

# Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Annual Report 2016/17

Reporting period 01 April 2016 – 28 March 2017



It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Trust's activities for the year 2016-2017. We are halfway through our Strategic Plan 2016-2018 and it is apt that this year's Annual Meeting be held in our new, bespoke, premises sub-leased from the Department of Conservation. The year was marked by our determination to produce conservation effort enough to respond to the demands of another very poor breeding season. The details of this effort follow:

## Conservation Science Advisor

As announced at last year's Annual Meeting, one of the Trust's strategic aims was to have science guide our work, and the appointment of Dr Trudi Webster in February 2016 saw this come to fruition thanks to funding from both Otago Regional Council and Otago Museum following the introduction of this idea from the Mayor of Dunedin Dave Cull. During the year, Trudi was appointed as an Honorary Fellow at Marine Science, University of Otago and was invited to be a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Penguin Specialist Group.

Trudi's work has seen her concentrating in particular on:

- Research and writing for the literature review on the terrestrial and marine threats facing YEPs and recommendations for the future.
- Ongoing investigation into the unexplained YEP mortalities this year, in particular regarding the environment (e.g. river flows, temp, sunshine hours) before, during and after each event to look for consistencies and anomalies.
- Liaison with students about various research projects occurring this year.
- Monitoring and delivery of optimal species management.
- Specific Otago Museum related tasks.

## Yellow-eyed penguins / Hoiho

This year, in response to the continuation of very poor breeding figures, we operated at a single- bird level of intervention.

It was exceptionally busy, particularly as we have been more hands-on and have been down on staff (no YEP or habitats rangers). Overall, during our regular nest monitoring at YEPT reserves and other sites we found similar numbers of nests to last season. Unmarked adults and juveniles were transpondered as well as chicks. Chicks were typically of a reasonable

weight, but anything that was < 5kg prior to fledging was brought in to rehab for supplementary feeding. Juveniles have been sighted at most YEPT sites, which has not been seen in recent years. Diphtheria was an issue at the Tavora site (consistent with what was found at Moeraki), but was found in only a few chicks at Otapahi and Omihi. There was no evidence of disease in the Catlins or Stewart Island.

There were 9 deaths between 21 Jan and 10 February that were consistent with the Mass Mortality Events (MME) seen in 1989/90 and 2012/13. Birds were found on the Otago Peninsula at Boulder Beach, in the Catlins at Hina Hina and Penguin Bay and in North Otago at Moeraki. Most were adults but for the first time a chick was found with the same symptoms. 7 of the birds received post-mortems and 5 of these exhibited massive destruction of red blood cells (2 others were too decomposed to draw any conclusions). Symptoms and the spread of the cases are thought to be consistent with a toxin (either natural or anthropogenic).

Moulting checks are occurring at YEPT sites to identify birds that may not have been picked up during nest searches. Any pre-moult or mid-moult birds deemed to be underweight are also pulled in for rehabilitation.

The 'pop-up' penguin hospital treated many more penguins than last year, 43 compared to 18. Potentially this is due to increased vigilance at our sites and research that is occurring at other sites e.g. Penguin Bay, Nugget Point. Typical injuries seen are lacerations to the feet and lower body thought to be from barracouta (which are found inshore during Jan-March) and bite wounds (e.g. from sharks). Penguin Place has been extremely busy rehabilitating injured or underweight birds. YEPT staff and volunteers have provided much coordination and support for the pick-up, transfer and release of birds that have undergone treatment. The hospital was funded from the balance of donations from the 2015 'Urgent Appeal' and substantial donations from the Southern Community Panel of NZ Oil and Gas.

Soft release is being trialled this year for the first time for chicks picked up in the Catlins which have undergone rehabilitation in Dunedin. A secure enclosure has been constructed in Area 2 at Long Point for this purpose and YEPT staff have undergone training on feeding and soft-release techniques. The process is supported by DOC Murihiku and Awarua iwi. The soft release of birds in the Catlins is logistically challenging, but we are hoping that it will be successful and a better outcome for the chicks.

This season saw a repeat of the Catlins 5-year survey which the Trust again supported with staff hours and vehicles. The overall survey was organised by DOC Murihiku.

The Trust's Wildlife Permit for staff and designated persons to uplift and transport yellow-eyed penguins was approved by DOC.

A small group of volunteers particularly Juliette Parsons and husband Ian, transport yeps from where they are being held after being picked up from the beach to the 'pop-up' Penguin Hospital for veterinary care, a rehab facility, or to the airport.

Sanfords Fishing from Timaru donated 500kg of silverside in case it was needed this season. This provided reassurance to our rehabilitation providers.

## **Habitats**

### ***Long Point***

The plans for a workbase have been finalized by Brenda Reading, Apex Design, Oamaru, however, it was unanimously agreed that external funding was required before this could proceed. Clinton O'Brien of Recreation Construction Ltd has agreed to project manage this development. Discussions were held with the Otago Polytechnic about their building students constructing the work base on site in Dunedin and then transporting it to Long Point. The Trust has also met with Clutha District Council to update them of our plans.

The Long Point Irahuka Advisory Group met in November where a number of issues were discussed, specifically how locals were reacting to our plans for a workbase and the possibility of a Marine Reserve being established.

The annual planting day with Fonterra Edendale was held in May, extending the plant numbers in the head of Manuka Beach.

The reserve has been used by various companies filming for national and international purposes, for which each has made a donation to the Trust.

Many thanks again to Roy Johnstone and Jim Young from Forest and Bird South Otago Branch for continuing to monitor trap lines on and around the reserve. In the future all our trapping tunnels will only be located on our land. Thanks to a grant from the Clutha District Council, more traps are being installed as time allows. These include DOC 250s and DOC 200s as well as some Steve Allan traps, for stoats, ferrets, cats and rats.

### ***Okia Reserve***

The final bach was demolished in March with help from the Dunedin City Council's Task Force Green volunteers.

The reforming of Riddell Road was completed, and now staff can drive a 2-wheel vehicle down to the gates at the Pyramids.

Shar Briden of Absolute Archaeology Ltd has continued the archaeological augering work on the inlet side of the reserve, and University of Otago Surveying Department students flew a drone over Okia. This first flight was planned to map various features such as vegetation and archaeological features.

The funding from the Otago Community Trust for upgrading signage at Okia Reserve was turned down. The grant was not sufficient to cover the full project and we were unable to obtain a second grant.

The Okia Management Committee is now discussing this issue.

The DCC's Task Force Green volunteers continued to trap the reserve and environs on the Otago Peninsula, and will supply information on trapping for the season.

Community assistance at Okia Reserve has again been fantastic with the following examples of this support:

- Arbor Day: 600 plants were planted by the public including 4 staff from DCC Water and Waste Department and 2 from the Otago Museum.
- The Department of Corrections has begun working with the Field Manager to cut a new 4WD track. A collaborative project set up through the Ministers of Conservation and Corrections.
- Contact Energy Call Centre staff donated two days labour to plant release at the north end beach access track plantings.
- Glen Riley from Sinclair Wetlands and a group of American volunteers assisted with plant releasing lupins around the north end dune-planting. This involved 36 hours labour.
- The Over 60's Walking Group assisted with plant releasing lupins around the north end dune planting.
- Otago Polytechnic Horticulture students again helped out with planting and plant releasing, as did the Malcam Trust and DOC Permissions Team.

### ***Otapahi Reserve***

The existing viewing hide located above Cecily Beach at Otapahi has hosted many visitors over several years. It is now in need of repair and we are investigating a different, more permanent cover.

The Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group have assisted with baiting stations for predator control around the boundaries of the reserve, checking on a regular basis.

University of Otago ecology students visited the reserve as part of their studies, with presentations by the Trust staff.

Trustees Lala and Margaret hosted (then) Green MP Kevin Hague on a trip to Otapahi Reserve following the May 2016 *Conservation Inc2* conference.

### ***Tavora Reserve***

Following a serious incursion by cattle, a large part of the boundary fence was replaced at significant cost to the Trust. However, this also gave us an opportunity to consider extending the plantings in this area. This work was funded through the Marshall bequest.

The three-year lease to graze the farmland neighbouring the reserve was renewed to Simon & Kirsten Engelbrecht until April 2019.

Additional traps have been placed in the reserve, and sincere thanks to Andy & Melissa Moore who are checking the trap line using a smart phone app.

### ***Omihi***

In August, a fence was completed for which the Trust purchased the materials some time ago. Planting has been undertaken by horticulture students, and Penguin Place staff continue to monitor the trap lines and the penguins.

### ***Otekiho***

Due to rabbits, the Otekiho planting survival is only about 50%. DCC's Task Force Green volunteers check the predator traps regularly.

### ***Stewart Island / Rakiura***

Monitoring yellow-eyed penguin breeding success was again managed by Sandy King, assisted by volunteers and Environmental Management students at Southern Institute of Technology. There were 24 nests found on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou and fourteen chicks fledged; a breeding success of 30%, slightly more than last year. The constant downward trend in nest numbers is very concerning, if the decline continues at the current rate there will be no yellow-eyed penguins nesting on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou by 2030.

The Anglem coast was also searched. Fourteen chicks fledged from 13 nests with breeding success of 56%. However, this result was from only two of the five breeding sites monitored in the past – Golden Beach and Rollers Beach. There was only one nest found in October 2016 between three other sites (Long Harry, East Smoky, and Yankee River) and it was not revisited this season. Twenty-two nests were found between these five sites in 2008 compared to 14 in 2016.

The Bravo islands was also monitored with seventeen nests producing 15 chicks with a breeding success of 47% compared to 78% last season. The number of nests on the Bravo islands has also been slowly declining, from 23 in 2008 to 17 in 2016.

The Neck was also searched but no nests were found compared to four last season.

There are always people and organisations to thank for their time, help, and support of this project. This year we'd like to thank volunteers Dean Nelson, Bridget Hunt, Tommy Dobbins, Cheyanne Carey, and Raphael Karnuth; also Dave Houston, the Department of Conservation staff from Murihiku and Stewart Island, Stewart Island Flights, Rakiura Charters, Real Journeys (Cruise-for-a-Cause), Sanford Ltd, Tio Operations Ltd, and Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust members.

### ***Auckland Island trip***

Trustee David Smith went on a 10 day trip on the Evohe with 18 people, 2 PhD students, 4 from DOC and 6 Volunteers and crew. They visited the Peter Blake Research Station at Smith Sound for the first time where a weather station is based, and they saw more yellow-eyed penguins on Enderby Island than had any previous trip.

### ***Te Rere, South Catlins***

Margaret and Trudi attended an Advisory Group meeting in May. They walked about the reserve including the old part that was not destroyed by fire and where titi are nesting. Along the top where flax plants are, it is now impenetrable from the amazing regrowth.

### ***Curio Bay, Southland***

The Trust has received further verbal reports of negative yellow-eyed penguin / people interactions, and refers them to DOC Southland. This is of concern but may be mitigated in the future once the new Heritage Centre opens at the end of 2017.

As part of this we have consulted on the overall development of the Heritage Centre and associated carpark and access tracks. The Trust has supported the development of the Heritage Centre as it will control visitors and reduce the impact on hoiho in the area. We look forward to continuing to work with the South Catlins Charitable Trust, DOC Southland, Awarua runaka and others on this development.

### ***Other habitats***

The Trust has continued to assist on other habitats where yellow-eyed penguins breed or have been found. We always appreciate the relationships with other members of the penguin community and landowners.

### ***Nursery***

The Nursery is almost back to normal, following the flood and is on target to produce 5000 plants annually. The functioning of the Nursery is totally dependent on the work done by volunteers, which is greatly appreciated.

A new storage shed built by the Otago Polytechnic was purchased and installed to allow for more sheltered space for work tools and trapping equipment.

In September, Louise Ashton (Nursery Supervisor) and helpers spread gravel (10 tonnes) donated by Blackhead Quarry and transport paid for by DCC, over the circular standout area.

## **Funding**

### ***Founding Sponsor***

The Mainland sponsorship has been rolled over for a further three years until 2019, giving us financial reassurance.

We hosted the new Managing Director of Fonterra Brands NZ Ltd which owns the Mainland Brand, Leon Clements on a trip to Otapahi Reserve. Sincere thanks to our friend and business mentor Steve Anderson (CEO Foodstuffs NZ Ltd) for organising this trip.

We have also enjoyed the support from Margaret O'Sullivan, Group Marketing Manager Local Jewels - Mainland & Symbio, our relationship manager. Margaret was able to attend and contribute to our conference in May 2016 which was greatly appreciated.

## ***MAJOR DONATIONS***

### *EcoWai*

By August 2016 the EcoWai programme had raised \$8752, with an additional \$3500 from an EcoWai partner Quality Hotel Parnell to the vet appeal and \$1000 from EcoWai itself for the conference.

Many thanks to Barry Hillyer, Director of EcoWai who continues to raise funds to promote our cause.

### *Hauraki Blue Cruises*

The Board approved a proposed fundraising event with Hauraki Blue Cruises, as suggested by Barry Hillyer of EcoWai.

Many thanks to Linda Farrelly who organized advertising on Stuff.co.nz for free. This involved an Auckland-based advertising campaign allowing 100,000 hits.

### *DOC Community Fund*

The Trust was awarded \$80,000 over three years to employ staff to undertake work on Okia reserve with the emphasis on weed control and some yellow-eyed penguin monitoring and predator control work. This equates to a 0.5FTE position plus 5 hours per week for the Field Manager. This grant is for work only on Okia Reserve. The Trust decided to top-up the funding of the position to full-time to enable work on other reserves to be undertaken.

### *Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust*

Administered by Perpetual Guardian, the Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust supported the Ranger position for a further three months.

### *Otago Pellet Fires*

This local Dunedin-based company continued to support us with donations of approximately \$3000 based on sales of their products.

### *Health Post*

The Trust was chosen as charity of the month by this online health company. For each purchase, \$1 was donated to the Trust which overall raised \$7805.

### *Use of private vehicles*

Following an accident involving the Toyota Hilux in Dec 2016, that vehicle was off the road being repaired for 2 months and private vehicles were used extensively. Thanks to Dave and Trudi for the use of their private vehicles, and also DOC for theirs, during the period of time the Hilux was out of action. Dave and Trudi were reimbursed for fuel costs only.

### *Dunedin Airport*

The Trust was approached by Dunedin Airports who offered sponsorship to the value of \$10000 for their financial year ending 30 June 2016. With this funding they established a

yellow-eyed penguin display in the airport building, which will eventually include two stuffed penguins.

Other significant donations have been received from Dunedin Casino Charitable Trust, DCC Community Fund, Bendigo Valley Sport and Charity Foundation, Lou & Iris Fisher Charitable Trust, Scenic Hotel Dunedin City and the Southland Building Society.

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

### ***ESTATES***

The Trust has again been the recipient of several bequests, and we are extremely grateful for this legacy and to the families for honoring such gifting.

The Trust was saddened at the death of Bill Armitage, our honorary solicitor for many years including during the formation of the Trust.

## **CONFERENCES / SYMPOSIA**

### ***9<sup>th</sup> International Penguin Congress***

Trudi attended the 9<sup>th</sup> International Penguin Congress in South Africa showcasing the work of the Trust and giving her the opportunity to network with other penguin scientists.

### ***10<sup>th</sup> International Penguin Congress, Dunedin 26-30 August 2019***

Sue is already part of the International Organising Committee but could also be part of the local committee which will organise the logistics of the event.

### ***Conservation Inc 2 Conference***

*Conservation Inc 2* was held in May 2016 and was promoted as “a conference event for everyone working in the swiftly evolving world of citizen-led conservation. It brought together people from all sectors in New Zealand’s community conservation landscape. Most are inspirational leaders in their fields.

The conference offered a compelling opportunity to look ahead, learn from others, make connections and discuss matters pivotal to the future of community based conservation work in this country”.

The conference was intended to prepare us for the future and bring us all forward as individuals, community groups and NGOs. Conference themes addressed issues to do with viability and growth; stability and cohesion; leadership, vision and reach; duties and rights; diversity and co-operation, and much else.

A full report is available on request.

### ***Environmental Defence Society conference (Auckland) August 2016***

Dave and Sue attended this conference with the theme ‘Wild Places’. A lot of the conference was about how to control the behavior of increasing tourism numbers in our wild places.

### ***Oamaru Penguin Symposium May 2016***

This was a valuable networking opportunity for Trudi, meeting vets, scientists (NZ and Australia), and different interest groups. Talks were of varying quality and relevance, but there was something for everyone in each of them.

### ***Annual YEP Symposium August 2016***

The event proceeded on Saturday despite deliberations during the week due to the severe weather warnings and concern about people's travel arrangements. The start time was delayed until 10am and most people were there by 10:30am despite the severe frost, snow and ice.

### ***Dunedin Urban Biodiversity Workshop June 2016***

This was organised by Garreth Kyle (DCC), Yolanda Van Heezik (Otago University), and an American researcher from the University of Florida. It turned out to be of limited relevance to YEPT, being very much about "urban" biodiversity, with workshopping around native demonstration gardens or small restoration projects. Nonetheless it was useful to make and renew contacts.

## **ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH**

### ***YEP Stock-take Review***

The report has now been finalized and distributed (June 2016) to all who contributed. From the process of this review, the Trust has been recognized as a Key Programme Partner, meaning a group that is actively involved in multiple aspects of the programme (mahi/work, research, strategy and governance) at multiple sites across the geographic range of the species.

Sue's participation in this review is estimated to be 400 hours, funded internally.

### ***Wild Dunedin event***

The Trust remains involved with this event as part of the founding groups, although at a minimal level.

### ***China***

Sue attended a trip to China as part of the Mayoral delegation and organized by the Otago Chamber of Commerce, departing in June 2016. The full trip visited 6 cities over 3 weeks, but Sue only joined them in Shanghai visiting 3 cities over 10 days.

This was an opportunity for the Trust to talk about 'bio-banking' to the Chinese business community that has an environmental conscience. China has pollution problems, but Chinese businesses cannot invest in China without participation from their government, so they would invest in NZ and get carbon credits for doing so.

Benefits to the Trust were both local and international, now being taken more seriously as a major player in conservation and one that provides the raw material for the increasing tourism industry.

A full report from this trip is available on request.

### ***Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group***

The Trust was represented by Leith Thomson and now Hoani Langsbury on this group. We continue to benefit from this relationship, and enjoy having a container for equipment housed at our Nursery for their use.

### ***Oral History update from Helen Frizzell***

Helen Frizzell completed interviews with 5 founding trustees, supported by a grant from Ministry of Culture & Heritage, NZ Oral History Award. This was a significant piece of work recording our founding days.

### ***University Meetings***

Trudi attends regular meetings with the Zoology Department, hearing updates from student projects. These are valuable to understand what research is happening.

In the future, it maybe that she can contribute ideas for research projects under a developed framework of what the species needs. The University appears amenable to this approach provided the ideas fit the categories for research and that there is a suitable student. This idea could also work with Marine Science Department.

### ***Presentations***

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

### ***External Relations Committee***

After discussion, it was agreed that this committee is no longer required as it has outgrown its purpose. Rather, sub-committees would be formed on a project by project basis.

### ***South East Marine Protection Forum 'Proposed Marine Protected Areas for New Zealand's South Island South-East Coast'***

Submissions opened on 21 October and closed on 20 December 2016. The proposals include:

- All of Long Point from Purakaunui Bay to Pillans Head (both Type 1, inshore and Type 2, offshore);
- Bobby's Head from Pleasant River to Stoney Creek (Type 1, inshore)

Our submission included comments on our general support of MPAs and advocacy for areas included in the proposal and relevant to yeps such as Boulder Beach and Green Island.

### ***Predator Free Dunedin***

Eric and Sue attended a function at Orokonui Eco sanctuary where the Prime Minister Bill English, Minister of Conservation Maggie Barry and Revenue Minister Michael Woodhouse

were present to witness the MOU signed by 20 groups, Eric signed on behalf of the Trust. Partners include Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki, Te Runanga o Otakou, the Otago Chamber of Commerce, Landcare Research, University of Otago, Dunedin City Council, Otago Regional Council, DOC, Otago Polytechnic, OSPRI and 10 active charitable community organisations (YEPT, STOP, Halo Project and Landscapes Connections Trust, Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community, Otago Natural Heritage Trust, OPBG, Wild Dunedin Trust, Endangered Species Foundation, Forest & Bird Dunedin, Otago Peninsula Trust, and Pukekura Trust).

### ***Submissions***

The Trust continues to submit on relevant environmental matters, for example, the NZ Sea Lion Threat Management Plan.

### ***Media articles***

The Trust has continued to be active in media releases, including internationally to the American Zoo Penguin Conservation Newsletter and the New York Observer, as well as radio and television interviews.

## **Iwi consultation**

In April, at Otakou, we consulted the runaka over our permit renewal application to uplift sick and injured penguins for vet care and / or rehabilitation.

In June, we visited Invercargill and presented to Murihiku Kaitiaki Roopu, seeking their support for the renewal of our Wildlife Act permit to pick up injured / sick yeps for vet care & rehabilitation.

The Trust has worked with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu through Sue's involvement on the yellow-eyed penguin review team. This partnership is now highly valued by both parties as we have continued to consult on various aspects of penguin management.

## **Visitors / Visited**

### ***US Ambassador Visit***

As a result of Eric talking to two visiting USA students (US Embassy and industrial design academic from a University in the USA) as part of the Art Incubator course run through the University, we were invited to host the US Ambassador Mark Gilbert, and his wife Nancy.

### ***The Pew Charitable Trust***

Eric attended a DOC-led meeting with two of Pews top staff – Josh Reichert (Executive Vice President) and Sally O'Brien (Senior Vice President, Philanthropy).

This was quite a different meeting to the ones we had two years ago with Liz Karan and Ryan Doolan. This meeting was pitched at a government level, how to help set or change policy. They were interested in lobbying to do protection work, not funding projects.

### ***Chinese Consul General***

Sue attended a lunch meeting with the Chinese Consul General who presented to members of the Otago Chamber of Commerce on the increased tourism from China. This lunch was sponsored by The Dunedin Club and Allied Press Ltd.

## **Trustees and Staff**

### ***Trustees***

Eric Shelton, Board Chair  
Tim Mepham, Treasurer  
David Smith  
Euan Kennedy  
Gina Watts  
Jesse James  
Hoani Langsbury  
Lala Frazer

Linda Farrelly  
Linda Reynolds (resigned Feb 2017)  
Luke Gardener (resigned Dec 2016)  
Margaret Murrell  
Murray Brass  
Pat Mark  
Peter Simkins

### ***Staff 2016/17***

Sue Murray General Manager (1.0 FTE)  
David McFarlane, Field Manager (1.0 FTE)  
Trudi Webster, Conservation Science Advisor (1.0 FTE)  
Leith Thomson, Senior Ranger (1.0 FTE, resigned November 2016)  
Jenny Winter, Administration Assistant (0.6FTE, retired September 2016)  
Kate Tanner, Temp Administration Assistant (0.6FTE, contract ended June 2016)  
Allison Wallace, Administrator (0.6 FTE, started October 2016)  
Louise Ashton, Nursery Supervisor (0.5FTE)

### ***Personnel Committee***

A Personnel Committee during the year comprising of three trustees to support Sue with any human resource issues and which was given the authority to deal with these.

### ***Legislative changes***

Under the changes to the Health & Safety Act Trustees have a responsibility for ensuring all plans for the organisation are suitable and meet the needs of the Act and the Trust. Staff work diligently to ensure all H&S practices are adhered to.

The Trustees have also updated practices for other reporting following several legislative changes. For example, on subjects such as risk management, financial reporting, fraud and audit reporting.

## ***Staff***

### ***Wildlife Veterinarian***

Lisa Argilla, specialist wildlife vet was again contracted between January and March, for nine weeks, compared to only six in 2016. This was due to the funding available from both the 2015 appeal and other donations (see earlier in the report). Sincere thanks to Lisa for the successful treatment of 34 yellow-eyed penguins which have been released back into the wild.

### ***Administration and conference assistance***

Kate Tanner was farewelled in June 2016 after offering temping in the administration role and assisting so ably with the conference Conservation Inc 2.

Jenny retired on 13<sup>th</sup> September, after being with YEPT since 2010. She was thanked at a staff farewell.

Allison Wallace was appointed to the Administrator position, and started on 18 October. Allison comes with a strong understanding and practical experience in Xero, our online accounting package. She will also pick up a lot of the social media work for the Trust. Allison has successfully installed Infoodle, a new online database management system which integrates with Xero.

### ***WINZ and Community Trust of Otago***

Through the joint WINZ and Community Trust of Otago programme, the Trust was offered a WINZ beneficiary for 26 weeks, 30 hours per week. Reid Hulleman was appointed and worked 3 days in the field with Leith and 1 day at the nursery with Louise.

### ***Ranger***

Leith resigned in November, having been with the Trust since 2006. Many DOC staff attended his farewell afternoon tea.

The Ranger position was advertised following a successful grant application, and this saw 79 applications being received from around the world and offering a huge level of academic versus practical experience. Ben Goldsworthy was appointed and brings with him extensive involvement in conservation activities. He will begin on 3 April 2017.

## ***Trustees***

Luke Gardener resigned as a Trustee and moved to Wellington to start a career with MPI beginning in February 2017.

Linda Reynolds resigned as a Trustee but then made herself available for one-off projects where her HR experience may be valuable.

Sincere thanks to them both for their respective contributions to the governance of the Trust, and we wish them well for the future.

## ***Office move to John Wickliffe House***

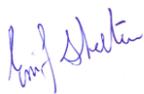
We were delighted to again be offered the opportunity to co-locate with the Department of Conservation following their lease expiring at Conservation House on Stuart Street. On Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, we moved into new premises on Level 1 of John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street. As part of this move, our postal address has changed to PO Box 724, Dunedin 9054.

## **Conclusion**

This year was marked by another poor breeding season and forced us to maintain our 'intensive intervention focussed on individual birds' management model. This approach demands major resource allocation in terms of money, staff and volunteers but seems to have paid off with respect to injured and underweight birds being returned to their habitats.

As an organisation, we continue to have a high profile locally, nationally and internationally and we are continually developing our capacity for running large-scale fundraising events, specifically conferences and overnight cruises. Events of this nature incur financial risk and, as a Charitable Trust, we seek to be risk averse, so we must pick and choose carefully the events we support and organise. Always, we are cognisant that we are entrusted to spend donations wisely and to this end we are committed to getting the biggest conservation bang for our buck.

As always, our thanks go to all staff, volunteers and supporters without whose sterling efforts the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust could not meet its objectives. The team we have taking the organisation toward 2018 and another season is marked by the conspicuous ability and dedication of each and every one of its members.



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