

HOW WE'RE Raising funds

Removing predators from Cooper Island will require at least half a million dollars over the next five years, with ongoing maintenance costs thereafter.

- \$100 per person is contributed by Real Journeys from every Discovery Expeditions ticket
- \$500 per person is contributed by Real Journeys from every Conservation Expeditions ticket
- \$100,000 donation from the Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation (set up in 1994 by Real Journeys founder, Sir Les Hutchins, raising funds from Real Journeys Doubtful Sound trips)
- Annual Birds of a Feather Conservation Ball raises funds for Cooper Island Restoration Project
- \$65,000 Real Journeys Birds of a Feather Conservation Ball 2016 (around half the proceeds were earmarked for Cooper Island, the rest for the Department of Conservation's Dusky Sound Restoration Project)

For more information, or to make a donation, visit realjourneys.co.nz/cooperisland



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY HARCOURT

Current Cooper Island residents, like the Fiordland crested penguin, will benefit immediately from predator control



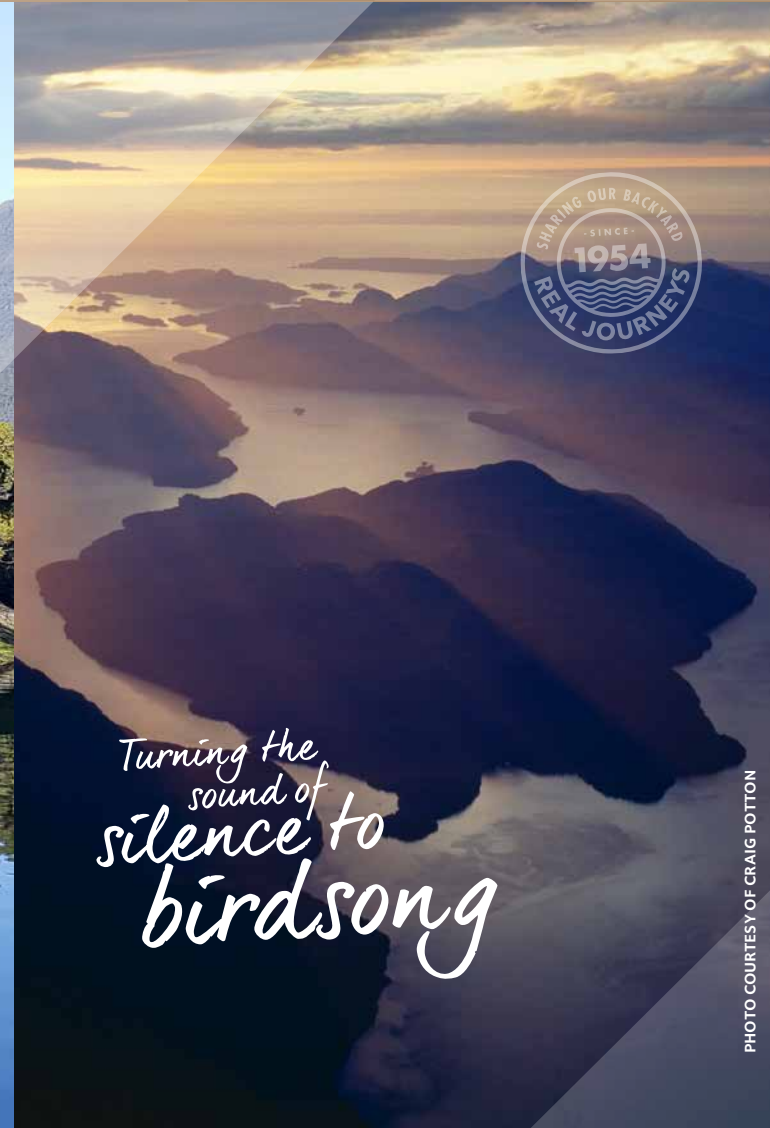
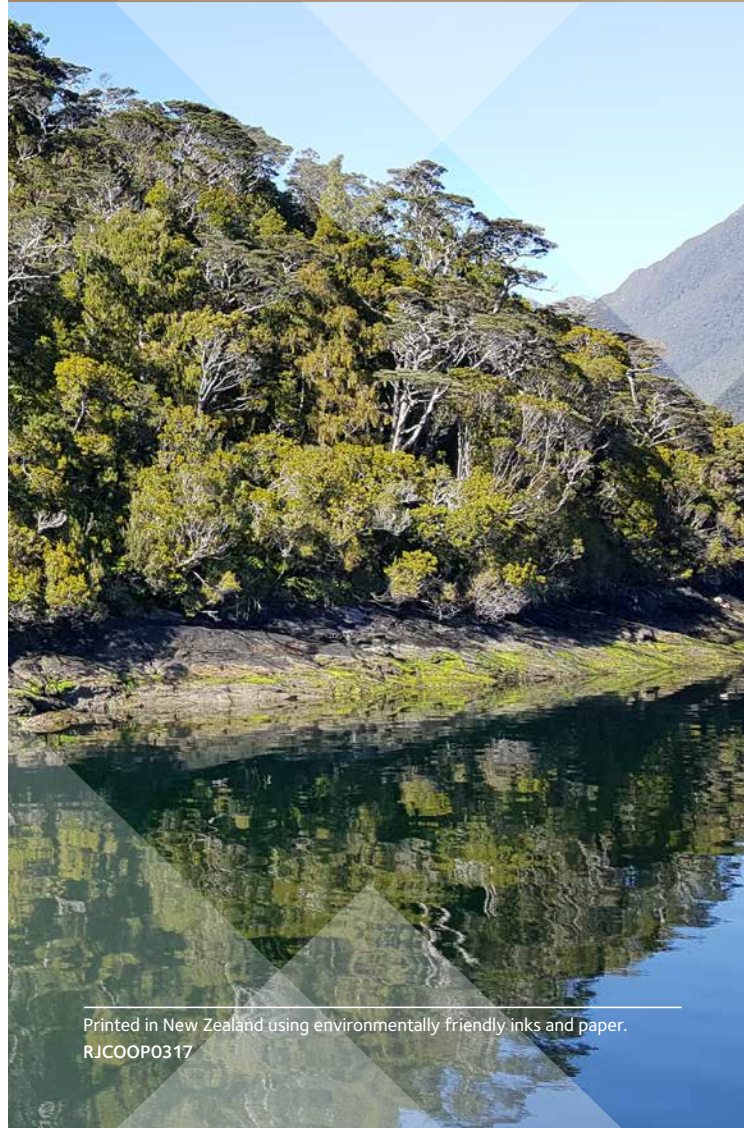
The Cooper Island restoration project is a partnership between Real Journeys and the Department of Conservation.

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▶ Cooper Island Restoration Project

DUSKY SOUND, FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK



Turning the
sound of
silence to
birdsong

Printed in New Zealand using environmentally friendly inks and paper.
RJCOOP0317

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG POTTON

Cooper Island

In 1773, when Captain James Cook anchored in Dusky Sound, one of New Zealand's largest and most isolated fiords, it was the landscape and rich bird song that impressed him and his crew.

Today the landscape is unchanged, but when Real Journeys week-long Discovery Expeditions weigh anchor near Cooper Island, passengers are more likely to hear the 'sound of silence'. Introduced predators have decimated the millions of birds that once made Dusky Sound their home.

Real Journeys has undertaken to eliminate the voracious stoats and rats from Cooper Island - a vast 1,779 hectares. Situated in such an inaccessible area of New Zealand, it is the most challenging environmental mission since our founder Sir Les Hutchins led the Save Manapouri Campaign in the 1960s. Today we hope our campaign against predators sees the return of some of our most vulnerable native birds like the kākāpō and kiwi, and safeguards the future of the third largest island in Dusky Sound.

The initiative sees Real Journeys join the Department of Conservation's Tamatea / Dusky Sound Restoration Programme; sharing its vision to make Dusky Sound one of the most intact ecosystems in the world and a source or bio bank, for the regeneration of native species throughout the country.

Real Journeys is proud to play a part to help make this ambitious vision a reality.



Cooper Island, Dusky Sound, Fiordland.

NEW ZEALAND'S First bird sanctuary

As far back as 1891, the government of the day was concerned about declining bird numbers creating the country's first nature reserve on Resolution Island, the largest island in Dusky Sound.

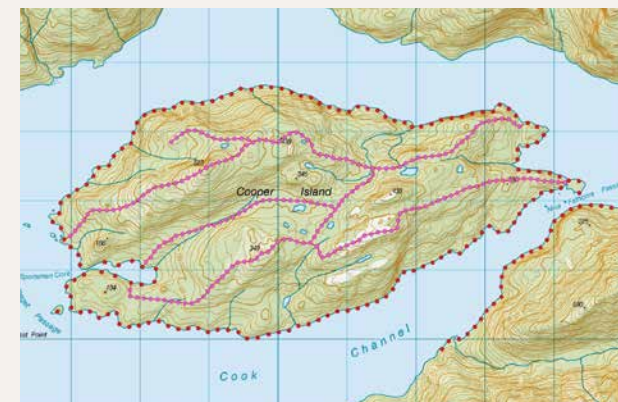
Its first conservation ranger, Richard Henry, transferred over 700 kākāpō and kiwi to the off shore islands to protect them from the wave of introduced predators sweeping the country. Sadly by 1900, stoats had been able to swim across to the reserve.



The long term vision: return of the kākāpō, mōhua and little spotted kiwi (shown here, left to right) to Cooper Island.

COOPER ISLAND Restoration plan

Eliminating the stoats and rats from this 1,779 hectare island is a considerable undertaking. The island is 523m high, rugged and steep in parts. Tracks must be cut and 320 stoat traps set inland and along the shoreline. 1,000 self-resetting Goodnature rat traps will also be laid across the whole island.



Red dots represent stoat traps placed on Cooper Island in 2017, and pink dots are traps to be placed in 2018.

The timeframe

- 2015** Real Journeys funds feasibility study to assess the status of plant and animal species on Cooper Island and draw up a best practice animal predator control programme
- 2016** Real Journeys signs agreement with the Department of Conservation to fund programme
- 2017** Set up network of stoat traps around periphery, plus a buffer zone on the opposing shoreline of the mainland, to prevent predators from swimming across
- 2018** A network of tracks marked and cut across inland sections of the island. More stoat traps added and existing shoreline traps maintained
- 2019 - 2020** 1,000 automatic resetting Goodnature rat traps placed every 100 - 200m across the island
- 2021 and beyond** Ongoing trap maintenance to control predators and protect the native species present