

In This Issue



Haere Mai Nga Titi

• 2 •



Dazzling bright lights

• 3 •



Hutton's Count 2014

• 4 •

Kia ora, from Chairman Elspeth Wingham.

Although the 2013-14 summer did not include a translocation of chicks, the last year has been eventful.

In October 2013, a group of trustees attended a very encouraging and inspiring conference in Dunedin organised by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. The theme was "Community Involvement in Conservation".

Mike Morrissey (DOC), Phil Bradfield (DOC and a trustee) and Lindsay Rowe (trustee) have kept the Te Rae o Atiu colony maintained and monitored for pests, ready for the arrival of returning birds around September. Over last summer, 38 Te Rae o Atiu chicks returned and a total of 15 eggs were laid and 8 chicks successfully fledged. Lindsay has also been preparing a publication on the movement of pre-fledging Hutton's Shearwaters to be published in "Notornis".

We did not have a main fundraiser this year but we did have a major awareness event - the "Seabirds, Shearwaters, Science and Sea Week Weekend" organised by Nicky McArthur and assisted by the Trust and local community (Forest and Bird and Lions). The weekend featured a range of workshops, tours, guest speakers and the Farewell ceremony. I think all the trustees came away buzzing - inspired and challenged. Many thanks to Nicky, Jodie, Teri and Andrew Spencer, who did much of the behind-the-scenes work for this event.

Jodie Denton (trustee and secretary) successfully applied for funding on behalf of the Trust for a paid 'Project Coordinator' position. The Minister of Conservation, Mr Nick Smith asked for the opportunity to meet with trustees and members of the Tukete Trust over afternoon tea. He spoke about the new directions for conservation delivery and encouraged us to keep working with our community and developing partnerships.

Response to the Trusts advertising for new trustees has been very good.



Thank you to everyone who responded.

The "Mark and Re-sighting Project" (15 - 19 September) went well despite bad weather being forecast. The information is now with scientists who will use it estimate the current population of Hutton's Shearwater. This project was last done in 2001.

The Trust had a "Welcome Back" stall for Hutton's Shearwater at the "Cruise" Classic Cars Weekend. This was an opportunity to promote the Trust to people from outside Kaikoura and to sell our T-shirts and "Hutton's" burgers which proved popular. Many thanks to Jodie, Teri, Gina, Nicky & Lindsay, Ailsa Howard (F&B) & Rachel Vaughan (KDC).

Hopefully 2014 - 2015 will be a good breeding season for the birds in the mountains and at Te Rae o Atiu and our next report will be of continuing increases in numbers. Early in 2015 we will be celebrating Geoff Harrow's 50 years of involvement with Hutton's Shearwater - a tremendous achievement. Without his dedication and commitment, the Hutton's Shearwater story could be very different.

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

Become a friend

We are always looking for new friends to join us in the journey of these amazing seabirds. If you are not already, it would be great to have you on board.

We have structured the membership so as to make it feasible for everyone. You could join as an individual(\$20), a family (\$30), as a school (\$30), a corporate(\$120) or for life (\$300).

Your contribution will assist in the conservation of this endangered species, both at the newly established colony on the Kaikoura Peninsula, Te Rae o Atiu, and at the only other two remaining colonies (in the world) in the Seaward Kaikoura mountains.

You can find a membership form on our website www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz or contact the secretary on 03 319 7344 or the Treasurer on admin@huttonsshearwater.org.nz

Haere Mai Nga Titi

On Saturday 20th September we woke up to weather so much nicer than the poor conditions predicted. At 6.30 am Trustees Teri and Gina arrived at the Kaikoura Primary School grounds to find kind hearted Whale Watch staff, Ari and Nancy had already set up the tables, and fired up the BBQ, ready for the many friendly classic car enthusiasts to arrive and be fed at our annual "Welcome Home Titi BBQ". Thanks also to the Whale Watch staff who spent the previous day preparing the kai for our BBQ.

We found shelter from the wind next to the bouncy castle and the owners of this experience were our first customers of the day. From then on many of the "out of town" crowd were treated to our delicious hamburgers. It was wonderful to cater and chat to a crowd of people who would not normally be aware of our Titi Hutton's shearwater. For many car enthusiasts this was the first time they had come across Kaikoura's unique and vulnerable bird. We also had a "write a note to welcome home our Titi" competition; children in particular loved having this lucky draw opportunity to win a t shirt.

Later in the morning when "friends of" supporter Ailsa Howard arrived we were able to add another table to the stall - we noted she was a gun at selling t-shirts and promoting our Titi. Later Rachel Vaughan arrived and added her special sales pitch by calling out to

the crowd - this technique really did increase hamburger sales! To add to a perfect day other Trustees arrived and pitched in to what was becoming quite a time.



Another very positive welcome home event came to an end at about 4 in the afternoon when all of the V8 cars rumbled away. This is our main fundraiser each year – if you would like to help on this day, look out for this event at the same time next year.

Teri Sonal
Trustee

Photo above - Ailsa Howard, 'Friend of' and Gina Solomon, Trustee, have a chat with an interested customer during the event. Photo courtesy of Whale Watch Kaikoura.



Cool caps

The Trust has recently added fancy new military style caps to our line of merchandise. At \$20 a pop they will make great xmas presents and look great teamed up with one of our tees or polo shirts.

You can purchase a new cap (or two!) or other

merchandise on line at www.huttonsshearwater.org.nz.

A wee side thought - how far around the world has your Hutton's gear travelled? Lets hear it!

Please feel free to pass on any comments or suggestions about our gear. We would love to hear what you think.



Interesting info.....

- Each day adult birds travel approximately 20 kilometres to the sea, to eat fish and krill which are later fed to their young.
- Flights down from the alpine colonies can be as fast as 154km/h, reaching the ocean in as little as seven minutes.
- The return trip takes around 38 minutes, with 1200 metres or more in altitude to be gained with a bellyful of fish.

Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation.

Dazzling bright lights

‘...by an amazing coincidence that very same night.....’

Hutton's Shearwaters crashing under Kaikoura township street lights during wet foggy nights in March and April have long been a concern of DOC and recently to our Trust. Once on the ground, these birds are in big trouble. Some of these stranded shearwaters are run over by vehicles or killed by cats and dogs. Many experts have thought the young fledgling Hutton's mistake the wet shiny road surface at night to be the sea and they land prematurely.

On a pitch black moonless night on the 21st March 1966, Brian Bell, Deryck Morse and myself, observed lots of juvenile Hutton's Shearwaters fledging from their Kowhai valley burrows flying downhill into a heavy coastal bank of cloud. Meanwhile that same night, Dr Lloyd Johnston reported that about one hundred juvenile Hutton's Shearwaters crashed into thick fog enshrouded street lights and houses in the Kaikoura township.

By an amazing coincidence on that very same night, Sandy Bartle an ornithologist, who later became curator of birds at Te Papa Museum, was an observer on the trawler "Maimai" fishing on the bone grounds 8km off the mouth of the Ure River,

just south of Cape Campbell. He advised that during foggy weather at night, newly fledged *P. Huttoni* some still covered with earth from their natal burrow, landed on the vessel. These mud covered juveniles must have flown from burrows on their fledgling flight, and crashed into the floodlit trawler before landing on the sea. These young birds being found at sea, so far north of Kaikoura, most likely fledged from burrows in Shearwater Stream and were able to transit safely the unlit sparsely inhabited coast north of the Clarence River.

To increase the safety of juvenile Hutton's Shearwater flying over Kaikoura during foggy March/April nights, outdoor lighting needs to be reduced. Tekapo village has recently drastically reduced their ambient night light to protect their precious night sky. Let us do the same, to protect our unique precious Hutton's Shearwater in Kaikoura.

Geoff Harrow
Patron



Photo courtesy of Andrew Spencer.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDING

Recently the Trust was fortunate to receive funding from the Department of Conservation's new Community Conservation Partnership Fund, for a 'Project Coordinator'. This was great news and along with many of our very supportive partners, the Trust received the news personally from the previous Minister of Conservation, Hon Dr Nick Smith. Mr Smith travelled to Kaikoura especially and we had a lovely afternoon tea with him.

This funding is a fantastic opportunity for our Trust and one we have been working towards for a while now. The Project Coordinator's focus will be to lead and enable the Trust to meet the goals and objectives of its draft strategic plan. The Trust has a lot of exciting work ahead of us and many ducks (or Hutton's!) to line up, but we are eager to take the Trust to that next step and the Project Coordinator will be the key component to the future success of the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust.

Many thanks once again to the Department of Conservation.

Jodie Denton, Trustee

The funding is a fantastic opportunity and one we have been working towards for a while now.



Hutton's rafted up at sea during the 'Mark & Recapture' exercise in September 2014. In the lower photo you can notice a 'red' belly of one of the many birds that were caught and marked up in the Kowhai mountain colony the day before.
Photos courtesy of Lindsay Rowe.

Hutton's Count 2014

On Monday 15 September; Paul Scofield, Mike Aviss, Mike Morrissey, Nicky McArthur, John Bown, and Lyndon Slater flew by helicopter in to the Kowhai colony to begin marking Hutton's Shearwaters.

The project was a repeat of that carried out in 2002. The plan was to spend five nights painting the white breast and belly of as many birds as could be caught on the ground or snow surface with quick drying red spray paint, preferably over 2000 birds. This is a technique that has been used on other birds in the past for example Black-browed Albatross in the Falkland Islands and Shy Albatross in Australia. The paint provides a surface coating on a few outer feathers, it has not been shown to cause any ill-effects to the birds and comes off in a few days while the birds are diving or digging and moving around in burrows.

After 2 nights the team had painted over 1700 birds and this is when all the planning was thrown out of the window. As a good number of birds had been painted and there was adverse weather coming in, the team decided to leave the Kowhai on the Wednesday morning.

The second phase was to go out to sea, find the rafts of Hutton's Shearwater in South Bay or around the Kaikoura Peninsula, and count the numbers of birds seen unpainted or with red bellies. As the teams were out of the mountains 3 days early, we had to scurry around to get two DOC boats and observers to make these counts. A good day on

the Thursday saw birds counted from South Bay to down past Barney's Rock. The wind strengthened on Friday morning curtailing the time that could be spent on the water that day. Saturday was fine again and this time



we were able to have three boats out (the University of Canterbury provided a boat and team) patrolling between Oaro and South Bay, and around the Peninsula. On Sunday the weather packed up, and it was wild and wet again on Monday. In view of the marine and Met. Service forecasts for strong winds over the next few days we decided to call off any further sampling which was very unfortunate as several of the volunteers who were going to carry out some counts never got the chance to come up and experience the birds at sea. If we had stuck to the original plan

Hutton's Count cont.....



Hutton's Count cont.....

to bring out the teams from the mountains on Saturday and to start sampling that day, we would have been lucky to get one day of sampling in before the weather got bad and there would have been a big gap before being able to get out on the water again which may have compromised the result.

We have enough counts to enable the analysis to go ahead, to get a comparison made with 2002 (we sampled the same week of the year) and determine if there is any trend in the population.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without funding from the following: Ron and Edna Greenwood Environmental Trust; The Lion Foundation; Foodstuffs Community Trust and Geoff Harrow. Personnel and boat resources were provided by the Department of Conservation, Canterbury Museum and the University of Canterbury. In addition, many individuals gave up their time, especially on the boats but also up in the Kowhai River, and their contributions are especially appreciated.

Above - Hutton's Shearwater heading back to its burrow after being painted. Photo courtesy of John Bown.

Below right - Kaikoura Helicopters preparing to take a load of equipment to the Hutton's Shearwater colony at the headwaters of the Kowhai. Photo courtesy of John Bown.

Bottom left - Kaikoura New World's Trish Flannery and Trustee Lindsay Rowe.

GO KAIKOURA NEW WORLD

The Trust was delighted to receive a huge \$3000 worth of New World vouchers to go towards our recent 'Mark & Recapture' project. What an amazing donation from our local New World Managers, Rod & Trish Flannery. It was put to very good use feeding volunteers in the mountains & also out on the water throughout this exercise.

A huge thankyou to Rod & Trish Flannery of Kaikoura New World.



Lindsay Rowe, Trustee



Mike Aviss of DOC scanning the head of the Kowhai colony area for chamois during the 'Mark & Recapture' exercise in September 2014. Predator control in this colony is very important. (Photo courtesy of John Bown)



Hundreds of Hutton's Shearwaters rafted up out in South Bay following the mountain component of the 'Mark Recapture Exercise'. Teams of volunteers spent hours on the water counting the number of marked Hutton's. See pages 5 & 6. (Photo courtesy of Lindsay Rowe)

Mike Morrissey of DOC installing a new Hutton's Shearwater nesting box in the Kowhai colony. (Photo courtesy of John Bown)

Kids corner

Following an impromptu visit to Little Tamariki Preschool earlier this year with a 'crash landed' Hutton's, head teacher Judy Goff wrote this learning story for the childrens' books. Thanks Little Tamariki for letting us share your great story with our readers.

'Gus, his Mum Jodie, and his little sister Rosie, visited us to show us a Hutton's Shearwater (Titi). Jodie explained that this little bird is an endangered seabird endemic to the Kaikoura region. Endangered means there are not many left and endemic means that they only live here, their nests are high up in our mountains. She said that the adult ones fly to sea to feed on fish and krill which are later fed to their babies. During winter the adult birds fly all the way over to Australia (migrate) to eat fish!!

The Hutton's Shearwater reach downhill speeds of 150kph, much faster than our cars!! The main thing we learned is that when they fly at night, the street or house lights are too bright for them so some crash to the ground. They cannot take off from land, only from water or down a hillslope, so if we find one we need to get it to our Department of Conservation or Encounter Kaikoura so it can be taken back out to sea. If you are walking up on top of the Peninsula you will see a fenced off area where there are man-made burrows. These birds are now laying eggs there and chicks are hatching so we can have lots more of these lovely wee birds!

Jodie belongs to the group which looks after the Hutton's Shearwater ... a BIG THANKS from us and the Birds!!! ...

This experience gave our children an opportunity to begin developing working theories about the living world and knowledge of how to care for it - Te Whāriki.



These special birds only come back to Kaikoura to lay their eggs - only Kaikoura. How amazing is that?

Their nice slick feathers keep them waterproof and warm. These are amazing birds and are a bit feisty.



Our children were treated to a special visitor and listened to Jodie tell us all about the Hutton's Shearwater and why it is so special to Kaikoura.



The children got a chance to have a wee pat of the bird. It had been found outside someone's house the night before, after it had crashed into the side of their house.

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

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

Editor: Julie Buunk (DOC Renwick)

Contributors: A number of our trustees.

Printing: Whale Watch Kaikoura
Please share this newsletter by email where possible to reduce paper use.

TRUST CONTACT DETAILS

Trust Treasurer:
Phone: 03 319 7211

Secretary:
Phone: 03 319 7344
or 027 610 7574

Email:
admin@huttonsshearwater.org.nz

Postal:
P O Box 58
Kaikoura 7340

Te Rae o Atiu Report

A new season has begun!



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Rowe.

On 31 August there was definite sign in one nestbox that birds had started to return. Five birds were seen in three boxes on 12 September and another three in two boxes on 16 September. All these birds were in the same boxes as last season. Furthermore, a total of 16 boxes were visited between 13 and 23 September, and all these were used last season.

As at 24th November, we have 13 birds sitting on eggs. However we have a conundrum in that 2 eggs have been laid in box 76. As Hutton's only lay one egg this means that 2 females have visited this box to lay and were not being incubated on 24 November. To date we have no idea who the parents are as they have not been seen on the visits nor has the chip reader provided any useful information. We will have to wait and see what develops.

We are now looking forward to seeing if any of the 100 chicks that fledged from the March 2012 translocation will appear, and whether we will see either of the two "home-grown" chicks that fledged – this is the first year that any of these birds might return.

Lindsay Rowe

Trustee

The last word.....

We love to hear your feedback so if you have something to pass on, please contact us by any of the means noted in the contact details above. We are also on Facebook! Also please remember to keep an eye out for the dates of our 'Haere Ra Nga Titi' (April) and 'Haere Mai Nga Titi' (September) events - we would love to see you there to celebrate with us.

We wait in anticipation for the first chick for the season at Te Rae o Atiu – what an extra special Christmas present that would be! On that note, albeit a tad early, we would also like to wish you a very safe and Merry Christmas and to thank you for all of your support throughout 2014.

What's up for 2015? It will be an exciting year for the Trust – four new trustees will be in place by early 2015 along with a 'Project Coordinator' (the first paid position in the Trust thanks to the Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Partnership Fund) and the Trust looks forward to acknowledging Geoff Harrows amazing 50 years involvement with Hutton's Shearwaters. What a huge achievement.

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

Until our next newsletter, please be sure to keep in touch with what's happening via our website and facebook pages, or give us a call!

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.