

# Kids Restore the Kepler

## FCT Looking Back 2010/11



**This report outlines the key activities undertaken by the Fiordland Conservation Trust & Trust Manager during the course of 2010/11 in regards to Kids Restore the Kepler.**

- DOC Liaison – identify project parameters and work with DOC to produce a project outline of the proposed Kepler project. DOC produced an operational plan detailing three stages of the “Backyard Birdsong” covering the entire Kepler Peninsular. FCT seeks funding for stage one.
- Initial meeting with Kids Restore NZ in Te Anau to look at the Kepler Project, and meet Fiordland College & Te Anau Primary. KRNZ committee members fly over the Kepler to get an understanding of the project.
- Prepare documentation outlining potential project following an indication from KRNZ that they are interested in naming rights sponsorship
- Attend an initial meeting in Auckland with DOC staff member and members of KRNZ. Vision for project outlined by KRNZ.
- Further visit by KRNZ members to Te Anau to assess in more detail the project parameters and scope of the project. Chance to meet with FCT Trust members to discuss further. Walk in to Motarau Hut and fly over of Kepler for new KRNZ members to familiarise with project, and potential school camp arrangements.
- Second meeting in Auckland also attended by Murray Willans, Trustee to discuss key issues: project budget; genuine involvement of schools; school camps (delayed). Reminded that this project is a flagship for KRNZ and part of their ongoing vision.
- Set up of Kepler working group which includes: FCT Manager & Trustees; Fiordland College Principal, teacher & students; Te Anau Primary Principal & teacher; and DOC representatives. Chairman Murray Willans FCT, Secretary Marg Denny. This provides a mechanism to focus on key issues to get the project up and running.
- Undertook initial planning on school camp location and potential activities. Good support from local businesses for accommodation and activity ideas. KRNZ suggested the initial trip could include staff and their children to iron out any issues, and set up successful camps.
- As part of the planning process, took part in consultation with iwi during the Kaitiaki Rōpu meetings with DOC regarding the proposed Backyard Birdsong project, and

stage one, Kids Restore the Kepler. Local iwi gave consent over naming rights for this first stage.

- Fiordland College held an initial introduction day with their junior school (senior exam time) which included community businesses such as Southern Discoveries and DOC to discuss the Kepler Project and Principal Linda Millers vision to see the school immersed in to it. Discussion centred ideas and opportunities, and how this project would be of benefit to the students' education.
- During the week long full immersion of the junior school in to the Kepler Project, many community business people, leaders and volunteers assisted in helping the students achieve their various presentations. FCT were involved during the whole week in various roles.
- Prior to the launch Jenny Harper and Ruud Kleinpaste visited to assist the students with their key tasks, and to provide vision and motivation.
- Coordination assistance for the launch, including invitations etc. FCT covered the \$3,300 cost to undertake the launch. This was extra cost that had not been accounted for and covered technical support, extra teaching resource and a variety of small costs.
- Feedback from the launch was absolutely incredible. Both DOC and Fiordland College were exceptionally pleased with the support. Kids Restore NZ support was greatly appreciated by the College, FCT, DOC and the wider community during the event.



- Work undertaken on the sponsorship agreement between KRNZ & FCT. This was signed by KRNZ in February 2011 and the FCT in May 2011.

- FCT & DOC signed a MOU regarding the contract to undertake the Project Management of the contract, and the contract itself.
- FCT applied for a major grant from the Community Trust of Southland for \$74,000 to be spread over two years which was approved and granted in October 2011. This enabled the set-up of stage one to commence.
- Kids Restore the Kepler project highlighted on FCT website and FCT facebook page including the securing of funding, the launch and the trip to Auckland. To feature in the November 2011 issue of the FCT's newsletter. Each newsletter will then include an update from one of the schools or pre-schools highlighting progress made with the Kepler project.
- End of the school year, Fiordland College students are involved in a Whitebait TV production of the Erin Simpson show. Several students who had shown leadership during the launch week were involved in this TV showscreened in May. See the link on the Fiordland Conservation Trust facebook page.
- March 2011 – 12 Fiordland College students, one Fiordland College Teacher, one Te Anau Primary Teacher, a parent and the FCT Trust Manager attended the first trip to Auckland as part of the KRNZ sponsorship agreement. Coordinated by Jenny Harper, this trip was an incredible success. Part of sponsorship deals should also highlight the sponsor, and what role they play in the business world. It was extremely interesting for all involved to see the operations side of Air NZ along with their



commitment to future sustainability and their involvement in environmental projects. Everyone on the trip learnt a tremendous amount from this visit.

- FCT Hosted Royal NZ Ballet in Te Anau with a profit of \$10,000 to go towards supporting the Kids Restore the Kepler project, to assist the schools involvement in the project.
- FCT and Fiordland College are seeing an increase in other schools and education facilities taking an interest in this project, prior to a website and social media capability being released. This provides numerous options going forward for relationships both nationally and internationally including a school in Melbourne, and a school in Thailand to date.

- Hosted a trip to Dusky Sound in May on the DOC Southern Winds boat. This trip highlights the projects being undertaken by the FCT. One of the key outcomes from the trip was a verbal commitment from the owner of the Distinction Hotel chain to support the Kids Restore the Kepler to a significant degree. This is to be confirmed, but to date they have supported the search for bat roosting sites in the Kepler, which will enable us to identify the best place to put the rat trapping. Distinction may become a key partner in the ongoing Kids Restore the Kepler, subject to KRNZ approval.
- Sought funding to support the search for long and short tailed bat roosting sites in the Kepler. These bats have been discovered in the area, (only one of two sites in NZ where both bat species have been found) and if their roosting sites can be identified, DOC can move the rat trapping area in the Kids Restore the Kepler project to where the bats are roosting in an effort to protect them long term. These bats are critically endangered and protection of these sites is paramount. Funding from Distinction Hotels has been granted for \$4950 + GST.
- A wide range of media involving Kids Restore the Kepler has been achieved. Many of the articles are included in the hard copy of this report. Media was achieved in the Fiordland Advocate, Southland Times and Erin Simpson Show on TV.
- To date the activity undertaken on the project contract itself is occurring under budget. Good progress is being made as discussed in the DOC Annual Report. An extension of time is required from funders due to the decision made to identify bat roosting sites prior to setting up the rat trap area.
- Continue to coordinate involvement of DOC, Fiordland College and Te Anau Primary in the Kids Restore the Kepler project. Mararoa Primary, Fiordland Kindergarten and Te Anau Childcare Centre have all shown an interest in becoming involved in the project and have begun attending 'education' meetings to discuss a coordinated approach. This is the first time all education facilities in Fiordland have met like this, and it is proving extremely exciting. Management of the DOC contract continues by the Trust.

## Kids Restore the Kepler FCT Looking Forward 2011/12

The initial 18 months to set up this project has been an incredible growth phase for all involved. The Department of Conservation are now well underway with the contract to undertake the work funded by Kids Restore NZ & Community Trust of Southland. This work looks set to be achieved on target, perhaps with some savings, but slightly behind time due to sensible consideration of bat roosting sites prior to laying out the rat trapping area. Overall DOC has undertaken this role incredibly well, and thanks must go to Peter McMurtrie the Project Manager within DOC for his leadership and hard work.



The Fiordland College and Te Anau Primary Schools Annual Reports show that for the set-up year, both schools have undertaken, and been involved in the Kids Restore the Kepler project via many different mechanisms. The ability to utilise this project as a context for a wide range of learning options has worked extremely well, and seems particularly so at the College, with many teachers constantly coming up with ideas and suggestions of how to incorporate the project in to the students learning.

During the year the group of educators, FCT Manager & DOC Educator met to really get down to detail with how to ensure the “kids” are in “Kids Restore the Kepler”. Not satisfied with just using the project as a ‘context’ for learning, all five organisations now involved are trying to identify extra meaningful learning opportunities that will take the students of Fiordland from Kindergarten level through to College – no mean feat! This sort of cooperation has not been done before, and with the great minds involved, the group have begun coming up with some amazing ideas going forward.

One aspect that has been difficult is how to match the ideas with actions. In Fiordland Colleges case in particular, school budgets have required the Environment Teacher Vaughn Filmer to undertake a teaching role at the College, leaving very little time for hands on planning with this project. Over the 18 months, it has become apparent that in order to see the outstanding results we expect we need to support the implementation of the project in to the schools in some fashion.

There is a firm belief that with extra resource, this project and the potential scope it offers will be far more achievable.

FCT wish to discuss options and ideas further with KRNZ and The Community Trust of Southland, along with other smaller funders or potential sponsors once further consideration has been given by all parties involved. The initial set up of the project did not include any resource for the schools, and this has proven problematic over time due to the extra time demand the project has placed on the very limited resources within the school. We do not see this problem as just an extension of our current project. The College have a goal in mind to become a leading Environmental Education Facility, and the combination of this and the Kepler project provides an incredible opportunity to really make a difference to our students learning opportunities going forward.

### Proposed Activity 2011/12

FCT in conjunction with the education facilities would like to address some of the following via Kids Restore the Kepler in the upcoming year:

- Incorporate formally in to the project Mararoa Primary, Fiordland Kindergarten & Te Anau Child Care Centre.
- Establish MOU's with all organisations involved in the Kids Restore the Kepler which clearly outline the respective roles of each organisation.
- Continue to achieve key outcomes of the Kids Restore the Kepler project set up via the contract with DOC, and ensure efficient management of the contract
- Work on marketing material with KRNZ and the College including logo, website, social media
- FCT & DOC will finish the Interpretation Panel at the entrance to the Kepler track
- Establishment of a 'KiwiCam' with all schools, Fiordland College students to lead this project. Aim is to beam live feeds of a Kiwi nest in to all schools, accommodation and appropriate services in Te Anau to promote Kids Restore the Kepler. Also on websites etc.
- Identify actions appropriate for each age level to be undertaken as part of the project through curricular activity. Fiordland College are interested in adopting an area of trapping for example.
- Continue to market the project through FCT website, facebook page, FCT newsletter, media and any other appropriate mechanisms. Kids Restore the Kepler to feature in the November edition of FCT newsletter.
- Work towards the school camp idea with KRNZ and Fiordland College. (Ideas to be discussed with KRNZ).
- Coordinate Auckland trip for 2012
- Establish parameters for the Entranceway Project. This is the lead in walkway from Te Anau Township to the Kepler Track which may be achieved with assistance from the schools and outside funding. Information on the Kids Restore the Kepler and research on what is required may be undertaken by the students.
- Interpretation material for the Kepler Track will need to be established, through the students, once the trapping is underway and results are obvious.
- Assist with ideas for business development concepts.
- Ongoing reporting to funding agencies and key stakeholders.
- Assist with ongoing requests from schools and organisations to become involved in this project.
- Establish 'focal point' wall at Fiordland Cinema for project information purposes.
- Manage ongoing funding requirement of Kids Restore the Kepler through involvement of new individuals, groups, businesses and organisations.