

MOTUIHE KORORĀ MONITORING PROJECT

YEARS 1 & 2



NEW ZEALAND
**PENGUIN
INITIATIVE**



KORORĀ - *Eudyptula minor*

- Little blue penguin, blue penguin, fairy penguin
- Smallest member of the penguin family (Spheniscidae)
- New Zealand native (and south Australia)
- Present along most mainland coasts & offshore islands
- Forage up to 25 km offshore during breeding



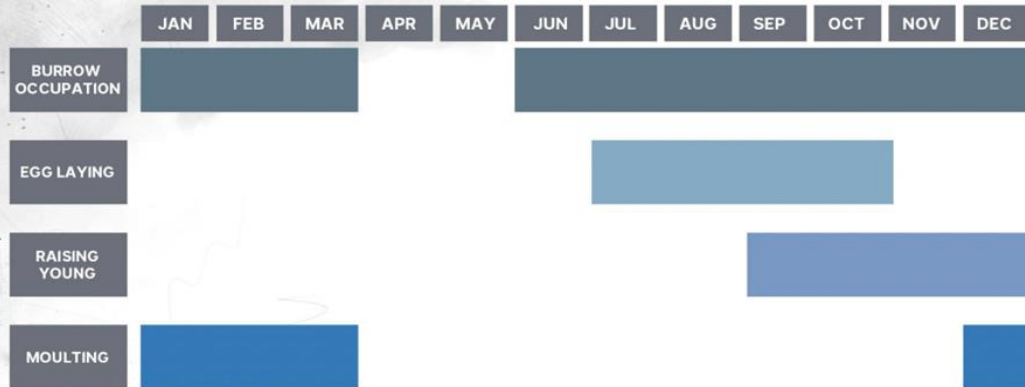
KORORĀ - *Eudyptula minor*

- Nest along coastlines - in rock cavities, caves, under logs or trunks, and beneath buildings
- Monogamous breeders
- Share incubation and chick-rearing
- Return to shore to nest and moult
- Predator-free islands such as Motuihe are paramount for successful populations





KORORĀ LIFE CYCLE



THREATS TO KORORĀ

- Declining conservation status
- Hauraki Gulf populations struggling

CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENT

Growing concerns for fate of penguins on Waiheke Island

From **Checkpoint**, 5:50 pm on 23 January 2024

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- Depleted food availability - overfishing, warming sea temperatures
- Human disturbance - habitat loss, boat strike, pollution
- Predation risk heightened by introduced mammals - *shouldn't be an issue on Motuihe!*

KORORĀ ON MOTUIHE

Little is known about kororā on Motuihe; the only recorded information stems from a few surveys many years ago and one Masters project.

Our aim is to:

1. Learn more about kororā on Motuihe and use this knowledge to help them succeed.
2. Help preserve the NZ population by contributing the national database.



COLLABORATION WITH NZPI

Our project is in collaboration with NZPI (New Zealand Penguin Initiative) who aim to support penguin populations. We use NZPI's app to record our monitoring and upload into the national database.

Our first trip to the island was accompanied by Melissa (NZPI) and Julia (Western Bay Wildlife Trust).

Volunteers were taught how to identify a penguin burrow, and how to record the burrows and monitoring outcomes on the NZPI app.



NEW ZEALAND
**PENGUIN
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Unoccupied penguin burrows, used for practice with burrowscopes.

YEAR ONE: 2024

Visits were made to the island on a monthly basis (weather permitting), with volunteers scoping the island for potential burrow sites and logging our findings on the NZPI app.

Whilst our own permit is pending, we are operating under the Auckland Council permit - we appreciate the ongoing support from the Auckland Council Seabird Team.

In December we received official burrowscope training from one of the Auckland Council's Senior Seabird Scientists, Gaia Dell'Araccia



Volunteers walking to potential burrow sites.



YEAR TWO: 2025

By the end of the year we aim to know a lot more about Motuihe's kororā population.

We will continue to monitor a select few burrows, using burrowscopes to build up a history of the penguins living there and to get our monitoring programme established.

We've also identified some locations where we can place more nest boxes to encourage the penguins to breed in appropriate places away from large numbers of visitors.



GET INVOLVED!

