



Hoiho

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The numbers game

By Lala Frazer, Trustee

Each year the Trust waits anxiously for the results of the nest counts and then the number of chicks that survived.

When the Trust began, it was in response to a statement during a talk to Save the Otago Peninsula Inc Soc (more commonly known by its acronym, STOP) by researcher John Darby. We were stopped in our tracks by his statement that, **“by 2020 there will no longer be yellow-eyed penguins walking up the beaches to their nests.”**

Impossible! How could this be?

John explained that on most of the Otago Peninsula breeding sites the numbers of chicks hatched were reduced by predation by 90+% – in some cases 100% – before they even had a chance to go to sea. And once at sea, most did not survive their first year, unless there was a plentiful food supply while they learnt to hunt, and they also learnt to avoid the predators awaiting them in the ocean.

Consequently, when the current adults died, there would be no young penguins to take their place.

The solution seemed clear: We had no control over the marine environment, but we could trap the stoats, ferrets, weasels and cats, and keep out the dogs. Furthermore we could also fence and remove the cattle that were stomping on the nests. Removal of stock would allow planting and that would mean more effective shade cover for nest

sites. Artificial nest boxes could provide interim shaded nest sites. With more chicks fledged, more would survive their first year and go on to become breeding adults producing yet more live chicks to head to sea.

We've done that, and theoretically every year, given that about a third of juveniles might survive to breed, the number of breeding pairs should be increasing in a straight line.

However, sadly that is not what happens. Numbers of nests, numbers of eggs laid, and most importantly, the numbers of chicks that fledge, can show enormous natural variation from year to year – see the table on page 2.

Variations in number of nests on some more difficult sites may be merely a reflection of the number and expertise of the searchers in that particular year. After all, the yellow-eyed penguin is known for its secretive, solitary nesting habit.

Some years the food available is not enough to support the weight gain necessary to prompt adult pairs to lay eggs. Younger and older breeders in particular may have lower egg fertility.

High temperatures at brood time can lead to heat stress on the eggs. Imagine that adult penguin designed to survive in cold water having to sit on two eggs and keep them at a particular temperature during a blazing hot day. The uncomfortable adult is up and down like a yoyo to ensure air flow to the eggs. Some eggs become overheated and become infertile.



When the chick hatches, it too is designed for cold temperatures with its brown fluffy down covering, and heat stress can lead to its death. In the nest, heavy rain is another killer; sometimes flooding and waterlogging the young chick.

A steady food supply is needed to sustain the growing chicks, and for whatever reason, the amount of fish, squid and whale-feed available varies from year to year. A low weight or malnourished chick is more likely to succumb to the respiratory and other diseases to which it may have developed immunity if it was better nourished.

The loss of one chick may actually enhance the chances of the other, but the loss of an adult is a disaster. One parent alone cannot feed two hungry offspring, no matter how much it tries.

Essentially when looking at figures used to estimate breeding success (from the number of nests, the number of eggs, the number of

Continued on page 2 >>

chicks hatched, and chick survival to fledging, one cannot look only at two years, but must look at a series of years. Sometimes one part of the country may have greater breeding success than another in a year, or for two habitats close by, one may have a positive increase on the year before and another a decrease, although generally there is a trend within a region.

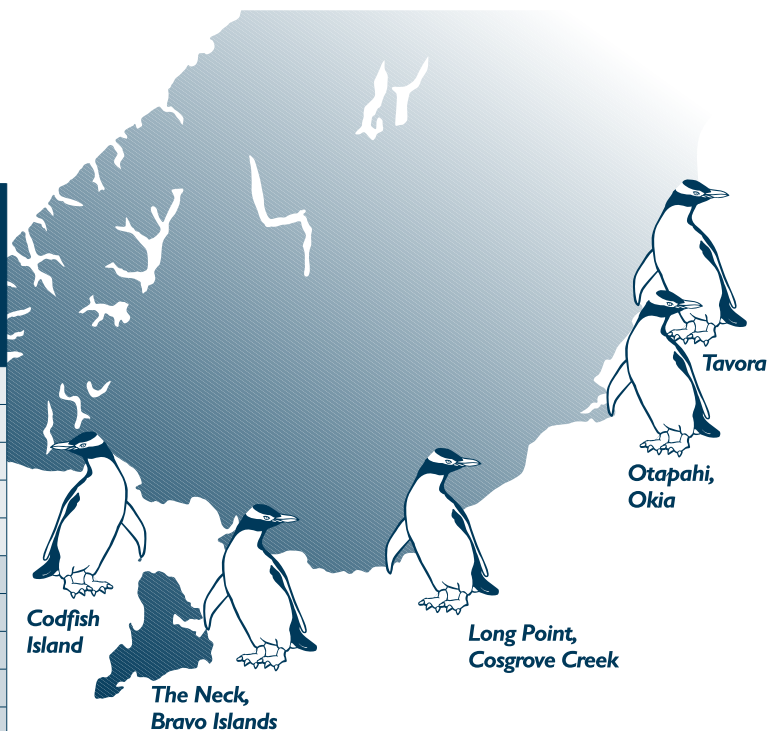
Small changes from year to year therefore may not be too significant, dependent as they are on fluctuations in weather and food availability that occur from year to year.

Where the warning bells ring, is consistent reduction in the number of eggs laid, the

numbers of chicks hatched and the numbers of chicks fledged from a particular site or region. Such a situation as we had on the Anglem Coast of Stewart Island and as we now have on Whenua Hou / Codfish Island where numbers have fallen from 61 nests in 2001 to 46 in 2009 and now to 39 in 2010. This calls for urgent and more detailed monitoring to try and isolate the possible reasons for the marked and continual decline. However, such research is costly and may not be always be feasible without substantial financial assistance.



Reserve	Year	Nests	Eggs laid	Eggs hatched	Chicks fledged	Reproductive success (%)*
Otapahi, Otago Peninsula	11/12	20	34	26	26	76
	10/11	23	43	27	24	56
	09/10	22	41	35	29	71
	08/09	32	57	35	29	51
	07/08	22	40	23	22	55
Tavora, East Otago	11/12	2	4	4	4	100
	10/11	3	6	4	3	50
	09/10	3	6	6	6	100
	08/09	5	9	5	0	0
	07/08	2	4	4	4	100
Okia, Otago Peninsula	11/12	13	25	19	13	52
	10/11	16	32	25	19	59
	09/10	14	27	24	20	74
	08/09	18	32	18	3	9
	07/08	17	31	27	27	87
Long Point, Catlins	11/12	48	90	71	67	74
	10/11	50	98	82	72	73
	09/10	39	75	62	58	77
Cosgrove Creek, Catlins	11/12	12	23	20	16	69
	10/11	20	39	31	27	69
	09/10	14	24	13	12	50
	08/09	19	32	24	21	66
	07/08	9	16	12	12	75
Codfish / Whenua Hou	11/12	39	75	49	37	49
	10/11	32	63	58	44	70
	09/10	47	93	86	54	58
Bravo Islands	11/12	11	22	13	11	50
	10/11	20	39	21	19	49
The Neck	11/12	5	9	7	7	77
	10/11	4	8	8	5	63





Mainland Update 'Adopt-a-penguin' campaign

Mainland joined forces with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust more than 21 years ago in an effort to save our national treasure from extinction.

In celebration of this sponsorship, Mainland and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust have launched a campaign to educate primary school children about this true kiwi icon that relies on the next generation of dedicated New Zealanders for their survival.

The campaign will leverage the long-standing barcode redemption scheme that sees Mainland donate a dollar to the Trust for every barcode New Zealanders collect, up to \$75,000pa.

The June campaign consists of two elements.

Firstly, the in-schools Mainland Adopt a Penguin Programme will run throughout Term 2 when each class will adopt their own virtual penguin and will watch it grow from egg to parent. To support their penguin and raise funds for the Trust, classes collect yellow-eyed penguin labels from Mainland products to go in the draw to win a share of \$10,000 for their school.

Teachers will also receive fun and educational weekly information and activity sheets, which are a great fit with the current New Zealand primary schools' curriculum. The material encourages the development of English and writing competencies, a focus on New Zealand and its environment, the scientific elements of penguins and promotes teamwork.

The second component involves working with the famous *What Now!* television show to promote the competition from mid May to end of June. This partnership will include significant airtime with 100,000+ target viewers each week, presence on the *What Now!* website and weekly prize draws and grand prize of a trip for a child and adult to see the yellow-eyed penguins.

Senior Brand Manager of Mainland, Rachel Faulkner, says yellow-eyed penguins are unique to New Zealand but many New Zealanders are unaware of its endangered status and what can be done to help.

"At Mainland, we're very committed to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. To celebrate this commitment and support the Trust further we want to teach primary school kids about the penguins, how New Zealanders can help and why it's so important that we keep supporting them," she adds.

For more information about the Mainland Adopt a Penguin Programme or to sign up a class to the programme go to www.adoptapenguin.co.nz

Mike Legge

The recent move by Mike and Sandy Legge to the West Coast has left a gap in the penguin conservation community in Otago.

Mike was a Trustee of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust for a number of years. After standing down from the Trust Board he agreed to participate in the Conservation Services Levy (now Conservation Services Programme or CSP) as the Trust representative.

The CSP programme is set up to identify, investigate and resolve fisheries and wildlife interactions. The funding of investigations is through levies on the commercial fisheries themselves. Consequently the programme is scrutinised very closely by the fishing industry and their advocates. This can lead to some very uncomfortable meetings as assumptions by conservation advocates are tested somewhat unmercifully by the fishing industry. It is a measure of Mike's ongoing commitment to YEP conservation that he volunteered for this role without even knowing really how such a commitment might work. In the early days of this work DOC was not well organised and seemed to think that the participants were only ever going to be based in Wellington. As a consequence, meetings were organised at short notice and were likely to be cancelled at equally short notice because it was assumed that all the participants were Wellington based. Having a passionate advocate based in Dunedin did not fit the model.

However with persistence and a voracious appetite for delving into complicated strategies and technical reports, Mike was persuasive in getting DOC and Ministry of Fisheries to engage in inshore fisheries management with the development of observer programmes. The most recent report by DOC confirms that set nets are continuing to catch YEP. It will require ongoing advocacy to understand the real impact of this interaction.

Mike's efforts here have been mostly hidden and very much in the background. However his contribution has been very significant in advancing this issue. The Trust and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Consultative Group are very appreciative of the work that he has done on our behalf.



Kairuku resurrected

A giant penguin once lived in Zealandia, the precursor of New Zealand. Kairuku, a Māori word loosely translated as “diver who returns with food”, probably became extinct from its New Zealand habitat between 24 and 25 million years ago. We know this because its fossilised bones have been reconstructed by a group of scientists led by Professor Ewan Fordyce, a paleontologist from the University of Otago. Their work was recently published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Professor Fordyce spotted the 27-million-year-old fossilised bones in a cliff near Waimate, South Canterbury, in 1977, when he was a PhD student. He later returned and removed the rest of the bone fossils that were embedded in the rock. Other finds followed in the 1990s and, most recently, 2011. Dr Dan Ksepka, of North Carolina State University, was invited to Dunedin to help reconstruct the giant penguin fossils. Professor Fordyce said that finding such specimens offered the “...chance of a lifetime to better understand

those extinct penguins that lived before the earliest fossils of “modern” species, more than 15 million years ago.”

Kairuku stood 1.3 metres tall - 30 cm taller than its nearest modern-day rival, the Emperor Penguin, of Antarctica. With its spear-like bill, it weighed at least 60 kilograms, which is 50% heavier than the Emperor Penguin. Professor Fordyce says its large body size was an “adaptation” for swimming further and diving deeper compared to its modern-day counterparts. Researchers are not sure why the “giant” penguins disappeared. Climate change, or increased predation from dolphins and seals, has been suggested as possible causes of extinction.

Dr Fordyce says New Zealand has a history of producing exceptional fossils that give important insights into the history of penguins and other marine creatures.

“When the penguins lived about 27 million years ago, New Zealand seas probably offered a rich supply of food, with good nesting sites nearby. The penguin skeletons



CREDIT: ARTWORK BY CHRIS GASKIN, OWNER AND COPYRIGHT OWNER - GEOLOGY MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND, USED WITH PERMISSION.

Two Kairuku penguins come ashore, passing a stranded *Waipatia* dolphin.

were buried in quiet conditions, without being broken apart by waves and currents. As a result, the fossils are well preserved and complete,” Professor Fordyce says.

Dr Ksepka says the New Zealand location was great for penguins in terms of both food and safety.

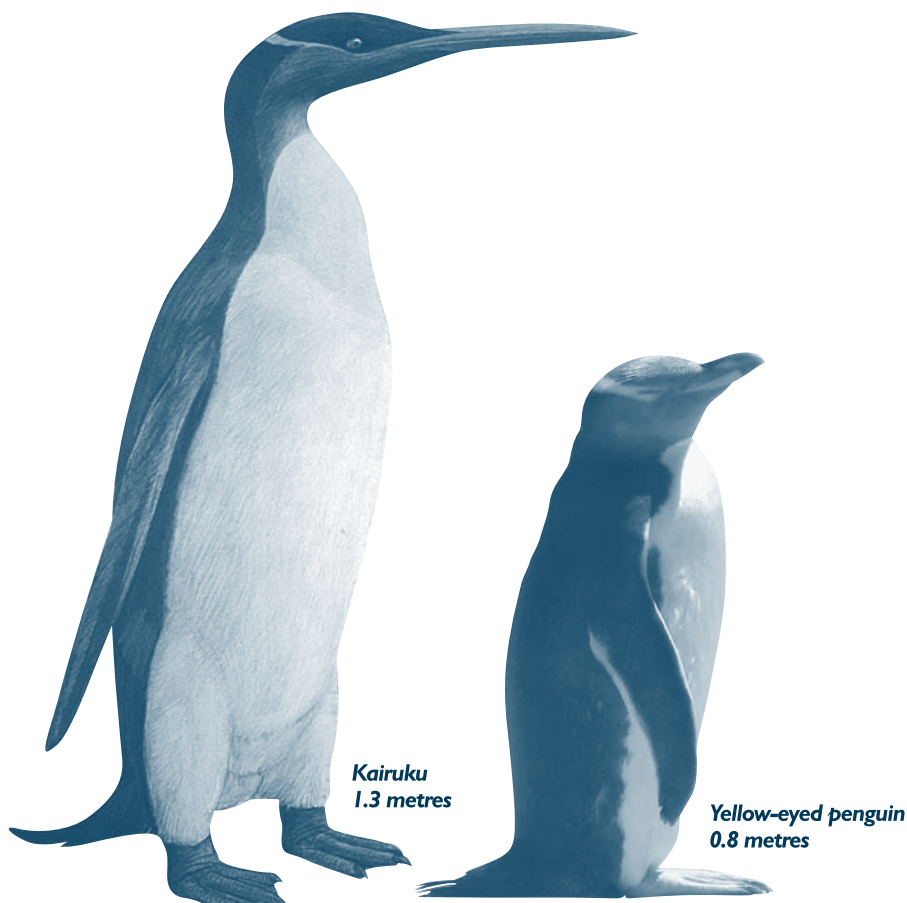
“Most of New Zealand was underwater at that time, leaving isolated, rocky land masses that kept the penguins safe from potential predators and provided them with a plentiful food supply,” he says.

Kairuku includes two species of at least five different species of penguin that lived in New Zealand during the same period. The diversity of species is part of what made the reconstruction difficult, and the penguin's unique physique added to the difficulty.

“Kairuku was an elegant bird by penguin standards, with a slender body and long flippers, but short, thick legs and feet,” says Dr Ksepka.

For more information visit:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/geology/research/paleontology/kairuku.html>



CREDIT: PHOTO BY R. EWAN FORDYCE, SPECIMEN: GEOLOGY MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO.

Composite skeleton of Kairuku, under study by Ewan Fordyce

Alan Wright

Trustee 1988–2007

The following tribute was read at Alan's funeral service in April recognising his contribution to the Trust. We sincerely thank his wife Connie and family for funeral donations in his memory.

The yellow-eyed penguin is one of NZ's icons, rising to this status in the late 1980s and enjoyed by us all today. Today the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust joins in celebrating the life of another of NZ's unique icons, and one we have also all enjoyed.

Alan joined the Trust Board in 1988, when the Trust was very much still in its infancy, having only been established a year earlier. His wealth of knowledge of birds, and his connections instantly made him a valuable asset to this new organisation as it struggled against a society not yet ready for what was considered radical thinking around protecting an endangered species. He often knew who to make contact with in another organisation, regularly initiating the first contact or making that vital introduction that might help the Trust in one way or another. His trusteeship continued until 2007 when ill health forced him to step down from the role, but he maintained an active role in supervising the Nursery personnel, the managers Anita and Margaret in particular. However, on the quiet, Alan always believed it was the other way around and that they supervised him.

The office-based staff did not go unsupervised either. Alan would keep in touch by phoning in on a daily basis to report the latest bit of news, tit bit of gossip or just plain check on what was happening and what was our bit of gossip, so that he could in turn share with others. For me personally, if he didn't get me at the office he usually phoned me at home, just to make sure I was all right! We all understood this was the caring nature of the man and that he was genuinely concerned for our welfare as much as he wanted to share that latest bit of whatever with whoever.

His commitment to an organisation was evident by his level of participation. At the Trust from 1988 – 2006 Alan attended 173 Trust

Board meetings out of a possible 210. Or in other words, that is a massive 82% attendance rate. And on top of that there were the sub-committee meetings where his attendance each year was often as high as 100% but never fell below 79%. He was a willing facilitator of these meetings, taking his rostered turn but also volunteering to facilitate when a fellow committee member was absent.

He also willingly volunteered at functions and events, including planting days. Maybe not so much planting in his later years, rather supervising these occasions, but he was active in the earlier years behind a spade. The spade was replaced with BBQ tools and Alan became 'Chief BBQ-man', and a dab hand he was at it too. Striped pinny donned, he got the tongs in one hand and the spatula in the other and woe betide anyone who dared suggest he might want a spell from being 'Chief BBQ-man'.

He was a hoarder of sorts – or delighted in hoarding stuff for the Trust. He delighted in presenting me with any and all penguin related paraphernalia – often picked up from the most unusual places such as Steptoe auctions he was involved in through Lions, or travels he made. Other stuff seemed to find their way to the Trust, things like table forks for tools, teapots and even pvc aprons with bikini-clad frontage. He also collected and donated muttonbird fat for lubricating traps and due to the strong smell this also did double duty by attracting pests once the traps were out in the reserves.

He loved meeting anyone and everyone, from every walk of life. During his days with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust he met some celebrities that the Trust was fortunate to work with. People such as the Trust's first patron Beverly Lady Reeves, wife of the late Sir Paul Reeves who accompanied her, and the current patron, ex-All Black Anton Oliver. Other well-known people included David Bellamy and Dame Silvia Cartwright when she was Governor General of NZ. He also met many government ministers over the years as well as local dignitaries and Trust corporate sponsors.



The Alan Wright Seat and YEPT members

His relaxed manner and depth of knowledge was always appreciated by all that met him. His mischievous twinkle and engaging way had people engaged instantly as he found the link, or what was their common interest, who knew who etc. And his sense of humour, the sometimes not always PC sense of humour, was so typical of the Alan we all knew and the Alan we all enjoyed. His courteous nature and kindness was always a winner – giving up his seat for visitors, joking with children, and buying lollipops for his extended penguin family.

By 2007 when Alan retired, he had become such a fixture at the Nursery that the Trust dedicated a seat to him, known as "The Alan Wright Seat". This seat will and be a permanent reminder of his contribution to our Trust and keep his memory alive. And we have Connie to share them with too. The Trust also acknowledges Connie's total support of Alan's involvement over the years – her dedication and commitment was as great as Alan's.

I would like to finish by taking the liberty of repeating Anita's words spoken at Alan's retirement function "Alan makes everyone at the Nursery feel welcome, something I have observed he does wherever he is. Almost always within approximately the first five minutes of conversation, Alan has worked out some connection with a person. When he does this, he makes the world a village".

Rest in peace now Alan in your new village.

Written and presented by Sue Murray,
YEPT General Manager.

YEPT VIP visitors

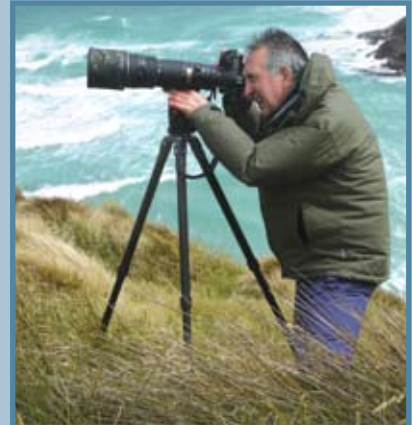
The Trust hosted a variety of visitors during the year to view our work, share conservation ideas, and whenever possible, enjoy seeing the yellow-eyed penguins. In the past few months visitors have included:



Mark Cawardine

British Zoologist, writer and TV presenter

The British zoologist, writer and TV presenter returned to NZ in late 2011 in search of the countries Small Five: Hector's dolphins, tuatara, kiwi, kea and yellow-eyed penguins. During his time on the Otago Peninsula he joined Trust staff to hear about their conservation programme and photograph the penguins. On his previous visit to NZ Mark and co-presenter Stephen Fry were filming Sirocco the kakapo on Stewart Island when the bird took a liking to him and decided to try and mate with his head! It was a huge YouTube hit at the time!

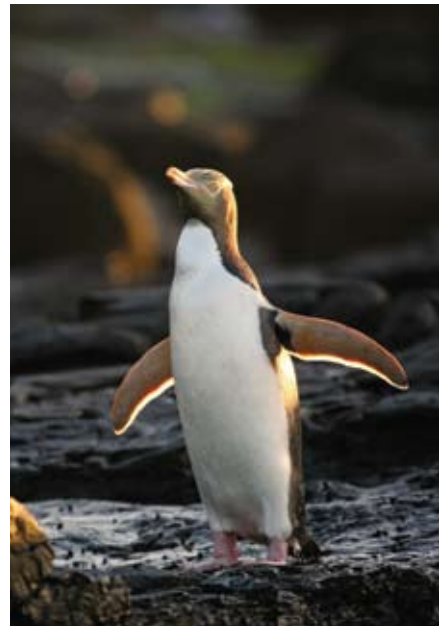


Paul Orders

DCC Chief Executive



The Trust works very closely with the Dunedin City Council and it was our pleasure to host the newly appointed DCC Chief Executive, Paul Orders, and his family as part of their induction to their life in Dunedin. The family, who comes from Wales, had not previously seen yellow-eyed penguins but for their young children it was probably the ride over the paddocks to our reserve in the Trust's 4WD that they loved the most.



Margy Gaynor

Biodiversity Officer – Waitaki District Council

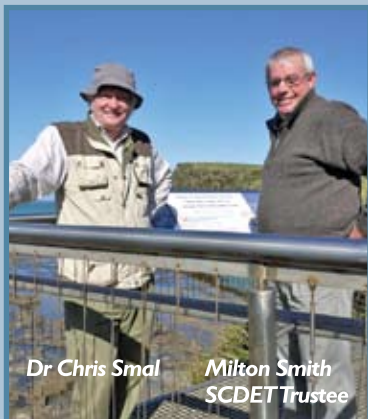
The Waitaki District Council has appointed Margy as its first Biodiversity Officer (part-time) funded for three years by the Department of Conservation's Biodiversity Advice Fund. Margy recently moved from Queensland, Australia, and is keen for the Council to establish a native plant supply database to facilitate landholders wanting to replant for biodiversity outcomes. During her visit to the Trust's nursery a number of topics were discussed including; landowners aware of environmental issues and pending water quality standards under consideration by local authorities.



Anita Pillai Margy Gaynor Leith Thomson

Dr Chris Smal

Irish Ecologist



Dr Chris Smal

Milton Smith
SCDETT Trustee

Roads are a particular hazard for many UK animals and Irish ecologist Chris Smal specialises in access routes over or under roads for species such as badgers and deer. It was a new experience for him to be asked questions about yellow-eyed penguin. Part of the redevelopment of Curio Bay (Southland) involves consideration of access routes for the penguins from their existing flax nesting area to the forest inland. Underpasses are commonly used overseas, and Chris was able to share his experiences and ideas with the Trust and the South Catlins Development & Environment Charitable Trust during his recent visit arranged by YEPT.



Andrew Cutler

Forest and Bird's National President



Eric Shelton
YEPT Trustee

Andrew Cutler

Forest and Bird's National President visited Long Point / Irahuka Reserve as part of his tour around South Island branches. He was hosted by the South Otago Branch on this visit and discussed development plans with trustees and staff on site. The Trust considers Forest and Bird a key partner in this development, following its substantial donation that assisted the purchase of the reserve.

Rakiura round up

STEWART ISLAND

Another yellow-eyed penguin season has come to an end here in the south with a mixed bag of results for Stewart Island and Codfish Island/Whenua Hou.

On Codfish Island, the number of breeding pairs appears to be dropping, with the latest census carried out in October 2011, finding only 39 breeding pairs. In comparison, the 2009 census found 46 pairs and the 2001 census 61 pairs. The cause of the decline is uncertain but from now on an annual census is vital to understand what is happening. In total, the 39 nests produced only 40 chicks, giving a productivity of 1.02 chicks/pair; down from 1.37 chicks/pair last season. While there were fewer chicks this season, at least they were slightly heavier than last year with an average weight of 4.99kg.

On the Bravo Islands in Stewart Island's Paterson Inlet, the number of breeding pairs has also dropped from 20 pairs last season to only 11 pairs this season. A total of 11 chicks were produced this season, all of which were micro chipped and were healthy and of good weight.

Five nests were found around Eastern Bay on the Neck of Stewart Island and produced 7 healthy chicks.

Periodically seabirds such as penguins will have bad seasons, where fewer pairs attempt to breed and fewer and/or less healthy chicks are produced. This is usually linked to large



Alina Thiebes and Karen Bowman releasing chicks at the Neck, Stewart Island

scale weather patterns and food availability and this may account for the lower success this season. We will have to see what next season brings but a close eye needs to be kept on the Codfish numbers.



Chick in holding bag



Bill Wilson – peg & cage maker

YEPT NURSERY

Bill Wilson, a long-time volunteer at the Nursery has found a niche as the peg and cage maker for the Trust. Growing the plants is only part of the story. Once in the habitats the plants require releasing from weed competition and crucially from the attentions of mammalian pests such as rabbits, hares and possums.

This is where Bill comes in, manufacturing hundreds of cages and thousands of no.8 wire pegs (three pegs per cage) using a range of tools and devices – from a homemade wire straightener to hedge clippers used to quickly cut the soft netting to length. These cages and the pegs that firmly anchor them to the ground provide the protection the plants need to establish for the first three years or so and significantly increase the survival rate. They can also be recycled and depending on their condition this could mean up to ten years use in the field.

Sea lion mum and pup on the move



Mum and pup before move



The capture



Pup and cage



Just the nose is visible!



Gem is released

OTAGO PENINSULA

In January the Trust supported the Department of Conservation in moving a sea lion pup and its mum from Dunedin's Tomahawk Beach to a quieter location.

"We decided to move Gem and her 5 day old pup because of the risk of the pup becoming injured or harassed in its current location. Gem would have soon left her pup alone on the beach to go searching for food. At that point, the pup would have become much more vulnerable," Coastal Otago Area Manager Robin Thomas said.

Tomahawk Beach is a popular dog walking beach and a fence had been erected around the pair to protect them. Volunteers had been keeping guard during daylight hours.

The sea lions had been popular and were visited by many people, especially families. "While this has been a good learning experience, we felt that the level of interaction was not sustainable in the long-term," Mr Thomas said.

Gem was restrained and sedated by a wildlife vet, lifted onto a vehicle provided by the

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and transported to another beach in the Dunedin area. Her pup was transported in a cage. At the new location the pup was tagged and a DNA sample was taken. During the translocation it was determined that the pup was a female. The move was undertaken by DOC staff, members of the New Zealand Sea Lion Trust, researchers from Otago University and with the support of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

"There are always risks associated with handling wildlife. However the risk of leaving the pup alone on Tomahawk Beach was greater," Mr Thomas said.

Mother and daughter bonded immediately on release at the relocation site, a site familiar to Gem as she had been born here in 2006. They remained there for the next three days before Gem finally got hungry enough to go off to feed at sea leaving her pup alone for the first time.

For more information see

<http://www.sealiontrust.org.nz/>
www.doc.govt.nz



Gem and her pup reunited

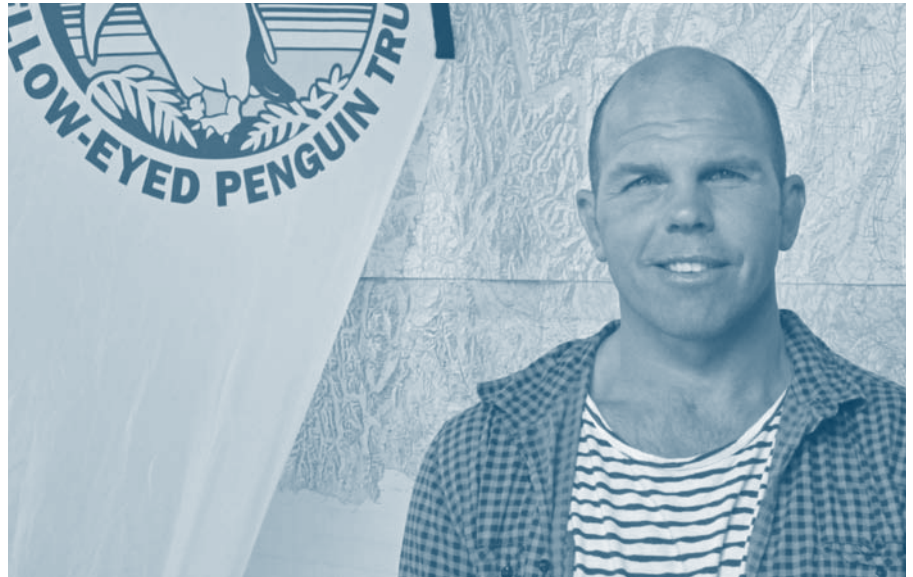
What's up with Anton

Our patron, Anton Oliver, residing in the UK and studying towards an Executive Master of Business Administration, is in the middle of exams and assignments, so we thought we would write the update about him this time around!

Despite the pressures of study and work, Anton is still able to fly the flag for New Zealand and more importantly conservation issues here. A recent event was a presentation to the NZ High Commission in London for Forest and Bird who ran a fundraising event targeting UK-based kiwis (and others!). Anton was able to stick up for his yellow-eyed penguin friends by correctly identifying a slide that was actually of a crested penguin variety. Good on ya mate!

As well as studying, Anton has left his old job and is investigating starting a few different business ventures with both new and old friends.

In between study and work, he manages the odd trip back to NZ such as to commentate a Central Otago documentary, (received an award that he's not allowed to tell anyone about yet!), renew his pilot's licence and of course catch up with his many connections back here.



A wad of cash

Some strange things can arrive in the mail, but this one was a very pleasant surprise >>



Penguin lovers like falcons too

Anonymous Donation

Dear Penny and Friends

What a wonderful (and scary) surprise we got when opening the mail, out fell one thousand dollars. You might well ask why that was scary. Well you sent it to us as cash in twenty dollar bills!

It is a fantastic and most generous donation and we really want to write and thank you but we have no full name or address to contact you directly and tell you about how great this surprise was. Instead we will tell you via this newsletter how we spent your donation.

Together with a grant from the Dunedin City Council Biodiversity Fund and a donation from the Penguin Fund of Japan, we bought a new vehicle mounted spray unit to combat the weeds and rank grasses that often choke the newly planted trees. The Trust plants thousands of trees into coastal habitats to enhance areas for penguins and other species. However, to ensure greater survival of these plants they require a minimum of three years maintenance through weed control.

So please do contact us and we can keep you updated about other Trust projects. Again, our sincere thanks for this wonderful donation.

Sincerely
Sue and the field staff at YEPT



Penguins Plants People Passion.

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Fax +64 3 479 0019
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Web www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Let's plant!



Community Work Days

Sunday 27 May

Tavora Reserve, East Otago

Meet at carpark off Goodwood Road, 10am

Tuesday 5 June

Arbor Day

Okia Reserve, Otago Peninsula

Meet at Dick Rd carpark, 10am

Bring spades, warm clothes, food and drink.

For more information contact the YEPT office
phone (03) 479-0011

email yeptrust@gmail.com

or visit www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

8th Oamaru Penguin Symposium

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 July

The 8th Oamaru Penguin Symposium will be held in Oamaru, New Zealand, on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th of July 2012. The meeting will focus on the penguins of New Zealand, Australia and their Sub-Antarctic Islands.

For more information view: <http://www.penguins.co.nz> or email research@penguins.co.nz

Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium

Saturday 4 August

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

Depending on the amount of interest an afternoon session generally has more of a theme which invited speakers are invited to address. 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 on 474-6939 or bmckinlay@doc.govt.nz

Santa Parade

Giant sized fibreglass motorized penguins chased other penguins down Princes Street as part of Dunedin's annual Santa Parade last December.

About 30 staff, trustees and volunteers ranging in age from 3 to 50+ dressed in penguin costumes to take part in this annual parade. The penguins waddled and danced while others played soccer, rode skateboards or unicycles, all to entertain the thousands gathered for this very popular event. Dunedin had turned on a scorching hot day, so the 'penguins' were rather pleased to get to the end of the road and 'moult' their costumes.



A note from the Chair

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to this edition of the newsletter. The newsletter is an important communication tool for us to update you, a Trust supporter, on the recent work of the Trust staff and its volunteers and of course the yellow-eyed-penguin. We hope you enjoy this edition.

It is also an opportunity to update you on recent changes to the Trust Board. In April Peter Simkins stepped down as Chair due to his new business commitments and was replaced by myself. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his input and effort during his term as Chair and thank him for his willingness to remain as a Trustee on the Board.

And now a short history of who I am. I am Mike Morrison and two years ago our family moved from Wellington to Dunedin to be closer to extended family and put our two children through their secondary schooling. My interest in conservation goes back to childhood days which were filled, among other things with tramping and climbing trips. These days the family undertake trips that

now include sea kayaking and conservation volunteer programmes such as the Trust offers. After 14 years with the Department of Conservation in a variety of roles, I resigned to build our house at Macandrew Bay on the Otago Peninsula and get involved with a community conservation group having worked on the other side of the fence for some time at the Department of Conservation.

Being invited to join the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust as a Trustee has without doubt exceeded my expectations and I feel privileged to work with an entity such as the Trust and its people who have a long history of innovative conservation work. In saying that, one of the main challenges the Board faces is continuing to promote the Trust, and the conservation and economic value, it contributes to potential funders in order for it to continue its work in protecting habitats for yellow-eyed penguins. Other key challenges coming up are implementing the Management Plan for Long Point and continuing penguin surveys at Stewart Island. In order to make progress on these challenges two new Trustees have been



appointed to the Board to provide essential business, communication and ecology skills. They are Linda Reynolds and Hoani Langsbury, both of Dunedin. In addition to Linda and Hoani, Mathew Parackal of the University of Otago has been appointed Marketing Advisor to the Trust adding much needed marketing skills. The addition of these new people will provide valuable input to the Board and staff alike so watch this space for new initiatives on the horizon.

In the meantime your continued support through subscriptions & donations, volunteering and purchasing plants through the Trust nursery is critical and much needed and appreciated in these uncertain economic times, so please remain committed and encourage others to join the cause.

Mike Morrison
Chair, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Board

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