



# Wildside Newsletter

Issue 3, April 2016

## CACOPHONY PROJECT

Ever wondered if the bird song in your area seems better since you started trapping and protecting forest?

Well, a local entrepreneur is quietly working away at a game changing conservation idea that could help you prove it. Grant Ryan lives and works in Akaroa and with the help of IT experts he is adapting smart phones to monitor our natural environment. Deployed in weather proof casings with solar panels the phones will automatically record bird song for long term trend analysis.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Summer is a time to explore and we encourage local schools to visit the Wildside to learn about the amazing places right on their doorstep. Akaroa Area, Duvauchelle's and Okains Bay schools have all visited the Wildside over the summer. The highlight for children is always to see a penguin but the highlight for me was to see children sit quietly and observe the forest for a five minute bird count, learning to listen and observe nature is a rare skill.

University of Canterbury's Frontiers Abroad Program brings students from the United States who visit the Wildside and are working with BPCT on collaborative research projects such as BP tree weta monitoring and digital field trips.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

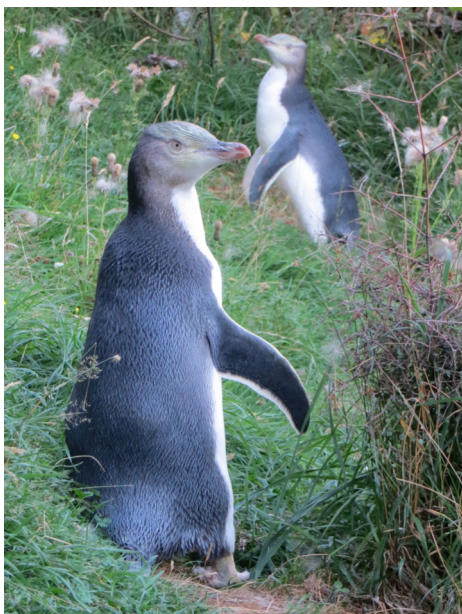
While the yellow-eyed penguins (YEP) had a troublesome start to the season with only one known nest surviving, it has raised two beautiful chicks, both of which are fat and healthy. Eighty-one percent of YEP chicks that head of to sea are never seen again which is a major concern to our conservation efforts. The YEP Trust has now employed a scientist and they hope to tackle these concerning issues; where do they go and what happens to them at sea? Meanwhile, an adult that was taken into the expert care of the Stakes (insert proper name) has recently been released and reunited with its mate, with many happy greetings to be heard!

## WEEDS UPDATE

We would be interested in any sightings spur valerian or Chilean mayten (see photos). Spur valerian is currently controlled in Le Bons Bay, on Akaroa coastal cliffs, and is being contained in Akaroa township, with a possible sighting along the BP Track near Flea Bay. It has windblown seeds that quickly form dense stands shading out other plants and is a serious threat to rare native plants on rocky outcrops. Chilean mayten is weed tree that grows to 10m and has seeds dispersed by birds, which can form dense colonies even under shade. Contact [Di.Carter@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Di.Carter@ccc.govt.nz) if you spot these weeds or for more information on weed control in your area.



Akaroa Area School visiting Red Bay.



*Our beautiful yellow-eyed chicks, soon to head on their ocean voyage.*



*Wildside info at Onuku Waitangi Day*



*Spur valerian and Chilean mayten.*

## Contact

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**Wildside Project**

## EVENTS

Ōnuku Rūnanga held a wonderful Waitangi Day at which we had a small Wildside information stand, a fantastic day for the local community and what a beautiful new wharekai!

Purple Peak Curry Reserve also had its opening day which was a wonderful event to celebrate another 190ha of protected land. This creates habitat and walking links from Akaroa to Hinewai Reserve and the Wildside.

Late last year we hosted a Wildside celebration at Le Bons Bay, with afternoon tea and a presentation followed by a walk through Josef Langer Reserve and a hands on workshop by Lincoln University entomologist Mike Bowie to learn about the almost invisible insects that are truly everywhere in our forests.

BPCT attended both A&P Shows and had many rich conservation conversations in our local community. Sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm for protecting and restoring Banks Peninsula biodiversity.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Wildside was featured on Predator Free NZ's blog which highlights the amazing work of our conservation minded community:

<http://predatorfreenz.org/protecting-the-wildsides-unique-biodiversity/>

A comprehensive Wildside Report 2010-2015 is now available from our website which states our goals, achievements to date and the significance of all of our hard work. A Wildside poster is also being distributed to raise awareness, if you would like a copy please contact Marie Haley.

## BECOME A BPCT MEMBER

BPCT's new membership and donor programme has been well supported by the community. It is a great way to contribute to the Trust's work, which is only possible through the generous support of sponsors, partners and private individuals.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a member or our work, give one of our team a call on (03) 329 6340, visit our website [www.bpct.org.nz](http://www.bpct.org.nz), or check us out on Facebook.

## Acknowledgements

### Wildside Partners:



### Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Partners:

