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forever...

[www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz](http://www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz)

# jigsaw

issue

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The trust aims to be: • community based • independent • professional  
• transparent • accountable • active and agile



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### Southland Environment Awards

Environment Southland and DOC combine to honour the region's environmental achievers. This year those with FCT connections were: Viv Shaw – ES Councillors' Special Award; Morgan Foundation, the Conservation Award for the Million\$Mouse campaign, with FCT a finalist in the same category; Peregrine Wines – tieke and mohua transfers and Nicholas Humphries – leadership on the KRtK project, both highly commended. To all, congratulations; the work has many rewards.

### Current key partnerships

- 1. Southern Discoveries Sinbad Sanctuary
- 2. Kids Restore NZ Kids Restore the Kepler
- 3. Fiordland Ecology and others Indian Island
- 4. Peregrine Wines Mohua and Tieke
- 5. Chalky Digits Kakaruai/S I Robin
- 6. Distinction Hotels the Kepler project

### Distinction Hotels propose our very own spy agency



In the highlands of Scotland there is an osprey nesting site that people love to visit – over 2 million people have been to Loch Garten since the osprey began nesting there in the late 1950s. Modern technology means you can harmlessly 'spy' on the daily routines of these raptors.

In the 'highlands' of the Kepler there are kiwi nesting with chicks due to hatch in spring and maybe again in summer. Distinction Hotels want to add to their Kepler sponsorship by funding Te Anau's very own Kiwi-Cam.

In preparation, DOC's Hannah Edmonds, Martin Genet and FCT's Jo Marsh went on an intrepid voyage into the snow drifts of the Kepler on a kiwi hunt. Another will be done in summer.

Two unwitting adult males, as they complete the breeding cycle next summer, will be caught, transmitters will be attached and we will be able to 'spy' on our own feathered namesakes living their shy, but vulnerable lives in the Kepler... and understand afresh why we are all working so hard to make the Kepler pest-free.

# indian island/mamaku

## 70 South Island robin/toutouwai translocated

Thanks to Lucy Bellerby, Ian & Jenny Willans and Indian Island's original offshore benefactors.

In what is becoming a really cool part of the Trust's work on behalf of its sponsors, another translocation has taken place. The first for the Trust was in 2008, when we transferred robins to Secretary Island at the entrance to Doubtful Sound.

Five years on this robin transfer is just that bit more special in that it is possible because of the success of Indian Island, our first ever island pest eradication project. And the 70 South Island robin/toutouwai were captured on Breaksea Island, itself one of NZ's first island pest eradication projects begun in the 1980s.

Once safe in their transfer boxes, the toutouwai hitched a ride from Breaksea on the Southern Winds, down Acheron Passage, onto Indian Island, boxes were opened, and off they flew to their new home, adding an exciting piece to the Dusky Sound jigsaw.

It's on Indian Island where most of them will stay, working on the conservation outcomes set for them:

- a. in 5 years, become a self-sustaining population;
- b. in 10 years, share their island with other reintroduced species and spread their own wings to adjacent islands;
- c. in 30 years, be just a part of a healthy restored ecosystem on a still pest-free Indian Island.

In defiance of all the theory though, the latest word is that one of the toutouwai has impatiently skipped straight to stage b, having been spotted on nearby Long Island recently.



On the count of three...

# milford sound/piopiotahi

[/general/sinbad-sanctuary-project](#)

<http://vimeo.com/70393535>

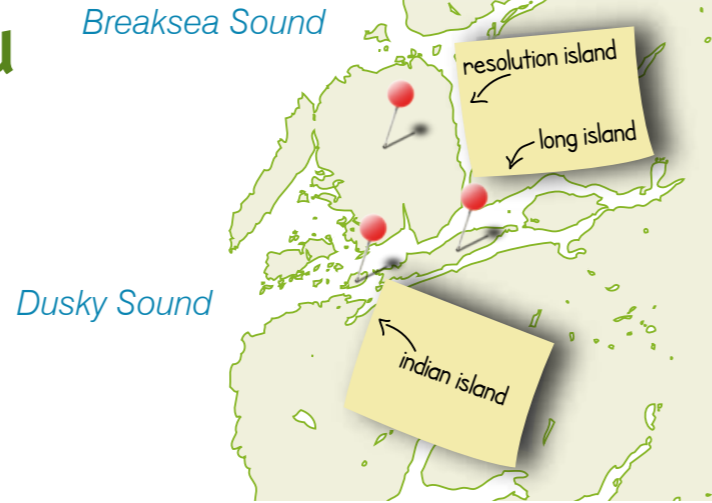
...this is what it's all about.



## Sinbad Sanctuary update: from Gerard Hill, DOC ranger

With rockfall work above the Homer tunnel taking longer than expected, the contractors had to resort to a helicopter just to access Milford. Once in Sinbad Gully they completed the last scheduled trap check for the season.

Few stoats were caught. Of the 13 caught over the last year, only 1 was above half way up the gully. All the rest were from halfway down to the sea. Rats were also monitored in conjunction with beech seed counts, a major food source for rats. Results suggest low beech seedfall. Rats were still tracking at 10% in the ink tunnels, but they're expected to decline over winter when beech seed is not plentiful. Another survey will be done in August. Gathering data over time about impacts on Sinbad Gully's forest environment helps DOC make informed management decisions.



It's as well then that Long Island is the next in line for pest eradication work. DOC has recently laid 250 coastal stoat traps at 100 metre intervals around its circumference. In addition a rat control grid is being established on the western end of Long Island, to help protect Indian Island from rats re-invading it.

Good luck to our little intrepid explorer.

Completed in partnership with DOC and Ngai Tahu, the project is in keeping with the concept of 'ecological integrity', the basis of DOC's Natural History Management System (NHMS), of which the Dusky Sound complex is a nationally identified priority. Restoration SolutionNZ's Jo Marsh was project manager. Her report is a very readable document - [click here](#).

It's great for FCT and its sponsors to be adding meaningful pieces to Dusky Sound's offshore islands' restoration puzzle.

# ongoing projects

## Thanks Caroline!

### KRtK's first education coordinator hands the job over

It is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to Caroline Carter, at least in her capacity as Education Coordinator. Amongst other things, her work in helping the learning centres to integrate the Kids Restore the Kepler project into their curricula has been huge.

## Welcome Jo!

### Jo Marsh, the new kid on the Kepler, takes up the job

The Fiordland Conservation Trust is really pleased that Jo Marsh is taking up the position of Education Coordinator where Caroline left off. Jo (nee Whitehead) is an ex-pupil of three of the schools involved in the project, providing an excellent role model. And she has so much she wants to give back. Click here -

[www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz/news/ex-fiordland-student-new-kepler-education-coordinator](http://www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz/news/ex-fiordland-student-new-kepler-education-coordinator)



Caroline, the volunteer trapper, eggs in hand.

## Stage 1 updates: Conservation report from Sanjay Thakur, DOC ranger

**Stoats:** numbers are still really low in the KRtK project area - stage 1 of the Kepler Backyard Birdsong project.

**Rodent monitoring:** zero tracking for rats; mice tracks found in 16% of tunnels. Same time 2012? 84% rat and 92% mice tracking.

**Beech seed monitoring:** seeds to be collected and dried during this month, results in August.

**Possums:** significantly higher than the threshold required for protecting mistletoe and other vulnerable native species.

Go to our [Kepler page](#) for the DOC Kepler Possum Monitoring pdf. The Trust now has to consider the possible control options.

**Cats:** 12 cat traps are set up in the project area and are working hard, mostly around the two entry points - the Control Gates and Rainbow Reach. Cat monitoring and control options are on the agenda for the next student Leadership Team meeting.

# the Kepler peninsula

[www.kidsrestorethekepler.co.nz](http://www.kidsrestorethekepler.co.nz)

- connection - to nature and the Kepler environment
- knowledge and skills - that help us to understand the environment
- restoration - actions that will restore the environment
- reflection - review, share, celebrate and explore alternatives



## "Great info from fantastic experts guiding us through a real conservation/science issue."

Hanmer Springs School



Jo, working with the little ones on the Kepler project.

## Stage 1 updates: Education Coordinator report from Caroline...

Some of the Kepler based education which is taking place includes Fiordland College students' possum monitoring within the Kepler, NCEA Year 12 NZ Forest Stratification work, GIS mapping training planned for the community bird monitoring data; Te Anau School's audit of life's biodiversity in their 'meet a metre'; Mararoa School's field trip investigating what treasures make NZ special; Southern Stars' weekly 'southern adventures' into the natural world; Fiordland Kindy's native tree planting; and from all the learning centres, the formation of the Kepler Leadership team. A highlight in May was the involvement of 100 other NZ schools in the Kepler project through the LEARNZ virtual field trip - [www.kidsrestorethekepler.co.nz/index.php/in-the-news](http://www.kidsrestorethekepler.co.nz/index.php/in-the-news)

## "Allowed the students to feel like they were actually there on the trip."

Upper Moutere School

from jo...

One of Jo's first tasks in her new role was to facilitate the second meeting of the students' KRtK Leadership team, held at Te Anau School. Jake Tither of Room 6 was its very able Chair.

Topics covered included a debrief on the LEARNZ activities from each of the learning centres and DOC's update to the Team which raised such issues as how to deal with the cats going into the Kepler, a challenge highlighted by the kids' camera monitoring work at the Control Gates, and what possum control measures should be undertaken.

- 1. Murray Willans 2. Frana Cardno 3. Kim Hollows  
4. Roger McNaughton 5. Ron Peacock 6. Mark Peychers  
7. Viv Shaw 8. Mark Sutton 9. Nick Torr

- 10. Rachel Cockburn (Trust Manager)



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## Meet the people behind the Fiordland Conservation Trust



John Robson

### Meet the Trust's sponsors

#### Southern Discoveries – Sinbad Sanctuary Project John Robson – General Manager

As Southern Discoveries moves into its fourth year of sponsoring the Sinbad Sanctuary Project, the Trust wants to acknowledge the driving force behind the project. John Robson, as General Manager of Southern Discoveries, has been instrumental in ensuring the company's continued commitment to this massively important project.

It is 18 years since John moved from Waiheke Island to Milford Sound with his wife Stephanie and their two sons, then the tender ages of 4 and 1 and a 1/2 years. The garden they left on Waiheke had kereru and tui flying in to visit, but they were astonished to discover that the World Heritage area of Milford Sound had very few native birds. John notes thankfully that things are changing, with the stoat trapping programme in the Milford corridor paying dividends.

With 10 days on and 4 days off, John and his

family set about exploring the place with which they were rapidly falling in love. As John recalls, "our first overnight tramp into the park was when Marcel was only 3 and we stayed at Hidden Falls Hut on the Hollyford Track.

Marcel walked the whole way with a little Thomas the Tank pack on his back and we saw Kaka on the track which was just magical for us." Deer Flat off the Milford Road became a favourite camping area also. It is such personal experiences that entrap those who come to Fiordland turning them into its most powerful advocates.

Although John was transferred back to Auckland, it was his return to the south after 3 years up north that felt like a homecoming. "When we landed at Queenstown amongst all those mountains, it really felt like home."

Having worked closely with DOC over the years John has gained a far better understanding about biodiversity. Little wonder then that John is so committed to the award-winning Sinbad Sanctuary project. The project aims to enable threatened bird, lizard and invertebrate species to increase in number, with particular focus on the rejuvenation of the Sinbad Skink population – a skink known only to that area in Fiordland. <http://www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz/general/sinbad-sanctuary-project>

With his General Manager's hat on, John says that Southern Discoveries as a company, "is very happy to support the Sinbad project. Our Milford staff really enjoy the opportunity to assist and get up into an amazing valley that is so close to where they work and yet so far from where they live." The Trust likewise really enjoys working with John and his team.



To find out how to donate [click here](#) or visit the Trust's website

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**“Our Milford staff really enjoy the opportunity... an amazing valley”**

# behind the scenes

### The Fiordland Conservation Trust

→ is a registered charitable trust with 'donee' status, (Reg.#CC 24563), supported by:

→ Department of Conservation – technical advice, assistance in planning and undertaking projects

→ Southland District Council – accounting/banking

→ AWS Legal Services – free legal advice

→ KPMG – free specialist tax advice

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→ Design – Tim Mann Design

→ Newsletter Editor - Daphne Taylor [newsletter@fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz)