

Tracking Pukekura Blue Penguins

Environmental Action for Year 9 & 10 Students



Blue Penguins are nesting at Pilot's Beach but there is limited information about population structure and reproductive success. How many pairs are nesting at Pilot's Beach? What is their annual breeding success at Pilots Beach? What husbandry or species management opportunities can be gained from having accurate data on individual penguins?

Year 9 & 10 students are invited participate in this environmental research project and help with habitat restoration. Otago Peninsula is internationally renowned for its marine wildlife and is one of the few places in the world where nesting albatross and penguins can be viewed.

Workshop #1 - Building Penguin Possies – Friday Aug. 4th (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

This first workshop will look at the Pilots Beach habitat and where and when blue penguins nest. Students will be involved in building and installing nest boxes and helping to restore the habitat.

Workshop #2 - Mapping and Monitoring Penguin Nests – Friday Sept. 1st (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

Where are the nest sites and what makes one nest better than another for breeding? Students will correlate nesting site locations with environmental factors and breeding success.

Workshop #3 – Matauranga and Mathematics – Friday Sept 29th (8:45 – 9:30 pm)

Students will help analyse the data and sharing of the results with the wider community. Discussion will centre around how the information can be used to better manage the penguin colony. Students will stay late to view penguins and investigate methods to count returning penguins.

Workshop #4 - Tagging Blue Penguins – Friday Nov 24th (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

This final workshop will focus on the tagging of the penguin chicks and collection of data about the adults returning to the colony. In addition to assisting with the tagging process the students analyse and interpret data collected from the tagged birds.

Who is Eligible?

Year 9/10 students from secondary schools in the Dunedin region are invited to get their “hands-on” for conservation. We expect the students to work collaboratively while on site and share their experience and communicate the goals of the project with their school and community during the programme. Ideally the same students will attend all workshops but you may decide to share the experience between a group of students. Each student must submit the attached permission forms.

What is the Cost?

Thanks to Otago Participatory Science Platform there is **no cost** to the students or the school. A bus will be provided each day leaving from the Dunedin train station.

What to Bring?

Students will be required to bring their morning tea and lunch, warm clothes and rain gear (the programme will run in most weather conditions).



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Workshop #1 - Building Penguin Possies

DRAFT Programme for Friday August 4th, 2017

- 0845 Meet at Dunedin Train Station, Bus travel to Taiaroa Head
- 0930 Arrival at Taiaroa Head
- Welcome / Morning tea / introductions
- 1000 Tracking Pukekura Blue Penguins (Hoani Langsbury / Hiltrun Ratz)
- Blue Penguin biology
- research objectives
- research methods and their role
- 1045 Gp A - Building of penguin nest boxes
Gp B – Tour of Colony – installation of nest boxes (with Hiltrun Ratz)
- 1230 Lunch (Students to bring)
- 1:00 Gp B - Building of penguin nest boxes
Gp A – Tour of Colony – installation of nest boxes
- 3:00 Afternoon tea
- 3:15 Seabird Care & Conservation
- Find out how a DoC Wildlife Ranger spends his days
- 4:00 Wildlife of Taiaroa Head - Albatross/Shag Viewing
- 4:45 Pack up and depart Taiaroa Head
- 5:30 Arrive at Dunedin Train Station



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REGISTRATION FORM

(please return this form and the permission forms by **July 25th** to education@albatross.org.nz)

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Teacher Contact: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Student Information:

Workshop #1 - Building Penguin Possies – Friday Aug. 4th (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Yr Level</i>	<i>Student email</i>
1.			
2.			

Workshop #2 - Mapping and Monitoring Penguin Nests – Friday Sept. 1st (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Yr Level</i>	<i>Student email</i>
1.			
2.			

Workshop #3 – Matakauranga and Mathematics – Friday Sept 29th (8:45 – 9:30 pm)

	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Yr Level</i>	<i>Student email</i>
1.			
2.			

Workshop #4 - Tagging Blue Penguins – Friday Nov 24th (8:45 – 5:30 pm)

	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Yr Level</i>	<i>Student email</i>
1.			
2.			

How will your students share the experience and information about the project?

For further information and registration please email education@albatross.org.nz

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