

Newsletter of the South West New Zealand Endangered Species Trust



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www.tepukahereka.org.nz

Our Mission

“To fund and establish a world class sanctuary on Te Puka-Hereka for rare and endangered native species of flora and fauna that will be jointly developed by private philanthropists and government participants.”

In this edition....

- **Deer cullers return to Coal Island**
- **Mainland trapline**
Solving the riddle
- **Well worth a read**

Right: A special visitor to Coal Island on 29th July.

A Southern Right Whale breaches off Fishing Bay.

Photo: Don Goodhue



Deer Cullers Back on Coal Island

On Saturday 28th July, Hunt South deer cullers Dave Wilson and Bill Curnow returned to Coal Island for 8 days, accompanied by dogs “Moose” and “Blaze”. This was their third trip to the island since February 2006. During their stay on the island, the team spent a total of 116 hours hunting and shot 17 deer. They last hunted on the island in August 2006.

Dave and Bill reported that the deer were in general, in better condition than on their previous trips. This reflects the improved food available to the deer still on the island as a result in the reduction in deer numbers since the culling program started. All of the five hinds shot were found to be in calf. Signs of rut activity were found across the island.

While on the island, Dave and Bill took time to try and establish routes on to the coastal bluffs - areas found to be favoured by deer but difficult to access on foot.

To date, the Hunt South team have shot 63 deer on the island in a total of 343 hours hunting time. Subject to funding being available, it is hoped to have them back on the island during October and February and June 2008

Volunteer Program Update

Since the issue of the last newsletter in July, there has been a good deal of interest in the Coal Island Volunteer Program with volunteers from as far away as Wellington already signed-up. The trips for December 07 and February 08 are both full.

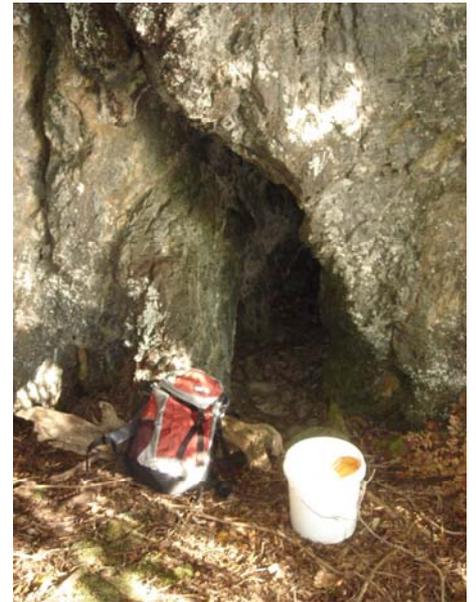


Above: Red deer shot on Coal Island by Hunt South cullers. Photo: Hunt South

Mainland Trapline Progress - Solving the Riddle

The story "Changes to Mainland Trapline" In Newsletter number 9, April 2007, explained the need to change to alignment of the mainland stoat trapline from Te Oneroa to the Oil Store to enable the traps to be accessed on foot rather than by boat. At that time, it was anticipated that realigning the trapline would require the cutting of about 500 metres of new track between Te Oneroa and Observation Point and the relocation of around 20 trapstations onto an exiting route from Observation Point along the ridge to the Oil Store. In June, volunteers Dion and Janelle Matheson completed the first part of the work, marking and cutting the track from the western end of Te Oneroa beach, through a low saddle and out to the beach east of Observation Point.

The anticipated need to move trap stations west of Observation Point was due to a large bluff at the end of the beach west of Observation Point. This bluff rises straight out of the sea and is sheer sided in most places all the way to the ridge above. However, thanks to some local knowledge from the crew of the fishing vessel "Victor Hugo" a way has been found that solves the riddle of the bluff - straight through it. About 3 metres above the high tide mark, a tunnel goes right long and only around 1 metre high by ½ metre wide at the smallest point, the tunnel exits on to a stoney beach on the west side of the bluff. From there, provided that the tide is at least 2 hours out, it is possible to scramble around a further small bluff and onto easy going beyond.



Above: Entrance to tunnel west of Observation Point
Below: Winter's day on beach west of Observation Point

Photos: Don Goodhue

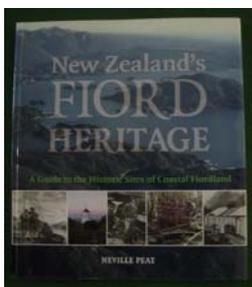
Well Worth a Read

New Zealand's Fiord Heritage - A Guide to the Historic Sites of Coastal Fiordland

Written by Neville Peat and published by the Department of Conservation earlier this year, this book provides information on the historic sites in coastal Fiordland currently managed by the Department.

As well as an overview of human history in coastal Fiordland, the book provides a historical summary of each site and details of the site as it is today and how to access it. Of the 20 sites listed, 10 of them are in the Preservation Inlet area.

Well worth a read for anyone visiting Preservation Inlet and interested in the historical sites in the area.



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