

## Motuora grey-faced petrel monitoring: 2011

**Date:** 28 May (0800 departure Sandspit, 1500 departure from Motuora)

**Participants:** Jacqueline Beggs (UoA), Kevin Hawkins (MRS), Robin Gardner-Gee (MRS), James Russell (UoA), Rob Dunn (student, UoA)

**Trip details:** After 7 years of monitoring, JB & RGG decided it was time to entrust the project to new hands: from 2011 onwards, John Stewart and James Russell will be responsible for the monitoring, along with Kevin Hawkins – Kevin has been out most years on the burrow counts so has good familiarity with the sites, and also knows the volunteers who have helped in the past. With the handover in mind, this year we all went initially to Big South where JB & RGG explained the background and methods used in the annual burrow survey. We checked the Big South fixed monitoring plot for active burrows, then split into two teams and checked the remaining fixed monitoring plots c. 1030 to c. 1430.

### Results:

**Grey faced petrel burrow count:** Static or reduced numbers at almost all sites this year compared with last year (Figure 1).

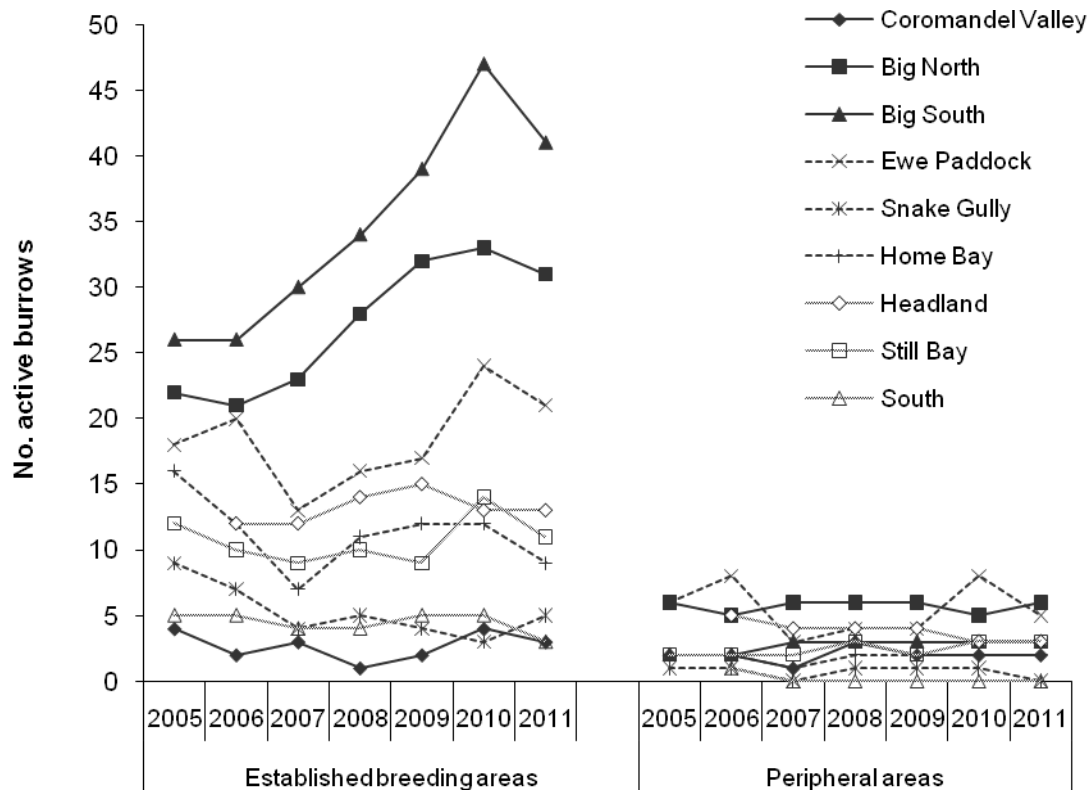


Figure 1: May grey-faced petrel burrow activity recorded in fixed plots at established breeding areas and adjacent peripheral breeding areas on Motuora, 2005-2011.