



Title: Arrival of the Pakahā Chicks

Description: The arrival of the first pakahā (fluttering shearwater) chicks translocated to Cape Farewell, Mohua/Golden Bay

Photographer: Ann Wheatley @ann.wheatley.photography

Where and when: Cape Farewell, Mohua/Golden Bay, Jan 2022

The Story: Many bird species nested on the stacks and headlands of Wharariki and Cape Farewell above Farewell Spit before predation by introduced mammals eliminated their breeding sites. To restore them, the HealthPost Nature Trust formed a partnership with the Department of Conservation and Manawhenua ki Mohua, which represents Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua in Golden Bay.

Manawhenua Ki Mohua whānau are the kaitiaki (guardians) of this rohe (area). As the hau kāinga (home people) they have maintained ahi kā roa (long term residence) in Mohua since their tūpuna (ancestors) arrived in the rohe. As kaitiaki, they seek to uphold the cultural, spiritual and environmental integrity of Mohua.

On 15 Jan 2022, 50 pakahā/fluttering shearwater chicks were translocated from Kokomohua/Long Island in Queen Charlotte Sound, to an eco-sanctuary on Cape Farewell, welcomed and blessed by Manawhenua Ki Mohua, rehydrated and placed in specially

prepared burrows. The burrows are encircled by a predator-proof fence located behind another that stretches across the neck of the Cape Farewell headland.

This image shows the moment of arrival. Imagine the voice of the kuia/elder as she chanted the karanga/ceremonial call to the volunteers carrying the birds into the sanctuary.

These were the first chicks to be translocated to Cape Farewell as part of long-term restoration work of local, national and international significance. A rota of volunteers worked incredibly hard to feed chicks a daily sardine smoothie, and to monitor their health and development. All fifty birds fledged successfully, with the last one leaving Cape Farewell on 23 Feb.

The juvenile birds will spend 4-10 years in the skies and waters around eastern Australia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia before returning to Cape Farewell to breed. Fluttering shearwaters are usually faithful to mates and breeding burrows between years. They're endemic to NZ and breed only on our shores.

Camera: Olympus OM-D E-M1
Lens: M.Zuiko Digital ED 12-40mm f/2.8 Pro
Exposure: 12 mm F/4.0 1/5000s ISO 500
Digital specs: 4072 x 3065 pixels

Key words: pakahā, fluttering shearwater, endemic, Cape Farewell, Mohua, Golden Bay, Aotearoa, New Zealand, kaitiaki, HealthPost Nature Trust, Manawhenua ki Mohua, Department of Conservation, restoration, conservation, sustainability, predator free nz 2050, Ann Wheatley, Ecosystems Photography

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Donation: The price includes a \$250 donation to the HealthPost Nature Trust or to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice.

Image ref: AW#001 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence)

Ann Wheatley
5 Feb 2022