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Penguin rehabilitation centre opens in the North-West



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Local News



Sanctuary: Kathy Grieveson is pleased to have the facilities to look after injured penguins as they regain their fitness to go back into the wild. Picture: Brodie Weeding

Injured penguins have a new place to regain their strength and fitness before being released into the wild.

Wildlife carer Kathy Grieveson saw a need to build a rehabilitation facility in the North-West to avoid the traumatic trip to facilities in the south of the state.

Along with a group of volunteers, she was able to raise funds and build a penguin rehab centre in her own backyard at Brooklyn.

“This is the first one in the north of the state and it means that no longer do our birds have to travel all the way down to the south of Tasmania,” she said.

The work was funded by grants including \$8000 from Burnie City Council for construction materials, \$2000 from Waratah-Wynyard Council for electrician costs and \$1000 from Devonport City Council for equipment.

Businesses, organisations and community members also offered financial and in-kind support.

The 55-square metre facility has an above-ground pool and two aviaries with plenty of hiding spots.

“Penguins go through a catastrophic molt which is where they lose all of these feathers in one period as the new feathers are pushing through. And that can take a couple of weeks and they’re very grumpy then. It’s like having a very bad hair day.”

The penguins need to be fully waterproof and be able to swim for up to eight hours per day before they are ready to be released.

The facility will be closed to visitors and Ms Grieveson will monitor the birds through a surveillance camera.

“They are wild birds and we are returning them to the wild and any interaction with humans changes their behaviour.”