



Hoiho

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A Mainland Penguin Outpost

What recent genetic research has revealed about yellow-eyed penguins

Philip Seddon, Department of Zoology,
University of Otago

Recent research by University of Otago PhD student, Ms Sanne Boessenkool, has overturned some long-held beliefs about yellow-eyed penguins. To date management of yellow-eyed penguins has been based on the assumption that the populations we see on New Zealand's South Island today are declining remnants of a once much larger and more widespread population that has occupied the Mainland for millennia. It was also believed that losses of yellow-eyed penguins on the South Island could be balanced by the arrival of new birds from the species' subantarctic stronghold. It now seems that both these assumptions are wrong.

Sanne applied state-of-the-art techniques to examine the genetic composition of both modern yellow-eyed penguins, using blood samples from the mainland and from the subantarctic, and of ancient birds, analysing bone samples from museum specimens and from pre-historic midden sites. Sanne initially hoped to answer the question of whether yellow-eyed penguins had once been abundant on the South Island and had declined only following the arrival of humans. What she found was both unexpected and much more significant.

In a paper published in the prestigious scientific journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Sanne and colleagues in New Zealand and Australia report that a combined analysis of ancient and

modern DNA, and ancient and modern penguin bone structure, revealed the presence on the New Zealand South Island of a hitherto undescribed species of penguin – not the yellow-eyed penguin *Megadyptes antipodes*, but a sister species, named in the paper as *Megadyptes waitaha*. Up until about 1500 AD yellow-eyed penguins would have been found only on the Auckland and Campbell island groups, while the mainland was occupied by the waitaha penguin. It is thought that *M. waitaha* was harvested to extinction and that its disappearance opened the way for straggler yellow-eyed penguins from the subantarctic to gain a foothold on the mainland, where a unique set of circumstances, including a change in harvest patterns by humans and a loss of large marine mammals, allowed them to rapidly expand into the population we see today.

This expansion from the subantarctic in the last 500 years indicates the ability of yellow-eyed penguins to disperse over long distances and seems to suggest that there could be fairly regular movement between the mainland and the subantarctic. However, there are a couple



of pieces of evidence that suggest this type of movement might not be common. None of the >10,000 yellow-eyed penguins banded on the South Island have ever been recorded on Campbell or Auckland islands, and only one of the >500 birds banded in the subantarctic have ever been recovered (dead) on the South Island. In addition, early genetic studies by Sue Triggs and John Darby showed genetic differentiations between the South Island, and Campbell and Auckland islands.

So, do yellow-eyed penguins comprise one single population, as suggested by their recent colonisation of the South Island, or should

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South Island and subantarctic yellow-eyed penguin populations be considered separate? Well, maybe the first question is: what does it matter either way?

Wildlife managers charged with the conservation of endemic species define Management Units (MUs), or independent populations that increase or decrease in abundance based on their own birth and death rates, rather than due to immigration. Management actions are then focused at each MU. So if your target species exists as a single large population, one MU with individuals moving freely around, you might lose animals from parts of their range but be confident that animals moving in from other areas will replace these, so long as you sustain at least part of the wider population.

Management of yellow-eyed penguins has proceeded as if the species exists as one large MU, stretching from Banks Peninsula to Campbell Island and comprising some 2,000 breeding pairs. However, in a recent paper in the journal *Molecular Ecology* Sanne and colleagues indicate that this is not the case. Analyses revealed two genetically and geographically distinct populations: the one on the South Island (including Rakiura/Stewart Island and surrounding islands), and the one in the subantarctic – so not one, but two management units.

This confirmed that, despite some impressive dispersal potential, there is no significant migration of yellow-eyed penguins between the subantarctic and the South Island. Also, the South Island population of yellow-eyed penguins has lower genetic diversity and therefore is possibly more vulnerable to threats such as disease and changing environmental conditions.

What does this mean for yellow-eyed penguin conservation? We know the South Island yellow-eyed penguin population has crashed

dramatically several times in the last few decades but has been able to bounce back, i.e. it has shown some resilience. But as new threats emerge, such as predation by recovering sealion populations, increasing human disturbance and new disease outbreaks, low genetic diversity and genetic isolation mean that the South Island population of yellow-eyed penguins has lower resilience, a reduced ability to recover from population crashes, than previously thought, and will stand or fall on its own.

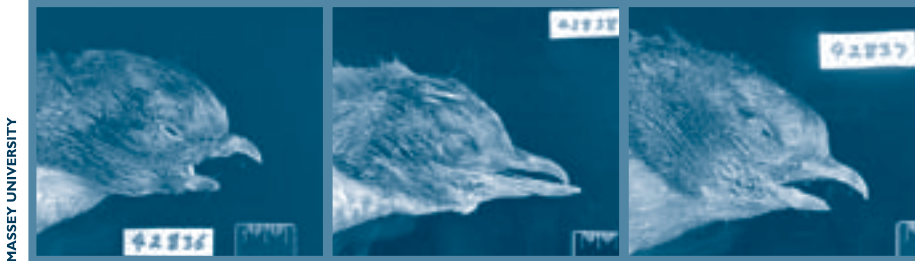
There is a good side to having two MUs – as Sanne and colleagues point out in their most recent paper, “having two demographically independent populations prevent having all (penguin) eggs in one basket and may protect the yellow-eyed penguin from extinction due to local catastrophic events”.

The question remains however, just how healthy is the subantarctic population of yellow-eyed penguins. We assume from sporadic and partial surveys over the years that ~60% of the global population of yellow-eyed penguins resides on Campbell and Auckland islands and that in their far-south stronghold *M. antipodes* is doing fine. But, as we have seen, many other assumptions about yellow-eyed penguins have not been upheld in the face of close examination. Monitoring of South Island yellow-eyed penguins is regular and intense, and we have a good understanding of population size and trends from year to year. However, the isolation of the subantarctic yellow-eyed penguin population means that we cannot be sure that the dynamics on the South Island is mirrored further south. Separate monitoring is required and, as Sanne and colleagues state, “at the very least a count of breeding yellow-eyed penguins on the subantarctic will have to be conducted”.

(Note: references used in this article are available on request)



Chick deformities found on Otago Peninsula



Beak deformities found in yellow-eyed penguin chicks

At the Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium, Massey University's pathology resident Kelly Buckle spoke about skull deformities found in yellow-eyed penguin chicks last season.

Eight birds with skull deformities were found at one site on the Otago Peninsula and six were so profoundly affected they were not able to survive in the wild. It was not believed the deformities were the result of genetics, diet or heat stress. Toxicology results appear to have ruled out heavy metals but further testing was still waiting to be done.

In other yellow-eyed penguin locations on the South Island, unexplained chick deaths were as high as 50%. Massey University was asked to help find the cause, which involved many of the dead chicks being sent there for necropsy. We still do not know conclusively why this happened but believe that a combination of factors: starvation, disease, and stress, all combining with environmental factors such as climate change caused the mortalities.

There are many research papers and articles documenting these types of deaths in wildlife populations. Global warming and El Nino

events seem to play a big role in disrupting food availability, climate, water temperature and disease vector availability – all of which negatively impacts the penguins and often results in mortality events.

As conservation managers we still need to know the cause of the deformities and chick deaths and whether it could be repeated in another year or have a wider impact on the rest of the ecosystem. The Trust's problem, however, is adequate funding to carry out the necessary research.

Auckland Island penguins

As stated in the article 'A Mainland Penguin Outpost', we don't know what is happening to the subantarctic Auckland Island population of yellow-eyed penguins and 'at the very least a count of breeding yellow-eyed penguins on the subantarctic will have to be conducted'. So... right now as you read this newsletter a team of six is there to begin to do just that.

The survey is being led by Jo Hiscock, a ranger for Southern Islands Area Office of the Department of Conservation. She is joined by two of our own trust staff: Sandy King (who has been managing the Trust's Stewart Island project) and Leith Thomson, our ranger. Both are really excited to be traveling to this remote area, although Sandy is expecting seasickness during the two days travel on the yacht *Tiama* (and that is just to get there) and Leith wants to know how friendly the sea lions may or may

not be! They are living aboard the *Tiama* for 26 days (the maximum time permitted in the area) and during this time will travel the entire eastern coast, including Camley Harbour, to survey the distribution of yellow-eyed penguins.

They will also take note of other species and, if time allows, gather information on population numbers. The results will help us all understand more about this remote population. At the same time we are mindful that this is only the beginning of much more comprehensive yellow-eyed penguin work needed in these southern islands.

While the team are away, we have had regular updates posted on the special page of our website (www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz) and a full report will be in the May 2010 edition of *Hoiho*.

Stewart Island update

Update LONG POINT/IRAHUKA



What is happening on Stewart Island? You may remember that last year as much of the coastline as possible was resurveyed to repeat the 1999-2000 survey to see if the 50% observed decrease in yellow-eyed penguins was island-wide or confined to the north-east coast.

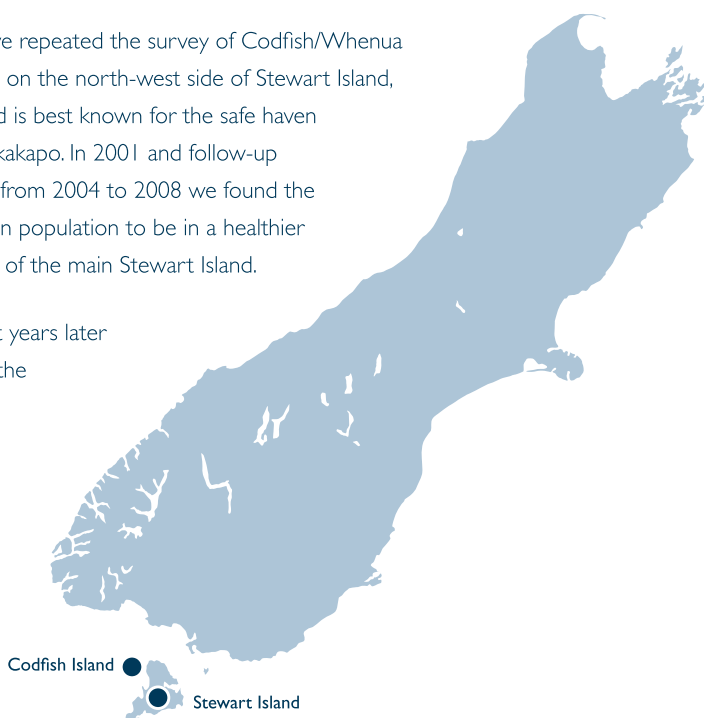
What we found was that the number of breeding pairs on the north-east coast has declined from 30 in 1999 to 22 in 2008.

A similar decline was not recorded elsewhere around the island or on some of its close outliers. Instead the recent census showed a shift in distribution with a slight increase in some locations but little change overall. The results of the 2008-2009 census suggest the decline on the north-east coast is localised and is not present on other parts of Stewart Island/Rakiura.



This season we have repeated the survey of Codfish/Whenua Hou. This island lies on the north-west side of Stewart Island, is predator-free and is best known for the safe haven it provides for the kakapo. In 2001 and follow-up monitoring studies from 2004 to 2008 we found the yellow-eyed penguin population to be in a healthier condition than that of the main Stewart Island.

What we find eight years later will be revealed in the May 2010 Hoiho.



The Trust received a tremendous boost in its new Long Point/Irahuka reserve development in September when the Royal Society of New Zealand awarded one of its annual Teacher Fellowships to Jim Young from Catlins Area School.



Sue, Jim and Dave after the award was announced

Jim's career in teaching has taken him from outback Queensland to the rural community of Owaka in the Catlins. He has previously been involved with conservation work in the Catlins, growing native plants and assisting Fergus Sutherland at the Forest & Bird (Southland) Te Rere Reserve.

Jim will be investigating aspects of seabird restoration at Long Point/Irahuka, including surveying and mapping seabird habitat, establishing vegetation plots, examining predator species composition and abundance and surveying the lizard fauna and distribution. We expect that Jim's work will contribute significantly to the Trust's planning processes and development of seabird conservation and restoration in the reserve. His professional experience as a science teacher will greatly assist in aspects of the project, but as the fellowship is designed to do, it will also present new challenges, information to acquire and skills to learn.

The Trust will act as the host organisation with the responsibility of supporting Jim and providing the resources and equipment necessary for the project to be successfully undertaken. It is unusual for a conservation trust to undertake this role, which would usually be taken by universities, Crown research institutes, local authorities, and museums.

We hope that the Catlins Area School will be able to benefit from Jim's experiences with the Long Point/Irahuka project; this may include hands on experience with aspects of the research.

Crucial support for the application was received from Dr Bill Lee of Landcare Research and Dr Jamie Newman (University of Otago) who will act as science mentors for the project.

After a year away it's great to be home again. I've spent the last month in Blenheim where my mother and grandmother (she's 91) live. My time in Oxford was enjoyable, and on reflection I think the most beneficial aspect of my year was not so much what I learnt from my course but rather what I learned in terms of a transition from a professional footballer to something else. In fact, if anything, I'm left with a slightly cynical view on academia: institutional learning I've found is more about reproducing a certain type of knowledge in a certain format – only one version of intelligence – as opposed to the pursuit of knowledge.

I'm not sure what I'll do next. I don't think that there is a linear relationship between what one studies and the job that one applies for (unless it's very specific), hence I may end up doing anything. I'm in the process of applying for a UK working VISA and if I get that I'll reassess my options about what I'm going to do and where I'm going to do it.

What I have been rather appalled at upon my return to NZ is to witness the continued assault on NZ's natural world by government agencies. As the patron to this well-respected environmental group I can but applaud the Trust on their efforts on one-hand, but feel dismayed with the deteriorating condition of NZ's environment in general.

The latest news that the government are investigating our national parks for minerals is indeed a portentous sign for the future. If the Minister of Energy and Resources, the Hon. Gerry Brownlee has no intention of mining in Fiordland, as he earnestly claims, then why even bother investigating what's in the ground? The only credible conclusion is that at some stage these sacred areas will be mined.

More rivers dammed, a lignite/urea installation in the south, a milk solid factory which takes approximately 800 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk and 100 litres of milk to produce 10kgs of milk powder (according to my math this clocks in at 5.6 million litres of water per day), windfarms hundreds of miles



LISA ARGILLA

away from consumption and less and less money destined for conservation.

And all the while we Kiwis pat each other on the back for being clean and green, exemplary in our environmental standards.

I'm afraid the future looks rather bleak. The only effective method against these insurmountable odds is to hunker down and enact change from your own region, together, and hope that others are doing the same elsewhere.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anton Oliver'.

Anton Oliver
Patron, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust



Please remember us in your Will.

Managing and/or purchasing penguin breeding habitat and controlling predators such as stoats and ferrets are some of our ongoing tasks.

Saving the yellow-eyed penguin is a long-term task. Bequests will help secure the hoiho's survival.

Please remember us in your Will.

Community Work Days

OKIA RESERVE

Okia Reserve is a 230 hectare jewel only 30 minutes drive from the Octagon, but probably unknown and unvisited by the majority of Dunedin residents. Jointly owned by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and Dunedin City Council, it is bounded on one side by the magnificent arc of Victory Beach, home to 20 pairs of yellow-eyed penguins, and on the other by the Pyramids, Taiaaroa Hill and the sandy Okia Flats with their relict dune fields.

World Environment Day (Arbor Day) saw teams of volunteers help the Trust plant 1,000 trees and shrubs to link up older plantings that were started in 2001/2002. What was a formerly a grassy slope, grazed by sheep and cattle until 1991, now proudly sports a mini-forest of trees planted by volunteers over the past eight years. The Trust was assisted on the day by individuals and volunteer teams including Natural History New Zealand, Bayfield High School, Dunedin City Council, Community Relations and Women in Conservation groups from the Department of Conservation's Otago office.

Planting has continued at Okia Reserve over the winter months, and the Trust has appreciated further volunteer assistance from many other groups – our sincere thanks to you all.



Natural History New Zealand staff swapped microphones and cameras for spades and gumboots to assist with revegetation. Michael Stedman, managing director says "it is a way for the company to offset its carbon footprint and ensure 'our' environmental legacy continues to be positive". Pictured here is NHNZ staff who helped plant some of the trees donated by the company.

TAVORA RESERVE



Owned by the Trust since 1993, Tavora Reserve is around 40 minutes' drive north of Dunedin. It includes a prominent headland called Bobbys Head. From the south beach a walking track loops round the headland with glorious views to the south as far as Otago Peninsula and north towards Oamaru.

Revegetation work at Tavora has been carried out since 1996 and the native dune plantings on the beach now form a golden ribbon, backed by riparian plantings and the beginnings of a totara dune forest.

This year's last planting day was carried out at Tavora Reserve by Year 8 students from Balmacewan School, Dunedin. For the past three years teacher Lisa Shea has timetabled us into her classes Community Work because she loves the mixture of conservation learning, participation and fun that a day like this can provide. As with other years the students were very enthusiastic and took everything in their stride with good humour (and that was definitely needed during the bouts of hail!). It was also impressive to see that the class had done their homework and when they found a trap with a dead ferret in it, they knew exactly why we needed to release it and then set about burying it.

We loved their creativeness, particularly in their use of a spade for a cricket bat during their lunch break. The sun shone for the afternoon walk around the headland and the seals were a highlight for many. Again, it was great to see so many parents attend the day and provide extra hands and eyes.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Honda Tree Fund and Otago Regional Council, around 350 shrubs and pikao (native dune sedge) were planted in the dune and developing totara dune area. We hope that students will bring their families back to show off their work, and become participating supporters of the Trust in the years to come.



University students and Mercure Hotel staff help out at another Trust reserve during the winter planting



Rustic Pathways from USA offers international travel programmes to college students, and the Trust was delighted to have assistance at Okia Reserve from this group in August 2009. Pictured here during lunch break are the volunteers: Angela Figallo, Adam Wolf, Peter Wolf, Lena Blietz, Reid Calvert, Rosemary Weiser, Tomi Chipman, Melissa Hamilton, Taylor Drake and Katy Miller.

Pacific Blue flies with the penguins

A penguin party took place on Pacific Blue's inaugural non-stop flight between Brisbane and Dunedin in September.

Celebrating Dunedin's unique wildlife, Pacific Blue's first flight saw three 'human penguins' auction \$2,000 worth of prizes, with proceeds going to the Trust.

During the flight guests raced chocolate Jaffas down the aisle of the Boeing 737-800 in honour of Dunedin's annual Jaffa race down the world's steepest street. Each Jaffa raced represented a different charity, with the winner (Children's Variety Club) receiving NZ\$500 (AU\$410) from Cadbury World.

Following an entertaining flight, the aircraft was warmly welcomed into New Zealand at Dunedin International Airport by a flash mob of penguins, including Trust penguins Margaret Murrell, Margaret Suman, and Sue Murray. Promoted through Facebook, the two best dressed 'penguins' in attendance each won return flights for two on a Brisbane to Dunedin flight.

Tourism Dunedin chief executive, Hamish Saxton, said, "The inaugural flight, like Dunedin itself, was fun and quirky. We are a lively city with a big heart and look forward to welcoming more Australians".



PHOTOS: MERRIN BATH

eDay

Electronic waste is a huge problem in New Zealand. eDay was created as a national event aimed at diverting more than 1000 tonnes of electronic waste, much of it with toxic chemicals, from landfills around the country.

At Dunedin's eDay venue, Trust volunteers were on hand to retrieve printer cartridges on behalf of Cartridge World, who then contributed reward points to the Trust for each one returned. These points enable the Trust to purchase consumable goods such as office supplies. Dunedin residents brought

in 36 tonnes of electronic waste, and 996 tonnes was collected nationally.



MERRIN BATH

Lisa Ryalls (volunteer) and Margaret Murrell (trustee) help out at eDay

Cadbury Chocolate Carnival Peninsula Day

A new event was held as part of the annual Cadbury Chocolate Carnival week. Traditionally, Dunedin residents don't always have a great track record for exploring local attractions, so it was decided to promote the unique Otago Peninsula. A variety of events at local attractions had significantly reduced opening fees encouraging Dunedinites to explore their peninsula. The day started wet and cold (it was, after all, July) at the Portobello Farmers' Market, and although we had plenty of visitors going past our stall, most were heading for the hot soups and mulled wine stalls.

Later in the day, when the sun came out, the Trust led a pre-booked group of visitors to their Otapahi Reserve, a reserve not open to the public. The walk up the hill saw a few moans and groans from some of the group

(despite the encouragement of free Cadbury chocolate to boost energy levels). And there as if on cue, were two penguins waiting on the far side of the steep gully. The purpose-built amphitheatre type view down into one of the beaches gave us a clear view of the penguins as they came ashore from the day out at sea.

And twenty minutes later... they all began to come in... and almost an hour later when it was time to leave, the tally of penguins landed on the beaches or rocks was a massive 34. They did everything: porpoised in the waves, swam in and out, hopped, ran, waddled, danced, walked on the beach, climbed up rocks and sand dunes. It was the most perfect showing one could have ever dreamed of for those privileged to be part of this unique experience.

The six months since the last newsletter have been very busy, and in part dominated by our trip to Wellington to visit dignitaries, funding providers and associates. This trip was well timed as we are reviewing budgets for the forthcoming year, and have concerns about funding our activities into the future. We have had several grant applications declined, and are finding it more and more difficult to access new providers supporting conservation work. It is a stressful time for the Trust, and like many other organisations, unfortunately not a unique position. It makes our appreciation of you, our supporters, even more important and we cannot thank you enough.

We take this opportunity to congratulate our chair, Karen, on the birth of her son, Samuel Richard, and welcome young Sam to our brood. Karen's contributions to the production of this newsletter have been sadly missed as we let her ease back in gradually from maternity leave.

The annual cost of producing the two hard-copy newsletters per annum for our supporters has been calculated at approximately \$5 per year per supporter. Many of you asked that you receive this electronically to help save on these costs, and we haven't forgotten that. Traditionally we have mailed out the newsletter with your personalised subscription renewal form and have not yet worked out a simple way to do this electronically. Please be patient as we are attempting to find a solution (and one that doesn't cost heaps of money!). In the meantime enjoy this paper copy basking in the sun and relaxing before the festive season.

Sue Murray

Sue Murray
General Manager
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

The Trust visits Capital City

In September, the Trust visited a variety of dignitaries and associates in Wellington as part of our ongoing advocacy work on penguin and marine issues.

Sue had been in Wellington on a professional development course funded by a scholarship from the Tindall Foundation (administered by Unitec NZ), and at the completion of this course, was joined by field manager David McFarlane and trustee Pat Mark (who donated her own airfare – thanks heaps Pat!).

During our time in the capital, we visited potential and existing funding providers, associated environmental groups, Al Morrison (director general of the Department of Conservation) and several of his associates, and both the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Tim Groser, and the Minister of Fisheries, Hon. Phil Heatley.

It was an extremely busy few days which saw us racing between meetings and up late preparing for the ones the following day.

Wearing our YEPT vests, the three of us were noticed in the corridors of power; but also walking along Lambton Quay. One day we were stopped on the street by a suave young man, who asked if we “really were from the YEPT?” On receiving our positive reply, he proceeded to tell us he had worked for Vodafone in 2007 when a new scheme was launched (Donateline!) at our 20th Anniversary Conference, and what an awesome memory that was for him. Wow! Imagine the attention we might receive if we dress as penguins next time!

Everywhere we went we were heartened by the warm reception, and felt that each and every visit had a positive outcome. The people involved knew about the Trust and the work we undertake, and were keen to listen, give advice and help us save the endangered yellow-eyed penguin.

However, the clear message we came away with was that in many instances, funding for conservation projects is being reduced. In addition, seeding finance might be available for volunteer groups but not funding for organisations, like ours, that have moved from a purely volunteer base to that of semi-professional. This is a major concern to the Trust.



Pat with Al Morrison Director General,
Department of Conservation



Sue with the Hon. Phil Heatley,
Minister of Fisheries



Dave with Hon. Tim Groser,
Minister of Conservation

YEPT's financial performance

Earlier in the year there was a lot of media attention focused on the fundraising performance of non-profit organisations. We thought it timely to talk about how the Trust would rate if asked similar questions about their accountabilities to our supporters and funding providers.

Lisa Wells, Presbyterian Support Otago's communication and fundraising director, recently wrote in an *ODT* article "The cost of fundraising varies from one not-for-profit organisation to another, based on a host of variables. Organisational efficiency cannot be measured by fundraising income to cost ratios".

The Trust's audited annual accounts for the year ending 30 September 2008 showed a total expenditure of \$348,170, of which \$35,764 (approx 10%) was for overheads exclusive of salaries associated with the functioning of the Trust. The Trust's administration tasks are divided between volunteers and the general manager, so even allowing for some salary costs to be added onto this 10%, the total would not exceed 20% of total expenditure.



In general, the Trust does all its fundraising in-house and so does not pay for the services of a professional fundraiser. People can make donations via our website (Fundraise OnLine), and for each transaction we loose approximately 7%. However, one must also remember that the administration time of banking and receipting would equate to at least this amount in overheads.

Our main expenditure is salaries (68.7%), as conservation is extremely labour intensive.

There are 40,000 not-for-profit organisations in New Zealand which last year handed

over an estimated \$1.4 billion in donations. There is no shortage of choice if you wish to make a donation. If you have any concerns about how much the charity itself receives, then please ask. If your questions cannot be answered, it is reasonable to have some concerns about their ethical performance.

Please remain reassured that the Trust's fundraising practices are ethical, above board and as efficient as they can possibly be. We thank you for your ongoing interest as committed supporters to our cause.

Charities Commission Registration Number CC22822



Unique ways of raising funds and profile for penguins

Each year, we are delighted with the many and varied ways people help us raise the profile of the penguin and the Trust. To each and every one of you, our sincere thanks. Here are just a few examples to share with you from this years' contributions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OTAGO DAILY TIMES



'CABBAGE MAN'

Dressed as a brassy brassica for 10 days on the road was a novel way for a Dunedin man to raise money for himself and make a donation to the Trust. Dunedin man Trevor Page left Auckland and headed for home, raising funds along the way for a trip to Spain where he will learn to teach meditation. "If I can make one person smile, it was all worthwhile," he said on completion of the trip. His outfit was made of foam with the green face applied daily, and he wore glasses to give the illusion of an 'intelligent cabbage' and carried an umbrella just in case!

Thank you Cabbage Man, and we hope your studies in Spain are going well.

'VANISHING PENGUINS'

Matt Darling, at the time a Dunedin student, decided to walk the north-west circuit of Stewart Island – a 10 day, 125km tramp through bush and beach, in mud and sand, through some of the most picturesque land in New Zealand. Along the way he thought more about the plight of the penguin on the island, and wrote an article to explain what was happening to this rare bird. At the end of the article he writes 'I came looking for the iconic yellow-eyed penguin but I did not find any. Is it too late?' Through the work of the Trust he hopes not. Matt submitted his article to the Wilderness magazine, and when accepted, donated his author fee to the Trust. Thanks Matt, and we wish you well for your future.

Matt talking to Sandy King on Stewart Island



MERRIN BATH



'CHOCOLATE PENGUINS'

Volunteers Max Buxton and Annalese Lapwood helped the Trust by dressing up as penguins and handing out samples of chocolates as part of Cadbury's Chocolate Carnival Peninsula Day. Giving up a day as a teenager to work voluntarily is highly commendable, and we sincerely thank both Max and Annalese.



Canon Photography Competition

Two of the Trust's employees entered their own photos into Canon's Creative for a Cause online photography competition. One of those made it into the final five finalists, chosen out of the 682 New Zealand entries in the competition. The photo titled 'Into the Unknown' was of two yellow-eyed penguins heading out to sea for a day's fishing and was taken on a Canon Powershot A700 camera by Sandy King, the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's

Project Officer Southern Islands (based on Stewart Island).

Entrants were asked to enter photos that reflected a cause about which they were passionate. Sandy entered several of her favourite photos in the hope of winning \$25,000 for the Trust. She says, "We are always in need of money to carry out work that we think should be done, no more so

than at the moment when we are considering participation in a survey of yellow-eyed penguins on the Auckland Islands, and our work on Stewart Island needs to continue – it would have been great to win. However, it was encouraging that people cared enough to look at the photos and vote for them. I am thrilled that the picture was considered good enough to make it into the top five."

Mainland Bake Off raises funds for Penguins.



To celebrate Mainland butter's new gold packaging it held the inaugural Mainland Butter Bake Off. Competition was fierce among the competitors with home-made cakes, muffins and biscuits that would hold their head high in the company of any professional bakery.

Once Judges had tasted and marked, the baked goods were open to Fonterra with a gold coin donation. All monies raised were added to the annual sponsorship of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

The winner was Melissa Myocevich for her exquisite blackberry and chocolate cheesecake.

Eugene Rush

Senior Brand Manager Mainland, 0800CHEESE (0800-243-373)

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24th November

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Barclay Theatre, Otago Museum
Great King Street, Dunedin

Guest Speaker:

Prof Lloyd S Davis "Marching with Penguins – three decades or so of research on penguins."

All welcome.

For more information contact the Trust

office on 03-479-0011, email at

yeptrust@gmail.com or check our website

for details www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

At last, a biography on Lance Richdale!

A book about the life of Dr Lance Richdale 1900-1983, pioneer penguin and albatross scientist, is planned for release in late 2011. It will be co-authored by Neville Peat, of Dunedin, the author of more than 30 titles and recipient of the 2007 Creative New Zealand Michael King Writers' Fellowship, and Christopher Robertson, of Wellington, an eminent seabird scientist, who knew Dr Richdale, worked on scientific papers with him, and has collected all of the material published by him.

You can assist the research. If you knew Dr Richdale, or if you know of anyone who had contact with him, please get in touch with Chris Robertson, who is coordinating the research effort for this project. His email address is cjrr@slingshot.co.nz or, by writing to RICHDALE PROJECT, PO Box 12397, Wellington 6144.

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Inland Revenue staff (Otago & Southland)
Kath Widdowson
Kim Newman (DCC)
Lee-anne Anderson (Cadbury)
Lisa Ryalls
Matt Darling
Max Buxton
Mercure Hotel staff
Otago Waste Services
NZ Federation Graduate Women
Pacific Blue
Read Marine
Rustic Pathways, USA
Tourism Dunedin
Te Radar
Trevor Page
Volunteers who refurbished the
nursery kitchen/office

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 co-opted sub-committee members for their valuable contributions to our work.

Paper Used

The paper used in this issue of *Hoiho* by South City Print passes the green test admirably with an EU Flower Eco-label.

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And, don't forget, once you are finished with this issue, why not recycle it?

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