

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST NEWS

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

Urgent appeal thank you

"I made a modest donation to this wonderful project when your appeal was first launched. Please note that I will donate another \$100 if you are definitely going to meet the target"... "I hope very much you are able to purchase the coastline as it sounds great"... "Fingers crossed!"... "I hope you get your land!"... "The amount of my donation reflects the importance that I attach to the purchase of native flora and fauna habitat for preservation"... "Good luck Guys!"... "All the best for purchasing the land!"

And those were just a few of the many well wishes we received. All of us at the Trust were absolutely bowled over by your tremendous generosity. It is fantastic to know that we have such a dedicated membership. We are sure your overwhelming support was in part one of the reasons why we received support from the government. To date (end of April) negotiations are well underway so we wait eagerly with our fingers crossed. Our contribution (i.e the money the Trust put up and all the other donations and pledges) came to \$450,000 and that's a tangible indication of the importance we all attribute to acquiring this land. We have marginalized our unique wildlife to the point where nearly a third of all New Zealand's bird species have become extinct since humans first arrived in our Land of Birds, but it appears the tide has well and truly turned, and judging by all your contributions there is an increasing groundswell of support. Rest assured we will do everything we can to secure this coastline for future generations.

New patron for the Trust

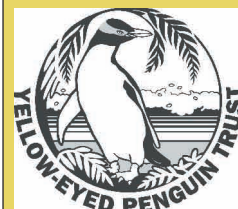
Our long time friend and Patron, Beverley Lady Reeves decided it was time to hand over her role as Patron of the Trust, which she had held since 1988, as "age was creeping up". Not that you could tell. The 72-year old wife of former Governor General Sir Paul Reeves said, "Anton, if I was 20 years younger, you wouldn't be getting a look in." Yes that's right, Anton Oliver is now our Patron. In reply Anton

PHOTO COURTESY OF OTAGO DAILY TIMES

said, "I was really humbled that you thought I could make a contribution." He saw the role as being to promote the yellow-eyed penguin and to educate young people about their environment and its importance. Handing over the spade-of-office ceremony happened at a special planting day on April 22nd at the Margaret Hazel site at Okia Reserve. 50 people turned up to witness the handing over of the 'spade' a bright yellow one inscribed with Beverley and Anton's names but not before 350 native shrubs were planted. It was a great day, great weather, great people, and great place. After all the planting the speeches and

photographs the Broad Bay Community Centre supplied us with lunch and Beverley and Anton cut a huge cake which was shared around.

We are all sad to see Beverley go but we know we have a replacement in Anton who will champion our cause. So give Anton a special cheer as he leads the Highlanders onto the field or perhaps even becomes captain of the All Blacks once again.



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Masthead photo by
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Yellow-eyed penguin foraging on Stewart and Codfish Islands



THOMAS MATTERN

Thomas Mattern
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During the first three years of the Trust's penguin monitoring programme on Stewart Island, chick starvation was found to be an important mortality factor and as such possibly contributing to the overall low penguin density. Chick starvation is usually tied to prey shortage within range of the breeding sites and usually reflected in the adult penguins' foraging behaviour (i.e. longer foraging trips and high dive effort). To examine whether Stewart Island birds indeed have to cope with food issues I studied the foraging behaviour of penguins breeding at Golden Beach and Rollers Beach (both Stewart Island) and Sealers and Penguin Bay (Codfish Island) in November and December 2005. While the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust provided GPS loggers and logistic support, I convinced my father to tackle the Stewart Island bush as my field assistant.

The field work on Stewart Island was carried out from 14 November to 2 December 2005. At first we established camp at Golden Beach but a spell of bad weather literally flushed us out of our tent during the first week. We abandoned camp and transferred to Bungaree Bay and the DOC hut. Here we had the advantage that programming the high-tech GPS data loggers was a lot easier, primarily because the chances of standing in the rain with several thousand dollars worth of hydrophobic equipment were greatly minimized. Another problem we faced was that the chicks had just hatched when we

arrived and we did not want to disturb nests with such small chicks. So it wasn't until the end of our first week that we were able to deploy the first logger at Golden Beach. Between 19 and 30 November we managed to equip a total of five adult penguins (three from Golden and two from Rollers Beach) with GPS loggers. All the birds cooperated marvellously and showed no adverse effects to the deployments, but only four deployments yielded data. One bird returned with a waterlogged and irreparably damaged device. The loss of this logger (the only non-Trust logger we had with us) and the late start of the deployments were the reasons why we didn't even get close to the 10 birds I originally wanted to get foraging data off. Nevertheless, considering these setbacks, we were quite happy to have data for a total of nine foraging trips when we left Stewart Island on 2 December.

Only five days later – after a brief stint back in Dunedin – part two of this season's foraging work began. This time my Dad stayed back and Ursula Ellenberg, my partner, joined me for three weeks of foraging research on Codfish Island. Our plane touched ground in Sealers Bay around noon on the 7 December. A mere four hours later we already had equipped the first penguin with a GPS logger. We experienced no setbacks whatsoever during our time on Codfish Island and managed to deploy loggers on a total of nine penguins. Just as on Stewart Island, the penguins were very cooperative and all returned from their foraging trips in excellent shape; one bird actually came back about 1 kg heavier. The foraging data we got from the penguins was everything we could hope for – detailed foraging tracks and precise dive and temperature data.

Since early January analysis of the data has been underway. The results at this stage are surprising. As predicted, we found considerable differences in foraging behaviour of penguins between Stewart Island and Codfish Island. It underlines that success rates of penguins might indeed be tied to sea-based factors, the differences were quite the opposite of what I expected. The Stewart Island birds foraged much closer to their breeding sites

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Penguins! In the time of the Dinosaurs!

By Claire Barton (Article reproduced courtesy of *Critic, Te Arohi* 10.04.06 Issue 7)

A study involving Otago University palaeontologists seems set to overturn American studies that suggest that bird species evolved after the demise of the dinosaurs.

Otago scientists have been studying fossils of ancient proto-penguins, found in the Waipara River in Christchurch in the 1980s, and through “DNA detective work” and collaborating on studies of fossils, have found that the penguins lived off the east coast of New Zealand between 60 and 62 million years ago.

The fossils of the new genus, which has been named Waimanu, are the oldest reported penguin remains in the world.

Associate Professor of Geology Ewan Fordyce, who was involved in the research effort, says the ‘proto-penguins’ were about the size of yellow-eyed penguins and “probably looked a bit like shags”. He says that it is very unlikely that they could fly, but their wing bones were compressed and dense, allowing them to use them like flippers underwater – similar to penguins today.

Fordyce says that by comparing the evolutionary processes of penguins with other, distantly related bird species such as storks, ducks and moa, New Zealand researchers found that other species of bird must have been established much earlier than previously thought, before the demise of the dinosaurs. This refutes recent work by American scientist Alan Feduccia, who suggested that many modern bird species

emerged after the catastrophic earth event which is believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs, and that most ancient bird types had become extinct alongside dinosaurs.

The research, and official description of the newly identified genus will be published in the international journal, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

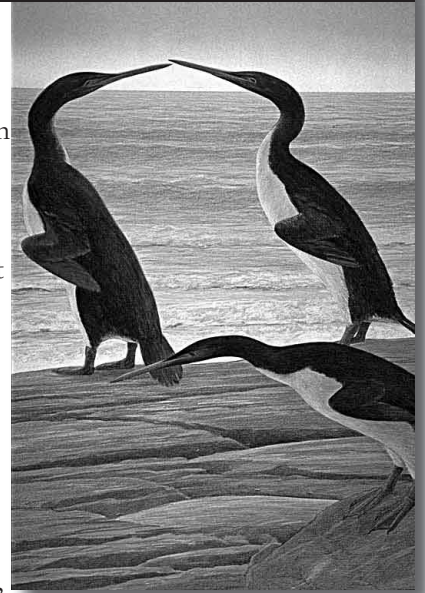
Critic was not able to establish if dinosaurs liked to eat the penguins, but imagines they probably did.

For further information:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/geology/features/paleontology/waimanu.html>

and

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/geology/features/paleontology/p-antarcticus.htm>



Waimanu Paleocene penguin... shows a reconstruction of the Waimanu penguin, by C Gaskin. Illustration ©Geology Museum, University of Otago.

Penguin foraging

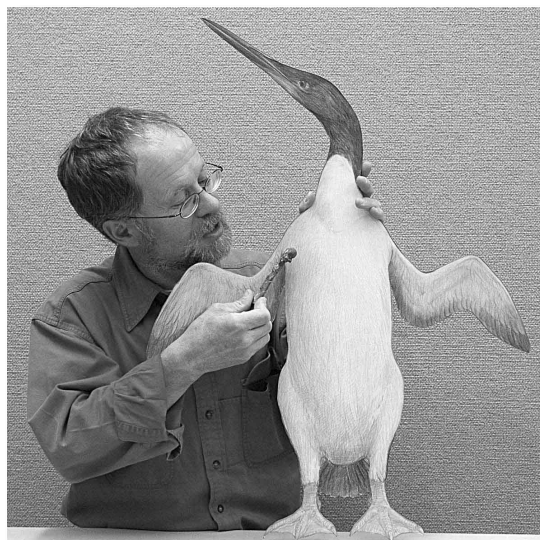
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and were away for much shorter periods at sea than their Codfish Island conspecifics. Therefore, Codfish Island birds seem to show a much higher foraging effort. Considering that chick starvation was again an important

mortality factor on Stewart Island this season, I would have expected to observe higher foraging efforts in penguins from Golden and

Rollers Beach. Instead it appears as if Codfish Island birds worked harder; as chick starvation was no apparent problem. As the data presents itself at the moment, prey shortage does not seem to be the issue for the penguins for Stewart Island – at least not for the adults. Instead there are indications that the chick starvation might be a result of a lower diversity of prey species available to Stewart Island penguins and, thus, a matter of food quality. In other words, it could be that adult penguins bring home prey species of low nutritional value, but it is also imaginable that the size of the prey items might play a role. However, this theory needs further substantiation and research.

Further information and a field work diary can be found online at <http://www.penguinpage.net>



Ewan Fordyce holding a wing bone with a reconstruction of the Waimanu penguin. Photograph © R Ewan Fordyce

Why are Stewart Island penguins dying?



A census carried out by the Trust in 1999-2002 made it clear that the yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island were decreasing in numbers. To try and work out why, we committed to a five year monitoring programme, of which the third year has just been completed.

Initially it was hypothesised that the wild cats on the

island were predated the chicks. The fact that numbers on the nearby cat free islands of the Bravo Group and on Whenua Hou (Codfish) did not appear to have declined quite so dramatically, seemed to lend weight to this theory.

However the first year of monitoring showed a high death rate of chicks not only in the area where no intervention had taken place but also in an area where cats had been eliminated at the start of the season.

So in the second year we concentrated on expanding the areas monitored to more of the catfree islands to see if there were an untoward number of chicks dying in those areas too. We employed a second staff member because relying totally on continually changing volunteers required a lot of organisation and training and did not ensure continual cover.

Again a large number of chicks on the mainland died, especially in the first six weeks, and there were also unexplained chick deaths on the other islands. The problem was that we were not getting to the nests often enough to be able to ascertain the cause of death. Generally there was either no sign of a carcass— had they been predated, either before or after death? Or, when a carcass was present it was too old to be suitable for autopsy. Was it cats, or was it the same corynebacterium that had reduced chick survival rate on the South Island by half? That bacterium was implicated in at least one of the autopsies possible.

The aim in the third year was to have much more frequent monitoring, especially on Stewart Island itself, so that the cause of death could be ascertained for as many chicks as possible.

It was a surprise to find that the main cause of death of chicks in this 2005/2006 season was in fact starvation and disease.

Thomas Mattern's tracking of the adults' feeding patterns added a further dimension, (See page 2). Were the Stewart Island penguins in fact fast food addicts, choosing to get the easy pickings close inshore, leading to overweight but less well-nourished chicks? Was the food in the area in which adults chose to hunt less nutritious because the water is shallower, and thus the fish smaller, or has it become so because of the amount of human fishing taking place in this area?

A previously unknown blood parasite was identified this year. Is that causing starvation?

We know too that the number of breeding pairs will fluctuate from year to year according to their condition at egg laying time. The nest success can vary according to temperature at crucial times. The abundance of fish at sea in any one season will affect chick weights and survival. Thus a snapshot in only one year can give a false impression of overall breeding success. Certainly this year we have had fewer breeding pairs in the study on Stewart Island but greater breeding success than the previous two years.

We still do not have the complete answer to why the Stewart Island penguins are continuing to decrease. It is therefore essential that the fourth and fifth years of monitoring take place, with monitoring designed to answer new questions that have arisen. Unfortunately, while grants wholly covered or heavily subsidised the first two years' costs, we were able to raise only \$10,000 (our thanks to the Community Trust of Southland for their ongoing support) in the more recent season. As a consequence the Trust has had to dip into capital reserves (which reduces the interest available for our normal operating costs) to continue this project. Your trustees did not take this action lightly but felt that the Stewart Island project is too valuable not to complete. We hope to be able to attract more sponsorship to help ease the financial burden.

Stewart Island update 2005/06 season

The third season of field work wound up in March, leaving us with a feeling that we are starting to figure out some of the factors that may be affecting yellow-eyed penguin reproductive success here. Sandy, Julie and the rest of the team worked especially hard during the guard phase to monitor every nest in the study area at least every third day, or every second day in some cases. This effort paid off, with almost all chick deaths being accounted for and a much reduced number of unknown causes of death compared with the previous season. For the third consecutive time there was no evidence that feral cats are preying on chicks, but starvation and disease caused several deaths. As always this small piece of information raises a whole lot more questions; like were the chicks starving because they were diseased, i.e. food supply wasn't the issue, or, were the chicks becoming ill because they were starving and run down i.e. food supply was the issue? Next season's work will attempt to answer these and other questions that arose.

Interestingly, the *Corynebacterium* that caused so many chicks to die in Otago last season was present again on Stewart Island this season but without the same catastrophic effect, and a second disease, a blood parasite, was also identified. Investigation into the significance of both of these will continue next year.

A highlight was assisting DOC with a trial to assess the use of transponders as an alternative to banding yellow-eyed penguins. (See *Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News*, November

2005). The trial went very well, and gives us confidence that transponders will be a useful and penguin-friendly alternative to flipper banding.

Another highlight was the amount of recognition and support for the Trust that came from the Stewart Island community. Several local businesses, including our long-time supporters Stewart Island Water Taxi and Eco Guiding, discounted their services; a local couple provided accommodation for Julie when she was not in the field, and the editor of the local newsletter and penguin enthusiast Jess Kany ensured the project was well reported on and took the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by accompanying Sandy on several field excursions.



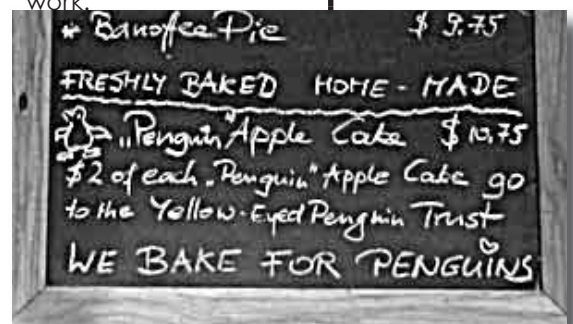
Field Assistant, Julie McInnes. See Julie's article about her 5 months on Stewart Island on page 8.



Trustee Evan Kennedy (left), Annett Eiselt (volunteer and baker, centre) and Sandy King (Projects Officer Southern Islands) prepare to sample the dessert baked for penguins at Church Hill Restaurant, Stewart Island.

Resident, Annett Eiselt, contributed by filling volunteer gaps three times, and is continuing to support the project over winter by "Baking for Penguins" at the Church Hill Restaurant. A portion of the price from each piece of her delicious Italian apple cake dessert will go towards

the costs of the Stewart Island project for the next, penultimate, season of field work.



People for penguins-David Blair



David Blair worked as our Projects Officer from April 1999 – April 2006. In that time he moved the Trust into a number of new areas with his unique blend of conservation vision and practical skills.

His main job was to liaise with landowners to assist them with penguin habitat management in a way that maximised protection while still enabling farming practice and/or ecotourism to have least impact on penguins. David's background and understanding of these operations meant he had the ability to quickly establish rapport and trust. His

ability to think outside the square meant he could often come up with a solution that was a win-win one and his practical skills meant that he could assist with fencing, trapping or revegetation programs to achieve the desired ends. David's wide knowledge of plants and revegetation operations meant he was able to fill the role of Nursery Manager between appointments as well as carrying out the actual planting and maintenance. He developed a maintenance program that has meant that we can put plants out when they are smaller and have them establish and put on growth and become independent in a shorter time with a greater success rate. This, combined with his knowledge learnt over the years, of which plants will do best where, means that trees planted become potential penguin nesting sites sooner.

David was one of the first people to begin growing the native pikao or pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*, or golden sand sedge). One of the most exciting projects that he initiated for the Trust was the total replacement of introduced marram with native pikao on the dunes at Tavora, combined with educational wetland display panels. As a result, this was awarded the National Coastal Dune Conservation Award in 2003.



The Trust had previously relied on financing DOC workers to trap in penguin areas, but David's expertise was used to develop a practical handbook on the trapping of mustelids that explained the why as well as the how, and stressed the importance of keeping records. This led to the Trust sponsoring a series of trapping workshops from the West Coast to Southland, where David's input, expertise and networks were a crucial part of the success. More recently he undertook co-ordination of an ambitious project to begin making the Otago Peninsula ferret and stoat free, by trapping outside the already trapped wildlife habitats on the potential corridors for reinfestations.

David is a bushman and a fisherman who had spent time on Stewart Island. His





knowledge of local conditions allowed him to initiate the logistically complex census of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island, even using his own fishing boat in the first year. This led to him setting up the beginning of the five year project aimed at discovering why the numbers in this area are declining.

At a farewell function, David was made a Life Member in recognition of how his strong conservation ethic and knowledge, combined with his creativity and his practical skills have advanced the Trust's vision and scope of activities. We therefore thank him for his contribution to yellow-eyed penguin survival and feel sure that he will continue to have a positive impact on even more species of plants and animals.



The change over of Dave's!

We may be losing one Dave (David Blair) but we are replacing him with another! Dave McFarlane joined the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust in October 2003 as the Trust's first ever Ranger.

Since then he has been instrumental in overseeing our revegetation and pest control programmes. The employment of Dave enabled us to expand on existing programmes,

resulting in greater protection for the penguins and greater public awareness of their plight.



Dave now leaves this role to become the newly created "Field Officer". This is a combination of parts of the existing roles of Ranger and the vacated Projects Officer, and will see Dave move even more into advocacy work involving the yellow-eyed penguins, landowner liaison and coastal issues.

The practical field work component will be undertaken by a new "Field Assistant" – watch this space for the new staff member to be announced in our next newsletter!

'White' yellow-eyed penguins seen on Enderby Island

Last year one of our members from the UK was lucky enough to visit Enderby Island, part of the Auckland Islands group, and photograph this unusual 'white' yellow-eyed penguin.

We have since found out that there are actually two such birds thriving on Enderby Island.

In penguins there is a range of colour mutations, all black penguins (melanistic), brown and white penguins resulting from a lack of blue pigments in the feathers (leucistic) or birds lacking all pigment (albino).

This bird in this photograph is a leucistic yellow-eyed penguin, lacking the genetic code for its blue pigment. It is a heritable condition, but one that has been recorded in a number of species of birds.

As you can see in the photo, the yellow-band remains and looks somewhat dramatic on this white bird! The body of the penguin has some odd blue spots, making it even easier to identify on future visits to the Island.

Our sincere thanks for the wonderful photos sent to us by Barbara, and the one published here courtesy of DOC Wellington.

DOC WELLINGTON



Leucistic penguin and normal yellow-eyed penguin



DAVE HOUSTON

The recent shift by Dave Houston (DOC Otago's Programme Manager Biodiversity Assets and general friend of penguins) to Wellington has left a gap in the community and within the Trust's network.

Dave was involved in penguin work in many ways over the years. From undertaking yellow-eyed penguin nest searches initially throughout North Otago but eventually along the entire Otago Coast and Stewart Island, through to managing electronic databases and web pages. Dave was always ready to apply himself to the betterment of yellow-eyed penguins.

Dave took great delight in presenting annual reports to the Symposium on the state of YEP in North Otago and although there might have only been 27 nests they were all meticulously monitored and graphed.

Dave's computing expertise allowed for a comprehensive database to be developed. Based on data from John Darby, Dave worked his way through the code and syntax of working in Microsoft ACCESS and developed a product where reports and summaries were readily available to whoever asked. Dave annually received piles of field season reports, which quickly expanded the database to its current comprehensive coverage and size.

Dave's leadership within the Oamaru Community led to the development of a world-class tourism attraction in the form of the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony.

Dave always had a ready response to requests for information, and was often able to supply rapid answers to complicated requests. His

wry sense of humour will be missed. The Trust acknowledges all the support given by Dave, with particular thanks from the "penguins" for helping "make a difference". Thank you Dave and we wish you well in your new job.



Dave Houston talks with DOC Conservation Corps students out at the YEPT Nursery.

Notes from the penguin trail

By Julie McInnes
Field Assistant
Stewart Island

(article taken from
STEWART ISLAND NEWS
April 2006)

I knew I had to get away from the hectic rush of Melbourne, but little did I know that it would lead me to the land of glowing skies. I had been working on little blue penguins back in Australia until I met Sandy King at a conference in Oamaru last year. She spoke of a job that would pay me to walk along picturesque beaches, through immaculate ancient forest and monitor the world's most endangered penguin..... there had to be a catch! She did mention that it was muddy and often the weather could be inclement, but I could cope with mud and a little rain never hurt anyone did it? So I said goodbye to my little blue friends and up-sized to yellow-eyed penguins.

After a day of meeting people, it was straight into the field for eight days nest searching. If only I was 60cm tall, nest searching would have been easy. But instead it was down onto hands and knees and often tummy to crawl and slide through bush lawyer, cutty grass and penguin poo. I was starting to see the catch. However all self pity was lost in a second, when I climbed over a log to see my first yellow-eyed penguin up close. I gazed awestruck at one of the golden faces that would become part of my life for the next five months. I had made the right decision; this was going to be a fantastic summer!

For three weeks a month Bungaree, Yankee River and Long Harry huts became my home and several of the beaches my office. Each day there were nests to check, beaches to walk and mud to get lost in. There was always something new to see and ever changeable weather to keep you guessing. Bungaree knew how to impress with its spectacular sun rises, long patterned sands, and crystal clear water. Even when the weather turned wild, it was breathtaking. I learned to embrace the mud, dance in the hail and sing into the wind. This was my home. A place where, at the end of my working day, I could sit back with my guitar and watch the peak hour traffic go past – usually in the form of Fiordland crested penguins.

When I wasn't working, I spent my time exploring at the Inlet, embarking on a journey to Port Pegasus and walking the NW circuit. Back in Halfmoon Bay faces soon started to become familiar, with someone always up for coffee and a chat. But as always seems to happen, just when you get comfortable it's time to move on. Back to the hectic rush of Melbourne just long enough to realize that city life isn't for me and that an island life calls my name. Thanks to everyone helped make Rakiura my home. The memories that this island has given me will last a lifetime.

Have gnome will travel

As a winner of the Vodafone NZ Foundation 'Mini World of Difference' programme run for staff in 2005, I was over the moon to get the opportunity to put my skills to use for a charity such as the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT). It's not everyday that you get a two week pass to leave your team behind, along with all the pressures, to go and do something like this.

The only caveat for my travels to Dunedin was that I had to take a travelling companion in the form of Vodagnome. As we chatted on the flight down to Dunedin, he told me of his extensive business travel around the globe with many Vodafone employees, but he'd never been that far south before and he was looking forward to it. He also asked me what a *Megadyptes antipodes* was, but as I didn't know and didn't want to look stupid I just nodded and smiled. Anyway, I digress.

It would seem that I arrived at the YEPT just in time, as they had a major project on the go. I think on Day 1 I met about 90% of the staff, trustees and volunteers (phew) but no penguins. What a great bunch of people too! Passionate, fun, enthusiastic, and most of all very welcoming and hospitable. I knew my time here was going to be very enjoyable.

So what did I do, and what did I learn? Well, probably more than I thought I was going to on both counts. As far as the website goes (my core role), I was able to get online fundraising in place plus some other content changes, as well as putting together a comprehensive site review

report. This will enable the YEPT to apply a series of recommendations and improvements over time, or as time permits. I was also heavily involved in the urgent appeal mailer, putting my Marketing and Database skills to good use.

I also got out and about too, going on a couple of field trips and seeing yellow-eyed penguins, plus spending time at the nursery helping to pot plants I've never heard of, and couldn't possibly hope to spell here. Vodagnome even joined me there, much to the delight of the volunteers and staff. He always manages to put a smile on people's faces wherever he goes, but wasn't much use to me as he just stood there with that grin on his face watching me pot my eleventy-hundredth 'planteas habatatus'.

I learned some important facts about the penguins too and the habitat they live in. It really changed my poor and generally held misconceived ideas about penguins, but especially how endangered this species is. So it's great that the Trust exists and is gaining ever more momentum in its efforts to educate, inform and preserve the Hoiho. Hopefully I also made a difference for the YEPT during my stay.

Many thanks to Sue & the Gang (YEPT), Vodafone NZ Foundation, Vodafone NZ and Vodagnome.



Phil Clark, the Vodagnome, and a few feathered friends

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough." - Mario Andretti

Mainland Report

Mainland's philosophy has always been that 'Good things take time'. True to its word, Mainland is now in its seventeenth year of supporting the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, in what has become a very special relationship. Over the years, Mainland has donated more than \$1 million to support the Trust.

This year Mainland has a lot to be proud of: not only is the brand celebrating its 50th Anniversary, but it recently won a host of medals in the prestigious Cuisine Champions of Cheese Awards.

Mainland won more medals across its portfolio than any other brand, including winning Champion Cheese accolades for the following: Mainland Special Reserve Blue Vein, Mainland Anniversary Cheddar and Mainland Vegetarian Mild Cheddar.

Furthermore, Mainland's Richelle Ward

took out the title of Champion Cheesemaker, illustrating the depth of knowledge and commitment to developing fine cheeses for New Zealanders.

The way Mainland crafts its cheese is testament to its brand values of quality and integrity: values that fit perfectly with the ideals of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

With the help of all New Zealanders, Mainland has been able to help preserve and grow the precious Hoiho population: for every cheese wrapper sent in, Mainland donates \$1 to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust up to the value of \$50,000 per year.

The redemption rate for March 2006 was 4,886 barcodes, so keep collecting your barcodes and help save our precious yellow-eyed penguins!



To order your Mainland Chart call: 0800 243 373

March of the Penguins

All sorts of penguins marched on Saturday, 25 March, both the real penguins from the Oscar winning documentary movie, *March of the Penguins*, as well as human penguins.

We couldn't let such a great opportunity go by when we heard that this Oscar winning film was coming to Dunedin for us to turn it into a small publicity event for the yellow-eyed penguin cause.

This was a perfect example of all sorts of community groups banding together. The Rialto cinema was more than happy to sponsor it and allow us to sell tickets for the Premier showing of *March of the Penguins* and since we wanted to encourage families to come we sold tickets for just \$5 each. Otago Boys High School needed some funds raised for their music

department so parents sold sausages while the combined Otago Boys and Otago Girls jazz and classical bands played their different types of music.



The creativity of the costumes was fantastic and we awarded prizes for the best dressed penguins before marching to the Rialto movie theatre in time to a bagpiper and two drummers.

Classic Hits 89.4FM advertised the event all the preceding week. The Otago Daily Times covered the event and did a good story and photo. The Rialto also allowed us to put up displays about the Trust in the lobby of the cinema with a donation box. Thanks also to NHNZ who donated \$500 towards our costs and to all who made this event such a success.



WWF-NZ workshop

The urban marae Te Tapu Rangi Marae in Island Bay was an appropriate venue for the World Wide Fund for Nature habitat protection workshop for diverse groups from Stewart Island to Kerikeri to share their challenges, successes and concerns involving conservation related projects.

A wide range of issues was discussed from monitoring, handling the media, weed and pest control workshops, and fundraising issues. Projects varied from a small school near Christchurch who adopted a local wetland to a North Island Maori Trust who was attempting possum control which also included health, social and research aspects of conservation. We focused on the weed control workshop run by John Sawyer, plant ecologist from Wellington's Department of Conservation. He reported horrific statistics on adventive species (exotic plants that now reproduce in the wild), 12-15 of which 'escape' each year. Marram grass was number 10 on his biggest threat list of weeds.

Thanks to WWF-NZ for hosting such an informative and interesting forum. We sincerely



KIDS' PAGE

May 2006

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



Read the article on page 9 about our visiting Vodafone friend, Phil Clark and his travelling Vodagnome...we thought you might like to see just a few places that they traveled in the South Island. See if you can find the Vodagnome in all of these photos!!



A Guiding hand at Tavora

Arren't Girl Guides great, especially the ones from Southland Troop. 45 girls aged 9 to 14 joined staff and trustees at our North Otago reserve Tavora. With such a large dedicated group the invasive marram grass just didn't stand a chance, even though the girls had spent a busy and tiring week at their Sidey Lodge camp in Waikouaiti. However it wasn't all hard work the team was split up and they took it in turns to walk up the track to Bobbys Head and learn a bit about the work of the Trust and the life cycle of the penguins. They were rewarded by seeing 3 penguins on the cliff by the nest boxes.

The Trust enjoys having these groups and the opportunity to explain about the plight of the penguin and the importance of revegetation, predator trapping and weed control. Hands-on practical conservation work for these girls where a positive outcome can be seen at the end of the day gives everyone a satisfying feeling and possibly the chance they might act on this experience later in life. Our landscape has been so modified by humans and introduced predators and weeds such as marram grass, every bit of help now and in the future must give our native species a fighting chance.

Thank you to all the Guides and their team leaders and of course the staff and Trustees, to be able to weed such a large area in just a day gives us time to tackle all the other additional maintenance work at the Tavora Reserve.



Many thanks to...

Thank you to our regular supporters:

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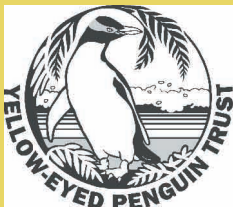
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Dunedin Environmental Business Network
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Thank you to:

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



Yellow-eyed penguin Annual Symposium

The Yellow-eyed penguin Consultative Group supported by the Trust and the Department of Conservation is holding its annual symposium on **Saturday 5th August 2006** at the ground floor meeting room at University College (same place as last year).

The format will be the same as previous years with report backs during the morning. The afternoon session will be on: 'The Utility of Modelling for the Conservation of Yellow-eyed Penguin'. Invited speakers will be addressing aspects of this topic.

For further information and registrations, contact either the Trust Office or Bruce McKinlay, Secretary of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Consultative Group (bmckinlay@doc.govt.nz).

Upcoming Public Planting Days...

Sunday, 11 June at Tavora

Sunday, 30 July at Okia
Call the Trust office
03 479 0011
for times and meeting place.



Mustelid Trapping on Otago Peninsula

The Trust and Dunedin City Council co-operative trapping programme carried on for the third consecutive year, over the 2005/06 season.

We continued trapping on Trust administered or managed areas (Okia, Otekiho and Otapahi Reserves) and maintained traps around Hoopers and Papanui Inlets that had caught mustelids in the previous season.

A new initiative was the placement of trap lines along Braidwood and Karetai Roads. During the season, 5 stoats and 11 ferrets were caught, with concentrations round Okia and the inlets.

Based on the results and experience gained since 2003, the Trust will continue to refine the trapping programme for maximum gain during the 2006/07 trapping season.

Once again the important task of weekly trap checking was carried out by Jonathan Lewis and his DCC Task Force Green team. We sincerely thank them all for their enthusiasm, effort and the results!



Don't forget to visit our website...

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Did you know you can now donate to us directly on-line? And it is secure! Although set up under the 'Urgent Appeal', all donations can be received via the internet – just remember to state in the message box what the donation is for! We sincerely thank our Vodafone friend Phil Clark for making this all happen whilst he was with us in February.



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.