

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....

- **\$175,000**
read on.....
- **Volunteers wanted**
Your chance to spend time on Coal Island
- **Every Step Counts**
What we have achieved so far

\$175,000

Trust Secures Funding

After a lot of hard work over the last three years by Trust Administrator Angela McMeekin, the Trust has secured a grant of \$175,000 from the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board.

With funding now in place, the Trust can now work towards the final phase of the Pest Management Plan - the eradication of mice from Coal Island. Because of the work involved

preparing for the removal of mice from Coal Island, the actual eradication will take place during 2008. In the meantime, there is still a lot of work needed in planning, obtaining a resource consent, procuring bait and getting everything on site in Preservation Inlet.

Follow progress in future newsletters.



Volunteers Wanted *Become a Coal Island Volunteer*

Until now the work on Coal Island has been undertaken by a small group of volunteers. Volunteers have been a key part of the project right from the outset—marking routes for track, cutting tracks, setting out traplines and maintaining traps. All of this has taken a fair bit of effort. Looking ahead, we need to ensure we are able to keep up with the maintenance of traplines.

With traplines needing to be serviced every three to four months, the Trust is looking for additional volunteers to help out where current volunteers are not available. At this stage the Trust is looking for volunteers to help out with trapline servicing in late November 2007 and late February 2008. Five volunteers are being sought for each of these trips and will be accompanied by a representative from the Trust..

Volunteers will spend time servicing traps on Coal Island and on the mainland from Te Oneroa to the "Oil Store". (See Newsletter Number 9, April 2007 for a description of the mainland traplines) as well as minor track maintenance. Each trip will be based on flying in to Preservation Inlet on a Monday morning and out on Friday. Ideally the team will fly directly to Coal Island and service those traps on the first day. Two days will be spent servicing the mainland traps possibly with a night spent at the "Oil Store". For the other nights, the team will stay at Preservation Lodge.



As well as working on traps and tracks, volunteers will also have time to explore some of the historic gold workings in Preservation Inlet and possibly visit Puysegur Point light house.

Volunteers will need to have a reasonable level of fitness (be able to tramp for up to 6 hours in a day), be able to look after themselves in the bush and have suitable personal gear and clothing. (Preservation Inlet is very remote and the weather can be very changeable).

(Continued on page 2)

Because of the cost of flying into Preservation Inlet, there will be a charge of \$550 per person (\$500 for Coal Island supporters). Volunteers will need to make their own travel arrangements to/from the Southwest Helicopters hangar at Clifden (about 10km north of Tuatapere).

If you want to get involved and have the opportunity to visit a special part of New Zealand contact Trust Administrator Angela McMeekin for further information. (see contact details at the bottom of this page)

The Trust would like to thank Southwest Helicopters and Puysegur Holdings for supporting the volunteer program.

*Right: Volunteers at work on Coal Island
Photo: Don Goodhue*



Every Little Step Counts

Sometimes it seems like things take a while to happen. Well...every little step counts and when they are all put together they actually add up to a heck of a lot. Trust Administrator Angela McMeekin has put together a diary of what we have done so far.

May 2004	Inaugural Trust meeting, Kisbee Lodge, Preservation Inlet. Trustees elected	Aug 2005	Contractor and volunteers set traps and re-set and check 3 more times each. 35 stoats trapped. Otago University students conduct '5 minute' bird count.
July 2004	Trust incorporated, Web site created.	Sept – Feb 2005	Stoat traps checked and re-set approx monthly until it deemed all stoats removed from Coal and near islands.
Sept 2004	Archaeological Survey conducted on Coal Island.	Nov 05– Jan 2006	"Friends of Te Puka-Hereka" supporters club established. 30,000 printed, 10,000 distributed through Jan issue of NZ Wilderness Magazine. Initial response good, and to date we have 62 members.
May – Nov 2004	Fundraising applications sent, letters of support requested, Concession to operate applied for from DoC. Business Plan developed. Pest and predators identified.	Jan 2006	Erected donated bivvy at Moonlight Point.
Feb 2005	Fifteen km of track cut around and across Coal Island over a week by 16 volunteer professional bushmen in preparation for installing stoat traps.	Feb 2006	Hunt South, (professional deer cullers) conducted deer assessment and culled 24 deer over 8 days.
Feb – May 2005	Botany trips to Coal Island to identify existing plant species and determine the extent of damage caused by deer.	Aug 2006	Deer cull by Hunt South, another 21 removed plus 15 by recreational hunters.
June 2005	Visit to Coal Island by Minister of Conservation and media.	Feb 06 – Jan 2007	Stoat traps checked quarterly. Total 50 trapped to date.
May/June 2005	Installation of 150 Stoat traps on island, near island and mainland shoreline.	May 2007	New track cut by volunteers on mainland shoreline to provide better foot access to traps.
June/July 2005	Volunteers undertake prefeed stages several times to establish interest by Stoats.	June 2007	Confirmation of major funding for mouse eradication program.

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