

# Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Annual Report 2022/23



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## Introduction

Tēnā koutou katoa.

As always, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT) activities for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The Report covers a period when the operational side of the Trust's activities have been particularly demanding, and it is to their credit our field staff rose to the occasion.

Last year we were still working under some disruption from COVID-19. This year we have happily moved on as reflected in this Report.

To begin the collaborative nature of the Report, Sue Murray presents a structure for other contributors to utilize, beginning with Trudi Webster's extensive introductory remarks and summary of the season, then moving through each aspect of the life of hoiho / yellow-eyed penguin and its habitat. As noted by Amanda Salt in her section of the Report, we used our recently purchased fleet of vehicles prudently, a key aim that constantly challenged our operations. Nevertheless, over the year, we managed to deliver on a substantial number of the conservation outcomes we had identified earlier.

Happy reading.

## Hoiho / Yellow-eyed penguins

Presented by Trudi Webster

The population of hoiho remains exceptionally low on the South Island and there has been an ongoing decline (**73%** over the last 15 years). Only **c.156** pairs of hoiho bred this season across Canterbury, Otago, and Southland; a decline from last year (172 pairs). Unfortunately, with the lack of intervention and conservation management, Rakiura is faring even worse. There were only 44 breeding pairs in 2020 during the last island count, and numbers have continued to decline since, particularly on the Bravo Islands and Whenua Hou.

In 2022/23 there were **27 nests at YEPT sites on the mainland** compared to 29 last season (a **7% decline**, excluding the Fuchsia Gully site). These reduced numbers were not unexpected with two breeding females dying last season (one from malaria, one from unknown causes). Thankfully young females are being recruited to the population.

In 2022/23 there were **22 nests at YEPT monitored sites on Rakiura** compared to 32 last season (a shocking **31% decline** in a single year). This is the third season that there have been no nests or sign of birds at Golden Beach. Although there are no nests at the Neck, there are still at least two birds regularly using the area near the predator fence. The Bravo Islands and Whenua Hou are at all-time low this season, 6 and 7 nests respectively. **Whenua Hou has declined massively by 50% since last season!**

### *Summary of the season*

Nest searches on the mainland were carried out by the YEPT team of rangers (**Cat Lea, Ben Goldsworthy, Max Harvey, and Euan Whitton**) and supported by our Operations Manager (**Amanda Salt**) and Science Advisor (**Trudi Webster**). Most of the nest searches and monitoring on Rakiura was carried out by YEPT contractor (**Sandy King**) with assistance from and a team of willing volunteers. Access to sites was kindly granted by **Rakiura Māori Lands Trust** and DOC. **Dean Nelson** and **Ben Goldsworthy** completed a nest search of Whenua Hou.

The first chick hatched on 30 October and the last on 19 November 2022 (slightly later than last year). Candling took place at several nests on Rakiura (where limited monitoring is possible), and also on the mainland to help identify potential foster nests (for example where there is history of infertility, or if breeders are young and inexperienced). The team also helped DOC for two days to candle all of the eggs at DOC sites in Murihiku. The additional trip to Rakiura (in mid-November) provided lots of valuable additional information that is not normally obtained including hatch dates, status of eggs, chick measurements / weights, and monitoring via trail cameras.

Improvements to the treatment of diphtheritic stomatitis (DS) in small chicks means that deaths from this disease have been minimised significantly. Monitoring nests every other day meant that we could age chicks accurately and aim for the chicks' first health check at 3 days old. This improves their chances of survival because: 1) the early signs of DS are detected before they get too sick, 2) chicks are slightly bigger and more robust for transport. All of the 43 hatched chicks from YEPT sites on the mainland were uplifted to the **Wildlife Hospital Dunedin** (WHD) either with minor DS lesions (40 chicks) or because a sibling was sick (3 birds). WHD did a fantastic job and treatment was highly successful with 93% of the 43 chicks released. Unfortunately, chicks in Rakiura also exhibited signs of DS at an early age, which (as suspected) is likely one of the reasons for poor chick survival over the last few years. This needs to be a priority for management in future seasons. The YEPT team also supported **DOC Murihiku** by transporting chicks from the Catlins to and from the hospital.

Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) has unfortunately been observed again this season in small chicks and was responsible for at least 15 chick deaths across the mainland plus another three where RDS was potentially implicated. There were at least two chick deaths from RDS at YEPT sites (Long Point and Cosgrove Creek). We had an additional three deaths of young chicks due to proventriculitis and two following rat predation. This is the second year in a row that we have had rats gnaw at chicks whilst the parent was present resulting in death.

Two nests in the Catlins went postguard very early in the season (1 December) when chicks were only 3.5 weeks old. Monitoring showed that parents were often not returning to nests daily to feed chicks, with some doing longer 2-3 day foraging trips. This suggests that finding food was an issue in the Catlins this season.

The health and weight of chicks was monitored at least weekly through to fledge. Chick weights tracked well on Otago Peninsula and in North Otago and were typically more than 100% of their estimated weight for age. Chicks in the Catlins did not do so well, tracking at approximately 80-90% of their estimated weight for age. There was a significant investment in supplementary feeding in Murihiku, with most of the chicks receiving approximately three feeds per week. A significant amount of fish was required particularly for the Catlins (maximum 12kg per monitoring round). Birds were supplementary fed with whole fish (sprat, anchovies, salmon) and we are very grateful to **Sanfords (Kaitangata)** and **Solander Gourmet Seafoods** for donating much of the fish.

Eight pre-fledge underweight chicks were taken to **Penguin Place** from YEPT sites in the Catlins. An additional chick fostered to Boulder Beach (from Helena Falls) was uplifted by **DOC Otago** as it failed to flourish and was exceptionally underweight. In another season first a chick was uplifted from Rakiura (Glory Cove) to Penguin Place because it was underweight as it was suspected that a parent had died. At the very end of the season another emaciated chick was sent to WHD from Steep Head, Rakiura (after a short stay at **Mamaku Point rehab facility**). Two chicks were taken to WHD with eye injuries.

Twenty-two chicks from across Murihiku and Rakiura were soft-released in the Catlins following rehabilitation at Penguin Place. The first eight chicks were successfully released on 27 February, and the second group of fourteen were released on 6 March. All of the chicks were keen to get to sea and swam out within an hour or so of the enclosure being opened.

It is positive news that several juveniles were again sighted this season which means that marine resources were at least sufficient to sustain last season's chicks during their first year.

Thirty-six adults and four juveniles have been uplifted for supplementary feeding to ensure that they

survive the moult; 26 adults (15 Catlins, 11 Otago) and four juveniles (1 Catlins, 3 Otago) from the mainland to **Penguin Place** and 10 adults from Rakiura to **Mamaku Point rehabilitation facility**. Once again, we greatly appreciate the hard mahi of Penguin Place, Penguin Rescue, Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony and Mamaku Point rehab facility ensuring that hungry hoiho are well fed.

Nine injured birds were uplifted to WHD from YEPT sites; seven of these were foot / leg injuries (typically lacerations), one had an eye injury and one suffered internal bleeding following a tumble off a 3-metre drop-off. These include four adults from the Catlins, four from Otago and one from Rakiura.

Six adults and one juvenile hoiho deaths have been observed at YEPT sites this season. A juvenile (chick from Otapahi in 2021/22) was found dead at Otapahi during last winter likely due to starvation. An ex-breeding male from Otapahi was found barely alive at Okia and died on the way to WHD (7 Feb) from predation wounds and secondary infection. An adult was found dead (8 Jan) at Glory Cove, Rakiura but was too far gone to be sent for post-mortem. An injured adult from Papanui found with leg lacerations (25 Jan) was discharged to rehab (10 Feb) but unfortunately died suddenly without warning five days later due to bacterial septicaemia. A freshly dead adult male hoiho (5.9kg) with no obvious injuries was found face-down on Alfred beach at Otapahi (20 Feb) and the necropsy confirms likely malaria (suspected malaria). A bird from Otapahi died overnight at WHD following a fall of 3 metres onto the beach at Otapahi from internal haemorrhage due to severe head and/or spinal trauma. A male adult hoiho from Cosgrove Creek was found on Purakaunui Beach (5 Mar) having been mauled to death by a dog.

YEPT continue to build the relationship and collaboration with **Rachel and Roy Thompson at Mamaku Point Conservation Trust** to develop a rehabilitation facility to support supplementary feeding of underweight hoiho from Rakiura. The team have worked through requirements for a fish preparation / storage shed (including electricity, water supply, building options), as well as additional equipment and operations this season. We thank **Ant Simpson** and **Matt Hare** for their hard mahi building a shed to support this mahi. Ongoing discussions with **DOC Rakiura** resulted in agreement to fund some of the moult monitoring work this season, which YEPT are carrying out. **Jason van Zanten (Penguin Place)** has been fully supportive of the rehab and has provided the silverside required. The **Wildlife Hospital Dunedin** are providing veterinary support and have established a Veterinary Operating Instruction with the Trust's scientist for administering pain-relief medication. **Helen Cave**, and **Carolyn Squires at Southern Seafoods** are providing storage for large quantities of frozen fish at the Fishermen's Coop, Rakiura to ensure that hoiho don't go hungry. So far this season **Sandy King** and **Trudi** have identified and uplifted ten underweight failed breeders and non-breeders that were moulting and in need of assistance. Trudi has been running the rehab facility and one bird has been released so far. The plan is to search for successful breeders in need of help shortly. We hope that this will start to improve survival for hoiho in Rakiura.

## Summary of hoiho breeding

### Kātiki / North Otago

- Tavora: **1 nest** (1 in 2021/22), 2 eggs, 2 hatched, 2 fledged, **2.0 chicks per nest (cpn)**

### Ōtākou / Otago Peninsula

- Okia: **1 nest** (2 in 2021/22), 2 eggs, 2 hatched, 2 fledged, **2.0 cpn**
- Otapahi: **6 nests** (7 in 2021/22), 12 eggs, 10 hatched, 7 fledged, **1.2 cpn**
- Fuchsia Gully and Dicks Bush: no search undertaken (2 nests at Fuchsia Gully in 2021/22).
- Otekiho, Allans Beach, Whareakeake, Kaikai, Omihi, Papanui (part): 0 nests (0 in 2021/22)

### Tokatā / Catlins

- Long Point: **10 nests<sup>1</sup>** (9 in 2021/22), 19 eggs, 19 hatched, 14 fledged, **1.4 cpn**
- Helena Falls: **3 nests** (2 in 2021/22), 6 eggs, 5 hatched, 5 fledged, **1.7 cpn**
- Harts Rock: **1 nest** (1 in 2021/22), 2 eggs, 2 hatched, 2 fledged, **2.0 cpn**
- Cosgrove Creek: **5 nests<sup>2</sup>** (7 in 2021/22), 10 eggs, 7 hatched, 5 fledged, **1.0 cpn**
- Purakaunui: 0 nests (0 in 2021/22)

### Rakiura / Stewart Island

- Anglem Coast: Rollers Beach: **2 nests** (2 in 2021/22), 4 eggs, 3 hatched, 0 fledged **0.0 cpn**  
Golden Beach: **0 nests** (0 in 2021/22)
- Neck area: Oneki / The Neck: **0 nests** (0 in 2021/22)  
Steep Head: **2 nests** (2 in 2021/22), 4 eggs, 3 hatched, 1 (almost) fledged, **0.5 cpn**  
Glory Cove: **5 nests** (5 in 2021/22), 10 eggs, 9 hatched, 6 fledged, **1.2 cpn**
- Bravo Islands: **6 nests** (9 in 2021/22), 12 eggs, 12 hatched, 6 fledged, **1.0 cpn**  
Tommy: 1<sup>2</sup> nest (2 in 2021/22), 2 eggs, 2 hatched, 0 fledged, **0.0 cpn**  
Groper: 2 nests (4 in 2021/22), 4 eggs, 4 hatched, 2 fledged, **1 cpn**  
Goat: 3 nests (2 in 2021/22), 6 eggs, 6 hatched, 4 fledged, **1.3 cpn**  
Crayfish: **0 nests** (0 in 2021/22)  
Refuge: 0 nests (0 in 2021/22)
- Whenua Hou: **7 nests** (14 in 2020/21), 14 eggs, 9 hatched, 2 fledged, **0.29 cpn**  
Penguin Bay: **0 nests** (1 in 2021/22)  
Sealers Bay: **3 nests** (5 in 21/22), 6 eggs, 5 hatched, 2 fledged, **0.67cpn**  
Roderiques: 0 nests (0 in 2021/22)  
NW Bay: **2 nests** (5 in 2021/22), 4 eggs, 3 hatched, 0 fledged, **0.0 cpn**  
Alphonse: **2 nests** (3 in 2021/22), 4 eggs, 1 hatched, 0 fledged, **0.0 cpn**

Please note that all chicks are represented in statistics for their natal sites, not foster sites. Two eggs and two chicks fostered from Green Island and resulting in four fledged chicks are not represented in the numbers above.

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<sup>1</sup> Two nests were found later in the season

<sup>2</sup> One nest was found later

## Science and Research

Presented by Trudi Webster

The Trust continues to provide a variety of science advice and technical support on hoiho conservation management and the wider environmental issues affecting hoiho.

A review of the chick management plan was completed to support organisations with the changing nature of hoiho species management. This included managing respiratory distress syndrome and fish bones, the addition of multiple chick marking methods, further information on the use of antibiotics and resistant bacteria, and a preference for treatment of diphtheria at hospital (rather than in the field).

The avian malaria action plan was also significantly revised following discussion with veterinarians (**Lisa Argilla WHD**, **Kate McInnes** and **Harry Taylor DOC**) around the use of malarone for treated birds, and malaria risk factors and diagnosis. Following these updates, a hui was held with vets involved in treating hoiho to ensure that they have support for decision making, are aware of resources (e.g. protocols), and to get input on best practice.

The guide to assessing the condition of moulting birds and uplift advice for underweight birds were also reviewed following changes to management practices and improved knowledge.

Following the release of a DOC Advisory about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (which has been circulating since Dec 2021 and is now widespread globally) and discussions with vets and the Hoiho Technical Group, YEPT developed a plan to implement improved hygiene and biosecurity measures this season to minimise risk of disease spread.

Considerable effort has also been put into planning and discussion documents for Whenua Hou and Rakiura with the aim of improving conservation management and outcomes for hoiho. The document details reasons for management, personnel and logistical requirements, potential issues, opportunities for mana whenua, and support that can be provided by DOC, YEPT and other organisations. **Richard Seed** has started in his new role as Senior Ranger (DOC) which aims to ensure consistency of hoiho work between DOC operations teams.

Research from pathogen discovery postdoc conducted by **Dr Janelle Wierenga (Massey University)** has found a novel gyrovirus associated with chicks that died from Respiratory Distress Syndrome which is a big step forward for our understanding of disease in young chicks. This collaboration resulted in a research paper: Wierenga et al (2023) A novel gyrovirus is abundant in yellow-eyed penguin (*Megadyptes antipodes*) chicks with a fatal respiratory disease. *Virology* 579: 75-83.

Metadata was compiled relating to hoiho that were necropsied to support molecular research on the gyrovirus for **Alex Prier** and **Kerri Morgan (Massey University)**.

Our science advisor continues to liaise with **Carissa Turner (Science Communication, University of Otago)** who is continuing her PhD research on dogs and interactions with wildlife on our beaches, and the development of messaging for dog owners, particularly important given recent interactions which have resulted in the death or injury of several hoiho.

**Maddie van der Plas (Wildlife Management, University of Otago)** joined the YEPT team for an eight-week placement this summer. Trudi was host supervisor and her project was to use the hoiho database to examine outcomes for birds that undergo treatment and or rehabilitation.

Collaboration continues with **Dr Chris Niebuhr** and **Simon Howard (Landcare Research)** who are developing a ShinyApp as an avian malaria “warning system” for hoiho. The App is being refined for Otago and the Catlins with more data on the temporal behaviour of mosquitoes and malaria.

Working with **Cacophony Ltd** who are developing technology to detect and eliminate predators and **Rakiura Māori Lands Trust** to train the machine learning algorithm to detect thermal images of hoiho, other native birds and invasive mammals.

Collaboration with **Dr Robert Poulin**, **Dr Steph Godfrey** and **Antoine Filion** (Zoology, University of Otago) resulting in a paper sent to *Austral Ecology* from Antoine's PhD research on the interannual patterns of avian diseases in wild New Zealand avifauna near conservation areas.

Providing advice for **Katy Rossiter** (Botany, University of Otago) who is undertaking an MSc to look at uptake of seabird nutrients (i.e. scat) in native plants particularly in relation to hoiho colonies.

## Strategy and Policy

Presented by Trudi Webster

### **Hoiho Governance Group (HGG) & Hoiho Technical Group (HTG)**

Work continues in partnership with the **Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai**, **Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu** and **Fisheries NZ | Tini a Tangaroa** to progress the actions in the 5-year action plan *Te Mahere Rima Tau* which supports the hoiho strategy *Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho*.

The Hoiho Governance Group have not met during this reporting period due to internal resets at DOC and changes within Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Prior to that HGG had been moving towards creating a sustainable funding plan and we hope to restart this critical work in 2023.

There were some changes to the HTG membership this year. Mark Witehira left TRoNT (and HTG) to join the Ministry for the Environment at the start of 2023. Existing HTG members **Mark Geytenbeek** (FNZ), **Bruce McKinlay** and **Hendrik Schultz** (DOC) and **Trudi** were joined by **Ben Hodgson** and **Puawai Swindells-Wallace** (TRoNT) and **Richard Seed** (DOC) this year. **Rob Win** (FNZ) is currently filling in for Mark Geytenbeek who is on secondment.

The main role of the Hoiho Technical Group (HTG) is to continue to drive the hoiho recovery programme through the actions in Te Mahere Rima Tau. The most recent **progress report for Te Mahere Rima Tau** is available at [www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/penguins/yellow-eyed-penguin-hoiho/a-strategy-to-support-the-health-of-hoiho](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/penguins/yellow-eyed-penguin-hoiho/a-strategy-to-support-the-health-of-hoiho). Eleven actions have been identified that need updating to better reflect work to support hoiho recovery and proposed changes are under discussion. The tracking of all projects (60+ so far) relevant to actions in the plan continues and is a mammoth task. Presentations at the Annual YEP symposium reported on progress and priorities for next season.

Other HTG work has included providing advice for DOC Murihiku on supplementary feeding and uplift of chicks, operational issues regarding microchipping, and prioritisation of actions on Rakiura/Whenua Hou to improve conservation outcomes for hoiho.

There is significant investment in representing the interests of hoiho at fisheries meetings including the **Aquatic Environment Working Group**, **Biodiversity Research (BRAG)**, **Technical Working Group** and the **Conservation Services Programme**. Advice has been provided for several projects including: refining the Spatially Explicit *Fisheries Risk Assessment* (SEFRA) model parametrisation (PRO2019-10), grooming and preparation of the hoiho database (contracted to **Proteus Darryl McKenzie**, **Rachel Hickcox** and **Mel Young**), and the methodology for the Hoiho Multi-threat Risk Assessment fisheries project being carried out by **Jim Roberts** and **Darcy Webber (Quantifish)**. The main aims of the latter are to construct population models for hoiho, map fishery and non-fishery threats, estimate risk from fisheries and other impacts, and examine alternate management scenarios. Feedback was given on three hoiho projects proposed for the **Conservation Services Programme** research for 2023/24; including a project submitted by the University of Otago on investigating the impact of fisheries on endangered hoiho diet, microbiome, and disease susceptibility, one updating the population estimate on Campbell Island, and a third describing habitat utilisation and diet at a major breeding colony on Rakiura.

Fisheries liaison work continues with **Rosa Edwards (Fisheries Inshore NZ)**, observers, local fishers, **Graham Parker (Fisheries liaison officer)** and **Rob Win (Fisheries NZ)** regarding voluntary closures, and habitat use and distribution of hoiho around the mainland and Rakiura. Following this FINZ announced to Hon David Parker (Minister of Oceans & Fisheries) and Hon Poto Williams (Minister of Conservation) on 8 December 2022 that fishers have agreed to suspend commercial set netting activity in two additional locations around Rakiura (a) from Horseshoe Point east to Kaneteto Island and southwest to Chew Tobacco Point and (b) Pikihatiti / Port Pegasus: Seal Point to Broad Head.

A submission was completed on the proposed fast tracked Hananui Aquaculture Project in Foveaux Strait to ensure that demands for aquaculture are balanced with ensuring that effects on hoiho are well managed to avoid further impacting a struggling species.

YEPT continues to collaborate with local authorities, including provide advice (as a member of the **Otago Regional Council (ORC)** Regional Policy Statement (RPS) reference group for the coastal environment). Advice and data have been provided to contractors working for ORC including mapping of significant habitats for indigenous fauna in the Otago region (**Wildlands**), Marine Significant Ecological Areas Spatial Mapping (**National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, NIWA**) and outstanding water bodies (E3Scientific). Discussion with Richard Ewans, Sam Thomas and Scott Jarvie (ORC) ensure that information and issues relating to hoiho are well informed.

Provision of information on hoiho nest numbers, locations, trends and foraging to Chelsea McGaw (**Forest & Bird**) about the use of the Hananui (Anglem) coast area of Rakiura by hoiho.



## Habitats

Summarized by Amanda Salt

### **Summary**

In general, the volume of work undertaken at the Trust's reserves and habitats that we manage increased significantly this year. This was mainly due to the increase in staff resource which enabled us to catch up on tasks delayed as a result of ever-increasing hoiho monitoring effort. Notable progress and improvements with habitat tasks were made, especially during the hoiho off-season with the highlights across all sites being:

- 4,010 trees and shrubs planted;
- 271 hectares of habitat treated under our weed control programme targeting species such as: boxthorn, broom, elder, gorse, mallow, pine, sycamore, lupin;
- 343 hectares of habitat trapped for predators such as mustelids, rats, cats and possums together with all the traps on our trap lines being cleaned and serviced and improvements to trapping made;
- 20,550 metres of tracks maintained (excluding hoiho access): walking, trapping, 4wd;
- Long Point Loop Walk opened in December.

Sadly, large swells caused by weather and marine conditions made their mark at all sites from north to south especially during autumn 2022, with Okia and Otapahi the most affected as further swathes of dune were carved away creating steep sand bluffing and destroyed established plants and trees while at the same time reminding us how dynamic our coastal environment is right now.

By contrast, summer 2023 was extremely dry. In February NIWA's Drought Index was updated for Otago. On 21 February, Otago Peninsula and coastal Clutha from Kaka Point to Chaslands (which includes Long Point) were declared to be in drought. The rest of North Otago, Dunedin and Clutha were classified as 'Extremely Dry'. It follows that managing the fire risk at Trust reserves continues to be an important aspect of our daily operations.

A planned operation in Otapahi created improved access tracks for hoiho by clearing a few years' worth of overgrowth, predominantly lupin. Rangers worked on this during the off-season and focussed efforts on areas of optimum hoiho habitat.

Finally, in winter 2022 we had a blitz on hoiho nest boxes; ensuring existing one were cleaned, repaired, and located in optimal places within the hoiho breeding areas. In total, 21 nest boxes were either repositioned/renovated or were some of the new A-frame boxes donated to us by Penguin Place. No birds nested in the new boxes, but we are hopeful for future seasons as the boxes age and settle in.

### **Long Point**

#### *Habitat/Revegetation*

The fencing project to exclude stock from the proposed areas to make way for native plantings was completed at the end of March 22 and approximately ten hectares are now fenced on the western side of Long Point and another smaller area on the eastern side of approximately 1.5ha. At Cosgrove Creek a short fence extension will enable stock to be excluded from the inner core and planting to take place. Further fence repairs above Waterfall Bay were made later in the year to block stock access.

Harakeke (flax) production continues at the Trust's Nursery to provide shelter for the planned later plantings of shrubs and trees. At a planting day on 18 June community volunteers planted 200 trees/shrubs/harakeke plus 50 donated māhoe at the head of Area 1. On 7 and 21 May 620 harakeke were planted along the Clutha District Council road reserve walking track from the top car park. A

further planting day on 6 December was held with **Fonterra** staff from Edendale and Stirling who helped plant the 70-80 trees and shrubs and 50 harakeke in the dispersal gully.

Following the planting of the harakeke in winter, further harakeke planting under the Long Point Irahuka Planting Plan initially planned for spring 2023 has been put back to 2024/25. Due to a combination of the harsh conditions on the Point and rabbits, these planted flax struggled to establish satisfactorily. As well as trialling an animal repellent, a clear course of action is patience and to ensure plants destined for the very worst of Long Point conditions are further grown on a minimum of 12-18 months in order to improve tolerance and increase chances of survival.

**Brian & Jan O'Callaghan** donated 110 native trees and shrubs for Long Point, which were planted in the dispersal gully area. We have accepted their kind offer to produce a further 2-300 trees and shrubs for Long Point in 2024.

Weed control is undertaken as part of the weed program, together with maintenance/weeding of the car park, the field base and regular cutting of the walking track on to the Point.

### *Field Base*

The Long Point field base has been used regularly throughout the year with 41 bed nights recorded for Trust staff undertaking hoiho work so far this season (commencing 1 October 22).

As more Trust-monitored hoiho nests were in the Catlins this season, staff resource was allocated accordingly, and it was beneficial to have facilities to overnight at site during the week. Unfortunately, though, there were very few days when there were: 1) no sick chicks from the Catlins (at sites monitored by us and/or **Department of Conservation** Owaka), or 2) underweight/moulting/injured birds towards the end of the season requiring transportation to/from **Wildlife Hospital Dunedin** or **Penguin Place** rehab in Dunedin. Consequently, we could not utilise the field base quite as much as we would have liked at these times.

In December a review of emergency rations and equipment at the field base was carried out in the event of a natural disaster, or similar, should staff become stranded for a time.

Essentially, the field base provides us with facilities to store and prepare hoiho feeds in a clean and hygienic environment. As we supplementary feed more hoiho chicks at the nest in the wild each season, it would be impossible to do this successfully on this scale without such facilities.

Finally, to have the facilities for staff to stay over when practical, not only is it safer not to be driving back to Dunedin quite so often after a long field day, but, as we endeavour to maximise every donation received, it also saves the Trust valuable time, resource, and dollars to use elsewhere.

### *Other*

The new **Long Point Loop Walk** was completed and opened in December. This 4kms circular public walk starts at the Long Point car park and initially follows the existing walking track. The installation of three stiles and 25 marker posts direct walkers around the top of the Long Point, returning via the same walking track to the car park. Signage has been updated with two new signs installed.

The **Long Point/Irahuka Advisory Committee** met at the field base on 16 November. Updates were provided to the Committee on: 2022-2023 hoiho breeding season, field base, signage, trapping, planting/restoration, Long Point fire plan.

In May **Otago University's** Professor Mark Stirling and Dr Jack Williams undertook reconnaissance fieldwork to assess the feasibility of accessing the coastline on the western side of Irahuka/Long Point for future geological fieldwork. It appears likely the terraces at Area 2 represent 'beaches' that were uplifted during prehistoric earthquakes on the Settlement Fault that runs offshore at the head of Mānuka Bay. The purpose of their work is to collect dateable material which will inform experts about how often the Settlement Fault hosts an earthquake, to be used in seismic hazard analysis.

**Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research**, in conjunction with **Department of Conservation**, continued their monitoring of the coastal turf plants at Long Point throughout the year.

**Earthlore Nature Tours** restarted inclusion of Long Point as a site on their tour providing 'planting and weeding experiences' in March 2023. This forms part of their nature-based activities around the Catlins whereby a small number of visitors can assist nature during their tour.

### *Predator Control*

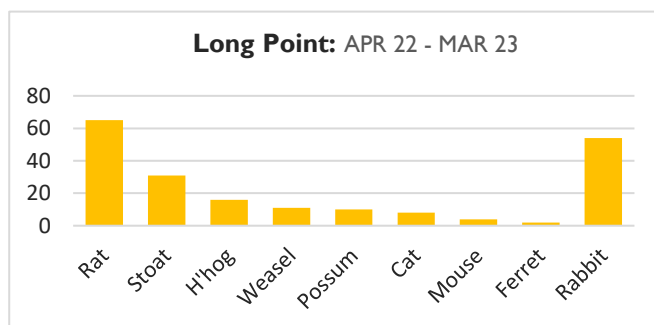
We are extremely grateful to **Roy Johnstone** and **Jim Young** from **Forest & Bird South Otago** Branch as they continued their great work monitoring the trap lines on and around the Reserve and the wider Catlins area. In addition, this year we have: replaced some of the aging traps with newer traps (from Okia Reserve), increased our live capture trapping setting cages at Areas 1 and 2 in the off-season, carried out bait station operations at Helena Falls, undertaken evening possum/rabbit shoots and increased trapping behind the crib at Area 1.

We continue to support **Forest & Bird** tītī nest/chick monitoring on the Point. Unfortunately, on 22 April a predation event occurred, as tītī chicks were preparing to fledge. Trail camera footage clearly showed the culprit to be a ferret. Acting quickly, by 25 April, Franny Cunningham and Gavin White had installed additional traps around the area together with some on the fence line at the top and cage traps, in which a cat was caught. On 19 May a large male ferret was caught in a DOC250 trap at Area 2. This season nine burrows with chicks were identified in December and Forest & Bird again significantly increased the monitoring and frequency of trap checks around the colony.

As a direct result of **Forest & Bird**'s advocacy work around this misfortune, a Catlins' local donated sufficient funds for us to purchase ten DOC 200 double-set traps, to provide a trapping buffer on Long Point Rd. Further, Gavin and our Catlins Ranger continued working together throughout winter, sharing equipment and expertise actively targeting predators across the Point.

Rabbits are an issue at Long Point, with some rabbit damage to the new flax plantings on the eastern side. In July an onsite meeting was held with Sarah Irvine, Harriett Love and Georgie Colling from **Otago Regional Council**, around the usefulness of the various control measures. When workload has allowed, the Lead Ranger has carried out evening rabbit-shooting sessions through the year, however it is a large area to cover.

With further assistance from Gavin, all the Trust's traps (Long Point, Cosgrove, and Helena Falls) were cleaned, serviced and calibrated in winter/spring. The recorded catch this season totalled 201 pests:



### **By the numbers...**

Plants planted:	1,205
Predator traps in operation:	173
Tracks maintained:	6,250m
New nest boxes installed:	5
Existing nest boxes repaired and/or repositioned:	3

## **Okia Reserve**

### *Habitat/Revegetation*

Okia Reserve is in the early stages of benefitting from the natural regeneration of native trees which is encouraging to observe. Less so, is the how close some of the trees and shrubs planted in earlier years have become to the sea; the dune continuing to be carved away during heavy swells, especially in autumn. In fact, some of those plantings have already succumb - this is an active stretch of coastline.

Our planting takes place much further back nowadays and this year we planted at suitable spots identified all over the Reserve, including planting over 100 kahikatea in the wetter areas. Existing newer plantings were released from weeds as part of our after-planting care program and the team increased efforts weed-releasing the much older plantings throughout the Reserve this off-season.

In addition to other plantings by Trust staff, two planting days were held. On 10 June staff from **Dunedin Airport** planted 300 trees. On 23 June another 300 trees were planted by **Otago Polytechnic Horticulture** course students and staff; the students' work again being assessed by their tutor on site towards their course accreditation.

Weeds are a never-ending task and our whole-of-Reserve weed control program continued mostly outside of hoiho season. In addition to the usual weed species, we successfully had a mature sycamore tree, and likely spreader of seed into the Reserve, removed from Riddell Rd, thanks to the **Dunedin City Council** and **Delta**. Also, we were able to progress with elder control throughout the year.

Focussed efforts were made to cut back the relentless encroachment of vegetation (especially lupin and muehlenbeckia) along the whole of the 4WD track and this is now in much better shape for vehicular access around the Reserve.

### *Other*

This year we reviewed and updated the Okia Loop Walk. We had been holding off updating the Loop Walk over the last few years, hoping for some movement on new signage by the Management Committee but increasingly the information in the guided walk leaflet had become tired and outdated.

Where required, the Loop Walk marker posts were replaced, re-sited and/or repainted. The guide/leaflet was rewritten to refresh and rebrand the content, provide up to date health and safety information and wildlife messaging (including viewing guidance) and set expectations and provide information around the ever-shifting beach access.

Other regular tasks carried out around the Reserve include fence maintenance and repairs, creating and maintaining hoiho access tracks, maintaining visitor facilities, tracks and signage and advocacy and compliance work as required.

Beach clean-ups were carried out regularly; Victory beach amasses an increasing amount of rubbish, especially following storm events. Finally, four sea lion pups were born in the Okia pines areas this season.

### *Predator Control*

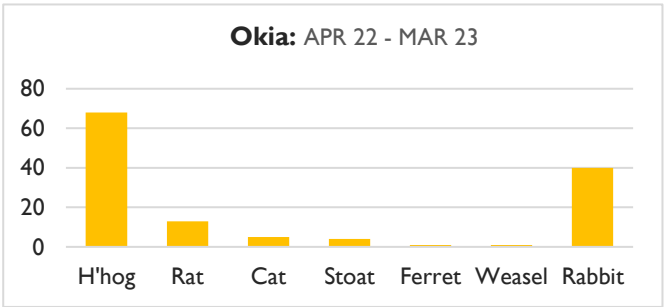
**Dunedin City Council's Task Force Green** members continue their long association with the Trust running some of our trapping lines on the Otago Peninsula during December-June at Okia, Otekiho and Papanui and Hoopers Inlets. Trust staff operated these during July-November and during down periods due to COVID-19 and also carried out maintenance of the trapping access tracks, vegetation-clearance around traps, preparation of bait and general quality control.

In August, 30 unused DOC200BT traps from the **Department of Conservation/Dunedin City Council** community trap bank were put in Okia and the traps they replaced went to Long Point and replaced aging traps for which we otherwise would have had to seek funding.

Live capture cat traps have been set on occasion overnight, albeit with minimal success, and more rabbit control was undertaken by the Trust this year. The Lead Ranger carried out rabbit-shooting sessions when workload allowed. Areas of focus were the south end flats and the Hazel Slope at the north.

As part of their wider possum eradication programme, **Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group** continued to be active in the Reserve with their staff and contractors monitoring traps with transmitters and also targeting specific areas of possum habitat with intensive periods of baiting with pre-feed and trapping throughout the year. In December and January, we made every effort to support their final push for possums but the potential for disturbance to wildlife at a critical time in various species' breeding cycles using the methods proposed was too disruptive.

Finally, all traps were cleaned and serviced in winter and the recorded catch this season totalled 132 pests (excludes OPBG possum control):



**By the numbers...**

Plants planted:	1,195
Predator traps in operation:	113
Tracks maintained:	11,600m
New nest boxes installed:	3

## Otapahi Reserve

### Habitat/Revegetation

Pingao was planted behind the dunes. Fence and gate repairs and improvements were made to reduce incidences of sheep pushing through and vegetation beginning to infringe on fences was cut back. Weed control across the Reserve this year included mallow at Wharekakahu and weeds especially along the trapping line.

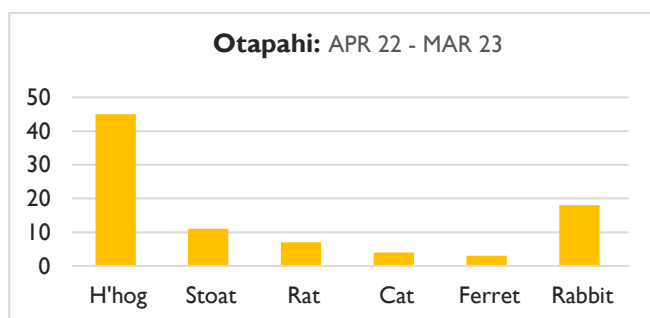
We commenced work on the substantial task of opening up the habitat to improve access for hoiho at Alfred beach, behind the dunes at Cicily beach and the headland between the two beaches. Over winter the team tackled large, well-established lupin and opened up the area so that birds had better access to the native vegetation further in. In these areas, new nest boxes were installed and some of the existing ones repaired and/or repositioned. There is still more work to do here; all scheduled into the work plan.

### Predator Control

We are grateful to **Roy Swailes** and the **NZ Deerstalkers Association** and **Fisher & Paykel** volunteers who continue to carry out trapping every two weeks, apart from during lambing where access is limited.

Some rabbit control was undertaken by the Trust this when the workload allowed. Areas of focus were the headland above Wharekakahu beach and the area above the hide at Alfred beach. Also, Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group operated bait stations for possum control during the year.

All traps were cleaned and serviced in winter and the recorded catch this season totalled 88 pests (excludes OPBG possum control):



### By the numbers...

Plants planted:	480
Predator traps in operation:	45
New nest boxes installed:	4
Existing nest boxes repaired and/or repositioned:	4

## Tavora Reserve

### Habitat/Revegetation

Pingao was planted behind the dunes and harakeke (flax) planted throughout the Reserve this season. In addition, over 200 self-seeded harakeke were beginning to establish just below the macrocarpas at the top of the hill, blown up from the area above the north-end of the beach. Those which were too close to the walking track were relocated.

Existing plantings were spray-released in autumn and combi-guards were removed from the well-established trees. Our weed control program around the rest of the Reserve continued and included control of weeds such as blackberry and banana passionfruit.

Other general tasks around the Reserve included maintaining the walking tracks, car park and information for visitors, checking and assisting removal of stray lambs and repairing gates and fences.

### *Matariki Tu Rākau Planting*

On 14 and 15 September, volunteers, staff, and trustees planted another 570 native trees funded through the **Ministry of Primary Industries'** Matariki Tu Rākau grant, adjacent to last year's plantings. Since 2018 the Matariki Tu Rākau programme has funded 3,130 native trees planted at Tavora.

Matariki Tu Rākau was established in 2018 to provide financial support for memorial tree planting. Originally 'One Billion Trees,' this planting programme was part of a celebration to commemorate the 100th year after World War 1, a nationwide project recognising the service of members of the NZ Defence forces. Mounted on a macrocarpa post, a plaque was erected by the Trust at the first planting site in 2018 to memorialise this.

The native trees selected for planting were seed-sourced directly from site and include: tōtara, kōwhai, mānuka, ngaio, kānuka, lemonwood, cabbage tree, black māpou and broadleaf, all raised for 2-3 years in the Trust's Nursery in Dunedin by staff and volunteers. By the time the trees are ready for planting, many hours of labour have gone into each tree.

Planting success rates are high at Tavora; the soil is rich and well-draining and the micro-climate at Goodwood is favourable. After planting, the trees go into the Trust's weed-control program at the site, and this funding also covers the maintenance costs for each tree for the first three years in the ground.

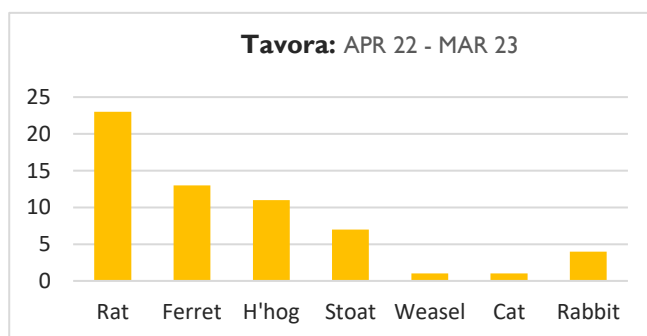
### *Other*

The annual closure of the Reserve took place from 1 November 2022 to 28 February 2023 in order to protect the hoiho breeding there. Unfortunately, as usual, a few individuals breached this notice.

In November a leaking water trough in the paddock adjacent to the track towards the end of the walk soddened the walking track for a couple of weeks, but the aged trough was swiftly replaced by the lessee with a new one.

### *Predator Control*

Checking the trap lines at Tavora was shared between volunteers **Andy and Melissa Moore** and Trust staff this year. All traps were cleaned and serviced in winter and the recorded catch this season totalled 60 pests:



### **By the numbers...**

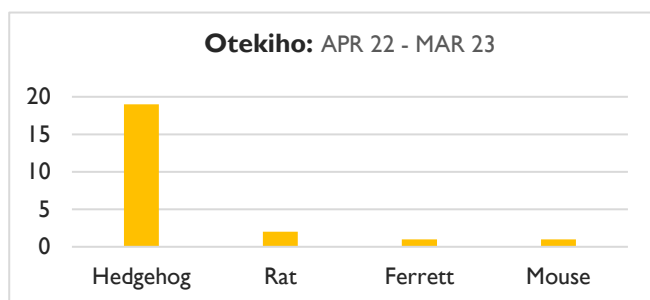
Plants planted:	1,130
Predator traps in operation:	21
Tracks maintained:	2,500m
Existing nest boxes repaired and/or repositioned:	2

## Otekiho

Kororā (little penguin) nest at Otekiho; there is currently no hoiho activity. This season we carried out gorse control, release of recent plantings from weeds and fencing checks as part of our work programme.

### Predator Control

**Dunedin City Council's Task Force Green** members continue to assist with predator trapping at this site for six months of the year. There are 24 predator traps in operation and the recorded catch totalled 23 pests:



## Omihi

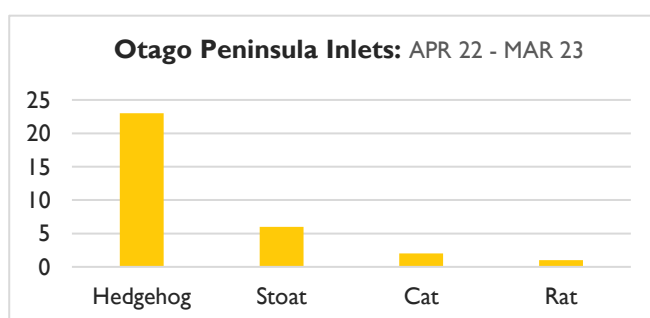
While this is no longer an active hoiho breeding site, the Trust assists with the management of other habitats where hoiho breed or have been found previously. At Omihi we often work together with staff from **Penguin Place**. This season we carried out weed control (mainly gorse), track maintenance (200m) and checked fencing.

### Other Habitats

We continued our relationship with **Cape Saunders Farm** at the southern end of Papanui Beach including carrying out penguin monitoring work and providing advice on predator trapping, however there were no hoiho nests there this season.

Unfortunately, further around the headland, despite much effort, we were unable to obtain landowner permission to carry out a nest search at **Fuchsia Gully** (2 nests 2021/22) and **Dick's Bush** (0 nests 2019/20) this season, although the landowner reported two large adult hoiho present in the latter area in November.

We continue to maintain trap lines around Papanui and Hoopers Inlets, which **Dunedin City Council's Task Force Green** members carry out for six months of the year. There are 23 predator traps in operation and the recorded catch totalled 32 pests:





## Nursery

Fulfilling the Long Point planting plan to plant c.15,000 flax in the coming few years has meant the Nursery exceeded its annual production cap of c.5,000 plants during this year with c.10,500 plants produced: 8,600 flax, 1,900 trees and shrubs.

Some of the later Long Point flax germination has been disappointing, in particular the seed collected in 2022. Of 18 trays sown, most failed to germinate in any great numbers. Older seed was more successful on this occasion it seemed. These flax are now all pricked out and growing in root trainers in the Nursery to be on course for commencement of planting in 2024/2025.

The remaining trees and shrubs produced cover our planting restoration requirements from North Otago to Long Point. Nursery output planted during the reporting period was:

Apr 22-Mar 23	TAVORRA	OTAPAHI	OKIA	LONG POINT	PRIVATE SALES	TOTAL
Trees & shrubs planted:	570	0	845	150*	Various 735	2,300
Flax & pingao planted:	560	480	350	945	Various 250	2,585
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>4,885</b>

\*Another 110 plants donated by B&J O'Callaghan were planted at Long Point LP (not incl. above)

At the Nursery we built upon the improvements made last year removing vegetation by cutting back overhanging trees throughout and thinning out the front hedge in order slow down encroachment into the fence and, more importantly, on to the power lines.

Thanks to a grant from the **Otago Regional Council ECO Fund** towards the Long Point flax production, we replaced some essential nursery equipment: hoses and connections for irrigation, sprinklers heads and watering wands, trolleys and wheelbarrows, tools, and protective gear for volunteers.

The stand-out bays have been reorganised to optimise the benefits of the watering system. A tidy-up resulted in some stock being sold and approximately 550 plants donated to other conservation organisations.

A public Seed-Collecting Workshop was held at the Nursery in May in collaboration with the **Dunedin City Council**, providing the public with an opportunity to learn how to identify and collect seeds and how to process them.

Finally, the high amount of rain in July tested nerves as Baynes's creek (which burst in 2015) rose and rose. While the creek is checked and vegetation cleared regularly, due to the high rainfall, it became a priority concern and at times we were monitoring it almost hourly. It held up and when the water level subsided some further maintenance was required following minor damage.

## Conferences / Symposia

Summarized by Sue Murray

Several meetings and conferences were online this year due to COVID-19, but a couple still managed to go ahead *kanohi ki te kanohi* (face to face).

*Yellow-eyed Penguin Annual Symposium* 6 Aug 2022 was organized by YEPT and DOC. Presentations were contributed to and delivered by YEPT staff on a variety of subjects including population numbers, disease and the Rakiura survey as well as the hoiho strategy and action plan.

Our Nursery Supervisor attended part of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network's Conference in Queenstown in December.

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Penguin Congress in Chile will now proceed from 4 – 8 September 2023. This was postponed from 2022 due to the restrictions of the global pandemic.

## Advocacy and Outreach

Summarized by Sue Murray

### ***Health and Safety***

The year has again been affected by COVID-19 and while the challenges of working within the restrictions of a pandemic continued, we were pleased our policies served us well as we moved into a more-relaxed regime. All staff showed resilience and good sense to work within COVID-19 protocols at all times but special vigilance was displayed during the critical part of the breeding season when we were undertaking hoiho management operations 7-days a week.

While our health and safety plans are updated as soon as an issue is identified, our annual review of the whole suite took place in August.

Again we are pleased to report only minor incidents occurred during the year. In addition to the above, a weekly health and safety system was initiated in winter whereby the whole team comes together and a structured health and safety discussion takes place focussing upon the work in the week ahead.

More generally, new personal protective equipment was purchased for staff and spray gear updated. Also an audit and update of personal locator beacons issues to each Ranger took place and new units purchased.

### ***Iwi consultation***

The Trust continues to build relationships with iwi on all hoiho related matters. Throughout the year presentations were made to **Kaitiaki Roopu Murihiku** (Invercargill) and **O Araiteuru** (Dunedin) and the **Whenua Hou Committee**, and guidance was sought in particular for monitoring and rehabilitation work on Rakiura & Whenua Hou and disease research work and future implications. Trudi continued to liaise with **Yvette-Couch Lewis**, **Tāne Davis**, **Edward Ellison** and **Nadia Wesley-Smith** about collaboration and potential joint funding applications with **papatipu rūnaka**. Trudi also continues to build a solid relationship with **Jill Skerrett** and **Rakiura Māori Lands Trust** in particular, regarding hoiho monitoring and rehabilitation mahi in Rakiura.

## ***Department of Conservation***

The Trust has continued to work closely with the Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai including with the operations teams located at Banks Peninsula | Te Pātaka-a-Rākaihautū, Otago | Ōtepoti, Southland | Murihiku and Stewart Island | Rakiura.

We also work closely with various teams from the National Office including the Mountains to Sea team, Community Fund and Jobs For Nature. We continue to be co-located with DOC Otago | Ōtepoti and enjoy the open working relationship and respect we receive.

We also enjoyed meeting the then **Minister of Conservation, Hon Poto Williams** during her visit to Dunedin where she went on to meet with Wildlife Hospital Dunedin.

## ***Local authority engagement***

The Trust continues to liaise with local authorities at a district and regional level, in particular with the biodiversity team at **Otago Regional Council**.

## ***Community***

**World Ranger Day** (31 July) was celebrated with a shared morning tea with DOC Rangers.

The Trust remains a member of **Predator Free Dunedin** and are always delighted to see the progress they are making with predator control which will ultimately to protect our native biodiversity.

## ***Compliance***

The Trust continues to regularly review the Policy and Procedure Manual, and this year added new policies about corporate engagement and flexible working hours. The Legislative Compliance Policy and Register were again checked.

Anti-money laundering laws have required all trustees to be verified at banking institutes as well as the lawyers, and even to enable us to uplift a wonderful bequest.

Non-Compliance by members of the public at Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Reserves continues to be an issue. Taking an advocacy and educational approach, we continue to work with agencies such as the District Councils in dealing with the very few members of the public who choose not to comply with conditions for protecting wildlife at our reserves. Instances this year include: an unpermitted burn-off metres from a reserve boundary; breaches of the closure at Tavora; breaches of the 'No Dogs' restriction at both Long Pont and Okia and overnight stayers at Long Point.

## ***Events***

This was another year of no events being hosted by the Trust apart from the *Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium* due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

## ***Media***

Several joint media statements were released with **DOC** and **Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu** during the hoiho season. In addition, interviews have been conducted for the **Otago Daily Times** on a range of topics including fishing camera policies, increased hoiho intervention, and diphtheritic stomatitis genomic research, and with **TVOne News** about hoiho foraging around Rakiura.

### ***YEPT newsletters***

The twice-yearly newsletter ***Hoiho*** was produced in both May and November. The Autumn and Spring **Nursery Newsletters** were also produced for the regular donors of the Nursery.

### ***Social media***

The Trust's Administrator **Caitlin Bowie** continues to keep the Trust in the social media channels, particularly Facebook and Instagram, with a large following and interactions.

Monthly, Caitlin manages an Instagram takeover for US-based Sandcloud, a company producing sustainable products and who give back 10% of their profit goes to global organisations to help save marine life.

### ***Other newsletters***

We have continued to regularly contribute to both the Stewart Island News and the Catlins Coast Newsletters throughout the year.

### ***Other advocacy work***

The Trust has regularly presented to social service organisations, educational institutes and others when requested.

Led by **CORE Education's** LEARNZ (Linking Education and Antarctic Research in New Zealand) and the **Dunedin Wildlife Hospital**, we participated with **Penguin Place** and others in the production of virtual online field trips which was launched in NZ schools on 6 March. Targeted at 8–13-year-olds, this is a wide-ranging piece of advocacy with 93% of New Zealand's schools using LEARNZ in their curricula.

The Trust attended a **Marine Science (University of Otago)** careers expo and provided advice to graduate students.

YEPT has built a relationship with **Halfmoon Bay School** and provide environmental advocacy opportunities for students to support hoiho monitoring work in Rakiura.

In February we hosted **Jamie Lafferty**, a writer from Scotland, at Otapahi to assist inform his research of hoiho for inclusion in various articles on penguin conservation and ultimately a book covering all penguin species.

**Southern Hoiho:** During the year, the Trust worked with the new women's basketball team, *Southern Hoiho*, who are playing in the inaugural Tauhihi Basketball Aotearoa League, a women's equivalent of the men's National Basketball League. YEPT staff and volunteers attended local games, handing out information about the feathered hoiho and collecting donations. Various two-legged *Southern Hoiho* members spent time with the Trust painting nest boxes that were then placed in various reserves with the aim of offering nesting places for the endangered hoiho.

## Volunteers

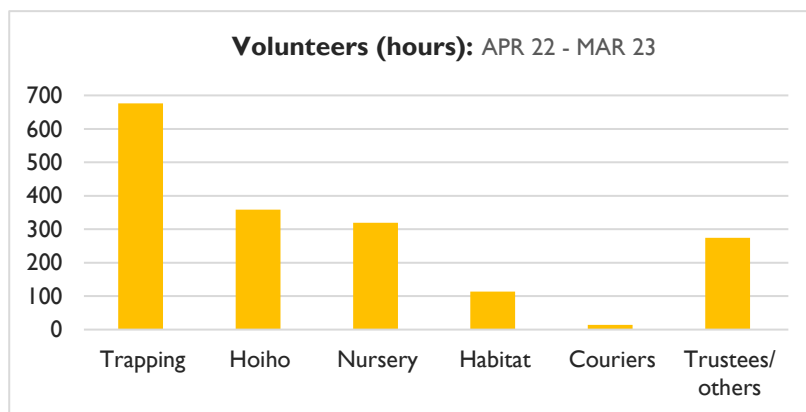
Summarized by Amanda Salt

Volunteers provide essential assistance to the Trust and while some groups have been mentioned already; they all carry out a significant amount of work which we just could not do ourselves. We are extremely grateful for each and every contribution, no matter how small. Once again, this year, our volunteers have assisted us in the many areas of our work, such as: governance, habitat, nursery, predator trapping, hoiho monitoring, transportation, and administration.

We are also thankful for the flexibility and understanding shown by our volunteers during some (albeit minor) disruption this year again with COVID-19 restrictions. We continued to operate in accordance with our COVID-19 Protection Policy in order to provide a safe working environment for volunteers, staff and the public.

On 12 December we held our annual 'thank-you' BBQ for all volunteers at the Trust's Nursery.

The total volunteer effort for April 2022-March 2023 was 1,756 hours (1,627 hours 2021-2022):



### ***Nursery Volunteers***

We are ever grateful to the Nursery volunteers for their ongoing work growing thousands of trees and shrubs which are planted at reserves from North Otago to the Catlins, noting that this year, many of those plants have been flaxes for our ambitious planting plans at Long Point in the coming years.

On Wednesday mornings the Nursery is filled with willing volunteers working and enjoying friendship while swapping stories and enjoying shared baking and a pot of tea or two. Without them, the Nursery output would be much reduced.

### ***Penguin Courier Volunteers/Transporters***

Our volunteer penguin transporters continued to be available to assist us, **Department of Conservation, Penguin Place** and the **Wildlife Hospital Dunedin** in transporting sick and injured penguins while staff are deployed on critical hoiho management tasks. As the number of birds requiring transportation due to disease especially increases, the Trust's staff members have increasingly been carrying this sensitive work and providing the necessary medical care throughout journey.

### ***Work Placements***

As well as undertaking a research project **Maddie van der Plas** (Wildlife Management student, **University of Otago**), also worked with the Rangers in the field to obtain hands-on experience of the management of hoiho in the wild.

The Trust's longstanding relationship with the **Southern Institute of Technology** continues and each year a student studying Environmental Management from SIT travels to Rakiura to assist Sandy with hoiho monitoring.

## Funding

Summarized by Sue Murray

### Founding Sponsor

The Trust has continued to be supported by the Mainland Brand (natural cheese & butter) owned by **Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd**, and a further contract for three more years sponsorship was signed during the year. This unique sponsorship which began in 1989, continues to strengthen and even more so now thanks to the visit from several senior staff. In November 2022 we were delighted to host Kate Hughes (Fonterra Brands Group Marketing Manager-Cheese & Spreads), Rosie Cotton (Head of Sustainability and Community) and Manisha Abeysekera (Mainland Marketing Manager) who all enjoyed an early morning trip to see hoiho at one of our reserves, learn about plant propagation at the Trust's nursery, followed by brunch with other trustees, and ending with a workshop to look at how to better leverage the partnership moving forward.

### Grants

Name	Grant received	Purpose
<b>Department of Conservation:</b>		
• <b>Jobs For Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao (2021 - 2023)</b>	\$422,000 (total grant)	Announced in June, this grant gives stability for two existing staff (1.5 FTE) and increase of a further two staff (1.5 FTE) for two years.
• <b>Community Fund (2019 - 2022)*</b>	\$312,180 (total grant)	Continued to support the Operations Manager and Ranger (Catlins) positions
• <b>Mountains to Sea</b>	\$12,200	Additional costs for the Rakiura hoiho monitoring programme in 2021/22
<b>Clutha District Council</b>	\$2,000	From their Clutha Development fund, gathered through a visitor levy
<b>Dunedin City Council</b>	\$15,000	Contribution to annual costs of Okia Reserve
	\$650	From the Biodiversity Fund - Traps for Okia Reserve
<b>Otago Community Trust</b>	\$20,000	Equipment for penguin monitoring
<b>Otago Regional Council ECO Fund</b>	\$17,091	Nursery costs 'Planting for Penguins'
<b>Te Uru Rakau / Ministry of Forestry</b>	\$9,998	Trees and shrubs to continue the slope stabilisation work at Tavora Reserve
<b>WWF Community Fund</b>	\$15,000	In support of the Operations Manager position in 2023

\* **The DOC Community Fund grant** finished in October 2022, a grant that enabled the Trust to employ both the Operations Manager and a Catlins Ranger for three years. YEPT is indebted to DOC for this support and recognition that salaries are often so difficult to have externally funded. Our sincere thanks.

Following Dave's departure in December, along with the duties, the 20 hours-a-week JFN funding for the Long Point Project Manager role transferred to the Operations Manager position for the remaining months.

### ***Donations Received***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Donation received</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Bird Shirts</b>	\$1093 from sales of their product	General purposes
<b>Block Dock</b>	\$2,040 from sales of their product	General purposes
<b>City Forests</b>	Annual donation	Science Advice
<b>Distinction Hotel</b>	Free carparking	Trust Board Chair
	Manage key to a 4WD used by YEPT volunteers	Central point of contact for pick up/drop off vehicle
<b>Dunedin Airport</b>	\$5,000	General purposes
<b>Gus Griffin</b>	\$1314 donation from sponsoring him to run the Marathon	General purposes
<b>Galloway Cook Allan</b>	\$2300 from a Silent Auction	General Purposes
<b>Jen South, Dog Rescue Dunedin</b>	More animal carrying cages were donated	Transportation of sick or injured penguins
<b>Mamaku Point Charitable Trust</b>	Donated considerable time to construct a storage shed and add plumbing at the new hoiho rehab facility at Mamaku Point. As well as providing accommodation for YEPT staff and supporting operations by covering electricity costs.	
<b>Noopii®</b>	Percentage from sales of nappy packs	General purposes
<b>Penguin Fund of Japan</b>	Annual donation	General purposes



<b>Penguin Place</b>	15 A-frame nesting boxes	The boxes were placed across our Reserves in winter 2022.
	Fish (silverside)	Rehabilitation on Rakiura
<b>Penguin Rescue</b>	Fish (sprat)	Feeding chicks at the nest
<b>Sandcloud (USA)</b>	~\$6000 from Instagram takeovers and Giving Tuesday donation	General purposes
<b>Sanford's (Kaitangata)</b>	Salmon smolt	Feeding chicks at the nest and in the soft release pens
<b>Schools</b>	Various fundraising campaigns	General purposes
<b>Solander Gourmet Seafoods (Nelson)</b>	Anchovies and sardines	Feeding chicks at the nest and in the soft release pens
<b>Southern Insulation (Ian Hamilton)</b>	\$2000	Traps for Long Point
<b>Top 10 Holiday Park</b>	\$5,954 from various fundraisers and donation boxes	General purposes
<b>University of Otago (Zoology Department)</b>	Loan of 10 trail cameras	For monitoring hoiho on Whenua Hou, Rakiura and Otago Peninsula
<b>Woodland Eggs (owned by Zeagold)</b>	fresh eggs (when available!)	Predator control

To our **regular supporters**, and those of the **Coffee Club** and **Donate-a-Tree** schemes, our sincere thanks. Your regular donations are really appreciated.

The **online portal, Swipe** attracts regular donations, regularly quite large donations, for which we are extremely grateful. These donations are often from international people interested in our work and hoiho.

**Several members** have generously gifted **large donations** to the Trust during the year, and again, we are extremely grateful for this support. Some of these donations were gifted in someone else's name for their celebration, some on a loved one's passing. We are always grateful of these donations that support our work.

### ***Estates***

Legacies for the financial year 01 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 amounted to almost \$296,000.

The generosity of these donations continues to assist the Trust in maintaining a secure financial position.

We sincerely acknowledge estate donations from R W Farrant, M Rider, N Johnstone, E M Jenkins, and S Coombs.

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

## Donations to other organisations

### **Penguin Place**

This year we donated 470 plants (surplus to YEPT's requirements) to Penguin Place for restoration projects. They were delighted with these and now want to purchase some others next winter should we have surplus.

70 trees and flaxes were donated to **Project Kererū** in June.

50 native trees were loaned to **Te Rūnanga ō Ōtakou** for decoration of the marae as Ngāi Tahu hosted Waitangi Day celebrations on 6 Feb.

## Personnel

### **Staff in 2022/23**

Sue Murray, General Manager (1.0FTE)  
Amanda Salt, Operations Manager (1.0FTE)  
Trudi Webster, Conservation Science Advisor (1.0FTE)  
David McFarlane, Long Point Projects Manager (0.5FTE), retired December 2022  
Ben Goldsworthy, Ranger (1.0FTE)  
Caitlin Bowie, Administrator (0.7FTE)  
Louise Ashton, Nursery Supervisor (0.5FTE)  
Max Harvey, Ranger-Technical (1.0FTE)  
Cat Lea, Ranger-Hoiho (1.0FTE)  
Euan Whitton, Ranger (1.0FTE)  
Sandy King, Rakiura (Contractor)

### **Staff Retirement**

In December 2022, the Trust farewelled David McFarlane who retired after 19 years working for the Trust. Over these years David held a few roles which started in 2003 when he became the Trust's first ever Ranger, then in 2006 stepping up to the role of Field Officer (later renamed Field Manager), and finally a couple of years ago moving into a part-time role project managing the development of Long Point / Irahuka. The Trust acknowledges David's commitment to the Trust, his dedication to help hoiho and his comradeship with trustees, staff, and volunteers as well as associates of the Trust's.

The Trust is currently recruiting for a new General Manager as, after 24 years at the Trust, **Sue Murray** is retiring at the end of September 2023. We are fortunate to have considerable lead in time for recruitment and handover for this vital position.

### **Staff Training**

Several staff members have updated the necessary certification for their respective roles, or undertaken new training e.g. Outdoor First Aid, 4-Wheel Drive and Hoiho Transponder Insertion training.

### **Trustees**

During the year we farewelled Meg Houseman (Emerging Leader Trustee 2019) who moved offshore. We were delighted to welcome four new trustees to the Board, giving us a full table as outlined in the Constitution: Luke Gardener (YEPT's first Emerging Leader trustee in 2013), Vicki Crosbie, and two new Emerging Leader Trustees Gus Griffin and Jenna Sinclair.

The remainder of the Board members continue to provide effective governance to the Trust. I thank my fellow trustees for their dedication: Abby Clarke, Euan Kennedy, Helen Dent, Hoani Langsbury, Lala Frazer, Margaret Murrell, Murray Brass, Olaf Nilsen, Peter Simkins, and Tim Mephram.

This year, trustee and treasurer **Tim Mephram** was voted onto Otago Regional Council. We congratulate him and wish him well in local government politics.

### **Bereavements**

The Trust acknowledges the passing of associates through the year, a loss to the penguin and conservation community.

We belatedly acknowledge the passing of **Alastair Marshall** who died in August 2021. He is the father of Emily who was tragically killed in 2012, and in her memory the family contributed a substantial donation to dedicate an area of development at Tavora Reserve in her name.

Seabird expert and founder of the West Coast Penguin Trust, **Kerry-Jayne Wilson**, passed away on 29 March 2022. She was an ecologist, natural historian and author who dedicated her life to conserving the natural world and connecting people with science and the outdoors. Although her first encounter with penguins was seeing hoiho on Otago Peninsula at the age of 8, her later years were focused on the Little Penguin and the formation of the West Coast Penguin Trust. In 2019, she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to seabird conservation.

**Nigel Babbage**, Founder of the Mohua Charitable Trust died suddenly in October 2022. Nigel was a great supporter of YEPT's conferences, and it was through him that we received a substantial bequest that was given to another Trust on the proviso that a portion be given to 'help save hoiho'.

**Patricia, Lady Mark QSO**, better known to most people as Pat, died peacefully on 7 February 2023. Pat was a YEPT Trustee from 1995 – 2018 and remained a sub-committee member after that. She and her husband Sir Alan are well known conservationists, dedicating their lives to protecting the natural world. Pat chaired the Tavora Reserve Management Committee and spent many hours in the reserve, and at other habitats, planting, weeding and just generally enjoying these unique areas. She was also well versed in advocacy trips to Wellington to meet Ministers or funders. In 2021 she and Sir Alan made a significant donation to further develop Long Point. Pat leaves behind a legacy of passion, commitment, and dedication to conservation and hoiho.

Earlier in March, trustees and staff held a private memorial to Pat at Tavora Reserve where, during a minute's silence, a hoiho could be heard calling.

In April there will be a private family gathering to reveal a plaque and memorial seat, and the planting of some native trees and shrubs on Bobby's Head itself. This will be followed by the official public celebration of her life hosted at the University of Otago.

## Conclusion

As you will have read in the previous pages, the Trust's staff and volunteers have again risen to the challenges of the hoiho conservation programme.

In order to do this our work programme has remained nimble to face the various issues that arise. Our past experiences in these various issues have helped us deliver the hoiho conservation programme to a high standard. The constant evolution and development of how we work, putting into practice the knowledge we have gathered and with more tools in the toolbox, has helped address the ground work so vital for this species and we are now seeing positive results from these efforts.

Thank you to everyone for this effort to get us to this point.

I hope this Annual Report meets the expectations of its readers, and all contributors to the Trust's work.

Nga mai



**Eric J. Shelton**  
**Chair**