

# Newsletter of the South West New Zealand Endangered Species Trust



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www.tepukaheraka.org.nz

## Our Mission

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

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- **Mainland Trapline**  
Trust considers changes
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*Right: Map showing changes the Trust is considering to the mainland trapline between Te Oneroa and the Oil Store.*



## Changes to Mainland Trapline

With stoat control well in-hand on Coal Island, the Trust is considering making some changes to the mainland trapline from Te Oneroa to the “Oil Store” on the south side of Otago Retreat. There are currently 36 traps on this line, all serviced by boat.

While some of these traps are located on beaches at Te Oneroa, Observation Point and the Oil Store, most are on rocky shore that can be difficult to land on. The wind in Preservation Inlet blows from either the northwest or southwest. The northwesterly blows straight onto the shore along the trapline in the southwesterly, a swell, sometimes heavy can roll along Otago Retreat.

The Trust will look at shifting the trapline slightly inland onto

existing tracks and a short section of new track. (The existing tracks were not in place when the trapline was set up). This would enable all of the traps on this line to be serviced on foot from either Te Oneroa or the Oil Store.

A new section of track around 500m long will need to be cut from the western end of Te Oneroa beach through to the beach at Observation Point. From there the trap line would follow a track onto the top to the ridge that runs parallel to Otago Retreat and along the ridge to the lighthouse track above the Oil Store.

As this area represents the biggest risk in terms of stoats accessing Coal Island from the mainland, easy access will ensure our chances of stopping any that try.



*Left: The Oil Store landing that was used to service Puysegur Point light house.*



*Right: Te Oneroa Beach. The piles sticking out of the water in the middle of the picture are the remains of the wharf that served the Morning Star mine in the late 1800's.*

## Trust Applies for Funding

Trust administrator Angela McMeekin has filed an application with the Lotteries Grants Board for \$191,000 to fund the eradication of mice from Coal Island and complete deer eradication. A decision from the Lotteries Grants Board is not expected until June. If the application is successful, this will enable the Trust to carry this work out in the spring.

Meanwhile Trust chairman Ian Buick continues to pursue potential corporate sponsors.

## The End for Six Stoats

After not seeing a single stoat for nearly 3 months, on the Wednesday before Christmas a stoat was seen near Preservation Lodge. Although a number of traps are maintained around the Lodge, this stoat was obviously heading in a different direction. Solution—take the trap to the stoat. Before dark that day the score was one stoat. However by the next morning only half of it remained. It seems that another stoat was in for a free meal.

The trap was reset and by the end of the day one rather large stoat was added to the score. The next day, the trap was reset and monitored and within 3 hours another 3 had been caught. The following day a further stoat was caught in the same trap.



## Christmas With a Difference

For many people Christmas Day is probably “full-on” and a sigh of relief is breathed when it is all over until next year. Christmas in Preservation Inlet, far from the bright lights and crowds can be very different.

A beautifully fine day provided the perfect opportunity for Lodge caretakers Don Goodhue and Josy van den Kerkhof and visitors to spend some time on Coal Island putting finishing touches to the emergency bivvy. In order that the bivvy could be used in an emergency, two bunks, a table and a selection of basic equipment had been landed on the beach at Moonlight Point a few days earlier. All that was required to finish the job was to carry it up the hill to the bivvy and install it. Easier said than done—the hill bit, that is.

Although no more than 80m from the beach, the track to the bivvy is one of the wettest and muddiest of all of the

tracks on the island! After a bit of slipping, sliding and a few laughs everything was up the hill and in the right place.

With the hard bit done it was time for a bit of exploring of the Moonlight Creek gold workings. Then it was back to catch up on Christmas at the Lodge.

Thanks to Ali King, Trish King, Louis King, David Mollison and Sam Gawith for the help.

(For Southwest Helicopters pilot Sam Gawith it was a rare opportunity to spend some time on the island. Although Sam has flown many trips to the island supporting the project, he had previously only set foot on the island to load or unload the helicopter)



*Left: Josy van den Kerkhof gets friendly with one of the “old men” of Coal Island, a large rimu on the Pratt Track*

*Right: Inside the Moonlight Point emergency bivvy..*

*Photos: Don Goodhue*



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