

Newsletter of the South West New Zealand Endangered Species Trust

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Left: Volunteers arriving on Coal Island courtesy of Alpine Choppers to check traps

Photo: Carol Foote

More Kiwi to be Released on Coal Island

The Department of Conservation Haast tokoeka Kiwi Team have announced that they plan to release up to 10 Haast tokoeka on Coal Island this spring. This follows the release of 7 on the island in December last year.

The juvenile kiwi are currently residing on “crèche” islands in lakes Manapouri and Te Anau and will be transferred to Coal Island in early November. After releasing the new arrivals on the island, the Kiwi Team plan to locate the kiwi already on the island (they are fitted with transmitters to assist in finding them) and check them for health and weight.

Depending on how breeding goes next season, the Kiwi Team plan a further release of juveniles onto the island in 2012.

There will be more about the kiwi release in the December newsletter.



Above: Trustee Stewart Bull releases a Haast tokoeka on Coal Island, December 2009.

Photo: Don Goodhue

Mouse Update

In June this year mouse traps were placed in stoat trap stations on Coal Island. These will be checked and re-baited as part of the regular stoat trap maintenance.

Some mouse traps were checked a couple of days after they were installed in June with no mice found. The recent volunteer trip was the first opportunity to check all mouse traps. No mice were found.

With over two years having passed since the mouse bait drop was carried out, to have not caught any mice is a good sign.

Volunteering for Coal Island

From the beginning, the restoration work on Coal Island has relied heavily on volunteers—not only in the field but doing the work behind the scenes. In 2005 a team of 16 volunteers spent 5 days cutting tracks on the island in preparation for the setting out of trap-lines. Later that year a team worked on setting out over 130 traps on the island and 50 on the adjacent mainland and “stepping stone” islands. Last year a team from the Mike Horn Young Explorers Program worked on upgrading traps with new stainless steel traps and at least 4 times each year teams have walked the island and mainland trap-lines to service traps. Volunteers have travelled from as far away as Wellington to help out.

An article in the Federated Mountain Clubs Bulletin earlier in the year has generated considerable interest in volunteer trips. Because of the remoteness of the Preservation Inlet area and nature of some of the terrain the trap-lines take in, all volunteers so far have come from backgrounds with good experience in the outdoors such as tramping, hunting, forestry work.

As well as looking for people to participate in field work, the trust is also working building up a pool of people able to lead the trips. As well as having the skills and experience need to lead these trips, trip leaders also need to have participated in at least one trip as a volunteers. Each trip is based on a team of 6—the leader plus 5 volunteers. This number makes the best use of helicopter space and lets the team to split in to 3 pairs to cover the trap-lines on Coal Island.

Trips are scheduled to run in February, May, September and December each year. A summary of spaces available on each trip for the next year is shown below.

To find out more about volunteering visit the website or email Trustee Don Goodhue at donandjosy@woosh.co.nz.

Trip	Spaces available
December 2010	3
February 2011	5
May 2011	5
September 2011	1



Above: Volunteers checking a stoat trap.
Photo: Don Goodhue



Left: Mike Horn Young Explorers Program volunteers celebrate a successful trip to Coal Island, May 2009.
Photo: Mike Horn

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