



Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.

5

Yellow-eyed Penguin Myths



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Myth No 1.

**Yellow-eyed penguins are cute
and cuddly**



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Not so says Dave McFarlane
Field Manager of the Yellow-eyed
Penguin Trust.

The penguins only **look** cute.

They have strong flippers that hit
and hurt as much as a karate
chop. They can easily draw
blood with a single peck and
when on their nests, they stink of
regitated food.





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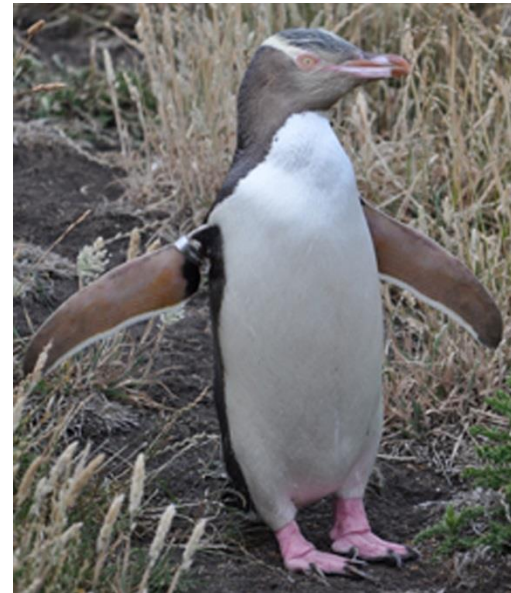
Myth No 2.

**Yellow-eyed penguins live in
Antarctica**



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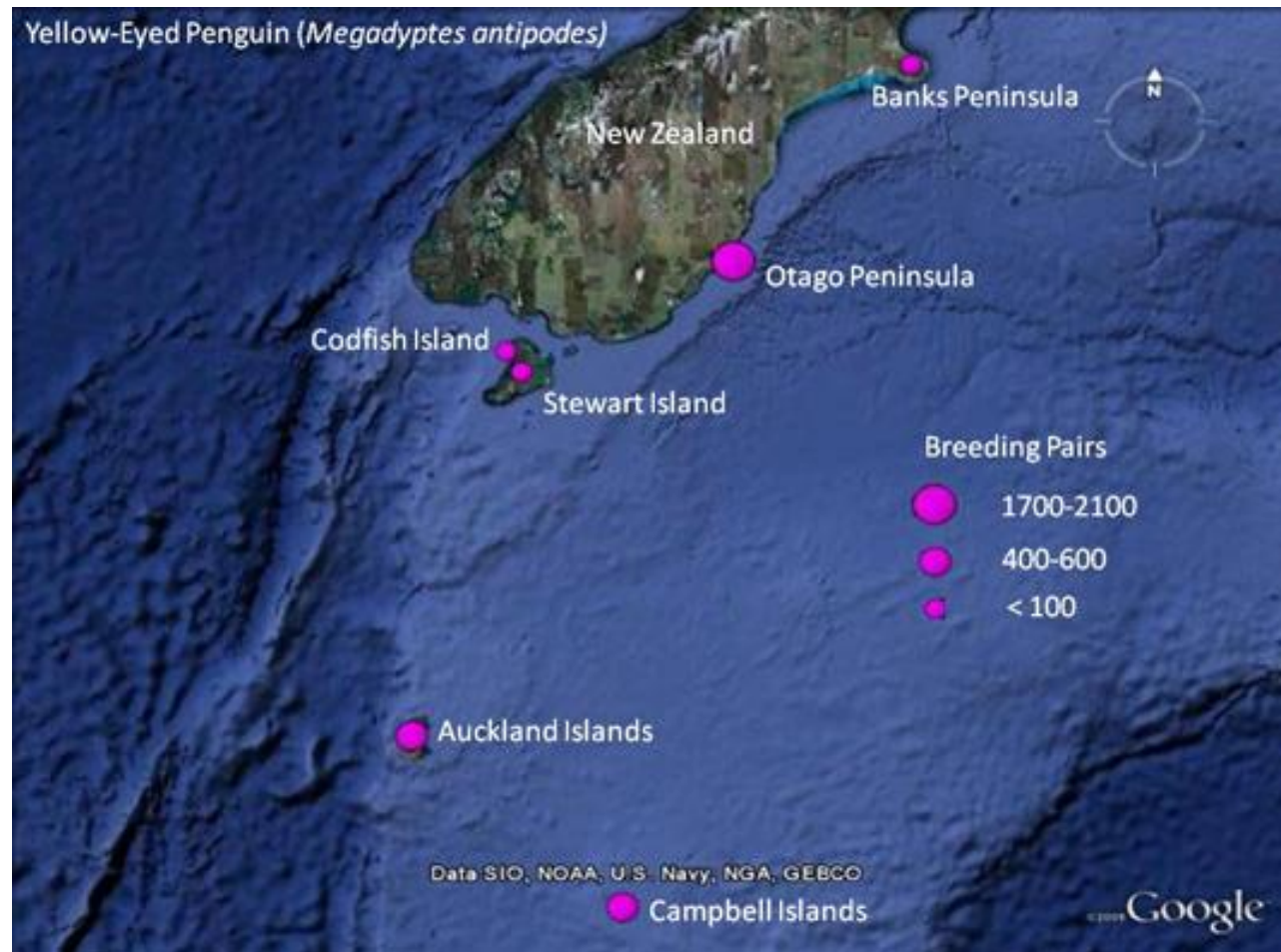
Not one single yellow-eyed penguin lives in Antarctica.





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Yellow-eyed penguins are only found in New Zealand.





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**Emperor,
live in Antarctica.**



Macaroni,



Chinstrap,



Adelie and Gentoo penguins





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Myth No 3.

Yellow-eyed penguins live in crowded colonies



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The yellow-eyed penguin is the least social of all penguin species.

They like seclusion.



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Unlike many other penguins, yellow-eyed penguins do not form breeding colonies.



Yellow-eyed penguins nest in the bush

They build individual nests backed up to a bank, tree or log in dense vegetation – out of sight of each other.



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Myth No 4

**Yellow-eyed penguins need
to be in a zoo to survive**



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Not so reads the DOC Hoiho
(*Megadyptes antipodes*) recovery plan
2000–2025.

A captive population is not needed for the
following reasons:



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- People can already see them in public and private viewing hides on the South Island coast
- Sufficient pairs exist to form a viable wild population
- Keeping them in a zoo for release because the marine ecosystem has failed is pointless - they will only go back into an ecosystem which cannot sustain them
- A captive population may increase the risk of introducing disease to the wild population



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Myth No 5.

**Yellow-eyed penguins are
mEEK and mild**



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Not so says Dave. Yellow-eyed penguins definitely are *not* meek and mild.

They are one of the largest of the penguins and are a top predator in the marine environment - similar in stature to a leopard. They can tackle some really big fish - considering their size.

