

# More mohua for Eglinton Valley

Around 100 mohua settled into some beautiful Fiordland real estate this Labour Day weekend. On Friday, the Department of Conservation (DOC) translocated 70 of the small but vibrant birds from Anchor Island in Dusky Sound to Kiosk Creek in the Eglinton Valley, with another 31 released on Saturday.

Approximately 10-15 children, including three from the Kids Restore the Kepler leadership team, were in attendance to help out and celebrate the release.

This is not the first time the brightly coloured birds have made the big move to the Eglinton Valley. According to DOC, mohua once abundant in the Eglinton Valley but due to rat predation, the population dwindled to 18 individuals following two consecutive beech mast seasons at the turn of the century. With greater rat control and a translocation operation in 2010, adult numbers have remained



*Isia and Shae Angus took part in the mohua relocation on Friday with the help of their mum Sinead Mulhern.*

*PHOTO: Claire Kaplan*

relatively stable and fledgling survival high, however it is thought many of the translocated birds emigrated out of the valley. Another

translocation happened last year to mitigate the effects of mohua emigration and winter survival.