



# Hoiho

November 2010

[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)

ISSN 1179-2981



Conversely, other environmental and community groups come to the Nursery to learn. Schools from all over Otago pay regular visits and often extend this to touring nearby yep reserves to see the end result of healthy, safe penguin habitats.

*"Schools come to learn and to help. The children want to work. They want to help save yellow-eyed penguins,"* said Anita.

The voluntary work continues throughout the year, the volunteers even turning up on the coldest winter days when the site is quite hostile.

*"The micro-climate is good here in the summer, but not in the winter,"* commented Anita. *"It wouldn't be the perfect site for a normal nursery – perennials for example would never grow – but natives are quite robust."*

*"They still need protection from the frost however, so we take them for a ride in the wheelbarrow and place them under large bushes and trees for shelter".*

The site of the Nursery is a decommissioned Dunedin City Council sewerage works and the annual 'penny' rental contributes to the viability of the business unit. The Nursery runs on a break-even basis relying on donations from organisations and individuals, as well as the sale of plant stock.

The real value of the plants, however, is in the ground. While the figure won't appear on any dollar ledger the Trusts' plantings add tremendous and incalculable value to the environment.

*"Perhaps the plantings should qualify to earn carbon credits,"* suggested Margaret.

*Continued on page 6 >>*

## Nursery tops 10,000

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's Nursery at Company Bay, Dunedin, has achieved another milestone – producing 10,000 plants this year, almost all of which will be used to regenerate yellow-eyed penguin habitats in southern New Zealand.

When asked for the core business of the Nursery, the co-managers, Anita Pillai and Margaret Suman, were in sync with their answer – *"Growing native plants for penguin habitats and bringing the community along with us"*.

The Nursery is a 100% community venture. It was founded in 1988 with a \$25,000 grant from the New Zealand Lottery Board, and its very sustainability has since depended on the

generosity of benefactors and hundreds of volunteers helping to nurture the plants.

There can be anything from six to 16 volunteers at the Nursery on any Wednesday, equating to 230 volunteer hours or nearly one full-time employee each month.

*"It's developed into quite a community,"* said Margaret. *"We have a lot of fun, and learn so much from each other."*

The volunteers contribute their own gardening skills and knowledge of native plants. They also provide invaluable labour, not only growing plants but also producing thousands of wire plant cages and pegs. In 1993 the group developed its own design of weed mats made from old wool fadges.

# More than half of penguin species under threat



Report from the 7th International Penguin Conference  
By Michael Graham Richard

More than 180 scientists and government officials recently gathered in Boston for the 7th International Penguin Conference. The conclusions of the conference are rather alarming. The scientists warn that 10 of the 18 penguin species are experiencing population decline and that a variety of things are threatening their long-term survival, with some of these species facing extinction by the end of the 21st century.

Four main factors are threatening penguins. The first is over-fishing. Because of the rapid increase in fishing operations in the past

decades, penguins are now competing with us for food, and our industrial fishing fleets are simply more effective at catching fish.

The large scale harvesting of anchovy and sardine stocks have directly reduced the prey available to many penguin species including macaroni and chinstrap penguins in the South Atlantic. Thousands of penguins are also killed when they are caught in fishing nets.

The second factor is climate change. Many penguin species are highly dependent on small schooling fish for food. The changing climate can affect the migratory patterns of these fish, making it harder for penguins to find food.

The third factor is pollution by the oil

industry. Large scale oil spills make worldwide headlines, but chronic petroleum pollution has killed thousands of penguins, particularly off the coasts of South America and South Africa. The most common sources are illegal operational dumping from ships, long term leaks from sunken ships and some land-based discharges.

The fourth factor is predation by introduced mammals. Many penguin species have evolved in remote environments that didn't have any mammal predators. But now the penguin populations of places like New Zealand, Australia and Argentina are being attacked by mammals, including weasels, cats and foxes.

[www.planetgreen.discovery.com](http://www.planetgreen.discovery.com)



Over exploitation of penguin food stocks continues to deplete penguin numbers. From left: macaroni, African and chinstrap penguins – all endangered species.

## Modern penguin species:

### Aptenodytes – great penguins

King, *Aptenodytes patagonicus*  
Emperor, *Aptenodytes forsteri*

### Pygoscelis – brush-tailed penguins

Adélie, *Pygoscelis adeliae*  
Chinstrap, *Pygoscelis antarctica*  
Gentoo, *Pygoscelis papua*

### Eudyptula – little penguins

Little blue, *Eudyptula minor*  
White-flippered, *Eudyptula albosignata* (provisional)

### Spheniscus – banded penguins

Magellanic, *Spheniscus magellanicus*  
Humboldt, *Spheniscus humboldti*  
Galapagos, *Spheniscus mendiculus*  
African, *Spheniscus demersus*

### Megadyptes

Yellow-eyed, *Megadyptes antipodes*

### Eudyptes – crested penguins

Fiordland, *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*  
Snares, *Eudyptes robustus*  
Erect-crested, *Eudyptes sclateri*  
Western rockhopper, *Eudyptes chrysocome*  
Eastern rockhopper, *Eudyptes filholi*  
Northern rockhopper, *Eudyptes moseleyi*  
Royal, *Eudyptes schlegeli* (disputed)  
Macaroni, *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

Source: Wikipedia

# Microchip tagging extended to all reserves

In 2009-10 the Trust began using transponders on fledging yellow-eyed penguin chicks at some of our reserves, and this year will extend this to yellow-eyed penguins on all our reserves.

Transponders are used as a method of marking animals using a tiny microchip embedded in glass which is inserted under the skin with a needle, often at the back of the neck. They are widely used for cats and dogs, farm animals and wild animals, including various penguin species. The transponder is a passive tag and is scanned using a handheld or wand reader.

In the past the Trust has assisted the Department of Conservation with marking penguins on its Tavora and Otapahi reserves, using stainless steel flipper bands. The bands have been suspected to cause injury through abrasion and entanglement, and also of negatively affecting foraging performance of some individuals and penguin species. Additionally they require ongoing checking and maintenance. Debate on the possible impact of flipper banding continues in the scientific literature. Marking the penguins with transponders therefore offers significant

advantages. This extends to the monitoring as it is extremely accurate and usually less intrusive, especially when the long wand reader is used.

Data gathered from the penguins marked with transponders will continue to be contributed to the Department of Conservation yellow-eyed penguin database and will enhance the Trust's understanding of yellow-eyed penguin populations and their dynamics, including key issues such as recruitment.

One limitation of using transponders is that there is no visual clue of whether the bird has been marked, compared to an external flipper band. So whenever anyone finds a dead or injured penguin, or even one in need of hospital care, it should be checked for the presence of a transponder.

The Trust recognised that not many people owned or had access to a hand-held transponder reader; so it purchased ten units to distribute amongst people involved with penguin habitats and conservation. This initiative was announced at the 2010 Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium in August.



Mel Young, Biodiversity Assets Ranger, DOC Coastal Otago Area Office stated: *"It's fantastic that the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust have made transponder readers available to penguin people up and down the coast in Otago. This means that individual birds implanted with transponders may be tracked from fledging throughout their life without the need for an external flipper band."*

## Kennel stolen

A dog motel at the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Tavora Reserve at Bobbys Head, East Otago, was stolen sometime around the 24 September.

Placed in the carpark in late 2008 to provide a secure shelter for dogs, while their owners visited the reserve where dogs are not allowed, the original box was also stolen, then replaced by the Trust.

*"It is extremely disappointing that some individuals have stolen the kennel from a reserve where public access was provided by the Trust, for all to enjoy the wonderful coastal scenery,"* said Field Manager David McFarlane.

The dog motel was paid for by funds left by

the late Carol Landis, a long-time supporter of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Carol loved the reserve and wanted to provide somewhere for dog owners to safely put their animals, instead of leaving them in their cars, especially on hot days.

Regrettably, the kennel will not be replaced.



## YEPT AGM

Date:

**Tuesday 16 November at 5:30pm**

Place:

**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Office**

Level 3, Queens Building,  
109 Princes Street, Dunedin

**All welcome**

## 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 the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in your Will.

Charities Commission Registration Number CC22822

# Unusual visitors

One of the highlights of working in the field as employees of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust are the unexpected sightings of unusual visitors to our remote beaches.

This year a male Southern elephant seal hauled-out on one beach for several days. This one may have originated from one of the New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands, and they are known to range throughout the Southern Ocean around the Antarctic continent. The male is distinctive with its inflatable proboscis (snout) which is thought to increase the effectiveness of the bull elephant seal's roar and appearance as they fight for dominance during the breeding season – see below.

Males are sexually mature at 3-6 years of age, but few breed before they are 10 years old.

Many will never breed with 90% dying before reaching sexual maturity. Females are sexually mature at 2-4 years old and generally give birth to a single pup annually for 12 years.

Adult males can reach up to 5 metres in length and weigh 3600 kilograms, while females are about half that length and only a quarter of that weight.

There has been a long-term annual decline in numbers, possibly due to commercial exploitation of prey stocks and the population returning to pre-sealing numbers after having recovered to abnormally high levels.

As if to confound their status as an uncommon visitor to the Otago coast, just three weeks later a yearling elephant seal was discovered on an adjacent beach.



## Tea for two?

Peter Simkins, the chair of the Trust, and his wife Ceinwen and son Richard, have transformed the Portobello coffee shop into Penguin Café.

With a passion for penguins and habitat conservation they have created a penguin information centre in their café. They have maps and details on where to and how to observe the penguins, as well as details on yeps' lifecycle and loads of penguin photos around the walls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL TIPPET



## Let's get quizzical...

1. What is the largest species of penguin?
2. What is the smallest?
3. How many penguins are killed by polar bears in an average year?
4. What is New Zealand's most populated island after the North and South?
5. What is the popular translation of 'Rakiura'?
6. On which NZ currency note is the hoiho featured?
7. What is Mumble the penguin's very special talent?
8. Can penguins drink salt water?
9. Who played 'The Penguin' in the 1992 movie, 'Batman Returns'.
10. Outside which West Coast pub was Mainland's famous yellow-eyed penguin TV commercial shot in the late 1990s?



Answers: 1. Emperor. 2. Little blue. 3. None as polar bears live in the northern hemisphere and penguin only in the southern. 4. Waiheke, population 8,000 (Stewart Island has 400). 5. Glowing skies. 6. \$5 note. 7. Tap dancing, in the movie Happy Feet. 8. Yes, because their supraorbital gland filters excess salt from the bloodstream. 9. Danny de Vito. 10. Mahinapua Hotel, near Hokitika.

# Founding trustee honored

Founding Trustee Lala Frazer was awarded the Coastal Otago Conservation Award as part of Conservation Week in September. As well as being involved in founding the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in 1987, she also assisted in the formation of Save the Otago Peninsula (known locally as STOP) in 1981.

Now retired from working at the University of Otago, Lala says, *"I'm a full-time conservationist"*. Firstly with the Aramoana smelter proposal and the possibility of an alternative site at Okia Flat (later purchased jointly by the Trust and the Dunedin City Council), she started asking questions about the environment. *"I was beginning to become aware of the area around me and not taking it for granted so much."* From there STOP was started, but when the smelter issue disappeared, there came a new threat – mining Harbour Cone.

During these campaigns, Lala began to realise the power of educating people about threats to the environment. On hearing a talk on how the yellow-eyed penguins could be lost to the peninsula because of predation, she became interested in saving them. Thus came the formation of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, with Lala as one of the founding Trustees.

Today, Lala's involvement with both organisations is still strong. She chairs the conservation management committee for the Trust, serves on other sub-committees and is still writing or contributing to submissions, newsletters and a variety of other Trust activities. She is a deserving winner of the Conservation Award for her dedication to conservation efforts over the last 30-plus years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OTAGO DAILY TIMES

# Patron scores position

The Trust congratulates our patron, Anton Oliver, on his new position with Sciemus Limited in the United Kingdom.

In September, UK company Sciemus announced the recruitment of Anton to spearhead operations in the Property and Renewable Energy Source (RES) divisions as a part of Sciemus' growth strategy to leverage upon successes in the space and power sectors.

Over the past three years, Sciemus has been developing technologies, partnerships and analytical tools to serve the ever increasing demands of the renewable energy and property industries. An initial development partnership with Ecclesiastical saw the delivery of ePAT (Ecclesiastical Property Assessment Tool) which is capable of mapping properties with pinpoint accuracy and measuring a variety of perils. Additionally, Sciemus has completed the first version of its Wind Risk Analysis tool as a drive into the renewable energy sector. These revolutionary technologies will radically change the way in which risks are calculated and premiums are valued. Anton will champion these new newfound capabilities to deliver to the insurance market over the coming months.

Andre Finn, CEO of Sciemus commented on the company's website: *"I am delighted that Sciemus attracted the talent of Anton. He joins a growing team of committed individuals and will act as a key member of our line-up."*



## YEAH RIGHT!

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica – where do they go? Wonder no more! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintaining a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and 'buried'.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing: *"Freeze a jolly good fellow, freeze a jolly good fellow."*



Anita (left) and volunteers at work at YEPT's plant nursery at Company Bay.

Margaret Suman and Diana Wilson planting flax at Okia Reserve.

## Creating new habitats starts here

The most significant contribution the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust can do to grow the yellow-eyed penguins' population is to conserve and regenerate its on-land habitats. The Trust cannot save penguins at sea. Only on land can it create ideal environments by providing healthy forest habitats and protection from predators.

A pivotal part of regenerating southern New Zealand's coastal forests is the Trust's Dunedin Nursery. It has adopted a novel 'pure-eco' policy of ecosourcing native plant seeds, propagating them at the Nursery, and returning them to the same district from where they came. This policy restores the integrity of local forests, offering yellow-eyed penguins and other native fauna the best opportunity to thrive.

The Nursery grows hundreds of species of New Zealand native plants, and a quick look around the rows and rows of potted plants soon confirms the wonderful diversity. There

are also huge numbers of the Nursery's mainstay plants – what Nursery managers, Anita Pillai and Margaret Suman, call "the tight five".

### It is so satisfying to see a penguin family living under a bush that we grew from seed and planted

The tight five are New Zealand flax/harakeke (*Phormium tenax*), lemonwood/tarata (*Pittosporum eugenoides*), black mapou (*P. tenuifolium*), cabbage trees/ti (*Cordyline australis*) and mikimiki (*Coprosma propinqua*). But then Anita and Margaret enthusiastically add ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) and koromiko (*Hebe parviflora*) to the group – one suspects the list could be endless. All species are prime material for growing perfect penguin habitats.

Like all learned botanists (Anita has a PhD in botany and Margaret a horticulture qual), the

team do talk-the-talk in Latin. "While the English and Māori names are nice, they get confused between subspecies," said Anita. "And then there are the differing Māori dialects

where, for example, mingi mingi in the North Island tongue is pronounced miki miki here in the south."

Dune grasses have been one of the Nursery's proudest success stories. The Trust accepted the daunting challenge of restoring the sand dunes of the Tavora Reserve with the native golden sand sedge, pikao (*Ficinia spiralis*), replacing marram grass, an invasive exotic.

It was said by many that it couldn't be done, but after some early disappointments the Trust thumbed its nose at the sceptics. Today, the Tavora dunes have been resculptured and are a wonderful example of how the dunes used to look. This success has been repeated with an ongoing pikao planting programme at

the Okia Reserve on Otago Peninsula.

The Nursery's plantings in the wild have a strata where fast-growing plants are the first tier, with species like poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*), rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*) and karamu (*Coprosma lucida*). These provide early cover for the penguins and shelter for the next tier of plantings; the 'tight five' and other medium-size trees – whiteywood (*Melicactus ramiflorus*), pepper tree/horopito (*Pseudowintera colorata*) and kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), referred to by many as New Zealand's national flower.

The forest giants follow and the Trust has the vision to nurture totara (*Podocarpus totara*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), matai (*P. taxifolia*) and kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*). But it requires huge tenacity to germinate these future giants.

*"It can take 18 months of watering and TLC before we see the first signs of tiny leaf sprouts,"* commented Anita. *"You really do wonder if you are wasting your time and energy. But they do come through, more often than not."*

The Nursery team loves challenges. They are often delivered 'mission impossibles' in the botanic world; asked to propagate extremely rare and endangered plant species. Most recently they went searching for the Cape Saunders rock daisy (*Helichrysum selago*), with the help of a local farmer-landowner:

Fossicking in the plant litter, the seeds were finally located, and today the Nursery has over 80 of these prehistoric plants. Most will be relocated to their original environment.

The challenges continue for the Trust's nursery. While the production is currently 10,000 plants a year, the Trust has a vision of 15,000 p.a. This solely depends on funding and overcoming physical difficulties, like the extremely poor drainage at the Company Bay site.

*"We get used to having wet feet, but it doesn't stop us from achieving what we set out to do – make the environment a better place,"* said Anita.

For information on how you can contribute to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's nursery, [www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)



*And this is what it's all about – healthy habitats for healthy penguins!*

# It's a long way from Texas

Margaret Suman, our green-fingered propagator and planter, is moving on at the end of the year to begin a new chapter in her life – to grow almonds and macadamia nuts in Nelson. Margaret was raised in Texas which is as far removed from saving sub-Antarctic penguins as you could get. So we asked, "how come?"

***"I'm a nomad I guess. I travelled all over the States after high school. New Zealand is the furthest I have moved. But in a way, one of the easiest as the people are so friendly, so helpful."***

You worked for the SPCA before you left the States in 1998. Why choose penguins when you got here?

***"You only have to go nest searching or watch them come in. You never tire of it. They are one of the rarest penguins in the world. I find them so fascinating. It's funny, you go back to Texas and talk about penguins. You're talking to one person and you look around and there are ten people listening."***

What's your favourite New Zealand animal?

***"Wood pigeons. Should be penguins though."***

What were the biggest culture shocks when you arrived?

***"I arrived from a New Orleans summer to Dunedin in July. It was freezing! And the food! I miss Tex-Mex food and in New Orleans they season everything to the hilt – seafood, crawfish, shrimp creole. New Zealand food misses seasoning, but I am seeing it more now."***

Which bit of cricket and rugby don't you understand?

***"All the cricket! I love rugby though."***

And what's the future hold for you in Nelson?

***"I am going to grow nuts. I'll grow natives too. And look for conservation work – perhaps with blue ducks."***

Trustee, Lala Frazer, commented that although Margaret is shy to take credit for her own activities and achievements, one of her attributes that we shall really miss is her ability to always acknowledge and warmly thank people for their contributions, no matter how small. *"We will all miss her infectious enthusiasm and encouragement when she moves north, and she will be sorely missed."*

***Haere rā Margaret.***

***Y'all come back now! Ya hear?***



# Changing of the Rakiura guard



*Typical yellow-eyed penguin habitat on the north coast of Stewart Island/Rakiura.*

For this summer season Sandy King has handed over the reins to Antje Leseberg who will run the penguin monitoring programme. Antje (YEPT's Stewart Island field assistant) has considerable field experience and has worked with a variety of bird species, including various seabirds on the Chatham Islands and waders in the Mackenzie Basin. She is thrilled to be involved in the yellow-eyed penguin work on Stewart Island and is busy preparing for the field season that is about to start.



*Antje Leseberg*



*Sandy King*

This season the programme will focus on Codfish Island, the Bravo Islands in Paterson Inlet and hopefully the Neck on the eastern edge of the inlet. Each site will be visited three times: locating nests in October; checking on chicks in early January; and weighing, measuring and transpondering the fledging chicks with microchips in late January.

On Codfish, Antje will be assisted by a Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) student, Christian Gunther, who is studying for a Diploma of Environmental Management and had joined Sandy on a trip to Codfish in February. Both SIT and YEPT hope to establish a long-term relationship whereby a student studying for the diploma gets the opportunity to take part in some hands-on field work. In return, SIT helps fund the work.



## Research project gathers momentum

At Long Point/Irahuka, yellow-eyed penguin nest searching is approaching and Jim Young (Catlins Area School – Royal Society of New Zealand Awarded Teacher Fellow) is working on the final stages of his year-long research project, that concludes in December.

Despite some wild Catlins weather, Jim continued trap monitoring throughout winter and assisted Kate Ladley (Landcare Research) with vegetation monitoring in late September. This consisted of intensive sampling and measuring of 20 1x1 metre plots, taking almost three days – a total of 4,000 measurements!

Lizard monitoring has been running alongside the other work with periodic checking of ACOs (Artificial Cover Objects) and pitfall traps. Two species of skinks have been



Leith Thomson

recorded so far – *Oligosoma polychroma* and *Oligosoma inconspicuum*.

Dunedin Branch – Forest & Bird, a partner in the Long Point/Irahuka project and instigator of the Otago Coast Seabird Restoration Project, has secured funding for several sets of audio-attraction gear; one of which is destined for Long Point/Irahuka. This consists of a waterproof case with sound system, plus

a battery and speakers. The equipment has recently arrived and it is hoped that the set will be installed onsite in 2011.

In other Long Point/Irahuka news, the Trust is continuing work on the management plan and is preparing for a meeting of the Long Point/Irahuka Advisory Group.



## Arbor Day celebrated at Okia Reserve



The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust celebrated the 2010 Arbor Day by involving the community in a planting day at the Okia Reserve. Jointly owned by the Trust and the Dunedin City Council, this 231 hectare reserve is open to the public. It offers a variety of walks through the old dune fields, restoration plantings and out to the adjacent Victory Beach.

The day involved planting 500 shrubs in an area of fore-dunes, including many NZ flax (*Phormium tenax*) and poroporo (*Solanum*

*aviculare*). It was easy planting for the three trustees and 17 volunteers, partly because the ground had been prepared by staff, but also because we were digging into sand.

The planting area is one of several developed by the Trust over the last five years among the Okia dunes, with the intention of enhancing the nesting opportunities for the yellow-eyed penguin.



# Thank you Frank Austin



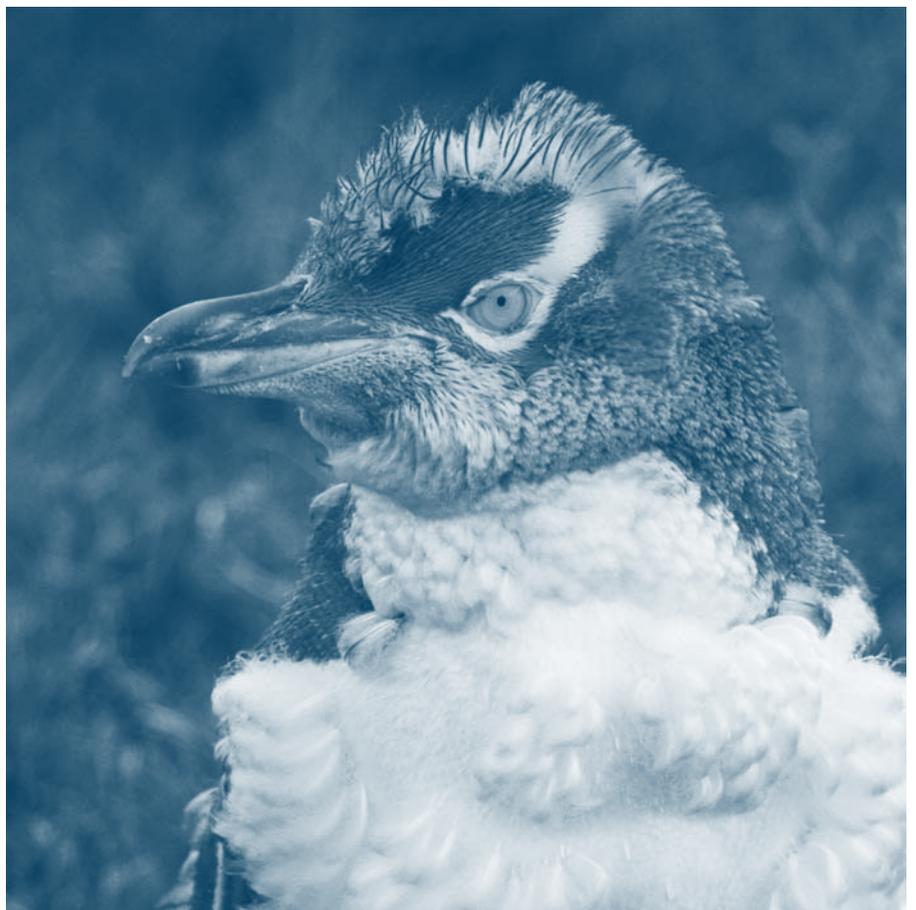
The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's nest searching team has this year noticed the absence of volunteer Frank Austin.

Frank has assisted the Trust since the 1980s, particularly at the Okia Reserve on Otago Peninsula where he tirelessly monitored the penguins during their breeding season and reported back on a regular basis.

Frank became involved as a volunteer when he assisted John Darby with his population studies. These consisted of day-long beach counts by a series of observers at designated shorelines adjacent to penguin nesting areas.

Frank's willingness to always lend a hand in his quiet unassuming manner and his wicked sense of humour will be missed.

The Trust sincerely thanks Frank for his years of dedication and commitment to penguin conservation.



*Moulting adolescent yellow-eyed penguin.*

# We remember Howard McGrouther

PHOTO COURTESY OF OTAGO DAILYTIMES



Owner of award-winning Penguin Place on the Otago Peninsula, Howard McGrouther died in September. Howard was credited with being a pioneer of ecotourism on the Otago Peninsula where he showed that farming and tourism could go hand in hand if properly managed.

Penguin Place has many facets to the operation. As well as the tourism and farming operation, it is also certified by the Department of Conservation to run a

penguin hospital where many birds have been treated and rehabilitated over the years. A scientist is employed to assist staff with the regular monitoring of the birds, particularly through the breeding cycle, irrigation dams have been created and many trees have been planted on the property to enhance the coastal area.

DOC programme manager biodiversity assets David Agnew said the facility at Penguin Place is a great example of how visitors

could be managed to reduce disturbance to the penguins and a place DOC could recommend people go to see the birds at close proximity without disturbing them. "Howard's contribution to yellow-eyed penguin conservation has been significant".

Howard was on the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's Habitat Committee for several years. The Trust enjoyed Howard's input to conservation issues relating to penguins and while not always agreeing on the principles discussed, the conversations were always rewarding. In recent years Howard and his team assisted the Trust in the habitat management of a neighbouring beach and the penguin population was monitored alongside the neighbouring birds viewed at Penguin Place.

Peter Simkins, Chair of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust said "His contribution and understanding of nature-based tourism was instrumental in setting Dunedin on the map as the 'Wildlife Capital of New Zealand'."

# Farewell and thank you David Mules

The Department of Conservation Coastal Otago Area Office recently farewelled David Mules, Community Relations Programme Manager who moved away from this area. For many years DOC's Youth Development Programme (recently renamed from Conservation Corps) has assisted the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust at both the Nursery and in the habitats. This programme was managed by David who was instrumental in retaining it in Otago, the only one left in the country run by DOC.

The revised 10-week courses attract students from the ages of 16 to 25, and are credited by many as having pointed their lives "in the right direction". Otago's programme is funded by the Ministry of Youth Development, while similar courses are run by other organisations, such as community trusts, iwi and YWCA.



A typical day with the Trust would include meeting the Nursery staff to learn about the identification of native plants and seed collecting. Once a variety of seed has been correctly identified and collected, the group returns to the Nursery to clean and sow the seeds. Other propagation techniques are also

learnt and include pricking out other species such as flax, and potting-on plants like totara, hebes and miki miki.

The group also assists the Trust with habitat work where they learn about the various aspects of our conservation work, including assisting with planting out the native trees and shrubs, and weed control.

David also initiated the volunteer wardens programme at Pilots Beach and Sandfly Bay to allow visitors to view little blue and yellow-eyed penguins safely, now a recognised success story.

David's friendship and advice in many aspects of our working relationship, including the Youth Development Programme, was highly valued by the Trust.



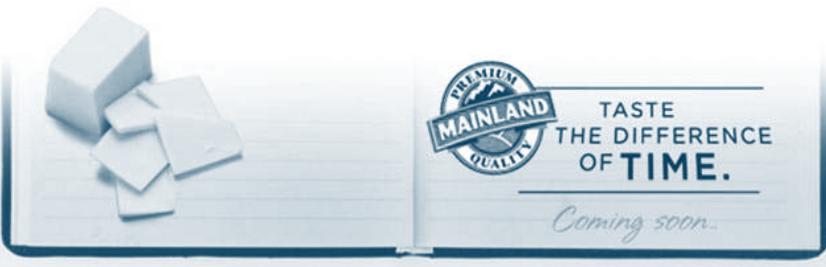
## Dear yellow-eyed penguin supporters

**Mainland** is one of New Zealand's most iconic brands. Generations of Kiwis have grown up eating Mainland and have come to rely on it for great taste and exceptional quality.

Over the next year, we invite you to join us on a new chapter in the Mainland story to be enjoyed by generations to come. A great story like Mainland has many threads and themes and in addition to our new commercials we have a host of other exciting things planned in the near future. Look out for our new look and stay tuned to all things Mainland.

Remember to send in your Mainland barcodes to help us raise \$75,000 to support the yellow-eyed penguin.

Warm regards,  
The team at Mainland



## Canon continues support of YEPT

Canon New Zealand Limited continues to support the Trust through heavily subsidised products and services. This year is no exception, with the additional donation of a camera. A photographic record of our work is an important part of monitoring progress, and when we are out in the field, we never know what we will find (see the article on page four about the elephant seals).

Simon van Gelderen, Account Manager (Dunedin) said: "Like the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Canon New Zealand is committed to preserving the environment and the habitats of our treasured fauna, and as such, we wish the Trust well as it strives to improve the environs for these animals. We admire people who are giving of their time and passion to conserve what can never be replaced."

Our relationship with Canon began almost twenty years ago when the Trust was in its infancy. The Trust sincerely thanks Canon for this ongoing support.

### Thank you to our regular supporters:

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Otago Polytechnic Horticulture, Arbor & Landscape Depts  
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Strategy First

### Thank you for funding from:

AAW Jones Charitable Trust  
DOC Biodiversity Fund  
DCC Biodiversity Fund  
Dunedin Casino Charitable Trust  
Glowing Sky  
Gothic Heights Motel  
Heseltine Trust  
Landcare Research  
Royal Society of NZ  
Southern Institute of Technology  
Speight's Environment Fund

### Special thanks in this issue to:

DCC Task Force Green team

### 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 Advertising & Art 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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