

## In This Issue



*End Of An Era.*

• 2 •



*Our Kaumatua  
Geoff Harrow.*

• 5 •



*Seabirds, Shearwaters,  
Science & Seaweek.*

• 7 •

## Welcome

Welcome to the New Year Hutton's supporters and what a busy year it will be! But first, here is a recap on 2013 from our Chairman, Elspeth Wingham.

2013 was a challenging year for myself and HSCT members. The translocation of 103 chicks from the mountain colonies to Te Rae O Atiu (Peninsula colony) was very successful with all chicks fledging. Mike Bell of Wildlife Management International Ltd. was the successful contractor and with a team of keen volunteers, this translocation went very smoothly.

During the winter months, progress was made with revamping our website by Andrew Spencer (trustee). Take a visit at [www.huttonsshearwater.org](http://www.huttonsshearwater.org). Lindsay Rowe has begun writing a paper on the establishment of the Te Rae O Atiu colony as well as keeping the Trust finances in good order. Mike Morrissey (DOC) steadfastly maintained the Te Rae O Atiu site throughout the year, checking predator traps and doing pest control in the neighbouring areas. Unfortunately, mice were found inside the fence (July 2013) and we will closely monitor the situation. See page 3 for an update on the Peninsula colony. The draft strategic plan was finished and a follow-up meeting will see it finalised.

Unfortunately 2013 was a time of resignations. One of our founding member trustees, Mike Bell resigned. He had the opportunity to assist with the translocation of albatross chicks on the Chatham Islands. We are sorry to lose Mike from our team as he brought scientific knowledge, contacts

and enthusiasm. Paul McGahan, also a founding member and former chairman, resigned also. His circumstances changed over time and he no longer had the time available to continue as a trustee.

Geoff Harrow, our founding member and settlor of the Trust, would like to take a less active role. Due to the Christchurch earthquake, Geoff and his wife Lyndsey had to relocate while repairs were done to their home. It is a time of stress and upheaval for them and a break from Hutton's Shearwaters is entirely appropriate. We would like to continue to seek advice from Geoff and will keep him informed regarding the birds and the activities of the Trust. See page 5 for more on this.

Looking ahead, I think we are entering a phase of consolidation. Approximately 500 wild-gathered chicks have been transferred to Te Rae O Atiu from the beginning of the project. We hope this is enough chicks to generate a self-sustaining colony. This is the largest translocation of a shearwater species for generation of a new colony. Sometimes colonisation of man-made colonies can look promising initially but later they can decline. At the moment, we have no further translocations planned but we will be monitoring the colony closely to see how it is progressing.

The opportunity for visits to Te Rae O Atiu while chicks are being fed has finished and so the education, science and involvement of volunteers will all be changing. It is time for us to write-up experiences to date, finish projects and refine how we do things so we do them as well as possible.

Continued....

A number of trustees attended a conference in Dunedin in October 2013 that was hosted by the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT). The theme was community involvement in conservation and recognised the 25 years that the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust has been in existence. As a Trust we need to learn more about how to engage the community, how to increase involvement in different fields, how to fundraise and how to maintain the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust long-term. The Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust has had to deal with many challenging years and it has survived. See page 4 for more.

As our last exciting piece of news for now, the Te Rae o Atiu colony has 8 new chicks at home there, from this seasons efforts, which is fantastic news indeed. See page 3 for more on this.

And finally, I would like to thank our resigning trustees for their commitment, hard-work and passion for Hutton's Shearwaters. We will miss you and we wish you well.

To the trustees, Friends of Hutton's Shearwater and all the volunteers who so willingly help; thank-you for your ongoing support.

We need people like you to survive and thrive.

Elsbeth Wingham  
Chair

## End of an era

The retirement of Paul McGahan and Mike Bell from the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust in 2013, is an opportunity to record the massive contribution made by these two founding trustees over the past five years.

Paul was unanimously elected in absentia as our first chairman at the inaugural Trust meeting. This was a serendipitous choice because Paul's enthusiasm, leadership and good network of contacts enabled the Trust to quickly begin a most successful fundraising campaign to build the predator proof fence. His admiration for these amazing Hutton's Shearwaters is boundless, and this is evident in the hundreds of hours that he gave both in administration and in the breeding colonies without recompense. Paul is a perfectionist always striving to have the very best management protocols and produce top quality newsletters.

Mike Bell's expertise with seabirds naturally equipped him to lead our science research programme. Mike has continued the original work carried out by Dr Richard Cuthbert and expanded this to carry out geolocator tracking of the shear-

waters during their winter sojourn around Australian waters. Our trust has made a profound increase in the knowledge about Hutton's Shearwaters and Mike has had a major part in the projects. Each year Mike has been in the burrow scouting team which measures the breeding success. This is hard, dirty work but essential to measure the birds productivity. A big part of our Trust's work has been the translocation of 500 half-grown chicks from the wild Kowhai colony down to the safety of the new predator proof Te Rae o Atiu colony on Kaikoura Peninsula. Over the past five years Mike was there leading these operations, either up in the mountains gathering chicks or managing the feeding programme down below.

To Paul and Mike, our Trust says a very big thank you for your wonderfully effective work, which has made a difference for the future survival of the Hutton's Shearwaters. You both can be proud and satisfied with what you have achieved. You are very much missed.

Geoff Harrow  
Founder & Trustee



*Left: Paul McGahan, (then employed by DOC) assisting with chick feeding during the very first translocation project in 2005. (Photo Jodie Denton)*

*Right: Mike Bell assisting with chick collection during the 2012 translocation project. (Photo Dave Hallet)*





# Te Rae o Atiu colony news 2014

The 2013-14 season has thrown up some surprises. Firstly, we have 2 birds from the 2007 chick translocation and 6 more from 2008 that have not been seen before. Secondly, we have our second "callin", a bird that was not translocated but has been attracted to the site by the sound system that plays calls throughout the night from September to March. It is 3 years since our first "callin" which has just returned after not being seen last year. Because we visit the colony at, usually, 4-8 day intervals we do not see all birds that are about; in some seasons we have only seen one of a pair that has had an egg.

This year the first birds visited next boxes at the colony in the week prior to the 9th of September and by the end of the month birds were visiting about 20 boxes; at the end of November this had risen to 24 boxes, more than at any time last season. I have identified 29 birds this season which is also more than all of last season. There must be more present as only one parent has been seen in some boxes with eggs and other birds (only 2 seen) have been visiting another 11 boxes.

We had eggs laid in 14 boxes. Box 11 had another surprise with the birds there incubating 2 eggs, one of which has now been ejected. As birds only lay 1 egg, we cannot be sure whether the birds seen incubating the eggs are the parents of the first or second egg, or one of each – the outcome will be interesting.

As of the 6th of January we have 8 chicks, the first hatched on about the 23rd of December and the last on about the 4th of January, and I am not expecting any more. Of those chicks weighed twice, all have put on weight with the heaviest up to 200 gm, about 1/3rd of their maxima which bodes well for successful fledging without us having to do any supplementary feeding. Fledging should take place mid to late March.

Lindsay Rowe  
Trustee

*Above: One of the first eggs & then chicks, at Te Rae o Atiu colony for the 2013/2014 season, born just before Christmas. Some of the fantastic take off pads built at Te Rae o Atiu by Mike Morrissey of DOC. They will come into good use as chicks fledge around mid March. A big thanks to Mike for his initiative and kiwi ingenuity! (Photos Lindsay Rowe & Mike Morrissey)*



# Hutton's Trust to learn from YEPT

**'...came away with practical knowledge and ideas for the future.....'**

On the 16th October 2013 trustees and Titi (Hutton's Shearwater) supporters headed to Dunedin for the Conservation Inc conference celebrating the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust's (YEPT) 25th year. The trip South was a wonderful way to spend some time together outside of Trust meetings and the likes.

Conservation in New Zealand is going through what I perceive to be a disturbing change with the restructuring within DOC. It was therefore timely for us to pick ideas up from the four conference themes of "connecting", "staying viable", "responding to need" and "what's feasible?"

The Hon Dr Nick Smith was an eloquent speaker, followed by Barry Hanson who spoke about Conservation Partnerships and DOC's new approach. I personally didn't feel particularly objective listening to either of these presentations. It is my feeling that the protection of our

Hutton's Shearwaters and other species will be more reliant on volunteer support in the future.

Weighty topics such as deep sea drilling, mining on DOC estates and Global Warming were not touched on. Other speakers added gems of knowledge for the audience to take what they needed back to their own areas.

Over 200 people, from over 100 environmental organisations provided valuable networking opportunities. Our trustees came away with practical knowledge and ideas for the future. Good environmental management needs advocacy by individuals working together. Our trust is on the right path.

The Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust were an inspiration for all present.

Outside of the conference, trustees had the opportunity to visit the amazing Fairy Prion colony, a short drive out of

Dunedin.

What an amazing site to have a predator proof enclosure - everything literally is done by hand! It truly shows the dedication of the team involved. We were lucky to have our own guide Sara Lacombe and we enjoyed an hour or two there. Many thanks Sara, we had a great time and your enthusiasm is to be commended. For our readers, be sure to check out the YouTube clip 'An extraordinary fence' by Sue Maturin; it will leave you speechless!

And to finish, I would like to thank the Tukete Charitable Trust for providing our transport to Dunedin and home again, it was very much appreciated.

Teri Sonal  
Trustee



## Bag Yourself A T-Shirt.

You can now buy your Hutton's shirts on line.

See [www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz](http://www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz) for more details.

*Right: Annalise Harris sporting her Hutton's Tshirt at the Whale Run Kaikoura 2013. (Picture by Andrew Spencer Photography.)*



*Left: What a site - the Fairy Prions' predator protection area (photo Mike Aviss)*

*Below: Hutton's supporter Zoe Battersby, guide Sara Lacombe & Trustees Jodie Denton & Nicky McArthur get a closer look at the birds' natural nesting area. (photo Mike Aviss)*



# Coverham Shearwaters

From the oral stories of old time Maori and the diaries of early colonists, it has been known that titi bred on Tapuae-o-Uenuku and the inland Kaikoura Ranges. Personal searches have failed to establish any signs of current breeding. But when did they finish?

**‘...confident that the Shearwaters were active in there until the beginning of World War II 1939...’**

A very good friend, Evan Wilson told me that in 1934 when he was a member of the Wildlife Division, Internal Affairs Department goat destruction team, he was shooting

on the Coverham Block, Dee Stream just north of Tapuae-o-Uenuku. It was a dawn spring day and he had positioned himself at the edge of the snow, by the top of the bush to prevent goats escaping up high ridges when the shooting started. To Evans amazement hundreds of black and white birds flew up from the snow tussocks making loud cackling noises as they flew off down the valley. He thought that these birds were about the same size as a small coastal seagull. There were burrows among the tussocks. He convinced me that these birds must be Hutton's Shearwaters.

Recently I have had long chats with the Murrays of Bluff Station & Chaffey

families of Kekerengu, Marlborough. They were quite familiar with the Hutton's Shearwaters on the Coverham block and their breeding burrows. The Murray's were confident that the Shearwaters were active in there until the beginning of World War II 1939, but that was the last date they could pin point.

I found evidence of burnt Totara stumps, but Dr Richard Cuthbert thinks that wild pigs most likely wiped out this colony.

Geoff Harrow  
Trustee.

## Our Kaumatua - Geoff Harrow

Geoff Harrow has been living and breathing Hutton's Shearwaters for 49 years now. The Trust thought that this amazing contribution should be recognised and we asked Geoff if he would be agreeable to being our Kaumatua/Patron. Geoff agreed and said he was honoured and humbled to be offered this role. We will be planning a celebration to mark 50 years of Geoff's involvement with Hutton's Shearwaters in 2014. More details on this later.

Elspeth Wingham  
Chairman



*Geoff Harrow in the early days of his nearly 50 year long Hutton's journey. And just a few years ago, still out there doing it; celebrating the completion of the predator proof fence at Te Rae o Atiu, with his very patient wife & life long advocate, Lyndsay.*





# Kaikoura - Seabirds, Shearwaters, Science & Sea Week



Ngā Manu Moana, ngā Titi, te Pūtaiao me te Wiki Moana

## Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th April 2014

### Saturday - 9.30 am

Please book morning activities as early as possible

- **Albatross Encounter**  
20% off book direct at [www.encounterkaikoura.co.nz](http://www.encounterkaikoura.co.nz) ph. 03 319 6777
- **Photography workshop with Peter Langlands birdlife photographer**  
\$25 book direct at [langlands@xtra.co.nz](mailto:langlands@xtra.co.nz) ph. 0274 501 916 Meet - Dolphin Mary room, Encounter Kaikoura
- **Walk with local seabird enthusiasts**  
Meet at Seal Colony at Point Kean
- **Local Maori Tours**  
20% off please book direct. Phone 033195567 or email [info@maoritours.co.nz](mailto:info@maoritours.co.nz) NB 9.00 am start

### Saturday - 1.00 pm Supper Room @ Memorial Hall

- **Presentations by guest speakers**  
Renowned seabird specialists: Chris P. Gaskin, Karen A. Baird, Graeme Taylor, Paul Scofield and president of Forest and Bird Andrew Cutler. M. C. Ruud Kleinpaste

### Saturday - 5.30 pm

- **Mix, Mingle and Movies @ Mayfair Theatre**  
\$25 tickets available at Kaikoura i-Site or online @ [www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz](http://www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz) - LUCKY TICKET  
Opening address by Kaikoura's Mayor, Winston Gray & guest Ruud Kleinpaste, Bugman, Birdman, Ecologist followed by "The Mystery Bird" and 'Film/Documentary'

### Sunday - 6.45 am

- **Haere Ra Nga Titi - Farewell to Hutton's Shearwaters**  
6.45 am. Gather at South Bay Recreation Reserve. Walk to Te Rae o Atiu peninsula colony for farewell ceremony followed by bacon butties back at the Supper Room, Memorial Hall
- 9.30 am. Talks on Kaikoura Seabirds, Hutton's Shearwater Scientific update, Little Blue Penguins and Te Korowai, our coastal guardians
- 11.00 am. Guest Speakers Ruud Kleinpaste Bugman, Birdman, Ecologist
- 11.30 am. Lou Sanson, Director General Department of Conservation

### Sunday Afternoon - 12.30 pm

- **Seaweek family picnic**  
Activity and music event at Takahanga Reserve, beside Memorial Hall

For more information please visit [www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz](http://www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz)

Please RSVP to [huttonssecretary@amuri.net](mailto:huttonssecretary@amuri.net) to indicate your attendance to:

- Saturday morning walk
- Saturday evening at the Mayfair Theatre - \$25
- Saturday afternoon presentations
- Sunday morning farewell & breakfast/speakers.



[www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz](http://www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz)



# Recent education

Hutton's Shearwater education and awareness in the community has continued with the focus being on Year 5 and 6 groups in the Primary Schools and Year 9 in the High School.

During the winter I visited each of the Primary Schools and spent time with the students, talking to them about Hutton's Shearwaters and taking the opportunity to show them the movie "The Mystery Bird". The story about "a man and the birds" certainly seemed to enthral all the children and lead to many questions and good interactive sessions about Hutton's Shearwaters. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the students and would like to thank all the schools for making me so welcome.

Encounter Kaikoura came to the fore again by generously offering these students a trip to view the Hutton's on the water. These trips truly bring alive the class room teachings and are invaluable as a learning experience for students. Interestingly each trip varied hugely as to how many birds were sighted. This would suggest a changing and moving food supply! We are hearing from various sources that seabirds appear to be particularly hungry this year. HSCT would like to particularly acknowledge Encounter Kaikoura for again offering the students this fantastic opportunity.

Kaikoura High School Year 9 science and maths students took to the streets of Kaikoura for the third year in a row to survey the general public in the West End asking if they are local or a visitor to the town, and depending on the reply a set of questions is put to them about Hutton's Shearwaters. This is a great measure for us of our progress with community education in Kaikoura and beyond. We look forward to hearing about the collated results next term.

Other education activities included Brett Cowan (DOC) hosting an environmental group of international volunteers from North America, who assisted with regravelling the steps at the Te Rae o Atiu colony. Trustee Lindsay Rowe gave a presentation to international student's resident at the 'Old Convent' as part of the Creation Care Study programme (Christian environmental study abroad)

Thank you to all who continue to spread the word about the Hutton's on our behalf. Undoubtedly the opportunity to have a presence at the Conference Inc in Dunedin was helpful in raising the awareness of the ongoing work of the Hutton's Shearwater Trust in Kaikoura.

Nicky McArthur  
Trustee

The Hutton's Shearwater Trust acknowledges the following for the production of our newsletters.

Creator: Jodie Denton (Trustee) assisted by Trustee Andrew Spencer.

Editor: Julie Buunk (DOC Renwick)

Contributors: A number of our trustees.

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*Please share this newsletter by email where possible to reduce paper use.*

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# Project funding

Our projects would not be possible without the assistance of many funding agencies. We are grateful to the following organisations for help with these projects:

- The 2012 and 2013 translocations of chicks from the Kowhai River to Te Rae o Atiu: Encounter Foundation, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, WWF-New Zealand, Lions Club of Kaikoura, Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust
- The 2012-13 Kowhai River Research project: The Lion Foundation, Air Rescue Services Trust
- The 2013-14 Kowhai River Research Project: Birds NZ Research Fund
- The Te Rae o Atiu monitoring project: NZ Lottery Grants Board Environment and Heritage Fund; Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund; Sistema Plastics; Reid Technology; Department of Conservation

The Hutton's Shearwater Trust is a Charities Commission registered entity CC37979. Donations to the Trust attract tax credits.



THE HUTTON'S SHEARWATER TRUST  
WAS ESTABLISHED 2008

*To encourage and promote the preservation, conservation, research, public education and sustainable management of the Hutton's Shearwater.*



*Friends of the*  
**HUTTON'S SHEARWATER  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

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*Thank you for becoming a "Friend of the Hutton's Shearwater", we will be in touch soon.*