



THE Hutton's Shearwater CHARITABLE TRUST

NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2016

FLY SAFE Hutton's Shearwater/Titi
 Friday 4 March - Sunday 3 April 2016
 Kaikoura, New Zealand



A new annual month-long event to collect and release as many crash landed fledglings as possible.




Sponsor-A-Chick

Make a difference!
Name your very own chick and follow its progress.



Kaikōura Peninsula

Colony breeding season report.



Light Disorientation

The science behind Hutton's shearwater light induced crash landings.

Kia Ora Koutou

The past few months have seen a number of changes to the Trust.

Two valuable Trustees resigned, Patrick Aldwell and Sabrina Luecht. Patrick regrettably simply had too many commitments, and Sabrina felt her role as Project Coordinator already fulfils her main objectives towards Hutton's shearwater conservation. We would like to thank both sincerely for their time and involvement.

1

HUTTON'S HUB

4 March 2016

10am-4pm

115 Ludstone Road

2

FLY SAFE

Friday 4 March 2016

To

Sunday 3 April 2016

3

FAREWELL

Sunday 3 April 2016

6:45am

Kaikoura Peninsula

Meanwhile five new Trustees have been appointed. The Trust received a fantastic spread of applicants - with Bill Lonsdale, Sheryl Paulsen, Ted Howard and Toni Rigarlsford joining the team. We are pleased to have fresh faces from the Kaikōura community representing our unique seabird. The Trust also appointed Lorna Deppe to a new role, that of Advisory Trustee. Lorna is a seabird scientist and her extensive research knowledge will be hugely valuable to the Trust.



In addition there have been some role changes within the Trust, with Phil Bradfield appointed as Chair and Ailsa Howard appointed as Secretary.

Lindsay Rowe, our superb long serving Treasurer will eventually be retiring from his role, hence the Trust is still seeking a future replacement, ideally a candidate from within the Kaikōura community.

Sabrina Luecht, the Trust's Project Coordinator has been focusing her time on events, chick sponsorships, Friends Of The Hutton's Shearwater, website and social media content, a new brochure and newsletter. Next up is dedicated time towards funding applications, as the Trust is still in urgent need of a long-term sponsor and grants.

The Trust has been highly active of late, with the breeding season taking centre stage, and the planning of the new annual month-long 'Hoki Ora Atū Tītī /Fly Safe Hutton's Shearwater' event.

Fly Safe will begin on Friday 4 March 2016, with the official opening of the 'Hutton's Hub' from 10am-4pm, 115 Ludstone Road, Kaikōura. We hope you will all participate in Fly Safe and help us save hundreds of grounded birds!

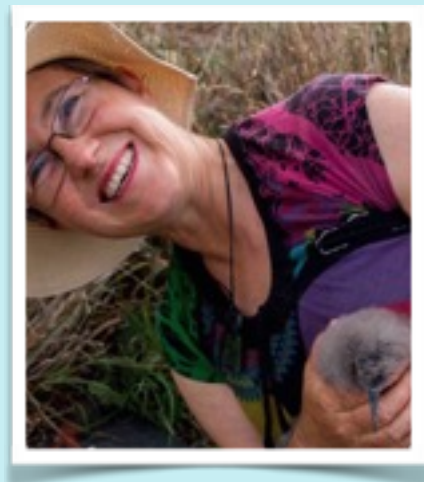
Phil Bradfield, Chair

JOIN US, BECOME A FRIEND!

We offer a structured membership: individual (\$25), family (\$30), school (\$30), corporate (\$120) or life (\$300).

Your contribution assists conservation management of this endangered species, both at the Te Rae O Atiu/Kaikōura Peninsula colony, and at the only two remaining wild colonies in the world.

You can become a Friend Of The Hutton's Shearwater on our website: www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz, or request a membership form via admin@huttonsshearwater.org.nz.



Hutton's Hub

The Hutton's Hub will serve as the centralised drop-off point for collected crash landed Hutton's shearwater fledglings each March to April.

The official Hutton's Hub opening will take place on Friday 4 March 2016 from 10am-4pm, at the Department of Conservation office on 115 Ludstone Road in Kaikōura. All welcome!



Special guest speakers including Tata Lawton (DOC Deputy Director General), Nicola Toki (DOC Threatened Species Ambassador), Winston Gray (Kaikōura Mayor), Geoff Harrow (Trust Founder), Lindsay Rowe (Colony Manager) and Brett Cowan (Te Runanga o Kaikōura) will talk about these cherished birds.

There will be activities for children, nibbles, Hutton's displays, viewing of the Hutton's Hub, and a chance to see a Hutton's shearwater chick from the Kaikōura Peninsula colony!

“The Hutton's Hub will serve as the centralised drop-off point for crash landed fledglings.”

Sponsor-A-Chick

We have 7 Kaikōura Peninsula colony chicks this season and would like to give heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors!

You can still sponsor chick #72 for a one-off \$150 donation, which will provide you progress from year 1 to 5, and include naming rights.

2015/16 chick sponsorships:

- #41 – Storm Rider, Sponsored by Lorna Deppe
- #42 – Sponsored by Caleb Armstrong
- #45 – Sponsored by Geoff Harrow
- #46 – JeanieB, Sponsored by Carol Howard
- #59 – Sponsored by Jeremy and Ilana Miller
- #70 – Sponsored by Blair Rowe
- #72 – Available on TradeMe



Hoki Ora Atū Tītī /Fly Safe Hutton's Shearwater

During the breeding season the Kaikōura township is a brightly lit obstacle in the flight path of Hutton's shearwater fledglings making their maiden flight from their mountain colonies to the sea.



Being nocturnal, the bright township lights disorientate fledglings, resulting in crash landings. Once grounded, they are unable to take-off and will die from injury, stress, dehydration, starvation and predation. Hundreds of birds crash land each season. This is why the Trust organises volunteers to assist in collection of crash-landed fledglings, which can then be released at sea.

This year the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust, Department of Conservation and Kaikōura community are teaming up to raise awareness and protection of our endangered shearwater. The first annual month-long 'Hoki Ora Atū Tītī /Fly Safe Hutton's Shearwater' event will be held to ensure increased awareness and a larger volunteer effort results in more grounded fledglings being saved during the peak fledging period from March to April.

Join us for the **Hutton's Hub opening** at the Department of Conservation office (115 Ludstone Road, Kaikōura) on Friday 4 March 2016 from 10am – 4pm, to celebrate the start of the fledging season.

Free public presentations will be held each Wednesday at 5:30pm on 9, 16, 23 and 30 March 2016 at Encounter Kaikōura.

Weekly **social blitzes and media releases** will ensure increased community engagement and awareness.

Fly Safe will close with the **Haere Rā E Ngā Tītī/Farewell ceremony** at the Kaikōura Peninsula colony on Sunday 3 April 2016. We will meet at South Bay Reserve at 6.45 am and walk the Kaikōura Peninsula Track to the colony - to hold the dawn ceremony, Titi Waiata, Tai Chi and a site update. This will mark the end of the breeding season and the beginning of the Hutton's shearwater migration to Australia, until they return for breeding in September.

Volunteers Needed

Are you a Kaikōura local, or will you be a visitor passing through Kaikōura from early March to early April? Why not join us as a volunteer?

Volunteers assist with searching for and collecting crash-landed Hutton's shearwater fledglings throughout the peak crash landing period and the 'Hoki Ora Atū Tītī /Fly Safe Hutton's Shearwater' event.

Volunteers will search Kaikōura streets on foot with torches during evenings and nights from Friday 4 March to Sunday 3 April 2016, to collect as many grounded birds as possible.

Birds will be picked up, transported in boxes and dropped off for processing at the Hutton's Hub adjacent to the Department of Conservation office on 115 Ludstone Road in Kaikōura. Birds will then be processed and released by the following morning. Day time searches are also welcome, as many birds may be missed during the night or are hiding under vegetation.



Register your interest!

Email admin@huttonsshearwater.org.nz or call the HUTTON'S HOTLINE on 022 FLY HOME

Te Rae O Atiu/Kaikōura Peninsula Colony Report

2015/16 is turning into another good season. Most of the adult birds that were present last year, returned from Australian waters from mid-September to breed. 16 eggs were laid this season, the first on 1 November. Only 8 eggs hatched, which is the average for the last four seasons. The first 3 chicks hatched before 21 December and by 11 January we had 8 healthy chicks, however 1 has since died. The chicks have had good weight gains and are averaging slightly heavier than at the same time last year; the heaviest is currently weighing over 620 g (adults weigh 350-400 g).

The exciting news is that two chicks which hatched at the colony in 2012 and fledged in March 2013 have returned. The first seen, X17334, has been recorded visiting eight different nest boxes since it arrived on 6 November! We only expect to get back one chick out of every six that leave, and some do not return until they are 4 or 5 years old, so it is extraordinary that both chicks from that year returned as 3 year olds. Unfortunately, X17335 was found dead of unknown causes on a nearby beach. Nonetheless, it is great to have the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and sponsors rewarded with birds bred at the colony now returning.

- Lindsay Rowe, Treasurer

“The new Fly Safe event is all about increasing awareness and saving as many grounded birds as possible.”

Investigation of fallout events in Hutton's shearwaters and population effects

In conjunction with this year's 'Hoki Ora Atū Tītī /Fly Safe Hutton's Shearwater' event, researchers from the University of Canterbury will run a study to learn more about why and how these birds crash land from light disorientation - a phenomenon termed 'fallout'.

The aim is to:

- 1) Obtain a comprehensive estimate on how many birds crash land during the peak fledging season (March to April), and discern whether this affects overall population viability. This will involve distinguishing between dead birds and those which get rescued, and estimating mortality risks.
- 2) Continue research into the effects of artificial lighting. This will look into the spatial distribution of crash landed birds and whether certain types or densities of light sources increase fallout of birds. Moreover, the number of birds found in light vs. dark areas will be compared.
- 3) Investigate the effect weather conditions have on fallout events. Weather conditions which cause poor visibility (rain, fog, new moon) may induce crash landings. The study aims to test this by searching during 'good' and 'bad' weather nights. Wind direction and strength may also influence the overall flight path and may channel fledglings more or less towards the Kaikoura township.



A research team will search for grounded birds at regular intervals, patrolling a set lit and dark route in and around Kaikoura within the Hutton's shearwater flight path. The public is encouraged to help with this study by completing log sheets (provided on our website and at the 'Hutton's Hub') upon finding a grounded fledgling. Detailed location information is needed about where each bird was found (e.g. street address and closest house number), so the recovery site can later be mapped.

Lorna Deppe, Advisory Trustee

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Hutton's Hotline: 022 FLY HOME (022 359 4663)

Find us on Facebook!

