

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST NEWS

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The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, A charity working to save our penguins forever for everyone!

We are on a roll!

This last 18 months has seen the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust expand enormously with numerous successful grant applications, bequests and sponsorships. Not only that, but the penguins have also had a good season with no recorded deaths due to predation.

Good numbers of juveniles and adults have been seen on local beaches, so fingers crossed we are looking forward to a repeat of last year.

For the next six months we will have seven employees on our payroll. This rapid expansion has made the

office creak at the seams! One-off donations have funded all sorts of projects from Stewart Island monitoring to a lap-top computer. But for long-term planning you can't beat long-term sponsorship.

And nobody has come close to the 14 years and the almost \$1 million dollars support Mainland Products Limited have given us. Thanks to all of you out there who supported their recent campaign. A record number of entries were received and we will be most

surprised if the book they produced as a teaching aide isn't used in schools throughout the country for years to come.

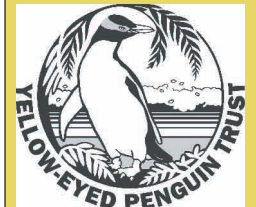
Long-term sponsor, Canon New Zealand Limited, has again assisted with an upgrade of office technology by providing a state-of-the-art printer and photocopier.

Fifteen years ago, Cooke Howlison Toyota loaned the Trust a Toyota Hilux 4x4. It has been an incredible work horse, taking us over some extreme terrain. Cooke Howlison Toyota has chosen to reaffirm the sponsorship

with an almost new replacement. Thank you for being so generous! Such a fabulous vehicle needed to have some special attention. Our friends at Advertising & Art came up with a design and Millers Studios did the paint work – the result is simply stunning. Thousands of dollars of time and effort, all donated by two very talented companies.

So why do all these companies, and there are many more, support us?

First of all, they believe in what we are doing. The plight of the penguin has touched many people's hearts, but there is also an element of mutual benefit. The Trust is aware of this fact and we have to thank the managers at Mainland, past and present, for keeping us in touch with the business world. Sponsorship is big business, it affects all of us all of

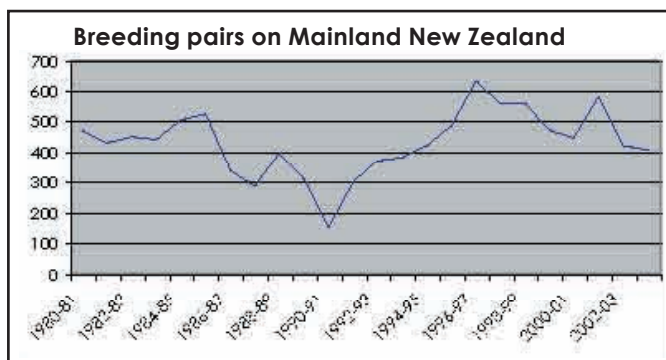


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Comparison of population numbers of yellow-eyed penguins, *Megadyptes antipodes*, on Stewart Island and on adjacent cat-free islands

Melanie Massaro
and David Blair

*New Zealand Journal
of Ecology* (2003)

27(2): 107-113

ABSTRACT: During a comprehensive survey in 1999, 2000 and 2001, we investigated the number of breeding yellow-eyed penguin pairs on Stewart Island, where cats are present, and on adjacent cat-free islands. We found 79 pairs of yellow-eyed penguin breeding in 19 discrete locations on Stewart Island (4.2 pairs per location), and 99 pairs breeding in 10 discrete locations on all cat-free islands (9.9 pairs per location). Large-scale human induced habitat modifications have not occurred on Stewart Island, nor on any of its adjacent offshore islands. While the extensive coastline of Stewart Island (673 km) offers potentially large areas of breeding habitat for penguins, the highest number of breeding pairs were found on the smaller, predator-free Codfish Island (25 km coastline), where a total of 61 breeding pairs were recorded. On Stewart Island, where mustelids do not occur, only feral cats can pose a serious threat to penguin offspring. Results from this study suggest that feral cats may prey on yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island. Further work is necessary to investigate whether the observed low numbers of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island are caused by feral cat predations. If so, it may be possible to develop appropriate measures to protect this penguin species from a population

Abstract of
Melanie Massaro's
PhD

thesis submitted to the
Zoology Department,
University of Otago,
April 2004, titled:

"Ecological, Behavioural and Physiological Mechanisms that Underlie Mate Choice, Egg Laying and Incubation in Yellow-eyed penguins (*Megadyptes antipodes*) and Snares Penguin (*Eudyptes robustus*)"

Although all five species of crested penguins (genus *Eudyptes*) are closely related to the Yellow-eyed Penguin (*Megadyptes antipodes*), they have evolved a very different breeding strategy. Crested penguins are distinguished by laying two size-dimorphic eggs that typically

hatch asynchronously and fledging only one chick (obligate brood reduction), while Yellow-eyed Penguins generally lay two similar-sized eggs that hatch synchronously and usually both chicks are raised to fledging (brood maximizing strategy).

In this thesis I present a series of studies that investigated the parental investment of Yellow-eyed and Snares penguins (*Eudyptes robustus*), factors that influence

this investment, and how this relates to their breeding strategies.

Parental quality of male and female Yellow-eyed Penguins was reflected in their eye and head plumage coloration. Further, males and females mated assortatively in relation

to these traits, suggesting that Yellow-eyed Penguins may use eye and plumage coloration as an indirect cue in assessing age and quality (potential to provide parental investment) of individual birds during mate choice.

With increasing age, female Yellow-eyed Penguins invested more into their eggs (increased size and shell thickness) regardless of when they laid their eggs. Length of incubation of first-laid eggs declined as their pore density increased, while incubation periods of second-laid eggs declined with increasing egg size. Independent of the egg size effect, incubation periods of both eggs declined with increasing female age, male age, and laying date. Seasonal declines in incubation periods are caused by a rapid brood patch development of late-nesting birds in Yellow-eyed Penguins. Experimental placement of artificial eggs into Yellow-eyed Penguin nests, shortly before they laid their own eggs, demonstrated that the presence of an egg in the nest influences hormone levels, brood patch development, incubation onset, and egg laying in this species. The presence of the first egg in the nest may have a similar stimulating effect on crested penguin parents, and may explain why crested penguins have persisted in retaining a two-egg clutch with a small first egg instead of laying only a single-egg clutch.

The egg-size dimorphism in crested
CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



BRUCE FITZGERALD



This photo appeared in the May 2004 Newsletter (“More work on Stewart Island. Feral cat study – not a total loss”) Unfortunately, in that article we forgot to introduce the dog ‘Mac’ and explain his role in the study. Mac is one of a number of ‘predator dogs’ being trained and used throughout the country to help in the battle against predators such as mustelids, rodents and feral cats. Most of these dogs are being trained by staff from the Department of Conservation, which maintains a register of each dog and its handler, the target species for that particular dog and the standard of competence that the dog/handler team has reached. DOC has set standards for the behaviour and competence of

the dog, and only dogs that meet those standards are given the certification required to allow them to work on conservation land. An important part of the training for any predator dog is ‘aversion training’, i.e. training them not to chase anything other than their target species. This is particularly important where ground dwelling birds like kiwi and penguins are present.

A few dogs, like Mac, which are owned by people outside of DOC have been added to the predator dog register. They still have to meet the DOC standards and often work closely with DOC staff to achieve this.

Mac has been trained to locate feral cats or their sign. As you can see in the photo, he is wearing a muzzle (one of the conditions of being allowed in the Rakiura National Park) so he can’t actually catch any cats. However, he can still locate their sign (scats) and earned his biscuits by pointing out areas that cats were frequenting. This led to a more informed placement of traps and more cats were caught. Although we found no evidence of cat predation of yellow-eyed penguins, there was plenty of evidence of predation on other native species, so ridding the area of a few feral cats was definitely not a total loss.

penguins has been previously suggested as one of the factors that contributes to the reversed hatching asynchrony through parents incubating the eggs in different positions (small eggs in the anterior position of the brood patch, large eggs in the posterior position). Testing this hypothesis in Snares Penguins revealed that the reversed hatching asynchrony was probably caused by the egg-size dimorphism per se, rather than as a consequence of the positioning behaviour in relation to size dimorphism. Further, a comparison of eggshell characteristics between first- and second-laid eggs of Snares Penguins, showed that second eggs had thicker shells with a higher pore density, and consequently a greater water vapour conductance than smaller first-laid eggs. Moreover, this difference in eggshell conductance between eggs of the same clutch was related to hatching patterns: generally, the egg with the greater shell conductance hatched first. This suggests that the lower eggshell porosity of first eggs in Snares Penguins prolongs their embryonic development in relation to the development of their second-laid siblings, and that the difference in shell

porosity between the eggs contributes to the reversed hatching asynchrony observed in this species. As male crested penguins must endure long fasts, staying at the nest for extended periods during much of incubation and all of the guard period, there may well be benefits that accrue from shortening the incubation period in these penguins. In the closely related Yellow-eyed Penguin, it was demonstrated that an increase in egg size hastens the incubation period of second-laid eggs, but not first eggs. If in the ancestor of crested penguins, such an increase in egg size similarly shortened incubation periods of second eggs, but not first eggs, and a shortening of incubation periods benefits the birds, then this may explain why crested penguins increase their investment in the second egg at the expense of the first egg. Further research is needed to determine the function of the small first eggs in crested penguins and the extent to which benefits for both parents and offspring accrue from shortened incubation periods.

This PhD thesis was in part funded by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Stewart Island 2004-2005

Year two of the project started again in October and ends in March 2005. David Blair, our Projects Officer, is off to begin the nest searching with Sandy King and Jen van der Lubbe. Although numbers do vary from year to year, markedly fewer nest sites may indicate a loss of adults as the reason for chick starvation last season.

The aim this year will be to monitor even more carefully what is going on at the individual nest level. This season will see the Trust again monitor the Anglem coast, and fuller monitoring will be carried out on two nearby offshore islands, as well as Codfish Island. All dead chicks will be gathered and treated appropriately so that they can be sent off for analysis. Hopefully we will answer some of the questions raised last season.

Is high chick loss a repeating occurrence? Are relatively low chick weights common in this area or does it have an effect on chick survival? Are any chicks predated by cats?

Co-operative Predator Trapping

On the Otago Peninsula, not only yellow-eyed young but also the chicks of most native birds are known to be lost to mustelids – mainly stoats and ferrets. Even after an intensive four year government sponsored research programme into their control, trapping is still considered the most effective method we have of removing these pests, although it is very labour intensive and therefore expensive.



Jonathan Lewis, Task Force Green Supervisor, checks a trapline.



Participants of the Otago Peninsula trapping workshop at Natures Wonders.

Many of the wildlife managers, especially those involved in tourism, have for many years trapped their own habitats. When David Blair was employed by

the Trust we were able to start trapping one of our larger habitats, Okia. It was obvious that removing one lot of mustelids made a space available to newcomers to move into. David's aim became to unite all the isolated efforts and protect larger areas. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) asked how they could help the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, and so they agreed to provide a Task Force Green team once a week. Their project was to trap all the main routes and known mustelid harbouring areas in the top third of the Peninsula, from the Albatross Colony to Okia and thus tie together all the isolated predator control programmes. David, and more recently our Ranger, Dave McFarlane, received the co-operation of all the other wildlife managers in the area to trap

the most likely routes into their breeding areas and keep standardised records of their own trapping programmes.

It was a success! No chick deaths of any wildlife in this area of the Peninsula are known to have been due to predator attacks during the last breeding and trapping season and the survival rate was reported to be high. With the DCC's help, the same trap lines will be monitored again this breeding season.

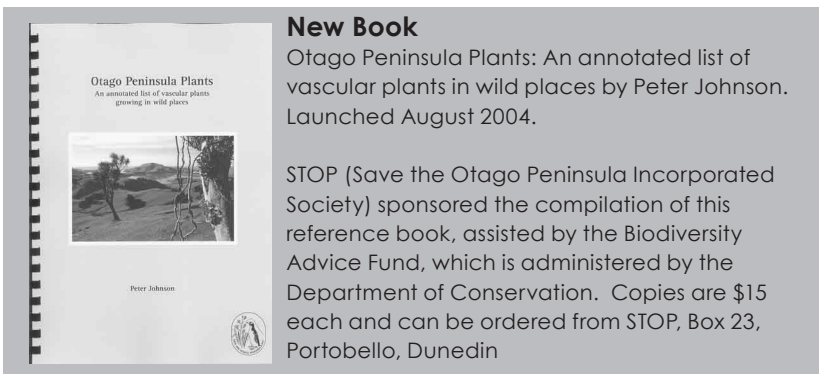
An extension to the program became possible when Adam du Fall of the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic's Wildlife Management Course wrote offering four weeks' work to undertake a field research project. Dean Nelson of the Department of Conservation had pointed us to a thesis by Olivia Holland on "Molecular Ecology of Mustelids in New Zealand" which indicated that gene flow levels were the lowest at her Taiaroa Head sampling site at the end of the Otago Peninsula. She postulated that the geography of the Peninsula could have led to this high level of genetic inbreeding. This would mean that if we could stop mustelid immigration into the end of the Peninsula, thus creating a virtual island, and then continue to intensively trap within that lower half, we should be able to reduce or even wipe out the predators in the vulnerable wildlife habitats – at least for a time.

The Biodiversity funding and the donation from The Shrimpton Animal Trust (administered by the Public Trust) meant that the Trust has also been able to run and contribute to Trapping Workshops and to share our expertise as well as that of researchers, other trappers and trap designers. This year, these have so far been held not only on the Peninsula, but also in the Catlins, on the West Coast and on Banks Peninsula. With more and more trappers, hopefully we can see a reduction in the numbers of these deadly killers.

New Book

Otago Peninsula Plants: An annotated list of vascular plants in wild places by Peter Johnson. Launched August 2004.

STOP (Save the Otago Peninsula Incorporated Society) sponsored the compilation of this reference book, assisted by the Biodiversity Advice Fund, which is administered by the Department of Conservation. Copies are \$15 each and can be ordered from STOP, Box 23, Portobello, Dunedin



Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium 2004

Yellow-eyed penguin people gathered again in July to share information, data and ideas about the penguins. Lots of exciting new research was described and it was fantastic to hear that no penguin chicks were taken by predators on the Otago Peninsula.

It was reported that yellow-eyed penguin breeding numbers were similar to last year on the Otago Peninsula, down about 2.5% in North Otago, and down even more in the Catlins (13%), so nest numbers were down slightly overall. The number of chicks fledged per pair and the fledging weight were above average. Juvenile survival at that time appeared high.

Tony Hocken, who undertakes the often mysterious penguin autopsies, made a plea to send him carcasses in good condition. These need to have attached the relevant information such as date, place of collection, circumstance of death or dying etc to help Tony in his assessment of cause of death.

Thomas Mattern's research on the foraging patterns of yellow-eyed penguins uses satellite technology to give a true position fix after every dive. Off Bushy Beach, this data showed that 95 % of dives went to the bottom, and each had its favourite spot. This feeding



strategy requires locally stable prey, but could indicate low flexibility to respond to food shortages. Yellow-eyed penguins are both bottom feeders and bottom travelers.

Tourists were also on the agenda. At Shag Point, Katiki Point, and at Sandfly Bay, more people come to view penguins each year. At Sandfly Bay, the idea is to construct a trail that will provide satisfying visitor experiences while minimizing disturbance to penguins, seals and sealions.

A good day was enjoyed with people gathered from Christchurch to Stewart Island. We missed some of the usual faces, and welcomed new friends.

Just a few of the speakers at the Yellow-eyed Penguin Symposium:
Tony Hocken, Eric Shelton, Thomas Mattern, Dave Houston, Brent Beaven, Dave McFarlane, and David Blair

Special thanks to Stewarts Coffee for supplying their usual high quality coffee for us all to savour.

We are on a roll

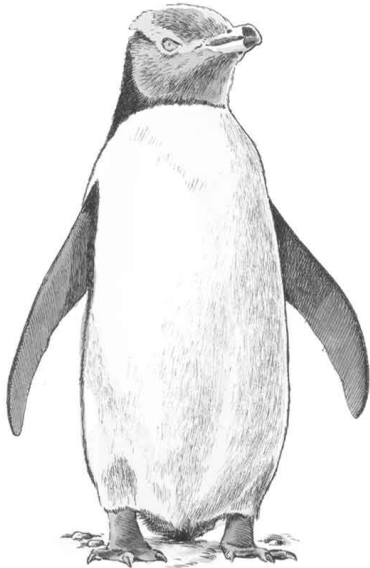
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the time. There would be no television in this country if it weren't for the advertisers who, in effect, sponsor each television programme. There are many different ways a company can advertise its products or services, but a key part of corporate business strategy is supporting charitable organisations. A recent survey by A C Neilsen Media Research showed that brand recognition is most favourable to those companies. In fact 60% of Kiwis over 15 prefer products or services associated with a charity or worthy cause. A staggering 57% of all the respondents to the survey said that they would readily buy a more expensive product if it was made by a company



linked to a charity. It just goes to show what a generous lot we are.

So keep on sending in those barcodes from the cheese and butter wrappers, and if you see a company supporting the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, please let them know you appreciate them!



Help our Hoiho

Mainland's 'Help our Hoiho' project was a huge success in helping to raise awareness of the plight of the yellow-eyed penguin.

The promotion saw exposure of the cause on selected Mainland products, and point of sale material over the three month promotional period. There were also reports on the project in numerous newspapers all over the country and also on TV One's Breakfast programme. The Trust commented that the promotion has provided wonderful benefits to the cause, by again putting it in the spotlight and reminding the public that the problem is still very real.

The major prize winners of the promotion were:

Family Prizes - all expenses paid trip to Dunedin to see the yellow-eyed penguin

- A McLennan, Waipawa
- The Kinley Family, Christchurch
- Mrs P Stenson, Mt. Maunganui
- Mrs D Krikov, Wellington
- E Laurie, Auckland

School Major prize - Day trip to see the Yellow-eyed penguin and work with the Trust

- Room 8, Port Chalmers School - Dunedin

School Consolation prizes - \$500 worth of books for the school

- Room 8, Papatoetoe Intermediate, Auckland
- Room 3, Havelock School, Marlborough
- Room 4, Kaurilands School, Auckland
- Room 22, Cobham Intermediate, Christchurch
- Yrs 6-8, Totara College for accelerated learning, Dannevirke



Mainland, proud supporter

Overwhelming Response

Due to the overwhelming response from schools nationwide and the amazing effort that some classes went to, Mainland offered an additional five consolation prizes. Those schools were:

- Room 2, Tamahere School, Hamilton - Most creative and beautiful entries
- Henley School, Nelson - Most number of entries for a school
- Hoiho Class, St. Pauls School, Nelson - Most number of entries for a class
- Sunnyhills Primary, Auckland - Fantastic support
- Darfield Primary, Darfield - Fantastic support

Tapui Books in Dunedin supplied the book prizes to the schools and very kindly offered an additional \$100 worth of books to each school.

Mainland's Marketing Manager Sharon Angus and Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust executive Sue Murray visited Port Chalmers school's winning class to deliver their certificate. The children were very excited and pleased to win the prize and are looking forward to their trip, planned for the 11th of October.



COURTESY OF THE OTAGO DAILY TIMES

We have planned an action packed day for Room 8; including a ride on the Monarch, visits to Natures Wonders and Penguin Place, as well as being involved with some planting for the Trust. Each child and minder will receive a hoiho supporter t-shirt to remember the day.

Thanks

Mainland would like to thank the following for their assistance with this project:

- * All of the Yellow-eyed penguin supporters in helping to make this a very successful promotion to raise the awareness of our precious penguin.
- * Tapui Books for their assistance and extra donation provided to the winning schools.
- * The Trust for their very keen assistance in the huge task of managing the promotion.

of the Hoiho since 1989



Tourists and Penguins

The popular and influential journal *New Scientist* featured a warning: *Beware the ecotourist* (6th March 2004, pp.6-7). This article painted a grim picture of the impacts that visitation by tourists have on wildlife—stress, increased vigilance, human-to-animal transmission of disease and altered social and reproductive behaviour to the point where irreversible damage may be done to specific wildlife populations. Alarming, the article states that “such effects are seen among the yellow-eyed penguins in the Otago Peninsula of New Zealand” (p7). The evidence for this claim is a paper by Maureen McClung, Phil Seddon, Melanie Massaro and Alvin Setiawan reporting that juvenile penguin fledging weights at an often-visited colony, Sandfly Bay, were ten percent lighter than for those at an infrequently visited site, specifically Highcliff (Biological Conservation 2004, 119, 2: 279-285).

In fact, in this paper these authors are

cautious in their interpretation of their results. The two habitats differ in potentially important ways other than just visitor numbers and so it is unwise to attribute the weight differences wholly to tourism. Nonetheless, it seems sensible in response to these findings to act to minimise the potential negative effects that tourism may have at Sandfly Bay while at the same time attempting to maximise the opportunities that exist at that site to show people how best to interact with the non-human environment. The fact that there may be nearly thirty thousand visits per year to the site suggests that this is a key opportunity for environmental education.

A working party from the Yellow-eyed Penguin Consultative Group, including two representatives from the Trust, is developing a Visitor Management Plan for Sandfly Bay, including tackling the problem of the current hide being inadequate. The Trust is also providing financial backing for the project. The idea is to try to get visitors to adopt a set of conservation values that will guide their

behaviour while at the site. These values are centred on respect, not just for the penguins’ lifestyle, but also for the quality of other visitors’ experiences while at Sandfly Bay. All being well we should see signs of the plan being implemented as soon as the current breeding season is finished.



Catlins Tourism Strategy By Fergus Sutherland

The recent launch of the Catlins Tourism Strategy (CTS) marks a significant development for the Catlins area and for conservation. The CTS is the result of three years’ work by Catlins people, the Clutha and Southland Councils, and contractors (University of Otago Tourism Department). The document focuses on sustainability and has many recommendations for the protection of the environment, such as the ‘Catlins Care Code’ and suggestions for controlling visitor numbers at wildlife viewing sites. The full document is available from the Clutha District Council: www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Yellow-eyed penguins are recognised in the strategy as an icon species in the Catlins and their protection is seen as fundamental to the sustainability of tourism. The document calls for tourism stake-holders to cooperate in ensuring that visitors are made aware of penguin (and other sensitive wildlife) vulnerability. This will be achieved through the ‘Catlins Care Code’ and good interpretation. The strategy also calls for the ongoing monitoring of visitor impacts and the strengthening of controls on sensitive sites by local cooperation, possible user pays and limitations under DOC tourism concessions.

A rather amazing penguin

By John Darby

Some time on the afternoon of 9 February 1974, a numbered band 1081 was put on the left flipper of a yellow-eyed penguin chick by the then wildlife ranger on the Otago Peninsula, Alan Wright.

It was not until I found this chick again (as an adult bird) on 13th October 1983 that this story begins again.

Over the coming years, this bird was to put on a spectacular performance. She was last seen on Oct 9th 1997 almost 24 years after she

hatched, making her the oldest known yellow-eyed penguin.

However, of real interest was that she was monitored for only 12 of the potential 22 breeding seasons she lived for and in that time produced 24 eggs that fledged 17 chicks. This included two years when it appears that her mate never turned up, thus four eggs failed and there was one year in which both chicks died of starvation and one year when only a single chick survived.

Of the 17 chicks that we know she fledged, seven went onto breed and, at the last count, those seven birds had produced a further 41 chicks.

While the late Lance Richdale suggested that the maximum age of yellow-eyed in the wild would be about 23 years, recent publications have recorded an age of 30 years. On further enquiry, it appears that a data entry error at the banding office (Rod Cossee pers comm) has led to this mistake, thus it is highly unlikely that yellow-eyed survive beyond 24-25 years in the wild.

There are a number of birds in their late teens and early twenties in the population, but few have performed as well as ten eighty-one. She is one of a small group of super birds that out-perform most other birds. She breeds when other birds take a year off, invariably rears two chicks when others only manage one or fail entirely, and, most importantly, her progeny survives to breed, resulting in a very significant proportion of her genes active in the population.

With a dwindling population of yellow-eyed, predator control must take a high priority. Predators make no distinction as to which genes they take out of the system and we know that some of ten eighty-ones descendents have been killed by predators. Habitat protection has gone a long way to the conservation of this species and congratulations are due all round. However, only when predation is no longer an issue (and that does not appear to be the case in the foreseeable future) can we consider the job done.

Over the years, in addition to Alan Wright and myself, this bird met Dr Phil Seddon, Dr Yolanda van Heezik, Alex Turner, Suzanne May, Ross McGregor, Fiona Leckie, Craig Whyte, Tom Dixon, Marcelle McMannus, Dean Nelson, and Peter Moore, to name but a few who have contributed to her story.



DIANE CALVERT

Curio Bay

In deepest Southland, at the very southern-most part of the South Island, live two of our rarest species. On one side of the headland is Porpoise Bay, where the rare and diminutive Hector's dolphins are local residents, and on the other side at Curio Bay the yellow-eyed penguin nests on the cliff above the 160 million year old petrified kauri forest.



The local community have formed the South Catlins Development and Environmental Charitable Trust in order to promote and protect the area.

Their plans include upgrading the current camping ground, building an information centre which will offer regulated visits to the yellow-eyed penguins and the petrified forest, and the sub-division of a large block of land neighbouring Porpoise Bay.

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust is working in close consultation to ensure the natural values and biodiversity are not compromised by these proposed developments.

We have not only consulted on habitat design and fencing, but supported them in a successful application to the New Zealand National Parks and Conservation Foundation for a \$21,000 grant. This money will assist the SCD&ET towards fencing, habitat protection and binoculars for viewing the wildlife.

**IT'S PENGUIN
NESTING TIME
AGAIN**

Remember to:

Hide

Talk quietly

**Keep to the
tracks**

**DON'T take
your dogs
near any
wildlife**



Mervyn Cranefield

It was fortuitous for the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in 1990 that a retiring and energetic accountant saw an advertisement in the Accounting Journal for a treasurer to assist a newly formed Trust. Now 14 years later, Mervyn Cranefield is relinquishing the accounts for the Trust and we will miss his dedicated and astute financial know-how.

As well as keeping our books in good shape, he has completed free auditing and accounting for a diverse group of charities from the Dunedin Sinfonia, scouting groups, and sporting clubs to the Youth Hostel Association. He is an active Rotarian and

holds Scoutings' highest honour, a silver Tui, to mention a few of his talents.

Despite his recent indifferent health, he has looked after all the Trust's accounts in an impeccable and professional manner.

This despite his recent indifferent health. Behind his quiet demeanour, Trustees have been aware of his sense of humour especially in the face of some unconventional meals at tea meetings!

He will be sorely missed though he will be relieved to not have to climb three flights of stairs to do the monthly accounts.

We wish him improved health and a long happy retirement.



Dean Nelson

Dean Nelson, the Programme Manager Biodiversity Assets for Otago's Department of Conservation and penguin pal, has flown the nest here in Dunedin to take up a new challenge in Twizel with another threatened species. He will be sorely missed. For fifteen years he has been a primary link between DOC and the various yellow-eyed penguin groups and has taken a keen interest in helping the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and other community groups undertake conservation work beyond the scope of DOC.

Dean's introduction to yellow-eyed penguins was rather brutal. It was during the 1990 die-off that Dean started and his first duties were to round up starving chicks. Dean also helped out at the SPCA feeding the chicks and there learned how NOT to hold a penguin. Holding one chick too close to his face, the chick latched onto his nose, one of the mandibles being inside his nostril. Dean's eyes were watering from the pain and onlookers' eyes were watering with laughter! Ever since then Dean has had a nose for penguins! He got the

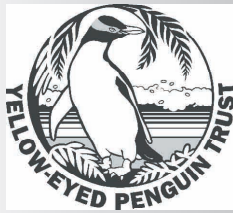


Always educating...Dean with students showing the peripatus at Boulder Beach

nickname 'The Nose' during Stewart Island nest searches. Just one whiff and he is able to pinpoint a nest even through dense bush.

Dean, we know it will be hard for you to leave the world of penguin politics but you have left them in good hands. All the very best for your future and a big thank you from all of us at the Trust. Of course, if you get nostalgic for penguins, there will always be a place for you on nest searches. We welcome to Dunedin, Dave Houston, a self-confessed penguin-o-phile from the Oamaru DOC Office.





KIDS PAGE

November 2004

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, A charity working to save our penguins forever for everyone!

DIANE CALVERT



“Why do these penguins have yellow eyes?”

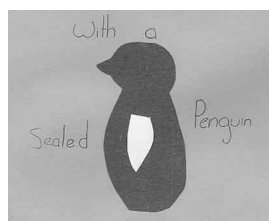
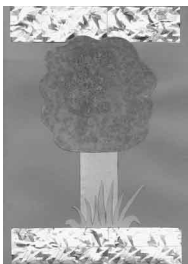
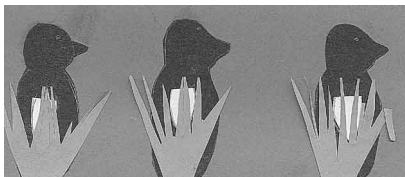
Beech Tree Elementary School's Reading group recently asked the question

John Darby replied “...the colour of the eye is a continuation of the colour band around the head. It is interesting to note that for the

first year of their lives, yellow-eyed penguins do not have yellow eyes, (they are grey) and neither do they have a yellow band around their head.The colour yellow of the eye and feathers is caused by a chemical called carotene which is also high in vitamin A. On a daily basis, it is the pigment that gives the colour to things like carrots and tomatoes, but it is also found in small quantities in small sea creatures. A student at the University of Otago recently studied the importance of the yellow eye and feather colour in yellow-eyed penguins and found that those birds that had deeper yellow colour tended to rear more chicks than those that were very pale, which suggest that these birds were better at catching food than those with pale eyes...”

Kids like these are fantastic friends of the Trust...

Artwork from Portobello School, Dunedin



Elise Craig questions the Prime Minister

“Dear Helen Clark

I am studying yellow eyed penguin and I do not want them to die because they are endangered Please help us. From Elise Craig PS I put a poster in too”

The Prime Minister's reply

“Thank you for writing to me about the yellow-eyed penguins.....It is good to hear from young people who care about our native plants and animals. I hope you will continue to have an interest in protecting endangered birds like the yellow-eyed penguin.”

Please Find my enclosed Barcodes and my \$1.50 I am happy to donate to the Penguins.

Many thanks to St Joseph's School Years 3,4,5 and 6 who have raised \$340.75 for helping the hoiho.

Don't forget to visit our website...
www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Many thanks to...

Thank you to our regular supporters:

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Nursery supporters
and all our valued members

Thank you to our Volunteers:

Adam du Fall
Alison Ballance
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Charlie Murrell
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Gailleen Ross
Graham & Sherry Thurlow
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Millers Studios
Shrimpton Animal Trust
Vodafone New Zealand
Foundation
WWF - NZ (The Tindall
Foundation)

Thank you to:

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

2004 PUBLIC PLANTING DAYS

Digging Deep

Several dozen volunteers of all ages assisted Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust staff and trustees on public planting days at Okia (May and August) and Tavora (June).

Plantings continued on the Margaret Hazel slope at Okia (named as such in memory of a dedicated volunteer who died tragically in 1999), building on earlier plantings carried out since 2000. In a new initiative with the reserve's joint owners, (Dunedin City Council), a dune area in the middle section of Victory Beach was planted with a variety of dune plants, including pikao and *Coprosma acerosa*.

To the north, at Tavora Reserve in North Otago, a successful planting day was held in the 'ngaio paddock' on 13th June. Dunedin volunteers joined locals to plant more than 400 shrubs, adding to the few surviving mature ngaio and lowland ribbonwoods.

Thanks to all the planters for your hard work. Your efforts are much appreciated and year by year are assisting in restoring native vegetation in our reserves.



Volunteers on the Margaret Hazel slope



Planting pikao at Victory Beach, Okia Reserve

To order your Mainland Chart call: 0800 243 373

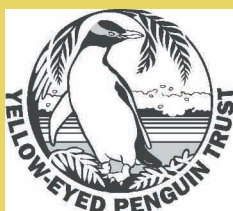
Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 23rd November
Time: 7:30pm
Place: Otago Art Society
Rooms Great King Street,
Dunedin

Guest Speaker: Shaun McConkey, talking about the NZ Sealion Trust and showing us a video about the sealions on the Otago Peninsula



Dave McFarlane and Mike Hazel planting at Tavora



BRUCE FITZGERALD

Please remember us in your Will

Managing and/or purchasing penguin breeding habitat and controlling predators such as stoats and ferrets are some of our ongoing tasks.

Saving the yellow-eyed penguin is a long-term task.

Bequests will help secure its survival.

Please remember us in your Will.