



Hoiho

November 2014

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

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Fresh water to the rescue

EcoWai, a company producing bottled New Zealand spring water, has recently succeeded in signing seven partners, nationwide, for the benefit of the yellow-eyed penguins.

EcoWai is exclusively designed to support existing and worthy environmental trusts. Barry Hillyer, Director of EcoWai, and the Trust, last year announced their new partnership which will give direct benefit to the yellow-eyed penguins through funds raised from the sale of this water. A substantial percentage of profit from every EcoWai water bottle sold will directly benefit the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust for their conservation work with the endangered penguin.

The funding success is dependent on EcoWai having strategic alliances with other non-retail partners who choose to sell EcoWai water through their outlets, a percentage of which is then donated to the Trust by the participating programme partners.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Trust is delighted to join with EcoWai and confirm the current list of seven partners nationwide from different industries. These companies are showcased on pages six and seven, and we applaud them for their caring and generous support. As you will see, this support is wide-ranging, from small entities to larger corporates and a government department. It is also important to note, this programme is designed to be enduring, not simply a one-off or short-term promotion.



EcoWai brand is 100% pure New Zealand sourced still spring water and bottled in 50% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles, a New Zealand first! All packaging is 100% recyclable. Partners chosen by EcoWai must be committed to both recycling and sustainable practices themselves.

Naturally, the more participating partners we can entice on board, the greater the support. As such, EcoWai is open to all approaches for additional partner participation. Simply contact Barry Hillyer, phone (09) 352-9100 or email barry@ecowai.co.nz



ecowai™

Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.



An adult yellow-eyed penguin with a healthy beak

Prosthetic bills

Serena Finlayson, Wildbase, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University

During the 2013/14 breeding season, three chicks from the Okia Reserve on the Otago Peninsula were found with mild deformities of their skulls and bills. Although their abnormalities were fairly mild, the deformities would have prevented them from foraging properly as they grew into adults and hence they were unlikely to survive once they left the nest.

The chicks were sent to us at Wildbase, Massey University, to assess them and see if we could attempt to correct the abnormalities so that they could be released back into the wild.

The chicks had what is known as a 'scissor-beak'. This occurs when the lower and upper bills do not line up with each other and because the tips of the bills do not rub against each other the tips become overgrown (Fig. 1). We took CT scans to assess how much of the bone was involved (Fig. 2). We found that the bones of the upper and lower jaws had deviated to the left side by about 14 degrees. Due to this deviation, the left orbit (where the eyeball sits in the skull) was shorter than the right one.

We anaesthetised them with gas in order to perform the surgery. Luckily for us, it was only the keratin part of the bill that had overgrown and not the bone. This made it easier to cut off a few millimetres of the tip of the lower jaw. We then moulded a prosthesis made from epoxy putty (Selleys Knead-IT®) and attached it to the upper bill (Fig 3). The prosthesis acted like a ramp that guided the lower bill into the correct position when the bill was closed.

The birds were kept in an aviary with access to a swimming pool. We reassessed the bills every three weeks and placed a new prosthesis. If the prosthesis fell off before this time we simply glued them back on.

We were very happy to find that after six weeks the bills had grown into the correct position (Fig 4) and the birds were deemed fit for release. Unfortunately, not long after we removed the prostheses the birds became seriously ill from diseases unrelated to their deformities and later died. Although we never got to release these chicks, we have learned a lot from this attempt to correct bill deformities in YEPs, and if more chicks are born with similar deformities hopefully we can apply what we have learnt here in order to get them back into the wild.



Fig. 1 (Photo by A. Sriram)

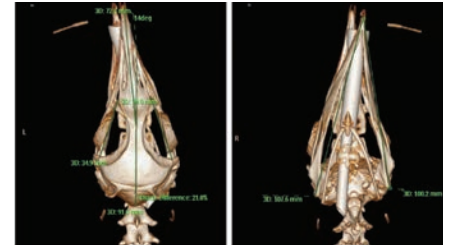


Fig. 2



Fig. 3 (Photos by A. Sriram)



Fig. 4 (Photo by C. Svensson)

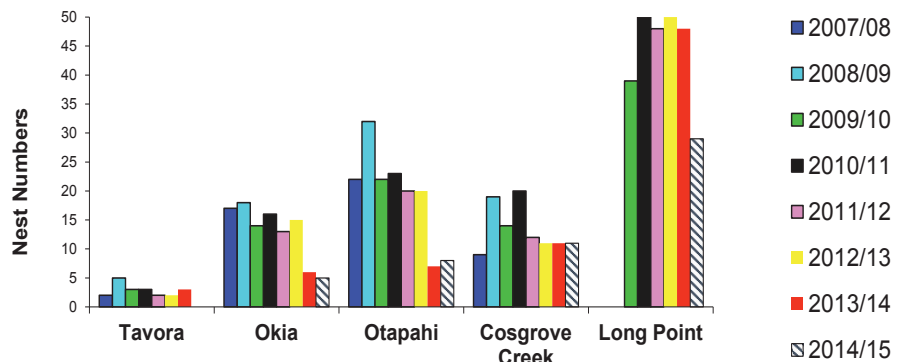
Penguin numbers down

Finding lower nest numbers again this season on Trust-owned reserves, and predator-free Codfish Island/Whenua Hou north-west off the mainland of Stewart Island, has the Trust concerned about the impact of previous events on the penguin population.

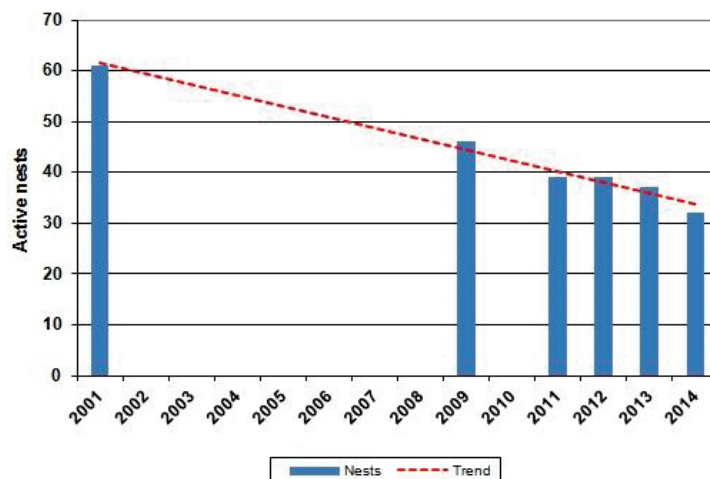
Various sites on Trust owned reserves were searched in mid to late October and are again showing a decline. The results on Codfish Island are of particular concern given there are no terrestrial issues for the penguins here, it is predator free and has plenty of habitat, yet not only were nest numbers lower, but no juveniles were observed by our teams searching the island. The juveniles are the future breeding population, so where have they gone?

It is imperative the Trust continues with its drive to fund research of the marine environment to determine what it is that is causing these declines.

NEST NUMBERS ON TRUST-OWNED RESERVES



ACTIVE NEST NUMBERS ON CODFISH ISLAND/WHENUA HOU

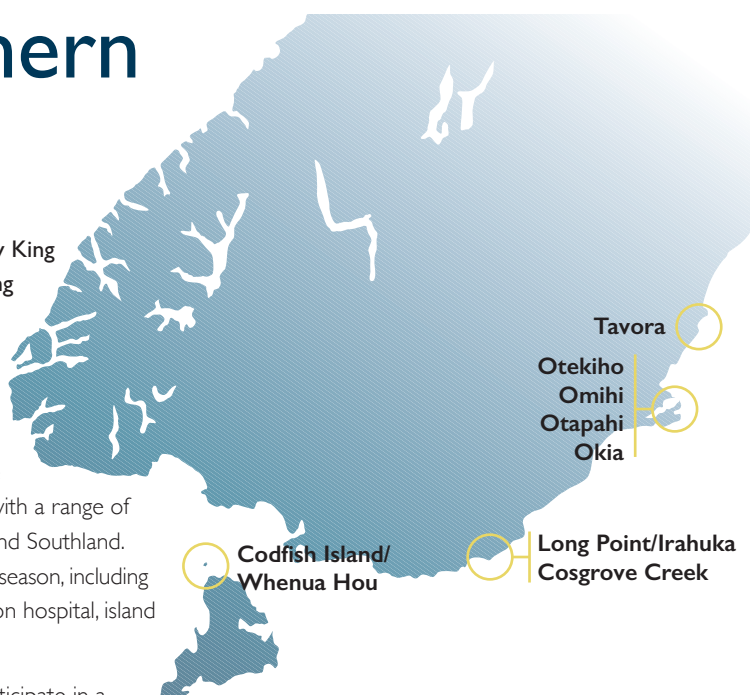


This season's southern island work

The Trust will be busy in the south again this season, contracting Sandy King to carry out work on Stewart and Codfish Islands. Sandy will be leading a nest search team of old hands Dave Houston, Dean Nelson and the Trust's ranger Aviva Stein on Codfish Island in November.

A search of The Neck on Stewart Island will be carried out with assistance from Timu Moxham, a 12 year old pupil from Halfmoon Bay School who is completing the William Pike Challenge. Sandy will also be joined by two Sir Peter Blake Trust Ambassadors who will be provided with a range of experiences working with yellow-eyed penguin conservation in Otago and Southland. They will be involved with intensive field work at the end of the breeding season, including catching, marking and measuring chicks, working in a penguin rehabilitation hospital, island surveys, feral animal trapping, nursery work and habitat management.

Even further south, Trust rangers Leith Thomson and Aviva Stein will participate in a two-week DOC expedition to the Auckland Islands and assist with on-going survey work of the yellow-eyed penguin population there.



What happens to YEPs at sea?

The mass mortality event in 2013 and the starvation of chicks in early 2014 – which together halved nest numbers at the Trust's Otago Peninsula colonies – has made it apparent that little is truly known.

Consultations with the Department of Conservation and the University of Otago point towards diet being the main reason for last season's mass starvation.

More than 25 years of research has given a greater understanding of the threats to penguins' survival on land.

But little is known about where they spend most of their lives – at sea.

If penguins are indicators of marine conditions, then the yellow-eyed penguin

must be the sentinel of change in New Zealand's southern waters.

The trust coordinated an unsuccessful bid to the NEXT Foundation for a marine study that aimed to use the yellow-eyed penguin as an indicator species to demonstrate the health of the seas.

Collaborators were to have included University of Otago and Massey University researchers, the Department of Conservation and contracted scientists.

See www.nextfoundation.org.nz and search the tab 'NEXchange' for the full application.

We will continue to apply for funds and chip away at small parts of this puzzle as the opportunities arise.

Furthermore the Trust has plans to bring on to its payroll a conservation scientist to help deliver conservation of yellow-eyed penguins on its own reserves, as well as providing leadership in conservation research to tackle the larger challenges faced by penguins at sea.

Such an appointment would be a significant step in the trust's evolution from a conservation group run by volunteers to a professional organisation.

The appointment, however, depends on resources and successful fundraising, and is against the backdrop of a second end-of-year financial loss.

Traditionally the Trust focused its work on increasing penguin numbers by protecting them and their habitats on land. It has a major strategic decision to make.

Sharing worlds – seabirds and fishing



An invitation to Otago commercial fishers to assist with checking yellow-eyed penguin chicks at one of the Trust's reserves led to the creation of a short film showcasing both sides working together for the benefit of seabirds.

The fishers visited the Trust's Long Point reserve to assist with the fledging check of chicks. It gave members of the Port Chalmers Fishermen's Co-operative a first-hand understanding of the work to conserve these endangered birds.

This led to the production of a DVD which follows the fishers as they crawled through nettles and scrub to catch chicks as part of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's monitoring programme, along with filming of new measures to minimise risks to seabirds developed by the fishers themselves.

The DVD was produced by the Southern Seabirds Solutions Trust which includes Seafood New Zealand, the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, WWF-NZ and Te Ohu Kaimoana. The Southern Seabirds Solutions Trust aims to empower the fishing industry using a co-operative and practical approach to seabird conservation.



The DVD was launched by the Minister of Conservation Nick Smith at the Royal Albatross Centre on the Otago Peninsula in July.

Pictured far left is fisher Ant Smith. Pictured left is YEPT Field Manager, Dave McFarlane, speaking at the DVD launch.



Fonterra Brands new Managing Director, Tim Deane, helping to check on a yellow-eyed penguin nest at Otapahi Reserve

Food industry leaders visit YEPs

Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd recently appointed a new Managing Director, Tim Deane, to manage all their brands including the Mainland Brand, the Trust's founding sponsor. The Trust recently hosted both Tim and NZ Foodstuffs CEO, Steve Anderson, at Otapahi Reserve for a dawn visit, and view the Trust's nursery near Dunedin.

Our guests were told of the low nest numbers on Trust reserves, so we were surprised to see ten birds moving out towards the sea as the sun appeared over the horizon. This was encouraging, given that there are only eight nests at this reserve, and not all of these are located at this particular beach.

On checking the nests as part of the routine visits, no eggs were found to have yet hatched. Given the low nest numbers, we have our fingers crossed that each breeding pair may raise all of their chicks to fledging.



Tim Deane with Anita Pillai (Nursery Manager) and NZ Foodstuffs CEO, Steve Anderson, at the Trust's nursery at Company Bay, Dunedin

Working



Sue Murray, General Manager of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust accepts the first donation into the new boxes from Ian Hankins, Westpac's Business Bank & Wealth Head of SME & Industry Specialists. Photos courtesy of Tristan Rossiter-Sheehy, Learning Solutions Designer, Westpac NZ.

Westpac

Westpac NZ Ltd has gifted \$14,500 to make 290 plastic donation boxes which will soon be installed at the reception desks of Holiday Parks Association of New Zealand holiday parks across the country. Given the \$5 note features the hoiho on one of its sides Westpac will place a note in each box which were installed by Labour weekend to coincide with the start of the summer holiday season.

"Westpac is committed to New Zealand and shares the belief that environmental and conservation issues need to be supported. Westpac is proud to support the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust to help raise funds to conserve and encourage growth of the yellow eyed penguin numbers" says Ian Hankins, Westpac's Business Bank & Wealth Head of SME & Industry Specialists.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DOC Visitor Centres

The Department of Conservation Visitor Centres are delighted to contribute to fundraising through the sale of EcoWai water; in support of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. This support builds on the already close working relationship the Department has with the Trust to help ensure that threatened yellow-eyed penguins thrive in their natural habitats. www.doc.govt.nz



together



nk you



Sudima Hotels

Sudima Hotels New Zealand / Australia is pleased to have an association with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, a trust that does such great work and has achieved so much to ensure the conservation of this wonderful species and of the coastal environment. Sudima Hotels is at the forefront of businesses that accept both their environmental and social responsibilities and connecting with YEPT allows our employees and guests to participate in a business that is indeed making a difference. www.sudimahotels.com



THL Motorhomes

When recently approached by EcoWai with an invitation to support the fundraising initiative to assist the survival of the yellow-eyed penguins, we took on board their comprehensive proposal and decided to join the cause. We recognise that we operate our business within a unique New Zealand environment, one which our guests travel from all over the world to enjoy. Assisting with this cause helps to ensure its sustainability and we are delighted to be able to 'do our bit'. www.thlonline.com



HAPNZ

The members of the Holiday Parks Association are delighted to be associated with the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Our visitors, both domestic and international, truly value and appreciate natural New Zealand and we are proud to contribute to such an iconic New Zealand species as the yellow-eyed penguin. www.holidayparks.co.nz



CQ Hotel, Wellington

CQ Hotels Wellington is proud to have EcoWai water in our hotel rooms with a percentage of each bottle sold going directly to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. EcoWai and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust are clearly matched with our key company core values and strong environmental policies. At CQ we strive to work with organisations that assist with making New Zealand clean, green and sustainable for future generations. www.CQWellington.com



Mangapapa Petit Hotel

Mangapapa Petit Hotel is immensely proud to be affiliated with the EcoWai/Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Mangapapa, once the home of Sir James and Lady Wattie, has an undeniable association of generosity and benevolence. We seek to pay homage to the golden past by giving our blessings and a percentage of profits to this globally important cause.

www.mangapapa.co.nz



Jane Goodall visit

YEPT General Manager Sue Murray, along with representatives from other conservation groups or individuals, were invited to join Jane Goodall for an afternoon aboard Monarch Wildlife Cruises to view local wildlife.



South African delegation

Otapahi reserve was spectacular as the Trust hosted Volunteer Coordinator, Marguerite du Preez and ex-intern Laura McCarthy from SANCCOB, South Africa's leading marine NPO whose vision is to conserve seabirds and other sea-life, especially threatened species such as the African penguin.



Monarch Wildlife Cruises

Monarch Wildlife Cruises, a Dunedin-based tourism operation, are planting trees to off-set their carbon emissions, with the crew spending a fruitful and enjoyable morning at Otekiho Reserve near Taiaoroa Head. The 100+ shrubs came from the Trust's nursery and Ranger Leith helped plant them and install wire protectors to stop rabbits.



YEPT team members with the Minister following the announcement. From left: Aviva Stein (Ranger), Dave McFarlane (Field Manager), Sue Murray (General Manager), Minister Hon. Nick Smith, Lala Frazer (Trustee), Murray Brass (Trustee), Margaret Murrell (Trustee) and Leith Thomson (Ranger).

Successful funding bid for Trust's habitat work

The Trust is delighted to receive funding from DOC's new Community Conservation Partnerships Fund.

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to the Trust over two years to pay for field staff to continue vital habitat work.

Conservation effort is extremely labour-intensive, and although the Trust relies heavily on volunteers, having staff on the ground is crucial.

The Minister of Conservation, Hon Dr Nick Smith said the trust was at the "cutting edge of community partnerships" and its funding was a perfect example of the new

partnership approach the government was employing through the Department.

The Community Conservation Partnerships Fund will provide \$26 million over four years to community organisations undertaking natural heritage and recreation projects. In its first year, \$8.5 million has been allocated to more than 100 organisations.

Coastal Otago receives \$675,000 for five projects, including the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Other projects include Orokonui Ecosanctuary, Landscape Connections Trust, Herbert Heritage Group and Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group.



The PEW Charitable Trusts

Trust field workers, trustees and volunteers undertaking the Long Point/Irahuka Reserve nest search recently were joined by some key associates. In particular, Bronwen Golder (Director, Kermadec Initiative) from The Pew Charitable Trusts, local South Otago Forest & Bird member Jim Young, and Fonterra Edendale Environmental Officer Chris Wright.



The campaign delegation at Otapahi Reserve on Otago Peninsula. From left: Liz Karan, Bronwen Golder and Ryan Dolan of The Pew Charitable Trust, and Dave McFarlane (Field Manager) and Sue Murray (General Manager) of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Global Penguin Campaign visit

Following a visit by Bronwen Golder, New Zealand's representative of The Pew Charitable Trusts, in October (see the facing page), the Trust again hosted her and two representatives from America in early November.

Pew's Global Penguin Conservation Campaign representatives Liz Karan and Ryan Dolan spent time with the Trust to view our conservation work and learn as much as they could about the yellow-eyed penguin. Liz and Ryan were in New Zealand as one of

five countries being considered in a scoping exercise which could include New Zealand penguins in this campaign. Penguins would be used as an indicator of the health of our marine system. As stated by Pew, penguins have been an essential part of the Southern Hemisphere's ecosystems for many thousands, if not millions of years. Protecting their populations and waters they rely on will take a huge global commitment.

The Trust was able to show them two of our reserves and highlight issues around the

breeding yellow-eyed penguins, the current state of the population, and the challenges and issues for the future. This was followed by a combined meeting with other penguin personnel, including representatives from the University of Otago, science community and Oamaru Penguin Colony.

It is hoped that we all may have convinced The Pew Charitable Trusts to consider NZ favourably and invest in our marine world for the future of all New Zealand's penguin species.

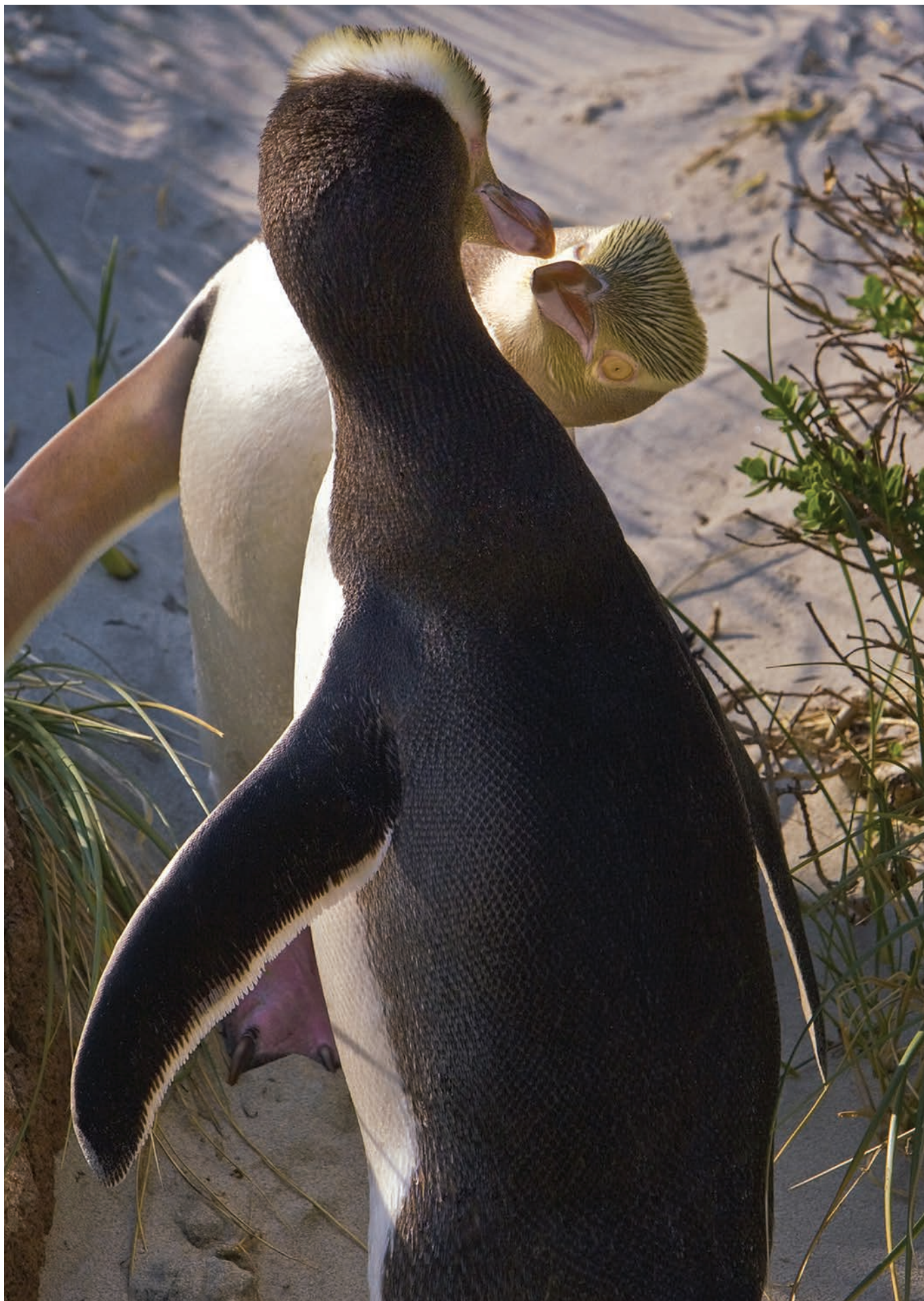


Leave something in paradise

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







Local volunteers planting native flora on the Catlins coast, 2011

Volunteers – the life blood of a community-based organisation

This year's Volunteer Week in June gave us time to reflect on the contribution of hundreds of New Zealanders who contribute in many ways to the more than 25,000 registered charities around the country.

Either as individuals or in groups the Trust's volunteers form an integral part of our work by assisting with a large variety of tasks.

Whether it be propagating plants, assisting with reserve management, participating in advisory groups, killing predators, monitoring penguins, or even just stuffing envelopes, our volunteers help us achieve the aims of the organisation.

Our fifteen Trust Board members, the

governors of this organisation, are also volunteers who receive no payment. New Zealand charities are predominantly managed by volunteers such as these and in today's climate – where prudent fiscal management and legal know-how are required – that is an incredible commitment.

There are a variety of reasons people volunteer, and each is unique. As volunteers, these people juggle other interests, employment, family demands, fluctuating levels of personal energy, passion and interest to make their contributions.

One who has tirelessly supported the Trust by regularly filing newspaper and magazine clippings is Dunedin woman, Maree Johnstone.

Maree quietly appears in the office every few months to take home clippings gathered from numerous sources (as well as the ones she has collected), and meticulously files them into chronological order, before returning them to the office.

You would be amazed how many times the staff refer back to these files for something that has been in the print media. Maree has been diligently doing this for 27 years. A special thank-you Maree, for your commitment to the Trust and your dedication to this role.

And a huge thank-you to the other volunteers who contribute, no matter how big or small, to the charities of NZ, and in particular the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

A note from the Chair

In our last Newsletter I mentioned our application to the Department of Conservation's new fund, the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund and it is rewarding that we were successful.

Not only that, the Minister invited us also to be part of a wide-ranging review of yellow-eyed penguin conservation, past, present and future. This is good news, and should facilitate the development of a long-term recovery strategy that reflects the realities of contemporary conservation.

Everyone has been very busy; in the office running what is a complex and demanding organisation, in the field up-close-and-personal with various wildlife, and busy hosting visitors. These elements came together in our recent nest-search in the Catlins. Staff, trustees and volunteers combined to carry out this important task, often attracting the attention of irritated fur seals. David Smith, a trustee, catered for the team, and we hosted Bronwen Golder, Director, Global Ocean Legacy from The PEW Charitable Trusts, a large US-based ENGO. Bronwen 'got down and got dirty' in the name of science, which was great. In November we welcomed Bronwen's colleagues on a fact-finding visit, complete with penguin viewing. All this activity is to do with us 'turning to face the sea', seeking to augment what we know about the terrestrial habitat with knowledge of the marine environment.

The nest-search trip also enjoyed the company of Fonterra Edendale's Environmental Officer, Chris Wright. This branch of the company has annually provided assistance with habitat tree planting at parts of Long Point/Irahuka Reserve.

Securing funding continues to be a priority for the Trust with diversification as evidenced in this newsletter through EcoWai and their partners, and Westpac, as examples of the effort being put into this. The lengthening days create more viewing opportunities, earlier, so we will be collecting our Fonterra guests at 5am, and have them back before breakfast. There is more to tell but it must keep until next time.

Eric J. Shelton
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Board Chair

Mainland support

The collection of Mainland product barcodes to raise funds for the work of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust can be done online.

This means that consumers can enter their barcodes into our website (www.mainland.co.nz/yellow-eyed-penguin-digital-chart/) and create a digital chart, without the need for saving the cheese and butter wrappers and posting them in.

For those who aren't computer savvy, you can still send in the wrappers in to: Save the Yellow-eyed Penguin (Mainland), PO Box 5409, Dunedin 9058. They will be manually uploaded by a wonderful volunteer. If you wish, you can also print a chart from our website to stick them on and send in. Either way, by collecting the barcodes and sending

them in or entering them online, you are still contributing to saving the yellow-eyed penguin.

For more information about Mainland products, recipes or how you can help us raise funds for the yellow-eyed penguin, visit www.mainland.co.nz.

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



Thank you to our regular supporters:

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Mainland Brand
Malcam Trust Conservation Corp
Otago Polytechnic Horticulture,
Arbor & Landscape Depts
South Otago Branch Forest & Bird

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EcoWai
Elm Wildlife Tours
Heseltine Trust
Holiday Park Association of NZ

Monarch Wildlife Cruises
Otago Community Trust
Otago Peninsula Lions Club
Scenic Hotel Dunedin City
Sudima Hotels

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Brian Loughrey
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Farra Fabrication
Otago Conservation Board
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
Penguin Place
Tony Stewart
West Coast Penguin Trust

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 AdArt Brand Promotion for producing this newsletter.

This Hoiho newsletter is the first to be printed in full colour, taking advantage of digital printing technology at no extra cost.

2nd Floor, Conservation House
77 Lower Stuart Street
PO Box 5409
Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

Phone +64 3 479-0011
E-mail yeptrust@gmail.com
Web www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.

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