

Penguin Island

The world famous Little Penguins of Australia's Phillip Island entertain half a million tourists a year with a sunset parade from the surf to their burrows. But behind the scenes, the penguins' lives are even more interesting.

PRESS KIT

SERIES PRODUCER SALLY INGLETON

SERIES DIRECTOR SIMON TARGET



6 x 30 minute episodes



SYNOPSIS

One Line

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One Paragraph

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One Page

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Over six half-hour episodes, *Penguin Island* follows the penguins as a dedicated team of rangers and scientists monitor and protect them through the breeding season.

Filmed over a year by some of Australia's best documentary filmmakers, including series producer Sally Ingleton, director Simon Target, and wildlife cinematographer David Parer, *Penguin Island* offers a rewarding insight into the lives of the stars of Phillip Island's internationally renowned Penguin Parade.

We meet Rocky, the unlucky-in-love Romeo who lives behind the tourist café, and his neighbour and sometime competitor, the dim-witted, debonair Spike. Nearby live the long-time couple Bluey and Sheila, who are struggling to feed chicks Sammy and Tom. And tearaway teenagers Butch and Bruiser, whose thuggish behaviour upsets the neighbours.

Penguin Island opens in the Australian spring as 26,000 Little Penguins return to their Phillip Island colony after many weeks at sea. While some search for loyal partners and others seek out a new mate, the penguins set to work building and renovating their nests to keep them safe from predators.

Soon the colony is full of chicks and penguin parents take turns to babysit while their partner goes to sea to feed. With only eight short weeks before the chicks must learn to survive for themselves, it is a fraught and time-consuming business.

So when the fish disappear from the waters around Phillip Island, life in the colony gets tough and the battle for survival begins. To make matters worse, Phillip Island is experiencing the hottest summer on record and the rangers and carers must rescue penguins all across the colony.



EPISODE ONE: 'LOVE IS IN THE AIR'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In episode one of *Penguin Island* we meet Bluey and Sheila, one of the 13,000 little penguin couples who live on Phillip Island, as they begin their annual breeding cycle, and the dedicated team of rangers and scientists who will monitor and protect them through the hottest summer on record.

EPISODE OUTLINE

In episode one of *Penguin Island*, we meet Bluey and Sheila, one of the 13,000 little penguin couples who live on Phillip Island. As the devoted penguin couple returns to their cliff-top home to begin the annual breeding cycle, *Penguin Island* introduces the dedicated team of rangers and scientists who will monitor and protect them through the hottest summer on record.

Among them is Marg Healy. With over 26 years of experience with penguins and other animals, Marg runs Phillip Island's animal hospital, looking after injured wildlife including Little Penguins, possums, koalas and other birds.

Field researcher Leanne Renwick weighs and examines the penguins to ensure they're up to the task of breeding. Her colleague Elizabeth Lundahl-Hegeudus is a parade ranger and has lived within the Summerlands penguin colony for 30 years. It's a short walk from her house to the Penguin Parade, where the nightly parade of Little Penguins returns from sea.

We meet the feathered residents of the "Penguin Café", a cluster of "love nests" behind the busy Phillip Island tourist centre where perennial bachelor Rocky and the determined yet slightly dim-witted Spike vie for the attention of the passing females as they attempt to attract a mate – including the recent divorcee Tash.

Meanwhile, Bluey and Sheila lay their first clutch of eggs. While Sheila is off at sea hunting for food, the eggs hatch and Bluey must guard them until Sheila is home to meet her two young sons for the first time.

EPISODE TWO: 'DANGER IN THE PENGUIN COLONY'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In episode two of *Penguin Island*, long-time penguin couple Bluey and Sheila are struggling to feed their hungry chicks, Sammy and Tom and protect them from predatory gulls, domestic pets and a feral fox, which is stalking the colony.

EPISODE OUTLINE

In episode two of *Penguin Island*, long-time penguin couple Bluey and Sheila are struggling to feed their hungry chicks, Sammy and Tom, and protect them from predatory gulls, domestic pets and a feral fox, which is stalking the colony.

As the rangers set out to hunt the fox, we meet the human residents of Phillip Island whose homes have been reclaimed by the government to make way for a penguin protection zone – the first time in the world that human settlement has been removed to protect a single species.

Research manager Peter Dann, a world-renowned leader in the study of Little Penguins, leads the scientific effort to study and protect the Little Penguins on *Penguin Island*.

And we visit Phillip Island's animal hospital where carer Marg Healy is working to save a little penguin whose life has been threatened by a careless fisherman. A rushed visit to the vet ensues but will they be able to save his foot?

Back at the Penguin Café, Rocky continues his search for Mrs Right and loses out to an amorous neighbour, while a hungry Sammy and Tom beg from the wrong neighbour with disastrous consequences, until Bluey returns to save the day and fight off an intruder.



EPISODE THREE: 'WHERE HAVE ALL THE FISH GONE?'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In episode three of *Penguin Island*, time is running out for hungry penguin chicks Sammy and Tom, whose parents Bluey and Sheila must swim further and further to sea in a desperate attempt to find fish. As the weather heats up, chicks are dying of starvation throughout the colony and the harsh reality of nature is revealed.



EPISODE OUTLINE

In episode three of *Penguin Island*, time is running out for hungry penguin chicks Sammy and Tom, whose parents Bluey and Sheila must swim further and further out to sea in a desperate attempt to find fish.

Ranger Elizabeth Lundahl-Hegedus keeps watch over the undernourished chicks, worried they won't survive until their parents' return to feed them, while ranger John Evans patrols the colony, checking for offshore "baitballs" of fish, a sign that food is nearby and the parents will soon return.

In the burrow next door to Sammy and Tom, penguin parents Frank and Flora struggle to feed their boisterous teenagers, Butch and Bruiser. Scientists monitoring Phillip Island's penguins fit a satellite tracking device to Frank's back and are surprised to find that the plucky little penguin covers 240 kilometres in four days as the fish move further afield.

Meanwhile, field researcher Leanne Renwick checks micro-chipped penguins to monitor the health of the colony and soon realises something is wrong.

As the weather heats up, chicks are dying of starvation throughout *Penguin Island* as their parents fail to return home and the harsh reality of nature is revealed.



EPISODE FOUR: 'A HEATWAVE HITS THE COLONY'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In episode four of *Penguin Island*, a punishing heatwave hits the island, bushfires are raging around the state and penguins are collapsing from heat, hunger and exhaustion. As the animal hospital fills with overheated wildlife, rangers work to rehydrate and cool the Little Penguins in a battle to save their lives.



EPISODE OUTLINE

In episode four of *Penguin Island*, a punishing heatwave hits the island, bushfires are raging around the state and penguins are collapsing from heat, hunger and exhaustion.

The penguin study group finds many heat-stressed penguins and, as the animal hospital fills with overheated wildlife, rangers work to rehydrate and cool the Little Penguins in a battle to save their lives.

With food in short supply, the colony's penguin chicks are struggling to build the body weight they require to head out to sea and, with 80 per cent destined to die in their first year, the stakes are high in the fight for survival.

A volunteer arrives with an overheated penguin chick, underweight and close to death, but Mauve proves to be one of the lucky ones as wildlife carer Marg Healy steps in to keep him alive.

With his younger brother dead and his parents gone for good, little Sammy must survive 'Black Saturday' to brave the world alone, taking his first tenuous steps towards independence and a life beyond the breaking surf.





EPISODE FIVE: 'ROCKY FINDS LOVE AT LAST'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In episode five of *Penguin Island*, unlucky-in-love Rocky finally finds a mate in Jess, whose previous clutch of chicks has died. But it is very late in the season to be raising chicks before the Little Penguins' annual moult prevents them going to sea. And new technology reveals just what Little Penguins get up to underwater.



EPISODE OUTLINE

In episode five of *Penguin Island*, unlucky-in-love Rocky finally finds a mate in Jess, whose previous clutch of chicks has died. But it is very late in the season to be raising chicks before the Little Penguins' annual moult prevents them going to sea and in the burrow next door, Spike and Tash's chicks already are preparing to head off on their own.



Jess endures a parasite infestation as she waits patiently with her newborn chicks, desperate for Rocky to return to feed them. He arrives just in time to save their sole surviving chick, Tilda.

Meanwhile, wildlife carer Marg Healy gets her most difficult patient yet when a juvenile Australasian gannet is found on the beach and proves more interested in biting her than in eating the fish that will keep him alive.

And biologist Andre Chiaradia reveals just what Little Penguins get up to underwater, by attaching a tiny computerised logging device to an unwitting penguin researcher, which will record depth, speed, temperature and even the penguin's angle of dive.

When moulting season arrives, the Little Penguins begin to shed their feathers. Hungry and grumpy they must wait on shore until their new feathers grow so they are waterproof, weatherproof and able to return to the sea to fish.



EPISODE SIX: 'SUMMER ENDS ON PHILLIP ISLAND'

EPISODE SUMMARY

In the final episode of *Penguin Island*, Rocky and Jess's surviving chick Tilda is not yet big enough to feed herself and is anxiously awaiting the return of her parents. But time is running out as penguins around the island begin to moult.

EPISODE OUTLINE

In the final episode of *Penguin Island*, Rocky and Jess's lone surviving chick Tilda is not yet big enough to feed herself and is anxiously awaiting the return of her parents. But time is running out as penguins around the island begin to moult and unfortunately Tilda is abandoned by her mother, leaving only her father to feed her.



At sea a leaking oil tanker has disastrous consequences for the Little Penguins and wildlife carer Marg Healy demonstrates how tiny knitted jumpers help to prevent the Little Penguins from ingesting toxic fuel.

Down at the Penguin Parade, Andre Chiaradia and the scientists of Phillip Island are road-testing an automatic weighbridge, which accurately weighs the penguins without human contact.

And the house removal project on Summerlands Estate is nearly complete with the Wagner family and ranger Elizabeth Lundahl-Hegedus the last of the human residents to vacate the colony so the land can be returned to its original penguin inhabitants. It's the first time in the world a human development has been removed for the benefit of a single animal species.



Meanwhile, with the breeding season over, little Tilda has no choice but to brave a new life alone at sea. With no one to teach her how to swim or hunt for food, Tilda has just a 20 per cent chance of surviving the sharks, gulls, tankers and treacherous ocean currents. But she has made it this far and the time has come to leave.

PRODUCTION STORY

For producer Sally Ingleton, making *Penguin Island* was a very personal experience. Like many Victorians, Ingleton has fond memories of childhood holidays on Phillip Island, the evenings spent sitting on the sand with a torch as the island's most famous residents waddled past on their daily parade. So when the ABC and National Geographic were calling for natural history ideas set in Australia – it was an idea that immediately sprung to mind.

"It was a story I always knew was there," Ingleton says. "A series set in Phillip Island Nature Park with a mix of people-based stories and wildlife. People come from all over the world to see the Penguin Parade and it just is amazing that nobody has done this before."

With the high cost of filming natural history, funding was crucial and Ingleton set about securing presales from ABC Television, ARTE France and the BBC. National Geographic Television International came on board as distributors.

But finance was the first of many hurdles as the filmmakers quickly discovered when production began in September 2008.

With renowned wildlife cinematographer David Parer on camera and British natural history director Hayley Smith as a field director, Ingleton and director Simon Target set out to tell the stories of both the Little Penguins, and the rangers, carers and scientists who study and protect them. It took 18 months and three film crews – one following the penguins, another following the human stories and a third to film underwater.

"Filming this series has been logistically one of the hardest things that I've had to do, because penguins are (a) nocturnal, so all their activity is after dark and they're really sensitive to light, and, (b), we were filming in the middle of a very sensitive nature park, which is also a popular tourist attraction," she says.

"There were strict conditions about when and where we could film and when and where we could use lights. Tourists in the park aren't allowed to use flash photography so obviously the last thing they want is to have a film crew setting up lights and being quite interventionist."

For more than a year, the dedicated film crews spent night after night crawling around penguin burrows, lugging generators and lights up and down cliffs, getting attacked by angry penguins and bitten by parasites.

Director Simon Target, who had never previously worked with animals, says lighting proved the biggest challenge.

"It was very difficult filming because penguins are nocturnal and you have to light them to see anything but penguins don't like light. You put up light and bird just squats and does nothing. We have lots of shots of frozen penguins, which is not very good television."

To work around the problem, the filmmakers sought locations where the penguins would be more used to light – nesting boxes close to the tourist facilities and rangers' homes – and gradually worked to build the penguins' tolerance by leaving on lights when they weren't around. They relied on infrared night-vision cameras, tiny lipstick cameras spirited into nesting boxes and the latest in underwater camera technology. A team of assistants staked out nesting boxes then radioed the film crews to alert them to any action.

Another challenge was making a series with a strong and engaging narrative that remained true to the species' behaviour. They decided to follow the stories of individual penguins to see how they fared through the mating and breeding season.

"Obviously human beings are easier because you can direct them in a way that you can't direct animals and you can invite them to confess their innermost feelings," Target quips.

While there was no way to evoke a confession or predict drama in the lives of individual penguins, extensive research suggested that typical behaviour could be found by following a loyal penguin couple, a partner-swapping couple, a couple of penguins who were unlucky in love and a couple who might have a second "clutch" of chicks.



"You're always going to have things that you can't predict," Ingleton says. "There is a scene where one of our penguins thinks he has found his mate. He bundles her into a nesting box without realising there's another male in there and loses her to his rival. You just couldn't write that.

"Then half way through the season all the fish move offshore and the penguins have to leave their chicks to go further and further to hunt. That just depends on what happens in the season."



It wasn't easy. Many of the stories ended soon after they began when nests or eggs were abandoned or parents didn't come home and their chicks died. Statistics suggest that 80 per cent of little penguin chicks die in their first year.

"There would be times that we would be filming a hatching and we'd have to stop because we lost light and were not allowed to set up artificial lights in case the parent might abandon the chick, so we would miss important bits so as not to endanger any of them," Target says

It was important not to get too attached. Ingleton particularly struggled with the story involving chicks Sammy and Tom, who battle for survival when their parents disappear for days on end.



"You really wanted to take them down to the hospital and get them fed up because you do get very attached to them, but they were just among thousands and thousands of chicks who are going through that process of learning to survive and that's the story that we had to try to tell. Nature is very hard."

The human stories were equally strong: the families whose holiday homes were being bought up and demolished to make way for a penguin protection zone, the park rangers, scientists and carers from Phillip Island's animal hospital who have devoted their lives to protecting the Little Penguins.

"There were people down there that seem to really understand the animals," Target says. "Marg Healy from the animal hospital could tell which way a bird was going to turn, what it was going to do. She was a bit of a penguin whisperer which was quite fascinating to watch."

While Ingleton knew they had a great story to tell, she only believed they had cracked the code after nearly two years in production.



"We were always confident that we'd get there in the end but we needed to find the right balance of the stories: a bit of science but not too much, a bit of wildlife hospital but not too much, a bit of natural history but not too much. We have had tremendous support from the penguin scientists who fact checked all our scripts. We have spent nine months in the edit getting it right."

Target says that while making *Penguin Island* proved a huge learning curve, not least, he jokes, because he spent the first year "stepping on small animals", he has developed a deep respect for the species.

"Little Penguins come face to face with people every day, which is very unusual in the animal world, but despite that they just get on with their lives.

"They swim 120 kilometres out to sea and then find their way back. Somehow these little birds are equipped with all that technology in their tiny heads and they don't learn it from their parents. They just get out there and immediately swim towards a fish and eat it.

"And when you come to a moment of penguin crisis, like the death of a chick, it would be totally traumatic to us but penguins just sort of step over the corpse and have another one.

"They're incredibly determined and very undistracted and quite fearless. Occasionally a penguin would squawk at me or bite my ankle and I would think, 'Honestly, I could drop kick you over that cliff into the Southern Ocean! I weigh 400 times more than you and you're attacking me!' They do punch above their weight and it makes you respect them.

"They overcome extraordinary adversity."



BACKGROUND ON LITTLE PENGUINS

The Little Penguins are the smallest of the penguin species, found in Australia and New Zealand. They are also known as 'Eudyptula Minor' or 'Blue Penguins', and were once even referred to as 'Fairy Penguins'. Little Penguins are seabirds that cannot fly. They have a beak, little feathers and lay eggs on land, two at a time. They have specially designed wings called flippers that they flap in a flying motion when swimming underwater. They can swim faster than humans with their webbed feet and they use their legs and tail as rudders. In the ocean, they can dive down to 69 metres and make an average of 700 dives per day. They may swim 15 to 50 kilometres a day. One penguin was recorded travelling 100 kilometres in one day. The average lifespan for the Little Penguin is seven years. But there have been recorded cases of Little Penguins living to 26 years of age.

BACKGROUND ON THE PENGUIN PARADE

Little Penguins have bred for thousands of years along the Phillip Island coastline, returning from the sea as night falls to tend to their nests. For over 80 years, people have been travelling to Phillip Island to watch the nightly parade of the Little Penguins at Summerland Beach. Before the bridge was built to Phillip Island, visitors would catch a ferry across Westernport Bay, stay in guesthouses in Cowes, then make their own way across the island to Summerlands Beach, to catch a glimpse of 'fairy' penguins by moon and torch light.

In the 1920s, entrepreneurial islander residents Bert West, Bern Denham and Bert Watchorn, started the first organised viewings of the penguins. Meeting visitors at the ferry, five shillings would buy a personal tour of the island in Herbert's Willys-Knight sedan, with an extra shilling for strawberries and cream.

Visitor numbers increased in the 1940s after the new bridge connected the island to the mainland at San Remo.

Tourists flocked to the island and holidaymakers built houses on areas surrounding the penguin colony. More and more people travelled to see the penguins, carrying blankets and picnic baskets down through the penguin colony to the beach, sitting on the sand as penguins walked around them on their way back to their burrows. Gradually penguin habitat and burrows were damaged and dogs and introduced foxes killed many of the little seabirds. The Little Penguin population began to decline.

A radical response was required to protect the colony. In the 1960s fences and viewing stands were built to prevent visitors standing on burrows. Since then frequent upgrades (boardwalks, platforms, viewing boxes, etc) have further protected penguin habitat. Today, residential housing blocks have disappeared from the Summerlands Estate and the Phillip Island Nature Park is a world-class eco-tourism facility that manages to balance scientific research and conservation of wildlife habitat with providing enhanced visitor access and unique wildlife experiences.



Cliff Top Burrows /Summerland Estate

Just around the corner from the popular Penguin Parade lots of penguins nest in wild burrows or around and under the few holiday houses left in the colony. Many Summerland human residents have lived in close proximity to the penguins for many years, watching chicks grow, seeing couples return to their same nest year after year, and generally keeping an eye on them.

Bluey & Sheila



Bluey returns to his cliff top burrow in the front garden of a beach house at the beginning of the breeding season. He's hoping to meet his long-term mate Sheila. Together they will try to raise a typical family of two chicks. Bluey and Sheila share incubation and baby sitting duties. One stays at home with the eggs or chicks while the other goes to sea to find fish.

Some penguin partners will stay together for years if they are successful at rearing a family. Both Bluey and Sheila have so far been lucky and are clever at fishing. They depend upon each other and know they must protect their young from predators such as foxes and blue tongue lizards. But can they find enough food to feed their babies?



Sammy

Sammy is a new chick, born early in the breeding season to Bluey and Sheila. He's an adventurous fellow, and together with his little brother Tom explores his neighbourhood when he's about 3 weeks old. He has a will to survive and when the chips are down he takes comfort from his neighbours Butch and Bruiser. Will he keep relying on his parents for food, or will he learn to fend for himself and make it out to sea?



Tom

Tommy is Sammy's little brother and he's the younger and weaker of the two. He has to compete with Sammy for food. Will he make it through the season or perish from starvation like so many penguin chicks do every year?

Bluey and Sheila have many neighbours including Frank and Flora.



Frank & Flora

Frank is a mature penguin and lives with his long-term mate Flora in a wild burrow. Frank is a survivor and manages to swim far enough to find the food for his chicks. Frank is also helping scientists understand where little penguins go at sea when he's chosen for satellite tagging. See exactly how far Frank swims in pursuit of a good feed.

Flora has been with Frank for four years now. Flora is devoted to Frank and often comes outside to farewell him as he heads off to sea for the day. Together they are dedicated parents to their two boisterous and hungry chicks Butch and Bruiser. Both parents spend the summer traveling back and forth to sea to make sure their little ones are getting the food that they need.



Butch & Bruiser

Butch and Bruiser, young siblings, are creating havoc in the neighbourhood. Once they are a few weeks old Mum and Dad leave them home alone while they go to scour the ocean to feed their hungry youngsters. Come nightfall and Butch and Bruiser will beg and attack any passing adult penguin hoping it's their Mum or Dad coming home with dinner. Some of the wiser adults in the vicinity don't take too kindly to the young upstarts and their bully-boy tactics. Butch and Bruiser are neighbours with little Sammy and Tom.

Further around the corner under another beach house live ...



Stan & Sparky

Stan and Sparky are chicks living under Karen Wagner's house in the Summerland Estate. Like many teenagers they are hesitant to leave home, preferring to keep sponging off mum and dad. Their sibling rivalry creates havoc, and their peeping and calling keeps the Wagner's awake night after night.



THE 'PENGUIN CAFÉ'

There's a successful new penguin housing project behind the kitchens known as the 'Penguin Café'. Using carefully placed artificial breeding boxes, the café penguins are establishing their 'love nests' under the bright lights and bustle of the kitchen staff. The penguins nest, mate, and bring up chicks while the café staff turn a blind eye to the noisy penguin shenanigans.



Rocky & Jess

Rocky is a young three-year-old hanging out at the back of the Penguin Café, ready for the first time to start a family. He's built an A1 love nest and needs someone to share it. Rocky is a talented 'home decorator' but not so skilled at luring a female into his love nest. Early in the season his heart is broken by a feisty young female, but later in the season he meets the more experienced gay divorcee Jess.

Jess's first clutch of eggs died and late in the season she is looking for a new partner at the "Penguin Café". She's picky but wants to have another go at rearing a family. She spots Rocky and inspects his nest box. Is Rocky her Mr Right? Can he dance and demonstrate that he has what it takes to be a good Dad?



Tilda

Jess's new bub is called Tilda. She's born late in the breeding season, so she's got a struggle ahead of her, but when her sibling dies and she becomes an 'only child' her chances of survival increase. Her life depends on her parents both feeding her regularly, but time is running out for Tilda as the moulting season is starting. Can she fledge, leave the nest and head off to sea?

Spike & Tash

Perennial bachelor Spike is Rocky's neighbour and rival at the Penguin café. At two years of age, he's a trifle dim-witted and continually fussing over and renovating his nest. He competes with Rocky for the attention of the passing females. He's not as plump or handsome as some of the other Penguin Café lads, but he's in with a chance.

Tash lost her chicks last year and like about 18% of Little Penguins every year - she has 'divorced' her mate. She's on the lookout for a better match and sizing up the lads at the Penguin café. If only she can find a tubby hubby who can help feed her newly planned brood? Like many divorcees she plays the field before settling down again...





PENGUIN HOSPITAL

The Phillip Island Nature Park has a small wildlife hospital and will do its best to save and rehabilitate sick and injured penguins. It's not a five star hotel, but it does have a swimming pool and as much food as you can eat.



Foot

Found with a fishing line around his swollen left foot, this little penguin's limb is dying and he's in agony. He needs emergency drug therapy, but this isn't enough to save his foot. Will the vet have to amputate his foot so that he has a chance at surviving? Can a penguin cope with one leg?



Mauve

Mauve is heat stressed and dying in the sand when a young volunteer researcher rushes him to the penguin hospital. He's packed into the fridge to help him cool down and given fluid to re-hydrate. But he's underweight and won't survive in the wild. The wildlife carers think that he's got a 50% chance of survival. Will he make it?

Researchers & Rangers at Phillip Island



LEANNE RENWICK – RESEARCH TECHNICAL OFFICER

Leanne is a dedicated and thorough researcher who has worked on the frontline of Little Penguin research for the past 16 years. She conducts fieldwork with clockwork precision - monitoring and weighing penguins, measuring their beaks, and keeping satellite tracked penguins under steady surveillance.



MARG HEALY – WILDLIFE REHABILITATION OFFICER

Marg is the Dr Doolittle of *Penguin Island*, a total animal lover who talks to her furry and feathered friends in a gentle caring voice and they respond to her care and concern. Marg has worked with penguins for 26 years and her knowledge of native animal care is extensive.



Dr PETER DANN – RESEARCH MANAGER

Known to bird lovers around Australia as 'Dr Penguin' or 'Penguin Pete', Peter is a world-renowned leader in the study of the Little Penguin. He has dedicated his life to the cause and now leads a research group carrying out investigations of Phillip Island's fauna. Peter studied zoology and has worked on penguins throughout the Southern Hemisphere, which means travelling to far away penguin-type places such as Heard Island.



Dr ANDRE CHIARADIA – PENGUIN BIOLOGIST

Andre is a scientist who loves to use gadgets to find out more about the Little Penguin. There are many questions about what the Little Penguin gets up to out at sea and Andre has an arsenal of gear that he employs to keep tabs on their marine adventures. High tech sensors such as satellite trackers and depth loggers are some of his favourite instruments. Andre is either tinkering with the latest gadget or glued to his computer monitor analysing penguin data.



ELISABETH LUNDAHL-HEGEDUS – PARK RANGER & HOME OWNER

Elisabeth has lived and worked on Phillip Island for many years. She's a Parade Ranger at the Penguin Parade, controlling excited crowds of tourists while protecting her adorable penguins. Her favourite job is telling visitors about the penguins. She also loves her house on the Summerland Estate where she lives alongside the wild Little Penguins and she doesn't want to move. But sadly for Elisabeth she is moving out as the land reverts to National Park.



JOHN EVANS – PARK RANGER

John has worked for over 17 years at Phillip Island as a Park Ranger with responsibility for the protection of the nature park habitat, animal husbandry and pest control for animals and plants. Trained in land management John has the understanding required to walk the fine line between managing the long-term viability of the Little Penguins and their habitat with the needs of a public that can't get enough of the Little Penguins. Somehow he manages to keep both happy!

Key Creatives on Production

SALLY INGLETON – SERIES PRODUCER



Sally Ingleton is one of Australia's most successful documentary producers & directors, and is a partner in Australian production company 360 Degree Films. Her recent credits have delved into science and environment with the multi award winner *Seed Hunter* (ABC/Arte France/SVT/RTE) winning a Gold Panda at the Sichuan TV Festival (Grand Prize Nature) and awards in Japan at both the Earth Vision and Japanese Wildlife Film Festivals 2009; Best Conservation and Environment South Africa WILD TALK 2009; Nominee Rock Award Banff TV Festival 2009; ATOM Award Best Science and Environment Documentary; plus awards at festivals in Finland and China.

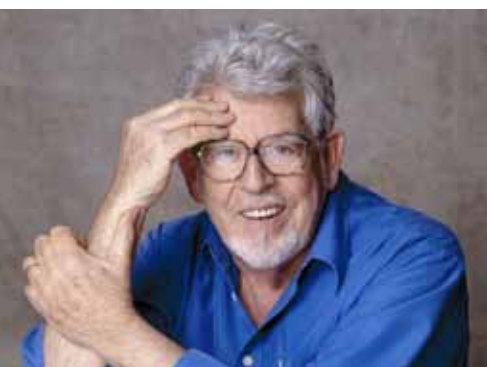
Other recent work includes contemporary current affairs documentary *Tibet: Murder in the Snow* (SBS/BBC/RTBF/TSR/ YLE), arts documentary *Eye for Architecture* (SBS/AVRO) and *Community Cop* (SBS). Other award winners include *Welcome 2 My Deaf World* (AFI Best Documentary nominee 2006) and *2 Mums and A Dad* (Best Documentary Dendy Award and ATOM Awards 2007).

SIMON TARGET – SERIES DIRECTOR



Simon is an award winning writer/director of documentary series including *King's School*, *Operatunity Oz*, *The Ship*, *The Academy*, *Fight for Life*, *Rough Justice* and *UNI*, which launched the careers of several members of *The Chaser* comedy team. Simon has also made a number of successful lifestyle and travel shows including *Surfing the Menu*, *Kylie Kwong: Heart and Soul*, *Kylie Kwong: Simply Magic*, *Wicked*, *Mark Olive – The Black Olive*, *The Blue List* and *Risking it All*. Along the way he has directed presenters including Curtis Stone, Ainsley Harriot, Kylie Kwong, Rick Stein, Gordon Ramsey and Nigella Lawson.

ROLF HARRIS - NARRATOR



Rolf Harris, artist, musician, singer, TV presenter, has been awarded the CBE, is a member of the Order of Australia and has won many honours for his work in the entertainment industry. He has had chart topping hits, written best selling books and has been voted the best entertainer ever, at Glastonbury. His paintings have been exhibited in London's National Gallery and he is an honorary member of the Royal Society of British Artists.

His *Animal Hospital* TV series was five times winner of the National Television Awards. His BBC TV art shows made TV history when Rolf on Art gained the highest ever ratings for an art programme. His portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II, to celebrate her 80th birthday, was the subject of a BBC TV programme *The Queen*, by Rolf, and screened to a worldwide TV audience. In the last eighteen months Rolf has played a record-breaking season at the Playhouse Theatre, Sydney Opera House and made his fourth appearance at the Glastonbury Festival.

DAVID PARER ACS – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

(NATURAL HISTORY)



David Parer is one of Australia's most experienced and accomplished Natural History cinematographers and filmmakers. His films about detailed animal behaviour have won over 120 Australian and international awards for program achievement, cinematography, sound and editing, and his work has screened on ABC, BBC, National Geographic, Discovery, Telcast, Turner Broadcasting and PBS.

Cinematography credits include *Wolves of the Sea* (winner of three Emmy's and Best Film – Festival Choice, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival 1993, Gold Panda for Best Film at Wildscreen 94), *Mysteries of the Ocean Wanderers* (Gold Panda Best Cinematography Wildscreen 94), *The Dragons of the Galapagos* (Gold Panda Wildscreen 98), *Islands of the Vampire Birds* (Winner of a Rockie at the BANFF Television Festival 2000), *Two Years in Galapagos*, *Australia Land of Parrots*, *Lizards of Oz*, *Killers in Eden*, *Terrors of Tasmania*, *Platypus: World's Strangest Animal*, *Island Life – Macquarie Island*, *Torres Straight*, *Kangaroo Island*, *Australia: Beyond the Fatal Shore*, *The Long Goodbye*, *The Wave of the Future*, and many more.



HAYLEY SMITH – NATURAL HISTORY FIELD PRODUCER

Hayley Smith is a UK freelance producer/director specialising in wildlife programming. She has worked in the TV industry for 15 years, delivering both long-running series and one-off programmes for a range of international broadcasters such as BBC, National Geographic, ITV and Animal Planet.

Her most recent credits include the award-winning Animal Planet/BBC series *Meerkat Manor* (series 4-The Next Generation), *Stranger Among Bears* - for Animal Planet, the returning BBC series *Wild in Africa* and its successor *Wild on the West Coast*, Hayley's individual filming assignments have taken her to Gabon in West Africa to film western lowland gorillas, to Tanzania on the trail of two captive-born critically endangered black rhinos as they are returned to the wild and to Taiwan to uncover the plight of orangutans smuggled from Borneo into the illegal pet trade.



DALE CORNELIUS - COMPOSER

Dale Cornelius has received many nominations and awards for his unique style of music composition for over 100 hours of feature films, documentaries and television shows & series. Composing credits include: *Till Human Voices Wake Us* (winner The Age 'Critic's Choice' for Best Australian Film Score 2002), *Mary & Max* (Nominated Best Music for a Feature Film - IF Awards 2009), *Charlie & Boots*, *Footy Legends*, *Strange Bedfellows*, *The 10 Conditions of Love* and *At World's End* (Nominated Danish Film Academy Awards Best Music for a Feature Film).

Documentary credits include *Once Bitten* (Nominated Best Drama Series AFI Awards 2009), *John Gollings: Eye for Architecture*, *Triple Zero Heroes*, *The Extraordinary Life of William Buckley*, *Troubled Minds - the Lithium Revolution*, *Family Footsteps - Series I & II*, *Tibet: Murder In The Snow*, *Cassowaries* and *Revealing Gallipoli*.



TONY STEVENS ASE – SERIES EDITOR

Tony is one of Australia's most respected and experienced drama and factual editors. His credits include the documentaries *Hunt Angels* (AFI Winner 2006), *Vietnam Nurses* (AFI Nominee Best Editor); *Revealing Gallipoli*, *Two Men and a Baby*, *Mao's New Suit*, *Muddy Waters*, *Seed Hunter*, *John Gollings: Eye for Architecture* & *Tibet: Murder in the Snow*. TV Dramas include *My worst Best Friends*, *L'il Horrors*, and the feature film *Road to Nhill*.



TRISTAN MEREDITH SOUND DESIGNER

Tristan Meredith is an accomplished sound designer, mixer, narration recording specialist and musician. Over the last 10 years he has worked on a variety of award-winning programs as sound mixer/designer. Just a few of his recent documentary credits include *Immortal*, *Eye for Architecture*, *Murder in the Snow*, *Ten Conditions of Love*, *Inside the Fire Storm* (2 hours), *The Extraordinary Tale of William Buckley*, *Alter Ego*, *Catching Cancer* and *Dance like Nobody's Watching*, *Prey* and feature credits include *Blind Company*, *Prey* and *Dammed by Dawn*.



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USEFUL LINKS

Visit <http://abc.net.au/penguinisland> for the comprehensive website for the *Penguin Island* Series. This website features location maps, background information on the Little Penguins, research into the species, behind the scenes footage of the film crew at work.

Production Company "Penguin Island"

360 Degree Films <http://www.360degreefilms.com.au>

Official Website of the Penguin Parade - Phillip Island Nature Park

<http://www.penguins.org.au>

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

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SIMON TARGET

Series Producer
SALLY INGLETON

Narrator
ROLF HARRIS

Director of Photography
DAVID PARER, ACS

Series Editor
TONY STEVENS ASE

Natural History Field Producer
HAYLEY SMITH

Original Music
DALE CORNELIUS

Filmed on location at Phillip Island in Victoria, Australia

Executive Producer for the BBC SAM ANTHONY
Unite Decouverte et Connaissance for Arte France HELENE COLDEFY
Commissioning Editor for Arte France CHRISTINE REISEN
Commissioning Editor for the ABC ALAN ERSON

Executive Producer
SALLY INGLETON

<http://abc.net.au/penguinisland>

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