



PENGUIN RESCUE NZ ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 SEASON



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Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 season for Penguin Rescue NZ was marked by both significant challenges and notable achievements in wildlife conservation. The team faced a surge in chick mortality, particularly in November, due to diseases such as Gyrovirus, diphtheria, and malaria. Despite these setbacks, 33 chicks were successfully fledged through natural means, rehabilitation, and the OPERA program. Intensive care was provided to 52 penguins in total with up to 24 penguins at peak times. Daily feeding routines lasted up to 90 minutes. Habitat restoration efforts continued with native tree planting, predator control, and maintenance of nest boxes and solar panels, all whilst battling environmental threats like coastal erosion and marine heatwaves.

Community engagement remained strong, with 7,862 volunteer hours contributed and ongoing partnerships with DOC and Mt Cook Alpine Salmon. Leadership and operations were sustained under Rosalie. Financially, the organization operated at a deficit of \$8,420, with total income of \$23,257 and expenditures of \$31,677. Predator trapping efforts were robust, capturing 380 animals including rats, possums, and ferrets. Overall, the season highlighted the resilience and dedication of Penguin Rescue NZ in protecting endangered species and preserving their coastal habitats.

Key highlights

Wildlife Health & Rescue

- **Chick mortality** was a major concern, especially in November 2024, with over 40 chicks sent to the Wildlife Hospital.
- **Gyrovirus and diphtheria** risks prompted early chick transfers and changes in handling protocols.
- **Malaria treatment** was administered to penguins including at Kawariki Bay.

Penguin Care & Breeding

- Penguins began **nesting and claiming boxes** from September onward.
- Moulting season in March 2025 saw many penguins grumpy and refusing food.
- Up to **24 penguins were in care** at peak times, with feeding routines taking up to 90 minutes daily.

Habitat Restoration

- Continuous **tree planting** of native species like Ngaio, Ake Ake, and cabbage trees.
- **Nest box maintenance**, predator control, and path re-graveling were regular tasks.
- **Solar panel issues** due to overgrowth were addressed to maintain monitoring systems.

Environmental Conditions

- **Storms, erosion, and marine heatwaves** posed challenges throughout the year.
- Keepers Bay lost up to **1 meter of coastline** due to erosion.
- Seasonal changes brought **fungi blooms, early flowering**, and wildlife migrations.

Community Engagement & Operations

- Collaboration with **DOC, volunteers, and sponsors** like Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, Moeraki Tavern social group and **HCE**.
- Celebrations included **Matariki**, a PhD achievement, and personal milestones.

Other Wildlife

- Observations included **seal pups, sea lions, kererū, titi, gulls, and shags**.
- Dog footprints raised concerns about wildlife safety near Karatane Wharf.

Appendices



Penguin Breeding & Rehab Season Summary

Category	Details
Total Nests	36 (Katiki: 21, Okahau: 11, Bluffs: 4)
Nests with Infertile Eggs	3 nests with 2 infertile eggs each
Chicks Fledged Naturally	20
Chicks Fledged via Rehab	9 (1 returned injured from Timaru)
Chicks Fledged via OPERA	4
Total Chicks Fledged	33
Fledging Ratio	0.92
Chick Deaths in Care	1 (due to Malaria)
Juveniles in Rehab	5 (including Bruno, mostly in care his first year)
Juvenile Deaths	3
Adults in Rehab	27
Adult Deaths	2
Heaviest Chick	6.6 kg (part of a pair)
Recent Underweight Fledglings Found	3 (2 with old injuries, 1 with Malaria)



Volunteer hours

Annual total = 7862 **4 FTEs**



Penguins in rehabilitation = 52

Species:

- Yellow-eyed penguin 47
- Erect crested 5

Age:

- Adult 27
- Chick 10
- Juvenile 15



Trapping summary

Creature	# caught
Rat	209
Possum	56
Ferret	33
Cat	31
Hedgehog	22
Stoat	14
Mouse	8
Rabbit	7
Total	380



Financial statement 2024/2025

Total income = \$23,257

Total expenditure = \$31,677

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Income

Month	Donations	interest	Grants	GST	Sales	Memberships	Total income
Jul-24	\$ 238.56	\$ 2.39					
Aug-24	\$ 164.25	\$ 2.05					
Sept-24	\$ 468.25	\$ 1.96	\$ 100.00			\$ 1,000.00	
Oct-24	\$ 529.85	\$ 2.06	\$ 3,135.00	\$ 3,700.17			
Nov-24	\$ 1,990.25	\$ 1.83					
Dec-24	\$ 1,045.25	\$ 2.00					
Jan-25	\$ 716.67	\$ 1.71					
Feb-25	\$ 794.25	\$ 1.32	\$ 1,000.00				
Mar-25	\$ 852.50	\$ 1.61					
Apr-25	\$ 2,075.50	\$ 1.63		\$ 1,310.29			
May-25	\$ 1,404.25	\$ 1.74	\$ 500.00				
Jun-25	\$ 2,209.80	\$ 1.69					
2024/2025 season total	\$ 12,489.38	\$ 21.99	\$ 4,735.00	\$ 5,010.46		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 23,256.83

Expenditure

	Fundraising	Volunteer expenses	Bank fees / admin	Habitat	Penguin Welfare	Advocacy and research	Total spend
Jul-24	\$ 280.00	\$ 601.90	\$ 56.11	\$ 402.26	\$ 182.31	\$ 838.41	\$ 2,360.99
Aug-24	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 1,468.07	\$ 100.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 3,247.07
Sept-24	\$ -	\$ 116.72	\$ 5.00	\$ 51.89	\$ 100.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 447.61
Oct-24	\$ -	\$ 1,011.65	\$ 206.25	\$ -	\$ 1,606.50	\$ 174.00	\$ 2,998.40
Nov-24	\$ -	\$ 3,400.71	\$ 5.00	\$ 927.60	\$ 100.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 4,607.31
Dec-24	\$ -	\$ 1,998.01	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 3,590.74	\$ 174.00	\$ 5,767.75
Jan-25	\$ -	\$ 2,227.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 586.75	\$ 296.01	\$ 174.00	\$ 3,289.26
Feb-25	\$ -	\$ 1,385.57	\$ 5.00	\$ 74.75	\$ 476.05	\$ 214.00	\$ 2,155.37
Mar-25	\$ -	\$ 1,847.17	\$ 5.00	\$ 439.50	\$ 326.38	\$ 191.89	\$ 2,809.94
Apr-25	\$ -	\$ 305.08	\$ 5.00	\$ 369.00	\$ 117.18	\$ 208.99	\$ 1,005.25
May-25	\$ -	\$ 831.57	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 117.38	\$ 174.00	\$ 1,127.95
Jun-25	\$ -	\$ 1,549.22	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 191.19	\$ 1,860.41
2024/2025 season total	\$ 280.00	\$ 16,775.10	\$ 327.36	\$ 4,319.82	\$ 7,112.55	\$ 2,862.48	\$ 31,677.31

