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forever...

● ● www.fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz

jigsaw

issue **04** volume **02**

august 2012

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



welcome to the fourth Fiordland Conservation Trust newsletter

Fiordland Coastal Clean-up

Financial support is needed for 22-26 October clean-up of the Fiordland coastline from Resolution Island to Te Wai Wai Bay. This is an incredible project with complex logistics and many volunteers, undertaken by a multi-agency and industry group. The organisers aren't seeking further volunteer assistance but we do need financial support of \$50,000. If you are able to help by way of donations to FCT, please go to our website, code Coastal Clean-up. If you or your organisation can help we would be very grateful. If you are contributing and are fit and able, there may be an option to be involved. It's not an easy job though. Contact mark@flc.co.nz

Current key partnerships

- 1. Southern Discoveries Sinbad Sanctuary
- 2. Peregrine Wines Mohua and Tieke
- 3. Chalky Digits Kakaruai/S I robin
- 4. Ultimate Hikes Pateke/Brown Teal
- 5. Fiordland Ecology Holidays Indian Island
- 6. Kids Restore NZ Kids Restore the Kepler
- 7. Distinction Hotels Kepler Bat Roost project

What does guardianship mean?

The Fiordland coastal clean-up is an example of the work that is constantly needed to look after this wilderness of ours. And looking after our wilderness is a complex and costly job, relying on people who take their guardianship role seriously.

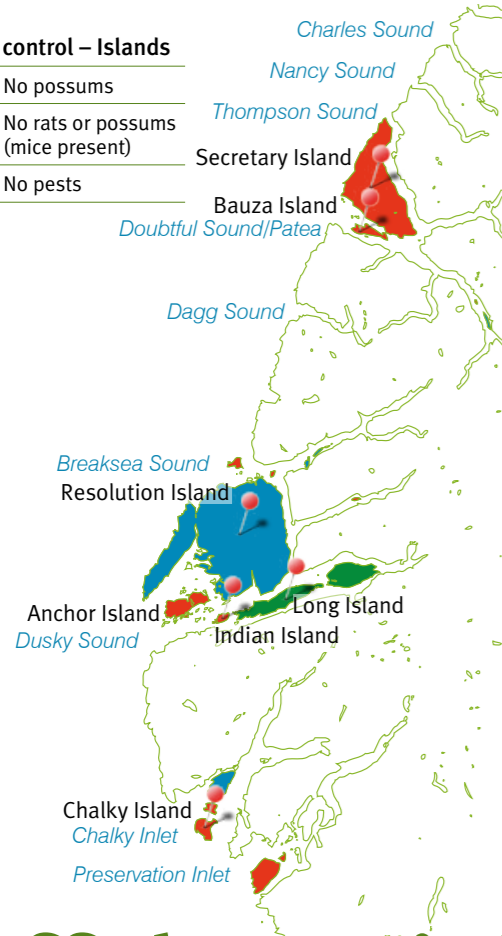
Often it is done with little fanfare. Fiordlanders are great at identifying a job that needs to be done and then getting on with it. E.g. Pete Young, skipper of the DOC boat Southern Winds, has checked traps on Indian Island and a buffer zone on Long Island whenever he could. It was an important part of Indian Island reaching the status of 'pest-free'. (p2)

The volunteers who have for several years been trap checking on the Kepler Track, namely Ray Willett, John Donaldson, Alistair Jukes among others, have taken on even more work to assist the KRK project. Also trap lines into the area have three different groups involved now all of whom are raising funds and doing the ground work in the mountains: Fiordland Helicopters/Fiordland Lodge, Keri and Ross from Fiordland House and the BGs.

This is guardianship in action - well thought through projects, complex and costly, all part of a big, long-term picture, that need hard work and money. Someone has to do it. So we get on with it.

Pest control – Islands

- No possums
- No rats or possums (mice present)
- No pests



Background information

Dusky Sound/Tamatea is one of 14 fiords of te rua o te moko, the tattooed land, carved by the mythical god Tuterakiwhanoa with his magical adze. To the north lies Resolution Island, with its distinctive Five Fingers Peninsula that juts out into the wild Tasman Sea, the largest of six islands in this fiord undergoing restoration work. Pigeon Island, in the 1890's the home of our first conservation ranger, nestles into Resolution's western flank. Between that and the mainland to the south are the islands that pepper the fiord from its entrance 40km to its head, namely Anchor, Indian/Mamaku, Long and Cooper, leading to Supper Cove, the end of the Dusky Track which runs along the Seaforth and Spey River valleys to Lake Manapouri.

The remoteness and inaccessibility of Dusky Sound necessitates travelling there by boat. The small family groups of Maori seen by Captain Cook in 1773 most likely paddled up the coast in canoes. The 1800's saw sealers and later prospectors along with sightseers sailing into the fiord. Richard Henry began his conservation work in the 1890's using a small sail boat to transfer birds. Even today, the transport and accommodation is fishing boats, tourist vessels, research boats and sea kayaks, sometimes in conjunction with helicopters.

Rats and mice also travelled there by boat. Therein lies the challenge, along with the stoats and deer that are the most successful overland travellers to the Dusky complex. So the Department of Conservation, in setting its priorities, saw an excellent opportunity to trial and refine pest control techniques using the offshore islands of Fiordland. Resolution Island (20,860 ha) and Secretary Island (8,140 ha in Doubtful Sound's entrance), given their sizes, are becoming key biodiversity refuges for local and mainland species. The Trust has been involved in a number of translocations to these islands but it is Dusky's Indian Island/Mamaku that is being celebrated in this Jigsaw issue.

offshore islands

Dusky Sound/Tamatea

Indian/Mamaku Island predator free at last! Thanks to Fiordland Ecology Holidays and a major offshore benefactor, Ultimate Hikes, Ian and Jenny Willans, Lucy Bellerby and others – a real team effort

The Indian Island project is very special to the Fiordland Conservation Trust. It is the first island pest eradication we have undertaken. We aim to return it to a state similar to how Captain Cook in 1773 and the Maori before him first encountered it.

It is a relatively unmodified island of 170ha, with a healthy cover of native forest, but it's missing many species from its natural ecosystem. DOC began dealing to stoats in 1999 and deer in 2003. An increase in bird numbers was seen on and around the island. The next logical step was to eradicate the rats and mice. The Trust along with Fiordland Ecology Holidays and their network (which includes a major offshore benefactor) plus Ultimate Hikes, the Willans, Lucy Bellerby and others, set up a contract with DOC to get rid of the dirty rats. In 2010, two aerial drops of rat poison were done on Indian and its stepping stone islands. Bait stations and traps were then placed to prevent re-invasion.

Finally SUCCESS - it's official. The island is predator free. Since the eradication, not a single mouse, rat or stoat has been captured in the traps. Rachel Cockburn, Trust Manager said, "it is fantastic to finally be able to declare Indian Island 'Pest Free', after years of work and the financial and practical involvement of a neat group of people who should all be justifiably proud of what has been accomplished". A huge thank you is owed especially to Ruth and Lance for adopting this project initially and having the faith that we would reach the target! Ms Dalley said that prior to selling their business they set up a fund from client donations and a percentage of their annual income as their way of 'thanking' Fiordland for their 16 years of tourism, media and scientific research trips. They were delighted to hear the news.



Lucy Bellerby, dealing to the dirty rats

predator free at last!

Trust Chairman Murray Willans said it is a real privilege to be involved in this project in a very special part of New Zealand. He acknowledges that like any island pest eradication, it will require ongoing surveillance. "It will also provide an opportunity to re-establish some of New Zealand's special threatened species" he said, "as well as protecting the species that are already there". A bonus is it becomes another buffer for protecting Anchor Island (home to Kakapo), thus becoming a vital piece of the jigsaw.

Stage 1 updates Education Coordinator, Caroline Carter

There are over 450 kids attending schools in Fiordland. That's a lot of capacity, strength and young imagination to restore birdsong in the Kepler mountains. From pre-school to Year 13, the Kids Restore the Kepler education programme has a focus on learning that creates positive change instead of trying to solve negative problems. Caroline is currently working with the education facilities to identify the learning opportunities and integrate them into the curriculum.

In this edition of Jigsaw we focus on the first theme: connection

Many adults and children lack a meaningful, regular connection with the natural environment that sustains us. Getting in touch with nature has many great benefits. Those who know and love nature will also want to protect it. The Kids Restore the Kepler education programme aims to lead with these values and follow with the facts!

KRK's goals presentation

Peter McMurtrie (DOC) & Caroline Carter (FCT)

→ 8 August – 7.30pm or

→ 14 August – 3.30pm

@ Fiordland College library

www.kidsrestorethekepler.co.nz → meet the local birdlife, listen to their calls • unwanted residents caught on cameras • latest catch results • want to volunteer some time/skills?

the Kepler peninsula



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

ongoing projects

Nature Discovery – Fiordland Kindergarten, an award winning scheme

"Visit the local park midweek in Te Anau and the bush will not only ring with the sounds of birds but the excited chatter and laughter of a group of kids exploring nature," says Claire Maley-Shaw, Head teacher at Fiordland Kindergarten. One morning each week come sun, wind, rain or snow, the 12 eldest kindy kids meet in Ivon Wilson Park, together with their teachers and parent helpers, to just 'be' in nature. By the children regularly being in nature, not just walking through it, they become 'nature-literate'. From being in just one session, the success of the programme is evident.

Donning parkas, over-trousers and backpacks, the children connect, immersing themselves in mud and fallen leaves. Parents participate in a setting where a lack of knowledge or confidence is a benefit; the park is a familiar place where no one knows all the answers and the joy of discovery is infectious. Children see the seasons unfold and teachers add an extra resonance to a fungi popping up here, or a skink being under a rock there. A feeding frenzy of fantails circling a "singing log" spot where bark has been peeled back is just one of many magic moments!

The affirming message children receive from the programme is that nature nurtures us – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, says Claire. "If we want the best possible future for our children and our environment we need to give them the opportunity and time to connect with nature... they need to love the earth before we can ask them to want to care and protect it."



Mararoa School's experience of a Nature Discovery session has led to the school introducing a similar programme in its own school grounds. They want to ensure the enthusiasm and awareness for nature is progressed as students move through the school.

Over the next few months, head teachers and staff from all schools involved in the Kids Restore the Kepler project will be participating in a Nature Discovery session to experience the pleasure of truly connecting with nature. The challenge then, is to see this Nature Discovery connection developed further as the children continue to grow.

Visitors to the programme are always welcome. Just contact Fiordland Kindergarten who are to be congratulated! The Nature Discovery programme led to them being awarded the 2012 Environment Southland school award, at a ceremony on 25 July.

→ 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

Meet the support team – part 1

10 **Rachel Cockburn** - Trust Manager

In her fourth year as the part time Trust Manager, Rachel says, 'I absolutely love the role – meeting a variety of the most forward thinking individuals and business people who see the benefit of working hand in hand with conservation. The people I meet are nothing short of inspirational and thought provoking. I believe the way the Trust is run is fresh and agile, achieving amazing results with minimal costs.'

Rachel came to the Trust from the Southland District Council, where she worked in Project Management and in the development of Policy and Community. Added to that professional expertise is her own passion for conservation. Living in Te Anau, in a farming partnership, Rachel and her husband are enhancing their property for the long term, through protection of its environmentally sensitive areas.

Just as Rachel has great admiration for the Trustees and their range of experience, for the wealth of knowledge they provide when assessing projects, the Trust knows that in Rachel they have exactly the person they need. 'The outstanding work of our manager has been an integral part in the success of the Trust to date.'

Jo Wilson - Trust Secretary

Taking over from Marg Denny, Jo, a born and bred Southlander, is now an invaluable member of the support team, reflecting her genuine interest in conservation and helping with projects that will make a difference. Jo wants to 'give time to a worthy cause and to feel that I am being of some help in improving our environment'.

In 1994 Jo and Reg moved from farming to owning Manapouri Motors. Having explored Fiordland and Otago's lakes by boat, two years later they began operating kayaking tours into Doubtful Sound full-time, showing the natural beauty of the area in a minimal impact way. In recent years they have provided free transport and time to help restore Pomona Island.

Caroline Carter - KRK Education Coordinator

Caroline's role as Education Coordinator for the FCT Kids Restore the Kepler project is restoring her passion for education. A teacher at Fiordland College until 2004, Caroline has since worked in Community Relations for the Department of Conservation focusing on the conservation work done by DOC staff, community groups, Trusts and partners, ensuring they have the tools to do their job, and sharing their stories through media, websites, events and education initiatives.

Referring to herself as 'an import, a Londoner who came to New Zealand for just a year, 12 years ago', Caroline has lived in Te Anau ever since. With her family, she lived 3 of those years in an award winning eco-house, off the grid.

Her goal is 'to help Fiordland's young people contribute to a sustainable world, and to inspire a whole community that interacts and learns together'. See also page 4 April 2012 newsletter.



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

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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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