

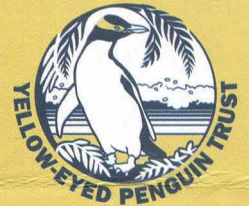
SPECIAL 20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION!

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST NEWS

November 2007

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Valuing people's commitment to conserving the biodiversity of our coastal environment, focusing on the yellow-eyed penguin



New habitat purchase confirmed

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20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
*Almost an Island:
Valuing Otago Peninsula*

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Help save our Yellow-eyed penguins!

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Vodafone launches a new scheme - Donateline!

- PAGE 8

The last few months have been a particularly hectic time at the Trust, and so this newsletter contains fewer articles, and is published later than usual. Other stories can be found on our website which is updated regularly, so keep an eye out for more happenings there.

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New habitat purchase is confirmed

'We can't do it all on our own. We need community trusts like this one. What a vision they had 20 years ago. It is a great partnership.'

The Honourable Steve Chadwick



Finally, after months of negotiations, we have at last purchased a new habitat. And it is all thanks to you, our members! What makes it doubly exciting is that we are able to combine the announcement with our 20th Anniversary celebrations.

from the Community Trust of Otago and Dunedin Branch Forest & Bird. The \$450,000 raised by the Trust is a tangible indication of the importance we all attribute to acquiring this land.

The local DOC Otago Conservancy contributed a huge amount of logistical, mapping and technical advice. The new area is complex, but together with existing DOC reserves will see a 12km strip of coastline protected. This will give birds and plants uninterrupted protection and the ability to colonize adjacent areas unhindered. This joint purchase would not have been possible without this collaborative approach with the Department, and the Trust sincerely acknowledges their role in this purchase.

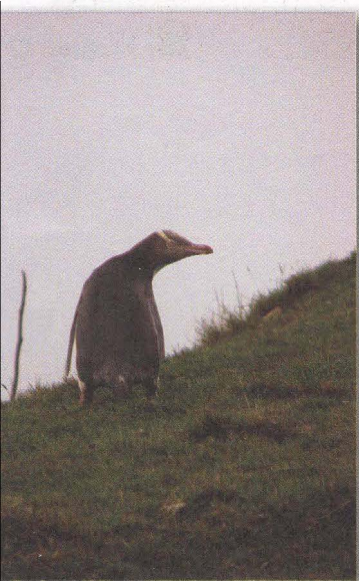
Long Point in the Catlins is on a stunning stretch of the Otago coastline. A nest search just completed in early November confirmed the area purchased contains over 48 pairs of breeding yellow-eyed penguins. This represents more than 10% of the entire population of penguins on mainland New Zealand (2006 – 462 pairs).

This coastal jewel has significant natural values as well as being a prime penguin nesting habitat. It also supports NZ fur seals, NZ sea lions, numerous seabird species, rare coastal plant communities, small remnants of native forest, and an archaeological site.

The Trust and the Minister of Conservation's Nature Heritage Fund have jointly purchased this land as equal partners. The Trust has contributed their half through the support of our membership, and two significant pledges

The farmers we bought the land from, have shown real empathy to the Trust and their wish to protect the biodiversity in the area has been as great as ours. As we walked the various areas and negotiated boundaries, it was often the farmers who suggested an extension to a boundary to allow for the penguins to move naturally into remnant bush areas. We are excited about having their involvement on the management committee in the future.

This once in a lifetime opportunity was advertised for sale in January 2006, and brought to our attention by several people, including one of our dedicated volunteers, Gaileen Ross. What then proceeded was 22



months of negotiations and discussions with the land agents, vendors (the whole farm in the meantime changed hands), government departments, advisory bodies, associate groups, sponsors and you our members. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support (and then patience) shown by everyone as the negotiations took time to conclude. Rest assured we will do everything we can to protect and manage this coastline for future generations.

Access to part of this land will remain restricted to maximize the protection of our endangered species and coastal biodiversity. The Trust has a long history in significant conservation achievements and we believe that between us, the Department, the farmers and the local community we will achieve many more significant conservation achievements on this stretch of the Catlins Coast.



'It's about the penguins.'



Minister announces Long Point purchase

We are thrilled to share with you our memories of a very special day – Tuesday the 27 November was the day the Minister of Conservation, the Hon Steve Chadwick publicly announced the land purchased at Long Point (Catlins) to invited guests and the media.

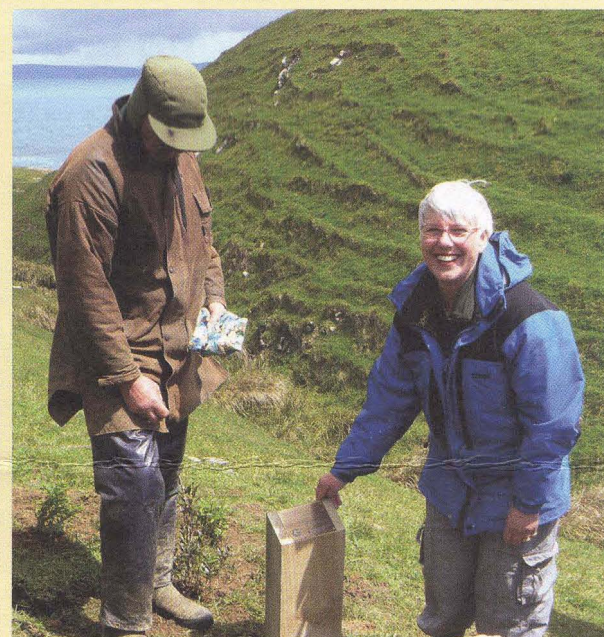
"This has been my first unveiling and I can't think of a better place to start", said the Minister, also adding that it was impressive to see a group of people work

towards finding a landowner to participate, and through co-operation with DOC, establish a safe haven "for the protection of a very vulnerable species".

The day was shared by a gathering of YEPT trustees and staff, DOC staff, Clutha District Council reps including Mayor Juno Hayes, the farmers, the press (radio, television and print reps), and YEPT invited supporters.

What a day to remember for us all – at times we basked in sunshine, and at others the Minister was trying to speak while hail blew into her mouth! The penguins (viewed discretely from a distance) performed on queue – swimming, basking in the weather, sitting on nests and even a juvenile stood around and curiously watched us as we tried to get good views of it.

We look forward to keeping you updated as management plans are developed in the future.



Land owner, Max helps the Honourable Steve Chadwick, Minister of Conservation, with her first plaque unveiling.



The Minister with founding Trustee, Lala Frazer



The Minister with DOC Otago Conservator, Jeff Connell.

'This has been my first unveiling and I can't think of a better place to start.'

Commemorative planting at Long Point / Irihuka
by Hon Steve Chadwick MP
Minister of Conservation

27 NOVEMBER 2007

A joint project between
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust & Department of Conservation

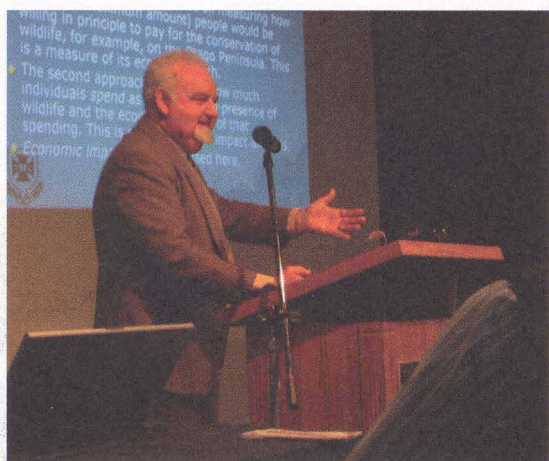


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

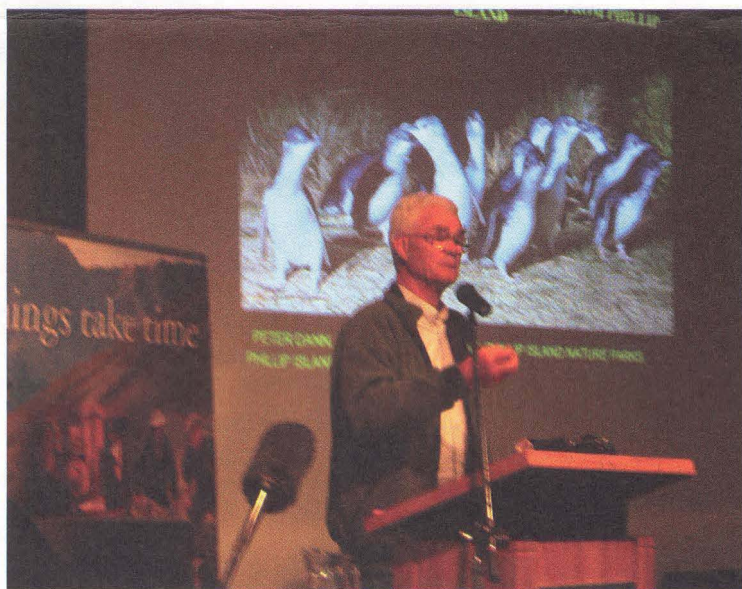
20th Birthday Conference Almost An Island . . .Valuing Otago Peninsula



Registration desk – Alan White (DOC Biodiversity Fund Manager) and YEPT trustees Karen Hartshorn & Margaret Murrell



Keynote speaker Professor Clem Tisdell, Emeritus in Economics from the University of Queensland



John Darby, penguin researcher

It was fitting that the Trust should celebrate its 20th birthday by organizing a conference on the value of the biodiversity on the Otago Peninsula, because that is where the Trust started. It was where John Darby shocked local residents belonging to the Save The Otago Peninsula Inc Soc with his prediction that, given the high predation rate of yellow-eyed penguin chicks, by 2020 we would no longer see those birds we took for granted waddling up our beaches. That message inspired residents to set up this, the first NZ single species trust. The Otago Peninsula is where two of the first Trust-owned coastal habitats are located and where we first put into practice our philosophy of ecosystem rehabilitation, to benefit all coastal fauna – as well as the yellow-eyed penguin.

Environmental economist Professor Clem Tisdell, as keynote speaker, compared his first study of the economics of wildlife tourism on Otago Peninsula undertaken 20 years ago with today. The number of people visiting commercial wildlife operations on the Peninsula has swelled from approximately 14,500 people in 1986 to an estimated 250,000 plus in 2006. He estimated that as a result of albatross and penguin tourism, expenditure of over \$100 million annually is generated in the Dunedin regional economy (directly or indirectly) and that 800-1000 full-time equivalent jobs are created.

He estimated each albatross pair is worth \$1.66 million on their tourism related value alone. But, the fastest growth was in visitor participation in viewing yellow-eyed penguins. Whereas this was minimal in 1987 (and was dwarfed by the viewing of the albatross), viewing yellow-eyed penguins was the major tourist wildlife activity on the Peninsula in 2006.

Prof Tisdell noted, however, that the value of conserving biodiversity on the Peninsula exceeds its touristic and its economic value. Some conservation organizations (such as the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust), though not directly involved in tourism, add to its economic value as well as its social value and promote the highly desired goal of conserving biodiversity.

“[Biodiversity conservation] caters for the demand of those who would like to see the continuing existence of the yellow-eyed penguin on the Otago Peninsula in a natural state, who want to retain the option of interacting with it in the future, and who would wish to make it available to future generations as a bequest for them to enjoy.”

Prof Richard Holdaway stressed the biodiversity that has already been lost, with special reference to the fossil records and the moa, while Dr Peter Johnson warned that whereas most of the Otago Peninsula



City Mayor Peter Chin

in pre-human times would have been bush covered, today only 5.2% retains any native forest or scrub (Johnson 1982). Moreover there are few of the podocarps of the past in those remnants. While some native silver and red tussock remains on coastal headlands, most of Otago Peninsula is now grassland of introduced pasture plants and the dune cover of pingao, grading inland to flaxland, scrub and native forest has largely now been replaced by marram grass, grading inland to scrub of tree lupin and elder. Of the plants remaining, 2 are Nationally Endangered; 15 are Chronically Threatened, 15 are At Risk (5 of which now remain in only one location) and another 5 could also be at risk but are data deficient. This makes protection and enhancement of their habitats even more urgent.

Bruce McKinlay from DoC had analysed statistics of the vertebrate animals on the Peninsula which also highlighted potential threats to the continued existence of some.

Dr Keith Probert exposed with stunning photographs the largely unseen marine biodiversity surrounding the Otago Peninsula. He too highlighted threats, some of which will undoubtedly impact on the marine mammals and the sea birds that rely on that environment for food.

Several speakers gave a wildlife eco-tourism view, all stressing the importance of quality and the integrity of the experience rather than quantity, if it is to be sustainable.

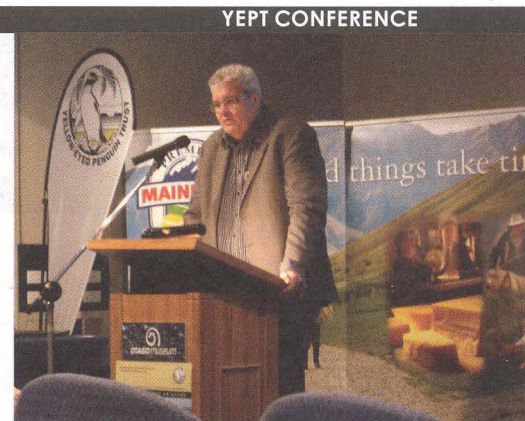
Tahu Potiki of the Otakou Runanga made a rousing plea for a Maori perspective, particularly in tourism. The Kai Tahu ki Otago sponsored booklet on "Managing Biodiversity on the Otago Peninsula Booklet"

was available to delegates.

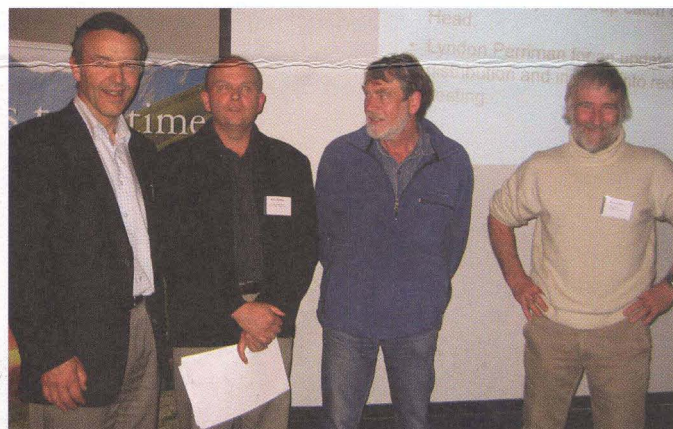
A number of speakers stressed that an important feature of the Otago Peninsula is its high degree of natural biodiversity within a small geographical area. Several speakers including Dr Bill



Howard McGrouther of Penguin Place



Tahu Potiki, Chairperson of the Otakou Runanga



Session speakers Dr Keith Probert (Head of the Department of Marine Science at the University of Otago), Bruce McKinlay (DOC Otago), Dr Peter Johnson (botanist) and Dr Ian Turnbull (Geologist with GNS Science)



Marion van der Goes (Community Relations Manager, DOC Otago), Fergus Sutherland (Catlins Wildlife Trackers) and Jeff Connell (DOC Otago Conservator)



Aalbert Rebergen (Biodiversity Officer, Otago Regional Council) and Matt Harcombe (Federated Farmers)

*'Thank you to the
Yellow-eyed Penguin
Trust for a very
professional focused
conference.'*



Lee, Dr Colin Meurk and Alan Saunders gave suggested blueprints for ways that this could be capitalized on and Neville Peat suggested that the aim should be to get World Heritage Status, possible within 10 years.

The concluding session gave a unanimous vote for all the interested parties (local bodies, tourism operators and conservation

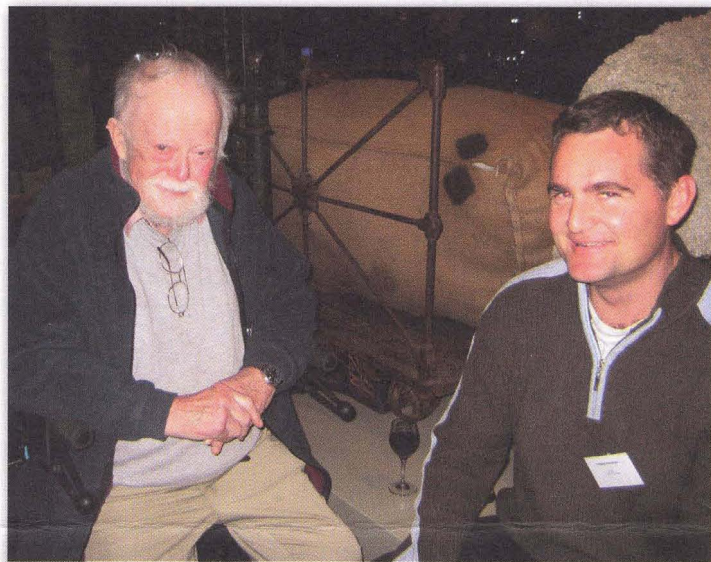
*'Congratulations...
In my view it was one of the best
organized conferences
I have attended'*

organizations) to join together and explore how best to ensure that the biodiversity of this "almost an island" is valued, protected and enhanced.

The Trust has had numerous people congratulating us on such a successful event. We would like to thank all those that contributed to and worked behind the scenes to make it such a memorable event. Details of the proceedings can be found on our website and a DVD will be made available.



Session speakers Neville Peat (nature writer & interpreter), Prof John Jillett (Chair of Otago Peninsula Trust), Anne Cheng (Planning Policy Manager at Dunedin City Council), Debbie Hogan (Policy Planner, Dunedin City Council) and Dr Peter Dann (Phillip Island Nature Park, Victoria, Australia)



Alan Wright (YEPT trustee) and Lyndon Perriman (DOC Coastal Otago)

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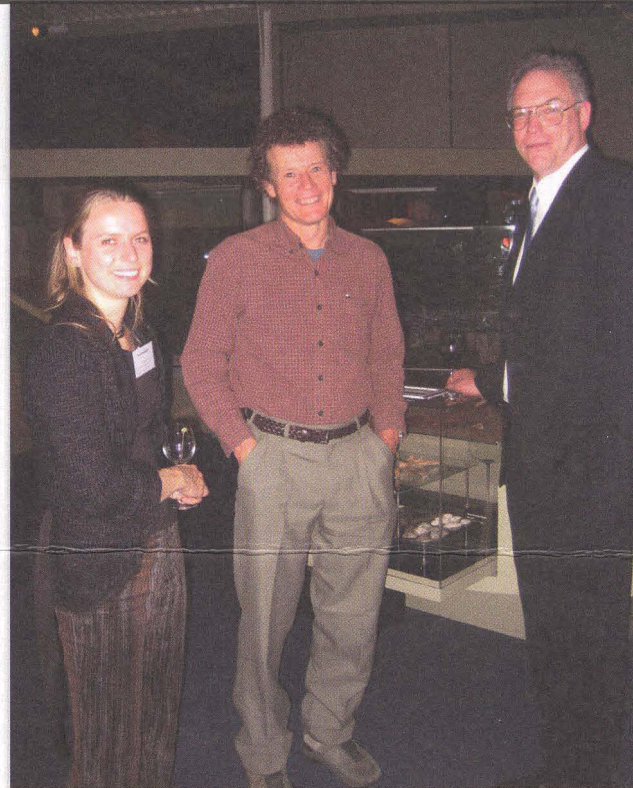
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Conference dinner – top table



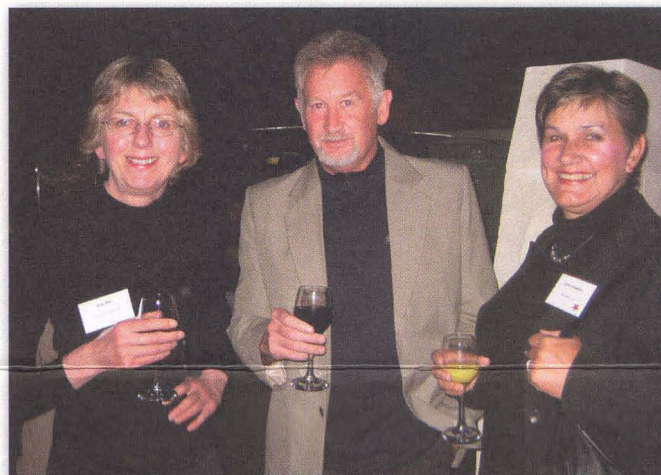
Bruce McKinlay (DOC Otago), Sue Murray (YEPT Executive Officer), Alan Saunders (Director of the Pacific Invasives Initiative), Stephen Buckingham (Mainland Brand Manager)



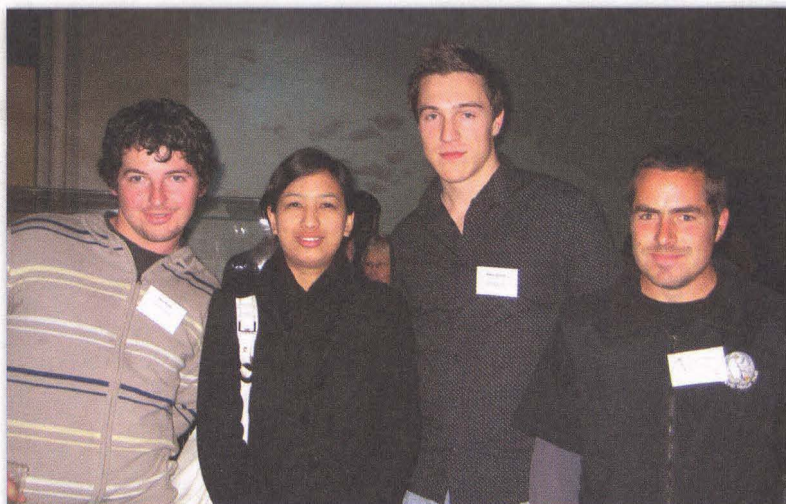
Sanne Boessenkool (researcher, University of Otago), Graham Loh (DOC Coastal Otago), Prof Richard Holdaway (private researcher & Joint Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and School of Biological Sciences)



Alan White (DOC Biodiversity Fund Manager), and YEPT trustees Peter Simkins & Pat Mark



Tessa Mills (Marine Studies Centre, University of Otago) with Brian and Lesley Templeton of Elm Wildlife Tours



2007 Vodafone graduates Nick Morten, Anu Shrestha and Alistair Poolman talk to YEPT Ranger Leith Thomson



The clean-up!

Many thanks to...

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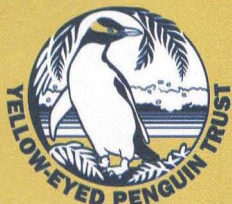
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Thank you to:

All the Landowners who have contributed to our habitat protection work.



Help save our Yellow-eyed penguins!

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You'll receive a TXT taking you to a free-to-browse Vodafone *live!* page



WOW! Vodafone have chosen us.....

The Trust was thrilled to be chosen again by Vodafone as a charity of their choice in their latest scheme 'Donate*live!*', a Vodafone based donation platform. This service has been created by the 2007 Graduates as part of the Vodafone Graduate Programme.

The Trust's patron, Anton Oliver, said of our community group "In my role as Patron of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust I hope to encourage youth to actively support their conservation work to help save the endangered yellow-eyed penguin".

What better way to get youth involved than through this exciting new pilot scheme being launched by Vodafone – a scheme revolving around technology that nearly every young New Zealander uses.

Assisting Vodafone are technology whizzes Run The Red, who make the scheme actually work. On Vodafone Donate*live!* customers can see information about our Trust and the work we are doing. Users can donate \$3, \$5 or \$9 and in return receive multimedia content downloaded directly to their phone. Content includes yellow-eyed penguin ringtones, screensavers and videos. 100% of the donations will come to the Trust.

This new initiative was launched to the public on October 11 in conjunction with our 20th Anniversary and is available for an initial three month period.

"We are really thrilled to be able to use our technology to create an interactive way for customers to support a charitable organisation," says Raphael Hilbron, Head of Corporate Responsibility at Vodafone, "We are also proud to introduce a donation initiative which has never been used in New Zealand before."

The Trust was delighted to host the graduate team in Dunedin for the launch of this new scheme – Lauren McKinnon, Juliette Campbell, Alistair Poolman, Anu Shrestha, Briar Rowe and Nick Morten. They were a terrific group to work with who showed a genuine interest in all aspects of our conservation work. They joined in with the potting up of plants at the Nursery to get that first hand experience of what the donations



Anita Pillai, YEPT Nursery co-manager, talks to Vodafone 2007 Graduates, Anu Shrestha, Juliette Campbell, Alistair Poolman, Briar Rowe, Nick Morten, and Lauren McKinnon.

would be assisting in the future. Local Otago Peninsula farmer and eco-tourism operator, Sam Neill, took them on a guided tour of the peninsula and to view the penguins, and the following day the graduates stayed on and joined us at our 20th Anniversary Conference.

'We are thrilled to be able to use our technology to create an interactive way for customers to support a charitable organisation.'