered and could become extinct on the mainland by 2020, could certainly not afford the national exposure of a television campaign. The image

of Roy Wesney talking to a penguin on a picnic table outside a west coast pub (it had travelled from the east coast in a good cause, something that DOC would not permit these days), and reassuring it that we New Zealanders would never let that happen, led to the Trust's membership tripling. What is more, it meant that two thirds of our membership now lived north of Dunedin. I well remember being stunned on a visit to Auckland to see vehicles driving around with the red bumper sticker, "I'm helping Mainland save the yellow-eyed penguin".

Even people who did not actually join the Trust learned about the yellow-eyed penguin

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More 21st celebrations on pages 6 and 7 >>



and the Trust's work from the educational material that was sent out with the poster onto which one stuck one's coupons, and the children's club that sent out a newsletter. A stunning calendar of a full length penguin began appearing in the most unlikely places. Even after the year was over, the image was still displayed with the months cut off. New Zealand had taken the penguin to its hearts, creating a national icon, and the level of awareness undoubtedly assisted the growth of yellow-eyed penguin tourism that led to it surpassing the previous top popularity of the albatrosses.

The TV advertisement in 1993 showed Roy above Okia Flats indicating land that had been purchased with the financial assistance of the Mainland grant, and stating that this was *"the Club Med of the south for yellow-eyed penguins."* Tile murals sponsored by Mainland and created by Jan Morrison became much photographed art works, particularly in the Octagon in Dunedin.

Not only did Mainland Products give us free advertising, but they also funded an educational video and education kits that were sent out to every single school in New Zealand and they organised various competitions based on the number of coupons returned. Again, the effect was to educate and increase awareness of the plight of the penguin. The prize was a visit to see the yellow-eyed penguins and assist with the habitat revegetation work. The Trust hosted a classroom from Epsom Girls' Grammar in November 1992 and almost the whole of tiny Pitt Island School in the Chathams with five of its pupils earlier that year. The latter had written letters and got publicity asking mainlanders to send them their cheese wrappers in an effort to win the prize!

Other competitions in later years, such as the *"Help our Hoiho"* in 2004, and *"Help our Sea Friends in 2006"* continued to educate and raise awareness, especially among the young.

No partnership is ever without its downs as

well as ups. It would have been hard to sustain those first heady days. For us, the effort of maintaining the children's Mainland Penguin Pal's Club newsletter with volunteers, proved difficult to sustain when its numbers rapidly rose to over 1,500 members in its first year; and eventually had to be abandoned. The massive increase in requests for information, especially by school children, was time consuming. It has been replaced today with information on our website and specific school projects using the internet.

Then there was the advertising firm based in the North Island that created a cartoon penguin that was clearly a crested penguin and not a yellow-eyed for one of the Mainland campaigns before getting our signoff!

Good relationships take time to develop and strengthen. Mainland Products was absorbed into Fonterra in 2005, but the sponsorship continued. It is interesting to note that although the advertising on the blocks of cheese stated that \$1 would be given to the Trust for each coupon returned, only 63,440 were returned that first year; although it did not take many years to exceed the target, with 90,283 being returned in the fourth year. However there were several real positives for the Trust: the total amount was guaranteed regardless; contracts have always been for several consecutive years; and the Trust can decide how the money is spent. This has allowed for forward planning and for the employment of staff (always the most difficult thing to get grants for) in order to maximise the investment and allow the Trust to grow and meet its practical aims.

Eventually, as Mainland changed its advertising thrust, and the yellow-eyed penguin was no longer part of their television advertising, the

annual amount was reduced to \$50,000. However, the company has a tangible reminder of the fact that cheese buyers remain loyal to the Mainland brand because of their commitment to the association with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in the continuing return of thousands of coupons a year. Let's be honest, I'd be buying no-name brand tasty cheddar blocks if I was not committed to Mainland's support of the Yellow-eyed Trust! Addition of the return coupons on the blocks of butter in 1998 led to a sudden spike in the number of returns – restaurateurs and chefs were taking the time to cut off hundreds of the coupons. They were rewarded with plaques that began appearing in eateries. Surveys have shown that despite little overt advertising, awareness of the Mainland name's association with the Trust is particularly high. By 1993, a survey indicated that more than 90% of New Zealanders knew that there was a campaign on to save the yellow-eyed penguins, and 65% knew that Mainland was involved. In recognition of this ongoing value to the company, in 2009 the amount donated to the Trust each year was returned to its original \$75,000. It remains a crucial part of our funding and allows us to finance some activities that would not otherwise attract funding.

There are more joint projects planned in the coming years which will raise the profile of the Trust and increase awareness that the yellow-eyed penguin still needs help if it is to survive. The 21st birthday of the Trust's cornerstone association with Mainland (a relationship thought to be the longest in the southern hemisphere), which has enabled us to realise our vision and grow into a strong organisation, is certainly one that we will be celebrating.



Penguin Poems

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's Limerick Competition had a staggering 2731 entries from all over New Zealand. Run as part of this year's Seaweed, with guidelines and examples from well known comedian Te Radar (see examples on the Trust's website). The entries had to

create a limerick that showed 'how we can best help the Hoiho, yellow-eyed penguins, and the sea they live in', as well as having the five-line strong rhythmic pattern, AABBA.

Trustees and staff voted on the 25 limericks short-listed by organiser Monika

Fry of Megabright. The winner received a one-year supporter's pack and penguin goodies, and the runners up received some penguin goodies.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who enjoyed getting creative and joined this fun competition.

The winning entry was by Hamish Howell & Jaedyn Sanders of Oceanview Heights School in Timaru:

*We need to develop a solution
To fix up the World's pollution
We all know the key
It's to clean up the sea
So our hoihos can enjoy evolution*

The two runners-up were:
Mason Jones of Coastal Taranaki School:

*Hemi Hoiho has had enough
Life at sea is getting rough
Why can't people get the notion
Stop the pilfering of the ocean
Hemi says "Get Tough!"*

and Ellie Tverdeich, 10Bh of New Plymouth Girls' High School:

*A hoiho was saying to me
The waves are too full of debris
Those humans on land
Need to all lend a hand
To help clean up our sea*

Royal Society of New Zealand Awarded Teaching Fellow – Jim Young

Jim's year as an Awarded Teacher Fellow from the Royal Society of New Zealand has drawn to an end and 2011 sees him returning to the classroom of the Catlins Area School which gave him a year's leave to participate in this programme.

Jim was hosted by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust to undertake a project at the new reserve in the Catlin's area titled 'Whakaora Irahuka: restoring the white cliffs'. His objectives were to map seabird, vegetation and lizard distribution, and determine the most effective trapping regimes to protect the local seabird species.

Jim says he will be returning to the classroom with "an increased knowledge of local ecology and methodology and how to involve students".

Jim has laid the ground work for many of the upcoming restoration projects at Long Point/ Irahuka, and we look forward to his continued involvement and enthusiasm.

Here is a summary from Jim about his year:

- learning and putting in place the monitoring methods for predators, lizards and invertebrates



- establishment of a 15km predator trap line using a variety of trap types, including tracking tunnels for footprint monitoring
- 200 pitfall traps and artificial cover traps (both live catch) at 11 sites to monitor presence of lizards and invertebrates
- studies of vegetation – photos from marked points and setting up enclosure plots to conduct a long-term experiment on the effects of grazing on coastal turfs
- seabirds were recorded and monitored where possible, then related back to historical data
- field trips: Somes Island and Kaikoura – to gather information on translocation and audio
- attraction of seabirds
- attended two conferences.

Clutha District Council staff visit Long Point

Part of this year's team building day for Clutha District Council staff included a visit to the Trust's Long Point reserve to view this new conservation project in their region.



Staff plant trees and shrubs at top carpark

Biodiversity and what it means to yellow-eyed penguins

2010 was International Year of Biodiversity and May 22 is The International Day for Biological Diversity. But what do these represent and how does this relate to yellow-eyed penguins?

Back in 2000 the United Nations identified these dates as a focal point to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity is the term used to describe life on earth – the variety of living things, the places they inhabit and the interactions between them. These interactions provide us with a number of essential natural services, such as food production, soil fertility, climate regulation, carbon storage, that are the foundation of human well-being. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity creates opportunity for reducing poverty and for improving our environment.

The most important threats to biodiversity have long been habitat loss, due to large scale conversion of land to agriculture and the growth of urban centres; introduction of invasive alien species; over exploitation of natural resources, and pollution. One of today's global challenges is how to balance the need to sustain people's livelihoods with the need to preserve the environment

The year 2010 was critical because it was set as the initial deadline to measure and reflect about what needs to be done and a time when we could look back and say, yes, we've done it – that biodiversity, life on Earth, is no longer threatened.

Overall assessments of progress indicate that we are far from reaching this goal, but although the 2010 goal has not been met, it does not mean the future is necessarily bleak. It requires a new paradigm shift in the way we address environmental issues. It means bridging the gap between science and policy makers in governments around the world and it means linking livelihoods, combating poverty, and planning development and new infrastructure sensitively.

There is a recipe we can follow. Relate biodiversity to everyone's daily needs so that the ownership for saving biodiversity is spread and everyone feels responsible for stopping loss.

New Zealand has many threatened habitats and species and one close to our hearts is the yellow-eyed penguin. In 2000 a 25 year recovery plan was drawn up by the Department of Conservation and we are now almost half way through so where are we at with the plan? What's working what's not, are we on track?

Last year at the Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium, Bruce McKinlay, Technical Support Officer and Yellow-eyed Penguin Recovery Group leader for the Department of Conservation, presented an assessment of how we are progressing with protecting yellow-eyed penguins.

The plan has nine objectives under the overall goal: to build upon existing conservation gains by maintaining and refining existing strategies to facilitate increases in yellow-eyed penguin numbers by reducing mortality in yellow-eyed penguins and to maintain the public commitment to the conservation of yellow-eyed penguins.



To conclude, the Trust was delighted with the overall findings of the assessment of the recovery plan. It was encouraging seeing summarised the knowledge gained and the gaps identified, particularly our understanding of disease and marine issues. The number and variety of personnel involved in the wider penguin work has also increased over the years. Together with the Trust, other private

landowners, scientists, tourist operators, other conservation organisations and members of the public all contribute to this overall knowledge. It will be interesting to watch for a final assessment of the plan in 2025.

For more information visit www.cbd.int/idb/

Objective	Comments	Overall assessment
1. To obtain accurate census & trend data for all parts of the species range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> making progress on improving our estimates of numbers South island and Stewart island estimates are robust Auckland island are poor; Campbell Island slightly better 	This objective is in hand
2. Maintenance of the commitment to manage terrestrial habitat for yeps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> active fencing, planting, and pest management is taking place at a wide range of habitats 	Reserve managers committed to the land they manage for yeps
3. Maintenance of the commitment to protect areas of land for yep beyond current population levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> since the plan was approved new reserves established at Long Point/ Cosgrove Creek and Otapahi 	Amount of protected land for yep breeding has increased significantly
4. To improve habitats for yellow-eyed penguin by replanting and other strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase in practical knowledge of planting best practice is now distributed widely 	A+ on replanting with good progress in all breeding habitats
5. To protect chicks from predators and ensure that the most cost effective methods are in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chicks remain susceptible to predation despite efforts increase in control measures at most sites since 2000 control methods used widely by a wide range of groups. 	Predator control remains an ongoing management requirement
6. Identify the portion of adult and juvenile mortality that is the result of fishing activity and develop strategies to reduce this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing issues with observer coverage on inshore set net fishing boats need to ensure good quality data gathered for assessments 	Overall this objective has not been achieved and requires a lot more work with fisheries agencies
7. Ensure continued public support for yellow-eyed penguin conservation by maintaining consultative structures and developing new advocacy initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual YEP symposium is best example of its type in NZ with open invitation to all penguins workers to report on their work quarterly meetings of the Consultative Group 	This objective is being met
8. Manage the impacts of tourism by identifying suitable locations for this activity to take place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some sites control of tourism is undertaken viewing experiences vary from highly controlled (e.g. Penguin Place) to the highly uncontrolled (e.g. Nuggets) previous symposia: need to improve and address issue need to improve the situation but unsure how to address it research (U Ellenberg, 2004) shows yeps sensitised to ongoing disturbance, emphasizing need to get it right 	Managing uncontrolled visitors still remains a priority but practical measures are in place at a number of sites
9. To undertake research on yellow-eyed penguins which will assist in achieving the objectives of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> huge amount of yep research over the years (at Boulder Beach since 1987: 25 M.Sc, PhD and honours projects) key research: (1) active predator control required; (2) sub-Antarctic & NZ yep populations recognised as two management units; (3) limits of rehabilitation at a population level; (4) up-to-date assessment of Stewart Island populations, starvation & disease, not predation impacting on yeps 	Yellow-eyed penguins remain a popular topic for research and the objective is being met



Mainland Brand celebrates

By Imogen Harper, Assistant Brand Manager Mainland

At Mainland we're proud to be celebrating our 21st anniversary as the sponsor of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

What made Mainland's support for the Trust so special?

The sponsorship was a leap of faith for both parties at a very difficult time.

No major company had backed a single-species conservation trust in this country. Mainland took the risk in the fraught commercial conditions following the stock-market crash.

As New Zealand's first single-species trust, we had no previous experience with big-ticket sponsors. The obligation to safeguard Mainland's investment was entirely new to us. But the partnership flourished.

Mainland's help enabled the Trust to advance stepwise in its work. We had certainty of income, the means to engage our first full-time employee, and street-cred through association with an iconic Kiwi company. We had arrived.

The Mainland name conveyed precisely the connections both parties wanted: an iconic bird of the South, and a bird in our midst.

Our landmark relationship with Mainland is now part of New Zealand's conservation lore. Along with Roy Wesney's evocative TV ads, the Mainland brand is now synonymous with yellow-eyed penguins in Kiwi consciousness.

Mainland's support gave us vital assurance that our work mattered and was relevant. It has also demonstrated that corporate-community arrangements of this sort can be mutually productive and risk-free.

Together we are preserving these remarkable penguins from local extinction.

Mainland is an iconic Kiwi brand and undoubtedly one of our country's most loved.

At Mainland we believe good things take time and our relationship with the Trust is a great example of this, and our commitment to time-honoured friendships.

Our journey with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust began in 1989 when Mainland saw an opportunity to provide support. Since then we've donated around \$1.5m through coupon redemption and have worked hard to raise awareness of the Trust through numerous advertising campaigns. Perhaps the most memorable of these has been the iconic television commercial of Roy Wesney talking to a penguin outside a West Coast pub. The Mainland brand has also committed itself to educating young New Zealanders about the plight of the penguin and has engaged with hundreds of classrooms and children over the years.

Over the last 21 years, we have been honoured to work alongside the Trust to protect yellow-eyed penguin habitats along the Otago and Southland coastline. Together we've been providing fencing to protect nests, planting trees and shrubs, and purchasing other areas for penguin reserves. The plant nursery, first established in 1989, has nurtured more than 80,000 native trees and shrubs, and planted them in the appropriate habitat to provide more shelter and better nesting sites for the penguins.

During the sponsorship, our brand has also experienced the benefits of being associated with such a worthy cause. Our partnership has driven loyalty to Mainland and helped us maintain good will amongst Kiwis who hold the cause so close to their hearts.

Mainland and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust have come a long way but our journey to achieving a self-sustaining penguin population is far from complete. We're continuing to support these iconic birds, alongside the Trust, the Department of Conservation, private landowners, scientists, and most importantly fellow New Zealanders. Hopefully one day we will all be able to enjoy self-sustaining colonies of yellow-eyed penguins.

Many New Zealanders are unaware that every time they purchase a block of Mainland cheese they can post in the barcode and we will contribute \$1 to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (up to \$75,000 annually). To find out more news about the yellow-eyed penguin and how you can help, as well as other Mainland news and events, visit our new website – www.mainland.co.nz.



HELP MAINLAND RAISE \$75,000 TO SAVE YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS

Clip the label of YEP campaign-branded cheese packs and attach to your yellow-eyed penguin chart. For every full chart returned Mainland donates \$10.00 to the Yellow-eyed Trust, up to a limit of \$75,000 per year. Call 0800 CHEESE (243-373) for your wall chart.



From the archives: (left) Kerry and Adam Dowsett, organisers of the the original Penguin Pal Club, holding a 1993 vintage poster; (top right) students at Port Chalmers Primary School receiving their prize in the Mainland/YEPT 'Help our Hoiho' national competition in 2004; (bottom right) Sharon Angus and a friend planting flax in 1991. Sharon went on to become Mainland's marketing manager.

Fonterra at the coalface

Last November, the Trust was delighted to accept both a substantial donation and volunteer assistance from the team at Fonterra's Edendale factory in Southland.

A group of 19 Fonterra staff joined the Trust for the day, planting at the Manuka Beach penguin breeding area. The joint venture gave Trust members the opportunity to showcase the new reserve and share their vision for the conservation of yellow-eyed penguins.

It was also a time for us to learn more about Fonterra's operations at Edendale.

A few weeks after the trees and shrubs were planted, YEPT staff returned and installed wire cages for protection from the resident possum and hare population. This work was carefully watched by none other than the local penguins!

The Fonterra team is keen to stay involved and will be returning for another planting day before winter.



Chris Wright of Fonterra Edendale helping to plant flaxes at Manuka Beach



Say cheese

Autumn is the perfect time to start thinking about soup and here is a classic favourite from Mainland.

Colby French Onion Soup

Serves: 4

Preparation and cooking time:
68 minutes

Ingredients:

100g Mainland butter
1 kg brown onions, finely sliced
1 tsp brown sugar
3-4 sprigs thyme
2-3 bay leaves
60ml brandy or sherry
1 litre beef stock
½ tsp dijon mustard
4 sliced baguette, thickly sliced & lightly toasted
100g grated Mainland Colby cheese
Freshly ground black pepper & salt to taste

Pre-heat oven 190 degrees celcius.

Heat butter over a low to medium heat, add onions and sweat for 8 minutes with the lid on.

Remove lid, increase the heat & brown for another 8-10 minutes.

Add the brown sugar, thyme and bay leaves and stir for 3-4 minutes. Stir in the brandy. One minute later add beef stock and mustard. Slowly simmer for 25 minutes. Season with pepper & salt.

Ladle soup into individual oven proof dishes, place 1 slice of baguette on each dish and top generously with grated Mainland Colby cheese. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 10 minutes until cheese is melted. Serve hot.

Helpful hint: The food processor can slice your onions quickly and finely without the tears.



Island populations on right track

By Antje Leseberg, Stewart Island Field Assistant 2010/11

The yellow-eyed penguin nest search and chick transponder work went well this season and I can hardly believe it is already over; chicks have fledged and adults are currently completing their post-breeding moult. Here is a short summary of how the season progressed on Stewart Island.

At the 2008 joint Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and Department of Conservation meeting it was agreed to repeat the island-wide census in the next season, followed by monitoring of selected sites in 2010. So this season was focused on three areas: Codfish Island (Whenua Hou) with a sample of nests, and all nests on both the Bravo Islands and at The Neck (eastern edge of Paterson Inlet). The monitoring and chick transpondering at The Neck was again supported by the Rakiura Maori Land Trust (RMLT) while in future seasons other RMLT land at Chew Tobacco Bay and/or Port Adventure may be included.

On Codfish Island, 32 monitored nests (63 eggs) had a hatching success of 92%. A total of 44 chicks were caught and implanted with 23mm Allflex transponders and while chicks ranged in age and weight they all appeared healthy and no evidence of disease was found. Overall productivity on Codfish Island was 1.37 chicks per nest compared to 1.15 chicks/nest in 2009/2010.

On the five Bravo Islands, 20 nests (39 eggs) were found but only 19 chicks were caught and transpondered. It was hard to determine whether losses had occurred at the egg or chick stage, as Stewart Island weka are found on the islands and are known to predate abandoned eggs and dead chick remains. Overall productivity was 0.95 chicks per nest. One chick showed possible symptoms of *Diphtheritic stomatitis*.

Around the Eastern Bay area of The Neck, nest numbers appear to have dropped to only four nests where there have been up to eight in the past. Five chicks were caught and



YEP tracks leading from a nest on the Anglem coast of Stewart Island/Rakiura

transpondered and overall productivity was 1.25 chicks per nest. No evidence of disease was found at the site.

Future recommendations for Stewart Island would be to continue with nest monitoring on Codfish Island and the Bravo group and to transponder as many chicks as possible to increase the percentage of transpondered birds to enable monitoring of the population. Furthermore, to increase the nest searching effort on The Neck to all known nest sites to better understand population trends and lastly, to include the Mt Anglem coast

and new sites such as Chew Tobacco Bay and Port Adventure in future seasons if resourcing allows.



YEPT reserve populations strong

Trust staff and volunteers completed the final monitoring check of penguin nests on Trust reserves in early February and results overall have been encouraging. Avian diphtheria affected 60% of chicks at some DOC monitored sites on Otago Peninsula, but did not appear to be an issue at other sites, including Trust reserves.

Of the five Trust reserves (Tavora, Okia, Otapahi, Cosgrove Creek & Long Point), four recorded increases in nest numbers, and Tavora remained the same. Fledging numbers were also good, with only Otapahi showing a marked decline from 29 in 2009/2010 to 24 in 2010/2011. By contrast Long Point and Cosgrove Creek showed a significant increase, with Long Point increasing from 58 to 72 chicks fledged and Cosgrove Creek from 12 to 27. Importantly, all reserves fledged on average one or more chicks per nest, with Long Point coming out on top at 1.44

Several underweight chicks were retrieved at the fledging check and taken for rehabilitation

to the Penguin Place hospital on Otago Peninsula, where the team at the penguin hospital, led by Glen Riley, brought them up to a good weight for release.

Co-operation between the Trust and the Department of Conservation, and the work of volunteers, has been invaluable in successfully completing a very full season of penguin monitoring. For the first time the Trust extended transpondering of fledging chicks to all of our reserves, including the significant breeding sites of Long Point (49 nests) and Cosgrove Creek (21 nests). A total of 138 transponders were inserted and follow-up checks on some chicks has shown a very good result with no signs of infection at the insertion sites.

Owaka DOC Biodiversity Ranger Cheryl Pullar, Coastal Otago Ranger Mel Young, and Ranger Trainee Amanda Salt, assisted with transpondering at Long Point and Cosgrove Creek. The work of three full sets of transpondering equipment meant that

three teams were able to work concurrently, completing the work at these large breeding sites in good time.

Trust volunteers assisted with both nest searching, nest checks and transpondering. Regular Trust volunteer and University of Otago masters student, Aviva Stein, has received training in transpondering and was one of the team members carrying out insertions. The Trust was also delighted to strengthen our relationship with the Massey University vet school, through the participation of vet student Allyson Colgan.

For most of the pre-fledging check period, the Trust held the record of the heaviest chick (a 6.5 kg bird from Otapahi Reserve) only to be pipped at the post by a massive 7.1 kg chick found at the DOC reserve at Nugget Point.

Trust field staff will monitor moulting adults and juveniles over the next few weeks, especially for underweight birds.

Good breeding season on open coast

Summary of a report prepared by Mel Young Department of Conservation, for YEPT newsletter:

It has been a good breeding season for hoiho on the Otago coast. Overall the minimum estimated number of breeding pairs stands at approximately 490 for the Otago region, with a smattering of nests south of the border in the vicinity of Curio Bay and Slope Point. Monitoring of hoiho productivity

has also occurred on Banks Peninsula, on Codfish and Bravo Islands around Stewart Island (see update on page 8)

Many thanks to all involved in this years' monitoring, including Cheryl Pullar, Kevin Pearce, Helen Jones, Rosalie Goldsworthy, Fergus Sutherland, YEPT staff, private landowners and research scientists.



	Catlins region	Otago Peninsula and Green Island	North Otago
number sites		15	7
nests monitored	183	111	64
eggs laid	359	213	
chicks hatched	281	166	
chicks survived to pre-fledge	258	123	88
weights at pre-fledge	1.7 – 7.05kg	3.3 – 6.3kg	3.5 – 6.3kg
chicks removed for supplementary feeding before being released to fledge	17		

Hi all,

I couldn't stand living near the equator. I understand why others find living in and around the centre of the earth appealing – consistently warm weather all year round and daylight hours that are accommodating too. However, I think I'd find it all far too boring. All things change and for me one of the great joys in life, as a human being, is being connected to this change – living through it.

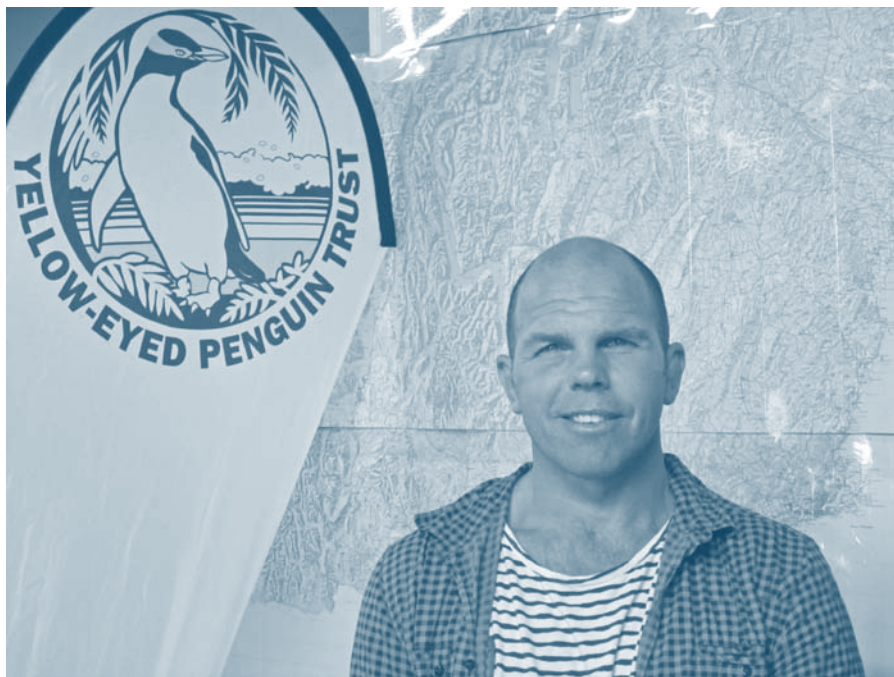
Summer, especially a Central Otago summer, with shimmering brown plains of tussock and twittering skylarks, brings me joy, almost as much as the changes of colour and light that autumn declares. Preparing for winter – chopping wood, squirreling away provisions and supplies – gives me a sense of contentment. And when spring finally arrives, it brings with it the essence of rebirth and hope.

It's spring now in London and if there's ever a place where the spirit of spring is keenly felt it is here. Long grey winter days, where the sun departs before 3.30pm, and row upon row of buildings that are just as grey as the sky, can really get a man down. Especially this last winter – December was the coldest December ever recorded in England – snow was ubiquitous and heavy, and the ice that it turned into made walking along footpaths treacherous and cycling to work (as I do) only for the brave or foolhardy (the latter applicable to me).

Cycling to work today took me past cherry blossom trees in full bloom and several magnolias which are almost ready to regale me with their beauty – I'm guessing early next week.

This is all quite a contrast to the current situation those in the deep south of the South Island find themselves in, and, to be fair, I don't feel all that guilty about being here and you there: I've done my wintry hard yards, I've eaten that ghastly portion of silverbeet (without any cheese) and now I'm expecting (and deserving) a large dollop of hokey pokey.

I stay in touch with what's happening in NZ every day, and what I've found of most interest lately has been the news regarding



the establishment of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The EPA, an independent Crown entity, is to be chaired by former Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast with the board, including Environmental Risk Management Authority Richard Woods, Meridian Energy chief executive Keith Turner and retiring Ngai Tahu chief executive Anake Goodall.

Environment Minister Nick Smith said of the EPA:

"This group has a high calibre of skills and experience in organisational governance, management, central government processes, and an understanding of the environment, and its links to the economy, which are all essential in giving the EPA a sound start."

Smith has only a cursory mention for the environment, sandwiched between government processes and its bully-boy big brother, the economy. Another point to note is that none of the board has any grounding in environmental matters – in fact some of the board member's previous actions – Keith Turner's for example – are anti conservation and anti environment.

And we really shouldn't be surprised by this. All of us in conservation know that in the lexicon of the RMA, avoiding, remedying or mitigating risks, is just another way of saying

business first everything else second; it is within this frame that the Trust – indeed any group or individual – has to attempt to protect what they care about.

I think the tide is turning in conservation's favour, as all things change. This business centric view of the world will undoubtedly have to accommodate other issues that aren't solely focused on all things pecuniary. For me, however, this change is taking too long. Even though several key metrics about the environment (global, national and local) and social health and well being are all pointing to the fact that our current way of thinking and living is flawed: flawed because it is based on erroneous assumptions: human beings are rational creatures, economic growth that is sustainable.

I think politicians would learn a lot from studying the ephemeral nature of cherry blossom and magnolia flowers: all things change, nothing is sustainable and the permanence of the seasons will ultimately trump us all.

Regards

Anton Oliver
Patron, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

WORLD RANGER DAY



Leith Thomson, YEPT ranger

Sunday 31 July 2011

This year the Trust is introducing a new way to acknowledge their supporters, one that will become an annual event.

July 31 is World Ranger Day, and the Trust is offering an exclusive tour with our Ranger to financial supporters to view yellow-eyed penguins at a reserve on the north of Dunedin. Please see the enclosed voucher with details on how to redeem this to make a booking.

The offer is a first-in, first-served basis, so hurry to get your voucher in the post.

Annual yellow-eyed penguin symposium

Saturday 6 August 2011

9am start. University College Seminar Room.

The Symposium is a community-based event where people and organisations who work with yellow-eyed penguins can report back on their year's activities. All members of the yep community are invited to attend and make a presentation, however informally, on their year past and what were their highlights.

The day is generally informal and provides a great opportunity for people to network and discuss yep matters.

The Symposium is organised by the YEP Consultative Group on behalf of yep groups and individuals.

For further information contact Bruce McKinlay 474-6939 or bmckinlay@doc.govt.nz

Street Appeal

Friday 23 September 2011

This year the Trust is holding a Street Appeal on Friday 23 September. Dozens of yellow-eyed penguin-costumed people will waddle the streets and roost on corners appealing for support.

Please give your support if you are in Dunedin, or make a donation at your nearest SBS branch.

If you would like to help make this day a huge success, then please contact the YEPT office.

Cadbury Peninsula Day

This year the Trust will again participate in the annual Cadbury Chocolate Carnival event, the Otago Peninsula Day, **Sunday 24th July**.

There are two opportunities:

11am – 2pm at the Plant Nursery, 12 McTaggart Street, Company Bay – view plant propagation techniques and purchase a native plant.

Join us on an exclusive tour to view yellow-eyed penguins at our private reserve (Otapahi). Bus transport for the penguin tour will leave Portobello at 3.00pm and return by 5.15pm with transport continuing to Dunedin.

Charges apply.

For more information visit the Trust's website or

www.chocolatecarnival.co.nz

BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL



Let's plant!

Community Work Days

Sunday 22 May

International Day of Biological Diversity – Tavora Reserve, North Otago. Meet at carpark off Goodwood Road, 10am.

Sunday 5 June

Arbor Day – Okia Reserve, Otago Peninsula. Meet at Dick Road carpark, 10am.

Bring spades, warm clothes, food and drink.

For more information contact the YEPT office on (03) 479-0011 or email yeptrust@gmail.com and check our website www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

New Ambassador for YEPT – Kieran Read

New Zealand Rugby Player of the Year 2010, and All Black and Crusaders number 8, Kieran Read, has taken a deft side-step in his rugby career to help raise awareness of New Zealand's endangered yellow-eyed penguins and the work of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

As ambassador, Kieran Read will join forces with Otago and former All Black captain Anton Oliver, and patron of the Trust since 2006. During a recent visit to Dunedin, Oliver thanked Kieran Read for coming on board to the Trust as an ambassador. "It's so wonderful having a current All Black lend his considerable shoulder to my now more diminutive shoulder to drive forward the wheel of conservation, in particular the conservation of the yellow-eyed penguin. He'll be a huge asset to the Trust and get us a lot more coverage and visibility of the issues facing our penguins."

Enjoying life as a first-time father, Read admitted to having a strong interest in our native wildlife. He said that he had been lucky enough to visit yellow-eyed penguin reserves on the Otago Peninsula and see their breeding habitats for himself.

"When I was approached by the Trust I was reminded of a school project I did as a kid. These penguins are tough, determined little characters, climbing over sand dunes and into the hills to nest and feed their young. I'm really pleased to be able to help save the yellow-eyed penguin so that our next generation and visitors to our country can enjoy viewing this iconic species."

The announcement of Kieran as ambassador made it to Facebook pages and tweets amongst those savvy with social media. And only hours before the Crusaders game against the Highlanders, staff had Kieran walking the penguin tracks in aid of a story for TV3's Nightline.

The Trust is thrilled to have Kieran Read join us as an ambassador. Given his recent experience of the Christchurch earthquake, and the demands on him and his family in the aftermath we appreciate his time and support.



Thank you to our regular supporters:

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Sabine Burnett

Thank you to:

All the landowners who have contributed to our habitat protection work.

Thank you to all volunteers:

We are tremendously grateful to all the other volunteers, including the regular Nursery workers and the Habitat Volunteer Team for their valuable contributions to our work.

Special thanks to the team at AdArt Brand Promotion for the design of this newsletter.

The Hoiho newsletter is printed on Royal Offset Hi-Brite paper which passes the green test.

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