



NEW ZEALAND
**PENGUIN
INITIATIVE**

ANNUAL REVIEW

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Supporting nationwide conservation efforts

To protect penguins and their habitats

The New Zealand Penguin Initiative (NZPI) is an independent penguin conservation organisation working to enhance and protect the conservation status of NZ penguin species and their habitats. We support community conservation groups across New Zealand and strengthen collaboration and united penguin conservation effort in Aotearoa – because we’re stronger when we work together!

NZPI is affiliated with the Environmental Law Initiative (ELI). ELI combines science and the law to protect the environment & biodiversity.



Key focus areas

Community empowerment

Marine science

Data management

Advocacy



“For a future with healthy & resilient penguin populations”

Resources available

Free support for your penguin project

Professional Support & Advice

Networking & Collaboration

Monitoring Protocols & Equipment

Standardised Data Collection

National Database & Dashboard

Nest Box Designs & Placement

Health & Safety Awareness

Habitat Management & Protection

Education & Advocacy

Administration

- Permit Applications
- Letters of Support
- Data Science
- Report Writing
- Publications

Threat Advocacy

- Local Issues
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Submissions
- Policy Review
- Raising Awareness

The NZPI team are here to help and would love to hear from you.

Email: admin@nzpi.nz

Website: www.nzpi.nz

Insights from the NZPI team

Hiltrun Ratz, Programme Director



It has been three years since I was offered the position as the penguin scientist for NZPI. It meant a huge step up from monitoring my own penguin colony to supporting community groups throughout New Zealand. With it came the challenges that each group is facing and building an umbrella organisation that creates not just a penguin community but also collects together what we know about our precious kororā so we can effect change for their future.

I was teamed up with Andrea Westphal Santa Maria initially who came with a wealth of experience from working with Places for Penguins in Wellington. We picked up where our predecessors left off and started building NZPI including monitoring protocols, the app, various resources, a website, and got the Database and Dashboard started. Andrea is now a mum and continues to help kororā around Wellington. Katherine Smith stepped up into the group coordinator's role and helped grow NZPI and has also gone on to work with kororā around Wellington.

Melissa has taken up the baton just over a year ago and brought a huge wealth of knowledge and experience from working with kororā at Mt Maunganui, and we have entered a new phase in our growth with many more groups signing up to be part of the NZPI family.

With new groups come new and interesting challenges, in particular around dogs, vehicles on beaches, mining, port developments and pest species like pigeons to name a few. Where required we consult and work with our colleagues at the Environmental Law Initiative (ELI) to challenge the status quo that clearly is not working for some of our Kororā. We engage with other stakeholders like DOC, councils and port authorities to ensure that Kororā have a voice when policy changes are afoot.

Database analyses and Dashboard displays of the information has made huge progress over the last three years from concept to something real on our website. Huge kudos to Adam Crisp and YouSayData Thomas Koentges - our IT guys - for creating such an amazing tool that has met with great enthusiasm from the penguin community.



Chick marking session, Motuora Island



Credit: Micheal Szabo

2024 BirdsNZ Conference "what's up with kororā?" presentation

Lots of resources are now also available to help groups. Underpinning all of it is the gathering of data: enumerating populations and consistent monitoring of breeding success is crucial to understand what is happening to the penguin population and its trends, and our new app (soon to be launched).

A huge thank you to all our contributing groups for doing the on-the-ground mahi of collecting data, for caring for Kororā so they are safe and protected. It has been a steep learning curve for me to organise and string together all these different parts that make NZPI, it's been a privilege and pleasure, and I am looking forward to growing this project into the future to enable Kororā to thrive among us.

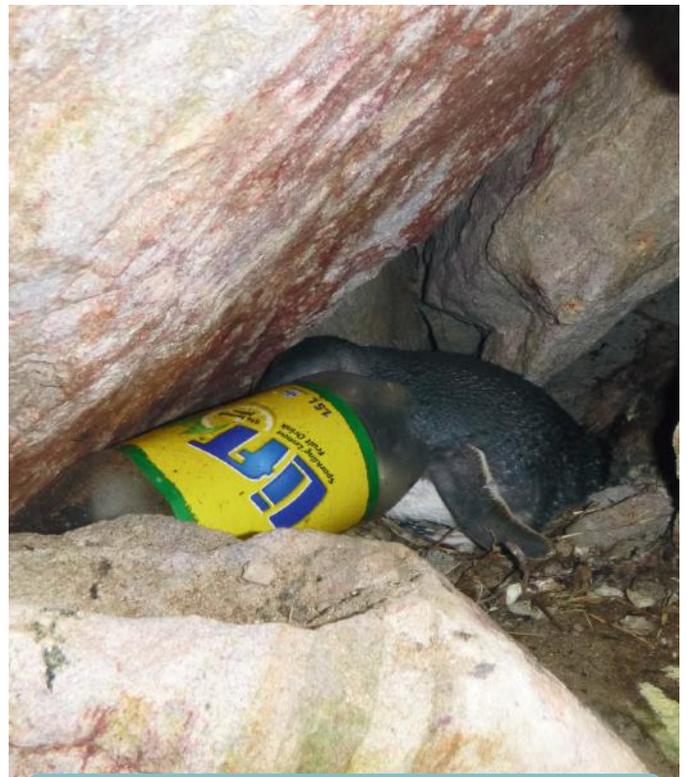
Insights from the NZPI team

Melissa McLuskie, Community Programme Manager



Sharing my knowledge and experience with communities committed to securing a better future for our penguins throughout Aotearoa has been a truly rewarding experience over the past year. Particularly helping new groups establish projects and as they grow and develop, we can take comfort knowing there are people looking out for Kororā in another patch of our beautiful coastline!

The number of threats our little blue flippered friends are up against is endless and rather overwhelming! It's vital to stay focused on positive outcomes and all the good we are doing and achieving, especially the small moments throughout our monitoring day - simply removing a piece of fishing line or bottles from rocks, can mean we have just saved lives!



Rubbish in kororā burrow, Mount Maunganui



View to Shark Bay, Waihi Beach

Thankfully with a network of like-minded conservation heroes, data sharing and collaboration- I believe we have the power to make meaningful change happen.. and have a real chance to save our penguins!



Whāingaroa Environment Centre Science Night Presentation

A kind thank you to everyone who has hosted me at their sites to date and shared your valuable local penguin knowledge. The sum of all our small actions towards protecting habitat can lead to a cumulative impact on keeping our colonies safe and wide benefits on our native flora and fauna.



Exploring kororā habitat at Te Henga (Bethells Beach)

NZPI conservation & engagement outcomes

**1400+ Hours
Supporting
Community
Conservation**

**34
Group
Visits**

**9 Monthly
Kororā
Korero**

57 attendees

Threat Intervention

Mineral Sand Mining
Coastal Development
Port Development
Dog Attacks

News Media

NZ Geographic
Article

TV One News
Feature

Publications

Birds NZ Magazine

6 Newsletters

**>\$40,500
Equipment
Loaned**

Presentations

Nelson City Council
Whāingaroa Environment
Centre Science Night

BIRDS NZ Conference
Western Bay Wildlife Trust
Kororā Workshop

**9 New
Conservation
Resources
Created**

18 penguin conservation groups actively contributing

Threat management review launched

Nationwide diet, disease & parasite research project launched

Top habitat management tips for keeping kororā/little penguins safe

Revegetation

Pest & Predator Control

Protective Barriers

No Dog Zones

Beach/Rocky Shore Clean Ups

Tamper/Predator Proof Nest Boxes

Community Awareness & Education

Encouraging Responsible Pet Ownership

Kororā are suffering from habitat loss across the country, due to rising sea levels, coastal erosion, frequent storm events and development. The rate of loss is exacerbated during disasters, like floods and landslips.

The penguins need to move further inland and to higher elevations to breed and moult safely and successfully. Many land management measures can be implemented to enhance habitat protection to help sustain colonies for the future.

A little goes a long way to help our littlest penguin

Nationwide Kororā/Little Penguin Monitoring Programme



NZPI's core priority is the conservation of Kororā/Little Penguins in Aotearoa

Inspired by recognition of human impacts on penguin populations and the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach towards a national monitoring network

Data collected by groups contributes to the NZPI national Database, providing crucial nationwide population trends. This can be used to influence decision making policies that ensure a better future for penguins.

Tier 1: Marked population



What does it measure?

- Distribution
- Breeding Success
- Recruitment
- Survival

What does it involve?

Regular nest checks

Microchipping adults & chicks

What can it tell us?

Fill critical knowledge gaps

Understanding of distribution, productivity, population size & trends

Identify colony threats & aid habitat management

Educational tool

What is required?

Wildlife Authority & landowner permission

Certification for handling and microchipping

Equipment & resources to monitor regularly

Long-term commitment

Tier 2: Unmarked population

What does it measure?

- Distribution
- Behaviour
- Breeding Success



What does it involve?

Regular nest checks

What can it tell us?

Understanding of distribution

Understanding of productivity

Identify colony threats & aid habitat management

Educational tool

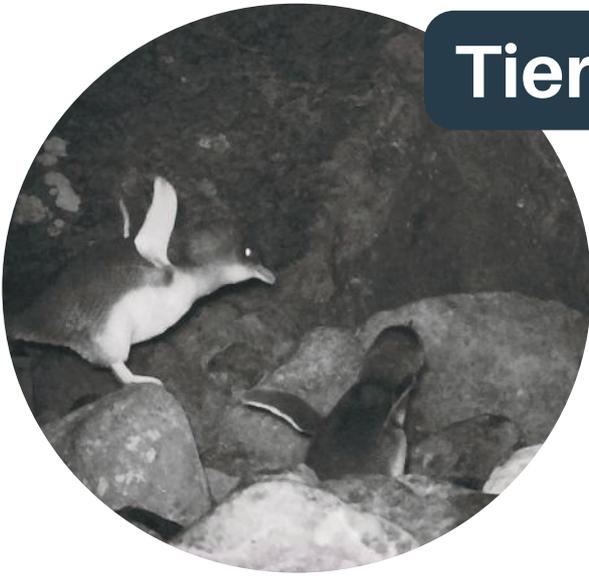
What is required?

Wildlife authority &/or landowner permission

Equipment & resources to monitor regularly

Long-term commitment

Tier 3: Presence/Absence



What does it measure?

- Distribution
- Behaviour

What does it involve?

Trail camera surveillance

Footprint surveys

Acoustic recorders

What can it tell us?

Provide an indication of presence/absence

Understand behaviour through surveillance

Identify colony threats & aid habitat management

Educational tool

What is required?

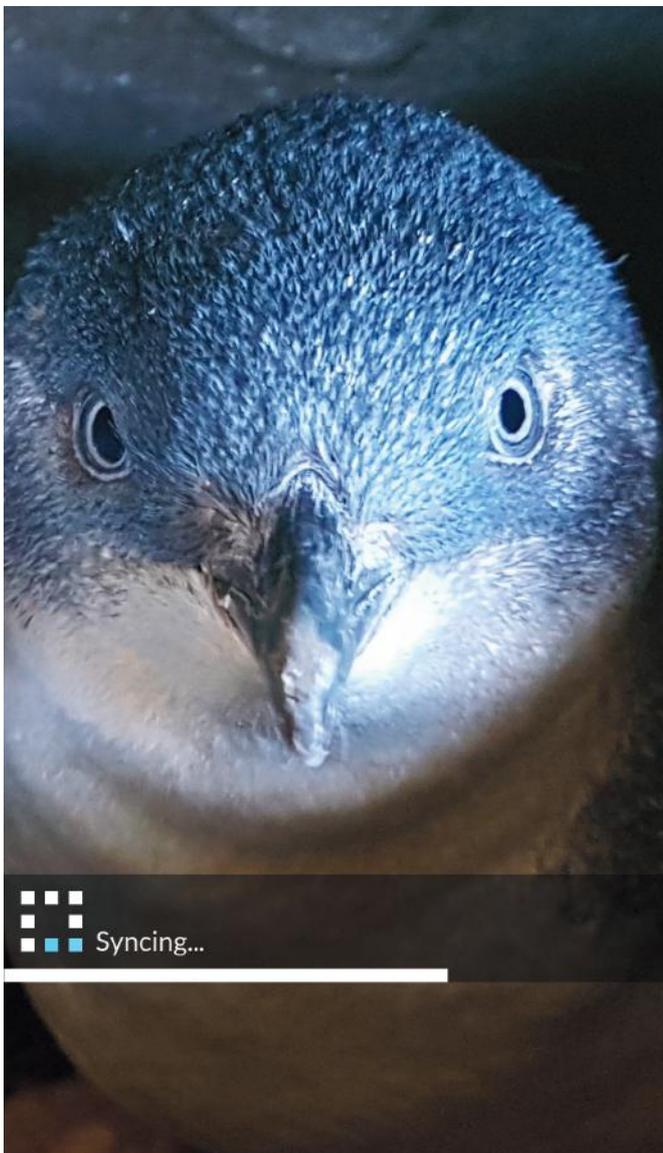
Landowner permission

Commitment to undertake regular footprint surveys

Regular deployment of trail cameras cameras and/or acoustic recorders

NZPI penguin monitoring app

The app is for streamlined data collection in the field to improve data quality, standardise data capture and enhance reporting. Data is synced from the monitoring app, processed and analysed through the National Database, and displayed and shared on the NZPI Dashboard. Our next generation app is currently in development.



Feature highlights

Syncable across devices

Improved mapping

Nest location

Nest contents

Bird records & events

Footprint records

Trail camera records

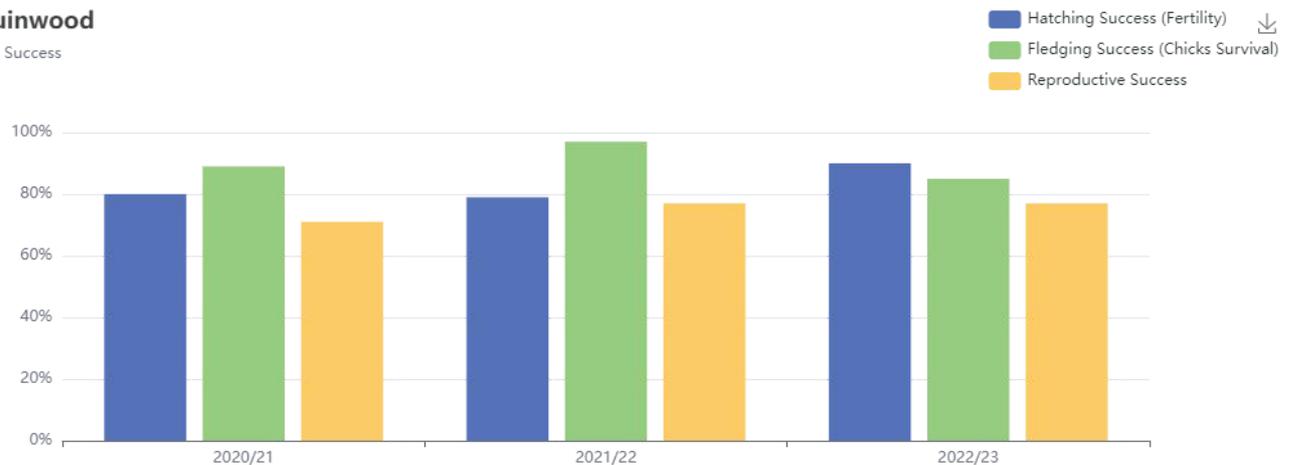
Record dead penguins

Photos

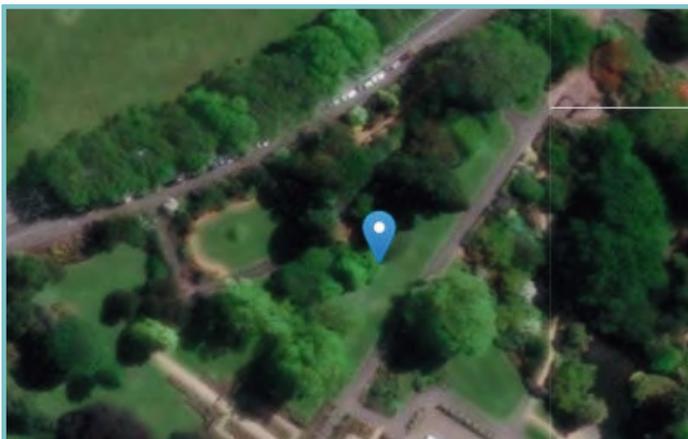
NZPI database & dashboard

Penguinwood

Breeding Success



Publicly available live and historic penguin data for efficient reporting, real time comparisons and advocacy



Features:

- Breeding Success Summaries
- Site & Season Comparisons
- Upload Your Data

“Login Only” view (to safeguard sensitive data)

- Nest ID & Locality
- Photos
- Nest Check Records

Future Features:

- Bird ID
- Historical data uploads
- Mobile friendly view

Many thanks to national database support Adam Crisp and You Say Data dashboard developer Thomas Koentges.



Kororā/Little Penguin National Monitoring Programme

2023/2024 season overview

North Island

Some colonies suffered poor seasons: high chick losses from most clutches at two sites in the Hauraki Gulf, and reduced productivity in the Bay of Plenty. In the capital, Wellington colonies had a good season overall and celebrated double brooding, but unfortunately also lost a number of individuals to dog attacks. A strong focus on education/advocacy for northern Auckland, helping to raise awareness and gain community support and another Hauraki Gulf project is on its way towards a fantastic monitoring project. Vital efforts towards Auckland's West Coast are seeing penguins readily occupy nest boxes and habitat protection being implemented. Intensive pest control work in the Western Bay of Plenty is hoping to see a return of more kororā to the area. Further around the coast in the Hawke's Bay a new Tier 1 project is underway and will help to fill a large gap in knowledge for the East Coast.

South Island

On the South Island, a Banks Peninsula colony reported a relatively successful season, undertaken various research projects and has now marked a large number of individuals. It was a late start at a Otago colony, with no eggs appearing until late September. Discovery of more sites with penguins nesting in natural burrows is helping with increased habitat restoration efforts in the north of the South Island. We are hoping as word-of-mouth spreads that we will see more input from other South Island sites.

Programme Highlights

- >7 new projects set up
- North Island double brooding
- Pest control efforts
- Stakeholder engagement
- Enhanced data collection & reporting
- Strong collaboration & partnerships

National Conservation Inputs*

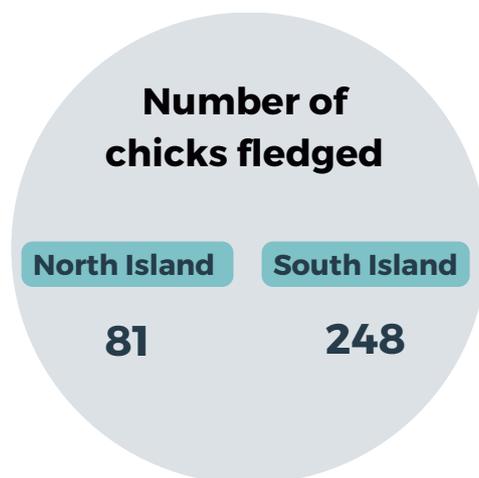
NZPI groups collecting data:	18
Penguin leaders & volunteers:	>150
Number of predators caught:	>1700
Number of plants planted:	>250
Number of rubbish clean up events:	4

*Data listed is a minimum representation of records reported.

2023/24 Monitoring & Marking Results*



Tier 1	North Island	South Island
Number of colonies monitored	19	1
Number of burrows monitored	61	0
Number of nest boxes monitored	205	230
Number of adults microchipped	53	49
Number of chicks microchipped	35	195
Heaviest male	1110g	1340g
Lightest male	845g	940g
Heaviest female	1000g	1300g
Lightest female	750g	880g
Heaviest chick	1280g	1540g
Lightest chick	720g	820g
Tier 2	North Island	South Island
Number of colonies monitored	0	3
Number of burrows monitored	0	22
Number of nest boxes monitored	0	16
Tier 3	North Island	South Island
Number of colonies monitored	3	0
Max number of footprints observed	39	22
Max number of cam observations	0	16



Causes of Nest Failure

- Starvation
- Abandonment
- Predation
- Infertility
- Broken Eggs
- Tidal inundation
- Entanglement
- Burrow collapse

*Data listed is a minimum representation of records reported.

Introducing our penguin heroes

NZPI affiliated groups undertake incredible conservation work throughout Aotearoa



Research

Pest control

Monitoring

Planting days

Rescue

Rubbish clean ups

Rehabilitation

Education/advocacy

Community Engagement

Growing citizen science across Aotearoa



Featured groups contributing towards our national database

Forest & Bird - Leigh Penguin Project



Location: Leigh,
Auckland
Project Start: 2018

Our vision is to create a safe habitat for little penguins and other seabirds to thrive along the coast from Ti Point Wharf to Goat Island.

Key successes

Enthusiastic & dedicated volunteers

Monitoring of nest box colonies, rock & cave burrows

Natural burrow surveys & removing rubbish

Community education and engagement events

Collaboration & networking with other penguin conservation organisations

Hosting a site visit for the Penguin House Team

Advocacy

Key challenges

Off-leash & uncontrolled dogs

Starvation events & finding dead penguins

Predators

Disturbance & nest box tampering

Coastal erosion, storm events & tidal inundation

Rubbish around penguin habitat

Coastal development

We were excited to welcome the team from Penguin Random House, for a day of learning and adventure along the Leigh coast. The volunteers arrived in beautiful Leigh and were treated to a bright blue sky and glorious sunny weather, which set the tone for an awesome day. We were so excited to be wearing our new Leigh Penguin Project blue polo shirts, and new Hi-Vis vests.

The day started with homemade morning tea, as Neil, Mary, Sue and myself did presentations on our penguins here in Leigh, the sad state of the Hauraki Gulf, and what we have done in the last year, like attending community days & enviro expos, public speaking events and further education (training weekend with The Western Bay Wildlife Trust at Mount Maunganui) as well as our visit from Melissa from NZPI. And a thorough Health & Safety briefing of course. We then took the excited group on the newly upgraded Leigh Coastal Walk. Along the way, we had made a “quiz walk” consisting of 18 Korora Little Penguin related questions. This was fun and very appreciated and the volunteers were competitive! While out we showed the group where we monitor natural nests and where the occupied nest boxes are. The team was excited as they got to explore one of the caves.



Leigh penguin team hosting an educational field visit for Penguin Random House

Crawling on hands and knees, they were using the red light torch and saw their first penguin in the wild, in a tight crevice at the back. Everyone was buzzing with excitement! The walk continued and the adventurous volunteers could climb into Free Cove, to view more nests. Then we got to our box 63, where sadly two chicks had passed away only a month or so ago, at the same time that Melissa was here. Pleasingly, we now have an adult sitting on eggs. The volunteers couldn't believe their luck when they got such a close-up look at the beautiful penguin. The excited chatter continued, as the walk finished at the aptly named Penguin Street, where we also bumped into a homeowner who told us about his pair of penguins nesting under the house.



Checking a cave burrow

Kororā incubating eggs in a nest box



Filled with amazing experiences, we all went back for a delicious home-made lunch and delicious cakes. The winner of the quiz was announced, and everyone got a prize for being engaged, excited and very adventurous, climbing around the coast. After lunch we headed off in the other direction for a beach clean up. Pleasingly, we didn't find that much. Walking back, everyone had a massive smile on their face, we'd had lots of fun, and it had been such a wonderful day for all.

Motuora Restoration Society



Location: Motuora Island,
Hauraki Gulf
Project Start: 2019

A community group who work to restore the flora and fauna on Motuora with the aim that future generations will enjoy a forest alive with native birds, reptiles and insects.

Image Credit: Motuora by Toby Shanley

Key successes

Weekly/fortnightly monitoring

13 active nest boxes

Two pairs laid replacement clutches and successfully fledged one chick each

Great team of volunteers

Partnership with DOC ranger to aid monitoring

Key challenges

Very poor year for nesting penguins, with all of the first clutch chicks found dead

Cost of travel to the island

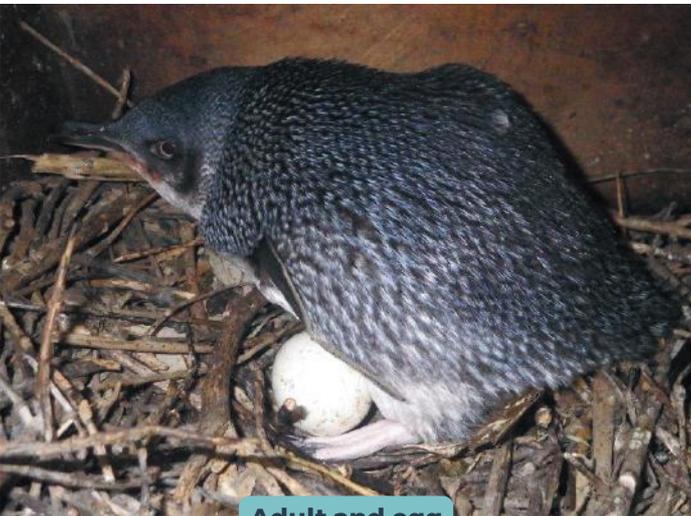
Windy conditions that make landing unsuitable

Ongoing monitoring & management of biodiversity due to island access difficulties



Penguin Box

The season began well with 12 pairs laying in our nest boxes. Twenty-three eggs were laid and 15 or 16 hatched. Sadly, all these chicks died between 27th September and 22nd October. Chick ages at death ranged from a few days to seven weeks. It is believed that the parents were unable to find enough food for the chicks. We had assumed that would be the end of the nesting season, but two pairs tried again, and both succeeded in fledging a chick.

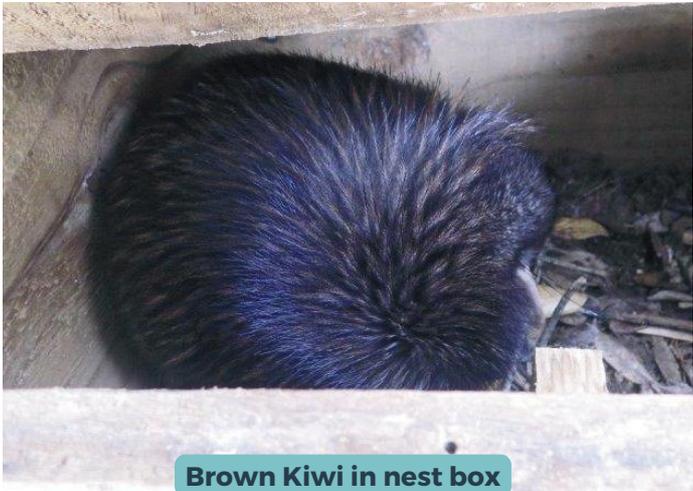


Adult and egg

“We are fortunate that our DOC ranger, Al, and our great team of volunteers are hugely supportive of our penguins. Having the birds individually identifiable via their PIT tags means we are engaged with their whole lives.”



Adult and chick



Brown Kiwi in nest box

Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.



Location: Tiritiri Matangi Island,
Hauraki Gulf
Project Start: 2019

SoTM exists to 'promote and enhance the open sanctuary at Tiritiri Matangi and to ensure the continuance of the project'. The Supporters have, over many years, worked to restore the Island's flora and fauna including planting over 280,000 trees and translocating birds, reptiles and invertebrates to (and latterly from) the island.

Key successes

11 active nest boxes and many natural burrows

Weekly monitoring by dedicated volunteers

All but two nesting adults marked

Only one dead adult penguin reported (usually >6)

Trained DOC rangers to scan dead penguins for PIT-Tag/Microchip

Advocacy

Key challenges

Finding dead and missing chicks in nest boxes, presumed to have died of starvation

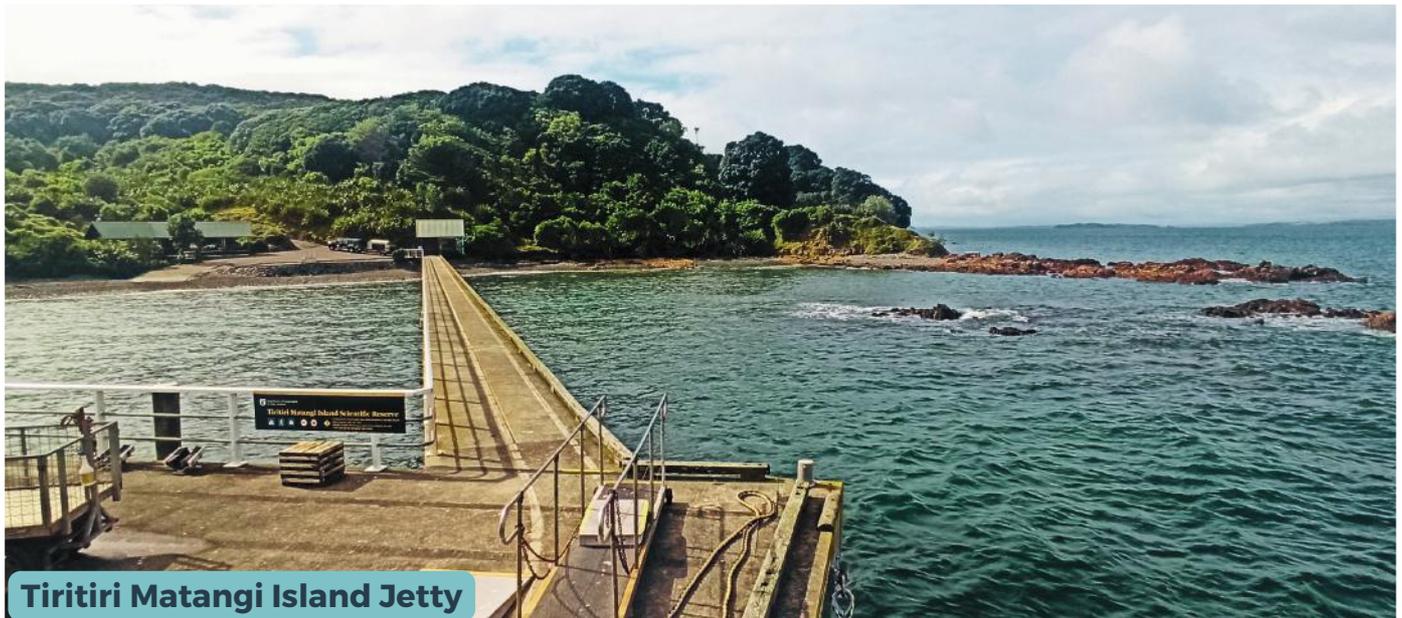
Maintaining consistent monitoring methods

Access to island to undertake monitoring

Colony has low/non-productive years

Concern for future of Hauraki Gulf colonies

More research needed to understand long term population trends



Tiritiri Matangi Island Jetty

The season began with 11 pairs laying in our nest boxes. Each pair laid two eggs. Six pairs hatched both eggs, three pairs hatched one egg, and two pairs did not hatch an egg. Of the 15 chicks, all but three had died by the 13th October. Two more died between the 18th and 23rd October with the final one dying in late October. Chick ages at death ranged from two to seven weeks. It is believed that the parents were unable to find enough food for the chicks. On the 29th November two eggs were found in box Seaside 2. The parents had not been previously recorded in that box. They successfully raised and fledged both chicks.



Getting a mugshot after tagging



Rifleman nest in penguin box

“Following the lives of individual penguins over many years will inform us about changing conditions in the Hauraki Gulf. It’s not clear that they will be able to persist in this region.”



Informative & educational kororā signage

Motuihe Project



Location: Motuihe Island,
Hauraki Gulf
Project Start: 2023

The Motuihe Trust has a mission to restore, enhance & protect the indigenous flora & fauna, and the significant Maori & historic sites of Motuihe Island in consultation with stakeholders. Members of the community are provided with opportunities to participate in the restoration & maintenance of the island. Visitors are able to see native birds in their natural habitat, easily accessible from Auckland City.

Key successes

Enthusiastic & committed
volunteers

Pest free island & significant
revegetation efforts

Locating a number of burrows
across the island

Supporting citizen science &
students

Collaboration with penguin
conservation groups

Advocacy

Key challenges

Island access

Volunteer co-ordination & planning

Coastal erosion, storm events & tidal
inundation

Visitor numbers & boat traffic over
summer

Dogs brought onto the island via
boaties visiting, particularly on the
southern beaches

Monitoring sites in visible public
areas

After a training session with Melissa and Julia (PenguinsPlus), that took place on the 3rd of March, we had a meeting with the monitoring team to set our short/mid-term objectives on Motuihe, followed by a first trip on the island on the 20th of April.

Planned for the end of this year, a training session organised by the Auckland Council will enable the group to use a burrowscope and properly assess the status of the nests in 2025.

To date, 8 sessions have been held on the island, the objective for this 2024 season being to prospect the coastline of Motuihe, check the historical burrows previously recorded, and update those data with the active burrows identified since April. Between intense bush-bashing and walks on the beaches of Motuihe, those prospectings also allowed us to spot, in addition to several remote patches of weeds, an authentic Kekeno/NZ fur seal, very rare visitor of the island!



Volunteers on their way to learn how to find burrows across the island

The active burrows recorded this year seem to be located in some precise site, and not evenly around the island. Since most of those burrows have been recorded in relatively accessible areas, a future challenge will be to monitor those burrows without drawing too much attention on them.



Natural burrows in a clay bank stabilised by large Pohutukawa trees



Nest box amongst lush native vegetation



Native plant nursery on the island



Jill discussing rare native plants and revegetation efforts of the Motuihe Trust with volunteers

Muriwai Environmental Trust

Muriwai Penguin Project

muriwai
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Location: Muriwai,
Auckland's West Coast
Project Start: 2015

Our vision is to restore our unique coastal cliff, dune, and bush ecosystems, through the united efforts of our community. Together, we aspire to preserve and enhance these significant ecological areas for generations to come.

Key successes

Building strong relationships with Auckland Council, Auckland Zoo, NZPI & other penguin conservation organisations

Attending “camp kororā”, a hands-on & educational kororā workshop in Mount Maunganui

Community engagement events, including hosting a popular trap & nest box building day

Monitoring nest box colonies & locating natural burrows

Threat advocacy

Securing funding from WWF & ANZ

Key challenges

Dog attacks by off-leash or uncontrolled dogs & dogs inside bylaw zones

Vehicles on beach

Introduced predators

Locating burrows amongst coastal vegetation

Coastal erosion & storm events

Landslips

Difficult terrain & navigating tides

Disturbance & high summer visitor numbers

2024 was a huge success for the Muriwai Penguin Project! This year we've focused on building stronger partnerships, monitoring, and learning as much as we can. This year's efforts sets the foundation for our next phase - which is to step up the understanding of our colony and population. The year has also seen us develop very strong partnerships with the seabird research team Auckland Council, Auckland Zoo, NZPI and others - we have been humbled and are so grateful for the generosity they have shown to our fledgling group. A huge highlight was spending time with Julia and Melissa at Mauao for what we called 'camp kororā'.



Penguin nest box painting at a community trap and box building day

This year has been one of highs and lows. We have had great success with nesting boxes and have seen penguins successfully breeding in boxes where there have never been boxes in the 10 years that the project has been running. We received funding from WWF and ANZ which has helped us immensely in moving the project forward. In a couple of low points we had a penguin run over by a four-wheel drive on the beach and one killed by a dog in the main beach rock wall area. We have really stepped up efforts education for both the local community and the wider Auckland area and increased signage a lot.



Penguin sign on Muriwai Beach "road" where a number of kororā cross to access their burrows in coastal vegetation

2025 will see us get our DOC Wildlife authorisation and our Level 2 banding certification - meaning we will be able to increase our monitoring and to start to microchip our colony. We will increase dog education, call for dusk to dawn vehicle restrictions on Muriwai Beach and increase trapping in all of our bays and dune areas. We will also continue to improve our knowledge of this colony and develop stronger partnerships with Council, Doc, Iwi and others.



"Help Muriwai protect the penguins" sign



Chicks in one of the installed nest boxes

The future of Muriwai penguins is very bright!

Auckland Zoo Kororā Project

Auckland
ZOO

Location: Auckland's
West Coast
Project Start: 2023

The aim of Auckland Zoo is to support the conservation of kororā on the west coast of the Tamaki Makaurau region, through the coordination of a regular monitoring programme in collaboration with local community groups (Kororā Te Henga, Karekare Landcare Charitable Trust, Pest Free Piha), mana whenua, and NZPI.

Key Successes

Community engagement

Upskilling of zoo crew in monitoring & marking (microchipping) kororā

Project leader L2 certified

Collaboration with different penguin conservation organisations

Multiple site visits learning about different habitats, monitoring efforts & key threats

Key Challenges

Risk of dog attacks at all sites

Pests & predators

Habitat loss & disturbance

Large landscapes & challenging terrain

Logistics, co-ordination & planning of a large-scale monitoring project

Resources & labour

Increased need for rescues

Standardised monitoring protocols will make for a streamlined, long-term dataset, providing the opportunity for evidence-based management of kororā. The programme will be community-driven with those local groups already showing an interest and actively trying to protect them. It will run autonomously, with Auckland Zoo offering technical support, training, and coordination. NZPI offer resources, technical support, and training to Auckland Zoo staff, and provide national coordination. The project will include opportunity for ongoing participation, consultation and information sharing with mana whenua.



Auckland Zoo team having a health & safety briefing with Julia, before learning how to monitor kororā colonies in Mount Maunganui

- Signed MoU's between Auckland Zoo and the three community groups (Kororā Te Henga, Karekare Landcare Charitable Trust, Pest Free Piha) to work together to support kororā conservation on Auckland's West Coast.
- Signed MoU between Auckland Zoo and NZPI
- Working on applying for a Tier 1 monitoring DOC permit to cover Te Henga, Piha and Karekare beaches
- Sarah Perinelle, project leader, got L2 Transponder certified at Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony and has practiced in the field with Julia Graham from Western Bay Wildlife Trust
- Multiple onsite visits: meeting local groups, getting familiarised with sites and penguin signs, learning more about korora threats and challenges
- Building a monitoring penguin crew (5 people): fieldwork training done by Julia Graham from Penguin Plus and kororā workshop held by Western Bay Wildlife Trust at Mount Maunganui.

Piha, Karekare and Te Henga community members regularly identify kororā footprints along the beach and amongst the dunes, birds have been seen in these areas amongst rock or cave habitats. Historic reports of kororā in these areas have also been documented on iNaturalist. Dead kororā have been found over recent years, including specimens with decapitated heads indicative of predation or dog attack. Dogs have also been sighted attacking kororā. Recent large-scale landslips have potentially destroyed natural burrows and could occur again. Introduced mammalian predators are frequently trapped by community groups and pose an ongoing and significant risk to kororā. Auckland Council has recently installed nest boxes at Karekare and Piha beaches, to provide supplementary and safer habitat.



Sarah exploring North Karekare kororā habitat

“Karekare Landcare Charitable Trust: Our community group will do regular observations of Little Penguin activity and maintain predator protection in these areas”.

“Pest free Piha aims to protect penguin activity at all lifecycle stages at Piha through raising awareness and regular monitoring. Pest free Piha has elected to adopt little penguins in the Special Species series initiated by the Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Alliance.”

“Kororā Te Henga: to monitor the numbers and breeding success of the Little Blue penguin in the Te Henga (Bethells Beach) region of the west coast of Auckland.”

Kororā Te Henga



Location: Te Henga
(Bethells Beach),
Auckland's West Coast
Project Start: 2023

Volunteers have been undertaking regular footprint surveys to provide an indication of numbers found throughout the main beach and surrounding bays. Nest monitoring in association with Auckland Zoo will help understand breeding and population trends.

Key Successes

Ongoing footprint surveys

Pest control

Community engagement

Nest Box installation

Surveillance

Collaboration with penguin
conservation organisations

Key Challenges

Pests/predators

Tidal inundation of nest sites

Off-leash dogs

Human disturbance

Difficult terrain & finding burrows in
coastal vegetation

Resources & labour

Complete pest control is difficult or impossible, at least until we are pest-free! Fortunately, there has been an intensive pest control effort in the region for many years, aimed primarily at protection of the resident petrel colonies in the area. There is 30 years of data on the breeding success of the petrels that demonstrates that the pest control has largely been very effective.



Penguin gathering at Waitakere Bay Sep 2024



Adult on Camera, September 2024

However, successful penguin breeding also requires control of dogs, which are not an issue for the petrels that breed primarily on two islands that are inaccessible to dogs. Because NZ dotterels also breed at Te Henga, Auckland council and the local dotterel minding group have recently increased dog surveillance, with the Council appointing a dog monitor for the West Coast beaches over the past summer. Although compliance with the bylaws has improved, there remain a few recalcitrant owners whose dogs represent a threat to successful breeding of both penguins and dotterels.



Simon installing a nest box



Night encounter 2024: Simon Runting

Number and location of fresh penguin tracks exiting the beach on the morning of October 19 2023.



Monitoring the success of pest control remains problematic. Counts of pests trapped or shot, and estimates of numbers poisoned, are straightforward, but do not measure the desired outcome. Camera counts of remaining pests work well, particularly in conjunction with lures (eg mayonnaise drip), but are expensive and currently require manpower. Tracking tunnels are cheaper, but less effective and still require manpower. The best estimate is good data on the numbers of the target protected species, but this can be hard to obtain and requires multiple seasons of monitoring, including establishing a baseline prior to pest control.



Volunteers deploying nest boxes: Simon Runting

For the coming 2024-25 breeding season, Richard Gardner and Simon Runting have established a penguin monitoring group, Kororā Te Henga. We will attempt to recruit more members and obtain detailed estimates of numbers of tracks in order to estimate the number of resident birds. We will use cameras and tracks to try to identify penguin nests. We will also investigate construction and installation of nest boxes to make monitoring of breeding success easier.

Pest Free Piha



Location: Piha Beach,
Auckland's West Coast
Project Start: 2023

Pest free Piha volunteers are on a mission to provide a safe home for Kororā, through undertaking pest control, providing supplementary nesting opportunities and undertaking monitoring in association with Auckland Zoo.

Key Successes

19 artificial nest boxes painted by Piha Preschool & installed by Forest & Bird Kiwi Conservation Club

Penguins present in North & South caves

Footprint trails observed in many places- primarily beach/rock interface edges

One active breeding pair using one of the installed nest boxes

Key Challenges

Ongoing threat from dogs taken into prohibited areas or out of control

Habitat loss

Rough sea conditions- hazardous & energy sapping for the birds

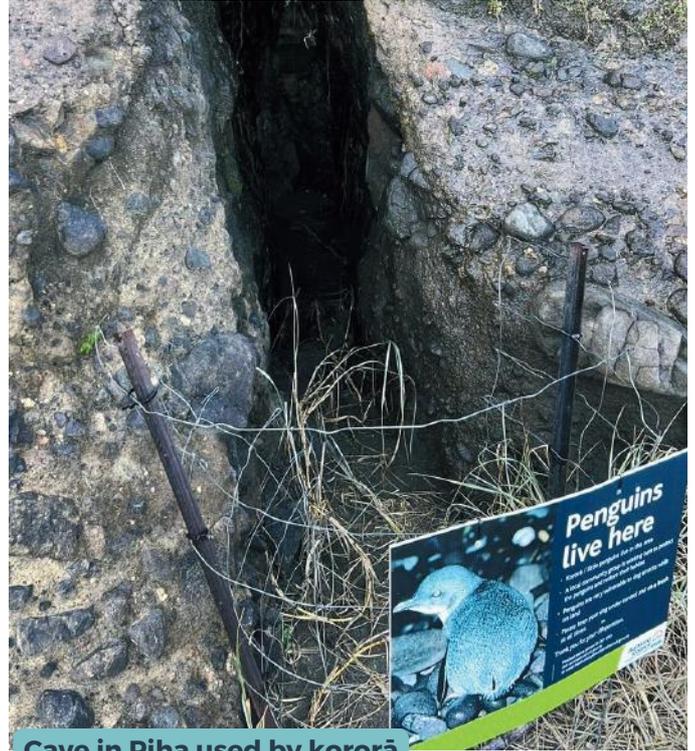
Predators

Disturbance & high visitor numbers

This is the first collaborative Piha kororā breeding season



Kororā burrow in landslip debris caused by Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023



Cave in Piha used by kororā



Group ready to install a nest box



Active breeding pair utilising one of the installed nest boxes



Mammalian predator footprint leading into a kororā cave at North Piha



Kororā footprints at Piha with dog prints crossing over

One of 19 nest boxes sponsored by Auckland Council (materials and staff time) is already in use.

Karekare Landcare Charitable Trust



KAREKARE
LANDCARE.ORG

Location: Karekare Beach,
Auckland's West Coast
Project Start: 2023

Community of landowners, residents, volunteers, Iwi, and organisations aiming to protect the unique natural character and biodiversity of Karekare and its surrounding catchments. Including, supporting the restoration and protection of native flora and fauna, educating and supporting community members with upskilling in weed and pest control.

Key Successes

Enhanced pest control efforts & signage

Kororā workshop & upskilling key volunteer

Nest box revamp & repositioning

Active breeding pair in box

Surveillance footage & located footprints

Advocacy

Key Challenges

Ongoing pests & predators, particularly mustelids, cats and rabbits

Off-leash dogs

Large landscape to cover & finding burrows in coastal vegetation

Susceptibility to landslips

Resources & labour

North Karekare



Since the visit to Karekare by NZPI & Auckland Zoo in late November 2023 we have:

- Signed a MOU with both NZPI and Auckland Zoo
- Monitored footprints in both the southern and northern areas of the beach using Trap NZ GPS mapping to document points of interest (POI). This gave us an overall picture of where to look for burrow sites.
- Used the Trap NZ data and the NZPI cameras to confirm areas of penguin activity and viewed what predators were also present in these areas.
- Increased our predator control within the coastal margins using more bait stations and traps (DOC200).
- Continued to ask Auckland Council to control rabbits and feral cats within the coastal dunes.
- Reconfigured existing penguin nesting boxes that were incorrectly constructed and repositioned them to better sites. We have been successful in having a pair breed in a nest box for the first time.
- Sent a volunteer to the very informative WBWT workshop at the end of July 2024.
- Been working hard to encourage dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead (this is the current bylaw). We have erected a “borrow lead sign” with dog leads attached for public use.



Removing wooden base from existing nest box

Active Penguin Nest Box at Karekare Beach

“We are communicating with the public through social media and community days about what is happening with the local penguins and the importance of controlling their dogs.”

Penguin Sign, Karekare Beach



In the next few months, we hope to identify and monitor natural burrows. We intend to visit Mercer Bay which is difficult to access and do more predator control and identify burrows. We will construct more nesting boxes and position them correctly in areas that have been identified with penguin activity. We intend to organise a community beach cleanup day.

“Observation is the key in building up a picture of kororā life at Karekare”



“Borrow a leash scheme” to encourage dog walkers to put their dog on leash

We would like to thank the NZPI team for their visit to Karekare Beach last year. With their encouragement, support and resources we have been able to achieve so much in the past 12 months. The team at Karekare Landcare, West Auckland.

Project Weta & Predator Free Waihi Beach



Location: Waihi Beach,
Bay of Plenty
Project Start: 2022

Volunteers have been undertaking intensive pest control throughout Waihi Beach and surrounding bays to reduce predators and bring back native wildlife. Kororā used to live under baches and are now confined to isolated rocky shores and seacaves.

Key Successes

Community-led conservation with a number of dedicated volunteers

Successful reduction on large numbers of possums & other predators

Engagement and involvement with Waihi Beach School

Wider biodiversity benefits

Strong partnerships

Key Challenges

Predators

Off-leash dogs

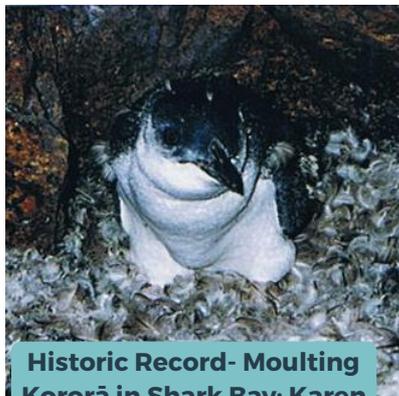
Habitat loss

Disturbance

High summer visitor numbers

Pollution, particularly fishing rubbish

In 2023-24, Predator Free Waihi Beach implemented a series of focused conservation efforts to restore and protect local biodiversity, with an emphasis on reducing invasive predator populations. These efforts target vulnerable native species, including the Northern New Zealand dotterel and kororā (little blue penguin). By working alongside community members, Waihi Beach School, conservation groups, and government agencies, the project combines traditional trapping methods with modern technology to make lasting impacts.



Historic Record- Moulting Kororā in Shark Bay: Karen McLuskie, 1992



Historic Record- Kororā incubating 2 eggs in Shark Bay: Melissa McLuskie, 2010



Possum successfully removed from Bowentown



Anzac Bay, Bowentown where Kororā pairs have been heard calling over recent years



Fishing line found in burrow entrance at Anzac Bay

Bowentown Trap and Toxin Network:

Supporting the Kororā colony at Bowentown

Predator Free Waihi Beach completed a comprehensive trap and toxin network in alignment with the New Zealand Penguin Initiative (NZPI) to protect the local kororā (little blue penguin) colony. This network has proven effective in minimising predator presence in critical habitats, giving kororā a better chance to breed safely. With ongoing predator threats, particularly during the breeding season, this network is a critical component of the conservation strategy. By providing a safer environment, this initiative marks a significant step forward in supporting the vulnerable kororā colony and ensuring its continued survival in Bowentown.

“Te Oranga Taiao, Te Oranga Tangata | A Healthy Environment, A Healthy People”

This community-driven approach allows iconic native species, such as the reef heron, bittern, dotterel, and kororā, to reclaim their habitats. Each volunteer and partner plays a vital role in maintaining and enhancing the health of Waihi Beach’s unique biodiversity.

Western Bay Wildlife Trust



Location: Mount Maunganui,
Bay of Plenty
Project Start: 2011

Dedicated to protecting & enhancing native wildlife populations and ecosystems in the Western Bay of Plenty, with a key focus on Kororā, Ōi/Grey-faced Petrel and Tūturiwhatu/Northern New Zealand Dotterel. WBWT's main goal for their Kororā is to monitor population trends and key threats to help inform management decisions and prevent further declines.

Key Successes

Ongoing nest monitoring

Trustees featured in "Taking back our beach" 2011 Rena Oil Spill documentary

Successfully rehabilitated & released rescued kororā

Seabird and shorebird mortality research underway

Nest box project & collaboration with Mauao Trust + Mount Maunganui College

Annual planting day

Community education/advocacy events

Key Challenges

Declining breeding success

Habitat loss & burrow wash out

Starvation events

Dogs, cats, rodents & weasels

Rock pigeons

Pollution, particularly fishing line, bait bags & glass bottles

Disturbance

Boat strikes

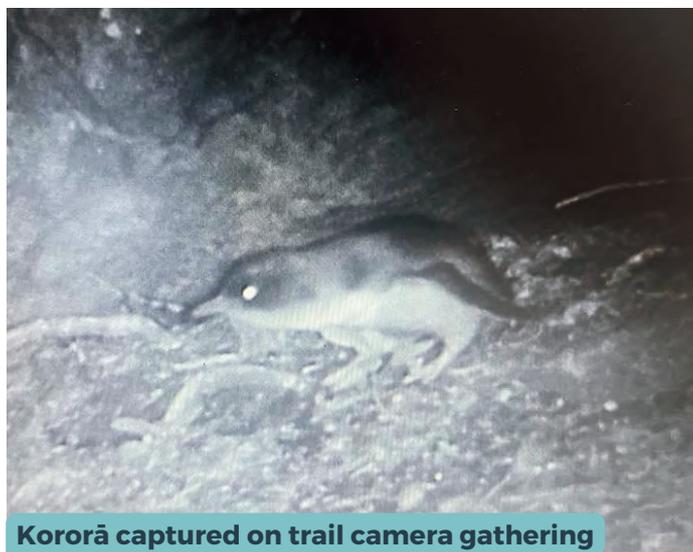
Oil/Diesel spills



WBWT team in action at the annual Moturiki Island planting day



Native coastal vegetation to revegetate grass flats and provide cover for kororā



Kororā captured on trail camera gathering nesting materials

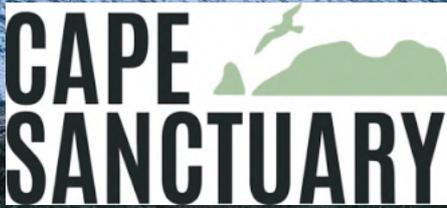


Kororā nesting inside a rock burrow



Sculpture overlooking Moturiki island to celebrate the release of rehabilitated kororā following the 2011 Rena Oil Spill

Cape Sanctuary



Location: Cape Kidnappers,
Hawke's Bay
Project Start: 2006

Cape Sanctuary is New Zealand's largest privately owned and funded 'mainland island' conservation project running since 2006.

Key Successes

Significant habitat restoration efforts towards pest control & revegetation

160 Nest Boxes

Dedicated team of volunteers

DOC permit obtained in 2024

All breeders microchipped in 2024

Upskilling key leaders to become certified in microchipping

Key Challenges

Staying on top of predators

Leaky ends along the coast-to-coast predator proof fence

Habitat improvements

Maintaining a large number of boxes

Co-ordinating multiple native species projects

Funding & labour



Adult kororā incubating eggs

There are approximately 160 penguin boxes along the coast of the 2500 ha fenced Cape Sanctuary which are monitored by a dedicated team of volunteers.

As the coast-to-coast predator-proof fence has two 'leaky' ends where it meets the beach inceptions, ongoing predator control lies at the heart of the Cape Sanctuary restoration project to help protect the many native species on the peninsular, including the kororā.



Volunteer undertaking weed control



Adult guarding a chick

Even though the penguin boxes were installed early in the project (almost two decades ago!), we've just partnered with NZPI to upscale our monitoring efforts and gain more expertise.

With these new tools we can learn more about how the kororā are doing within the sanctuary, who the individuals are, where they go and contribute to NZ wide penguin research.



Penguin team volunteers learning how to handle, measure and microchip kororā with Hiltrun

Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Projects Inc

Kororā Project



Location: Kapiti Coast,
Wellington
Project Start: 2015

Started in 2015 with a question 'Where are kororā on the Kāpiti Coast? Funding from the Ministry for the Environment over 3 years enabled extensive searching by a team from Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Projects Inc. Mail drops, questionnaires, nest boxes placed in Queen Elizabeth Park, dog detection expertise and footprint surveys discovered the remaining mainland population is centred near Paekākāriki with small numbers in Pukerua Bay, Te Horo and Raumati South.

Key Successes

Ongoing footprint surveys by dedicated volunteers

Sensitive site bylaw

Educational signage

Stakeholder consultation, community engagement & advocacy

Nesting opportunities through provision of nest boxes

Predator Free Paekakariki trapping efforts

Key Challenges

Downwards trend in number of footprints observed

Coordinating surveys with the tides

Off-leash & uncontrolled dogs

Mustelids & rodents

Plastics & fishing line debris on beach seen most visits

Fluctuating sand levels & ongoing dune erosion

Seawall development

Since 2019, the primary focus has been on birds living in southern Kāpiti. They nest & live in burrows, rocks, flax & under buildings above the high tide line, all the year round.

Community meetings & one-to-one discussions revealed kororā are smelly & noisy neighbours when located under homes. While many people accept and treasure their presence, others encourage penguin families to move away from human dwellings. Nest boxes, built by the Menz Shed, are made available. Predator Free Paekākāriki actively traps stoats, weasels, rats and mice along the coast to the benefit of native birds, lizards, insects and plants. Concern about sea-level rise and coastal erosion has seen a doubling of artificial barriers to kororā access in the last 5 years.

Most locals were unaware of penguins in their midst a decade ago. Public education & information such as sign boards at 5 locations and the annual distribution of flyers have proven useful reminders. Presentation to the local district council aided a Sensitive Site designation – many dog owners follow the advice to have dogs on leads at all times.

Community liaison and advocacy for kororā remains high priority



Kororā in natural burrow: Jo Sim

Informative kororā signage



We continue the annual footprint counts started in 2009. Sadly, the trend in numbers appears downward. The major issues in 2024 are lack of access to safe nesting sites, predation by dogs & stoats and reduced availability of habitat due to coastal erosion.

Kororā were found in 2015 and every year since; our goal is to improve and enhance their chances of survival in a mostly urban environment, through education.

"He kororā, he tohu oranga"

Forest & Bird - Places for Penguins



Places for Penguins

a Forest & Bird Wellington Branch project

Location: Wellington
Project Start: 2013

To enable the sustainability of Wellington's little blue penguin population as well as develop pride and the desire to protect them within the local community.

Key Successes

90 dedicated volunteers

First confirmed record of double brooding by a nest box pair at Moa Point

Banded female from Matiu-Somes produced 2 chicks at Mahanga Bay

Breeding research submitted for publication with assistance from NZPI

The Nest Te Kōhanga partnership for rescue/rehab & mortality research

Ongoing consultation with council & DOC about threats

3 rubbish clean ups

408 Predators Trapped

Key Challenges

Urban environment

Finding dead penguins killed by dogs

Coastal development

Penguins hit by vehicles

Multi-site monitoring & volunteer coordination

Ensuring there are enough monitoring resources



Volunteer kayaking to Taputeranga Island



Taputeranga Island kororā pair



Kororā inside a grass burrow

Urban penguins: breeding success of little penguins (Kororā, *Eudyptula minor*) in Wellington, 2014-2023: a first record of double brooding on North Island, New Zealand

HILTRUN RATZ*
New Zealand Penguin Initiative, Epworth House, 75 Taranaki Street, Te Aro, Wellington, 6011

KERRY SHAW

ÂNDREA WESTPHAL SANTA MARIA

KATHERINE ELIZABETH SMITH

JOSHUA KYLE FORREST

Suggested short title: Breeding success of Wellington kororā

*Correspondence: hiltrun.ratz@nzpi.nz

Abstract: Kororā, little penguin, breed in New Zealand and Australia with two subspecies now recognised after numerous taxonomic revisions: *Eudyptula minor* only in New Zealand, and *E. m. novaehollandiae*, in Australia and Otago on the southeast coast of South Island, New Zealand. One of the distinguishing features of *E. m. novaehollandiae* is the laying of a subsequent clutch by the same female after successfully fledging chicks (double brooding). In this study from urban Wellington, North Island, 14 kororā sites were monitored for 10 years, 2014-2023, to determine abundance and breeding success. Micro-chipping of adults from 2021 allowed identification of individuals at most sites. Double brooding was suspected prior to 2021 but was now confirmed at one site in 2023. This is the first record of either *E. m. minor* to double brood, or *E. m. novaehollandiae* to have reached the North Island. Genetic analysis of the female will resolve this.

Keywords: Little penguin, breeding success, Wellington, kororā, double brooding

Submitted to Notornis for publication



Tarakena Bay dog restrictions in place to help protect kororā

Friends of Motu Manuka Haulashore Island

Location: Nelson
Project Start: 2021

"Nelson community group Friends of Haulashore Island, generously supported by Port Nelson, are aiming to establish a thriving penguin breeding colony on Haulashore Island (a small island at the entrance to the port).

Key Successes

Predators trapped: 388 rats, ca. 560 mice & 1 stoat in 5 years

Penguin decoy and acoustic replay installed Sept. 2021

Nest box placed in 2018, uptake in 2022

Two adults and their chicks microchipped in 2024

Natural burrows identified with two chicks in 2024

Key Challenges

Island access

Travel costs

Disturbance

Sea level rises, tidal inundation with storm surges

Re-invasion of predators

Resources & labour

Rats - The Island Rulers

"When we started, some rats were day active moving about in sunlight and they were BIG. We have removed these macho, alpha rats and now they are more normal size."



Kororā chicks in a natural burrow

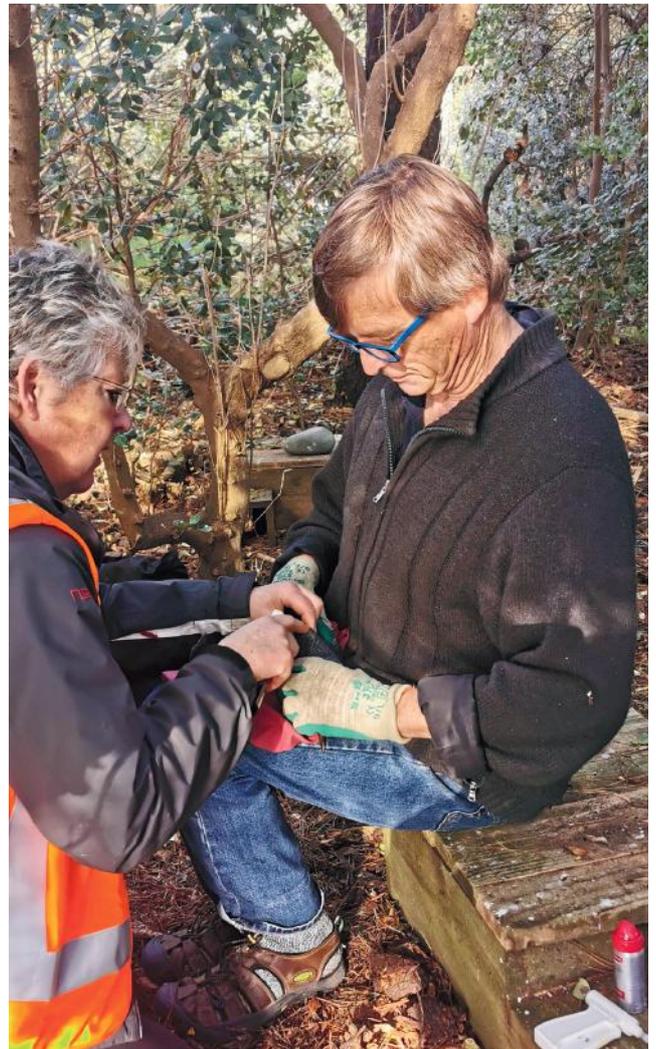


Nest box installed on the island

Two chicks fledged from a single nest in both 2022 and 2023 and now things are moving in the right direction with two nests found in 2024, each with two chicks.



Active breeding pair marked with PIT-Tags/Microchips



Volunteer Andrew holding an adult kororā for Hiltrun to mark with a microchip

Helps Pōhatu Conservation Trust



Location: Flea Bay, Akaroa,
Banks Peninsula
Project Start: 2021

Focused on protecting local biodiversity, supporting research and education, sustainable tourism and sharing their knowledge to help advocate for marine conservation.

Key successes

Weekly monitoring of over 230 nest boxes

High breeding success & rehab release rates

356 chicks & 164 breeding adults microchipped to date

18 birds fitted with GPS trackers

352 predators trapped, including rats, hedgehogs, possums, mustelids, feral cats & mice

Community education events

Student research projects

Trail camera surveillance & allofeeding observed

Key challenges

Predators - ongoing

Increased boat/jet ski traffic over summer season

Illegal fishing in Pōhatu Marine Reserve

Keeping public out of sensitive penguin habitat on private property

Understanding penguin deaths with autopsy - keeping body fresh to transport to South Island Wildlife Hospital

Keeping nest boxes cool in heat waves

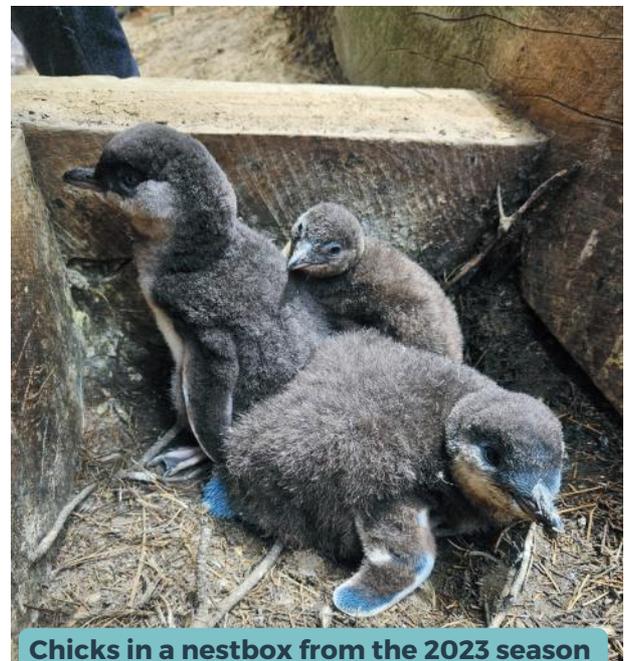
Ensuring enough resources for monitoring & research, and funding for personnel wages to continue with our long-term project



We surveyed a part of the colony in November, with the help of a number of volunteers.



The Trust, along with several students from the University of Otago and the University of Canterbury, monitor over 230 nest boxes weekly through the breeding season.



Chicks in a nestbox from the 2023 season

We had a relatively successful season compared to 2022-2023. In addition to normal weekly monitoring of about 230 nest boxes, we deployed GPS on 18 birds (4 during incubation, 5 during guard, and 6 during post-guard). The data indicated long foraging trips >8-9 days during incubation, a first record for this colony. Three students collected data for their PhD or Masters research. We used trail cameras more to observe activities in certain nest boxes, which captured a unique observation of allofeeding.

The colony breeding success was very high, as was rehab release rates. We also have two cohorts of pulli now marked (356 total birds), in addition to 164 breeding adults.



We hosted a Seaweed expo to spread the word about our marine environment

Friends of Aramoana

Location: Aramoana,
Otago
Project Start: 2022

"I visit Aramoana all the time, and maybe there are kororā" was the start of a conversation that led to poking about in the foreshore of this (supposedly) dog-free beach near Dunedin.

Key successes

Footprints found

Locating natural burrows

Trail camera surveillance of adults
& chicks

Fair idea about penguin numbers

Understanding key threats

Key challenges

Finding penguins

Public access & disturbance

Dogs

Predators

Access only at low tide

Rock falls & tidal wash outs

Footprints on the beach lead us to a scattering of natural kororā nest sites and eventually we were able to locate a few pairs that were likely breeding. It's a bit hard to tell but the penguins were sitting prone but careful peeking in a bit later revealed some chicks. We were sure there were more than what we were finding. Too many footprints on the beach - but where do they go?

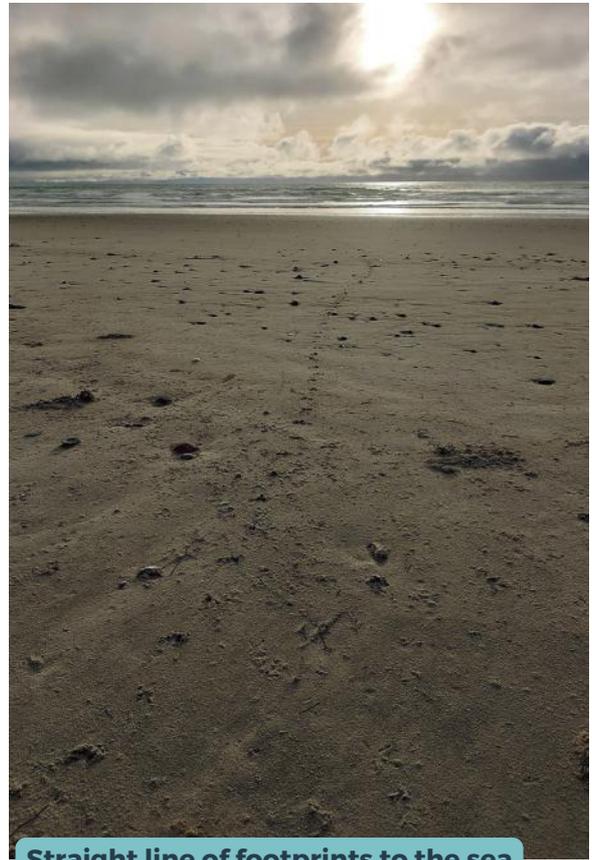


Two moulting adults in a burrow

It is a public beach, and we were apprehensive about leaving a trail camera, but careful placing of one allowed us to capture the presence of a moult where there was lots of sign, but we could not work out where it might have been breeding. We also got some lovely shots of a couple of late chicks that had the company of a moulting adult. And some shots of rats and possum! We now have a much better idea where they are and hope to get a much better idea of the breeding success there next season.



So many rats!



Straight line of footprints to the sea

Turns out that looking for feathers was the ticket: the penguins can't hide all their feathers when they are moulting. That gave us a better idea of where along that piece of coast the penguins would be potentially breeding next season.



TROPHY CAM 63°F 17°C 01-30-2024 01:52:51

Moulting adult and two chicks

Portobello School Kororā Project



Location: Allans Beach,
Otago
Project Start: 2022

Dunedin is the wildlife capital of New Zealand, and involving the kids from the Portobello School at the heart of the Otago Peninsula did not require much persuasion.

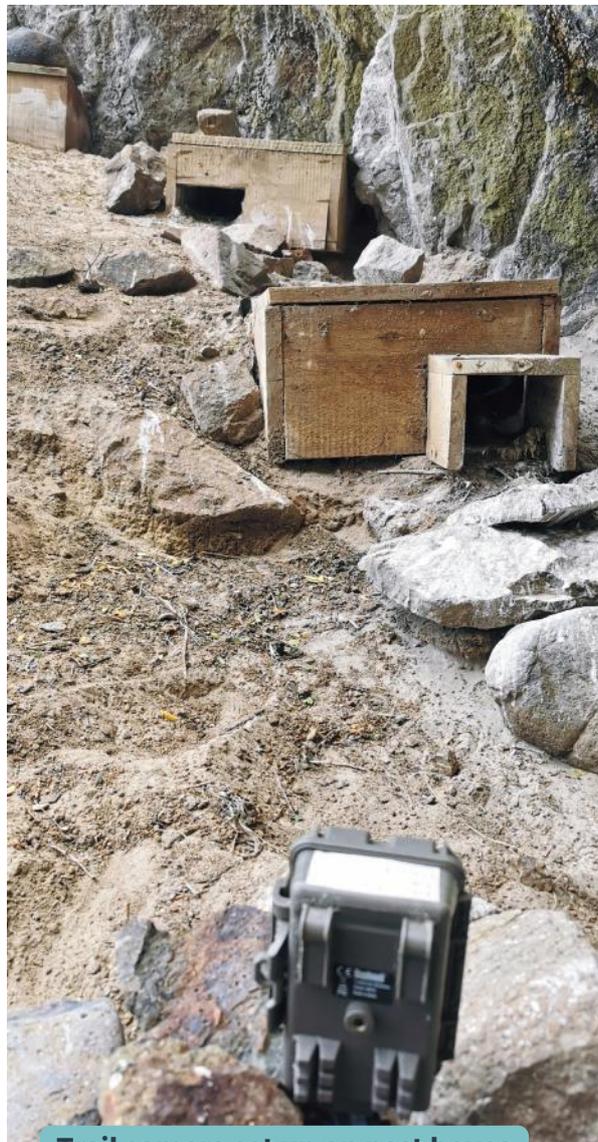
Key successes

- Great footage of behaviour & comings & goings
- Tamper proof nest boxes installed
- DOC permit obtained in 2024
- All breeders microchipped in 2024
- Predator traps deployed in 2024

Key challenges

- Disturbance
- Theft of trail cameras
- Introduced predators
- Access only possible at low tide
- NZ sealions
- Landslips

An initial walk-about at Allans Beach confirmed that there is a small colony living in nest boxes by a cave, only accessible at low tide. The penguins were regularly visited by the public and opening of the nest boxes was a common activity – as witnessed by the trail camera installed and monitored by the Tamariki. The local DoC office allowed us to screw the lids down to give the penguins some privacy.



Trail camera set up on nest boxes



Kororā heading to sea

The cameras recorded the comings and goings of the penguins as well as the usual shenanigans of courting, mating, carrying of nesting material, chick feeding and general milling about. We estimated about four pairs in the 2022 season – but uncertain about the number of chicks (mostly because of a computer dying taking with it videos and photos). In the 2023 season, four pairs fledged four chicks. Unfortunately, the trail camera was stolen in early 2024 (who does that to a clearly marked school project??), and the replacement camera was also stolen – so that was the end of that.

Fortunately, the DoC permit had come through allowing closer monitoring and microchipping the penguins now for the 2024 season. Breeding started late with eggs only appearing late September, and the Tamariki can come and visit their penguin colony. The penguins have taken to their new tamper-proof nest boxes with an internal tunnel and can now raise their chicks in private.



Allan's beach breeding pair

National trends and threats

A lack of awareness, knowledge & understanding of kororā colonies is a key reason why they are so vulnerable to a multitude of threats.

We need to know about them to protect them!

With more colonies being located and monitored across different parts of the country, we are continually learning and understanding more about threats to kororā. Communities that raise awareness about penguins being present in a range of habitats; beaches, harbours, rocky foreshores, coastal forests, seaside farmland & residential properties and undertake some level of monitoring, can aid local understanding of key threats & help safeguard their colonies.



High level advocacy

Speaking up for enhanced penguin protection is an important component of conservation and a core component of our work to fight for healthy colonies and safe habitats. Stakeholder engagement is critical from people observing changes in their local environment and has the capacity to change the course of action when expertise is shared.

Since 2021, we have engaged with councils and DOC about threat concerns raised by local groups and provided input through consultation, reviewing management plans and lodged submissions to help protect penguins habitats.

Advocacy highlights

Vehicles on Beaches Submission- Clutha District

Waiheke Island Marine Reserve Submission, Hauraki Gulf

Barrytown Mineral Sand Mining Submission, West Coast

Wellington City Council Coastal Reserves Public Consultation

Reach out to the NZPI team if you have concerns about local issues you need support with.

Drive Awareness

Reduce Potential Harm

Lobbying for positive outcomes

Improve Consent Conditions

Encourage Ongoing Habitat Protection

Environmental laws that can protect penguins

Wildlife Act 1953

The Wildlife Act is the main law that helps protect animals classed as wildlife, including some of New Zealand's most endangered species. The Act does this by controlling how people interact with wildlife.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS)

The NZCPS guides councils in their day-to-day management of the coastal environment. The NZCPS is the only compulsory National Policy Statement under the Resource Management Act (RMA). The RMA requires a NZCPS in place at all times. Policy 11 Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity) covers three levels, which includes avoiding adverse effects on threatened biodiversity and their habitats.

Kororā Kōrero

with NZ Penguin Initiative & Co.

Supporting Kororā/Little Penguin Conservation with Conversation

Our Monthly Support Meetings launched in March to provide a space to connect regularly with individuals, community groups and conservation organisations, and stay up to date with penguin business happening across the country.

Some of the topics discussed at our meetings





Join us for an informal discussion amongst like-minded penguin professionals to help raise awareness, share knowledge and expertise, enhance collaboration, and form a united front towards addressing key threats of Kororā/Little Penguins throughout the country.

An opportunity to network, present topics, ask questions, seek input and offer advice - no matter what stage you are at on your conservation journey.

We understand the immense challenges trying to protect penguins and we stand a better chance of making meaningful change, if we do it together.

We would love to hear your stories!

Online monthly meeting 1st Wednesday of the month 12-1pm via ZOOM

Sign up to our mailing list via our website to receive meeting notifications.

Penguin Awareness Day

20 January

Conservation Week

September

Keep

NZ

Beautiful

Week

September

Matariki

June/July

World Wildlife Day

3 March

Seaweed

March

Earth Day

22 April

World Penguin

Day

25 April

Key dates
to
celebrate
penguins

World Oceans

Day

8 June

International Day for

Biodiversity

22 May

World Environment Day

5 June

The year ahead for NZPI

Plans for 2025

Online monthly meetings

New penguin monitoring app launch

Enhanced dashboard features

Nationwide diet analysis

Penguin threats review

Group research publications

Group visits

Oamaru penguin symposium

Birds NZ conference

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Penguin conservation groups

Monthly kōrero participants

Students & volunteers

Database & dashboard support

Group funders & supporters

Tangata Whenua

Department of Conservation

Landowners & territorial authorities





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*“For a future with healthy & resilient
penguin populations”*

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