



## **Chalky Island to the Hawdon Valley**

### **Press Release:**

The Mohua Charitable Trust is delighted with the successful release, on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, of **58 Mohua** in the pristine **Hawdon Valley**. In the morning the birds were captured using mist nets on predator free Chalky Island off the coast of Fiordland by a team of DOC specialists.

The Mohua, accompanied by Trust Chairman Graeme Elliott, were flown by helicopter to Te Anau and then transferred to a fixed wing aircraft and flown to Rangiora. From Rangiora another helicopter flew them to the Hawdon Valley in Arthur's Pass National Park where they were released.

This translocation is significant for a number of reasons. It is the largest ever translocation of Mohua to Canterbury and substantially boosts the numbers of this endangered species in the region. The Hawdon Valley is predator controlled and is the home to a number of endangered species including the Orange-Fronted Parakeet.

The Mohua Charitable Trust would like to acknowledge the support from the **New Zealand Lottery Grants Board** for assisting with this important operation.

Before the translocation there were 2 known Mohua in the Valley. Nigel Babbage, founder of the Trust, says "the long term prospects for the species in the area are extremely positive." The Department of Conservation and the Mohua Charitable Trust worked in close partnership and have an ongoing relationship.

### **Interesting facts:**

1. The Mohua is the bird on the \$100 note, the highest denomination bank note in New Zealand.
2. It was known as the bush canary by early settlers due to its bright yellow plumage and melodious call.