

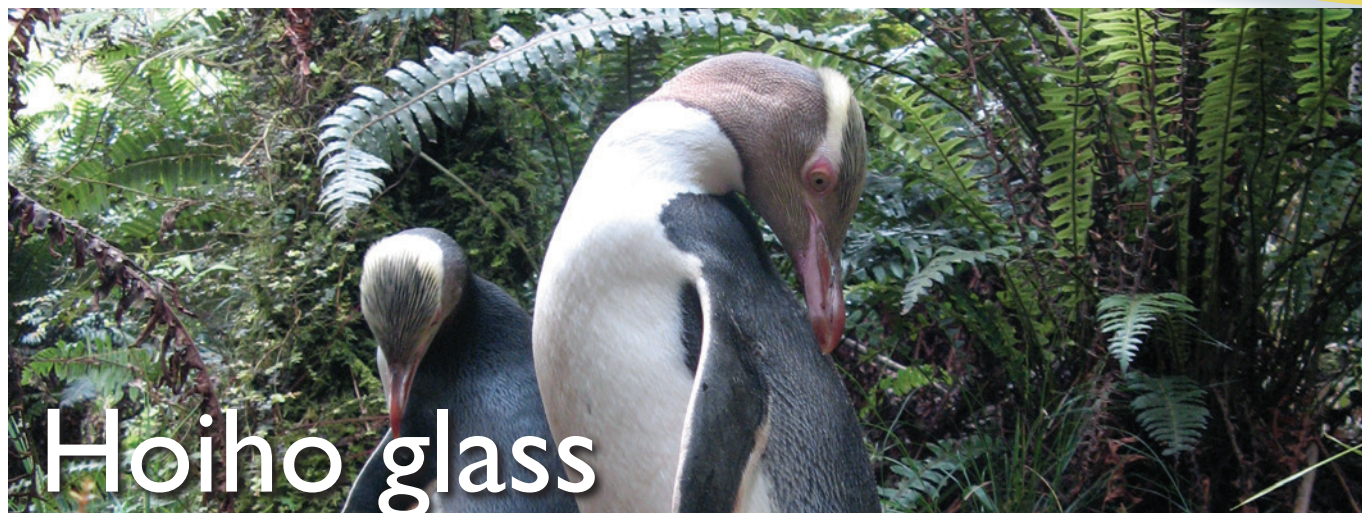


Hoiho

July 2016

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Hoiho glass half-full or half-empty?

Even wearing a pair of rose-tinted glasses it is clear that mainland yellow-eyed penguins are facing the biggest challenge to their continued survival since the population crash of 1990-91.

Following season after season of poor breeding success and adult mortality, the number of breeding pairs hovers around the 200 mark. This long-term decline is reflected in the accompanying graphs (on pages one and two) of mainland breeding pairs and pairs on the Trust's own reserves.

Dispersed over several hundred kilometres of coast from Banks Peninsula and the Waitaki River to the south Catlins, yellow-eyed penguins are clinging on, with the Trust responding by refocusing and investing in more intensive management options.

As described in *Hoiho* (November 2015) "Collapse in yellow-eyed penguin nest numbers" there is a clear need for urgent action.

One response was foreshadowed in the last newsletter with the appointment of a Trust Conservation Science Advisor (see the

article on Trudi on page four) to investigate the big picture of the penguin's marine environment and what is happening there that is affecting the birds.

More immediately, over the 2015/16 breeding season, Trust rangers visited nests more frequently than ever before, checking on the health of chicks and adults and intervening if necessary.

Following a public fundraising campaign, to which Trust members and supporters gave generously, this intensive management was supported by the employment of a vet, Dr Lisa Argilla, who treated injured and unwell yellow-eyed penguins during the sensitive

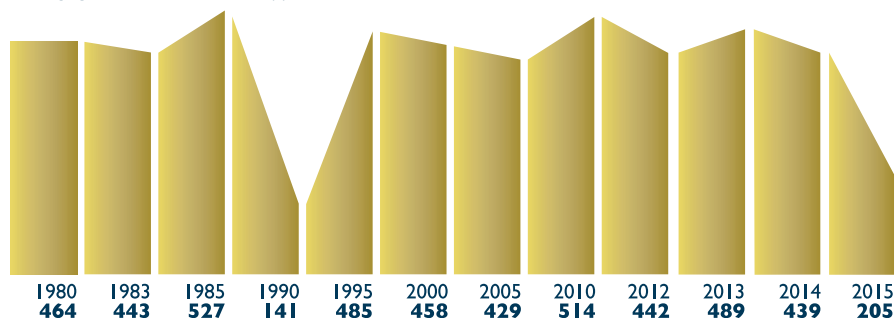
fledging/moult period, January-March. As a conservation manager, receiving a call about a badly injured yellow-eyed penguin late on a Friday evening in January this year, there was nothing better than being able to advise the caller a vet was on hand to provide the emergency veterinary care required.

Despite this stern test confronting our southern icon the Trust remains determined to pull it back from the brink and believes that the initiatives described above offer us the best hope of doing so.

Last season, penguin numbers reached their lowest since 1990. Trust general manager

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN PAIRS ON MAINLAND NEW ZEALAND

Continued on page two >>>



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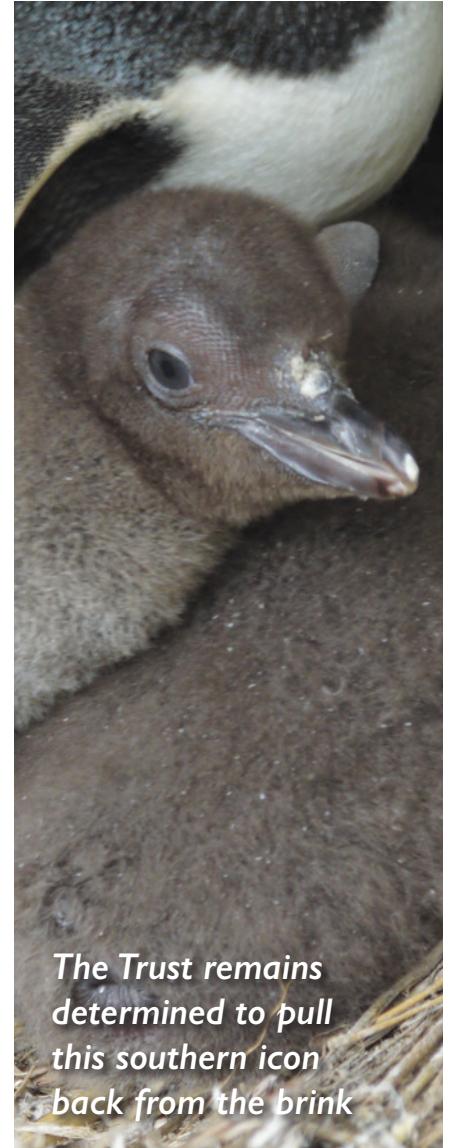
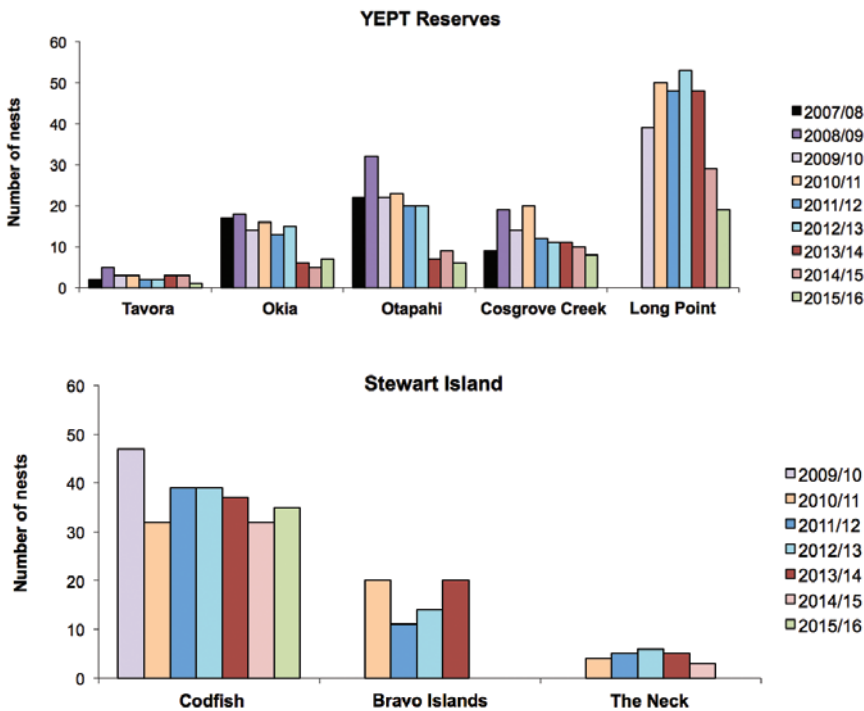
Sue Murray said contracting wildlife vet Dr Argilla (see story page 5) at this critical time of the season was important for survival of the species. "These birds have had a rough four years and each individual is important to survival of the whole population," Sue said.

Rehabilitation has been a key tool for conservation of yellow-eyed penguins. In 2014, more than 10% of Otago and Southland's yellow-eyed penguin nests

contained an adult penguin that had received rehabilitation of some kind. Rehabilitation involves a short stay in temporary captivity to regain condition and heal injuries before being transported back to the wild.

Sue said being based in Dunedin meant the birds didn't have to be transported on a 4-5 hour flight to the North Island for treatment. "Now we can treat sick and injured birds here in Dunedin, without the stress of travel."

Nest numbers in reserves and on Stewart Island



The Trust remains determined to pull this southern icon back from the brink

Operation Yellow-eye: The Adventures of Team Contact

At Contact Energy, team members are able to volunteer time each year helping out community organisations, in an initiative known as Community Contact. The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust recently received a helping hand from members of Contact's Dunedin contact centre. This is their story.

By Andrew Caulton

It was going to be the greatest Community Contact Day ever. I could scarcely imagine how it had been arranged, but 18 March 2016 was set to go down in Contact Energy's Dunedin Call Centre history. Marc had promised us – the Pyramids!

Heaven alone knew where the budget was going to come from, but I double-checked with Marc and there was no doubt about it – the Pyramids it was. I wondered what we would be doing – showing tourists around perhaps, or maybe just lots of sweeping. It hardly mattered; I was speechless with excitement. One thing was certain though: after I'd factored in the flight times, shuttles to and from the hotel, crossing the International Date Line, etc., it was clear we were going to need a lot of time off the phones. The idea of a community "day" was going to have to be interpreted in the broadest most figurative way.

But matters took a somewhat enigmatic turn when Marc announced that we were going to be saving penguins on the trip. This puzzled me. Penguins in Egypt? Bedouins perhaps, but not penguins. Maybe Marc needed to check his spelling – or his hearing – or both. On the other hand, if there were penguins in Egypt they would certainly need saving. I could picture the poor little critters wandering helplessly round the desert, quietly steaming. No, the thought was not to be borne. We would rescue them all right. Leave it to Team Contact.

On the day, however, events got off to an

People

unexpected start. As we drove along the Otago Peninsula I realised that we had missed the turn-off to the airport. I was rather taken aback until I reflected that we must be taking a ship from Port Chalmers or something. Of course. It would be stocked with United Nations aid supplies, bags of ice, penguin-sized chilly bins. We would never have got that lot on a plane – the overhead lockers in particular are a scandal these days.

At length, we arrived at a place called Okia Reserve. Maybe this was the rendezvous point where we were to meet up with our UN escort, I thought. But then Marc said, "OK everyone, this is it!" A strange qualm overtook me. I glanced round and noticed two pyramid-shaped hills and a sign saying "Yellow-eyed Penguin Reserve." A man stepped out of a ute: "Hello everyone," he said, "My name is Dave McFarlane. Welcome to the Pyramids."

The circle was complete and the scales fell from my eyes. I scrunched my useless passport in my sweaty hand and cursed myself for spending so much on the Lawrence of Arabia kit so jauntily advertised on Trade Me. Darny darn, what a fool I'd been!

But no, I reflected, that was not the attitude. I wiped away my tears, took a deep breath, and resolved to do my best whatever lay ahead. Dave gave us our briefing. And I confess I gave a little start. We were, he said, going to be "releasing natives." Good heavens, I thought. I pictured a dark cave and a mad pirate exulting over the emaciated victims that he'd dragged from some desert island (all of this against a background of flickering torchlight on rock walls). Perhaps Lawrence of Arabia was going to come in handy after all – the suit came with a novelty sword that might prove serviceable in a skirmish. But as Dave went on with his briefing it soon became evident that he was not talking about "natives" as in "natives" but "natives" as in "plants." It turned out that some time ago the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust had planted a bunch of flax etc. to make the penguins feel more at home and want to nest, but now wild lupin had got in amongst it and the place was completely overgrown. Our job was to clear the lupin and give some breathing space to the smothered plants. "Think of it as a great big Easter egg hunt," Dave said.

Dave split us into two groups – one would tackle the rear of the lupin stronghold while the other would attempt a full-frontal beach assault (I say "full-frontal" but we were in fact fully clothed). I was detailed off to work with



the Beach Party. We surveyed the enemy line. "Right," said Dave, "you've got to have this lot cleared by lunchtime." At least I thought that's what he said – but I may have got that wrong because my mind was a blur as I stared in disbelief at the vast expanse of wind-blasted lupin that stretched out of sight to the left and right. I felt dizzy and light-headed. I may even have fainted. I'd done my research for this trip (Happy Feet, Penguins of Madagascar, Pingu...) and I hadn't come across anything like this.

Well, what could I do? I longed for some Dutch courage. But alas, it wasn't that kind of trip. So I put my shoulders back, stuck my chest out, and firmly gripped my weapon (my gardening tool, that is). And so, armed to the teeth with clippers, loppers, snippers, and choppers and whatever else had fallen out of the garden shed, we advanced on the opposition. We were going to wipe the smirk off the face of that overweening plant and show it that we meant business.

We slashed away, getting thinner by the minute, with nothing but lupin as far as the

eye could see. But then at last our efforts were rewarded. Someone uncovered a diminutive flax, someone else a stunted little thing with tiny leaves (I'm no botanist), and soon we had a small collection of withered-looking native specimens all smiling gratefully back at us as they gasped for air.

I reflected that 150 years ago many of our ancestors had been doing a similar thing – clearing the bush. I could see the jolly pioneer now: axe over his shoulder, resting on a stump and surveying his handiwork: "Aye, you know what would finish it off just perfect like? A little bed of lupins." And now here we were, a century-and-a-half later, clearing up the mess. The irony!

In the end, the closest we came to a penguin was a packet of Bluebird chips that was passed round at lunchtime, but we could be happy in the knowledge that we'd done our bit for the local wildlife, we'd done the company proud, grown as a team – and lost a bit of weight into the bargain. I'd even managed to forget all about Egypt. What more could you ask?



The Pyramids (PHOTO: DOC)



Conservation Science Advisor for the Trust

As reported in the November issue of *Hoiho*, the Trust has secured funding from both Otago Regional Council and Otago Museum to employ its own Conservation Science Advisor, Trudi Webster.

Trudi began in this role in February and has so far spent her time becoming familiar with the local penguin community through visits to rehab and tourism operations, meetings with key scientists, community groups and individuals, and veterinarians specialising in native wildlife. She has also started the literature review to identify gaps in our knowledge, and coordinate the completion of some projects that have stalled due to conflicts of priorities for other staff. The Trust's aim is to have good science back our conservation priorities and ultimately help the yellow-eyed penguins to thrive.

Trudi joined our staff having already met a number of key contacts through her own studies, research or through associates. She has maintained her University of Otago links through being made an Honorary Fellow allowing her continued access to university resources. And soon she is to meet the wider international penguin experts. She will represent the Trust by attending the 9th International Penguin Congress being held in September 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa, to gain knowledge about where the issues affecting the yellow-eyed penguin fit into the global picture of penguin conservation.

Trudi has a PhD in marine science – acoustic behaviour of Southern right whales, and loads of practical experience in the marine environment including in the sub-Antarctic Islands.

This appointment realises one of the Trust's visions to help guide our conservation effort, so we are both delighted and excited to welcome Trudi to our team.

Nursery regrows

The Trust is delighted to report that the Nursery is fully functioning again after the 'not-so Great Flood' in early June 2015 which destroyed so much.

The army of help received since then was awesome and while there is still some evidence of the disaster, plant production is in full swing under Louise Ashton's wonderful supervision.

The cleanup was hindered partially because in typical southern style, we experienced a bitterly cold, late winter, where it was snowing every two weeks and nothing would dry out, until the windy, dry spring arrived. And what a summer! Last summer was the hottest on record for Dunedin, and made it a great growing season. But it sorely tested the irrigation system.

A huge thanks to all the businesses, associates, groups and individuals who so willingly supported us. **Thank you!**



Leave something in paradise

Please remember the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in your Will. Your bequest can be invested in restoring penguin habitats and controlling predators to help secure the hoihos' survival.

Charities Commission Registration Number CC22822





Hoiho stocktake of conservation effort

In the previous two editions of *Hoiho*, we told you about a review of yellow-eyed penguin recovery being undertaken, with terms of reference developed jointly by the Department of Conservation, Ngāi Tahu and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

We are delighted to share that this report was released last month. Copies are available by contacting any of the three authors of the report, or their respective organisations.

The report is a substantial document and reflects the thorough, comprehensive and objective assessment of the current hoiho recovery programme and recovery plan undertaken by the review team. It is inclusive of perspectives held by hoiho recovery partners, experts and stakeholders.

For ease of reference the principal stock-take findings and recommendations are summarised below:

- A new hoiho recovery strategy is required. The current recovery plan is no longer fit-for-purpose and new direction is required to guide work done by DOC and hoiho conservation partners.
- The perspectives of Ngāi Tahu must be reflected, including their role as kaitiakitanga of hoiho and their aspirations for mahinga kai/cultural use.
- The range of hoiho partners and stakeholders must be appropriately acknowledged.
- The full range of specialist technical and science knowledge/mātauranga must be sought.
- An inter-agency approach is required to address pressures on hoiho within the marine and terrestrial environments they occupy.
- Updated and relevant hoiho recovery goals and targets are required.
- Recovery objectives and actions must be specific, measurable, achievable, results-focussed and time-bound.
- Hoiho priorities throughout the full geographic range of the species must be addressed.

In addition, multiple recommendations specific to the current recovery plan, objectives and actions are provided which are relevant to the key themes of hoiho recovery. These include predator control, habitat restoration, potential impacts in the marine environment, penguin rehabilitation, advocacy, tourism impacts, population monitoring and priority research.

The proposed next steps for progressing the development of a new hoiho recovery strategy are to develop, approve and commence a Project Plan fit for this purpose.

The Trust is delighted to be acknowledged in the report as a 'key programme partner'. This term is used to describe groups that are actively involved in multiple aspects of the programme (mahi/work, research, strategy and governance) at multiple sites across the geographic range of the species.

The Trust has valued being part of this review, which has provided an opportunity to work alongside DOC and Ngāi Tahu as partners. We look forward to continuing our work with both of them as we develop a new hoiho recovery strategy.

Vet Appeal

In the last edition of *Hoiho*, we sent out a 'Stop Press' urgent appeal to raise \$13,500 to employ a specialist wildlife vet to treat sick or injured yellow-eyed penguins for the weeks of January – March.

Our sincerest thanks to all of you that supported this appeal. We far exceeded our target which means we have funds to carry over for the next season to again employ specialist help if required. Of course, we would love to think it is not required and that the penguins finally have a great season!

Dr Lisa Argilla (pictured above) was contracted by the Trust and utilised the veterinary nursing facilities free-of-charge at Otago Polytechnic. St Kilda Veterinary Centre also loaned their hospital and x-ray facilities. Lisa has eight years' experience as a New Zealand wildlife vet, specialising in health, disease and treatment of wildlife in captivity and in the wild.

Over her contract period a total 18 hoiho (13 adults and five chicks) received veterinary care. Other species also treated included Fiordland crested penguins, blue penguins and kereru. Early intervention and local veterinary treatment for bite wounds resulted in zero cases of bone infection (osteomyelitis) being observed. This disease can be a major concern and last year caused high mortality in penguins.

Our thanks go to Otago Polytechnic, St Kilda Veterinary Centre, DOC (in particular Mel Young), and the rehabilitation centres which helped, including Penguin Place and Penguin Rescue at Moeraki. We also acknowledge Jordana Whyte, vet nurses Angelina Martelli and Nik Hurring, and the many volunteers. Thank you.



L to R: Euan Kennedy, Sue Murray, Hon. Maggie Barry (Minister of Conservation), Eric Shelton and Lou Sanson (Director-General DOC).



DUNEDIN CENTRE 18-20 MAY 2016



A conference field trip to Okia Reserve on Otago Peninsula



Swapping a fiver, a novel fundraising initiative



L to R: Eric Shelton, Andrew Little (Leader of the Opposition), Sue Murray, Clare Curran (MP Dunedin South) and David Clark (MP Dunedin North).



Sir Alan Mark and Margaret O'Sullivan, Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd (Mainland Brand)



Creating connections. Thank you

Building capacity

“It was a remarkable event with 75 of our leading conservation trusts and community partners coming together to look at the opportunity and challenges of citizen-led conservation. The case studies were inspirational and showcased such dedicated people supporting community conservation.”

This was the comment posted on the DOC Director-General's blog page after he spoke at the opening of *Conservation Inc 2* conference in Dunedin in May.

Conservation Inc 2 was the conference event for everyone working in the swiftly evolving world of citizen-led conservation. It brought together more than 150 representatives of 85 community groups and businesses (the D-G didn't quite have it right in his blog!) from all sectors in New Zealand's community conservation landscape, and was labelled as New Zealand's largest community conservation conference.

Hosted by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, this conference was a sequel to our first *Conservation Inc* conference in 2013. Much has changed since then and it was timely to look ahead with the wisdom acquired in the interim.

Conservation Inc 2 addressed themes related closely to making us all strong, resilient and truly effective as custodians of New Zealand's remarkable natural heritage. Conference themes addressed issues to do with viability and growth; stability and cohesion; leadership, vision and reach; duties and rights; diversity and co-operation, and much else.

Delegates were welcomed to the conference by Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull and it was opened by the Minister of Conservation Hon. Maggie Barry. Following her were presentations from Lou Sanson (DOC Director-General), Andrew Little (Leader of the Opposition) and James O'Connor from BirdLife Australia.

The diversity of presentations meant that each delegate could take back some key messages to their respective organisation, and of course many new contacts in the conservation arena were made during the break times.

The conference presentations were interspersed with short Gems of up to four minutes each. We were delighted that four local schools had willing students share their conservation ethos. These presentations were particularly well received.

The Trust was applauded for hosting another conference of this nature, and our Australian guest's departing words were: “Do continue to hold *Conservation Inc*. I think it's a great concept and clearly really important for creating connections and building capacity in New Zealand”.

The organisers of *Conservation Inc 2* sincerely thank the following for their invaluable contributions.





James O'Connor of Birdlife Australia presented a keynote speech

Who was there

Awarua Runaka
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Beyond Orokonui
BirdLife Australia
BRaid - BRaided River Aid
Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust
Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
Catlins Coast Inc.
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
Datacom South Island Limited
Department of Conservation
Dunedin City Council
Dunedin Orienteering
East Taranaki Environment Trust
Eco-South
edge effect
Environment and Conservation
Organisations of NZ Inc.
Environmental Defence Society
Fonterra Brands (New Zealand) Ltd
Forest and Bird, National Office
Forest and Bird, Ashburton
Forest and Bird, Dunedin
Green Party
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Hokonui Runaka
Kaikoura Wilderness & Puhi Peaks
Kapiti Island Nature Tours
Kapiti Mainland Biodiversity Project
Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki
Kiwis for kiwi
Landcare Research
Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society Inc.
Manukau Institute of Technology
Matukituki Charitable Trust
Moehau Environment Group
Mohua Charitable Trust
Morgan Foundation
New Zealand Marine Studies Centre
NEXT Foundation

NZ Sea Lion Trust
Oraka Aparima Runaka
Otago Museum
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
Otago Peninsula Trust
Owaka Going Forward
Parker Conservation
paws4conservation
Predator Free New Zealand
Project Crimson Trust
Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust
QEII National Trust
QEII National Trust Weedbusting Project
Real Journeys
Reconnecting Northland
Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust
Ruahine Whio Protection Trust
Sircet - Stewart Island
Spiralis Ltd
Taranaki Biodiversity Trust
Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust
Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Tourism Waitaki
Treescape Environmental
Tui Reintroduction Programme/Lincoln University
University of Otago
Waihopai Runaka
Wakatipu Reforestation Trust
Wakatipu Reforestation Trust,
Jean Malpas Community Nursery
Weedbusters NZ
West Coast Penguin Trust
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board
Wild for Taranaki
WWF-NZ
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

Themes

SEIZING THE FUTURE

What have we learned from citizen-led conservation so far?
How do you make lessons count for the future?
How do we foster leadership and professionalism?
How do we create environments advantageous for our work?
How can we use science to help us?
Where to next?

SUCCESSING IN A CHANGING WORLD

What is the role of iwi in strategic alliances?
How can we attract resource investment in our work?
How can we make the economic and social benefits of success work for us?
How do we attract local and central government support?
How do we maximise the benefits of DOC's Community Fund?
What are the current models of philanthropy and trends in giving?
How can we pitch to potential supporters at home and abroad?

POWERING UP THROUGH CO-OPERATION

How can we learn from successful models of co-operation?
How do we make and consolidate strategic alliances?
How do we talk to different audiences?
How do we mobilize conservation bystanders?
What works when negotiating for room and resources in coalitions?
How do we preserve stability within diversity?

DARING AND INNOVATION

How can we drive change and impetus in the care of our natural environment?
What are the roles, rights and obligations of NGOs in managing species and ecosystems?
What works and what doesn't in pushing the limits?
What can we learn from the pioneers and trailblazers?

Programme

THURSDAY 19 MAY 2016

OPENING SPEECHES & WELCOME

Hoani Langsbury, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust – Mihi whakatau.

Dunedin City Mayor David Cull – Welcome to Dunedin City.

Eric Shelton, Chair, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust – Welcome and introduction.

Minister of Conservation, Hon. Maggie Barry – Opening of conference.

THEME: Seizing the Future

KEYNOTE: Lou Sanson, Director General, Department of Conservation – Our Nature: The DOC Story.

KEYNOTE: James O'Connor, Birdlife Australia – Conservation in Australia.

Andrew Little, Leader of Labour Party – Labour and conservation.

Trudi Webster, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust – The role of science in conservation.

Kerry-Jayne Wilson, West Coast Penguin Trust and Euan Kennedy, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust – Are we leaving leadership and professionalism behind in the rush to community-inspired conservation?

Marie Brown, Environmental Defence Society – Vanishing nature: constructive solutions to a wicked problem.

THEME: Powering up through Cooperation

Carolyn Lewis, Weedbusters and Genevieve Bannister, QEII National Trust – Powering up through partnerships:

QEII Community Weedbusting Project.

Jo Ritchie, Treescape Environmental – WHAKARONGOA MUA Listen to the voice of the community: common sense, not rocket science.

Gem: Michele Impey, Kiwis for Kiwi.

Gem: Alessandro Pezzuto and Hamish Duncan, King's High School.

Ben Reddiex, Director, Community Engagement Unit Kaihautū-Piringa Hāpori, DOC – Nature Space: Growing the national platform for ecological restoration in New Zealand.

Julian Fitter, Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society – Competition, cooperation, unity or bust: the development of community led conservation in New Zealand in the 21st Century.



Cath Wallace of ECO asks a speaker a question

Bronwen Golder, The Pew Charitable Trusts – Looking beyond ourselves.

KEYNOTE: David Mules, Reconnecting Northland – Reconnecting Northland: How can we learn through successful models of collaboration?

FRIDAY 20 MAY 2016

THEME: Succeeding in a Changing World.

KEYNOTE: Yvette Couch-Lewis, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – What it is to be Ngāi Tahu within a changing world?

Bill Kermode, NEXT Foundation – Conservation Investment.

Gem: Sam Kilsby, Otago Boys' High School.

Gem: Joris De Bres, Project Crimson Trust. Jacinta Ruru, Professor of Law, University of Otago and Co-Director of Nga Pae o te Maramatanga New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence – The opportunities of Treaty of Waitangi Settlements for biodiversity recovery.

KEYNOTE: Margaret O'Sullivan, Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd (Mainland Brand) – A corporate brand perspective: what are the current models of philanthropy and trends in giving?

Chris Howe, Executive Director, WWF-New Zealand (presented by Michele Frank) – Changing your point of view: who is the 'we' in the question, 'how can we make economic and social benefits work for us?'

Andrew Cutler, Forest & Bird – How planning will set you free!

Gem: Michelle Frank, WWF-New Zealand.

Gem: Anya Kardailsky, Josie Frazer and Nadya Keniya, Otago Girls' High School.

KEYNOTE: Geoff Simmons, Morgan Foundation – Mobilising New Zealand to fight the war on predators.

Ben Reddiex, Director, Community Engagement Unit Kaihautū-Piringa Hāpori, DOC – Environmental funds for community groups.

THEME: Daring and Innovation.

Bruce McKinlay, Yvette Couch-Lewis, Sue Murray and Kerri-anne Edge of the YEP Stocktake Team – Species Recovery Programme Technical Reviews: do they tell us anything or are they a distraction? Dougal McGowan, Otago Chamber of Commerce – Shaping our futures: what works and what doesn't in pushing the limits.

Gem 7: Nigel Babbage, Mohua Charitable Trust.

Gem 8: Taana Trotter, Queen's High School. Leigh Honnor, Taranaki Biodiversity Trust – Wild for Taranaki.

Sophie Fern – Conservation Tales: the assumption of a happy ever after.

Michele Frank, Head of Conservation Projects, WWF-NZ – Making social media work for your community conservation group.

Kay Booth, Deputy Director-General, Partnerships Kāhui Matarautaki, Department of Conservation – How do we achieve our conservation goals? Tsehai Tiffin, Real Journeys.

Summation.

Eric Shelton, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Closing comments.

Hoani Langsbury, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Poroporoaki.

Our Big Blue Backyard

By David Smith, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Trustee

It was just another trip south for the 25 metre yacht *Evohe*. sailing south to the ruggedly beautiful Auckland Islands.

She has made many voyages there for wildlife studies, taking young, and not so young, scientists and volunteers; all of them enthusiastic people doing long-term monitoring of NZ sealions, albatrosses, penguins and other seabirds. *Evohe* took a film crew there in 2014, filming for the series *First Crossings*.

This latest trip was for Natural History New Zealand (NHNZ) filming the next series of *Our Big Blue Backyard*. Six divers included some really experienced underwater photographers, like Andrew Penniket and Brady Doak. Still learning the ropes required to film wildlife were Ross Funnell, Jenny Oliver and Kyle Swann. The producer, Kina Scollay, not only took great footage under water but also with his amazing drone. Lindsey Davidson was the 'topside' photographer.

Skipper Steve Kafka had a great bunch of 12 on board, all keen to get on with the job. Mal de mer made its usual presence felt on the trip south, but once at the islands good shelter provided relief.

The sealion team that had been on Enderby Island for three months advised us on arrival that many of the sealions they had seen had massive wounds from encounters with great white sharks. Not a total surprise, but nevertheless we all were briefed on trauma management which included a tourniquet being always at hand which, fortunately, never was put into use. It's a long long wait for a chopper down there for any medical emergency.

There were many great dive sites. One cave on the east coast had amazingly clear water and amazing coloured rocks, created as the minerals have leached out. Also, there is an archway system in a towering cliff of basalt on the southwest coast. Widespread throughout the islands there were kelp forests, always kelp forests, and of course sealions, playful and inquisitive, getting in the way of shots, and stirring up the sediment for the cameras. There were never many fish; too little runoff from the islands, we are

told, is a possible reason. The spider crabs are a feature and a lot of time and effort was spent filming them. At one location in Waterfall Cove they were found heaped up 10 high and all facing outwards. A male was filmed eating a female – one way to resolve a domestic – and then a lightning fast prawn taking its prey.

Those of us above water had plenty to do, including refilling air bottles, driving an inflatable and cooking. It was often pretty cold and naturally good appetites were a challenge to whoever was cooking. What to do with leftovers was never an issue.

Lindsey, with her cameras, tried to stay dry and warm while filming on shore, humping her heavy equipment into the rata forest and up slippery cliffs just to get that few seconds of that special event of a diving penguin, a soaring albatross, a scavenging skua, or a tiny wolf spider. Watching her and the divers going to great pains to firstly find the "critter" (their slang it seems), get in position, then operate the super expensive cameras, left us with total admiration for their skills.

Visitors arrived one evening in Musgrave Arm when Tiama joined us. Henk and his crew had been picking up scientists Graham and Kalinka from Adams Island and were on their way back north. A terrific dinner that evening included discussing wildlife, rats, wine, weather and anchor design.

Auckland Island is full of pigs. From the top of SW Cape there are magnificent views of Victoria Passage, Adams Island and the nesting albatrosses on the cliffs below our feet. We observed birds nest only in the places where the pigs could not get to them.

Adjacent Adams Island is pristine. The narrow gap between them is called Victoria Passage; a spectacular sight especially when seen with a full SW gale throwing huge swells at it. The tide roars in and out. It seemed hardly a place to go diving but we were fortunate when a break in the weather allowed diving through the very narrow passage at slack water. This revealed it to be safe to take *Evohe* through and out into the Southern Ocean again. It was a special day as we motored up the west coast, black towering cliffs, the last sight many seafarers saw in the 19th century before they were wrecked and many of them killed under these cliffs.

Disappointment Island was sighted ahead, shrouded in mist and so named because, in 1907, the *Dundonald* was wrecked on its west coast. The crew thought they were on Auckland Island until they climbed over to find they were not, so they built and paddled a coracle two miles to find their way to Auckland Island. Only 15 of the 28 crew survived the wreck and time on the island before they were rescued by a scientific party seven months later.

Dives were made on the island amid the wheeling and diving of thousands of white capped albatross. The cliffs were very thickly covered in nests, a powerful reminder of what success a predator-free island can bring to these and other seabirds, including of course, penguins. Next, we sailed around the top of Enderby Island and back into Ross Harbour. James Clarke Ross called here in 1840 with *Erebus* and *Terror* on their way to the Ross Sea.

Another gale developed and it was good to anchor in Terror Cove and ride it out. Diving continued, with the divers warmer in the underwater world than above it. Kina spotted some yellow-eyed penguins feeding on a school of bait fish only 30 metres from the shore. He smartly had his camera in the water and took some footage. I think that had never been seen on the South Island coast. Back in Dunedin our science advisor, Trudi Webster, told me that it is quite common to observe this behaviour in the winter months down there.

Scientist Chris Muller was on Enderby Island and told us the yeps are doing reasonably well there this season. We saw yeps in all the expected places on the east coast and Carnley Harbour. Good numbers are coming ashore at the east end of Sandy Bay. Occasionally, during a calm early morning or evening, the call of hoiho came out loud and clear from the forest; a magical sound. We all appreciated the isolation and amazing land- and sea- scapes of the Auckland Islands, leaving the rest of the world to itself, as we soaked in the life of being in the sub Antarctic.

On budget and on time we made fast in Dunedin on 4th March; the NHNZ film editors waiting ashore to take the data and weave their magic on the production. It promises to be another great show.



Mainland support

There's been lots happening in the world of Mainland in the last six months.

We've had a change of guard in the team with Rachel Kelly moving into a new role looking after our export marketing, and Marg O'Sullivan joining as the Group Marketing Manager; Local Jewels Brands for Fonterra, of which Mainland is the largest brand.

The new year heralded in a new look for Mainland. Refreshed packaging starting rolling out onto shelves in late March, and now includes a handy flavour strength indicator on the front of pack, to help shoppers when choosing their flavour preference for cheese.

May brought about a bit of travel for the Mainland crew, with Marg O'Sullivan joining the YEP Trust for the *Conservation Inc 2* Conference, which included a reccy out to the Otago Peninsula to view the hoiho. It was a brisk walk around the reserve with Eric Shelton and a few other conference attendees, but unfortunately the penguins were a little shy that day. However, it was

great to see how much work had gone into replanting at the site, and the challenges that the penguins face in this habitat.

Leon Clement, the new Managing Director for Fonterra Brands, also made the trip south in May. He accompanied Steve Anderson from Foodstuffs South Island along with Sue and Eric, and their early morning venture to the peninsula was far more successful, with some great viewing of the penguins in action.

Also in May, some of the Fonterra Edendale Processing Plant team joined Trust members at a planting session at Long Point. It was a successful day planting, and even included an injured penguin rescue.

Meanwhile, back at headquarters, work continues on the Mainland brand refresh work. The next steps will be an update to the Mainland website, so keep an eye out for the changes.

The Mainland team
0800 CHEESE (0800-243-373)

Be a
Mainland hero

**Help Mainland raise
\$75,000 to save hoiho**



Good on you for being a Mainland hero. By buying Mainland you are helping to save the endangered yellow-eyed penguin.

Here's how. Have your Mainland wrapper with you and go to www.mainland.co.nz/yellow-eyedpenguin

- Follow the instructions
- Create your own digital wall chart with the Mainland barcode details
- For every wall chart created, Mainland will donate \$10 to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, up to \$75,000 a year.

Mainland no longer accepts cut-out coupons. If you are unable to redeem your barcodes online, please return your barcodes to **Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, PO Box 5409, Dunedin 9058** and a Trust volunteer will count them to ensure they are included in the monthly returns.



LtoR: Eric Shelton, Leon Clement, Sue Murray and Steve Anderson viewing the penguins early one morning in late May this year.

A note from the Chair



There is only one topic; the conference! Over 12 months' preparation climaxed with three days of well-informed presentation and discussion. My head is still reeling from all the good ideas and dreams that were shared by people who are out there conserving. Note to self: arrange to live another lifetime to see predator-free NZ become a reality.

It was exciting to listen to Hon. Maggie Barry describe her commitment to pest eradication and to meet so many people who are 'thinking globally, acting locally',

from Northland to Southland and many of the bits in between.

Staff, volunteers and trustees can be proud of what we achieved, especially in providing a forum for DOC/NGO mingling and an opportunity to hear Kay Booth describe the challenge involved in her task of explaining to her colleagues exactly what community engagement means. Already, as a result of the conference, some doors have opened to NGOs which previously seemed to be shut.

Hot on the heels of the conference was Sue's trip to China, working to gain support from within that country for conservation effort here, especially since Chinese outbound ecotourism is such a rapidly growing market that is likely to tax the resources of small conservation organisations like ours. An environmental NGO working with the local Chamber of Commerce to produce penguin conservation outcomes funded in Shanghai seems a little left-field but we

must keep taking calculated risks if we are to remain viable and relevant. The conference was a risk which, if we exclude time spent, managed to break even.

Finally, winter is here and we have a short period where yellow-eyed penguins settle in to a less demanding schedule (for us, that is). Next season's hormones will soon be along to kick-start another round of courting, egg laying and fledging. All the support we get, globally, nationally, regionally and locally means we'll be here to assist as far as it is possible for us to do so.

Eric J. Shelton
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Board Chair



Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium

All members of the yep community are invited to attend this important community-based event where people and organisations who work with yellow-eyed penguins can report back on their year's activities. The day is generally informal and provides a great opportunity for people to network and discuss yep matters.

Saturday 6 August 2016

Venue opens 8:30am

Programme starts 9am

**Seminar Room, University College,
Union Street East, Dunedin**

To register contact the
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust
phone 03 479 0011 or email
enquiries@yeptrust.org.nz



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AND YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST**

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Otago Polytechnic
Penguin Place
Penguin Rescue
St Kilda Veterinary Centre
Sinclair Wetlands

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.

*The production of this Hoiho newsletter by
AdArt Brand Promotion ticks all the green boxes*

Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.

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