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forever...



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

# jigsaw

issue

05

volume 02

december 2012



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

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## From the Chair, Murray Willans

At the October AGM, Chair Murray Willans commented, "as a Trust we are very aware of the effect of the economic slow down and the impact this is having on our supporters and funders. In addition, the Department of Conservation is going through one of the largest restructures and changes in direction it has faced in recent history. The Trust is watching these changes closely, hopeful that they won't affect our working relationship with DOC in a negative way."

## Current key partnerships

- 1. Southern Discoveries Sinbad Sanctuary
- 2. Kids Restore NZ Kids Restore the Kepler
- 3. Fiordland Ecology Holidays Indian Island
- 4. Peregrine Wines Mohua and Tieke
- 5. Trips&Tramps Milford Trapping Network
- 6. Chalky Digits Kakaruai/S I robin
- 7. Ultimate Hikes Pateke/Brown Teal

## Supporting Fiordland's conservation

Key to any of the conservation projects that we take on, is the money available to do it. As our current key partnerships show there is a determination on the part of businesses and individuals to contribute to the restoration and sustainability of the environment in which we live, work and play. It makes sense.

To help slot more pieces of the jigsaw into place, the Trust is developing a Friends of the Trust supporters' club. It means you can support real conservation projects at a level that suits you and we can acknowledge that support (unless you wish it to be anonymous).

An avenue for such acknowledgement is our website. It allows us to link to supporters' sites/ facebook as part of a membership deal. Depending on the level of support, there may also be opportunities to go out into the field.

Please [contact us](#) to find out more about becoming a friend of the Trust. And check out our [upgraded website](#). A huge thanks goes to the Meridian Manapouri Te Anau Community Fund which paid for the website work.

# Trips & Tramps

## Milford trapping network – proudly adopted by Trips&Tramps

### Trips&Tramps - new Trust partners

The Trust is really pleased to announce that Trips and Tramps, a long-established guiding company based in Te Anau and specialising in small group guided tours to Milford and around Fiordland, is to adopt management of the Cleddau Fan and Milford Village trap networks.

Trips and Tramps owners, Steve and Kate Norris, have been involved in pest trapping in the Cleddau Valley for the past 10 years. Wanting to continue that commitment, it is a logical step for them to adopt and expand the Cleddau Delta Restoration project involving the Trust, DOC, and recently sold Eco Tours and Cruize Milford.



In announcing the new relationship with the Trust, Steve Norris explained, “our partnership with the Trust and DOC will ensure a co-ordinated approach to pest trapping in the Cleddau Valley and Milford Village. The area will be able to support a vibrant native bird population for all visitors to enjoy.

It also demonstrates how everyone can be involved in conservation, no matter what size business. We are a small, family run business with limited financial funds, but a whole lot of time and passion for the area in which we operate. This is just as valuable for achieving conservation results.” Their guides have also opted in by volunteering their free time.



### The project aims to:

- undertake the management of up to 140 traps on a volunteer basis
- raise awareness of the trapping network with clients
- source donations where appropriate for suitable conservation projects in Milford

See [/general/milford-trapping-network-project](#) for more information about the Milford project

# mainland ‘islands’ milford sound/piopiotahi

## Sinbad Sanctuary project - 2011/2012 summary

Now in its third year, Southern Discoveries commitment to the Sinbad Sanctuary project remains as strong as ever with up to \$35,000 pa and many staff volunteer hours committed to the project, for at least 5 years.

The objective of the project is to form a natural ‘mainland island’ that will allow the bird, lizard and invertebrate species present to thrive.



The abseiling team search for the mountain climbing lizard - see Issue 3, pg. 3

There should be potential for reintroducing other species in the medium to long-term. Two kiwi translocated last year have moved in together!

**Pest eradication and seed fall monitoring results** 7 trapline checks were done during the year – 19 stoats, 49 rats and 2 mice taken out of the equation. Autumn’s count of 18 seeds per square metre was very low compared to an average of nearly 3,500 the previous year.

**Lizard monitoring** This was an important and exciting part of the year’s work in the alpine cirque at the head of Sinbad Gully. The priorities for the vulnerable Sinbad skink, the mountain climber/pikitanga, are:

- establishing their range
- monitoring for changes in local abundance
- surveying any new sites, following up on sightings.

This is one of the most unique alpine lizard communities in the world.

**Check out the details on our website at:**  
[/general/sinbad-sanctuary-project](#) and  
**download the pdf 2011-12 Annual Report**



## Operational Objectives for 2012/13

### Predator control and monitoring

- Stoat control** – 8 stoat trap checks during year
- Possum and rat control** – investigate best method and cost for control in the Sinbad Gully
- Rodent monitoring in the forest** – tracking tunnel monitoring twice yearly in May and February (and twice more in years of uncertainty around expected rat tracking)
- Associated beech seed monitoring** – beech seed fall monitoring in autumn.

### Monitoring of Outcome Species

- Whio monitoring** – 2 whio river surveys (December, Jan./Feb. plus observations while doing other work)
- Lizard monitoring** – as per 2011/2012.

## Stage 1 updates Education Coordinator, Caroline Carter

Today’s students are tomorrow’s environmental kaitiaki or guardians. What makes the KRTK project so exceptional is that the kids can contribute now rather than just have the potential to do so in the future, thus becoming a powerful force for change.

Focussing on the second theme, knowledge and skills, means that what children learn in school will influence how they tackle the environmental problem-solving they are going to face as adults.

But studying global environmental issues can be alienating; students also need the opportunity and time to connect with their home environment. The KRTK project is utilised as a real context for learning across a range of subjects. Conservation after all isn’t just about controlling the pests!

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



Lilli Hiatt - winner of ‘Cuddle a kiwi’ competition with DOC ranger, Hannah Edmonds.

# the Kepler peninsula



→ knowledge and skills – that help us to understand the environment

- connection – to nature and the Kepler environment
- restoration – actions that will restore the environment

→ reflection – review, share, celebrate and explore alternatives

# ongoing projects

## The KRTK Education Guide

Caroline is working with Fiordland Kindergarten, Southern Stars Early Learning Centre, Te Anau School, Mararoa School and Fiordland College, to produce an ‘Education Guide’. The guide promotes ‘experiential learning’ (learning by doing) but recognizes that not all students will participate in all aspects of the project, or in the same way.

“Some kids are showing a passion for trapping, others prefer to work on the website. Some are keen to develop bird monitoring skills, others are busy just being in nature.” All contributions are valued; all require that the kids have firstly connected to the KRTK project and the Kepler environment, and secondly, gained relevant knowledge and skills.

If you’re in the Kepler, check out the increased number of traps along the track, the new red triangles every 50 metres or the possum and rat bait stations that are regularly being refilled near Dock Bay. Observations like these lead to questions, and this in turn leads to a deeper understanding.

## The KRTK kids in action

Following the success of the ‘Play date with nature’ initiative, kids were asked for a ‘play date with nature’ idea to be in with a chance to win a ‘cuddle with a kiwi’. Over 50 entries were received. The prize - a kiwi monitoring trip to Centre Island on Lake Te Anau.

Southern Stars ELC visited the wildlife park for a guided tour on 30 October, a follow up to their daily ‘Meet the Locals’ activity, and an opportunity to experience some of the ‘locals’ up close.

Mararoa School had a ‘Club day’ on 16th November - 6 kids became KRTK Junior Rangers assisting DOC at the Wildlife Park, and spending time



Kids restoring the Kepler Paris Harcourt with the Kindy Kids

on the Kepler increasing their knowledge and understanding of the local bird life found in the Kepler mountains.

Keegan Maynard, a Year 6 student at Te Anau School, is to be the conservation guide for an Otago primary school visiting the Wildlife Park in December.

The first official check of the Fiordland College adopted trapline (#7) took place during the October school holiday, by three students accompanied by DOC Area Manager Reg Kemper (in a volunteer capacity).

‘Bug girl’ Paris Harcourt (Year 7 at Fiordland College) is now regularly assisting at Nature Discovery - a fantastic outcome for Paris and the Kindergarten, and a great example of KRTK encouraging vertical age involvement.

Nick Humphries delivered his Kermadec Expedition talk to a full audience at DOC on 29th October. His involvement in KRTK was likely a significant factor in selection for the trip.



- 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 2

**Daphne Taylor** - Communications

Prior to moving to Fiordland, Daphne was Assistant Principal at Aranui High School in Christchurch, having previously taught English and been involved in Outdoor Education.

In 1992 Daphne and Bill set up Fiordland Wilderness Experiences, a sea kayaking company operating on the lakes and in the fiords, with trips of up to 6 days kayaking and camping in Fiordland's wilderness. Such experiences strengthened her passion and commitment for conservation, especially in Te Wahipounamu, the south west New Zealand World Heritage area.

"It is such an incredibly cool place - you just have to help look after it. That's what the Trust is about. It's fantastic to be part of such a professional, forward thinking team."

As well as assisting Rachel, Trust Manager with the finances, Daphne is editor of this newsletter, Jigsaw, published 3 times a year, sent free of charge to subscribers by email and posted on the Trust website. She welcomes any subscription requests, enquiries, suggestions and / or feedback.

Contact Daphne at:  
[newsletter@fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@fiordlandconservationtrust.org.nz)

**The project people at DOC**

The Fiordland Conservation Trust relies on the Department of Conservation for technical advice, assistance in planning and carrying out much of the project work, including working with those sponsors who, because of their level of funding, are able to be actively involved as well.

**Murray Willans:** (current chair of FCT) was a key person while Biodiversity Manager at DOC in helping FCT set in place a structure that works.

**Lindsay Wilson:** Murray's replacement as Biodiversity Programme Manager, has come to the area with particular experience in working with island pest eradication programmes.

**Megan Willans:** the Trust's key contact with DOC in her role with biodiversity community projects. Megan also assisted with the initial set up of FCT.

**Pete Young:** skipper of DOC's boat, Southern Winds, and does a lot of the trap checking for us in Dusky Sound, especially on Indian and Long Islands, essential work to ensure success.

Also to be thanked are just some of the DOC biodiversity staff who help us with specific projects - doing research, planning, monitoring, analysis, annual reports and the demanding field work in all sorts of locations and conditions.

**Pete McMurtrie:** has done a lot of the work in setting up and operating the Kepler project.

**Gerard Hill:** is working hard on the Sinbad Sanctuary and the Milford/Cleddau projects.

**Andrew (Max) Smart:** is keeping the pateke recovery project on track.

**Hannah Edmonds:** is one of the really hard workers, helping the trust with a number of ongoing projects and one-off translocations.



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