

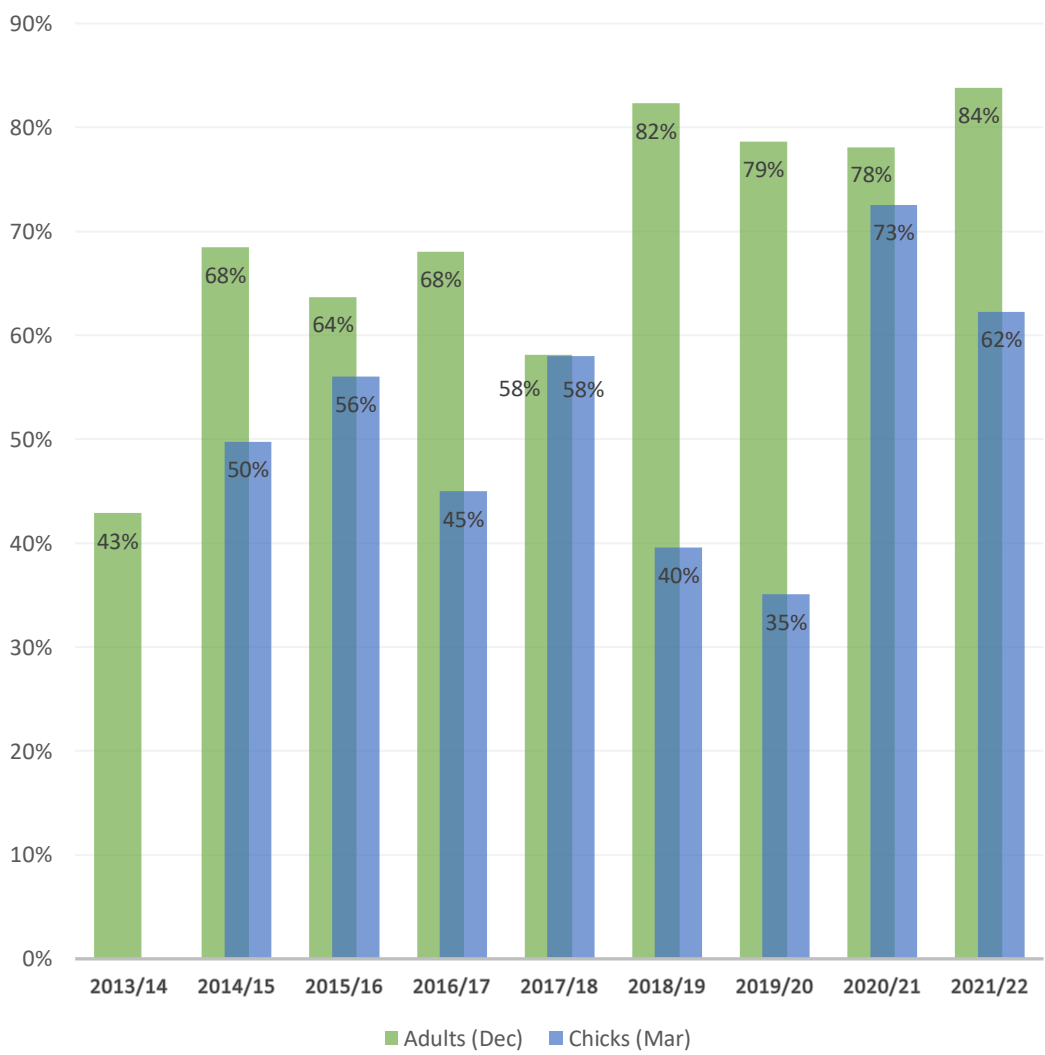


# yula monitoring

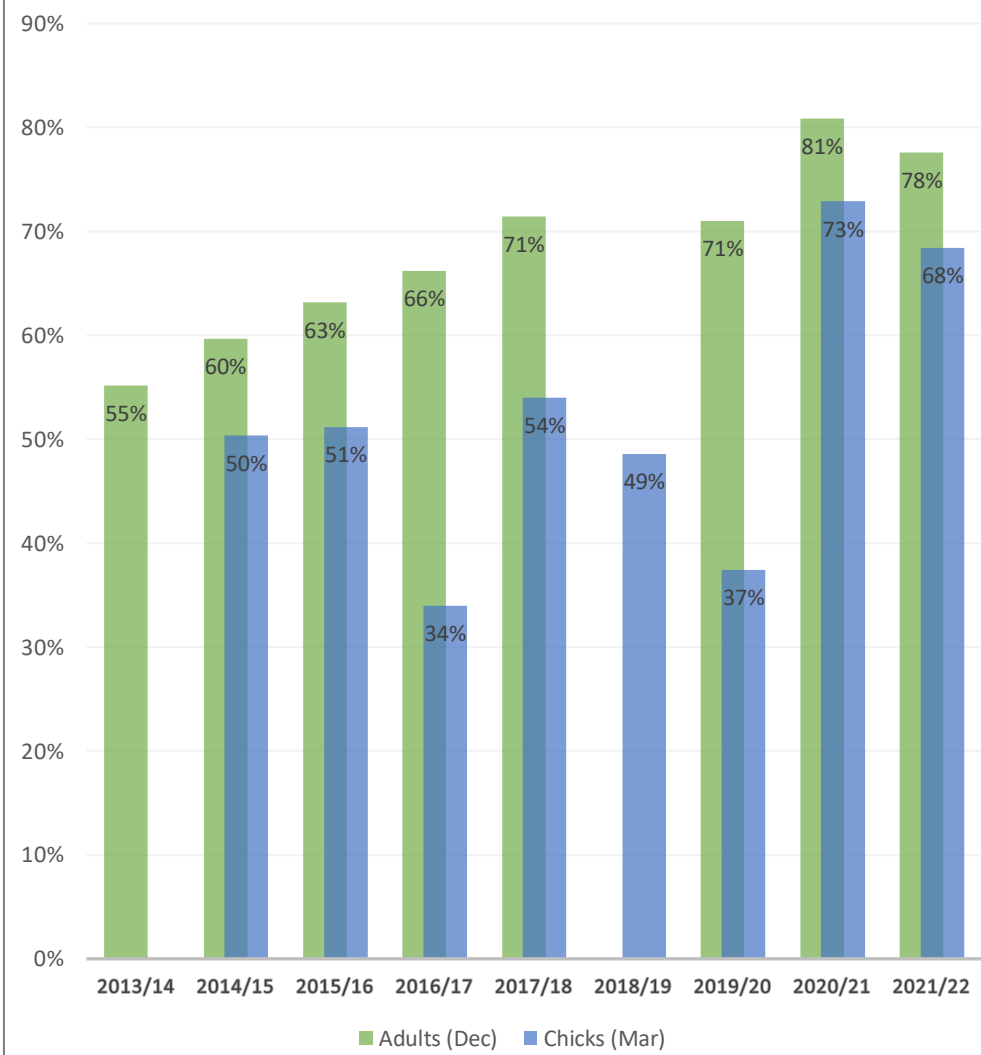
## 21/22 Season



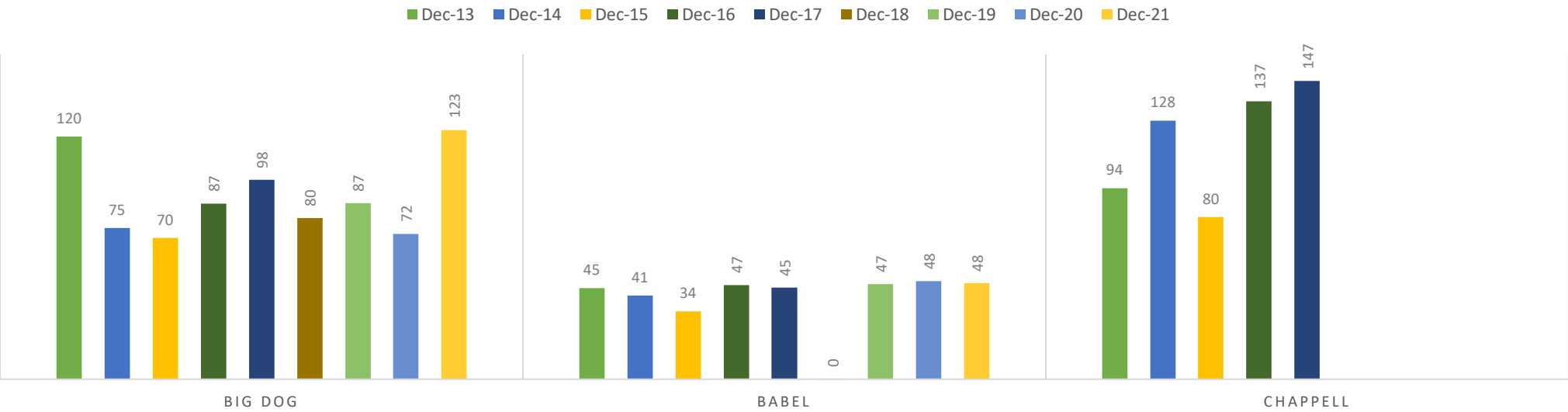
Big Dog Island  
Occupancy rates (adj)



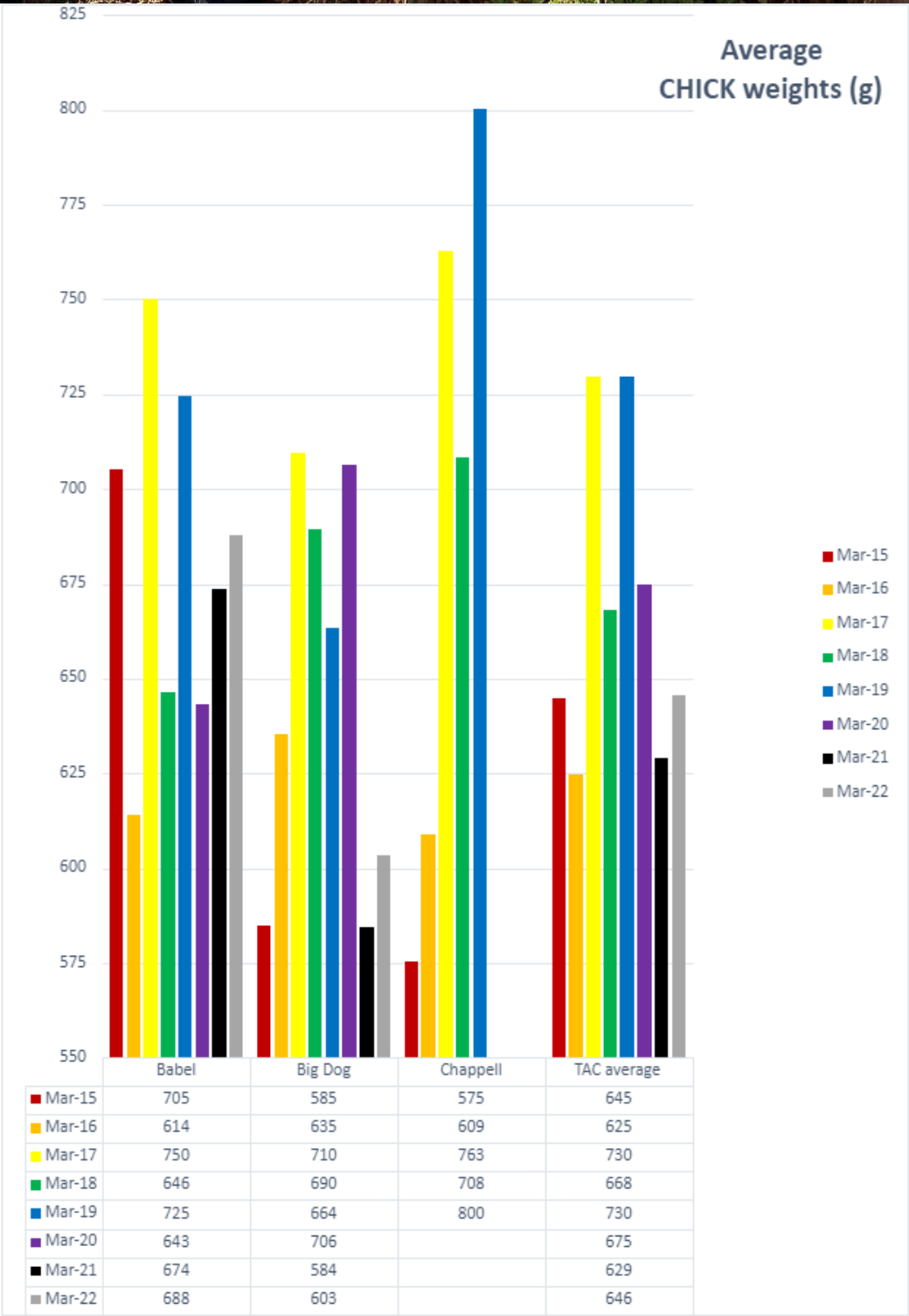
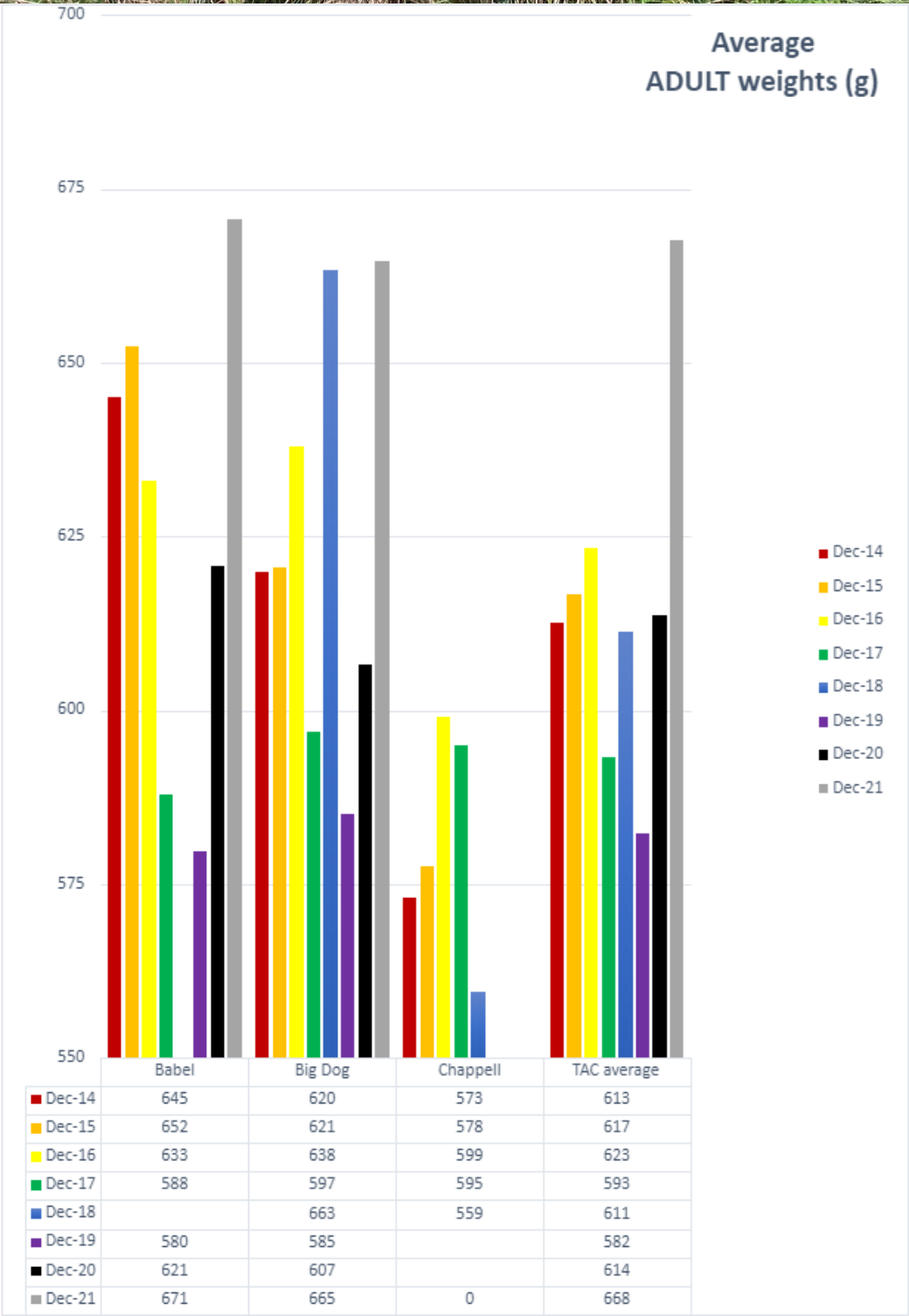
Babel Island  
Occupancy rates (adj)



### AVERAGE NO. OF BURROWS PER 100M TRANSECT









# Methods

Our methods are based on those used by DPIPWE, stipulated in the Wildlife Management Branch establishment report (2010), and include:

- Surveys (sampled count) of burrow occupancy percentage and occupied burrow density (breeding adults in December, chicks in March), (Big Dog and Babel Islands).
- Counts of burrows per 100m transect.
- Weighing six birds per transect.

## Equipment

Tablet or other data collection GPS device, 1m sticks, 100m line, gloves, drawstring bag or pillowcase, 1kg spring scales, first aid kit with snake bandages, wet weather gear.



1. At each transect, a calibrated and strong 100m line is stretched between the start and finish points.
2. One person is designated the role of recorder – using the phone or tablet device to record data and photos while others assess the occupancy status of burrows, often dividing workload to each side of the transect line.
3. All burrows within 1 metre each side of the line (the centre of the burrow entrance burrow is within 1 metre, as measured by a 1m stick) are checked for the presence of a shearwater adult (inserting an arm and sometimes a thin wooden stick down each burrow).
4. Pecking indicates presence of a shearwater, recorded as occupied. The presence of eggs or two birds are recorded the same as a bird, as the burrow is effectively occupied.
5. If confident that a burrow has been comprehensively checked, and no birds are present, then an ‘empty’ call is shouted to the recorder. If it is not clear that the whole burrow has been reached, then an “unknown” is conveyed and recorded.
6. Six birds are weighed at each transect using a dark-coloured pillowcase and accurate spring scales.

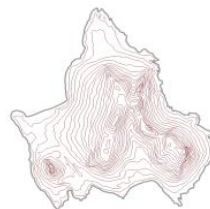
## Transects

### Big Dog



Four transects are established in the south and west of Big Dog Island

### Babel Island



Six transects are situated along transects 1 and 2 that were used by Irynej Skira for burrow counts in January 1983 (Skira and Towney, 1983).

### Chappell Island (Hummocky)



Four transects were initially established on this Island in healthy rookeries. Due to the high risk of snake interactions, surveys no longer take place on Hummocky.





## 2021/22 details

**Dec 2021:** 8<sup>th</sup> (Big Dog), 9<sup>th</sup> (Babel).

**Personnel:** Brett Newall, Stuart Wheatley, Mathew Wheatley, David Lowery, Brendan Lowery, Bayden Maynard, Kulai Sculthorpe, Brenton Brown.

**March 2022:** 1<sup>st</sup> (Big Dog), 8<sup>th</sup> (Babel).

**Personnel:** Grahame Stonehouse, David Lowery, Brett Newall, Mathew Wheatley, Tim Maynard, Aaron Maynard, Lockie Maynard, Corey Stokes.

