

Discovery news

Welcome to the third issue of Discovery News—designed to keep you up to date with the latest news about our cruises and crew. .

Conservation Update - Little Spotted Kiwi numbers boosted

A Little Spotted Kiwi relocation programme, launched with funds raised by Discovery Cruises passengers, is continuing to prove successful in southern Fiordland. A total of 22 Little Spotted Kiwi were transferred to predator-free Chalky Island in 2008 and 2009 thanks to funds raised through on board passenger auctions. A further eight birds have now also been flown to the Island. The latest transfer was funded by the Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation which was established in 1994 by Real Journeys founder, Les Hutchins. Real Journeys passengers contribute more than

\$50,000 annually to the Foundation through a \$1 passenger levy on Doubtful Sound cruises. Department of Conservation Biodiversity Ranger Hannah Edmonds said, "Stoats were eradicated from Chalky Island at the mouth of Chalky Inlet in 2001 and over the past two years a programme has been underway to introduce a population of Little Spotted Kiwi on the 514 ha. Island. Robynne and Madeleine Peacock, the daughter and granddaughter of Les and Olive Hutchins were on hand to help DOC with the relocation.



Robynne and Madeleine Peacock help transfer Little Spotted Kiwi onto Chalky Island



Tracey Maclaren helps release Pateke

Pateke Transfer

Real Journeys has flown 40 rare Pateke (brown teal) to their new home in Fiordland. Real Journeys General Manager Queenstown, Tracey Maclaren, assisted the Department of Conservation with the release of the pateke in the Arthur and Joe Valleys near Milford Sound. Ms Maclaren said it was exciting to see the birds quickly make themselves at home. The latest transfer followed the successful release of 20 pateke in the area last year.

DOC News

A Department of Conservation stoat eradication programme on Resolution Island is having a major impact on the voracious pest. Since July 2008, 452 stoats have been removed from the 20,860ha island. The 2300 traps are checked every 4 months and the last couple of checks have produced just 32 stoats. Department of Conservation stoat eradication project manager Pete McMurtrie said, "The good news is that it looks like we may have already completely eradicated them from Five Fingers Peninsula."

Moose Watch

Discovery Cruise Nature Guide, Ken Tustin – a well known authority on the elusive Fiordland Moose, has now released a book which is the

culmination of over 40 years research. **A (Nearly) Complete History of the Moose in New Zealand** has been launched to mark the 100th anniversary of the release of moose in Fiordland.

10% discount

**Off our normal retail rate
for returning passengers**

See reverse for departure schedule

2012 Discovery Cruise Schedule

It may seem like a long way off, but we are already taking bookings for the 2012 Discovery Cruises season.

Dusky Sound

5 Day Discovery Cruises

NZ \$1850 Adult / \$925 Child

Depart Manapouri 9.45am

Return Manapouri 5.30pm

- 20 – 24 May 2012

Stewart Island

6 Day Discovery Cruises

NZ \$1850 Adult / \$925 Child

Depart Bluff 10.00am

Return Bluff 4.00pm

- 1 – 6 July 2012

- 8 – 13 July 2012

Free pick ups from throughout Invercargill and Bluff.

Preservation Inlet/Dusky Sound

7 Day Discovery Cruises

NZ \$2450 Adult / \$1225 child

Depart Manapouri 9.45am

Return Manapouri 5.30pm

- 6 – 12 May 2012 / Heli Out
- 12 – 18 May 2012 / Heli In
- 22 – 28 July 2012 / Heli Out
- 28 – 3 August 2012 / Heli In
- 5 – 11 August 2012 / Heli Out
- 11 – 17 August 2012 / Heli In
- 19 - 25 August 2012 / Heli Out
- 31 August 2012 / Heli In

- 1 way x helicopter flight with Preservation Inlet / Dusky Sound 7 Day Cruises
- Coach connections are available from Queenstown (extra cost) for Discovery Cruises departing from Manapouri
- Children under 10 years not recommended. Children 10 – 14 years are 50% of adult fare
- Sole Occupancy is 175% of the full adult rate
- Travel insurance is recommended

Stewart Island Update

On Stewart Island, Real Journeys (Stewart Island Experience) has been helping fund conservation projects being carried out by the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Environment Trust.

Stewart Island Experience, is donating \$5 from each adult booking on its Ackers Point and Little River evening guided walks to SIRCET.

During the evening guided walks there is the chance to learn about the projects SIRCET is undertaking and also get the chance to check rat and possum traps along the way. SIRCET is currently undertaking a major trapping and re-vegetation programme in a 210 hectare area from Oban to Ackers Point.

Trust Chairwoman Margaret

Hopkins said a network of pest trap lines has been placed in the control area. These are checked regularly by a dedicated team of about 50 volunteers.

“As a result of the trapping, bird call count surveys have shown bird numbers have increased dramatically,” Mrs Hopkins said.

Stewart Island Experience has also recently renewed its sponsorship of the Harlequin Gecko research. Real Journeys has contributed \$40,000 over the past 5 years to assist DOC in studying the rare gecko which only became known to science in 1981. A further \$4000 will be donated over the next 2 years.

Milford Wanderer Refit

Discovery Cruises are taking a break next winter 2011, while the Milford Wanderer undergoes a major refit. Real Journeys General Manager Engineering and Supply, Brian Humphrey, said the 18 year old vessel will be totally revamped including replacing most of the current quad share bunk-style compartments with twin and double accommodation.

“Showers and toilets will be relocated in each of the accommodation sections and the main saloon will be extended to provide more space on Fiordland’s many wet, wild but wonderful days. “At the moment the sewerage and fuel are integral to the hull. If the vessel ran a ground there could be serious environmental impacts. As part of the refit the tanks will be located away from the hull.



“She is being given some time off after all her hard work. The refit, being carried out in Wanganui, will ensure she is equipped to continue being of service well into the future,” he said.

Thanks to all passengers who have put forward suggestions and comments over the years. Many of the planned alterations have been included as a result of your feedback.



Nature Guides -

Working Towards Eco-Tourism Diploma

Real Journeys Nature Guides have taken the opportunity to attend a week long residential training course this winter to achieve further credits towards a Diploma in Ecotourism. It is the second year the

course, run by Tai Poutini Polytechnic, has been offered to Real Journeys nature guides. This year the guides focused on environmental sustainability and Maori culture.



For all enquiries and reservations, please contact:
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