

SOLANDER ISLAND

Tawaki Monitoring 29 August 2013



Team Members:

Ros cole and Daryl Haggerty – Team 1

Jolie Hazley and Estelle Leask – Team 2

Jo Hiscock and Kathryn Pemberton – Team 3

Author: Kathryn Pemberton

The 2013 Tawaki monitoring was carried out on Friday 29 August on a clear, fine, wind free day. Southern Lakes (Michael Hayes) flew the team from Clifden Hanger at 9.30 am. Team consisted of Jo Hiscock, Ros Cole, Jolie Hazley, Daryl Haggerty, Kathryn Pemberton and Estelle Leask.

Team 1 (Ros and Daryl) were dropped off first at North West bay and searched towards the helicopter pick up site on north coast. They started their search at approx 10.30 and completed at approx 3.00. Ros unfortunately lost their GPS down a boulder hole and it was uncoverable, but manually recorded information in notebook.

Teams 2 and 3 were both dropped off on the beach south of Sealers Cave. The emergency bin was left at this site. The helicopter then headed back to the mainland to return later in the day.

Team 2 (Jolie and Estelle) walked to the southern point as far as able and conducted their search back towards the helicopter landing site on the south side of Sealers Cave.

Team 3 (Jo and Kathryn) headed to Sealers Cave and waited approx 45 minutes for the tide and the swell to drop to enable access through the cave. Low tide was 1.30. They then searched the coast line north of Sealers Cave towards the northern helicopter pick up site. This is where they met up with team 1 at approx 3.15.

When the helicopter returned later in the day he picked up team 2 first from the drop off site south of Sealers Cave and flew around looking for a suitable landing site to wait. He didn't find anywhere he was comfortable with so returned to the site south of Sealers Cave and waited there and shut down till the due time to pick up teams 1 and 3 at 4.00.



Results

During the last 2 surveys there have been penguins seen near the cave but no nests found and the same occurred this year. Recommendation for next survey is to put time into searching a larger area around the cave for nests.

Many of past nest sites north of Sealers Cave were observed to be unused this year.

POINTS FOR FUTURE SURVEYS

Communications on the island are unreliable especially at the helicopter landing site on the north coast site where there is no radio or cell phone reception. This year a Sat phone was used to contact the helicopter base to re-schedule the pick up time.

Location	Nests found in 1993	Nests found in 2010	Nests found in 2011	Nests found in 2013
Eastern Bay-South of Sealers Cave	23	13	11	8
Sealers Cave	11	0	0	0
Eastern Bay-North of Sealers Cave	58	9*	38	18
North Bay-Eastern End	4	6	11	7
North Bay-Western End	4	2	4	4
North West Bay	15	3*	0	4
South West Bay	0	*	0#	Not searched
TOTAL	115	33*	64	41

*Area not thoroughly searched due to deteriorating weather requiring as early departure from the island.

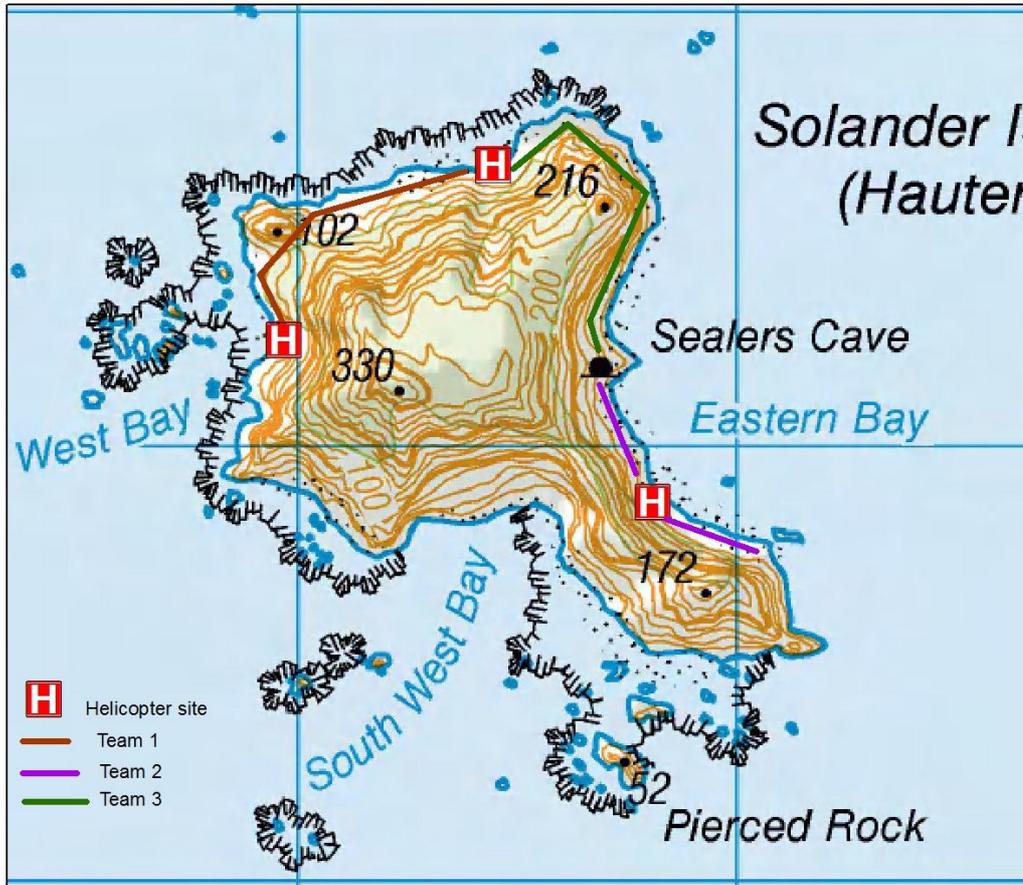
#Surveyed from the chopper, no penguins seen, no suitable habitat identified.

Reference map showing helicopter landing sites and team search areas. The eastern bay site was the only site the helicopter could land, the other sites being on the hover.

Acknowledgements:

The department would like to acknowledge the much appreciated sponsorship from the Mohua Charitable Trust and **First Sovereign Trust Ltd** who enabled the trip to go ahead by covering the cost of the helicopter to Solanders by Southern Lakes Helicopters.

Also a thank you to all team members involved for their effort and enthusiasm on the day with the survey.



Tawaki Survey 2013 - Solander Island

