



Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust 2010 Annual General Meeting Report

The following report gives a summary of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's activities since our last Annual General Meeting in November 2009, and as the new Chair of the Trust it gives me great pleasure to present it.

At the end of 2009 the new structure (adopted in 2008) went through its first major independent review conducted by Bruce McKinlay. Along with some minor amendments, the reintroduction of a Chair role to the Trust Board was identified as a positive move, but the Conservation Management Committee which directs field operations was only meeting bi-monthly and so was increased to monthly meetings for 2010. It was generally agreed the Trust was working more effectively and efficiently under this revised structure.

Mainland Brands Continued Sponsorship

Our principal sponsor Mainland Brand continues to support the Trust to the amount of \$75,000 per annum. A new brand manager was appointed through the year, and the Trust's welcomes and looks forward to working with Karla Hall and her assistant Imogen Harper in the future.

This year marked the 21st year of the sponsorship which will be celebrated next year through a new PR campaign launched by the brand. We sincerely thank Mainland for their commitment and ongoing support of our conservation efforts.

Other Funding

We have continued to receive funding from DOC's Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund which has supported two staff positions as it has since 2003. Other monies have been received from a variety of sources this year, including awards from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust for a staff position, Dunedin City Community Grant Scheme to develop an online educational resource, the now annual Peninsula Bike Race in January organised by the Otago Peninsula Lions Club. NHNZ and Fonterra Edendale donated plants for the Long Point/Irahuka Reserve and the Audrey Reid Charitable Trust gave a large donation to assist with developments of the area. International conservation group the Penguin Fund of Japan and the UK company White Cloud Trading also continued with their annual support. As well as our regular and loyal supporters who give donations, several individuals have made large donations to the Trust, our sincere thanks to you all.

We would also like to acknowledge long time supporters Downie Stewart and Canon NZ, and the local Dunedin company Advertising and Art owned and operated by Stewart and Marie ann Robertson who

Queens Building
109 Princes Street
PO Box 5409
Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

continue to undertake the Trust's graphic design work. This year was no exception, and the Trust was delighted to be awarded some services from them, in particular the creation of new signage for Long Point.

Specific funding for the Nursery came from a variety of sources, including the Trust's Donate-a-Tree programme, A W Jones Charitable Trust, Blackhead Quarry, Department of Conservation (Macraes), DCC Biodiversity Grant, Care for the Wild International, Dunedin Casino Charitable Trust, Harbour Cone project, Heseltine Trust, Natural History New Zealand (NHNZ), Orokonui Ecosanctuary, Private Land Owners, St Martin's Island restoration project, STOP, Speight's Environment Fund

Declined or ineligible applications were from: Care for the Wild, Bendigo Valley Sports and Charity Foundation, WWF Habitat Protection Fund, BirdLife International Conservation Fund, Working Together for More Fund, Perry Foundation and a variety of overseas trusts.

Auckland Island trip

The Trust's Projects Officer Southern Islands, Sandy King and Ranger, Leith Thomson joined a DOC Southern Islands led trip to the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands with the aim to carry out a yellow-eyed penguin distribution survey. The team of 6 surveyors and two-crew headed off on their journey 460km south of Bluff aboard the 15m yacht *Tiama*. Returning 23 days later, they had surveyed almost 200km of coastline primarily on the eastern side of the island and identified 301 landing sites. This survey was a prelude to a more comprehensive census, although when and how that will happen is unknown.

Habitats

2010 Nest counts were conducted, and produced the following results:

- Okia Reserve: 15 nests were found, up from the 14 found in 2009
- Otapahi: 23 nests, up from 22 nests in 2009
- Tavora remained the same as last year with 3 nests
- Long Point:
 - east and west bays - 46 nests have so far been found at Long Point, with one area still to be searched, and is significantly up from the 39 found in 2009
 - 20 nests were found at Cosgrove Creek (Long Point), up from 12 in 2009
 - also in the area were 3 more nests found at Purakaunui Bay (same as last year) and 5 at Hart's Rock, up from one from 2009

Summary of work undertaken at the Trust's owned or managed reserves:

- **Okia**
 - Work has continued to revegetate this area, with new plants being planted on the Margaret Hazel slope and in the fore and back dunes of the beach area.
 - Development of the Okia Reserve Implementation Plan is well underway

- The fencing audit saw significant repairs required on the southern fence, and the northern fence currently not on the legal boundary is in need of replacement, however various options for this are being considered including the feasibility of putting a new fence on the true legal boundary.
- Damage at the reserve was significant this year with plants on the Margaret Hazel slope being run down by a vehicle illegally on the reserve, signs being vandalised, a fire on the beach and several sightings of dogs in the reserve.
- **Otapahi**
 - The new management plan was signed off through the year with no significant changes to the purpose of this reserve.
 - The Minister of Conservation, Hon Kate Wilkinson enjoyed the reserve on a recent visit
- **Omihi**
 - This area continues to have some trapping, weed control and planting undertaken, but the penguin monitoring is now undertaken by scientists from Penguin Place.
- **Otekiho**
 - Boundary gorse control continues on this DCC owned area, as well as trapping undertaken during the breeding season of little blue penguins and titi.
- **Tavora**
 - Lincoln University undertook a study comparing the differences between restored dune systems and dunes dominated by marram grass; we are awaiting the final report.
 - The public dog kennel was stolen in September, having originally been placed in the car park to provide visitors with a secure place to leave their dogs whilst visiting the reserve. This is the second time the kennel has been removed, so regrettably it will not be replaced.
 - Planting continues at South Beach
- **Long Point:**
 - Fencing and associated car parks were completed in December 2009 costing a total of \$79,000 and an additional \$4,000 of signage was erected shortly afterwards.
 - The unnamed headland (Section 27, BLK XI Woodland Survey District) and the adjacent Manuka Beach area, and the tip of Long Point itself were vested in the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust for management purposes.
 - The Protected Private Land Agreements were signed off by the Minister of Conservation designating Long Point as a scenic reserve and Cosgrove Creek as a scientific reserve.
 - A draft of the Long Point Management Plan is currently being written and the Long Point/Irahuka Advisory Group will meet again for the fourth time in December 2010.
 - The first plants went into the reserve in April, with thanks to teams from Forest & Bird Dunedin and South Otago branches and NHNZ.
 - Royal Society of New Zealand Awarded Teacher Fellow recipient was Jim Young of the Catlins Area School who has spent this year on the project 'Whakaora Irahuka: restoring the white cliffs'. The primary objectives have been to map the seabird, vegetation and lizard distribution at Long Point, and determine the most effective trapping regimes for the area. Additional permits for some of this work were granted for titi burrow scoping and lizard monitoring.

- Over the next three months, Wildlife Diploma student Andre Weller will undertake a project entitled 'Seabird fauna of Long Point: an historical perspective'
- The Trust pursued the opportunity to purchase some neighbouring land to Long Point, but after sometime it was obvious the amount we could afford did not match the asking price, and we pulled out of the negotiations.

Sandfly Bay, although this is a DOC managed area, the Trust has had input into management regimes particularly relating to signage and the volunteer warden programme. Last year all 13 chicks survived to fledge, a welcome success story.

Other Trust habitat work continues with private landowners along the eastern coastlines where yellow-eyed penguins breed. We also continue working with other NGOs & the Department of Conservation. The collaborative work now undertaken between the Trust and Coastal Otago Area Office (in particular) of DOC is well recognised and valued by both parties. Our work is greatly assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers and members of both the Malcam Trust and DOC's Youth Development Programme (previously known as the Cons Corps).

This past year saw continued research collaboration with University of Otago researchers, Landcare Research, DOC scientists and foreign academics. The Trust once again sponsored the annual University of Otago Zoology Department Graduate Symposium at the Portobello Marine Laboratory.

The Trust continues with its membership in the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG), with the planning for the possum control programme on the peninsula well underway after a visit from DOC's Island Eradication Team.

DOC and Wildland Consultants invited the Trust to be part of a pilot 'Biodiversity Offsets Programme' which will see a biodiversity asset register being written for the Trust.

The Trust purchased handheld transponder readers and donated them to penguin people up and down the coast to enable them to check for identification of any birds found injured or dead. This means that individual birds implanted with a transponder maybe traced from fledging throughout their life without the need for an external flipper band. Transponder injection training was completed and certified by DOC for staff members David, Leith and Antje.

Other Visitors through the year included Dr Dee Boersma (University of Washington), Pablo Borborglu (Global Penguin Society), Waianakarua River Mouth Group, Rustic Pathways (USA) groups, and representatives from Holland Line Cruise Ships,

Nursery

The Nursery year was highlighted by the contribution of local Macandrew Bay school pupils who painted various marine-themed murals onto our nursery buildings. What a joy to drive up to work each day!

Unfortunately a lot of the year was substantially interrupted by a disturbed neighbour and her verbal attacks on both staff and volunteers so that eventually Volunteer Wednesdays were cancelled until issues were resolved to an acceptable level. Sadly this meant the Trust having to involve the judicial system due to the offensive nature of these attacks, but protection of our own staff was paramount throughout this time.

A total of 7228 plants have gone out of the Nursery this year to our habitats, other conservation groups and the community. These include plants going into the Orokonui Ecosanctuary and the Harbour Cone land.

2010 saw the end of one Gateway student from Bayfield High School (Max Buxton) and the start of a new one, Jack Reid from Logan Park High School. It is great to be able to give these young people some practical work experience and engagement with a wide range of volunteers as they make their life's plans. As always, the work of the nursery is heavily supported by dedicated volunteers in a wide range of tasks, a sincere thanks to your all.

Community Groups & Individuals which the Nursery has been involved with during the year are numerous.

We enjoy these relationships and the collaborative work that is involved:

- Aramoana community group
- Balmacewan School
- Collinswood Bush
- Department of Conservation's, South Otago Office, Coastal Otago, Otago Conservancy and Conservation Corps
- Elm Wildlife Tours
- Enviroschools (Ken Mason)
- Forest & Bird (Moore's Bush)
- KatiHuirapa RunakaKi Puketeraki Marai (DoC Conservation Corps)
- Keruru Recovery Group
- Logan Park High School
- Orokonui Ecosanctuary
- Otago Peninsula Trust
- Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
- Otago Polytechnic Horticulture Department
- Portobello School (pikao at Allan's Beach)
- Portobello Fire Brigade Quiz Night
- Save The Otago Peninsula (STOP)
- Task Force Green (DCC)
- University of Otago Zoology Symposium
- Wednesday Volunteers

The year has ended with a sub-committee group looking at 'Redefining the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Nursery Goals' as we discuss other ways to make the nursery either self sufficient or at least funded in part from external contracts. No decisions will be made until the New Year. Next year will also see some management changes as Margaret Suman is preparing to leave and Anita Pillai will become sole manager.

Stewart Island Monitoring Project

After 10-years of intensive work on Stewart Island and the island wide re-survey in 2008-09, the Trust has scaled back the work on the island this year with only the standard three checks being undertaken at strategic sites; nest count, egg/chick and finally the fledging check. As part of the planning process trustee Lala Frazer and general manager Sue Murray visited the island to renew relationships and meet key new personnel engaged in penguin work for the coming season.

Southland Institute of Technology through their Bachelor of Environmental Management programme offered student assistance for the work on Stewart Island. First year student Christian Gunther was selected to assist with the chick fledging check (54 chicks transpondered and assumed to fledge, 58.06% fledging success rate) on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou in January and again with the nest count last month (sample of 32 nests located). This relationship will continue to the completion of the 2010/11 breeding season as Christian assists further to complete his required course elements.

External Relations

This year, like last, brought mixed success in terms of sponsorship and fundraising, particularly given the current economic climate. Some 'traditional' sources of funding are no longer eligible to the Trust as their criteria has been revised, or funding levels have been reduced thus increasing competition for the grants available. The Trust continues to require approximately 70% of its budget to cover salaries – the most difficult component of any project to source funding for.

The global crisis also hit some of the relationships we had set up with overseas groups for donations, and it was disappointing not to see some of these realised to the levels experienced in past years.

Merrin Bath of Strategy First continues to be contracted to advise/plan on a variety of campaigns to raise the much needed funds. This year Monika Fry of Megabright added a 'For Kids' section to the website, which is interactive and created around the school curriculum. The Trust was delighted to again work with both these companies.

The Trust continues to have representation on The Lance Richdale Trust, a trust formed in conjunction with the Otago Peninsula Trust to publish the biography of this prominent ornithologist who studied yellow-eyed penguins in the 1940s. The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust contributed \$10,000 towards this project.

Advocacy and Outreach

Various submissions to local and regional government offices were written. These included submissions to the Curio Bay Draft Management Plan, the DCC's Ocean Beach Domain Management Plan for John Wilson Drive, Port Otago's proposed dredging of Otago Harbour and the Aquaculture Technical Advisory Groups

report on 'Restarting Aquaculture', and the Marine Conservation Services 2010/2011 Draft Annual Plan. We also made further submissions to government agencies; for example to the Ministry of Fisheries Inshore Observer Programme on fisheries bycatch issues.

Both the Field Manager David McFarlane and the Ranger, Leith Thomson spent time performing outreach work for the Trust, including giving talks to various community and school groups. David and Sue also gave a presentation to the University of Otago's Environmental Management Yr 3 students.

Community Conservation Work Days:

- 8 April – Long Point inaugural planting with Forest & Bird Dunedin and South Otago branches and habitat volunteers, 1381 flax and plants
- 21 May – further planting at Long Point with NHNZ
- 6 June at Okia Reserve - World Environment Day (Arbor Day) saw 20 volunteers plant 400 more plants into the mid-section of the reserve
- 23 July at Tavora Reserve dune restoration planting

Conferences / Symposiums / Workshops attended:

- March - Coastal Dune Vegetation Network Conference, Timaru attended by David, Anita and Margaret
- April – Southland Ecological Restoration Network 'Bringing Back the Birds' conference, Stewart Island was attended by Sandy, and Sue attended a Charities Commission workshop
- May – Peter and Sue attended a Payroll Giving workshop run by Foresee Communications
- July - Oamaru Penguin Conference where presentations were given by Leith (Auckland Islands trip) and by Sue summarizing Sandy's work on the Stewart Island re-survey
- Pest Workshops, Christchurch – the first was attended by Leith in June and the second by David in September.
- August - Annual Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Symposium, theme International Year of Biodiversity
- October - Plant Network Conference, Christchurch attended by Anita and Margaret

As part of Seaweek, we had a stall at the Beach Cleanup Day themed as 'Otago's Changing Seas – Looking after our Coastline'. We also again participated in the Otago Peninsula Day held as part of the annual Cadbury Carnival (July), by taking a pre-booked tour to Otapahi Reserve late in the day. This turned out to be another successful trip with plenty of penguin activity including great sightings of yeps porpoising offshore before surfing into the beach and climbing up to their resting places.

The Trust has enjoyed media coverage throughout the year including hosting TV3s Samantha Hayes at Otapahi Reserve, a variety of articles and photos in the Otago Daily Times, Southland Times and East Otago Review and interviews on local TVs Channel 9 and radio channels.

Farewells

The Trust's nest searching team has this year noticed the absence of volunteer Frank Austin who has retired. Frank has been involved with the Trust since the 1980s particularly on the Okia Reserve where he began to assist John Darby with nest searching and monitoring. The Trust sincerely thanks Frank for his years of dedication and commitment to penguin conservation.

The Trust farewelled neighbour and valued supporter of the Nursery, Jean Woods earlier this year when she lost her battle with cancer. Jean was always willing to keep a watchful eye on the property in the absence of staff and volunteers and report anything untoward in the area. Owner operator of world renowned Penguin Place, Howard McGrouther died earlier this year. Howard was involved with the Habitat Committee for several years, and more recently his team assisted on a neighbouring beach with habitat management and penguin monitoring. His contribution and understanding of nature-based tourism was instrumental in setting Dunedin on the map as the 'Wildlife Capital of NZ'.

Trust People

This year has seen some changes in staffing at the Trust although the core group of Sue Murray (General Manager), David McFarlane (Field Manager), Anita Pillai and Margaret Suman (Nursery Co-managers) and Leith Thomson (Ranger) has remained the same. This dedicated team have kept the organisation going, managed to cut expenditure across the various projects and kept the organisation acknowledged as a professional body that delivers huge conservation gains. Sincere thanks to you all.

However during the year, there were some changes within the group with Anita and Margaret changing from a 50:50 job-share role to a 75:25 split as Margaret reduced her involvement ahead of moving away from Dunedin at the end of November 2010. Both Sue and David took extended leave periods during the year for overseas travel, each deputising for each other during these periods of absence, and other staff stepping in to assist. To add to the busy year, Sue completed her Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit management through Unitec passing with A-grades.

We have welcomed Antje Leseberg as the Stewart Island Field Assistant in place of Sandy King who (at the time) was to have 9-months work on Macquarie Island meaning she was unavailable for this year's Stewart Island yep work. Unfortunately for Sandy, the contract was cancelled so she is now enjoying a variety of smaller contracts with various groups as she waits to see if the Macquarie work will eventuate in 2011.

We also welcome a long overdue Admin Assistant, Jenny Winters to our team. Jenny has already proved to be an invaluable addition managing the supporters club and doing all the banking/receipting of monies received by the Trust as well as general administration tasks to assist Sue.

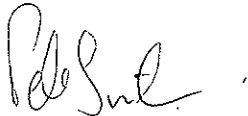
The Trust Board also saw a year of changes with two resignations; firstly trustee Paul Donohoe who after 6 years as a trustee did not wish to stand again after the 2009 AGM, and secondly in March of Karen Hartshorn (4 years as trustee and latterly the Trust Board Chair) who moved to the UK for employment.

Both Paul and Karen made major contributions to the governance of the Trust, particularly with the organisational restructure implemented under Karen's guidance in 2008.

The current Board continues to be governed by a dedicated team of 9 volunteer trustees. Sincere thanks to my fellow trustees Eric Shelton, Euan Kennedy, Lala Frazer, Margaret Murrell, Pat Mark, Pieter Demmers and Ruth Littlewood and to Mike Morrison who was co-opted to the Board in May. Thanks to modern technology, Euan and Ruth, our Christchurch-based trustees are now able to join the monthly Board meetings via skype-link and their contributions have been greatly appreciated. Without everyone's dedication and commitment, governance of this organisation would be a much more difficult task. Also, sincere thanks to our volunteer treasurer Adrian Christie for keeping us in line with budgets and financial reporting; his knowledge about our financial tracking is invaluable. We would also like to acknowledge our patron, Anton Oliver who, despite remaining abroad has continued to support the Trust whenever possible.

Founding trustee Lala Frazer was the recipient of the Coastal Otago Conservation Award for 2010, a deserving accolade for her years dedicated to environmental projects and groups including our Trust. Lala also accepted the role as my deputy during the year.

Finally a huge thank you to the numerous volunteers who have assisted in every operational aspect of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, some of whom were able to join our celebration thank you during Volunteer Awareness Week in June. It is due to this dedication and commitment, alongside the staff and trustees that we are able to continue as the professional organisation seen today.



Peter Simkins
Chair, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Board
16th November 2010