



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Annual Report 2019/20

Reporting period 1st April 2019 – 24th March 2020

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's (YEPT) activities for the year 2019-2020.

The year's highlights included the completion and opening of our Catlins Fieldbase and the ongoing collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Fisheries New Zealand to produce Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho (the Hoiho strategy) and Te Mahere Rima Tau (the Hoiho 5-year action plan), although the final versions have not yet been released.

As described below, we now are applying the widest range of conservation management tools ever used by the Trust to save the hoiho population. The details of our effort follow, each section contributed by the person best-suited to describe the year's activities.

YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS / HOIHO

This season nest numbers continued to decline and are now estimated to comprise **168** breeding pairs for mainland NZ (i.e. Otago, Catlins and Banks Peninsula), down from **227** in 2018/19. There has been a devastating decline in the Catlins, and at Bravo Islands in particular. Despite intensive searches last season, many breeding females (Catlins) were not sighted again during moult. This season they have not returned to breed. It is likely that these birds were affected also by starvation, which resulted in large numbers of birds in rehabilitation last season. A similar decline has not been observed on Otago Peninsula or North Otago, where nest numbers are comparable to last season.

Summary of the season

Hatching at sites monitored by the Trust extended over a month-long period; the earliest was 30 October 2019 at Otapahi, and the latest was 28 November 2019 at Bravo Islands.

Diphtheria was prevalent in North Otago and Otago Peninsula over the period mid-November and December, with two cases in the Catlins. The preference is now to treat chicks with antibiotics (Baytril) as soon as symptoms present themselves, if this can be managed (as per the diphtheria treatment protocol). Antibiotic treatment is now available for YEPT staff through a Veterinary Operating Instruction (VOI) with the Wildlife Hospital, established in November.

At least 3 chicks from Otapahi (and more from Boulder Beach) died after exhibiting laboured breathing. Post-mortem examinations showed identical lung pathology - lung collapse and fluid build-up termed "respiratory distress syndrome". At this stage we don't know the cause.

This season, the fostering of chicks was a first for YEPT. Chicks were fostered to another nest either if they were uplifted to Dunedin Wildlife Hospital and their parents did not remain at the nest on a dummy egg or, if a parent was injured and unable to feed the chicks. Fostering was successful where either; the foster parents had just lost a chick, i.e. a switch of a similar sized foster chick for a dead chick or, at nests where adults were sitting on a dummy or unhatched egg and chicks were switched for an egg. The largest single chick weighed 700g, and the largest pair of chicks weighed 500g each. At nests with a single chick a similar sized foster chick was added (largest 1400g). Fostering is preferable to a long stay in rehabilitation until fledging.

This season, unexplained mortality and avian malaria have so far not been an issue.

Food appears to have been more abundant this season and most chicks have been at or above mean weight for age throughout the season. The major starvation issues that were evident last year have not occurred, but some chicks from the Catlins started to lose weight towards the end of fledging. Observations of munida and forage fish were made throughout the season and pink poo was evidence of penguins feeding on munida / krill. Seventeen chicks were uplifted late in the season in the Catlins; 13 were underweight, 4 injured / parents injured, and two chicks have since died. The remaining birds will be soft released in March.

Again, this season, the intensive effort required when working with penguins highlights that we are now permanently managing the birds on an individual basis.

Summary of hoiho breeding

North Otago

- Tavora: **3 nests** (2 in 2018/19), 5 eggs, 4 hatched, 3 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest

Otago Peninsula

- Okia: **3 nests** (4 in 2018/19), 6 eggs, 5 hatched, 3 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest
- Otapahi: **6 nests** (8 in 2018/19), 12 eggs, 11 hatched, 4 fledged, **0.67** chicks/nest
- Papanui (part): **3 nests** (1 in 2018/19), 5 eggs, 3 hatched, 3 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest
- Fuchsia Gully: **2 nests** (4 in 2018/19), 4 eggs, 4 hatched, 2 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest
- Dicks Bush, Otekiho, Allans Beach, Whareakeake & Kaikai: **0 nests** (0 in 2018/19)

Catlins

- Long Point: **6 nests** (16 in 2018/19), 11 eggs (including one shell-less), 8 hatched, 8 fledged (3 rehab), **1.3** chicks/nest
- Cosgrove Creek: **5 nests** (10 in 2018/19), 9 eggs, 6 hatched, 6 fledged (3 rehab), **1.2** chicks/nest
- Helena Falls: **1 nest** (3 in 2018/19), 2 eggs, 2 hatched, 2 remaining, **2** chicks/nest
- Purakaunui and Harts Rock: **0 nests** (2 in 2018/19)

Stewart Island

- Anglem Coast: **11 nests** (11 in 2018/19) 20 eggs, 15 hatched, 1 fledged, **0.1** chicks/nest
 - Rollers: **5 nests** (5 in 2018/19), 9 eggs, 6 hatched, 1 fledged, **0.2** chicks/nest
 - Golden: **6 nests** (6 in 2018/19), 11 eggs, 9 hatched, 0 fledged, **0** chicks/nest
- The Neck: **0 nests** (1 nest in 2018/19)
- Bravo Islands: **8 nests** (15 in 2018/19), 15 eggs, 15 hatch, 6 fledged, **0.75** chicks/nest
 - Tommy: **2 nests** (6 in 2018/19), 4 eggs, 4 hatch, 2 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest
 - Crayfish: **1 nest** (3 in 2018/19), 2 eggs, 2 hatch, 0 fledged, **0** chicks/nest
 - Goat: **1 nest** (2 in 2018/19), 2 eggs, 2 hatch, 1 fledged, **1.0** chicks/nest
 - Groper: **4 nests** (4 in 2018/19), 7 eggs, 7 hatch, 2 fledged, **0.5** chicks/nest
 - Refuge: **0 nests** (0 in 2018/19)
- Whenua Hou: **12 nests** (14 in 2018/19), 23 eggs, 22 hatched, 1 fledged, **0.1** chicks/nest
 - Penguin Bay: **0 nests** (2 in 2018/19)
 - Sealers Bay: **4 nests** (4 in 2018/19), 8 eggs, 7 hatch, 1 fledged, **0.5** chicks/nest
 - Roderiques: **0 nests** (0 in 2018/19)
 - Northwest Bay: **6 nests** (7 in 2018/19), 11 eggs, 11 hatch, 0 fledge, **0** chicks/nest
 - Alphonse: **2 nests** (1 in 2018/18), 4 eggs, 4 hatch, 0 fledged, **0** chicks/nest

In addition to the chicks in the summary above, there are two foster chicks at Otapahi, from Boulder Beach, and one at Okia from Boulder Beach. Included in the summary are two chicks from Otapahi, fostered successfully at Pipikaretu, and a chick fostered at a different nest at Otapahi.

Science and Research

Dr Trudi Webster, our Conservation Science Advisor (a position, created in 2016) has had her position extended and will be funded by *Otago Regional Council* for a further three years. Trudi presented to the ORC councillors at their Council meeting on 14 Aug 2019 about the hoiho season and current issues faced by the birds.

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.

Trudi presented at a range of conferences this year (see below) and continues to publish in scientific journals, for example the short note with vets at Massey University for the *NZ Vet Association Wildlife Bulletin (Kokako)* on avian malaria prevalence.

The Trust allocated some funding in the 2019 budget (~\$22k) to support technical / research support work including spatial mapping and mark-recapture.

The high prevalence of avian malaria in recent years (20 deaths in 2018/19, and 29 deaths in 2017/18) lead to the development of an avian malaria action plan and a research proposal. A PhD student has now started to work on avian malaria at Zoology, University of Otago, in particular looking at the links between Plasmodium blood parasites in passerines, mosquitoes and hoiho, and trying to identify the specific vector of malaria in hoiho. Regular monitoring of standing water and treatment with a bactericide to control mosquito larvae continue across YEPT reserves.

Oral and cloacal swab samples have been collected for a research project in Microbiology, University of Otago, to examine the virome (viruses), mycobiome (fungi) and microbiome (bacteria) present in hoiho. It is hoped that this DNA analysis will provide insight into disease, including chicks with/without diphtheritic stomatitis. Hopefully, this investigation will reveal new information about the disease.

As part of continued work contracted by DOC's Conservation Services Programme tracking devices and cameras were attached to foraging hoiho, including birds from the Bravo Islands, Long Point and Tavora.

Data have been collated and feather samples sent to a researcher at Auckland University who will be looking at stress in hoiho at different sites, over different periods of time.

POLICY, SUBMISSIONS AND PERMITS

The Trust continues to submit on relevant environmental matters, for example, the Waitaki District Council District Plan.

Continued liaison with the fishing industry, Fisheries NZ and local fishers ensures that information is available to promote an understanding of the risks fishing poses to hoiho and to discuss options for mitigating risk.

Trudi continues to provide input to discussions at the *Conservation Services Programme (CSP)* and *Aquatic Environment Working Group* meetings in Wellington, including proposals and annual planning for seabird population and mitigation work.

Trudi and trustee Murray Brass attended a workshop to discuss the draft New Zealand Biodiversity strategy "Te Koiroa o te koiroa". Trudi also completed a written submission on behalf of the Trust which supported increased reference to the marine environment.

The Penguin Specialist Group conducted a review of information on penguin species and, as part of the update, the PSG recommended no change to the endangered status of hoiho.

In addition, Trudi wrote a submission on the draft National Plan of Action – Seabirds and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, as well as providing input into the review of Otago Regional Council’s Oil Spill Plan.

HABITATS

Long Point

Field Base Development

Initially (25th October), 600 trees and shrubs were planted in the field base sewage dispersal field gully with assistance from the Catlins Area School. A further 400 flax were planted on mounds, *bunds*, behind the containers; these are designed to provide shelter from southerly winds. Conservation Volunteers NZ helped with spray releasing the gully in December.

On 15th January, after being refurbished by Metalworks Otago, the first two of four containers were transported to Long Point by Fairfield Transport. Staff attended to film the transportation on Long Point Road so we can make a video to show the funders who had supported us. On the 27th January the final two containers were installed.

The structure was insured through AON, who handle all our other insurance, and the electricity account is with Trust Power.

The official opening was on Saturday 15th February at 11:30am for invited guests and 1 – 3pm as an open day for the wider Catlins Community. Altogether, approximately 60 people attended. Weatherwise, it was a glorious day and everyone was very positive about the base.

Final consenting is now being completed with the Dunedin City Council and Clutha District Council. The cross-over of responsibilities between the two organisations generated some ongoing confusion but now seems to have been clarified.

Staff have discussed who/how people can stay at the base and it has been agreed to charge \$20 per night per person if the visit is outside YEPT related work. There is quite a lot more detail to be finalized about the booking system and this is currently being discussed.

This field base has been made possible through the generosity of funders and specific bequests (see list below under funding). There is a plaque in the lounge container acknowledging the contributions of major funding organisations. We anticipate the field base being a crucial part of Long Point management.

Trapping

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, with catch totals below.

Species	2018	2019	Total caught
Possum	0	0	0
Cat	2	1	3
Ferret	1	0	1
Stoat	19	8	27
Weasel	1	6	7
Rat	26	81	188
Hedgehog	30	10	40

Advocacy

The Long Point Irahuka Advisory Group met once during the reporting period, on 11th April. Regular articles on developments at Long Point are contributed to the Catlins Coast Inc Newsletter. Catlins Ranger Sarah Irvine, as part of her role, has promoted the Trust's work through competitions at the local school and presenting at community meetings.

Soft Releasing

The first group of seven chicks due for soft release were transported down on the 2nd March 2020 and a slightly smaller group was delivered to Long Point on the 16th March. The final chicks due for soft release, currently being rehabilitated at Penguin Place, may not be ready until mid –late March.

Okia Reserve

Predator Control

Dunedin City Council Task Force Green continues trap checking as part of their wider Otago Peninsula trapping, with our Ranger Ben Goldsworthy supporting their efforts through vegetation clearing around traps and general quality control.

The overall summary of catch totals by species for Okia over the 2019-2020 trapping season was: ferrets 36, stoats 3, hedgehogs 26, possums 2, cats 2, rat 1

Revegetation

Ranger Ben Goldsworthy is continuing with gorse, broom and elder control at Okia Reserve, working this around hoiho monitoring and management work. Following the successful completion of two complete sweeps of the reserve targeting gorse and broom in previous years, more effort is now being directed at elder control.

Planting days at the reserve:

- On 7th August, Trustees and staff planted 300 trees & shrubs beside the northern fire tank firebreak.
- On 26th September, Trust staff & David Dalley (Canon) planted and caged 200 flax on the Margaret Hazel Slope.
- On 25th October Monarch Wildlife Tours held a planting day, planting 200 trees & shrubs. The planting was moved from Otekiho to Okia as planting at the former has run out of space. Monarch Wildlife Tours continue to do this planting annually to offset their carbon footprint.

Other

On 4th August, Trust volunteer Jeff Cleugh used a Trust 4WD to help archaeologists at the south end of Okia move salvaged material to Otago University for later analysis.

On 30th November there was an onsite meeting with Fire Emergency New Zealand to discuss fire risk at Okia and management options.

Otapahi Reserve

Predator Control

NZ Deerstalkers Association volunteers continue trap checking. Since April 2019, they have caught 1 cat, 5 ferrets, 14 stoats, 23 hedge hogs, 3 rabbits & 2 rats.

Other

On 2nd April 2019 we visited Otapahi with Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell and General Manager Brett Henshaw and on 23rd August Delegates from the 10th International Penguin Conference were taken on a viewing trip to Otapahi, with approximately 40 participating.

Tavora Reserve

Predator Control

Volunteers Andy & Melissa Moore continued to check the trap lines. Since April 2019, and to date, the following were caught: 2 ferrets, 6 hedgehogs, 1 possum, 3 rabbits, 46 rats, 1 stoat, 4 weasels.

Revegetation

Planting days at the reserve:

- On 12th June, Otago Polytechnic students planted 300 trees & shrubs in the slip paddock area.
- On 17th & 18th September we hosted two planting days with the community and DOC Dunedin staff in the slip paddock area, a total of 600 trees & shrubs planted.
- On 2nd December, PWC staff planted 100 salt marsh ribbonwoods along the edge of the Tavora Creek wetland.
- On 11th December Conservation Volunteers NZ planted a further 130 salt marsh ribbonwood in the wetland area.

Other

In replication of last year, the reserve again was closed over a crucial management period, this time from 1st December to 29 February. As always, it was difficult to assess the level of compliance.

Otekiho

There was no planting during the period, but previous plantings were spray released on 11th & 12th September. DCC Task Force Green continued to check traps in this area.

Omihi

The Trust continued to assist with the management of other habitats where yellow-eyed penguins / hoiho breed or have been found. For example, on the 25th June, Trust & Penguin Place staff planted 200 trees and shrubs at Omihi.

Other habitats

During 2019/2020 the Trust worked with Cape Saunders Farm on conservation initiatives at **Papanui Beach** including a habitat restoration plan and penguin monitoring work.

On the 15th August Dave and Trudi joined the Waitaki District Council Biodiversity Co-ordinator for a site visit of the **Waianakarua Bluffs** area to discuss a covenant and habitat restoration.

Sandy King, YEPT contractor, managed the **Rakiura / Stewart Island** monitoring again this season. On Whenua Hou, regular volunteers Dave Houston and Dean Nelson, together with Sarah Irvine completed a nest search, and Sandy conducted follow up monitoring checks with other volunteers and a student from Southern Institute of Technology. SIT have now provided an opportunity for an Environmental Student to participate in this work for several years.

Ranger Ben Goldsworthy was part of the 'penguin team' which headed to **Campbell Island** on *Canterbury*, a NZ Navy ship to take part in *Operation Endurance*. He worked alongside Julia Reid (DOC), Leith Thompson with his penguin dog Sniper, Ursula Ellenberg (independent researcher) and Hendrik Schultz (DOC). This trip was designed to establish a protocol for later, more detailed monitoring of this important site.

Nursery

The Nursery increased production of trees from the original number of 1000 trees and 4000 flax in the second half of 2019 to fit the demand for habitat restoration and external orders. This meant there could be a lag in numbers of plants in production until the numbers of seedlings germinating this last season are all pricked out.

A major emphasis was on increasing plant numbers for Long Point, due to a successful mast season in 2019. The numbers of podocarps and other smaller trees germinating this last spring will see numbers increase dramatically, all going well.

A large order of 2000 plants for a private planting by Wildlands in Purakaunui was undertaken at the end of April. Wildlands has asked for more plants in 2 years' time.

Volunteer numbers are increasing, with a number of casuals who pop in when they are in the district. Currently there are 8 on our books as "regulars"- 5 of whom attend every week. These volunteers are invaluable with assisting at the Nursery to propagate all the plants required for our reserves.

The Polytech continues to send extremely good students for work experience and the Trust always hope this experience will help them find employment.

CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA

International Penguin Conference (IPC10) 23-28 August 2019. As Chair of the local conference organizing committee and as a member of the scientific committee Sue was charged with organizing events, presentations and logistics for the 279 delegates. Sixty-nine scientific talks were given at IPC10, including several on hoiho. Trudi organised a workshop on penguin mortalities, with a focus on disease, involving vets from overseas and she presented on malaria. Trudi also presented at the main conference on conservation management in an unpredictable environment.

NZ Marine Sciences Society Conference 2-5 July 2019, YEPT had a stand at the conference so that delegates could purchase virtual trees to offset their carbon footprint, raising \$430. Trudi gave a similar presentation to that at IPC10 on conservation management in a changing marine environment, as well as attending a student networking function as a professional rep and judging student talks and posters on behalf of the NZMSS council.

Yellow-eyed Penguin Annual Symposium 3 Aug 2019 was organized by YEPT and DOC and was attended by 86 people. The opening address was given by the Minister of Conservation who released the draft hoiho strategy and five-year action plan, both now nearing completion. Presentations by YEPT staff included Dave with a season overview, and Trudi on science lessons learned and next steps.

Trudi held a seminar (6 Aug 2019) about hoiho and the changing marine environment as part of the seminar series at *Marine Science, University of Otago*.

Operations Manager Amanda Salt and Nursery Supervisor Louise Ashton attended the *Coastal Restoration Trust conference in Invercargill* on 18-20 March 2020.

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Hoiho Strategy

As members of the Hoiho Governance Group (HGG) Sue and Eric continued to support the Hoiho Technical Group (HTG) to progress hoiho recovery alongside partners DOC, TRoNT and Fisheries NZ. As the HTG representative for the Trust, Trudi has committed a significant proportion of her work this year to developing Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho (the strategy) and Te Mahere Rima Tau (the 5-year action plan). The public feedback period for these two documents closed on 20 September 2019, and the HTG received a total of 105 submissions. The HTG collated and analysed submissions from stakeholders and reported on the substantive issues. Following this feedback, a second version of the strategy was completed and is at the final design / print stage. Work continues to use the feedback and other information to make the actions in Te Mahere Rima Tau SMARTT (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound, Treaty compliant).

Health and Safety

Staff have been updating their First Aid Certificates to ensure they are able to act as first responders if required.

Staff had minor accidents through the year which is always a timely reminder to ensure our Health and Safety practices are current. There were no major incidents.

Iwi consultation

The Trust continues to liaise with iwi on all matters hoiho related. Our relationships with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the papatipu runaka across the rohe of hoiho are greatly valued.

In February presentations were made to Kaitiaki Roopu Murihiku (Invercargill) and O Araiterau (Dunedin), and in March, the Whenua Hou Committee.

Te Reo Training

The Trust staff joined trustees to hear a presentation from Hoani titled 'Kāi Tahu – At a Glance'. This presentation covered the background to the settlement of Otakou, the Treaty of Waitangi and the Trust's Principles of working with Ngāi Tahu (developed in October 2018).

Compliance

The Trust is now compliant with the new Anti Money Laundering legislation after verification of each individual trustee. Other practices of the Trust are regularly checked and updated to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

DOC Regional Boundary

The Trust was invited to join DOC to celebrate the regional boundary changes between Eastern South Island and Southern South Island Regions, making the Coastal Otago District part of Southern South Island Region. The new boundary shifts to the southern side of the Waitaki River.

This change means the DOC SSI Region encompasses almost all of the hoiho breeding range and that DOC and the Trust's workplans should be better aligned.

Wildlife Rescue TV Documentary Series

Staff attended the World Premier of the first of five episodes of the TV series **Wildlife Rescue** film produced by NHNZ and based on the work of the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital. The Trust featured in this first episode with Ben, Dave and Sarah all appearing in their work settings. We congratulated Steve Walker (Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust Chair) and Kyle Murdoch (Managing Director of NHNZ) on this excellent production.

Strategic direction

Over the year we discussed how our key statement of conservation effort, ‘turning to face the sea’, may better be presented to our supporters. Consequently, material on the website was reorganised slightly to reflect how this theme permeated our work.

Otago Daily Times ‘Resilience’ article by Maureen Howard (16/09/2019)

The Otago Daily Times produced an article on the resilience of the yellow-eyed penguin, which fitted-in well with our ‘strategic direction’ discussion. This comprehensive article about the plight of Hoiho involved numerous people being interviewed and quoted. Also, the Trust ran an adjoining advertisement about behaviour around wildlife which received a lot of comment.

Conservation Week Award

As part of Conservation Week, DOC Murihiku recognized the Trust by presenting us with an award “in recognition of your game changing contribution to conservation”. Sandy King collected the award on our behalf.

ZOIL Marketing (Australia)

Dunedin Airport asked us to participate in Australia’s 97.3FM Lower South Island promotion, encouraging Australians to travel to Dunedin through a competition-based campaign. As part of the prize pack, the winner received an opportunity to work with the Trust for a day. Chloe Maclean and family from Australia spent the day with the Trust. She, her fiancée and parents were flown here by Virgin Australia, received a rental car for 10 days as well as accommodation and tours. Dave took them to the nursery and Okia Reserve and showed them some of our work.

Bird of the Year

Hoiho won Bird of the Year in Forest & Bird’s annual online competition, the first time in 14 years that a seabird has won. There was a great social media campaign run by a local group including Kimberley Collins, Mel Young, & Julia Reid. The Trust received numerous congratulations and, even though we had no direct input into the campaign, we supported it whenever possible.

FUNDING

FOUNDING SPONSOR

We were pleased to host a very successful trip south for both Miles Hurrell (CEO) and Brett Henshaw (GM) from Fonterra, our founding sponsor through Mainland brand. Monday night’s dinner at Platos restaurant was a great success and the gifted plants from the Trust’s Nursery were labelled by Miles as the “best present I’ve ever received”. The early morning trip to Otapahi reserve was an experience that they will not forget; a “standout morning”. As part of our routine tasks we collected two adult penguins, rehydrated them, then drove to the reserve. We waited in the hide for penguins to go to sea then proceeded to the headland to release the adults we had brought with us. On the way, looking down into Cicily Beach we had great views of a penguin going out to sea. At the headland Miles and Brett had the privilege of opening the crates for the birds to run free. The pair ran only a few metres, stopped, and preened, so the viewing was amazing. Both Miles and Brett contacted Sue later to express their thanks for the amazing experiences meeting people and penguins.

Mainland arranged to do a promotion over 2019/2020 to celebrate our 30-year sponsorship and the AM Show were keen to be involved. Consequently, presenter Aziz interviewed General Manager Sue Murray and Field Manager Dave McFarlane at Okia (4th November & 3rd February) to discuss the relationship and hoiho conservation.

GRANTS

DOC Community Fund (2019):

Our application to this fund was successful, securing 3 years funding for both the Field Manager and Ranger (Catlins) positions. Total amount \$312 180

Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust

We succeeded in gaining \$20 000 from this trust in support of the Ranger position.

WWF Community Conservation Fund

This application succeeded in funding \$15 000 for the Ranger position

SIGNIFICANT OTHER DONATIONS

We received a **private donation** from Scotland of \$70 000 specifically for the Long Point project including the Project Manager position, running costs of the field base and conservation work.

Otago University Students Association

The Trust was chosen as this year's Festival Charity for the Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival. About 25 volunteers and/or staff assisted for two hours over two nights (8 & 9 November). Volunteers cut the electronic wristbands off patrons' wrists if they didn't want to cash in their credit, while others scanned the barcodes for credit remaining on them. More than \$16 000 was raised over the two nights. A huge thank you to OUSA for choosing YEPT.

Dunedin City Council continues to contribute to the annual costs of Okia Reserve, with \$15 000 now being paid annually.

Te Uru Rakau / Ministry of Forestry. YEPT signed a contract to supply 1000 trees to the value of \$13 402 for Tavora Reserve as part of the Billion Dollar Trees scheme.

Dunedin Airport donated \$10 000, the fourth such donation. As well as this, donation boxes at the airport have realised a further \$4715.

Quality Hotel Parnell contributed \$5000 towards our work, the third such donation.

City Forest maintained their annual donation of \$5750

Noble Caledonia (cruise ship) raised £1110 (just over \$2000), and then matched this from their Charitable Trust (\$2085) as not all the cruises went ahead due to the weather so they felt that not as much money had been raised as they had hoped.

Top 10 Holiday Park donated \$4110 from various fundraisers including donation boxes and selling products at their national conference.

S. Coombs donated \$3000

Otago Pellet Fires donated \$2520 from the sale of pellet fires

V. Brown (Australia) donated \$2026.20

Talley's Fisheries donated \$2000 for Rakiura work

Riverton Fishermans' Co-op donated \$2000 for Rakiura work

Anne Giese donated \$1000 through the **Everydayhero** portal.

NHNZ donated \$500 in acknowledgement of YEPTs involvement in the recent filming for the Wildlife Series.

Woodland eggs, owned by Zeagold, a company of Mainland Poultry continued to donate eggs for predator control.

Rewardhub. YEPT is part of this new fundraising scheme where, when someone clicks from the YEPT page of their website, to a commercial webpage and purchases something, the Trust receives a donation. The donation amount varies according to the business. This new venture is based on one operating in the UK and was launched in NZ in November.

Ezibed.com (Mitchell Corp). Booking your hotel through this portal now raises money for the Trust when you choose them as your charity of choice. The first donation of just over \$200 was received earlier this month.

Jewel Beetle. This Nelson based company makes jewelry and have recently started to make earrings featuring hoiho. For every pair sold, they will donate \$10 to the Trust, with the first \$40 already received.

Scenic Hotel Dunedin City have installed a Tap and Point machine at reception for guests to support YEPT. We continue to work with SHDC to maximise this and their other fundraising through continuing to sell soft toy penguins and penguin biscuits.

DONATIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR LONG POINT DEVELOPMENT

A total of \$261 880.61 was raised through a variety of grants and trusts, as well as some estates:

Audrey Reid Charitable Trust \$20 000

Community Trust of Otago \$50 000

ANZ Staff Foundation \$15 000

Sargood Bequest \$5000

Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust \$20 000

Heseltine Trust \$2000

Alexander McMillan Trust \$25 000

Clutha District Council \$5060

A W Jones Trust \$20 000

Estates JB Mackinlay \$5000, **J L Parker** \$17 662.39, **EMW Kay** \$3573.53, **I D More** \$70 584.69

Penguin Express. Entering the Mongol Rally, ex-trustee Luke Gardener and friend Josh Brinkmann, raised \$3000 along for YEPT. Departing 12 July 2019 from London and finishing in September in Russia, Luke provided a blog to follow his journey.

Ecostore donated a 5 litre container of handwash and have invited us to purchase goods wholesale in future. All personal and household products that will be used at the Field Base need to be free from chemicals due to the nature of the natural disposal fields.

COMPANIES / BUSINESSES INVOLVED WITH THE LONG POINT DEVELOPMENT

We acknowledge the various contractors and businesses involved in the Long Point project, many of whom donated time and effort and/or discounted their charges. We appreciate all of this assistance and, in particular, we thank Clint O'Brien, owner of **Recreation Construction**, who project-managed the development. Also, we thank Dirk Tuinaman and his team from **MetalWorks Otago** who refurbished the containers. Dirk was involved for over a year and provided a wonderful finished product.

Also, we thank:

AdArt Brand Promotion
ArchDraught
DCL Consulting
Fairfield Transport

Fixed Price Ltd
Jenkinson Electrical
Southern Heating & Plumbing
Yrless

ESTATES

Legacies for the financial year 01 October 2018 – 30 September 2019 amounted to \$251 804, plus the \$77 868 from the Heseltine Trust. Some of these donations were paid to YEPT this year despite having been notified of them in previous years. This has left the Trust in a very secure financial position moving forward, one that is quite different to the last few years.

We sincerely acknowledge estate donations from Ivy Doreen More, June Parker, Jesse Beryl Mackinlay, A P Reed, ME Rigg, Diana Wilson and EMW Kay.

We also sincerely acknowledge families who chose their funeral donations to be gifted to the Trust.

DONATIONS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Through the year, the Trust donated \$5000 to Penguin Place in recognition of their efforts over the 2018 /2019 season and \$2500 to Penguin Rescue. Both of these rehabilitation centres provide significant support, along with the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital, to the survival of hoiho.

PERSONNEL

During the year we agreed to revise the operational structure of the Trust to ensure our objectives are being met in the most efficient way. Here are the revisions:

Field Manager / Operations Manager Roles

Amanda Salt began work as Operations Manager on the 13th January 2020 with a transition period until the 31st March 2020 when David McFarlane's contract as Field Manager finishes and he begins a half time role as the dedicated Long Point Project Manager.

Assistant Ranger

Steph Bennington was appointed on a short-term contract (13th January to 29th May 2020) to assist with field work including penguin monitoring as well as general habitat duties. She also assists Trudi with science related tasks.

Catlins Ranger

Following a successful funding application, we were able to appoint Sarah Irvine to a 3-year contract as the Catlins Ranger, predominantly working at Long Point Irahuka, but also at other sites on the Catlins coastline.

Administrator

Erin Graham resigned at the end of 2019 and we welcomed Julia Rata-Te Raki at the end of January.

Penguin Courier Volunteers

The success of the volunteers assisting transporting sick and injured penguins in 2018-2019, has continued this year. The volunteers transport hoiho from pick-up to either the *Dunedin Wildlife Hospital* for veterinary care and/or to *Penguin Place* rehabilitation facility. Between 1st April 2019 and 24th

March 2020, penguin couriers have travelled 3,248 km and contributed 71 hours of their time. The volunteers are usually texted by the Catlins Ranger or the Field Manager, and now Operations Manager, to arrange the pick-ups and drop-offs.

Staff in 2020

Sue Murray, General Manager (FTE)
Amanda Salt, Operations Manager (FTE)
Trudi Webster, Conservation Science Advisor (FTE)
David McFarlane, Long Point Projects Manager (0.5FTE)
Ben Goldsworthy, Ranger (FTE)
Sarah Irvine, Catlins Ranger (FTE)
Julia Rata-Te Raki, Administrator (0.5FTE)
Louise Ashton, Nursery Supervisor (0.5FTE)
Steph Bennington, Assistant Ranger (0.5FTE)
Sandy King, Rakiura (Contractor)

Bereavements

The Trust acknowledged the passing of several people through the year, a loss to the penguin and conservation community: Jeff Connell (DOC Otago Conservator), Mark Kerr (Cape Saunders farm), and Rod McKay (Otago Peninsula).

Trustees

We farewelled Eleanor Linscott and thank her for her contribution to the Trust during her term.

In October we welcomed the new Emerging Leader Trustees Abby Clarke, Meg Houseman and James Tweed. They are appointed for 1-year term to learn about governance and offer the Trust a younger perspective.

Other Trust Board members are Euan Kennedy, Helen Dent, Hoani Langsbury, Lala Frazer, Margaret Murrell, Murray Brass, Olaf Nilsen, Peter Simkins and Tim Mephram.

CONCLUSION

This year has proved to be another challenging one for yellow-eyed penguin conservation. Numbers are again down, even further than last year. We have applied all resources available to us and intervening as much as possible in the hope that this will have a positive outcome for the future of the species. Let's hope so.

As we distribute this report, the country is a week downstream from the launch of the government's package designed to ameliorate the economic effects of COVID-19. Also, from a few days earlier, there were already protocols around infection control. What might these developments mean for the Trust's conservation effort? First, as a charity, we are dependent on donations and therefore vulnerable to the vagaries of giving; here is an example. A recent visitor from the UK was so impressed by our work that when he got home he arranged to give us substantial, ongoing, financial support. The COVID-19 pandemic and its catastrophic effect on New Zealand's inbound tourism would almost certainly have prevented this fortuitous occurrence. Several of our substantial donations come from tourism accommodation providers and it remains to be seen how COVID-19 will affect their ability to give ongoing financial support.

Dealing with COVID-19 involves all staff and Board members taking care to minimise the possibility of becoming infected or of infecting others. We have no knowledge of how long it will take for daily life to return to normal and consequently we have developed a disruption plan to provide structure to our activities. Our field staff already are well acquainted with infection control involving yellow-eyed penguins, making sure disease does not spread from bird-to-bird or nest-to-nest, bird-to-human and human-to-bird. We will tackle the new breeding season with human-to-human infection now in the mix. At such a time it is essential the Board discharges its governance function well, supporting staff with whatever it takes for them to excel in their tasks. Over this year our staff, as always, have performed their roles with conspicuous ability, acting as the self-managing professionals we know them to be. On behalf of the Board, thank you. Also, thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us in our efforts to save the yellow-eyed penguin.



Eric J. Shelton
Chair