

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Annual Report 2018/19

Reporting period 01 April 2018 – 26 March 2019



It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's (YEPT) activities for the year 2018-2019. Once again, the year was characterised by another very poor breeding season, stretching our resources and creating very strong bonds between the various elements of the yellow-eyed penguin conservation community. The system of *triage* for individual bird management and rehabilitation has now become the norm and this year has involved our volunteers clocking-up huge amounts of travel as underweight and unwell chicks are collected from some remote beach, receive veterinary treatment in Dunedin if necessary, are hand-fed and perhaps given a course of medicine, and then are returned to where they were found. There is more on this below.

This year involved also working in very close collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Fisheries New Zealand. The Minister of Conservation has stayed true to her promise of increased resourcing for conservation in general and penguins fit in there. Our funded Catlins' evening beach patrol is an example of what can be done on a small budget.

We believe this year has again found us applying *best practice* to delivering our conservation effort. The soon-to-be-delivered work/research base at Long Point will give us another tool to work with as we prepare for the next season; the one where we hope to turn the corner to better things. The details of our effort follow, each section contributed by the person best-suited to comment.

Yellow-eyed penguins / Hoiho

This season is a particularly bad one for hoiho. Overall nest numbers on mainland NZ (i.e. Otago and Catlins) are down compared with last year: **225** (255 in 2017/18).

In addition to the low numbers of nests, breeding success has also been very poor; without intervention >80% of chicks in Otago and the Catlins would have died.

Summary of the season:

A first starvation event resulting from heavy rain and flooding (17-23 Nov) affected chicks during and shortly after hatching. Nests were lost due to inundation and poor foraging conditions, with murky seas extending offshore resulted in early post-guard (at 4/5 weeks) and unusual behaviour from some parents (both at-nest or out- for multiple days). Chick deaths from starvation followed.

Chicks started putting on weight in December and were improving over the Christmas period and early January. A second starvation event resulted in chicks losing weight from mid-January (before fledging in February). At this stage it is unclear what caused this event.

Diphtheria was observed in a few chicks in North Otago and Otago Peninsula and by the end of December the surviving chicks were past the risk of succumbing to diphtheria.

Chicks that were <65% of the average weight for their age and deemed to have little chance of survival, or were losing weight towards fledge, were uplifted for supplementary feeding.

This collection resulted in YEPT picking up 26 chicks from our sites in the Catlins, and 5 from Otago. In total c.45 chicks were uplifted from the Catlins and later required soft release.

As a result of the starvation events, very few chicks fledged naturally in the wild; in particular chicks from the Catlins fared very poorly.

Unexplained mortality has again been an issue this season, affecting seven (mostly adult) hoiho (3 x North Otago, 3 x Catlins, 1 x Otago Peninsula). Unexplained mortality signs can only be confirmed via post-mortem (mass red blood cell destruction particularly in the spleen, liver and lungs).

Investigations into malaria are ongoing. Malaria has been confirmed as the cause of death for at least 9 chicks and 5 adult hoiho so far. All chicks were in rehab at Penguin Place or Penguin Rescue, but it is thought that malaria was contracted in the wild. Prophylactic treatment of all penguins (up to c.100) at one rehab centre, and treatment of sick birds only, (c.15) at another, is occurring as per the malaria action plan.

Staff were challenged with maintaining the high level of intervention to assist hoiho survival. Some core habitat tasks have not been completed due to the urgency of the penguin work.

The intensive work with penguins this season highlights that we are managing birds on an individual basis rather than the historic population-basis.

Summary of hoiho breeding:

North Otago

- Tavora: **2 nests** (2 in 2017/18), 4 eggs, 4 hatched, 1 fledged (1 rehab), **0.5 chicks / nest**

Otago Peninsula

- Okia: **4 nests** (4 in 2017/18), 7 eggs, 6 hatched, 2 fledged (2 wild), **0.5 chicks/nest**
- Otapahi: **8 nests** (10 in 2017/18), 16 eggs, 16 hatched, 9 fledged (6 wild, 3 rehab), **1.13 chicks/nest**
- Omihi: **0 nests** (2 in 2017/18)
- Otekiho: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17)
- Allans Beach: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17)
- Kaikai: **0 nests** (0 in 2016/17)
- Fuchsia Gully: **4 nests** (3 in 2017/18), 8 eggs, 7 hatched, 3 fledged (2 wild, 1 rehab), **0.75 chicks/nest**
- Dicks Bush: **0 nests** (0 in 2017/18)

Catlins

- Long Point: **16 nests** (17 in 2017/18), 31 eggs, 25 hatched, 12 fledged (10 rehab, 2 wild), **0.81 chicks/nest**.
- Cosgrove Creek: **10 nests** (8 in 2017/18), 20 eggs, 19 hatched, 11 fledged (11 rehab) **1.1 chicks/nest**. One nest found later in the season.
- Helena Falls: **3 nests** (2 in 2017/18), 6 eggs, 6 hatched, 5 fledged (4 rehab, 1 wild) **1.67 chicks/nest**.
- Harts Rock: **0 nests** (1 in 2017/18)
- Purakaunui: **2 nests** (1 in 2017/18), 4 eggs, 3 hatched, 1 fledged (1 rehab), **0.5 chicks /nest**

Stewart Island

- Anglem Coast:

- Rollers: **5 nests** (5 in 2017/18), 10 eggs, 2 chicks survived, **0.4** chicks/nest
- Golden: **6 nests** (6 in 2017/18), 12 eggs, 8 chicks survived, **1.3** chicks/nest
- The Neck: **1 nest** (not searched in 2017/18, 0 in 2016/17), 2 eggs, 1 chick survived, **1** chick/nest
- Bravo Islands: total **15 nests** (14 in 2017/18)
 - Tommy: **7 nests** (4 in 2017/18), 14 eggs, 5 chicks survived, **0.71** chicks/nest
 - Crayfish: **3 nests** (2 in 2017/18), 6 eggs, 0 chicks survived, **0** chicks/nest
 - Goat: **2 nests** (1 in 2017/18), 4 eggs, 4 chicks survived, **2.0** chicks/nest
 - Groper: **4 nests** (6 in 2017/18), 8 eggs, 3 chicks survived, **0.75** chicks/nest
 - Refuge: 0 nests (0 in 2017/18)
- Whenua Hou: total **13 nests** (16 in 2017/18)
 - Penguin Bay: **2 nests** (0 in 2017/18), 4 eggs, 0 chicks survived, **0** chicks/nest
 - Sealers Bay: **4 nests** (6 in 2017/18), 7 eggs, 0 chicks survived, **0** chicks/nest
 - Roderiques: 0 nests (0 in 2017/18)
 - NW Bay: **6 nests** (5 in 2017/18), 12 eggs, 3 chicks survived, **0.5** chicks/nest
 - Alphonse: **1 nest** (5 in 2017/18), 2 eggs, 1 chick survived, **1** chick/nest

Research and Monitoring

Extensive research has been carried out into mosquitoes, different mosquito control options and treatment of penguins for malaria, resulting in the development of a malaria action plan. Following on from this we are regularly testing standing water for mosquito larvae and treating with BTI larval control, particularly during nesting and moult when hoiho are particularly vulnerable.

Given the high number of hoiho that are known to have died from avian malaria last season ($n=29$), with the support of Microbiology and Zoology staff at the *University of Otago* a research proposal has been developed. The aim is to find an MSc student to investigate mosquitoes, including preferred habitats, and then determining the vectors for malaria.

Also, a pilot study with Microbiology staff at the University is currently being developed alongside DOC to investigate the microbiome of sick and healthy hoiho (including viruses, fungi and bacteria).

Ongoing monitoring of hoiho at our reserves has led to evidence of the survival of birds which have been through our soft release process at Long Point. Two juveniles from the cohort of chicks released in 2017/18 have been re-sighted this season (at Okia and Otapahi). Both were uplifted from the Catlins and supplementary fed at *Penguin Place* before being soft released.

The Department of Conservation provided a further \$30k of funding for research and immediate issues faced by hoiho, including funding of a project on malaria and mosquitoes, benthic habitat surveys, a review of hoiho monitoring in the sub-Antarctic and support of malaria treatment at rehabilitation centres.

A long-term collaboration with *Otago Polytechnic* continues to develop a station for the remote monitoring and weighing of hoiho.

Further research using the multibeam echosounder (MBES) to map benthic habitat off Otago Peninsula within the foraging range of hoiho continues in collaboration with *University of Otago's Schools of Surveying and Marine Science*.

Penguin Courier Volunteers

The success of the volunteers assisting to transport sick and injured penguins in 2017/18, has continued this year. They 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 2018 (and up until 9th March 2019), penguin couriers have travelled 2,029km and contributed 54 hours of their time. These volunteers work alongside, and are part of, the new DOC Wildlife Responders team.

Additional Funding

The Trust made donations to the rehabilitation centres ***Penguin Place*** (\$3000) and ***Penguin Rescue*** (\$2500) in support of the wonderful work these centres do to help save this species.

The **Department of Conservation's Marine Species Team** provided \$30k additional funding for operational support during critical times in the hoiho breeding season. This funding was used to employ Sarah Irvine to work in the Catlins for 18 weeks, Jan – May 2019. Sarah regularly searches habitats for sick and injured birds, and assists with the soft release of chicks.

Dunedin Wildlife Hospital

YEPT has continued to welcome the veterinary services provided by DWH with many sick or injured adults and chicks being cared for over the latest breeding season. Their official opening was held on 28th September, attended by YEPT representatives.

TV Documentary

The Trust staff have been filmed undertaking penguin related tasks as part of NHNZ's 'Wildlife Rescue' TV documentary series. The show will follow the dedicated people safeguarding wildlife here in Otago and Southland.

Conservation Science Advisor

This position, which was initiated in 2016, funded both by *Otago Regional Council* and *Otago Museum*, has helped raise the Trust's profile and professionalism in the science community. Having local organisations' recognise the importance of this role is invaluable. This role is set to continue after the conclusion of this current term, with Otago Regional Council funding an additional three-year period (2019 to 2022). The Trust was delighted to have Dr Trudi Webster sign her contract to fulfill this role.

The reduced hoiho numbers and in particular the ongoing effect of diseases, as well as an increased prevalence of malaria, have led to an increased body of work on disease. Extensive research and liaison with vets, mosquito experts, DOC, researchers and rehab groups led to the development of a treatment protocol for diphtheritic stomatis, an action plan in case of an outbreak of avian malaria and a response plan for any unexplained mortality event.

Trudi continues to collaborate with a wide range of individuals and groups including scientists (in NZ and overseas), Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, National and Local Government, fishing industry, conservation organisations and NGOs, rehabilitation groups and vets, tourism operators, local landowners and fishers.

She is a team member of University of Otago's surveys undertaking simultaneous prey distribution, seabird and marine mammals' surveys in the Otago canyons to assess habitat use.

Trudi has given presentations at a range of conferences this year (see later) and continues to publish in scientific journals.

The Trust has allocated in the annual budget, a research fund for immediate actions identified by Trudi as being urgent.

Habitats

Long Point

Development

The development of the field base has progressed substantially with the purchase of four containers from CSL, which are now being refurbished by Metalworks Otago.

The DCC will consent the containers (Building Consent) once completed for all the 'internal' work, with the emphasis being on how the containers will be water tight, and their durability. The CDC have consented (Resource Consent) for all the external work – plumbing, drainage, etc.

The drainage field fence has been erected thanks to volunteers Guy Blakely and Geoff Cleugh, Max Affleck and their worker, who drove the tractor and hole post digger, and YEPT Ranger Ben Goldsworthy. Total length of fence ~290m. In October the *Catlins Area School* planted this area with 300 trees/shrubs and 680 flax. Approximately 45 children, 7 staff or parents, plus 2 *Southern Heating and Plumbing* apprentices planted out this area over 2 days.

The following Contractors are involved in this development:

- Clint O'Brien, *Recreation Reconstruction Ltd*, Oamaru is the overall Project Manager.
- Dirk Tuinman, *Metalworks Otago*, Dunedin is undertaking the refurbishment of the containers.
- Phil Orr, *Archdraught*, Invercargill is drafting the plans required for the consents
- Reuben Cutts, *Fixed Price Plumbing*, Auckland is providing the plumbing following the Trust winning a competition on the AM Show.
- *Southern Heating & Plumbing* will design and install the septic and drainage systems.

A total of \$157,820 has been raised for this project. We are indebted to the following for supporting this project:

- *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
- *Clutha District Council* \$5820
- *Alexander McMillan Trust* \$25,000

Predator Control

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.

Species	2017	2018	Total caught
Possum	1	0	1
Cat	13	2	15
Ferret	0	1	1
Stoat	37	19	56
Weasel	2	1	3
Rat	45	26	71
Hedgehog	38	30	68

Advocacy

The Long Point Irahuka Advisory Group continues to meet and discuss elements of the reserve development.

Soft Releasing

Due to the large number of Catlins chicks taken into rehabilitation, new soft release pens were built to cater for the release of 12 chicks at a time. The pens have also been moved to a location less visible to the public. There are expected to be up to 5 groups of chicks soft released at the new pens between February and March 2019, with approximately 50 chicks expected to be released in total.

Other:

- Dog attacks on penguins: There have been two pathology reports confirming the death of two hoiho from dog attacks at Long Point (2018).
- Jasmine Stewart is representing *Awarua runaka* interests at Irahuka

Okia Reserve

Predator Control

- *Dunedin City Council Task Force Green* continues the trap checking as part of their wider Otago Peninsula trapping.
- In June 2018 the overall summary of catch totals by species for Okia over the 2017-18 trapping season was: ferrets 36, stoats 3, hedgehogs 26, possums 2, cats 2, rat 1.
- Mandy Tocher, from *Dunedin City Council City Planning & Ryder Consultants* has also received support from the DCC (\$7500) to carry out lizard monitoring at Okia using large ACOs (Artificial Cover Objects) and A24 Good Nature traps to protect from lizards from rats. The intention is to see if green skinks are present at Okia.
- The Dunedin City Council provided funding (\$5000) to purchase new DOC 200/250 traps for Okia.

Revegetation

Ben is continuing with elder control at Okia Reserve, 0.5 of his position funded by the *Department of Conservation's Community Fund* is to control weeds in the reserve.

Planting days at the reserve:

- September 2018: *Dunedin Airport* staff planted 150 trees & shrubs at the Pyramids.
- *Canon* staff planted 150 trees & shrubs beside the northern firebreak
- *Scenic Hotel Dunedin City* staff planted a further 150 trees & shrubs beside the northern firebreak.

Other

- There is an ongoing issue with dogs in the reserve. On one occasion a staff member met a family walking through the reserve with four dogs! A press release was written to highlight the problem and sought support from the public to respect the bylaws and not take dogs to areas such as Okia Reserve.
- In August *War on Weeds* with Catherine Hosted (DCC / DOC) and Dunedin Community College students began work controlling the elder in Taiaroa Bush.
- In October YEPT acknowledged the passing of Pam Jordan (DCC Governance Support). Pam was the Okia Committee secretary for many years and highly valued in this role.

Otapahi Reserve

Predator Control

NZ Deerstalkers Association volunteers continuing trap checking. Over the summer 2018/2019 trapping season and to date the following has been caught: Hedgehogs 8; rabbits 15; rats 3; stoats 2; ferrets 2.

Other

The existing viewing hide at the head of Alfred beach was refurbished in February / March – including new plywood walls and a colour steel roof. Thanks in particular to Graham Thurlow who designed and lead the work.

In August, nest boxes were relocated and others cleaned out, and penguin access tracks were cut.

Tavora Reserve

Predator Control

Andy & Melissa Moore continue to check the trap lines. Over the summer 2018/2019 trapping season and to date the following has been caught: hedgehogs 6; rabbits 5; rats 20; stoat 1; weasel 1.

Revegetation

The *Speights Environment Fund* provided a grant (\$4,100) to fence the slip face. *Te Uru Rākau Forestry New Zealand* confirmed that through Matariki Tu Rākau they would provide funding (\$5400) to plant the slip area. This planting was in recognition of the men and women who served in the NZ Defence Force. A Dunedin RSA representative, Jenepher Glover spoke at the planting day.

Other

- In July 2018, Marck Hostetler, Florida State University, and 10 students planted 400 flax on the south beach slip planting area.
- The closure of Tavora Reserve was repeated for the hoiho breeding season (1st November – 28th February). Unfortunately, at least three separate groups of people have been observed entering the Tavora Reserve during the closure period, but it was hoped that the closure signs are deterrents to most people.
- In August, 6 cattle got out on the Tavora headland walking track. There were no obvious fence breaks so best guess is that they jumped several fences. Fortunately, they did not cause any damage.
- In September, we were alerted by a neighbour that his cows had got into the new slip planting areas. A lot of the new plants on the slip face were eaten but, over time, many have re-sprouted, so losses are not as great as originally predicted. The gates have now been chained and padlocked to prevent a reoccurrence.

Otekiho

Several days were allocated to gorse spraying and cutting / gelling gorse; plus some box thorn. A large infestation of banana passionfruit was discovered below the rock band at the southern end of the reserve. DCC Task Force Green continue to check traps in this area. Another stile was built to give access to the new planting area.

Monarch Wildlife staff took part in their annual planting day in August, with 188 trees / shrubs planted. They donated this time and the cost of plants to offset their carbon footprint for the year.

Curio Bay, Southland

Representatives of the Trust attended the official opening of Tumu Toka Curioscape at Curio Bay, the new visitor information centre, on 19th July. The Trust continues to advocate for the closure of the wave platform during the penguin breeding season.

Stewart Island, Rakiura

Many thanks to volunteers Dave Houston and Dean Nelson who once again undertook the nest search on Whenua Hou, assisting contractor and lead for this project, Sandy King of *Paws4 Conservation*.

The *Southern Institute of Technology* have once again provided a student, Niamh Edginton, to participate in this year's work on Rakiura, and made a donation to YEPT of \$2000.

This seasons work was funded from:

Riverton Fishermans Coop \$2000

Talley's Fisheries \$1000

NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen \$1415

Urwin and Company Ltd \$2000

Rakiura Maori Land Trust gave permission to search The Neck again this season.

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.

Nursery

The nursery continues to be a popular and visible face of the Trust on Otago Peninsula. Nursery plant production has met the target of 1,000 trees and shrubs and 4,000 flax for planting out in Trust reserves, with any surplus to be offered for sale. The regular Wednesday nursery volunteer group continues to make an invaluable contribution to all aspects of the nursery's plant production, from pricking-out to potting-on and weeding.

The bi-annual Nursery Newsletter was distributed on 6th April. A total donation of \$8,500 for period April 2018 – March 2018 was received from 30+ people.

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group operations, based out of the nursery, are continuing to develop as their possum control work ramps up. Discussions are currently underway about co-locating their container and a port-a com closer to the nursery entrance with adjacent parking. A joint OPBG/YEPT bbq held at the Nursery on 29th November was a great success. About 30 people attended.

Continuing a long standing relationship with the Otago Polytechnic, in September 2018 two Horticulture students gained practical experience working alongside the Nursery Supervisor (Louise Ashton). They also visited Okia, and Tavora, doing elder control, and planting Toe toe on the slip at Tavora. They proved to be good workers and achieved lots, including rearranging the shade house for better watering and plant weeding. Several parts of the nursery infrastructure are being reviewed with upgrading or repairs likely. Brown Bros. Engineers have been contacted (February 2019) to look at our irrigation system, and a builder has been engaged to repair the glasshouse roof. Shortly, Delta will undertake trimming of the hedge along the McTaggart Street frontage.

Policy, submissions and permits

Trudi continues to liaise with the fishing industry, Fisheries NZ and setnet fishers to provide information to ensure an understanding of risks to hoiho, discuss options for mitigating risk, and provide feedback for operational procedures - protected species risk management. This work resulted in an invite to speak at the *NZ Federation for Commercial Fishers Conference*.

Trudi continues to attend the *Conservation Services Programme (CSP)* and *Aquatic Environment Working Group* meetings in Wellington and provide input to discussions. She also provided feedback on the CSP proposals and annual plan for seabird population and mitigation work, and input into a workshop on the indirect effects of fishing on hoiho, including benthic degradation and competition effects, as well as hoiho tracking projects. Trudi provided feedback on the *Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Annual Review*, in particular on the bycatch risk to hoiho and potential biological removal.

Funding

FOUNDING SPONSOR

Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd continues to support our work through their *Mainland Brands'* natural cheese and butter. This support has often been referred to as the longest standing cause-related marketing sponsorship in the Southern Hemisphere, and in 2019 we will celebrate 30 years since the then family-owned Mainland brand first supported the Trust.

MAJOR DONATIONS

Dunedin Airport

As part of their ongoing support, Dunedin Airport donated a further \$10,000 as this year's sponsorship. The Trust frequently receives comments about the penguin display at the airport which builds awareness about our work and the plight of the penguin.

DOC Community Fund

This is the final year funding 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. Due to the poor penguin season, DOC agreed to amend the terms of this fund to enable Ranger Ben to work directly with penguins as a priority.

EcoWai

YEPT continues to be supported through the partners to the EcoWai programme. We also acknowledge the additional financial contributions for our conservation work from *Quality Hotel Parnell*.

In late 2018, the Trust signed a Business Partnership Proposal with *Mitchell Corp* on behalf of Ezibed Limited (trading as *Ezibed.com*). For each night's accommodation booked online, Ezibed makes a donation at no extra cost to the customer.

Director of EcoWai Barry Hillyer brokered these arrangements for us. Our sincere thanks for his ongoing support of our work.

OTHER DONATIONS

- *City Forests Limited* again supported YEPT with an annual donation.
- *Distinction Hotel* continues to support YEPT by providing a carpark opposite John Wickliffe House, free of charge.
- The *William Downie Stewart Charitable Trust* awarded \$1000 donation.
- *Good in Hood campaign*: YEPT was chosen by Z Andy Bay station as one of the recipients of the annual 'Good in the Hood' campaign. People voted for YEPT by putting a token into the allocated 'penguin' slot at the station. Other charities

chosen at this site are the Otago Peninsula Trust, Sarah Cohen School, and Camp Quality. Staff dressed up as penguins on the forecourt soliciting more 'tokens' for our charity, resulting in a donation of \$1424.

- *Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust* gave a grant of \$20,000 for the purpose of front line operations directly focused on penguin care and protection'.
- *Noble Caledonia* (cruise Ship Company) promoted YEPT to their passengers on 3 cruises, resulting in a donation of £1,110.
- *DOC Coastal Otago* donated \$5,000 for avian malaria issues which paid for Trudi and Lisa Argilla (Dunedin Wildlife Hospital) to attend a meeting in Palmerston North with vets and Massey staff. The balance was used to assist Penguin Rescue to upgrade their facilities and to build a better mosquito-proof soft release pen at Long Point.
- *Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation* awarded \$2000 for mosquito mitigation materials.
- *WWF's Habitat Protection Fund* have awarded a grant of \$15,000 (to be paid in the next financial year) for managing hoiho habitat through the employment of a Ranger.

OTHER FUNDING

Scenic Hotel Dunedin City continues to support YEPT through the sale of soft toy penguins and penguin biscuits. They will also sponsor 20 nights' accommodation to the 4 keynote speakers at the International Penguin Conference. More recently they hosted trustees and staff free of charge for a Christmas breakfast.

Google Ad Grants for non-profits: YEPT was the recipient of a USD\$10,000 Google Ad grant providing in kind AdWords advertising every month. Google AdWords online advertising works by displaying our message to people who are searching for non-profits like ours.

FLOAT (For Love of All Things, USA), campaign, through the sale of T-shirts, raised ~\$1900

Little Yellow Bird, a New Zealand manufacturer, ran a T-shirt campaign, followed by tea towels, tote bags and children's tee-shirts, together raising \$1500. Local Dunedin artist *Emma Francesca* donated the unique artwork.

The Otago Cavalcade visited Long Point | Irahuka Reserve resulting in a donation of \$500.

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

ESTATES

Several bequests were received or notified through the year. We continue to be indebted to those individuals and families who donate to our work through a legacy or donation.

Diana Wilson died in 2016 and this year the Trust was notified that half of her estate was gifted to the Trust's nursery. She and husband Bill, who predeceased her in 2014, were dedicated volunteers at the nursery from 2000–2015. This substantial bequest will see the Nursery operating for many years to come.

Sheila Coombs, administrator of the Heseltine Trust of which YEPT has been a recipient of annual donations, decided to distribute most of her estate whilst she could enjoy seeing how the money was helping her chosen charities. The Trust, following application, was awarded a substantial donation in support of our core work.

Receiving estates like this helps guarantee our future financial security. Our sincere thanks to all.

CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA

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

Coastal Restoration Trust conference 21-23 March 2018 was attended by Dave.

Oamaru Penguin Symposium 3-4 May 2018, including a presentation by Trudi on the increased prevalence of avian malaria in hoiho and preparation for future events.

NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen conference 31 May 2018, including a presentation by Trudi on YEPT and working with industry.

Birds NZ conference 2-3 June 2018, including a presentation by Trudi (co-authored with Emily Tidey from Surveying, University of Otago) on the characterisation of benthic foraging habitat for hoiho.

A presentation (co-authored by Trudi) was given at the *NZ Marine Sciences Society* 5 July 2018 by Dr Will Rayment (Marine Science Department) on the seasonal variation in diversity and distribution of seabirds over the Otago shelf and canyons.

Annual YEP Symposium Saturday August 4th 2018, where there were 85 registrations and this year the event changed venues to the University's Archway 2 Lecture Theatre to cater for this number. Presentations by YEPT staff included Dave with a season overview, and Trudi on disease in hoiho and preparation for future events.

NZ Veterinary Association Wildlife Society Conference 23-24 November 2018, including a presentation by Trudi about current issues facing hoiho including malaria, as well she participated in a panel discussion session.

10th International Penguin Congress, Dunedin 24-28 August 2019

Sue continues to represent YEPT on the local organizing committee which she Chairs. Plans are well developed for this international important conference.

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Stage 2 of Hoiho Review

The Hoiho Governance Group (HGG) was formalized in April 2018, and established a working group to be known as the Hoiho Technical Group. Members of the groups are:

	HGG	HTG
Fisheries NZ (MPI):	Allen Frazer and Stuart Anderson	Jenny Oliver and Nathan Walker
Department of Conservation	Lian Butcher, Ian Angus and Aaron Fleming	Annie Wallace, Bruce McKinlay, Dave Houston and others as required
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Yvette Couch-Lewis and Sarah Wilson	Estelle Leask and Kirsty Huxford
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust	Eric and Sue	Trudi

Tasks included the preparation of a Hoiho Action Plan for 2018/19 and a longer-term strategy for hoiho recovery. This work makes good use of the literature review and recommendations completed last year.

The final report is to be named “Hoiho Threat Management and Recovery Plan mandated under the Conservation and Fisheries Acts”. This innovative approach of combining a threat management plan and a recovery plan received praise from Minister Eugenie Sage (October 2018) when she met with HGG.

Other activities

Two *Hoiho* Newsletters (May & November 2018) were written and distributed through the year, each summarizing our work and penguin updates.

Predator Free Dunedin was launched at the Otago Museum in October 2018 attended by YEPT representatives at the breakfast meeting with the Minister of Conservation and about 100 others.

DOC's Southern South Island Regional Management Team met in Dunedin in October, and Sue was invited to give 8-minute 'speed dating' presentations to the ~20 regional managers during their visit.

Policy and Procedure Manual and Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020. During the year the Trust updated the Policy and Procedures Manual and revised the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020.

Endangered Species by-caught. The Trust is concerned whenever marine species, including hoiho, are by-caught by our fishing industry, In February 2019 there were several reports released on the impacts of the fishing industry on protected marine species being killed by fishing gear around New Zealand and the further delay on action to install cameras on vessels:

- 4 Hector's dolphins were caught last year in a trawl net off the South Island east coast
- 5 sea lions were drowned in one week by NZ trawlers catching squid near the Auckland Islands
- 5 critically threatened Antipodean albatross were caught by a longline fishing boat in the Bay of Plenty region in December and January and the same fishing boat also caught a nationally critical Gibson's albatross, two nationally vulnerable black petrels, and one Buller's albatross
- 3 more Hector's dolphins were caught off Banks Peninsula on 18/02

Presentations

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

Submissions

The Trust continues to submit on relevant environmental matters, for example, the Dunedin City Council Destination Plan, Southland District Council over the camping ground, the DCC 10-year plan and ORC on the Draft Biodiversity Action 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 and YEPT staff and trustees also visited associates, groups and organisations throughout the year.

Events

ANZ Staff volunteered to help at either at the Nursery or at Okia Reserve. Their Staff Foundation have supported the LP development with \$15,000, so it was great to show our work to local staff.

Keep Dunedin Beautiful/Our Seas Our Future: The Trust staff continue to volunteer their time to participate in beach cleanups, including an extra day at Smaill's Beach due to the large amount of rubbish in this area. It is now the fourth year the staff have participated

and they are noticing a considerable difference in the way the area is looking with the rubbish removed. We always appreciate *Our Seas Our Future* providing rubbish bags and gloves, and all the volunteers for assisting.

World Ranger Day 31 July 2018, was celebrated with DOC at a morning tea when various rangers gave a 2-3 minute presentation about their role as a ranger. YEPT was invited to participate so Ben gave a talk which was well received.

Conservation Week Quiz night, held on Wednesday 19 September at CBK (*Craft Bar & Kitchen*), in the Octagon was a resounding success and raised over \$4,500. The Quiz Master was Stew Robertson from *Adart Brand Promotion*, who also wrote most of the quiz questions, with Eric writing the conservation-based questions. So great was the night, that participants have been campaigning that this becomes an annual event! We had huge support from local businesses for raffle prizes which was truly appreciated.

Health and Safety

DOC's Commercial Partnerships Group continued to assist in our strategic planning. One major output was the completion of a comprehensive *Risk Register*.

Field Manager (David McFarlane) has worked on a revamp of the Trust's Health & Safety Plan, beginning with an assessment of hazards in our habitat work that will also extend to include both the nursery and Trust office.

We have also enjoyed the support of DOC in a specific review of safety signage at our Long Point Reserve.

Trustees and Staff

Staff

Allison Wallace resigned from the position of Administrator in June 2018 and was replaced by Erin Graham on 10 July 2018.

Trustees

Jesse James tendered his resignation in June to move to Auckland for employment opportunities. Jesse was originally appointed as an Emerging Leader Trustee in 2013. In particular, Jesse contributed to the study into the feasibility of the Nursery (2014) and was an active member on the External Relations Committee as well as Chairing this committee for some time, and contributing to financial discussions.

We received also resignations from Shane Melton, Yue Cui and Kate Morrison throughout the year. David Smith will also stand down at this Annual Meeting, having been an active trustee since 2014. Each person's contribution to the governance of the Trust was valued and we thank them for the time they provided to represent the Trust.

Through the year we welcomed new trustees Helen Dent, Olaf Nilsen and Eleanor Linscott

Current Trustees

Eric Shelton, Board Chair
Tim Mephram, Treasurer
David Smith
Euan Kennedy
Hoani Langsbury
Lala Frazer

Margaret Murrell
Olaf Nilson
Eleanor Linscott
Murray Brass
Peter Simkins

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)
Erin Graham, Administrator (0.6 FTE)

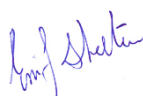
Louise Ashton, Nursery Supervisor
(0.5FTE)
Sarah Irvine, Catlins Summer Ranger (18
weeks, 0.35FTE)
Sandy King, Stewart Island Project
Manager (contract hours)

Conclusion

It would be disingenuous to claim staff and trustees managed to get through the year unaffected by the parlous state of the yellow-eyed penguin; there were tears shed as the breeding success figures, or, more accurately, breeding failure figures, were distributed. Not only chicks, but also well-established adult breeding females, were succumbing to a variety of threats. It is ironic that, at a time when the organisation has been working so well, operationally and financially, strongly supported by a dedicated membership, staff and volunteers, the Holy Grail of reversing the downward breeding trend remained elusive.

Nevertheless, there are some encouraging signs. First, collecting and treating individual birds is worthwhile; *Triage* works. Some of last year's treated individuals have been spotted this year, elsewhere on the coast, which is promising. Second, we have the capacity to intervene in this way for as many chicks as we get access to. Soon, we will have a new vehicle and remote work-base, allowing rapid response, holding and transportation. Third, there has been a suite of state-of-the-art protocols developed for dealing with infectious diseases. Fourth, there is an increased momentum for the idea that the sea is the next environment to be studied, to explain deaths that so-far are inexplicable. The 10th *International Penguin Conference*, to be held in Dunedin in August 2019, will provide a forum of experts who may contribute marine-based ideas worthy of study.

I started on a negative note but these four pointers suggest we may finish a little further up the scale. As always, thanks to everyone and best wishes for the new season.



Eric J. Shelton
Chair