



Title: “The sun’s always shining somewhere”

Description: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland

Photographer: Rod Hay

Where, when: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland, November 2013

Sustainability? Lake Poteriteri is in the southern part of Fiordland, Aotearoa New Zealand's largest National Park. At 43 km², it is our 18th largest lake and, more importantly, it is by far our largest lake without road access. While the surrounding land is a little less steep than the mountains and deep valleys further north, Poteriteri is still a place of extremes, with raging gales one day and quiet calm the next.

The remoteness and diverse landscapes of Fiordland are factors in the survival, until recently, of plant and animal species gone from elsewhere in the country. Possums are recent arrivals, now laying waste to once-thriving stands of mistletoe west of the Waitutu River. The last kākāpō on NZ’s mainland clung on as lonely males in Fiordland until late last century. Thankfully, courtesy of the longest survivor, Fiordland kākāpō genes have been included in the now heavily managed kākāpō populations originating from Rakiura (Stewart Island) and are assisting in the slow recovery of that species. Other birds, such as kākā, mohua and rock wren, survive in Fiordland but are increasingly dependent on the trapping and poisoning of rats, stoats and possums being undertaken by the Department of Conservation and supported by community groups and volunteers.

You can see another image of Lake Poteriteri (“Remote, Grand & dramatic”) by Rod Hay elsewhere in this gallery.

Photo notes: 1/125s, 36mm, f7, ISO 200, Olympus M4/3 12-50 F3.5-6.3 on an Olympus OM-D E-M5.

I arose from my tent on a typically gloomy morning after a wet night and was delighted that it was calm and therefore great for counting birds. A shaft of sun on the opposite shore promised (but didn't deliver) fine weather. While it is best to plan one's photos, sometimes the scene appears fleetingly, so be prepared.

Digital specs: 4100 x 2403 pixels (9.8 MP)

Key words: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland National Park, Waitutu, Forest, Wilderness, Weather, Possums, predator control, Threatened species, Rod Hay, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability, Conservation

Price: \$200 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image

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Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society*

We recommend that the donation goes to the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society* because it is a not-for-profit and nationwide conservation organisation that plays a significant role in conservation advocacy and policy, as well as supporting practical and local community projects.

Image Ref: RH#008 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Rod Hay

8 February 2021