



# Hoiho

May 2022

[www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz)

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## Rakiura hoiho rehab begins

*Halfmoon Bay students Tessa and Shay release hoiho watched by YEPT Scientist Trudi Webster (centre)*

**In collaboration with Mamaku Point Conservation Trust, YEPT has established a new rehabilitation facility on Rakiura Stewart Island to support supplementary feeding of underweight birds and YEPT's updated Wildlife Act Authority now includes Mamaku Point as a rehabilitation location for hoiho.**

A rehab facility was deemed necessary given the decline in breeding pairs on Rakiura (70% since 2008 similar to the mainland) and the low breeding success of hoiho at various monitored sites. It was also deemed a priority in Te Mahere Rima Tau, the 5-year action plan for the recovery of the species.

The initial stages of development were completed on 9 March 2022 – the water

tank was in place, the mosquito-proof rehabilitation pens were constructed, the freezer was on site and water was being piped to the enclosure.

The need for the facility has already been proven when, in mid-March, eight underweight hoiho at various stages of moult were brought in from around the Bravo Islands. All eight birds were subsequently released back to the Bravo Islands in much better condition.

YEPT Scientist Trudi Webster developed the rehab facility to become operational and started training both locals and DOC staff on Rakiura to handle, rehydrate and feed hoiho. This will be an ongoing process into next season. In the meantime we are indebted

to numerous people and groups who have assisted along the way.

Firstly, thanks to Pacific Conservation Development Trust for the grant which enabled YEPT to purchase much needed equipment to establish the basic set up – construction materials to build the pens, freezer, water tank, etc.

Thanks to all the locals who came by for encouragement or to be trained in order that they may assist next season.

Thanks to Penguin Place (Otago Peninsula), Sanford (Rakiura) and Solander Gourmet Seafood (Nelson) for keeping us supplied in suitable fish to feed the hungry hoiho.

Thanks to the Rakiura Māori Land Trust for

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Inside the new Mamaku Point rehab centre with moulting hoiho are (l to r) Roy Thompson, Trudi Webster and Ant Simpson.



Halfmoon Bay students Ella-May and Moby bring ashore hoiho ready for release.

their support and taking the time to visit the newly operational rehab facility.

Thanks to Rakiura Charters & Water Taxi and DOC for assistance with transportation of the birds to and from the islands and rehab facility.

Thanks to the seniors at Halfmoon Bay School / Te Kura o Rakiura for their help with releasing some of the birds back to the wild – it is anticipated that this will be an ongoing partnership.

Thanks to DOC Rakiura for their

partnership in this process and having staff available to assist both in the field and at the facility.

A huge thanks to the Mamaku Point Conservation Trust, especially Roy and Rachel Thompson, for enabling us to set up the facility inside their predator-proof fence and supporting us along the way.

And lastly, another huge thanks to Ant Simpson for all his hard mahi to build the enclosures, and to Ernie Mason for everything in between!

While the facility has closed now, as the moult is finished, we hope to get the facility up and running next season to supplementary feed any underweight pre-fledge chicks, as well as underweight moulting adults and juveniles which would not otherwise survive.

The operation poses a few logistical challenges, but it has been shown this season that effective rehab work can be achieved, at least in the vicinity of Paterson Inlet.

## Hoiho numbers remain disappointing

**For the third consecutive year there were fewer than 200 breeding pairs remaining on the South Island (a decline of 72% since 2008).**

Only about 166 pairs bred this season across Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, slightly down on last year (189 pairs), but similar to the year before (168).

For the first time since records started there were no chicks hatched at Tavora this season which is a huge blow. Due to the low numbers of hoiho found on Rakiura during nest surveys last season YEPT increased the number of sites that are regularly monitored to include Steep Head and Little Glory Bay as well as increasing the number of checks on chicks during the season. Overall nest productivity was good on the Otago Peninsula and in the Catlins (although the hatch rate was concerningly low at Cosgrove Creek – only 57%).

Breeding success continues to be low at the majority of monitored sites on Rakiura

including the Bravo Islands, Steep Head, the Anglem coast and Whenua Hou, although Little Glory bucked that trend this year.

On the mainland YEPT field staff worked hard under stressful conditions early in the season to monitor and identify young chicks that required treatment for disease. Diphtheria was observed at all monitored nests, but on the plus side, treatment of this disease is now highly effective.

Forty-one chicks were uplifted to the Wildlife Hospital Dunedin (WHD) from YEPT sites for treatment and 88% were successfully released. Twenty-eight chicks were able to go back to natal nests and eight were successfully fostered.

Diphtheritic stomatitis was directly implicated in the deaths of only two chicks from the mainland, although it may have been a contributing factor in other deaths.

Unfortunately, an unexplained respiratory disease (URD, aka red lung) caused

significant mortality again this year for very young chicks. Across the mainland 27 chicks died with congested red lungs and this URD was the suspected cause of death for an additional nine chicks. Investigations into the underlying reasons for red lung continue alongside Massey University, the Department of Conservation and WHD.

Two other chicks died from other causes; one due to aspergillosis – a fungal infection in the respiratory system, and one due to predation by a rat. The rat was caught on camera repeatedly visiting the chick overnight, nibbling away at its rear end while it was underneath the parent. The chick was found dead the following morning.

All of the chicks are monitored and weighed at least weekly until they fledge; more frequently after release from hospital or a foster event. Most of the chicks gained weight well through the season, but supplementary feeding was needed at a few nests, largely in the Catlins.

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# Penguins

Feeding was needed if there was weight disparity between siblings, or if chicks fell below the estimated weight for age. Only five chicks needed to be uplifted from YEPT reserves because they were underweight (17 required help last season); this included a very underweight chick from Whenua Hou. It was the first time a bird was uplifted from this island and hopefully it paves the way for future work to improve the survival of injured, sick and underweight hoiho from here.

Sixteen chicks from across Murihiku were soft-released in the Catlins once they had completed their rehabilitation at Penguin Place. They were released in two groups (first six chicks and then a group of ten).

All of the chicks swam out to sea within

three hours of the enclosure being opened.

Eggs from Okaihe Green Island were successfully fostered by the Trust for the first time this season. This population has had poor breeding success in previous years and its logistically challenging location means that regular monitoring is not possible. The eggs were transported to the Catlins, fostered to a pair with infertile eggs and treated at WHD for diphtheria shortly after hatching, before being re-fostered to a nest at Otapahi which is where they fledged.

It was really positive to see several juveniles this season, which means that marine resources were sufficient to sustain last season's chicks during their first year at sea. 57 adults and eight juveniles needed assistance to ensure that they survived the

moult this year and were uplifted to Penguin Place for supplementary feeding. A further eight underweight adults were assisted through the moult on Rakiura in March. We greatly appreciate the hard mahi of Penguin Place, Penguin Rescue and the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony who ensure that hungry chicks, juveniles, and adults are well fed.

Across the mainland there were several recorded deaths from avian malaria this season (at least one chick and six adults) during February and March, and two confirmed unexplained mortalities in January. This type of information can only be determined through the important post-mortem work carried out by Stu Hunter at Wildbase, Massey University.

REGION	SITE	NESTS 2021/22	(2020/21)	EGGS	CHICKS HATCHED	CHICKS FLEDGED	CHICKS PER NEST
North Otago	Tavora	1	3	2	0	0	0
Otago Peninsula*	Okia	2	4	4	3	3	1.5
	Otapahi	7	6	14	45	7	1.0
	Fuchsia Gully	2	NS	4	4	4	2.0
	Papanui (part)	0	1				
	Irahuka Long Point	9	9	17	16	16	1.78
Catlins	Cosgrove Creek	7	11	14	8	5	0.71
	Helena Falls	2	3	4	4	2	1.0
	Harts Rock	1	2	2	0		0
	Purakaunui	0	2				
	Rollers Beach	2	2	3+	2+	0	0
Rakiura Stewart Island	Golden Beach	0	0**				
	The Neck	0	0				
	Little Glory	5	4	10	9	8	1.6
	Steep Hill	3	3	6	3+	0	0
	Bravo Islands	9	9	16	8+	6	0.67
	Whenua Hou	14	12	28	13+	8	0.57

\* Omihi, Dicks Bush, Otekiho, Allans Beach, Whareakeake and Kaikai: 0 nests (0 in 2020/21).

\*\* 6 nests found on Golden Beach in 2019/2020.

NS Not searched.

Please note that all chicks are represented in statistics for their natal sites, not foster sites.

Two eggs resulting in two fledged chicks which were fostered to Otapahi from Okaihe Green Island are not represented in the numbers above.



Given the chance of a dip in the ocean after serving time in rehab, half-a-dozen hoiho have a change of heart, retreating back to the warmth of the beach



# The Trust farewells friends



Gay Clarke

## BEREAVEMENTS

### Gay Clarke (YEPT trustee)

Saving the hoiho yellow-eyed penguin was close to Gay Clarke's heart. It became a project that she involved herself in, both as a trustee (1992–1995) and raising funds to get this new organisation off the ground to save this endearing species.

She was also a member of the Taieri Altrusa Club, and with their members assistance, was the key organiser of the yellow-eyed penguin ball in October 1990

known as a night of "Viennese Magic". This ball included gowns and dinner suits, a 16-piece orchestra, waiters and waitresses with trays of food and glasses of champagne, entertainment. The Dunedin Mayor was the MC, and information about the plight of the penguin was provided to guests. Even dance lessons were offered prior to the actual event. What a night to remember!

One Altrusian who worked with her on the organising committee for the ball remembers her as "a dedicated and enthusiastic person who just wanted to raise money to save penguins".

Thank you, Gay, this event is one that is definitely recorded in the Trust's history book.



Kerry-Jayne Wilson

### Kerry-Jayne Wilson MNZM

The global penguin community has lost a loyal champion and very fine advocate. Kerry-Jayne Wilson passed away on 29 March 2022.

Kerry-Jayne defined what it meant to be a conservation biologist. She was resolute in applying her biological sciences to conserving the natural world. Seabirds were her passion, especially the penguins, albatrosses, shearwaters, and other petrels

– the true ocean wanderers. She shared her extensive knowledge willingly. Her students at Lincoln University speak warmly of her ecology lectures and far-reaching insights.

Her research and teaching took her far afield, to Newfoundland, Antarctica, Australia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Cook Islands.

Kerry-Jayne's numerous books were a purposeful investment in raising public awareness of our remarkable natural heritage. She published her final book last year: 'New Zealand Seabirds: a Natural History' is a triumph.

She was a member of numerous research and conservation organisations here and abroad, often in leadership roles or as the New Zealand representative. All benefited from her unfailing dedication to recording birds wherever she encountered or sought them out.

In 2019 Kerry-Jayne was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to seabird conservation.

Kerry-Jayne founded the West Coast Penguin Trust in 2006. It became the rallying point for locals also keen to reverse declines in this wild coast's seabird communities. Through her guidance and science advice, she was also expressing her abiding affection for the place, its people, and its future.

In 2008, she joined us on a brainstorming trip to Long Point to assess options to reintroduce former petrel species. She shared and celebrated our understanding that the seabirds were key to revitalising the coastal forest communities we are wanting to recreate at the site. After a productive day, she said "I would like to see a mainland seabird colony restored where it was possible for the public to experience nocturnal petrels on their breeding grounds". Her sentiments aligned precisely with her own ambitions for West Coast seabirds.

Kerry-Jayne was a firm friend of our Trust in other ways. Many of us recall her thought-provoking contributions to our conferences and symposia. Our staff will miss her wisdom and leadership.

Dr Euan Kennedy, a close friend and YEPT trustee, said of Kerry-Jayne's passing that she slipped away just before dawn, at the hour when her beloved shearwaters were also departing for sea.



Bad hair day! Adult hoiho at the new Mamaku rehabilitation facility in various stages of moulting. See the article on pages one and two

## YEPT welcomes new leaders

In the last edition of Hoiho, we farewelled the Director General of the Department of Conservation Lou Sanson, and now in this edition we welcome the new D-G Penny Nelson.

Penny was noted jokingly as saying "Just imagine how much we'll get done with women in charge", as she joins the Minister of Conservation Kiri Allan and Forest & Bird's new Chief Executive Nicola Toki in senior conservation leadership roles.

Penny is the first woman to lead DOC and she was previously the first female to head Biosecurity at the Ministry of Primary Industries. Although she has not worked for DOC prior to this, most of her jobs have had an environmental focus or aspect to them.

Roles included working for the Ministry for the Environment, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, the Sustainable Business Council and MPI. Her work at the Ministry for the Environment as Deputy Secretary saw her responsible for climate change, the marine environment, environmental reporting and the science system.

The Trust looks forward to working with Penny and continuing the great relationship we have with DOC in general.

Nicola Toki was recently appointed the Chief Executive of Forest & Bird as the society approaches its one-hundredth year of giving nature a voice. Nicola is a New Zealand conservationist through and through, and probably known to many of our readers for her weekly radio show 'Critic of the Week' with Jesse Mulligan on Radio New Zealand, or as DOC's Threatened Species Ambassador.

More recently she held the position of Director Southern-South Island for DOC. Nicola is no stranger to Forest & Bird having worked for them as a Conservation Advocate from 2010-2012.

A big welcome and congratulations to both Penny and Nicola to these exciting leadership roles.



Yvette Couch-Lewis gifting original artwork to Bruce McKinlay (DOC) and Sue Murray (YEPT)

## He haerenga – a journey

**In 1986 researcher John Darby alerted the community to the dire situation of hoiho and that if nothing was done, they would be extinct on mainland New Zealand by 2020. This resulted in the founding of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust a year later.**

The year 2020 has come and gone, and the penguin community can congratulate themselves for saving the penguin so that they are still currently seen on our shores despite now experiencing a 25-year low in numbers and today's scientists predicting they may now be extinct on mainland NZ by 2060, if not sooner.

These years have been a journey, where groups like YEPT developed techniques and learnt how to arrest their decline on land and protect them from introduced mammalian predators and replant their coastal forests. Numerous groups and individuals have achieved this goal of knowing how to protect hoiho on land.

But back in the eighties, little consideration was given to the impacts in the marine environment or how the community could help hoiho when at sea. Unlike some other well-known threatened species, the penguin lives in both the terrestrial and marine environments, the latter being far more complex to understand and mitigate against. Today there is strong public awareness, advocacy on marine issues, work on diseases and starvation issues, as well as climate change impacts.

Since 2015 it has been a privilege for the Trust to work with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and DOC as a partnership on this journey. Since 2018, Fisheries NZ have joined the partnership. The first output was the Stocktake report He pūrongo mō te Hoiho released in 2016, followed by the new strategy Te Kaweka mō te Hoiho released in 2020.

Over these years, the partnership members have worked well together on this journey, debating many strategic points, integrating other opinions into the documents, seeking feedback and working alongside others in the penguin community, checking boundaries are retained (e.g. the Treaty Partnership between the Crown and iwi), and becoming friends!

So, it saddened us that one member has retired from the Hoiho Governance Group (HGG), Yvette Couch-Lewis from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Yvette's quiet manner but strength of view and knowledge and ensuring the inclusion of mātauranga Māori was highly valued by the other members of HGG.

On her departure, Yvette gifted as kaitiaki Sue Murray (YEPT) and Bruce McKinlay (DOC) with some of the original artwork from Te Kaweka. What an honour to be bestowed such a treasure and reminder of the journey we have all been on to help save this species. But the journey has not ended – there is much to do to save this species if they are going to remain on our shores for our tamariki to enjoy.





## A fresh coat of paint and new fencing

**It has been pleasing to report that two significant pieces of work have been completed at Irahuka Long Point since the last newsletter.**

While painting may not seem to be all that exciting, in the context of Long Point and the windy salty conditions found there, it is crucial. A team of spray painters from Dunedin-based Blasting & Coating Services sandblasted and then repainted the four containers making up the Long Point Field Base over ten days in November 2021. The end result is fantastic and will hopefully protect this valuable asset for years to come.

The other important development has been the building in March of stock fencing at Long Point and Cosgrove Creek. Carried out by Aaron Sutherland and his team (South Otago Fencing), this was completed to a superb standard. Working in a sensitive environment such as Long Point meant that they had to be aware of wildlife and also rare native turf plant communities. The new fencing will be a game changer and allow for the beginning of large-scale restoration plantings.

Habitat restoration is crucial for the long-term survival of hoiho and the other species that currently or could in the future make the area their home. Most of the new fencing was on Long Point and in particular the western bays area, where a kilometre of fence line encompassing around 10ha will be the focus of planting efforts. These are planned to begin in 2023, when the Trust nursery will have grown the large number of flax required for the initial plantings. These will provide shelter for later plantings of trees and shrubs.

The Trust appreciates the financial contributions from Otago Community Trust, Department of Conservation and the Harry J Wilson Charitable Trust that paid for the fencing, and W J Gall Trust that part-funded the painting. Thank you!



**Jobs for Nature**-funded YEPT Rangers, Cat, Max and Ben discuss the day's work programme at Irahuka Long Point. Thanks to this funding, having additional rangers has allowed YEPT to undertake more intensive monitoring and interventions during the hoiho breeding and moulting seasons.

## Yellow-eyed Penguin Annual Symposium

**SATURDAY 30 JULY 2022**

**Note this is one week earlier than usual.**

**Registrations will be opening soon.**

**More details on Facebook closer to the date.**

# It's been all go here at Mainland lately!

We've been hard at work over the past few years sprucing up our packaging with a fresh new look. If more than 65 years of cheesemaking at Mainland has taught us one thing, it's that you can't rush change.

Our new pack features the iconic Southern Alps and we've added images of our cheese to make it easier to find your favourite (and make it look tastier!). We hope you like our new look as much as we do.

It's been award season for us here at Mainland and we're chuffed to have just been named the 5th Most Trusted Brand in New Zealand at the Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brands Awards. We also took home the award for Most Trusted Cheese Brand for the fourth year running and a highly commended in Most Trusted Butter.

The 2022 New Zealand Cheese Awards were announced in March and Mainland was lucky enough to take home 11 medals (six Gold, two Silver and three Bronze) this year. Our gold medal winning cheeses will be vying for the Champions Trophy at the end of June so wish us luck!

Hope everyone is staying safe out there.

**The Team at Mainland**



## Money matters

**Like all charities, our fiscal position fluctuates hugely and is dependent on so many factors, often factors out of our control.**

So, when the 2021 Financial Year-End Statements were presented at our recent Annual Meeting, it was heartening to again see a surplus. It is a common experience for YEPT to have year-ends with a deficit. This surplus was largely due to the generosity of members and friends to the Trust, that not only donate through their lifetime, but also leave a bequest to the Trust.

Our accounts are audited annually, and for several years this has been provided at a discounted rate by Crowe (Dunedin), an affiliate of Findex NZ Limited. As a charitable trust it is a requirement to have the accounts audited, but it also is a quality assurance process that ensures all our accounting practices are up-to-date and compliant.

Bequests are a generous way of supporting our work into the future, as are major or large donations which give the donor an opportunity to see how their donation has assisted in our work.

As interest rates increase, cost-of-living goes up, and there are more pulls on our income, maybe it is time to consider an easier way to continue to donate to worthy causes. Have you thought about setting up a regular automatic payment to either our Donate-a-Tree Scheme (Nursery Supporters) or the Coffee Club, or just as a regular general donation? Once set up, you can sit back and relax knowing a regular gift is being sent to the charity of your choice. You wouldn't really miss one coffee a week, would you?

Then again, if you prefer to keep supporting in the current ways you do, we are always grateful too.



## Leave something in paradise

Please remember the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in your Will. Your bequest can be invested in restoring penguin habitats and controlling predators to help secure the survival of hoiho.

Charities Commission Registration Number CC22822





## A note from the Chair

### Tēnā koutou katoa

This coming winter will present the Trust with a collection of opportunities for the personal and professional growth of its trustees and staff.

Even under “the new normal” whatever that turns out to be, staff members may still allow themselves the pleasure to indulge in a novel task, for example, anything from making scrubcutter blades extra-sharp to planning fundraising activities.

Also, the Trust as a charitable organisation may one day itself be the subject of some sort of organisational analysis and one way of being prepared for such an analysis is to develop specific resources in anticipation, for example recording an Institutional Knowledge Document. Such records fit well within the organisational practice of succession planning.

This practice comprises a database marked by a clear file path and may be held at more than one location. A useful early example is the Trust's Oral History Project which we launched in 2017 and which now resides not only on the cloud in the office of the Trust's Internet Service Provider, Datacom Ltd, but also remotely at the Hocken Library of University of Otago and with the funder Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Other Institutional Knowledge Documents include management plans for habitats, memorial plaques dedicated to benefactors and those who have delivered other significant modes of support to the Trust, for example hands-on conservation effort.

Another analytic component is the Relationship Register, a document that gathers together the details of the many people and organisations with whom the Trust does business. A key contributor to the Relationship Register is Mainland Brands Ltd, a story stretching back to near the beginning of Trust history. For good measure all Trustees and Staff are listed, no matter how fleeting was the contact.

Following on from the Relationship Register there is a Summary of Key Achievements. The most ambitious and conspicuous of these achievements most likely is Irahuka/Long Point Field Base, but there is an intellectual contribution too that often is overlooked; that is the 2007 paper “Model or Muddle: How well does the Charitable Trust concept serve species conservation in Aotearoa/New Zealand?”

Having access to the Key Achievements section of the Institutional Knowledge Documents

provides a platform to house collections of text and photographs brought together and usefully curated. Clearly, this project will reward as much attention as can be lavished on it and definitely will need more than one winter.

Nga mai

Eric J. Shelton  
Chair



New fencing at Irahuka Long Point

## Our thanks

### Thank you to our regular supporters:

Supporters' Group  
Nursery supporters  
AdArt Brand Promotion  
Andy and Melissa Moore  
Blackhead Quarries  
Canon NZ  
Coffee Club supporters  
Department of Conservation  
DOC Community Fund  
Downie Stewart  
DCC (Task Force Green team)  
Dunedin Wildlife Hospital  
Foote Haulage (Woodlands)  
Forest & Bird South Otago Branch  
Jane and Jim Young  
Jobs for Nature  
Mainland Brand  
NZ Deerstalkers' Association (Otago Branch)  
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group  
Penguin Place  
Penguin Rescue  
Richard Roberts, Dunedin Airport  
Roy Johnstone  
Yrless (Joe Stringer)

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Bird Shirts  
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Matariki Te Uru Rakau  
Noopii  
Otago Community Trust  
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust

Southern Institute of Technology  
Top 10 Holiday Park  
Whatawhata School  
Woodland Eggs  
WWF Community Conservation Fund

Sincere thanks to all those people who make donations through our online portal. We truly appreciate this support.

### Special thanks this issue to:

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Edward Ivison  
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Jason Sarich, FENZ  
Hannah Cross  
Mamaku Point Conservation Trust (Roy and Rachel Thompson, Ant Simpson and Ernie Mason)  
Martin Crawford Blasting and Coating Services  
Sand Cloud  
Solander Gourmet Seafoods  
YEPT staff partners

### Thank you to:

All the Landowners who have contributed to our habitat protection work

### Thank you to all Volunteers:

We are tremendously grateful to all the other volunteers, including the regular Nursery workers and the Habitat Volunteer Team for their valuable contributions to our work. Special thanks to AdArt Brand Promotion for the design of this newsletter.



The production of this Hoiho  
newsletter by AdArt Brand Promotion  
ticks all the green boxes

*Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.*

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