

I'M THE SMALLEST MEMBER IN MY FAMILY
JEANNINE MILLSTEED

I stand 40 cms high and I live in Southern Australia and New Zealand. My name is Little Blue Penguin, much easier to remember than my formal name, *Eudyptula minor*, meaning 'good little diver', which I am. I can swim underwater at 30kph (I'm much slower on land). In Spring I find a partner and we nest in a sandy burrow, and lay two eggs and then take turns to sit on these until the chicks hatch in about 35 days.



Australia 2004



Australia 2014

Now comes the hard work for the parents. We take turns going into the sea each day to catch fish for the chicks. All the parents in the colony come home at about the same time each night. By doing this we avoid being attacked by the big birds who want our chicks' food. Our other safety strategy is to land on the beach in big groups, and when big enough, 100 or more, we form into a line and together walk up the sand dunes to our chicks in their nests.



Penguin Parade . Victoria . Australia



Eventually, our chicks grow beautiful steel-blue and white feathers, which are waterproof. Then, we do what all parents do — send the fledged chicks off to sea to look after themselves.



New Zealand 2001



Australia 2019



New Zealand 1964

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