



**Title:** “Call of the Kakaruwai”

**Description:** South Island robin singing, Orokonui Ecosanctuary.

**Photographer:** Paul Sorrell

**Where, when:** Orokonui Ecosanctuary, Otago, August 2021

**Sustainability?** Robins have been a major success story for Orokonui, Dunedin’s predator-proof-fenced nature reserve. With a patchy distribution in coastal Otago, robins were translocated here from nearby Silverpeaks, Silverstream and Flagstaff in 2010 and 2011. From an initial ten breeding pairs, this number has expanded to around ten times that size and birds are now breeding outside the sanctuary, following trapping and other conservation work in the Halo Project area around the reserve. This continuing success means that one day some of Orokonui’s robins may themselves be transferred from the reserve to restock suitable areas – perhaps including the very places they were first taken from, where efforts to reduce predators and improve habitat are underway.

Famously inquisitive and friendly, robins can still present challenges for the photographer. I spent a couple of hours gaining the confidence of the local robins before this one landed on an old stump and began singing, defending his territory or perhaps advertising for a mate. Orokonui robins usually start to nest in early September, but eggs can be laid as early as mid-August, and several clutches can be produced in a season.

**Photo notes:** *Camera:* Canon EOS 7D. *Lens:* EF400mm f/5.6L USM. *Settings:* 400mm f/6.3 1/1000 sec ISO 800.

**Digital specs:** 5184 × 3456 pixels (12.3 MB).

**Key words:** Birds, forest birds, New Zealand robin, South Island robin, robin, kakaruwai, *Petroica australis*, Orokonui Ecosanctuary, fenced reserve, mammalian predation, forest ecology, territorial behaviour, biodiversity, Paul Sorrell, Aotearoa, New Zealand, sustainability

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

Visit [www.ecosystemsphotography/sales](http://www.ecosystemsphotography/sales) for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

**Donation:** The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for *Orokonui Ecosanctuary*.

I recommend that the donation goes to *Orokonui Ecosanctuary*, “the flagship biodiversity project for the South Island where multiple species of plants and animals are protected from predators.” (Orokonui website)

**Image Ref:** PS#007 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

**Paul Sorrell** (paulsorrell.co.nz)  
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