

# Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Annual Report 2017/18



Reporting period 01 April 2017 – 27 March 2018

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's (YEPT) activities for the year 2017-2018, thirty years since our formation. The year again has been marked by our determination to produce conservation outcomes robust enough to deal effectively with the demands of another poor breeding season. The details of this effort follow.

Looking back over the year, there are two major events that stand out. One is the completion by Trudi Webster, our Conservation Science Advisor, of a Literature Review that provides a scientific framework upon which we can hang our research and work programme. The second event is the commencement of the long-delayed Stage 2 of a Hoiho governance structure contributed to by the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT), Ministry for Primary Industries and ourselves.

## Conservation Science Advisor

Trudi's work has involved her concentrating in particular on research and writing a Literature Review on the terrestrial and marine threats facing yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho and recommendations for the future. Released in February 2018, this document is titled "The pathway ahead for hoiho *Te ara whakamua* Impacts on hoiho: Literature review and recommendations". This document was one of the conservation outputs promised to the funders, Otago Regional Council and Otago Museum.

Trudi has also:

- undertaken a Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) trial with the Departments of Surveying and Marine Science. The surveys were conducted a few kilometres off Boulder Beach and off Aramoana in areas where birds are known to forage;
- been involved in the Stable Isotope Analysis project with Grant Harper and Yolanda van Heezik;
- attended the University of Otago penguin research group meetings where student and other research is discussed;
- collaborated with a wide range of individuals and groups including Otago Polytechnic, Massey University, Conservation Services Programme (DOC), Fishing industry reps, Papatipu Runaka, rehabilitation centres Penguin Place and Penguin Rescue, Australasian Seabird Group, other conservation and environment NGOs, and both national and international researchers.

Trudi presented to the Otago Regional Council a summary of the Conservation Science role this year, and a plan for the future, and had a conference presentation accepted for the NZ Coastal Society conference in Tauranga [Tidey E, Barber M and Webster T (2017) Yellow-eyed Penguin Habitat Mapping Trial].

## Yellow-eyed penguins / Hoiho

Here is the Hoiho breeding update for all sites monitored by YEPT. The number of nests is very low, similar to last year. Fledging success was good in the Catlins and Stewart Island but low in Otago and Whenua Hou.

### *Summary of hoiho breeding:*

#### North Otago

- Tavora: **2 nests** (1 in 2016/17). 4 eggs, 4 chicks hatched, 1 chick fledged. **0.5** fledglings per pair.

#### Otago Peninsula

- Okia: **4 nests** (2 in 2016/17). 8 eggs, 7 chicks hatched, 3 chick fledged. **0.75** fledglings per pair. One of these nests was found late in the season.
- Otapahi: **10 nests** (8 in 2016/17). 18 eggs, 16 chicks hatched, 8 fledged. **0.7** fledglings per pair
- Omihi: **2 nests** (2 in 2016/17, searched by Penguin Place). 4 eggs, 2 chicks hatched, 0 chicks fledged. **0.0** fledglings per pair.
- Otekiho: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17).
- Allans Beach: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17).
- Kaikai: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17).
- Fuchsia Gully: **3 nests** (3 in 2016/17). 5 eggs, 3 hatched, 2 fledged. **0.67** fledglings per pair.
- Dicks Bush: **0 nests** (1 in 2016/17).

#### Catlins

- Long Point: **17 nests** (17 in 2016/17). 31 eggs, 23 chicks hatched, 23 chicks fledged. **1.35** fledglings per pair.
- Cosgrove Creek: **8 nests** (10 in 2016/17). 16 eggs, 13 chicks hatched, 12 chicks fledged. **1.5** fledglings per pair.
- Helena Falls: **2 nests** (1 in 2016/17). 3 eggs, 3 chicks hatched, 2 fledged. **1.0** fledglings per pair.
- Harts Rock: **1 nest** (0 in 2016/17). 2 eggs, 1 chick hatched, 1 fledged. **1.0** fledglings per pair.
- Purakaunui: **1 nest** (0 in 2016/17). 1 egg, 1 chick hatched, 1 fledged **1.0** fledglings per pair.

#### Stewart Island

- Anglem Coast: **11 nests** (13 in 2016/17). 21 eggs, 19 chicks hatched, 12 fledged. **1.09** fledglings per pair
- Bravo Islands: **13 nests** (17 in 2016/17). 26 eggs, 25 chicks hatched, 17 fledged. **1.21** fledglings per pair.
- The Neck: Not searched (0 nests in 2016/17).

- Whenua Hou: **16 nests** (24 in 2016/17). 31 eggs, 30 chicks hatched, 6 chicks fledged. **0.38** fledglings per pair. Two of these nests found late in the season.

*Summary of the season:*

- Diphtheria has been a big problem for chicks in Otago Peninsula and North Otago this year. Although there was some success in debriding lesions, chick losses were high. There is a plan to establish a working group later this year involving vets from DOC, Wildbase, MPI and DWH to develop a treatment and/or research plan ahead of next season.
- Investigation into avian malaria is ongoing: 20+ penguins so far from rehab and wild locations have died. Higher temperatures this year led to higher numbers of mosquitoes being observed. The malaria event is currently being written up, including birds affected, preventative measures, and treatments available. Post-mortems are being collated and further Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing is being carried out at Massey.
- Fledged chicks were mostly good weights (>5kg), which is perhaps surprising given the warm sea surface temperatures.
- Chicks were again soft released from the Catlins this year, the first group of six chicks started the release process at Long Point on 23 Feb, another 6 on 9<sup>th</sup> March and final 3 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Four unexplained adult mortalities (Katiki, Otapahi and two at Boulder) occurred exhibiting similar symptoms to previous mortality events in 2012/13 and last year. Response was coordinated by Trudi and Amanda Salt and Marcus Simmons (DOC) involving searches of beaches, media and informing stakeholders. An unexplained mortality response plan is being developed alongside and will be used for future events.

## **Policy, submissions and permits**

With respect to our submission on the Department of Conservation's Draft Threatened Species Strategy, yellow-eyed penguins have been included in a list of 150 priority threatened species for which protection will be enhanced. Major comments are:

- The Strategy does not extend far enough towards protecting our native species.
- Prioritisation could have used the existing species threat classification process.
- Many nationally endangered and even critical species are not included on the list.
- There is no provision of funding.

Trudi is working with fisheries industry representatives and contractors, and the Ministry for Primary Industries to address the impacts caused by setnet fisheries on the East Coast of the South Island.

Trudi attended the Conservation Services Programme (CSP) and Aquatic Environment Working Group meetings in Wellington. Discussions at the meeting were extremely valuable as networking opportunities. She also provided feedback on the Aquatic

Environment and Biodiversity Annual Review (AEBR), and prioritization and feedback on CSP annual planning of research and population projects.

Trudi completed an MPI questionnaire for the National Blue Cod Strategy.

Trudi prepared a Ministerial briefing paper on the decline of hoiho at Whenua Hou and potential impacts on hoiho more generally. This shows the Minister is treating the issues as important. A report on the decline and potential impacts affecting hoiho at Whenua Hou was also prepared and shared with our partners, the Department of Conservation and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. There were no impacts from terrestrial predators or tourism; one of the impacts is fisheries bycatch (3 observations of by-caught hoiho in set nets north of Whenua Hou), but whether this is the major/only impact is unknown.

Trudi prepared a priority list of Conservation Management Recommendations for hoiho for discussion with our partners (Department of Conservation and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu). Given the urgency of the situation and ongoing decline in hoiho numbers, YEPT presented this list of recommendations that could be progressed alongside the recovery plan (Stage 2). These recommendations were also presented to the Minister for Conservation.

## **Research and Monitoring**

### ***Nest boxes***

As part of the targeted nest enhancement project (partial funding applied for from Dunedin City Council Biodiversity Fund), 20 new nest boxes were made over the winter for Okia and Otapahi Reserves. This is a result of the monitoring team observing areas that birds use regularly but are not suitable for breeding.

### ***YEP Species Dog***

We decided not to proceed with a transition to species dog this season, but asked staff to keep a watching brief for future developments.

### ***Penguin Courier Volunteers***

A small group of volunteers transport hoiho from where they are being held after being picked up from the beach to either the *Dunedin Wildlife Hospital* for veterinary care and/or to Penguin Place rehab facility. Since October 2017, penguin couriers have travelled 1,224km and contributed 34 hours of their time.

### ***Dunedin Wildlife Hospital***

YEPT welcomed the opening of the wildlife hospital in January 2018, providing a vital service to sick and injured hoiho in particular. The hospital provides a range of services and we work together to *triage* birds as they present. This combination of intensive treatment, rehabilitation and soft-release back into the wild stretches resources but is necessary now that we focus on the wellbeing of individual birds as well as of populations.

### ***YEPT Permit***

Our permits to work with yellow-eyed penguins/ hoiho and other penguin species have been amalgamated into one permit for a ten year period across the eastern South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## **Habitats**

### ***Long Point***

#### *Development*

YEPT has been fundraising for a field base to be developed on the reserve. This will be in the form of three modified containers to be located near the cattleyards. The logistics of sewerage disposal and electricity supply are challenging in this remote location, but solutions are being investigated.

The process of applying for Building Consent appears to be relatively simple as the field base would be considered as a 'farm building' and of little regulatory interest.

*Funding for this development has been received from:*

- ANZ Staff Foundation have awarded \$15,000
- Audrey Reid Charitable Trust \$20,000
- Otago Community Trust \$50,000
- AW Jones Charitable Trust \$20,000
- Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust \$20,000
- Heseltine Trust \$2000

#### *Predator Control*

New traps part-funded by CDC were gradually being laid out.

Many thanks again to Roy Johnstone and Jim Young from Forest and Bird South Otago Branch for continuing to monitor trap lines on and around the reserve.

#### *Revegetation*

The new cage protectors, made with shade cloth, proved successful in the windy site above Manuka Beach.

Planting has continued as per the Annual Work Plan.

#### *Advocacy*

Field Manager Dave McFarlane continued to host groups and advocate for the reserve such as a recent visit by the Otago Cavalcade when it completed its journey in Owaka, and contributed articles to the Catlins Coast Inc newsletter.

#### *Soft Releasing*

Three groups of hoiho chicks (total of 14 birds) were successfully soft released at Long Point, beginning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and concluding on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. The process was a joint endeavor with DOC Owaka staff and two local volunteers (Jim Young & Sarah Irvine).

## ***Okia Reserve***

### *Predator Control*

- New trap lines were laid out completing a circular trapping route around the reserve – some have been removed and some have been replaced with new boxes (70-80 traps in total).
- Dunedin City Council provided \$2000 to buy 32 cat traps, ramps and freight, and they also provided \$6000 to gravel the track between the pyramids, and to the left into bog area, and track to the right towards beach.
- DCC received a letter from ORC about rabbit numbers in the area. Two night-shoots were organized and investigations are continuing around a poison operation in winter 2018.
- Ben removed 2 of the 3 possum traplines in the southern pine block. These will be relocated elsewhere in the reserve.

### *Revegetation*

Plantings have been maintained over the summer and winter plantings (2018) are being planned.

### *Advocacy*

Groups and individuals have continued to assist the Trust with work on the reserve. Work with University of Otago surveying student to undertake mapping of the reserve via drone.

### *Other*

- Extensive flooding blocked the access track near the small Pyramid and other vehicle tracks around the reserve. A small lake formed on the northern side of the rosette, with a large slip above it. There was extensive erosion from high seas right along Victory Beach, with sand cliffs of 1 – 1.5m high.
- A new sign showing track to beach has been installed as people were instead overshooting the correct access route and heading down the 4WD track.
- We have been in discussions with Fire & Emergency NZ to discuss Okia fire risk and will pursue conversations with DCC about managing the fire risk in extreme temperatures.

## ***Otapahi Reserve***

### *Predator Control*

NZ Deer Stalker Association volunteers have restarted the trap line checks; it takes approximately 4 hours to do a full round following an extension of the trap line to Wharekakahu beach.

### *Revegetation*

No planting has been undertaken on this reserve.

### Advocacy

The Field Manager has worked with a University of Otago PhD student to facilitate access to rock exposures of the Dunedin volcano.

### Other

Slips were observed on the face near Wharakakahu and a large slip took out the 4WD track running along the gully leading out to Wharekakahu Beach. The hide at Alfred Beach remained standing and we are investigating options for strengthening and re-cladding it in more permanent materials.

### **Tavora Reserve**

#### Predator Control

Local Goodwood residents, Andy & Melissa Moore are checking the trap line, using the trap.nz app to record trapping results.

#### Revegetation

The \$1000 grant from the North Otago Tree Planting Association meant a further 200 plants went into the Marshall area.

### Other

- Following heavy rains in July 2017, a large slip occurred along the fence line by the cabbage trees on the slope above the Marshall planting area. Other slips were noted on the northern cliffs looking from the stalag seat. The beach has also been extensively damaged by high tides, and a lot of the pingao has been washed away.
- The Tavora Advisory Group agreed to close the reserve for up to 4 months, November 2017 – February 2018. This was based on information from research student Mel Young about how penguins were being disturbed by humans on the beach, or from walking into their access tracks.

### **Otekiho**

There has been more work in the reserve this year compared to the last few years – mainly removal of weed species.

### **Curio Bay, Southland**

- YEPT continues to work with the South Catlins Community Trust and DOC on access and signage as this site was developed. Earlier this year the new heritage centre Tumu Toka Natural Heritage Visitor Centre, or Curioscope, was opened. The Trust has supported the development of the Heritage Centre as a way to control visitors and reduce the impact on hoiho in the area. We look forward to continuing to work with the South Catlins Charitable Trust, DOC Murihiku, Awarua runaka and others on this development.

- Three culverts were dug under the public tracks for penguin access, and since then plantings have been added to screen off the culverts. Yellow-eyed penguins are already using them as evidenced by both poo and footprints.
- YEPT is in discussions with DOC about their ability to close part of the wave platform during the breeding season.
- The Trust continues to receive verbal reports of negative yellow-eyed penguin / people interactions, and refers them to DOC Murihiku.

### ***Other habitats***

The Trust has continued to assist on other habitats where yellow-eyed penguins / hoiho breed or have been found. We always appreciate the relationships with other members of the penguin community and landowners.

#### *Auckland Islands*

No YEPT staff member was able to take part in the DOC-led trip this year because there was no place available. Trustee David Smith went as a crew member (David went also as a volunteer on the *Million Dollar Mouse* project to the Antipodes Islands).

#### *Auckland Island pest eradication*

The then Minister of Conservation, Maggie Barry, announced that a feasibility study to eradicate pests from the Auckland Islands is underway.

### ***Nursery***

Nursery Supervisor Louise Ashton has reduced the number of plant species being produced to core species; *Coprosma propinqua*, *Hebe elliptica*, Totara and Broadleaf. It was noted that several others were also important e.g. Pittosporum, Cabbage Tree, and pingao.

It was agreed that when seeds and seedlings are provided from suitable sources then it may be appropriate to grow them, but the focus needs to remain on the plants needed for penguin work.

Over 5000 plants are produced at the Nursery annually and this is possible only because of the assistance of the Wednesday volunteers. Our sincere thanks for the outstanding contribution from these dedicated people.

## **Funding**

### ***FOUNDING SPONSOR***

The Mainland sponsorship continues until 2019, giving us financial reassurance for which we are always appreciative of. We have enjoyed the support of Margaret O'Sullivan, Group Marketing Manager Local Jewels - Mainland & Symbio, our relationship manager. Margaret also attended our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and contributed \$1000 toward the catering.



## ***MAJOR DONATIONS***

### *Dunedin Airport*

In 2016, the Trust was approached by Dunedin Airports who offered sponsorship to the value of \$10 000 for each of three years (2016 – 2018). With this funding they have established a yellow-eyed penguin display in the airport building through the assistance of the Otago Museum, which features two stuffed penguins, Kowhai and Kai. Dunedin Airport CEO, Richard Roberts agreed to be the Business Ambassador for the Trust.

### *DOC Community Fund*

2017/18 is year two-of-three of this fund to employ staff to undertake work on Okia reserve with the emphasis on weed control and some yellow-eyed penguin monitoring and predator control work. Our Ranger, Ben Goldsworthy, has become skilled and knowledgeable in various aspects of weed control.

### *EcoWai*

YEPT continues to be supported through the partners to the EcoWai programme. Many thanks to director Barry Hillyer and the programme partners for their ongoing support of our conservation effort through the sale of bottled water. We also acknowledge the additional financial contributions from Quality Hotel Parnell for our conservation work.

## ***OTHER DONATIONS***

### *City Forests Limited*

CFL have agreed to fund some of our conservation work for the next 3 years, and we are welcome to apply for continuation beyond this. It was noted the amount not be made public.

### *Southern Motor Group*

We purchased a Foton Tunland 4WD with asking price of \$24,999 from Southern Motor Group who gave us a \$2500 cash discount.

### *Multibeam Echosounder:*

The MBES trial was funded by the Anstiss-Garland Charitable Trust (administered by Perpetual Guardian) to the value of \$3850 (\$4275 applied for).

### *Distinction Hotel*

Distinction Hotel donated a swipe card to park in their carpark opposite John Wickliffe House, free of charge. This has come about through their manager Dean Nicol, from a conversation with Margaret Davidson (Product and Development Manager) of Mitchell Corp who own the Mainstay Motel chain that are part of the EcoWai partnership programme. Thank you to Barry Hillyer for making these introductions.

### *North Otago Tree Association*

\$1000 awarded for trees at Tavora Reserve

### *Otago Pellet Fires*

This local Dunedin-based company continued to support us with donations based on sales of their products.

### *Dunedin City Council Biodiversity Fund*

We were awarded \$2711 for a targeted nest site enhancement project at Otapahi and Okia Reserves.

### *Landcare Research*

\$1350 was donated from Landcare Research, collected as an incentive for people to complete an online survey.

Many thanks to all of these organisations and our own members for continuing to support our work.

### ***OTHER***

YEPT has appreciated the support of DOC's Commercial Partnerships Group to assist in our strategic planning to make the organisation sustainable. This is an ongoing exercise which we hope will be concluded during 2018. Thanks to Kay Booth, Deputy Director General Partnerships and her team for this support.

### ***ESTATES***

We launched a new fundraising campaign targeting family and other trusts administered through law or accounting firms, with some success.

We continue to be indebted to those individuals and families who donate to our work through a legacy or donation. Our sincere thanks.

## **CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA**

Staff and trustees again represented YEPT through attendance at relevant conferences and symposia.

### *Annual YEP Symposium Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2017*

The Symposium was oversubscribed by about 20 people, forcing registrations to be closed for the first time. There were also more requests to present than time allowed, so only those specifically relevant to yellow-eyed penguins were included.

### *10<sup>th</sup> International Penguin Congress, Dunedin 26-30 August 2019*

General Manager Sue Murray is already part of the International Science Committee and now also is part of the local committee which will organise the logistics of the event. Administrator Allison Wallace will provide administrative support.

## **ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH**

### ***Stage 2 of Hoiho Review***

DOC Director Operations, Eastern South Islands, Andy Roberts was not able to be present at the 2017 Annual YEP Symposium, but a prepared speech from him outlined the current position of the review. With the species in crisis, feedback from people at the Symposium, and discussions at the EDS conference about saving large populations of species while they are still large, the committee suggested again emailing Andy for an update for this new strategy.

Subsequently, the first Hoiho Governance meeting was held on Monday 26 February 2018 with DOC, MPI, YEPT and TRoNT. Eric and Sue attended and reported back to the Trust Board. This meeting decided it was appropriate to put together a working group and write Terms of Reference to proceed with Stage 2. The next meeting will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2018.

### ***Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report***

This report stated that 4 out of 5 bird species are under threat. We sent a letter of congratulations on the report.

### ***YEPT Patron /Ambassadors***

In addition to our existing Patron, we began appointing three Ambassadors, with the portfolios of youth, conservation and business.

Dunedin Airport CEO Richard Roberts (business portfolio) accepted and is already active. An approach has been made for the conservation portfolio but is yet to be confirmed and the youth portfolio is still under discussion.

### ***Wild Dunedin event***

The Trust remains involved with this event as part of the founding groups, although at a minimal level.

### ***Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group***

YEPT is still ably represented by Hoani Langsbury. We continue to benefit from this relationship and enjoy having a container for equipment housed at our Nursery for the use of OPBG staff.

### ***Presentations***

The Trust has again continued to fulfil requests to present to various social and educational organisations.

Sue was invited to present to DOC's Permissions Team workshop from an environmental groups perspective on how the growth of tourism in NZ is affecting different sectors – the challenges and the opportunities, and anything relevant to DOC staff. Also presenting was Barry Hanson, about public conservation land, a Real Journeys representative and Rachel Moore from Tourism Industry Association.

### ***Submissions***

The Trust continues to submit on relevant environmental matters, for example, the Dunedin City Council Destination Plan.

### ***Media articles***

This year has involved providing numerous press releases, and interviews with radio and television as requested.

## **Visitors / Visited**

YEPT staff continue to work with many associate groups such as the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, West Coast Penguin Trust, Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group, Save the Otago Peninsula Trust (STOP), Predator Free Dunedin, and Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust, to name a few.

YEPT hosted a group of young journalism students from China. Although a success, there were many lessons learnt about how these visits could be improved in the future. Having an in-house translator with Yue Cui was invaluable.

YEPT staff and trustees also visited associates, groups and organizations throughout the year, some of these include:

- Max Crowe, Biodiversity Officer, Waitaki District Council. Discussed potential closure of Tavora Reserve for the breeding season; Waianakarua Bluffs predator problems and WDC Biodiversity Fund
- Philippa Agnew, Oamaru Penguin Colony. A look at the extensions and rehab centre (they now have a permit to rehabilitate 12 penguins)
- Rosalie Goldsworthy & Chris Lallas, Penguin Rescue, Moeraki. Several different trips by various staff members.
- Gavin Palmer and Nick Donnelly. We were supported by our partners Johnathan Thomas from DOC (in Bruce McKinlay's absence) and Yvette Couch-Lewis from TRoNT to present the literature review and begin a discussion about future funding of the CSA position.
- Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation visited in December 2017 and was welcomed with a powhiri and morning tea. She spoke about her role and invited questions followed by a 90-minute meeting and lunch with DOC, YEPT and TRoNT. This was followed by Sue introducing Stage 2 of the review of hoiho conservation (the Minister knew already about Stage 1), and then Trudi presented her "Immediate Recommendations" as outlined in a document dated 7 December. These were well received by the Minister. The Minister was very keen on the idea of a full set-net ban, but acknowledged this would have to be implemented in collaboration with the Minister of Fisheries.
- Sue and Eric visited Auckland in order to meet the operators of Hauraki Gulf Cruises and Quality Parnell Hotel. This resulted in substantial donations from both

organisations. Barry Hillyer donated his time to transport them around Auckland, which was much appreciated.

- Following the launch of Forest & Bird / BirdLife International's Global Penguin Campaign, Sue and Eric met Kevin Hague (F&B General Manager) and discussed the possible implications of this campaign.

## Events

### ***Memorial Planting***

The planting in memory of Marian van der Goes (DOC Conservator 2009 - 2012) was held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at Long Point / Irahuka Reserve and was attended by family, friends and colleagues. Firstly as DOC's Community Engagement Manager and then as Conservator, Marian guided us through stages of immense frustration and anguish from others in DOC and the Nature Heritage Fund during the negotiation to purchase this reserve. YEPT was delighted to accept a donation from Marian's husband Ray Grubb for the cost of these plantings.

### ***Trust's 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations***

The 'Celebration' was held on 27 October 2017. The function was held in the John Wickliffe House staffroom and drinks and nibbles were provided. As part of these celebrations, local school students were invited to submit a short story to raise environmental awareness, linking Dunedin's 'Wildlife Capital of NZ' brand to the 'UNESCO City of Literature' brand. The competition was judged by Allied Press journalist Greta Yeoman and was won by Harrison Stouts' "A Yellow-Eyed Penguin's Holiday", with runner-up Andie Syke's "Icy's Message".

Also this celebration was to launch the Oral History project, a project funded by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Oral History Award, and produced by historian Helen Frizzell. Funding allowed for Helen to interview five of the seven founding trustees about the background and purpose to forming the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

### ***New website***

The *beta-version* of our new website was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and several people suggested edits; thank you.

Allison did a great job seeing this completed and her previous experience in this field made the whole transition go relatively easily. The digital design was created by *Satellite*, the marketing company used by Mainland, and was funded from the 'additional sponsorship' monies of up to \$30k from Mainland.

## Trustees and Staff

### *Legislative changes*

Under the Health & Safety Act, Trustees have a responsibility for ensuring all plans for the organisation are suitable and meet the needs of the Act and the Trust. Staff continue to work diligently to ensure all H&S practices are adhered to.

### *Trustees*

In May 2017, six applications were received for the full trustee position and eight for the Emerging Leader Trustee. We appointed new trustee Yue Cui and Emerging Leader Trustee Kate Morrison.

During the year we accepted resignations from Linda Farrelly who moved to Nelson, Gina Watts and Pat Mark. Although Pat will stay involved with our conservation work through sub-committees. Thanks to all of them for their respective contributions to the governance of the Trust, and we wish them well for the future.

We welcome new trustees Olaf Nilson, Eleanor Linscott and Shane Melton who were selected to be nominated as Trustees at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

### ***Current Trustees***

Eric Shelton, Board Chair	Margaret Murrell
Tim Mepham, Treasurer	Olaf Nilson
David Smith	Eleanor Linscott
Euan Kennedy	Shane Melton
Kate Morrison	Murray Brass
Jesse James	Peter Simkins
Hoani Langsbury	Yue Cui
Lala Frazer	

### ***Current Staff***

Sue Murray, General Manager (1.0 FTE)  
David McFarlane, Field Manager (1.0 FTE)  
Trudi Webster, Conservation Science Advisor (1.0 FTE)  
Ben Goldsworthy, Ranger (1.0 FTE)  
Allison Wallace, Administrator (0.6 FTE)  
Louise Ashton, Nursery Supervisor (0.5FTE)  
Sandy King, Stewart Island Project Manager (contract hours)

## Conclusion

The year that has just passed has been as challenging as any other recently, yet there seems to be a renewed optimism infusing our organisation. Our ability to *triage* birds and chicks found starving and underweight, or infirm, has increased to the point where we can be cautiously confident that most birds get the treatment they need.

As for threats at a population and species level, the new Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, seems to understand the range and severity of these threats and seems committed to tackling them head on. I hope our 2018 Annual Report will bring good news on conservation outcomes.

The organisation itself is working efficiently and effectively and has made further progress on sharing governance with our programme partners, the Department of Conservation and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The policy of whenever possible releasing birds back to their natal sites after treatment has a strong feel-good factor for the staff involved, the Trustees, iwi, locals, funders and all other members of the penguin community.

Thanks to everyone for another year's dedicated *conservation effort*. We have some new Trustees who will bring with them insights and we have said goodbye to some others who have served the Trust well; Pat Mark's name springs to mind.

Best wishes to all for 2018-2019.



**Eric J. Shelton**  
Chair