

# Newsletter of the South West New Zealand Endangered Species Trust

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*Left: The team on the beach at Observation Point after completing laying out the new mainland trap stations. From left: Ali King, Chris James, Angela McMeekin, Lindsay Wilson, Natasha Wilson, Ian Buick.*

*Photo: Don Goodhue*

## A Busy Few Days

On Monday 22 June, the Department Of Conservation vessel "Southern Winds" sailed into Preservation Inlet from its Doubtful Sound base. On board were a team of volunteers and 3 DOC kiwi specialists. Over the next few days the volunteers would work on upgrading and extending the mainland trap line and the kiwi specialists would work on Coal Island. Among the team on the Southern Winds were Trust chairman Ian Buick and administrator Angela McMeekin. Both have spent a lot of time working "behind the scenes" for the Trust with issues such as funding and this was an opportunity for them to get involved with the work out in the field.

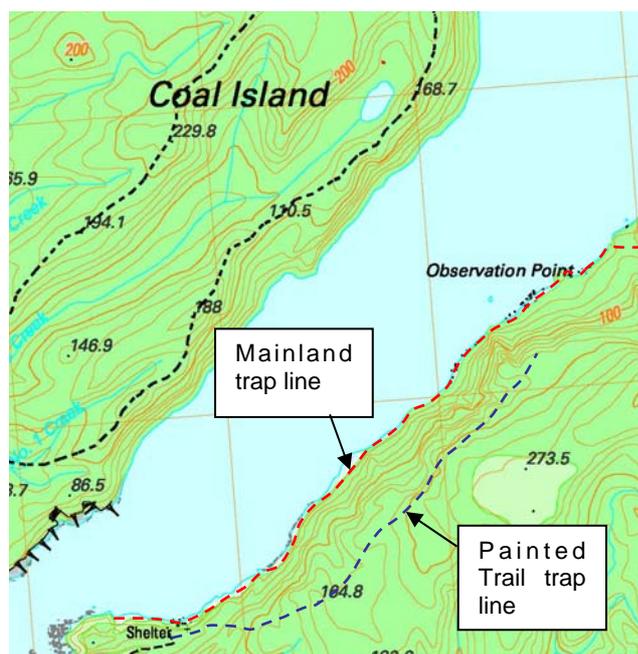
The kiwi team of Gareth Hopkins, Hannah Edmonds and Neil Freer spent 3 days on the island assessing its suitability for the possible reintroduction of kiwi. They accessed the island at Sandfly Bay (towards the northern corner of the island), Tim's Landing on Otago Retreat and Moonlight Point. In all three areas they dug a number of holes looking for worms. Before kiwi can be re-introduced to the island the presence of suitable food sources needs to be established.

On Tuesday, the volunteers along with Trustee Don Goodhue who had recently arrived at Kisbee Lodge worked along the mainland trap line replacing the existing steel traps with new stainless steel traps. Perfect conditions enabled Southern Winds deckhand "PJ" to land the volunteers at a number of points along the coast. Later in the day they landed at the Puysegur Light House "Oil Store" landing and upgraded the traps on the light house road. Seven stoats and one rat were found.

The next day saw the team based at Kisbee Lodge for the morning assembling new trap stations. By early afternoon 31 had been built and were loaded on to the Southern Winds for delivery to the Oil Store. From there they were carried up on to the ridge to establish a new trap line parallel to the coast on an old miners track locally known as the "Painted Trail". By the end of the day 12 traps had been put in place and the rest stockpiled ready to be carried further along the track.

Thursday morning was spent carrying the rest of the traps into position along the Painted Trail. It was a very tired but satisfied team of volunteers that returned to the Southern Winds for the trip back to Doubtful Sound.

*Below: The new "Painted Trail" trap line (31 traps) is shown in blue, running parallel to the existing Mainland trap line.*



## New Trap Stations for the Mainland Trap Line

Extending the mainland trap line has required the construction of around 60 of new trap stations. To help make this possible, Finlators Sawmilling from Tussock Creek recently donated a large quantity of tanalised timber—sufficient for the construction of up to 190 new trap stations. Each trap station uses one piece of tanalised 150 x 25mm timber for the base. In the past the sides and top have also been made from the same timber but the new trap stations have been built using 12mm tanalised plywood for the sides and top. This has been recycled from materials that were used for containers to transport the mouse bait to Coal Island last year



*Left: Lindsay Wilson from DOC with a load of the new trap stations at the Oil Store.*

*Photo: Don Goodhue*



*Above: Trustee Don Goodhue (left) and Chris from Finlators Sawmilling with some of the donated timber.*

*Photo: Finlay McCrostie*



## Global Support for Coal Island

Coal Island became part of a 4 year-long global conservation and exploration project when South African adventurer Mike Horn and crew on board the "Pangaea" visited New Zealand. After Pangaea arrived in New Zealand from Cape Town, 9 teenagers from around the globe joined Mike and spent 2 weeks in Fiordland. While in Fiordland they worked on Coal Island for 2 days, upgrading traps and tramped the Dusky Track from Supper Cover to Doubtful Sound.

They were accompanied on the trip from Bluff to Milford Sound by Trust representatives Allen and Sue Higgins from Wellington.

There will be more about the trip and their work on Coal Island in the next newsletter.

To find out more about the Mike Horn Young Explorers Project visit: [www.mikehorn.com](http://www.mikehorn.com)

*Left: "Pangaea" leaves Bluff for Preservation Inlet.*

*Photo: Don Goodhue*

**Help Wanted** - Are you skilled in website management and could help with maintaining the Te Puke-Hereka website. The work involves updating the website with material that has already been prepared. Ideally we need to update the site around 4 times a year. If you could help or know someone who could - please drop an email to: [info@tepukahereka.org.nz](mailto:info@tepukahereka.org.nz)

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