

Annual Report of the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust for the year ended 30 June 2010

This is the second annual report of the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust (the Trust). The Trust held its first annual meeting at the Pier Hotel on 31st October 2009.

Between the Trust's last AGM and 30 June 2010, the Trust met three times on: the 31st October 2009 (following the AGM); on 28th February 2010; and on the 20th June 2010. Despite holding fewer meetings compared to the previous year, a great deal was achieved with a considerable amount of the Trust's business conducted outside of the meetings. This was through a combination of sub-committees, extensive use of email, and by individuals completing tasks they were delegated or took the lead on.

During the year the number of Trustees remained the same although Tim Manawatu resigned as he moved to Australia. His involvement and contribution to the Trust has been much appreciated. Tim was replaced by Gina Solomon representing Te Runanga o Kaikoura and she has already made a valuable contribution to the efforts of the Trust. Otherwise Trustee numbers and representatives remained the same.

Following the previous year in which the funding needed for the actual fence was exceeded within less than six months, funds continued to flow into the Trust, not just for the fence but also for research and administration. Additional funding has enabled the Trust to make a start on research, obtain equipment including a sprayer and power tools necessary for the Peninsula Colony site maintenance, traps for keeping predators in check, a lap top for administration and research projects, and a burrowscope for research at the mountain colonies.

Three key highlights occurred for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The first of these was that shearwaters were recorded returning to the peninsula site during the 2009/10 season. Although it was not possible to ascertain an exact number, it is heartening to know that birds fledged from this site & have returned. This affirmed the aim of the project, proving that birds had imprinted on the site, and that subsequently, some of these had successfully returned to prospect. It is a waiting game now for any of these birds to reach a breeding stage. Unfortunately three birds from those fledged from this site in 2006 and 2007 were killed by predators before the fence could be built. This was despite the best efforts of Mike Morrissey from DoC who had continued with a trapping programme around the colony. This further highlighted the urgency for the fence to be completed and the continuing exposure of the colony.

The second highlight was the completion of the predator proof fence on the peninsula by 17 February 2010. This was the culmination of many factors including:

- successfully completing negotiation of the 'Licence to Occupy' with the Kaikoura Charitable Trust
- the generous financial support from many funders – large and small, and from individuals
- the outstanding effort by Trustee Lindsay Rowe in managing the fence project
- Predator Proof Fences Ltd and their sub-contractors who did a great job
- Kaikoura Lions Club who have undertaken several jobs on site
- Doug Hockey and volunteers who have carried out extensive plantings in and around the fence site.
- Mike Bell who carried out pest control under a contract awarded to Wildlife Management International to ensure that all pests were removed
- Mike Morrissey from DOC who has continued to undertake pest control in and around the colony and undertake other maintenance work on-site.

The Trust and the public can be assured that returning shearwaters now have the maximum chance of protection from predators at this site in the future.

A buffer fence to protect the predator proof fence from stock damage was also built. Planting within the buffer zone between the fences will also provide cover and mitigate landscape effects.

There are many people to thank for contributing to the predator fence project and the work of the Trust generally and while it is not possible to list them all personally, I thank all who have contributed volunteer time, money or support in a variety of ways. Without this, the Trust could not have achieved its goals. In particular I thank the following:

- Kaikoura Charitable Trust for their continuing support including administrative help following the grant of the 'Licence to Occupy' and for their generosity in providing trips in recognition of people who has helped the Trust, and in sponsoring a fundraising event, the proceeds of which HSCT received.
- Susan Wallace for further assistance with constitutional matters
- Simon Ford from Mortlock McCormack Law for continuing assistance from time to time following his and Simon Mortlock's generous pro bono help the previous year with negotiating the 'Licence to Occupy'
- To all funding agencies that provided grants for the fence including Lotteries Commission, ECan, Canterbury Community Trust, Kaikoura District Council, the two Lions Clubs of Kaikoura, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the North Canterbury and the Kaikoura branches of the NZ Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Pub Charity, and the Eureka Trust
- The Seaward Lions Club of Kaikoura who ran a charity auction raising funds for the HSCT; and Kevin Heays who was auctioneer for the event
- Mohammed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund, Sargood Bequest and the Pacific Development Conservation Fund for grants toward research and related purposes
- Sarah Gwilliams who acted as Auditor for the Trust
- Encounter Kaikoura for providing a meeting venue and other administrative support from time to time
- Nori Bell for preparation of a draft brochure for the Trust
- Kaikoura District Council for administrative support

The third highlight was commencing research in the mountain colonies including the fitting of 20 geo-locators to birds from the Kowhai colony. This was undertaken in conjunction with Prof. Tim Guilford of Oxford University and Dr. Robin Freeman of Microsoft Research and is an excellent example of how scientific collaboration can benefit this species. It is intended that the geo-locators will be taken off birds in November at which time data downloaded to computer should provide valuable information on the flight paths of the birds during their annual migration to Australia.

Dr Richard Cuthbert and Erica Sommers also visited Kaikoura, reviewing his original research and concluding that the mountain colonies appeared to be holding their own and he considered a possible expansion in population, having found a sub-colony he had never noted on previous visits. He also attended part of a Trust meeting in February.

Other activities the Trust has undertaken in the past year includes:

- Attending various shows, forums, or making presentations to interested groups, funders and so on; and in undertaking a range of fundraising strategies.
- Producing a T-shirt for sale to raise funds. Thanks to artist Rio Rosselini for the original artwork and DOC for making that available to the Trust.
- The successful continued fundraising through the sale of the Austen Deans prints, with the original painting made available for copying by Geoff Harrow to enable prints to be produced.
- Steady growth in the 'Friends of Hutton's Shearwater' and education initiatives led by Nicky McArthur

- Production of newsletters coordinated by Jodie Denton
- Steady progress with the website although there is scope for further development in the future
- A start was made on the strategy to guide future work of the Trust. Thanks to Ange Davidson of Cheviot who did an excellent job facilitating a weekend session to develop ideas and get them down on paper. It is proposed that the strategy will be completed and adopted by the Trust in the coming months.

I also acknowledge the continuing support I have received from Trustees and the hard work they have undertaken to achieve our objectives in the past year. I record my appreciation and thanks to you all for your hard work and dedication including for the following:

- Jodie Denton for secretarial services, newsletter coordination and production and for coordinating the numerous events that Trustees have been involved in.
- Teri Sonal for those occasions when she has helped with minute taking, other administration support, and for being a very active Trustee.
- Lindsay Rowe for his role as Treasurer, principal fundraiser, fence project manager, and the very systematic approach to critical administrative functions such as maintaining a database, records, managing T-shirt merchandise etc.
- Mike Bell and Lindsay Rowe for their leading out scientific research with support from Phil Bradfield and Geoff Harrow.
- Phil Bradfield for continuing to promote the Trust with his professional presentations and for coordinating DOC involvement in the Trust's programme
- Nicky McArthur for leading the 'Friends of Hutton's Shearwater', educational advocacy, assisting with press releases and promoting the Trust's activities
- Dennis Buurman for administrative support, advocacy, providing support to the Trust and a meeting venue from time to time
- Gina Solomon for bringing an important cultural perspective to the trust's work and representing Te Runanga o Kaikoura; and
- Geoff Harrow for his tireless fundraising and advocacy work and ongoing financial generosity to the Trust.

2009/10 has been a successful year for the Trust with the completion of the predator proof fence and with the commencement of research which I hope will be a key objective for the Trust. Trustees should all be proud that your energy and commitment has been realised through the fence project. There have been many positive comments from the public who recognize what has been achieved. Work needs to continue to build and maintain our support base and to provide opportunities for 'Friends' to be actively involved from time to time, through advocacy, continued educational outreach with schools, and in maintaining and expanding networks.

Our partnerships within the community have been critical in enabling the Trust to achieve its objectives over the course of the year. These relationships must be fostered so that mutual respect provides a clear pathway for the future work of the Trust.

I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chairman for the last year.

Paul McGahan
 Chairman
 Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust
 6 November 2010