



Where do penguins dine out?

by Thomas Mattern

In the last issue of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust newsletter, I explained about the work I have been doing earlier this year on foraging behaviour of the yellow-eyed penguin using data loggers attached to their backs. The reason behind the research was the numbers of yellow-eyed penguins breeding along the north-east coast of Stewart Island are considerably lower than on nearby Codfish Island. In the past several possible reasons for this have been discussed, such as predation of penguins (e.g. by cats), habitat degradation (e.g.



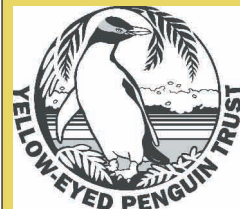
Penguin food paths

by browsing deer), undetermined disease outbreaks, or sea-based problems such as fisheries by-catch or changing marine conditions. The impact of cats on the Stewart Island population of yellow-eyed penguins was the initial focus of the monitoring programme the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has conducted since 2003. Although in all three seasons high chick mortality was observed, the demise of chicks could not be linked to predation. Instead, starvation seems to be the most

important mortality factor.

In penguins, low reproductive success – especially if it occurs on a regular basis - is often linked to chronically low prey availability in the vicinity of the breeding area. Under such circumstance penguins have two choices that depend on the adult birds' body condition. If a penguin's fitness is poor it might abandon the breeding attempt or skip breeding altogether in order to focus

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Masthead photo by Bruce Fitzgerald

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Urgent appeal update

Our endeavours to secure a stunning stretch of the Otago coastline are still bubbling away.

Thank you for your continued patience as negotiations move slowly in part because the property changed

hands. Further visits and meetings to the area have been held and we are still hopeful of a favourable outcome.

In the words of our main sponsor Mainland Brand "Good things take time".

Conservation status of yellow-eyed penguins

by Alison Ballance



The Trust is often asked about the conservation status of yellow-eyed penguins, and surprisingly, it's difficult to give an exact answer. That's partly because it depends on what ranking is used, and partly because we don't know exactly how many yellow-eyed penguins there are (we're still waiting for an opportunity to survey the Auckland Islands, and at the moment we only have estimates for how many hoiho might live there).

There are two important lists which rank species according to their level of threat. The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) compiles the international Red List of Threatened Species, while New Zealand's Department of Conservation maintains its own national New Zealand Threat Classification System.

The IUCN lists the yellow-eyed penguin as endangered, which ranks second in a three-tier system for species which are considered threatened (in a worse situation than threatened are species which are either extinct or extinct in the wild, while near threatened or species of least concern are better off). Critically endangered is considered to carry the highest risk of extinction, followed by endangered and then vulnerable (which is the listing that the yellow-eyed penguin had between 1994 and 2000). The IUCN uses a number of criteria to determine a species listing, as their intent is to have an objective system that can be applied consistently by different people. In the case of the yellow-eyed penguin, Birdlife International assessed it in 2005 to have a limited geographic distribution, a habitat that was continuing to decline in area or quality, and to suffer extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals. Among ongoing threats they list habitat loss or degradation by livestock, predators and global warming. Interestingly, they list pathogens and parasites as a past threat; however, experience with disease outbreaks during the past three breeding seasons suggests this will probably be listed as an ongoing threat the next time the species is reassessed.

DoC lists the yellow-eyed penguin as nationally vulnerable, which is their third ranking in a seven-tier system. Their highest level of risk is nationally critical, followed by nationally endangered, nationally vulnerable,

serious decline, gradual decline, sparse and range restricted. Under the DoC system, 135 species and subspecies of birds fall within the seven threatened categories; a further 72 are either not threatened, colonisers, migrants or vagrants, while 16 are extinct.

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand has published a brief document (available on its website) called *The State of New Zealand Birds 2005*, which states that 23% of New Zealand's 85 seabird species are either threatened or endangered. Internationally, the

Where do penguins dine out?

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on maintaining its own reserves. However, if the penguin is in good shape it will attempt to breed and try to compensate for the prey shortage, for example by increasing its foraging ranges (i.e. cover larger distances to reach more productive areas at sea) and/or increasing its dive activity (i.e. to spend more time underwater and, thus, increase its chance of prey encounter).

If prey shortage contributes to the low numbers of yellow-eyed penguins on Stewart Island, differences in foraging behaviour between Stewart Island birds and their apparently more successful Codfish Island neighbours can be expected. To examine differences in foraging effort at both sites, I studied the penguins' foraging behaviour with the trust's GPS data loggers that record the penguins' diving behaviour and store the birds' geographic position between dives.

So to recap on my last article, between 14 November and 2 December 2005 I deployed, with the help of my father Horst Mattern, GPS loggers on five different birds guarding chicks at Golden Beach and Rollers Beach on Stewart Island's north-east coast. From the data I determined that the penguins all foraged within a 15 km radius of their breeding sites. Similarly to foraging patterns I observed along the Otago coast, some of the birds concentrated their foraging activities in specific areas at sea.

Since I last wrote, I have had time to make more analysis of the data. Interestingly, the foraging patterns I observed were consistent with data I collected at the same sites during the post-guard stage of the 2004/05 season. During this later stage of breeding the chicks are much more tolerant to being left alone on

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number of species threatened with extinction is growing rapidly, and human activities are the biggest risk factors.

For yellow-eyed penguin, there is at least an opportunity to remedy some of the damage that humans have caused to their habitat. The Hoiho Recovery Plan 2000-2025 lists as a priority, conservation action 'to retain, manage and create terrestrial habitat', and that is exactly what the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust is achieving with planting and predator trapping in its reserves and in other coastal habitats.

Whether we describe it as endangered or nationally vulnerable, it's clear that the yellow-eyed penguin still needs all the help we can give it.

References:
www.iucnredlist.org
www.doc.govt.nz
(New Zealand Threat Classification System lists, Threatened Species Occasional Publication 23, 2002)
www.osnz.org.nz



the nest so that, theoretically, the adult could spend more time at sea. Yet the foraging ranges during chick-guard 05/06 and post-guard 04/05 were similar on Stewart Island.

This contrasted with Codfish Island where field work was conducted between 7 and 28 December 2005. Together with Ursula Ellenberg, I fitted GPS loggers to nine breeding yellow-eyed penguins. The last three deployments were made on birds that had already entered the post-guard stage. The results were unexpected.

Penguins that still guarded their chicks, foraged for an average 17 hours and stayed within a 25 km radius from Codfish Island, and exhibited foraging ranges that were almost twice as long as what I found on Stewart Island. Even more surprising was the fact that all the three post-guard penguins crossed Foveaux Strait to forage in Te Weawae Bay more than 50 km away from Codfish Island. These birds stayed at sea for almost two days (mean: 43 hours)!

Comparing the two penguin populations, the penguins from Stewart Island show much shorter foraging ranges than the Codfish Island birds – quite the opposite of what was to be expected with regard to a possible adverse prey situation along the Stewart Island coast. Perhaps it is the foraging environment that differs. My previous studies on yellow-eyed penguins from Otago have shown that the species is principally a bottom forager that does not only find its prey at the sea floor, but also uses bottom features for navigation.

The seafloor along the north-east Stewart Island coast consists of gravel substrate that features many distinct patches of oyster. Such substrate offers habitat for sponges, bryozoans and algae that in turn offer

shelter and food for bottom dwelling fish, such as blue cod, an important prey species of yellow-eyed penguins. In contrast, the seafloor in a 10-15 km radius around Codfish Island is dominated by sand which is less attractive habitat for penguin prey. The area chick-guarding penguins from Codfish Island visited during their foraging trips (i.e. the area north of Stewart Island) featured seafloor with similar properties to what Stewart Island bird find "on their doorstep". Thus, the fact that the Codfish Island birds traditionally have to travel further to reach suitable foraging grounds renders a comparison of foraging ranges between both sites unsuitable to reveal a possibly higher foraging effort to compensate for prey shortage in Stewart Island birds.

Prey shortage may be indicated in the diving behaviour and increased foraging effort at Stewart Island. Here the birds exhibited more dives that could be attributed to prey searching or feeding behaviour than penguins from Codfish Island. Overall, the Stewart Island birds spent 31 to 36 minutes per hour searching for prey; in Codfish Island birds it was only 24 to 27 minutes. Yet, if the increased diving effort indeed is indicative for a prey shortage along the Stewart Island coast, why didn't the penguins travel to the areas visited by the penguins from Codfish Island (which would have resulted in comparable foraging ranges at both sites)?

Finally, if prey shortage was really an issue on Stewart Island, how can it be that the penguins we deployed with loggers were on average 1 kg heavier than the penguins from Codfish Island? (See box on right.)

Later this year we will research penguin dining habits further when I will return to Codfish and Stewart Islands to analyse their food. An ongoing investigation!

Three possible answers that might offer an explanation are:

1. Food quality – there is no prey shortage at Stewart Island as such, but the food that the adult penguins bring home is inadequate for small chicks
2. Disease – the penguin chicks on Stewart Island may be exposed to a disease affecting their appetite and consequently induce an inadequate food intake
3. A combination of 1. and 2. - low quality of food weakens the penguin chicks' immune system and makes them more susceptible to diseases that further reduce their appetite and food intake and leads to starvation

Stewart Island Update

Preparation for the coming summer of field work is stepping up. Julie wasn't able to return this year so we advertised for a new assistant. Joanna Wright, who is currently monitoring saddlebacks on Ulva Island, will have joined us by the time this newsletter goes to press.

August and September were the courtship months for the penguins – they re-enforced pair bonds and got serious about making new ones. Birds seen on Codfish Island recently came ashore in the evenings in pairs and waddling up the beach together, and there was a lot of duet calling heard in the early evenings and mornings. Yellow-eyed penguins are known as hoiho to Maori, and the word means “noise shouter”. Fortunately for the human residents on the island the closest birds are a few hundred meters from the hut and they have the sense to go to sleep for most of the night; unlike their small blue cousins whose noisy and enthusiastic pair bonding goes on all night – one pair under each bunkroom.

By the end of September, the first eggs were laid. Both parents will take turns to incubate the eggs until they hatch after about 6 weeks. This season we are particularly interested in what happens to the chicks in their first month, and we'll be taking weights and measurements over this time. This will give us something like a Plunket curve for penguins, and we'll be able to compare the growth rate of each chick with the expected normal growth rate. From this we can make some assumptions about the food supply – if the growth rate is slower than normal right from hatching then the food supply may well be the main problem. If the growth rate starts out ok then slows later it could be that disease is kicking in after a couple of weeks, which in turn causes the chicks to starve and growth to slow down.

Of course this alone won't answer all of the questions, but there will also be other research done this summer that will help. The Trust is funding the continuation of Thomas Mattern's study into foraging behaviour

(i.e. where birds go to feed, how deep and how long their dives are) of birds on Stewart and Codfish Islands. A student from Otago University is beginning a diet study (what, and how much of each, is being eaten) and the folk from Massey University are so interested in the disease aspect that they are also starting a more detailed study. We are hopeful that the end result will be a lot more detailed information than the Trust could collect on its own and, if we're lucky, maybe even some answers!

Look out for the results in our May 2007 YEPT News!

We continue to be extremely grateful to a variety of organisations for the grants we receive enabling us to continue with this work. The 2006/07 has secured full funding for the Stewart Island project from The Community Trust of Southland, Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, Dancing Star Foundation, WWF-NZ and numerous in-kind or discounted services from a variety of individuals and businesses. Our sincere thanks to you all.





Ulva Island, situated in Stewart Island's Paterson Inlet, is an open sanctuary which was freed of introduced pests by the Community and the Department of Conservation nearly 10 years ago.

It is now administered by the Ulva Island Charitable Trust, a group of like minded Stewart Islanders, in order to manage restoration and infrastructure work. It plays an important role in the conservation of some of New Zealand's most threatened species, while still offering full public access. The Island is home to a number of rare native birds including Stewart Island Robins, Weka, Tui, Fantails, Kaka, Kakariki, Kereru, Kiwi, Riflemen, Mohua, Little Blue and South Island Saddlebacks. The island offers a chance to see a relatively untouched part of New Zealand, and the increasingly teeming birdlife shows the huge value of pest eradication.

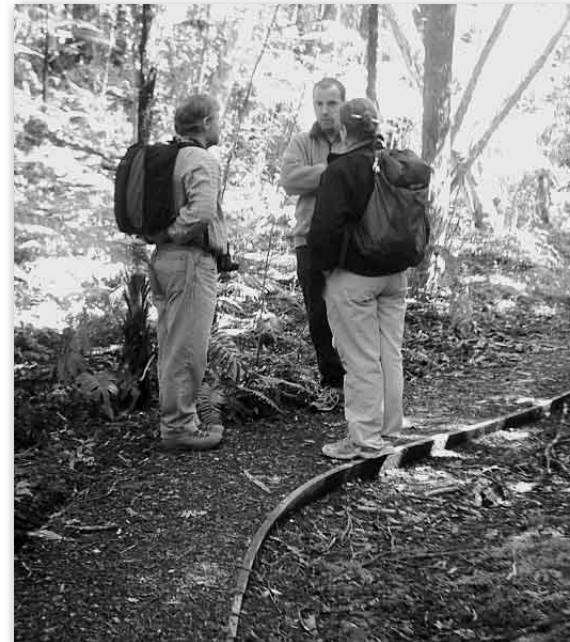
Founding member of the Trust, Ian Wilson says "Ulva Island as we see it is not just the jewel in the crown but is now an 'icon' of Stewart Island". Ian (from a 6th generation Island family) and his partner Philippa, own and operate eco-tourism businesses on Stewart Island, Stewart Island Water Taxi and Eco-guiding and are generous supporters of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust 5-year monitoring project on Stewart Island.

Over the last few weeks, the Ulva Island Trust has offered the public an opportunity to view kakapo – a male by the name of 'Sirocco'. This was made possible by two years of negotiation with the Department of Conservation's Kakapo Recovery group, and the availability of Sirocco, a hand reared male who is no longer involved in the breeding programme. This was seen as a double opportunity – a rare chance for interested persons to see one of the world's conservation icons, and an opportunity to showcase Ulva Island and the huge level of southern conservation success it embodies.

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust trustees and staff were recently hosted by the Ulva Island Trust to visit Sirocco and were in awe of both the conservation efforts on the island and the antics of Sirocco. His behaviour made him a great bird for the public to view – he enjoyed our visit as much as we enjoyed viewing him – but all visits are conducted on Sirocco's terms under very careful supervision of his minder and an island tour guide. We also had the opportunity to look at evidence of his feeding habits where he had stripped bare various tasty plants (kakapo are entirely herbivores) and smell some of his poo – kakapo are known for their distinctive sweet smelling excretions, consensus deciding on avocado-like aroma!

We hope Ulva Island and Sirocco will inspire people to support and promote many more such projects around New Zealand and the rest of the World!

For more information visit the websites:
www.glowingsky.co.nz
www.portofcall.co.nz



Plants and people

Habitat happenings at two Trust Reserves



Okia – Plants & Bombs

Planting is the big news this season at Okia, with thousands of plants going in at both the north-end and middle of Victory beach on the Otago Peninsula, and a big effort on the Margaret Hazel slope and Mainland planting areas in the vicinity of the Big Pyramid, adjacent to Taiaroa Bush.

Rangers Leith Thomson and his predecessor Elton Smith smoothed the way for the plantings by cutting hundreds of holes in the thick matted grass, and then laying out the plants ahead of time.

A public planting day on 30 July kicked off the planting, with the Maori Hill (1st Dunedin Roslyn) Scout troop honouring a request from new patron Anton Oliver and turning out to plant almost 600 shrubs and trees.

Other successful planting days were held with local firm St Kilda Finance and planners from the Dunedin City Council, with both groups saying they will be back next year.

Removal of the old farm fences from within the reserve continues with 500m taken out with assistance from the DOC Conservation Corp and Malcam Trust.

And maybe even more would have been accomplished on one particular day at the end of August, until a suspicious metal object was unearthed by Conservation Corp member, Brad McCarthy as he dug up a fence post.

The metal object turned out to be the solid metal nose cone of a smoke bomb that was probably dropped on the Okia flats in the 1940s and 1950s when they were used as a bombing range by the airforce.

Needless to say work stopped for the day! Local Otago Peninsula policeman Lox Kellas later identified the bomb as harmless, but we have a new hazard for the YEPT Health & Safety Plan.



Tavora - Pingao, Cress & Ngaios

The south beach at Tavora (aka Bobbys Head) near Palmerston is glowing gold with hundreds of established pingao plants and more were added in September, as the Nursery “Wednesday” volunteers added to the planting around the mouth of Tavora creek. The other dune plants including *Euphorbia glauca* and Cook’s scurvy grass are also thriving.

Local DOC botanist Mike Thorsen visited Tavora in July with members of the National Coastal Cress Recovery Group, and as Mike later commented they were “absolutely stunned to see Cook’s scurvy grass (*Lepidium oleraceum*) growing in such profusion”.

The public planting day this year was held in the Ngaio Paddock at the north end of the reserve on 11 June. Tavora locals, including Graham & Sherry Thurlow, volunteers including trustees/staff made short work of 437 plants, with everything in the ground by lunch time.

The Ngaio Paddock is immediately adjacent to the Goodwood Scenic Reserve and the Trust



Let's help penguins

The Nursery

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's Nursery situated at Company Bay on the Otago Peninsula produces native eco-sourced plants which are planted within the yellow-eyed penguin breeding range along the eastern coast of the South Island, from Oamaru to Southland. There are very few penguin breeding areas on mainland New Zealand which have retained their natural vegetation essential for building nests, social aspects, decreasing heat stress etc. The Co-Managers, Anita Pillai and Margaret Suman, oversee the plant production and community involvement at the Nursery, providing a resource base for members, local groups and individuals to work alongside the Trust.

To date this season 9,614 plants have been produced and planted into a variety of habitats. This would not have been possible without the assistance from the community, and we sincerely thank all that have been involved in one way or another. Some of these are represented in the photos on these pages.



“This is just what I thought retirement should be...volunteering at the Nursery in the morning with good conversations and music at the University in the afternoon!!” Anonymous Nursery volunteer



is assisting a group of local people in a weed control programme, focusing on a range of weeds including hawthorn, banana passionfruit, German ivy and periwinkle. The Trust would ultimately like to see the connection between a healthy bush reserve and the coastal plant communities in the Tavora reserve re-established.





As a co-opted member of our Habitat sub-committee, Frank Austin is one of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's most dedicated volunteer.

Back in the early 1980's Frank first became involved after responding to an article in a community newspaper about John Darby's yellow-eyed penguin work which concluded with a request for assistance with beach counts on the Otago Peninsula as part of John's population study. These consisted of day-long counts by a series of observers at designated points on shore-lines adjacent to penguin nesting areas. The counts were done in October and December and the numbers of birds coming in / going out were the basis of a calculation indicating the probable number of nests in the area. These counts continued on a regular basis until 1989.

In 1994 Frank began monitoring nests at our Okia Reserve (Victory Beach) which he continues today. This involves up to 12 visits per breeding season to determine nest numbers, eggs laid, chicks hatched, chick survival until fledging and in earlier years, banding and weighing of chicks.

Over the years Frank has been involved in other monitoring work, offering his services to others when required. He works in a quiet unassuming manner, with a wicked sense of humour and is a wonderful contributor to the Trust's work. Before retirement, Frank was a virologist working for the Medical Research Council at the Otago Medical School so his knowledge has assisted the Trust in numerous discussions about the diseases affecting the penguin population, hygiene standards for handling any birds and marine issues. He believes that due to the advocacy of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and the iconic nature of the penguin to the tourism industry, there is better public awareness of the threats to yellow-eyed penguins and the need for protecting them.

The Trust sincerely thanks Frank for his dedication to the penguins over the years and his ongoing valuable contribution to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

'Cruise for Conservation': Come sailing to the Sub-Antarctic Islands

Sue Murray, the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Executive Officer writes:



How about coming with me on a trip of a lifetime - to the sub Antarctic Islands? In January 2007 I set sail from Bluff for a week's trip aboard the Spirit of Enderby owned and operated by Rodney and Shirley Russ of Heritage Expeditions. This 'Cruise for Conservation' benefits the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust as 5% of your fare will go to help save the yellow-eyed penguins. I can't wait to go! In fact, over the past months since the opportunity to be the Trust's representative on this tour was offered to me, I have been busy learning about this remote area and thinking about gear to take, including the strength and number of sea sick tablets and who my fellow travellers may be!

One of the Trustees who has visited these islands offered me a "book or two"

for some back ground reading - I guarantee he presented me with bags containing at least 20 books, photos and newspaper clippings! I promise I will at least peruse all of them by January when we set sail!

Others have also shared videos and photos of their own trips to the islands

- all I hope for is clear enough days to see even some of the wonderful wildlife species others experienced. Amongst the highlights for me will be seeing the yellow-eyed penguins on Enderby Island (and hopefully the leucisitic ones too, see YEPT News May 2006) and the array of plants in the herbfields of Campbell Islands. And watching the Snarcs penguins' rookery whilst bouncing in a naïad (inflatable boat) will be a

challenge for my newly acquired photography skills.



Heritage Expeditions

For more information contact

Heritage Expeditions at:
www.heritage-expeditions.com
 or email at
info@heritage-expeditions.co.nz

Postal address:
 P O Box 7218, Christchurch
 Physical address:
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Biodiversity Funds support the Trust's work

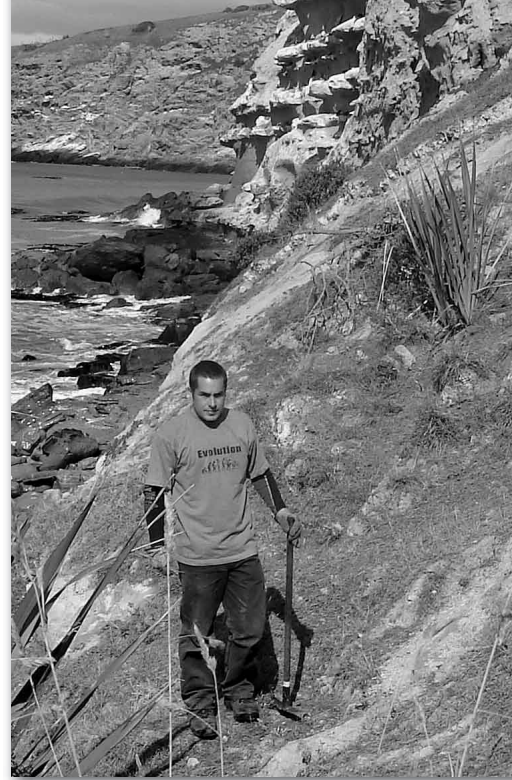
The Trust has gained funding from the Biodiversity Advice Fund, administered by the Department of Conservation, for conservation work on private land. This grant will fund the salary and habitat work of the Trust's new Ranger Leith Thomson. Securing funding of salaries is extremely difficult for any charitable organisation. We applaud the Biodiversity Fund for recognizing this and providing this support. Leith will continue with our conservation work protecting the yellow-eyed penguins and associated biodiversity of the whole coastal environment.

Leith comes to us with a strong background in horticulture and has a National Certificate in Arboriculture. He has specialized in environmental pest control being responsible for the eradication of wilding plant and animal pests. His arborist skills will come in handy when our seed collecting begins, as his tree climbing will enable him to collect seeds in the upper canopy. You never know, we may even be able to produce a few different species which we were unable to obtain seed from in the past!

Dedicated to the Otago region, Leith has previously been involved on a voluntary

basis with the Truby King Reserve at Seacliff (North Otago). There he assisted with the management plan for the reserve and remains actively involved in the restoration programmes.

Leith lives in Seacliff with his partner, Elena O'Neill who is a lecturer in arboriculture at the Otago Polytechnic and who recently won the International Tree Climbing Competition in Minneapolis, USA.



Obituary Carol Landis

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust lost a valuable volunteer with the passing of Carol Landis in October 2006.



Carol and her husband Chuck were members of the Trust's Tavora Reserve Management Committee and were always actively involved with events surrounding the Reserve. Carol and Chuck moved to New Zealand more than 40 years ago, and in that time Carol developed a real passion in both New Zealand's flora and fauna, especially the saving of yellow-eyed

penguins. Carol's interest in penguins began in the 1980's when she assisted John Darby of the Otago Museum with his early monitoring work. She had a genuine interest and involvement in the natural environment, being an active tramper, kayaker and bird watcher. Her enthusiasm for gardening saw her develop a rhododendron dell, pond and native garden at her North Otago property at Warrington as well as restoring the original design of their historical house.

Carol was always ready to give a hand on working days and her cheerful and easy manner was a pleasure to work alongside. She will be missed by all her friends here at the Trust.

I have bought a new digital camera in preparation for all the wildlife I hope to see - and then I opened the manual to learn how to use it. Yikes - why is it written in some foreign looking language even though I know it really is English? So off to Polytechnic I headed for photography classes - boy there is a lot to learn. Having completed the beginner's course and feeling like I knew a little more about where to find the on and off switch and how to focus, I decided to get adventuresome and have now joined the advanced class! Hopefully you will see some of my results in the May 2007 YEPT News. But I also keep reminding myself that if all else fails, I know I can always rely on the auto mode!

I can't wait to go - our tour leader, Rodney is a mine of facts and information having travelled to this part of the globe for years. So how about joining me from 5 - 11 of January 2007? Remember 5% of your fare will go to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Sue



Gala Event

Each year, to raise awareness for Conservation Week among the corporate/business community in Auckland the New Zealand National Parks and Conservation Foundation holds a Gala event. According to Foundation Executive Director Jane Arnott, the Gala works to bring conservation to 'front of mind' in a setting that business people enjoy. Too often conservation is the poor cousin to those sponsorship opportunities that offer client hospitality opportunities and a night out such as at the ballet or the rugby. By holding a Gala with a conservation theme we too can compete and deliver a blacktie event that attracts the corporate community and provides them with a means to easily support conservation.

This year the Gala, which included a celebrity debate and wilderness auction extended its range to include an item from both the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and WingSpan – Birds of Prey near Rotorua. In both instances the total “final” bid amount was directed to the charities involved.

According to Jane “the bidding for breakfast with our own patron Anton Oliver and a shared viewing of our yellow eyed penguins was boisterous. I’m not sure whether it was Anton or the penguin that the bidders were most keen on, but the powerful combination of an All Black and a penguin was a recipe for greatness on the night” said Jane.

Many thanks to Trustee Peter Simkins and sub-committee member Alison Ballance for creating the native bird audiovisuals for this event.

Mainland Report

Since 1989, Mainland has been a major sponsor of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. In August, this sponsorship agreement was extended for another three years!

The association between Mainland and the Trust has become much more than just another sponsorship arrangement; it has become a very special relationship. Through the barcode redemption scheme, Mainland has donated more than \$1million to the Trust. Mainland’s further three year commitment shows the on-going dedication it has to the plight of this endangered bird, and ensures the Trust can continue its work to help save our native yellow-eyed penguin.

In addition to the huge financial contributions over the past 17 years, Mainland has invested a substantial amount of resource into raising the profile of the Trust and the plight of the yellow-eyed penguin. In October, Mainland launched the “Help Our Sea Friends” promotion to increase the public’s awareness of the Trust. The promotion included a weekly segment on TV2’s Saturday morning kids’ show, Squirt, as well as displays in store and stickers on all processed cheese packs.

Don’t forget to keep supporting the barcode redemption scheme and help support the great work of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. To obtain your Save the Yellow-eyed Penguin chart call Mainland free on 0800 CHEESE (243 373).



To order your
Mainland Chart call:
0800 243 373

Fundraise Online

www.fundraiseonline.co.nz

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust signed up with Fundraise Online earlier this year, a website which allows internet users to make secure payments on line. The Trust’s page was launched as part of our ‘Urgent Appeal’ for land purchase, and proved to be a very popular way to make donations to our Trust.

The power of the internet is amazing. As well as providing this service, supporters can register their own ‘event’ and receive donations. You can create your own personal fundraising web page, send your message worldwide, promote your cause, collect donations and thank contributors, all from the luxury of your own computer! The site is totally secure and accepts most credit cards.

An example can be seen at www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/GaryWitte/

Gary is looking for sponsors to support him on the Armstrong Peugeot Harbour Ride on 2nd December, with money going to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

But you don’t have to enter an event to raise funds – how about celebrating your birthday, anniversary or wedding by asking friends and family to donate to a good cause instead of buying presents? It is also a good way to pay tribute to loved one who may have passed away and had a strong interest in conservation.

It is very easy to set up your own page and there is an online step by step guide. Best of all, you don’t have any messy forms to handle and every donation made on your webpage is paid directly to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, saving you time and energy. Donations by New Zealand citizens are tax deductible and receipts are issued by Fundraise Online.

Remember, if making a donation or paying your subscription online, please tell us in the ‘comments’ box what the payment is for.



KIDS' PAGE

November 2006

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

Mainland promotion



In October, Mainland launched the "Help Our Sea Friends" promotion featuring the Trust's new patron, Anton Oliver.

The promotion ran for 8 weeks and included on-pack stickers, in store displays, and a weekly segment on TV2's Saturday morning kids show, Squirt TV – ensuring high visibility for the campaign and the Trust.

To enter, consumers were asked to send in two barcodes from Mainland processed cheese products. Every entry received an individually numbered "Help Our Sea Friends" educational poster featuring 8 interesting and endangered animals from around New Zealand's coastline.

The poster put consumers into the draw to win one of ten Sea Horse Fund accounts worth \$1,000 each. Squirt viewers were also asked a question each week that would enable them to win one of ten great prizes of their choice: Rebel Sports vouchers; Sounds music vouchers; and more.

For every entry received Mainland was able to donate an extra \$1 to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, over and above the \$50,000 it currently donates every year!

We hope that you will continue to support such consumer promotions. Promotions like "Help Our Sea Friends" not only raise the profile of the Trust but also provide additional funds help continue the development of habitats, predator control, research, and education programmes.

My name is Olivia Gray. I'm nine years old and I go to Cashmere Primary School in Christchurch.

Last term our class did an inquiry about making a difference in New Zealand. My friend Brooke Lynskey and I chose to learn about the yellow-eyed penguins. We got lots of information on the yellow-eyed penguins before we decided to help them by buying some plants to make a nest.



We raised the money by getting people to sponsor us on a walk. We walked from the bottom of Cashmere hill, up to the Sign of the Kiwi and back down. It took us three and a half hours. We have raised sixty dollars and are proud to be giving it to the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

Thank you scouts!

The Trust had assistance from over 30 scouts and their leaders from the Maori Hill (1st Dunedin Roslyn) planting 545 trees and shrubs in the Mainland area of the Okia Reserve. The scouts had earlier received a presentation from Anton Oliver, and as a thank you to him, they offered their services to a community group of his choice. Anton had just earlier accepted the post of the Trust's Patron so it was an obvious option for him to think of this labour intensive work for this fit young bunch of volunteers. Once the planting was completed they enjoyed a walking tour of the reserve and a game on the beach. They must have really had a great time as they hope to join us again next year! Thanks guys!



Many thanks to...

Thank you to our regular supporters:

Members
Nursery supporters
Advertising and Art
Anton Oliver
Canon NZ Ltd
Cooke Howlison
Toyota
DOC Coastal Otago
Conservation Corps
DOC Coastal Otago
Downie Stewart
Mainland Brand
Malcam Trust
Conservation Corp
NHNZ

Thank you to our Volunteers:

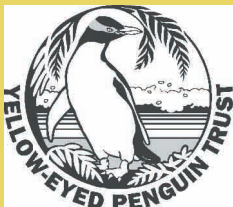
Annette Eiselt, Church
Hill Café, Stewart Island
Approach
Bill & Diana Wilson
Cathryn Shemansky
Chapman family
Colin Facer
DCC Planning
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Fabiane Fonseca
Gaileen Ross
Gerry Quaid
Graham, Sherry &
Keith Thurlow
Ken Allen
Kelsey Bradshaw
Lox Kellas
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Roslyn) Scout troupe
Marie Budofsen
Mike Hilton
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Horticultural students
Paul Arnott, Wakari
Hospital
Pikao Recovery Group
Prue Turnbull
STOP
St Kilda Finance

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Vodafone New Zealand
Foundation
Community Trust of
Southland
WWF-NZ Habitat
Protection Fund
Biodiversity Advice
Fund
Dunedin City Council
Community Grant
Scheme

Thank you to:

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



Trustee Positions

Interested in conservation?

**A desire to contribute to a worthwhile conservation cause?
What about joining the Trust Board of the longest NZ-
established single species NGO (non-governmental
organisation?)**

In 2007, the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust celebrates 20 years of conservation work, and is seeking new Trustees to assist with the future direction of penguin conservation in southern New Zealand for the next 20 years.

Trustees are responsible for the overall direction of Trust activities and supervision of the 11 paid employees. Interested persons will preferably have strong linkages with the business community and an understanding of strategic planning for our future development.

A Trustee's information pack can be obtained by contacting the Trust Office.

6th International Penguin Conference

Date: 3 – 7 September 2007

Where: University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – oral presentations

Wednesday – mid-conference trips and impromptu workshops

For further information contact: Penguins2007@iprimus.com.au

Conference: "Conserv-Vision: The next 50 years"

Date: 4 – 7 July 2007

Where: University of Waikato, Hamilton

Purpose: the purpose of the conference

is to celebrate the past 20 years of integrated conservation management in New Zealand, and to chart options for the future.

A key objective is to share New Zealand's experience and models of conservation with people from other nations and to learn from other countries ways to address such issues as protection and restoration of biodiversity, appreciation of natural and cultural heritage and conservation philosophy and politics.

For further information see the conference website at:

www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/Conserv-Vision

Or contact Mairi Jay at: ConservVision2007-request@list.waikato.ac.nz



Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday

28th November

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Otago Art
Society Rooms
Great King Street,
Dunedin

Guest Speaker:

Steve Broni

"What the
ice takes
the ice
keeps": The
Antarctic
Voyages
of the
Southern
Quest



Auckland Theatre Company

"Hatch! Plight of the Penguin" –coming to Dunedin on April 29th 2007. A play based on the lectures of Joseph Hatch (early Mayor of Invercargill), his obsessions and ideas including his time on Macquarie Island in the 1920's when he extracted oil from as many as 3 million penguins.

yeptrust@gmail.com

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

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.



BRUCE FITZGERALD