

# YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST NEWS

November 2002

Issue 27  
ISSN 1171-4131

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

## Ecotourism – What does it mean for our penguins?

by Anita Pillai and Sue Murray

Statements we often hear in relation to New Zealand include:

- NZ has a clean green image
- Dunedin – the wildlife capital of NZ
- Tourism experiences are sold as “100% Pure”

### Tourism in New Zealand

- contributes more than \$11.7 Billion to economy each year with almost 2 million tourists visiting annually, increasing to a possible 3 million in 2010
  - equals 16% of our export receipts
  - raises almost more than our meat industry
  - one in ten NZ'ers in employment are employed in the industry
- Despite this tourism leaders want
- still more tourists
  - want them to stay longer and spend more.

But both NZ'ers and tourists can already spot the myth of the ‘clean green’ image.

“Operators are dealing with an intelligent and increasingly well-informed public who have no qualms about telling the operator if they feel their environmental management is not up to scratch” (Nick Early, Forest & Bird May 2002).

### What are the attractions that bring tourists to NZ?

- There are 2 kinds of tourists – the group tourist, and the free-independent traveller;
- both come to see our wildlife attractions including marine mammals, seabirds, other rare birds and our yellow-eyed penguins; the list goes on and on.

There is already evidence locally of the impact of increased tourism numbers. E.g.:

1. pressure on hides at places where there is no charge for viewing the penguins. Hides

are not big enough, penguins can see the people and therefore will not come ashore.

2. At some habitats penguins now cross the road to nest, and this poses another problem about traffic.

3. The sealing of the Catlins road and the proposed coastal walkway will impact on our wildlife. The local community is planning towards the management of these changes.

4. A habitat alongside an urban dwelling is feeling pressures from the ‘easy access’ to view these birds.

5. At another habitat the birds are using the same tracks as travellers stopping for a picnic at a spectacular beach.

6. Increase in numbers of people also increases the numbers of dogs and dog attacks on wildlife in these areas.

This raises the question asked by Nick Early:...“Can the industry make the transition from tourism marketers to tourism resource managers, or whether Government intervention will be required”?

Nick also goes on to say “Intervention may include regulation on carbon emissions, limits on aircraft movements or tighter waste-management practices.”

So this poses further questions:

1. How green is the tourism industry?
2. How many visitors are enough? When is enough enough and what do we need to know to be able to determine that?
3. What do we need to know before the pressure on the penguins is too much?
4. Who will pay?

Various businesses and interested bodies are trying desperately to answer some of these questions. Watch your local papers and become involved, have your say and help us help the penguins survival.

[www.yellow-eyed penguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyed penguin.org.nz)



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### YEPT

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## Tavora Wetland

by Lala Frazer

When Tavora in North Otago, was purchased, the Trust decided to lease the paddocks behind the coastal yellow-eyed penguin breeding areas in order to subsidise the revegetation programme along the coast. At one boundary is a creek, which had formed a wetland behind the dunes where the water ran into the sea. The low lying salt

resistant plants provided a carpet of colour at some times of the year, and were easily damaged with stock browsing on them.

The Trust has, along with many farmers, heeded the information that stock encroachment is degrading our waterways. The water tanks were upgraded to ensure that there was an adequate supply of water for the stock without them needing to drink from the creek, and a fence on the side of the creek was erected that prevented stock from entering either the creek or the wetland where it entered the sea.

Once this was in place, Dave Houston from DoC Oamaru provided some now rare *Euphorbia glauca* (sea spurge), which initially failed because of dry years. When David Blair joined the Trust with his passion for pikao (pingao, *Desmoschoenus spiralis*), the native sand binding sedge, he added his vision of replacing the marram on the dunes with pikao. The dunes now

support a number of other reintroduced rare plants including sand coprosma, *C. acerosa*, Cooks scurvy grass, *Lepidium oleraceum*, and the native sand tussock, *Austrofestuca litoralis*.

With the assistance of an Otago Regional Council Wetland Grant and the enthusiastic support of the leasing farmer, the fence was moved back from the edge of the creek allowing more planting and an attractive tree-lined walkway to be formed as the main access to the beach. A sign with educational information about the wetland has been erected at the start of the walkway to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the environment through which they are walking.



(top) The original bare creek going through grassed paddocks.

(bottom) Volunteers continue planting along the track to the beach.

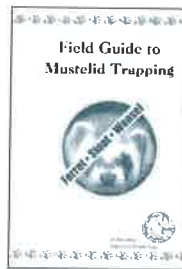


The wetland following high tides and storms that breached the dunes and how it became a shallow lake earlier this year. A true wetland!

## "Field Guide to Mustelid Trapping"



(above) Big crowds attend the book launch. (left) Author, David Blair with Pete Hodgson MP.



The first printing of our practical booklet about mustelid control techniques was so popular that the second reprint was ordered two months later, and copies of this are also selling rapidly. Copies have been purchased nationally from many places including various branches of the Department of Conservation; other Trusts involved in species protection work such as the Brown Teal Trust and Taranaki Kiwi Trust; private landowners of coastal or wetland areas; experienced and novice trappers; Regional Councils; Universities and scientists. We have even sold some to people in Australia and Germany!

Let us hope that the popularity of the book results in more of these predators being eradicated.

### Your Pet is a Predator

My Cat Did That?!



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



## WHEN PETS GO BAD

by Alison Ballance

This issue of the newsletter includes a DoC pamphlet titled "Your pet is a predator". It has been produced by DoC's Bay of Plenty Conservancy as a reminder of the damage that introduced mammals – including cats and dogs – can have on our native wildlife. Native animals are particularly vulnerable to predators such as feral cats and stoats because they evolved in the absence of any mammalian predators – their natural defences are useless against killers such as cats. The pamphlet encourages us to take responsibility for our own pets, and justifies the importance of control work on feral and wild animals.

We should never forget that our beloved pet cat is really a "killer in the kitchen", and that a cat's basic instinct is to hunt. From the age of just four weeks, kittens are learning how to attack and kill, how to use their claws and their teeth to bring down prey. Even in suburbia, cats kill many small birds, such as fantails, as well as skinks and large insects. In the wild, feral cats have a huge impact on ground nesting birds, especially seabirds – DoC has an increasing collection of infrared footage showing cats killing the chicks and adults of birds such as dotterels, both on beaches and in braided river beds. Burrow-nesting seabirds on Little Barrier Island are slowly making a comeback, 20 years after

cats were removed from the island. Feral cats had a devastating impact on kakapo on Stewart Island during the 1980s, and recent surveys by David Blair and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust suggests cats are having a significant impact on yellow-eyed penguin numbers on the island.

Dogs can have equally devastating effects on wildlife, and will kill just the sake of it, even if they aren't hungry – remember the dog that killed large numbers of kiwis in Northland's Waitangi State Forest, and the dogs that killed many of Oamaru's blue penguins. The Trust has recently been involved in consultation with the Clutha District Council which has resulted in a by-law banning dogs from Kaimataitai Beach in the Catlins – we will be putting in signs at the beach to explain to dog owners why the ban exists.

The sad fact is that our native wildlife, such as penguins, and cats and dogs just don't mix. If you own a dog and live near beaches where penguins occur, ask yourself if it is appropriate to exercise your dog at the beach. If you own a cat and live near areas of native bush, ask yourself if your cat is having impact on native wildlife, and whether you can do anything about lessening the impact. We're not saying you shouldn't own pets – we're just challenging you to be thoughtful, responsible pet owners.



### DON'T FORGET...

#### It's penguin nesting time again

Remember to:

- Hide
- Talk quietly
- Keep to the tracks
- DON'T take your dogs near them

# A global environmental certification program for travel and tourism



In 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro an important document called Agenda 21 was signed by 182 countries. From the principles of Agenda 21 arose GG21, the world's only truly global tourism and certification programme. Its aims were to provide the travel and tourism industry with a certification system that responded to the major environmental problems.

Green Globe 21 seeks to achieve environmental, social and cultural improvements at the global, national and local levels. It encourages and facilitates compliance with national and provincial legislation and accommodates local regulations as required by agencies or authorities.

It can certify all types of companies used by tourists and travellers from aerial cableways to hotels to vineyards, as well as protected areas and communities.

Green Globe 21 is presently managed globally by three joint venture partners – Green Globe United Kingdom, Green Globe Asia Pacific (Australia) and the Caribbean Action for Sustainable Development (CAST)

in Puerto Rico. GG21 Asia Pacific is a joint venture between Green Globe and the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism (CRC), based in Queensland, Australia.

## The Green Globe 21 Standard

The GG21 Standard (April 2001), was based on an ISO style approach involving an environmental policy and a checklist. However these new standards provide a framework to Benchmark environmental and social performance, achieve certification,

and continuously improve performance. They include:

1. Environment and Social Policy
2. Regulatory Framework
3. Environmental and Social Sustainability Performance
4. Environmental Management System
5. Stakeholder Consultation and Communication

## The ABC of Green Globe 21

Tourism operators are able to enter the program at any of these levels:

### A = Affiliates

Operators join at this introductory stage, to learn more about Green Globe and to prepare for Benchmarking and Certification and are encouraged to take some action, including the calculation of their green house gas emissions and the development of a company environmental policy. They have a separate Green Globe flag but are not permitted to use the green circle logo widely identified with the program.

### B = Benchmarking

Operators register to measure their environmental performance through Benchmarking and if above Baseline level they may use the GG21 logo but without the tick.

GG21 has established the baseline level and best practice level of performance to illustrate where an operation's performance is placed within the industry. This allows for comparison with industry best practice, and tracking of annual improvements which must be maintained for an operation to maintain its benchmarked status.

### C = Certified

Operators who have been successfully Benchmarked, can now use the GG21 logo with the tick showing they meet the requirements of the GG21 Standard and they have been independently audited.



What is the impact of tourist





on Sandfly Bay, Otago Peninsula?

### Green Globe 21 in New Zealand

In 2001 GG21 and the Tourism Industry Association New Zealand (TIANZ) formed an official alliance. A number of partnerships were formed with the TIANZ and GG21 during this period. Landcare Research and Lincoln University undertook the case study work with six travel and

tourist operators proceeding through the Benchmarking stage of GG21. They have also worked closely with the Kaikoura District, the first New Zealand community to successfully proceed through the Benchmarking stage.

There are now around 200 Affiliates in New Zealand, 45 travel and tourism operations who are Benchmarking, 13 operators who have successfully Benchmarked, and one Benchmarked community.

In addition several protected areas (usually privately owned land) are actively seeking recognition for their environmental achievements. Discussions are currently underway with Central Government and government agencies such as DoC to integrate the GG21 process into the management of protected areas such as Marine Reserves and National Parks as well as the feasibility of integrating GG21 with the Concession Process and Environmental Impact Assessments.

Presently GG21 in New Zealand is managed by the TIANZ however ultimately it is believed that Green Globe's 21 home in New Zealand is with Qualmark, who will provide a one-stop shop for endorsement and certification within the travel and tourism industry.



**Tourism  
Industry  
Association  
New Zealand**

### The Trust's recent work in the Ecotourism area includes:

- Annual Symposium focus on ecotourism
- Display at Ecotourism Conference held at University of Otago
- Funding research project on interactions between tourists and yellow-eyed penguin
- Attendance at "Ecology of Ecotourism" workshop.
- Assistance with interpretative signage

## Understanding Penguin Tourists

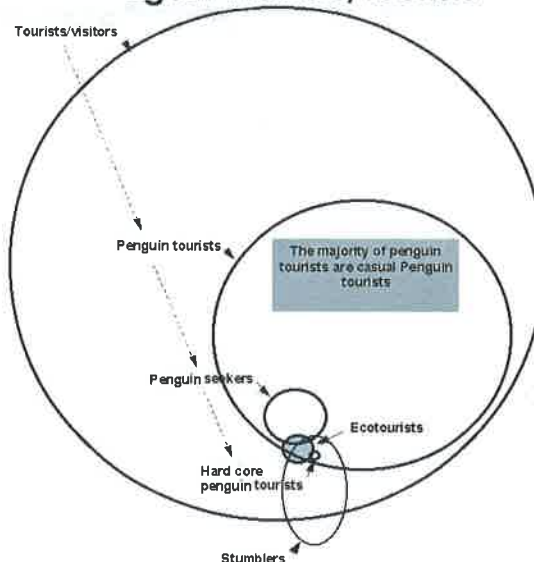
by Fergus Sutherland

To understand of the impact of tourism on penguins it is helpful for us to distinguish between different groups of tourists. (It probably would help penguins too - if they are reading this newsletter.) Keeping in mind that tourists are anybody who travels to a new place for recreation, the following diagram helps us to visualize different groupings of 'penguin tourists' (Groupings like this are called 'segments' in marketing jargon.)

The diagram is in the form of a mathematical 'venn' diagram, it shows penguin tourists as a sub-set of tourists generally and that within that sub-set there are other sub-sets, each smaller in number. Groups that may or may not be part of the penguin tourists also can have contact with penguins - these are shown as the 'stumblers' who happen to meet penguins when doing something else, and the 'ecotourists' who may or may not be focused on visiting penguins.

The value of this way of visualizing penguin tourists is that we can evaluate the impacts of each segment and use the segmenting to direct visitors to the most appropriate penguin viewing venues for their needs. (Or should I say 'wants'!)

### A Segmentation Framework for Penguin Viewers/Tourists



## The end of an era of rehabilitation work...

Janice and her late husband Bob established a rehabilitation centre caring for yellow-eyed penguins, and other coastal species that is now internationally recognised. For more than 20 years they took care of injured and ailing birds at their home in the Moeraki Lighthouse (at Katiki Point, North Otago). After more than 20 years Janice has retired and we wish to acknowledge her impressive contribution to the conservation of the yellow-eyed penguin.

Many birds either injured or weak with starvation were 'nursed' back to good health by Janice before being released back in to the wild. They became her family, and were often given names to suit their personalities - *Inca* (a particular bird that kept returning to Katiki Point), *Roadrunner* (from Kaikoura, now nesting at Katiki Point), *Merry* (who appeared on Christmas Day), *Boney M*, *Jaws*, *Patches* and so on. In 2002

Janice published her story outlining her years of work with the penguins, based around a particular favourite bird *Inca* (named after a special friend from Costa Rica whose Dad descended from the Inca tribe). This book, written through the eyes and ears of *Inca*, in part funds the Katiki Point Penguin Trust that Janice helped establish to continue her work.

Janice was instrumental in initiating revegetation and protection work of the

penguin habitat near their home, including establishing reserve status on the area around the lighthouse used by the penguins. She has taken part in many research projects, monitoring nests and recording data about the penguins to assist scientists in their aim to understand this unique bird.

Janice has helped put North Otago on the map, gaining respect and co-operation from local and commercial fisherman as well as the general community.

**...But the rehabilitation work continues!** Another carer – Rosalie Goldsworthy, now undertakes the rehabilitation work at Moeraki Lighthouse. Rosalie's interest in wildlife rehabilitation began in Wellington where she has worked for the past 6 years assisting nearly 4000 birds from over 90 species.

Rosalie finds there are differences in the treatment requirements for our coastal birds compared to the city dwellers. She would like to learn to cure yellow-eyed penguins that present with swollen and hot joints – a condition leaving the birds in considerable pain and disfunction, and are usually euthanased. Rosalie believes that a cure must be found, as these birds are too precious to waste.

We wish Rosalie every success in her work, and look forward to working with her.



### MAINLAND REPORT

## Sponsorship

Mainland Products Ltd are happy to announce that we have agreed to continue our sponsorship of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust for a further three years. Our sponsorship of this worthwhile cause commenced 12 years ago.

We have re-designed the Mainland Yellow-eyed Penguin wall chart. It now has a fresh, clean, contemporary look, containing up to date information and facts of interest about the yellow-eyed penguin.

At present we are in the process of changing our packaging and have taken the opportunity to change our consumer instructions on how to obtain a wall chart. Rather than mentioning they can pick one up at their local supermarket we have asked them to call Mainland toll-free on 0800 CHEESE (0800 243 373) to have one sent out to them. Completed charts should be returned to Mainland Products Ltd, PO Box 397, Dunedin.



### Help save the Yellow-eyed Penguin

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust could not continue its work without the support of Mainland cheese lovers



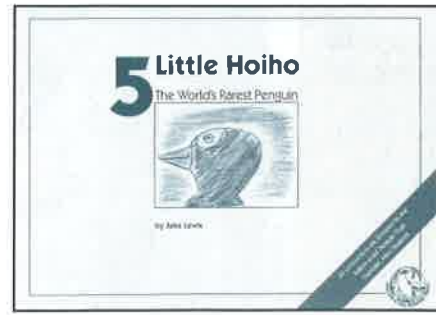
## "5 Little Hoiho"

Our delightful children's book written and illustrated by Jake Lewis (who was only 10 at that time) is a seller! Promoted by Dunedin's own Tapui Children's Books, sales have been steady since the Trust published this gem in February 2002.

Remember Jake is donating all the proceeds to the Trust to help fund their conservation work with the yellow-eyed penguin. Copies are still available for that Xmas stocking filler! (See our catalogue attached for order form).

Reviews have been very favourable and have been included in magazines from the Home Birth Association, Family Times, Magpie magazine, the NZ Book Council and on National Radio, to name a few.

The book is selling nationally through individuals, schools, pre-school centres, Visitor Information centres, tourism shops and independent book sellers.



### Special thanks to Tapui Children's Books



Co-owners Dianne and Brian Miller

Tapui Children's Books have been the prime movers in the promotion of Jake's book and we sincerely thank them for this contribution.

Local Dunedin residents Brian and Dianne Miller, owners of this independent bookshop, have a genuine interest in conservation, in particular helping save a rare species – the yellow-eyed penguin!

Having both come from teaching backgrounds their

dedication and passion for learning is evident, as is their abundance of knowledge on children's books. Having owned the business since 1984, one of their innovative ideas was to visit schools throughout the lower half of the South Island on a regular basis. The major portion of their sales is now to school libraries through these visits.

Brian and Dianne have seen many changes over the

years' as the want to read in children has become less with the introduction of the electronic age and television. Brian firmly believes that we must target primary school children and educate them about the importance of books as a learning tool.

They were delighted to be able to assist the Trust and Jake with the launch and promotion of *5 Little Hoiho* as it confirmed beliefs in education and conservation. The Trust sincerely acknowledges their part in this role.

### Conservation Week

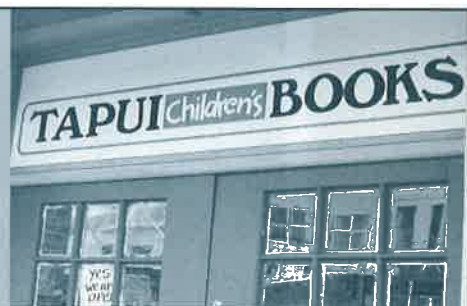
This year's Conservation Week event in August involved a 'Predator Pest Control Demonstration' at our Okia Reserve on the Otago Peninsula.

Experts from the Trust and the Department of Conservation demonstrated and discussed various traps and methods to control predators as part of habitat protection work.



#### Contact:

Tapui Children's Books  
449 Princes Street  
Dunedin  
Phone 0-3-479 2940  
Fax 0-3-471 8036  
Web: www.tapui.com  
E-mail: tapui@es.co.nz



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Bob Hancox  
Stephen Owens  
Selwyn Harris  
Tat Wesley  
Perry Reid  
Howard McGrouther  
Ray & Jean Woods



DENIS PATERSON

## 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.



Volunteers winter planting at Otapahi.

## Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

### Date & Time:

Tuesday 26 November 2002, 7:30pm

### Venue:

Otago Art Society Rooms  
Cnr Great King St and Albany St, Dunedin

### Guest Speaker:

Dr Phil Seddon, *Director Wildlife Management Programme, Zoology Department of University of Otago*

### Topic:

"Saving Unicorns: Protected Areas, Petro-dollars and the Preservation of Wildlife in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"

All Welcome.



## CDVN Conference Coastal Dune Vegetation Conference

Date: 12-15 February 2003

Venue: Otago Museum, Dunedin

Contact **CDVN Secretary:** greg.steward@forestresearch.co.nz

Organised by the Pikao Recovery Group, the annual conference follows that held in Palmerston North in 2002, and was attended by 90 people. Open to anyone interested in our coastal network, from local bodies, the Department of Conservation, local communities, iwi organizations, nursery and forestry interests.

Research will be presented from the Forest Research Institute, Universities, local body planners, coast care groups, takata whenua and others with an interest in coastal protection and enhancement.



Yellow-eyed penguin on the gravel road at Kaka Point, South Island

JANICE WILKES





# KIDS PAGE

November 2002



DENIS PATERSON

## Calling all kids!!!

Our files are getting low on:

- Original Artwork by kids
- Poetry by kids
- Interesting penguin stories written by kids

Send or e-mail them to us.

Who knows...maybe you will see them printed here!

Make sure you give us your name and address so we can give credit where credit is due.

post to: YEPT, PO Box 5409, Dunedin, New Zealand

e-mail: yept@clear.net.nz

## Check out this incredible Penguin Poetry!!

### The Penguin that Couldn't Fly

Author unknown

I saw a penguin.  
 He walked right by.  
 He had a tear in his eye.  
 I heard him cry and softly sigh,  
 Oh I wish I could fly.

### The Penguin

Roxanne Williams

I am a bird you know quite well,  
 All dressed in black and white.  
 And even though I do have wings  
 They're not designed for flight.  
 I waddle, waddle, waddle,  
 On my funny little feet.  
 Across the icy snow I go  
 To find a fishy treat!



**P**erky  
**E**xciting  
**N**odding  
**G**rowing  
**U**nbelievable  
**I**nteresting  
**N**est-building  
**S**wimmers

**P**arading penguins  
**E**ach one soon  
**N**esting on the cold  
**G**round with stones  
**U**nderneath and  
**I**n between for a  
**N**est. It is  
**S**pring in New Zealand!

**O**ne of our staff members brought back some "Penguin" biscuits from England and they had some pretty clever jokes on the labels. Try them on your friends...

**Q. What does Cinderella Seal wear?**  
**A. A glass Flipper.**

**Q. What's black, white and red?**  
**A. A penguin with sunburn.**

**Q. What is a Penguin's favourite salad?**  
**A. Iceburg lettuce.**

**Q. Why are some fish at the bottom of the ocean?**  
**A. Because they dropped out of school.**

**Q. What's the difference between a piano and a fish?**  
**A. You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish.**

**Q. What swims about in the sea purring?**  
**A. A cat fish.**

**Q. What do you call a snowman with a suntan?**  
**A. A Puddle.**

**Q. What shoes do penguins wear on ice?**  
**A. Slippers.**

**Q. How does a Penguin know when there's something wrong?**  
**A. It smells a bit fishy.**

**Q. What do you call a fish on a frozen lake?**  
**A. Ice-Skate.**

**Q. What do you call a fish without an eye?**  
**A. Fsh**

**Q. What washes up on small beaches?**  
**A. Micro Waves.**

**Q. How does a penguin get to school?**  
**A. On an icicle.**

**Q. Why don't Polar Bears eat Penguins?**  
**A. They can't get the wrappers off.**

**Q. What do female Penguins wear?**  
**A. Fish net stockings.**

**Q. What do you get when you cross Frosty the Snowman with a Penguin Vampire?**  
**A. Frostbite.**

**Q. How do you communicate with a fish?**  
**A. You drop him a line.**

**Q. What's black & white and goes round and round?**  
**A. A Penguin in a revolving door**

**Q. How do Penguins drink their cola?**  
**A. On the rocks.**

**Q. Who is a Penguin's favourite pop star?**  
**A. Seal**

**Q. Why do Penguins carry fish in their beaks?**  
**A. Because they haven't got any pockets.**

**Q. What kind of fish do Penguins catch at night?**  
**A. Starfish**

**Q. Why do two Penguins in a nest always agree?**  
**A. Because they don't want to fall out**

**Q. Why don't you see Penguins in Britain?**  
**A. Because they're afraid of Wales**