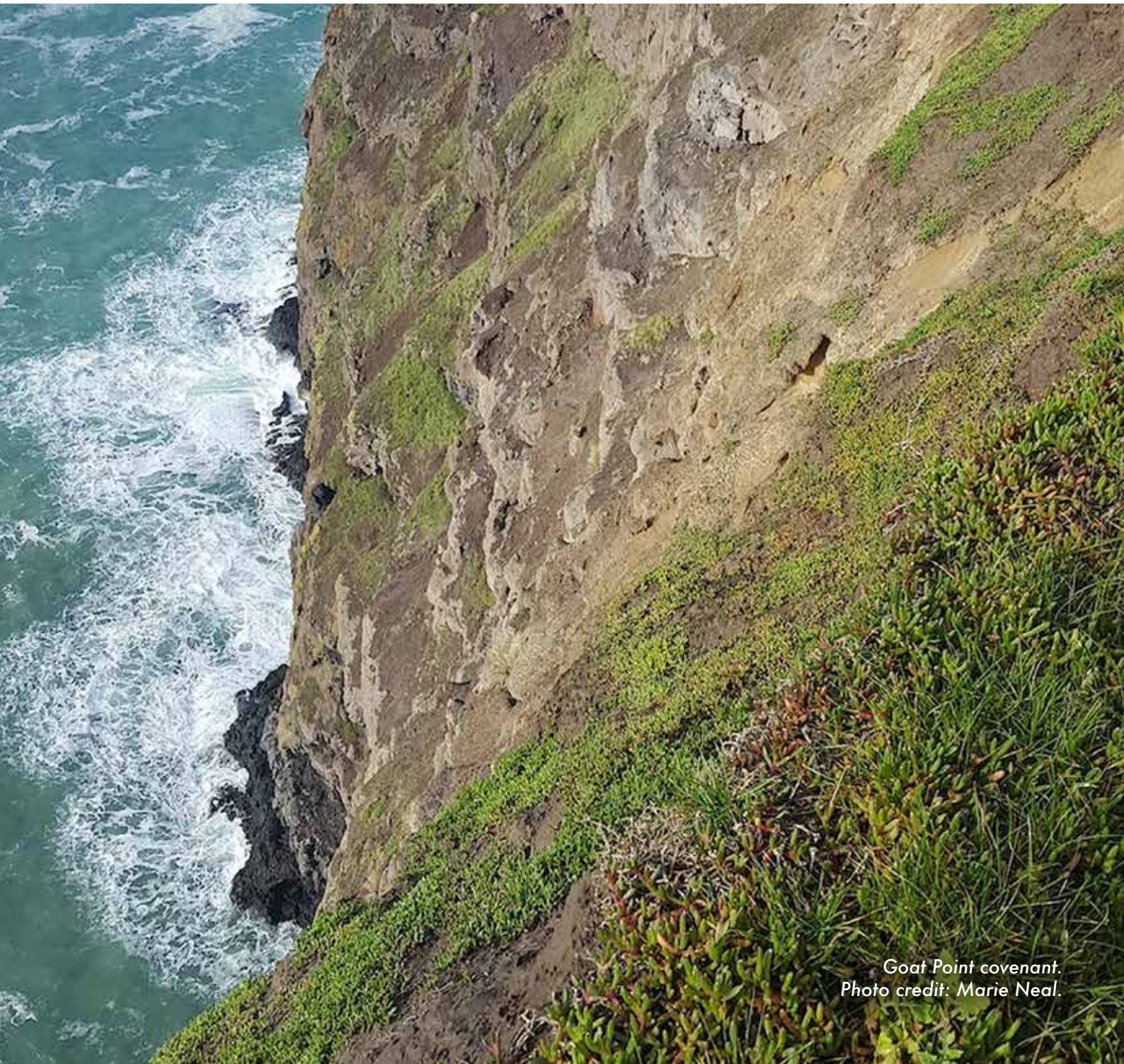
BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Goat Point covenant.
Photo credit: Marie Neal.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

This Annual Report will be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) to be held on Thursday 7 September 2023.

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust was established in 2001 and is a non-profit organisation, a charitable trust under the Charitable Trusts Act, and is registered with the Charities Commission.

Office: Main Akaroa Highway, P O Box 146, Tai Tapu 7645
Email: enquiries@bpct.org.nz
Phone: (03) 329 6340
Website: www.bpct.org.nz

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BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST TRUSTEES & STAFF

Penny Carnaby is an enthusiastic Banks Peninsula resident with a home in Lyttelton and a shared property at Otanerito. With her partner Tina Troup she has been supporting conservation projects on the Peninsula for over 30 years and established a BPCT Conservation Covenant protecting the biodiversity at a previously owned property in Holmes Bay. In her professional life Penny was the National Librarian and CEO of the National Library of NZ, Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa, 2003-2010. She was also University Librarian at Macquarie University in Sydney and Professor of Digital Knowledge Systems at Lincoln University and University Librarian.

David Miller was born in Wellington and lives in Decanter Bay, where he has owned his farm since 2001, and was one of the earliest covenantors with the Trust. David has a background in Clinical Psychology and Public Health, and has extensive experience in policy development, training, health systems implementation and organisational governance. He has worked in these fields in many regions for the United Nations and as Ombudsman for the World Health Organisation and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, in Geneva. He lives permanently in Decanter Bay and, in addition to being a BPCT Trustee, is closely involved in the Akaroa Museum.

Jack Gibbs lives within the area of the BPCT Wildside Project beyond Akaroa with his wife Charlotte. Twenty percent of their 240 ha property is now dedicated Reserve.

Kate Whyte lives with her family in Lyttelton. She is passionate about protecting and restoring the natural splendour of Banks Peninsula, its unique and characteristic plant communities, bird song, and wildlife. She believes it is a privilege to live in such a dedicated, knowledge-rich community. Kate has been actively involved in BPCT's work since its beginning and is committed to ensuring it remains a community-led trust that will continue to protect and enhance this world-class place into the future.

Annabel Craw owns and operates Ridgecliff, a 420ha hill country sheep and beef property with her husband Hamish and three children in Chorlton. Alongside the farming business they operate Accrington Farmhouse a heritage accommodation property. Prior to farming Annabel worked in agricultural consultancy and facilitation as well as marketing and advertising. Annabel is also a Trustee for Duvauchelle Primary School.

Philip Helps resides in Port Levy. Married to Jane, they have jointly farmed their Port Levy property for in excess of 40 years. Other interests include active involvement in a marine farming partnership. Philip's family has had a continuous association with the land as farmers on Banks Peninsula, dating back to the late 1830s. Philip is an active member within the Banks Peninsula branch of Federated Farmers. His recreational interests include fishing and shooting.

Trustees at the 2002 Annual General Meeting from left: David Miller, Annabel Craw, Jack Gibbs, Ingrid Kerr, Penny Carnaby, Kate Whyte, Edward Aitken (missing Paul Bingham, Ashley Warnes, Philip Helps).

Ingrid Kerr is a Chartered Accountant operating her own consultancy. She is Chair of the Trust's Finance Committee. Ingrid lives on Mount Pleasant and enjoys a family holiday property at French Farm.

Edward Aitken lives in Pigeon Bay with wife Penny on an 1100 ha sheep and beef breeding property. This developed farm is now managed by son Angus in conjuction with an intensive farm in North Canterbury. Farm stay accommodation is available and Edward is a director and shareholder of marine farming companies in the area. There have been many years involvement, with Federated Farmers, in the District Plan process, out of which has evolved the BPCT. This Trust, with all the hard work from its members and staff, offers a successful model for a voluntary approach to environment enhancement, which Edward is pleased to be supporting as a trustee.

Paul Bingham is Executive Chair of Digital Marketing Platform Shuttlerock, Chair and fifty percent shareholder of Banks Peninsula's Black Cat Cruises, a Director of Ngai Tahu Tourism and Trustee of The Christchurch Foundation. He recently retired from the Air New Zealand board and served as Director at Tourism New Zealand and Chair of Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism. Paul's career has spanned marketing roles in a range of companies, he led Black Cat Cruises for 15 years as Managing Director. Paul's family lived in Diamond Harbour and Akaroa and has been based in Asia, the UK, and the US before returning to live in New Zealand 20 years ago.

Ashley Warnes is of Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha and Ngāi Tahu descent. He has been self-employed for over 40 years operating businesses in building, retailing and importing.

STAFF

Maree Burnett – General Manager
Marie Neal – Covenants Officer
Sophie Hartnell – Volunteer Programme Coordinator, Te Kākahu Kahukura Restoration Coordinator
Lydia Laulala – Partnerships Manager
Lisa Chrisstoffels – Administrator
Pest Free Banks Peninsula Team
Sarah Wilson – Project Leader
Tim Sjoberg – Elimination Programme Senior Team Leader
John Williamson – Elimination Programme Team Leader (Kaitorete)
Mark Le Lievre – Elimination Programme Team Leader (Wildside) (until February 2023)
Sarah Bisley – GIS and Information Management
Alice Webster – Wildside Coordinator biodiversity
Hollie Hollander – Landowner Liaison (Wildside)

FIELD TEAM MEMBERS:

Alex Albright
Hannah Kiely
Jayden Lum
Jessica Helps
Karin Bos
Guy McKinnon
Ollie Rutland-Sims
Willard Gibson
William Fisher

The BPCT team enjoying a visit to Hinewai Reserve with Hugh Wilson and Richard & Jill Simpson. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kia ora Koutou

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present the Annual Report of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023. This year has been marked by significant achievements, inspiring collaborations, and well-deserved accolades for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to conservation.

Underpinning all the work BPCT does is the outstanding work of a team of talented and committed staff, as well as Trustees, who continue to work together with Peninsula landowners to help enhance and protect the unique biodiversity on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula. During the year we were very pleased to welcome Ashely Warnes as a new Trustee.

Early in 2023 we reached a significant milestone for the Trust with the signing of the 100th BPCT conservation covenant on Banks Peninsula. This accomplishment demonstrates the unwavering commitment of both BPCT and the landowners who have generously chosen to protect areas of their land for conservation purposes.

The Trustees and staff of BPCT salute each one of these landowners who have made such an important contribution to helping nature to recover and thrive on Banks Peninsula.

The Pest Free Banks Peninsula project has made significant strides in the past year. Through the collective efforts of landowners, agencies, aligned organisations and mana whenua, we have witnessed vast improvements in pest control measures for the restoration of native ecosystems. The collaboration and cooperation we have seen among diverse stakeholders has been truly wonderful, and it is a testament to the shared vision we hold for the conservation of this unique region.

There was pride and delight when we heard the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust had been honoured with the prestigious Te Waka o Aoraki award from the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Awards for the year 2022/23. This award is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire team, as well as the support and collaboration we have received from our valued supporters and partners. The Te Waka o Aoraki award is a significant recognition of our efforts in conserving and protecting the unique environment of Banks Peninsula. It acknowledges the strides we have made in preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of this remarkable region.

Trustee Kate Whyte receives Te Waka o Aoraki, the supreme conservation award from the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board. Photo credit: Lydia Laulala.

During the year were pleased to see two long term supporters of the Trust honoured with awards: BPCT would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Francis and Shireen Helps for their well-deserved recognition with the New Zealand Order of Merit for their outstanding services to conservation. Their dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to preserving the natural environment of Banks Peninsula have been an inspiration to us all. We are grateful for their leadership and the positive impact they have made on our organisation and the wider community. We would like to also extend our warmest congratulations to Yvette Couch-Lewis for her prestigious Order of Merit for services to conservation and Māori. Yvette's tireless work in promoting conservation and fostering Māori values has enriched our understanding of the interconnectedness between nature, culture, and sustainability.

While there have been celebrations during the year there have also been some challenges as well. Like many not-for-profit organisations we struggle to get operational funding to support the Trust's increasingly complex co-ordinating activities. During the year the Trustees engaged Barrer and Co to develop a fundraising strategy for us. Following this work, a new Partnerships Manger position was appointed with the aim of inviting more financial support for the Trust's work.

The BPCT remains committed to our mission of protecting and restoring the natural environment of Banks Peninsula, and we are mindful that we do not do this on our own. We wish to thank and acknowledge all those who support the Trust's activities. We acknowledge the agencies Christchurch City Council (CCC), Environment Canterbury (ECAN), the Department of Conservation (DOC), and other aligned organisations who have been unfaltering in their support of the Trust's work. As our principal sponsor the Lyttelton Port Company has continued to be a generous supporter. During the year we welcomed Team Hutchinson Ford as a new corporate sponsor, and we are grateful for Cashmere Rotary's support of Te Kākahu Kahukura enrichment planting programme in the southern Port Hills. To all our sponsors and supporters, we say thank you.

With your continued support and with our hard working and dedicated staff and Trustees, we are confident will continue to create a lasting legacy which will see a vibrant biodiversity on Banks Peninsula recover and restore.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

When nature thrives, we thrive
Ka ora whenua, Ka ora te tangata.

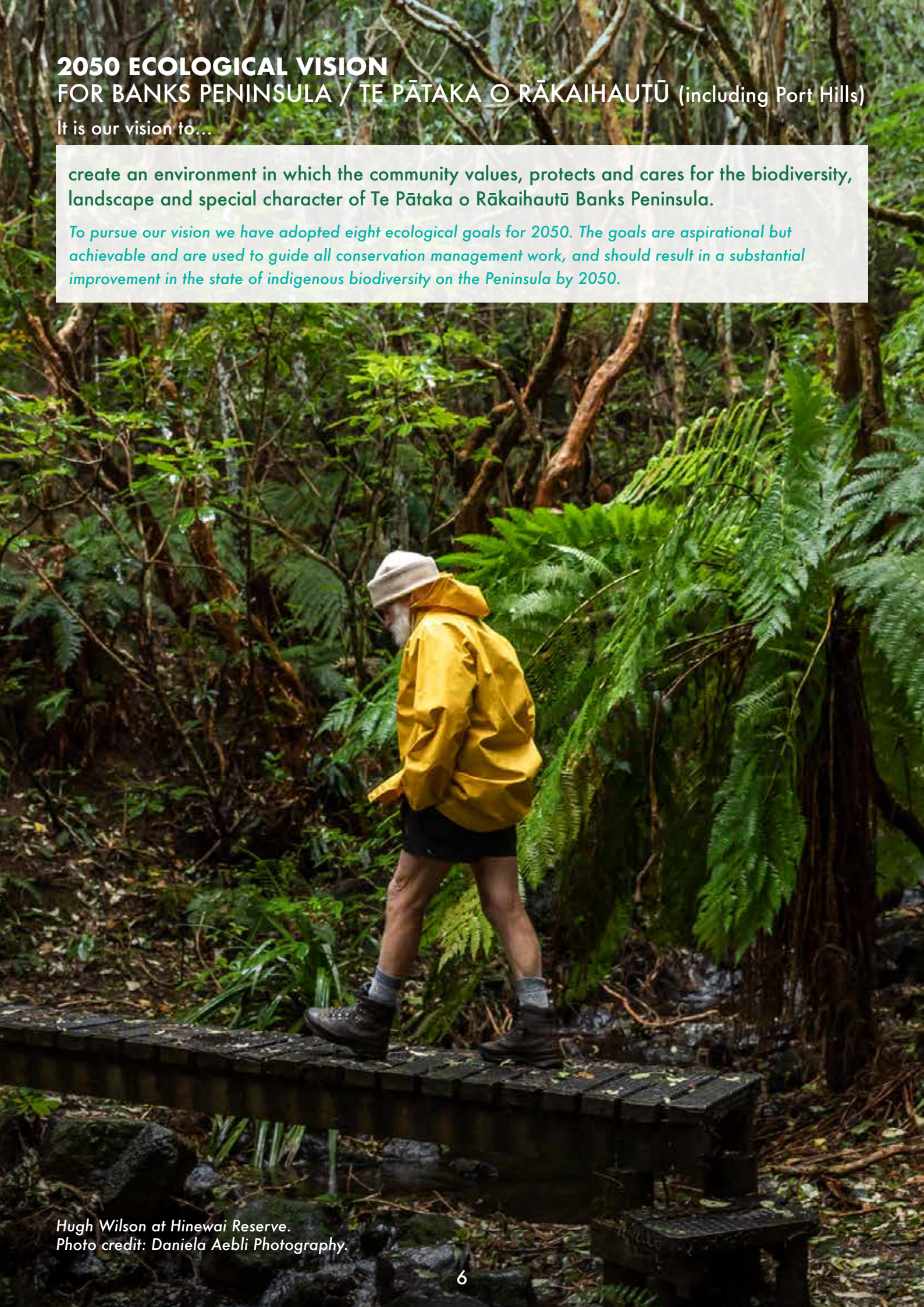
Penny Carnaby
Chairperson

2050 ECOLOGICAL VISION
FOR BANKS PENINSULA / TE PĀTAKA O RĀKAIHAUTŪ (including Port Hills)

It is our vision to...

create an environment in which the community values, protects and cares for the biodiversity, landscape and special character of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula.

To pursue our vision we have adopted eight ecological goals for 2050. The goals are aspirational but achievable and are used to guide all conservation management work, and should result in a substantial improvement in the state of indigenous biodiversity on the Peninsula by 2050.



Hugh Wilson at Hinewai Reserve.
Photo credit: Daniela Aebli Photography.

GOAL ONE – ALL OLD GROWTH FOREST REMNANTS OF BANKS PENINSULA FOREST ARE PROTECTED AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGED

Old growth remnants protected to date = 70

This includes protection by BPCT, QEII National Trust (QEII), CCC & DOC of original podocarps and original red beech stands.

Te Ara Pātiki Kaituna Basin

Old growth forest remnants could be regarded as the jewel in the crown of valued protections in the Banks Ecological Region. Podocarp forest spared firstly from Polynesian impact over 700 years ago and then broadscale clearance between the 1860's to the turn of the century is irreplaceable in our lifetime and for generations to come. New Zealand's mighty podocarps are capable of reaching 1000 years or more in age and because over 98% of original forest cover was lost, a concerted effort to prioritise protection of any remnants left is crucial.

Kahikatea, tōtara and mataī are the main podocarp (cone-bearing) species occurring on Banks Peninsula. Miro and rimu were, and still are far less common, most likely out-competed by the former three species flourishing on the generally high soil fertility. Today, there is only one truly wild rimu left alive on the Peninsula (in Puaha Valley), and miro are limited to small pockets in the Pigeon Bay area.

Te Ara Pātiki Kaituna Basin covenant is a major refuge for ancient remnant trees and the communities associated with them. In the gullies, terraces and multi-faceted aspects of this 334ha covenant (the largest BPCT protection to date) there are many spectacular specimens, and many will be familiar with the outstanding (literally) stand of ancient tōtara and mataī on a high plateau, not far off the Monument South track leading up to the ridge from the Kaituna Valley floor.

Owners Chris and Vicky Parr are doing extraordinary work in looking after this incredibly special key area which sits in the midst of a sprawling and constantly increasing core ecological area (currently 2195ha) stretching from The Packhorse Scenic Reserve to Waipuna Saddle, taking in many other surrounding DOC, CCC, QEII, BPCT and privately-protected areas. This fantastic connectivity and stability allows regeneration of both flora and fauna to really flourish, filling in the gaps methodically as nature intended, and steadily recloaking the denuded hills sprinkled with ancient dead tree trunks.

It was amazing to witness good progress in native vegetation coverage first-hand on our recent covenant support visit. Fourteen baseline photopoints were set up in 2016, and already the change is obvious. Many species assemblages are taking off, and it is heartening to see thick masses in many places of young podocarp seedlings busting up and through the shrub canopies, and gorse into adolescent then adult trees, the new forest giants to-be long after we are gone.

University of Florida students participating in our Volunteer Programme by controlling hawthorn and barberry at the special Tirowaikare covenant offering podocarp remnant protection. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Manaia covenant and Little River School

Our annual project day with Little River School students saw us tackling a myriad of weedy species along the banks of the Okuti River in Manaia covenant in Okuti Valley. Manaia was originally covenanted in 2007 to protect the ancient podocarps: mataī, tōtara, and kahikatea. A recent covenant extension now includes two wetlands and well-advanced secondary forest complementing the stunning DOC Okuti Reserve. Three rare wetlands are now protected.

The students enjoyed a morning of weeding target species: montbretia, aluminium plant, and periwinkle that threaten the local biodiversity by competing with and smothering native species. A walk through the podocarp forest was particularly awe inspiring for the students, as was getting up close with the resident tuna/longfin eels in the Okuti River.

Little River School students get up close to the resident tuna/longfin eels in Okuti River.
Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Monitoring underway for Nationally Endangered Species

Tmesipteris horomaka is a small fork fern mostly found on the trunks of adult tree ferns in old growth forest. It is endemic to Banks Peninsula and is classed as 'Threatened - Nationally Endangered'. We know little about whether its distribution is increasing or decreasing. Fortunately CCC are on the job, and their rangers have been undertaking surveys looking for the tiny plant within Misty Peaks Reserve on the Wildside and Te Oka Reserve in the Southern Bays. They have developed a monitoring strategy which they are refining so we will be able to detect changes over time of this special epiphyte's recruitment and distribution.

Fork ferns growing out of an adult tree fern trunk.
Photo credit: Alice Webster.

GOAL TWO – RARE ECOSYSTEMS ARE PROTECTED AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGED

Naturally uncommon (previously known as rare) ecosystems fall into six basic categories defined by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

1. Coastal – includes coastal cliffs, i.e., the entire coast line of Banks Peninsula.
2. Geothermal.
3. Induced by native vertebrates – e.g., by seabird colonies and sea mammals.
4. Inland and alpine including cloud forests, cliffs, scarps, Tors, boulder fields (and volcanic boulder fields).
5. Sub and semi subterranean – e.g., caves, sinkholes.
6. Wetlands – 15 types including tarns, mires, seepages and flushes, lake margins, lagoons, estuaries, ephemeral wetlands.

19 BPCT & 32 QEII covenants to date protect naturally uncommon ecosystems with further sites offered protection in CCC and DOC reserves.

DOC ranger Ian Hankin on Birdlings Flat lakefront discussing weed control options amongst native shrub species. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

Close up of Gentianella serotina, in flower on Panama Rock.

Te Mata Hapuku Birdlings Flat weed workshop

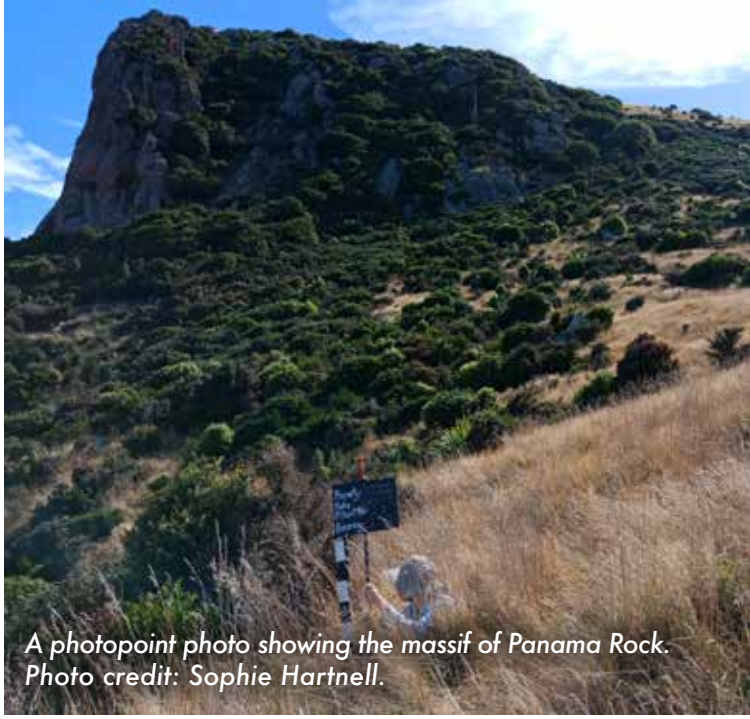
Each year the Trust runs community workshops around the Banks Ecological Region (including the Port Hills and Kaitorete) to raise awareness of important local biodiversity. Knowledge is shared on why certain local flora and fauna are special, what threatens these species and how we can all help to protect and enhance the current populations through good management.

Healthy native vegetation is crucial to the success of the unique wider native ecology of the Birdlings Flat area, providing highly specialised habitat for many species of birds, lizards, insects and other invertebrates – some found here and nowhere else in the world (endemics). Species of note are Kaitorete prostrate broom, the leafless groundcover *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, the tiny *Galium* species known as "lake", several flightless moth species including Kupe's grass-moth, and four species of skinks and geckos.

A rare remaining example of what much of the Birdlings Flat area would have once looked like is seen in Hauroko covenant bordered by Poranui and Hillview roads. This 19ha showpiece of coastal shrubland (classed as nationally rare indigenous stony beach ridge vegetation), is the only example in the Canterbury region and one of only two examples in the South Island. It has been carefully managed for the last 18 years since grazing was removed to keep weeds under control and as a result it contains an incredible diversity of life.

In April we held another workshop in an ongoing series in this area, this time focussing on lake-side weeds and in particular garden-escape species. We were delighted with numbers attending despite various Covid-related disruptions and lake level issues delaying the event. Several lake-front landowners welcomed the group through their properties as we discussed weed identification, consequences of invasions, and how to control the worst threats. Having such knowledgeable local CCC and DOC rangers on the day was excellent in light of the connecting work going on in the area. Key pests looked at in this hands-on session were pigs' ear, spur valerian, karo and cape ivy. All have the ability to proliferate quickly, smother anything in their path and spread further afield.

Christ's College Service Week students controlling broom at Langer Reserve covenant. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.



A photopoint photo showing the massif of Panama Rock. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Langer Reserve

Langer Reserve covenant was visited in March 2022 as part of our Covenant Engagement and Support Programme. It was the first time since botanist Carol Jensen undertook the original ecological survey in 2018 that the monitoring had been done and many of the photopoints showed great changes, particularly in areas of rank grass where bracken and shrubby coprosma species are starting to emerge, making way for other native species. Birdsong was abundant during the site visits, riroriro/grey warbler, korimako/bellbird, kereru/wood pigeon, and piwakawaka/fantail all in abundance. Of note, a pair of tītitipounamu/rifleman were spotted foraging on a tree trunk in search of insects. Tītitipounamu are still rare on Banks Peninsula with populations known in just a few localities.

Langer Reserve is home to the monumental basalt rock outcrop Panama Rock. Rocky outcrops remain some of the least modified habitats on Banks Peninsula for many reasons, not least because some weed and pest species cannot gain access, establish and survive on them. A host of species are adapted to the rocky outcrop environment, and they provide a refuge for native species like snow tussocks and shrublands: *Dracophyllum acerosum*, turpentine plant, *Hebe strictissima*, *Aristome aromatica*, and wind shorn coprosma. Panama Rock is home to the only known locality on Banks Peninsula of *Gentiannella serotina*, in flower during our visit.

GOAL THREE – THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LAND, FRESHWATER, AND MARINE HABITATS ARE MANAGED TO SUPPORT VIABLE POPULATIONS OF SPECIES THAT DEPEND ON THEM

Summit to Sea Ki uta ki tai protections in the Banks Ecological Region = 4

Kororā

By late December, the Pōhatu Penguins team were getting concerned by the number of underweight and dead penguin chicks they were finding in the nesting boxes. As part of their monitoring programme they were weighing every chick in a monitored nest box. This revealed significant weight loss in many chicks, with many not reaching their goal weight of 700g at six weeks. With very few adults seen in the bay during evenings, they concluded that adults were not coming back to feed chicks as often as they should be, with many abandoning their chicks entirely.

As we are well aware, climate change is having an increasing impact on our world, with more frequent extreme weather events happening with increased intensity. The science is suggesting that climate change will increase the intensity of El Niño events and prolong periods of La Niña within the decade.

Less than a week old white flippered penguin chicks. Photo credit: Julie Chandelier.

We may already be feeling the effects, as 2023 was the third year in a row of the La Niña weather pattern, which caused higher than average sea surface temperatures in New Zealand (up to 4°C warmer in parts along the South Island's East Coast). This resulted in a marine heatwave off Banks Peninsula during December/January, likely pushing fish deeper and further out to sea. In-turn, the species that rely on these fish are forced to then travel greater distances, expending more energy to find food. This poor food availability could be the reason adult kororā were abandoning chicks, thus ensuring their own survival during the moult.

The team at Pōhatu made the decision to supplementary feed and/or rehabilitate underweight chicks. From the 269 chicks that hatched in the monitored nest boxes, 68 of them required human intervention. With the entire Pōhatu team pitching in to help, they rehabbed over 100 penguins (some also from natural nests) this season, double the previous year. Most were looked after by Ave and Kev Parthonnaud at the Robinsons Bay rehab facility.

A little penguin moults in a nest box at Pōhatu. Photo credit: Christine Lanham.

Joey gives a chick supplementary fish at its nesting box. Photo credit: Lucy Howell.

With the sickest chicks cared for by Kristina Schuett and Thomas Stracke of Christchurch Penguin Rehabilitation, and veterinarian Dr Pauline Howard of the South Island Animal Hospital at Willowbank. The International Antarctic Centre donated fish, with cash donations and "penguin nest box adoptions" supplementing the many boxes of extra fish required to feed the large numbers in rehab.

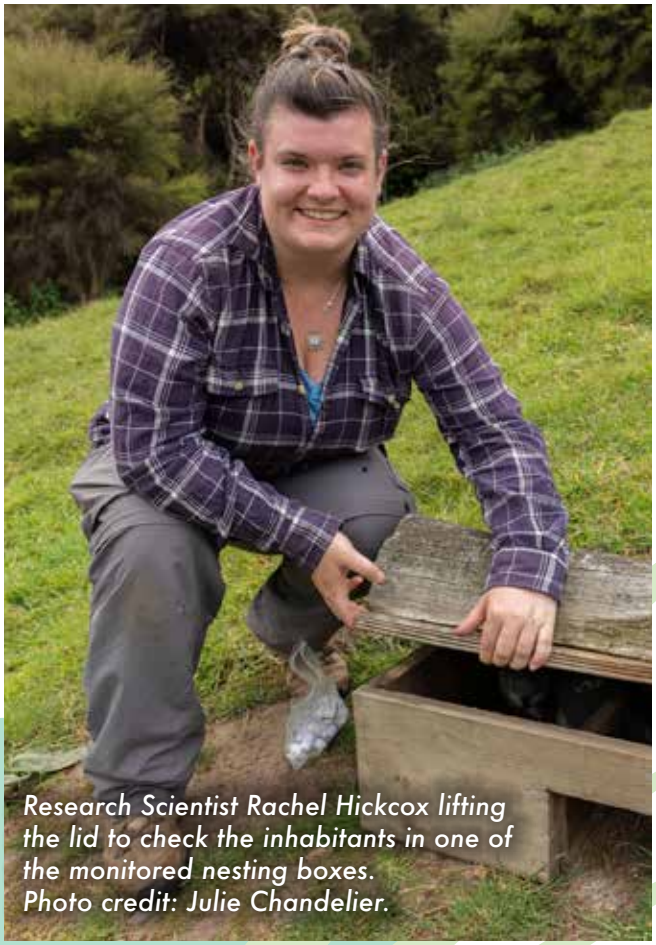
The good news is that 80 of the chicks fledged from rehab and despite the long moult season, there was no evidence of wide-spread starvation like that observed during breeding. Based on weekly weighing and health assessments, most adults were able to successfully fatten up for, and survive during, the moult.

The Pōhatu team. Photo credit: Helps Pōhatu Conservation Trust.

Kororā Monitoring and Research Programme Ramps Up at Pōhatu

In 2022, the Helps Pōhatu Conservation Trust (HPCT) kicked off an in-depth long-term monitoring and research programme of kororā/little penguins (Eudyptula minor) at Pōhatu/Flea Bay. The aim of the project is to better understand the population dynamics of one of the largest New Zealand mainland colonies of the white-flippered penguin (a colour morph of the little penguin), and determine survival, habitat use, foraging behaviour, diet, and the effects of marine and terrestrial threats.

Kororā are a key indicator species, and understanding long-term population demographics provides insights not only into the stability and resilience of the colony, but also on the health of the wider marine environment. This data can then better support marine spatial planning and conservation decision-making. Combined with the research, the HPCT are also leaders in predator control, marine sustainability, and marine protection through advocacy, outreach, and education.



Research Scientist Rachel Hickcox lifting the lid to check the inhabitants in one of the monitored nesting boxes. Photo credit: Julie Chandelier.

Dr Sarah Flanagan, Alexandra and Georgia monitoring a nest box, including scanning the penguin for a microchip with the orange reader. Photo credit: Michelle LaRue.

The local community have been delighted to welcome Dr Rachel Hickcox who officially began her role as Research Scientist for HPCT, in September. She manages the research projects at Pōhatu. Over the past year, they have increased the number of active nesting boxes that they monitor, established a microchipped population of adults and fledglings, tracked penguins at sea using GPS devices, rehabilitated injured and sick birds, surveyed breeding pairs, and increased their predator trapping efforts.

Over the season the team surveyed a total of more than 210 nest boxes, recording, on a custom smartphone app, the bird microchip IDs, weight, measurements, and general health of the penguins. From a subset of these surveyed nest boxes, the team marked 269 penguins (112 adult and 157 chicks) with microchips.

The microchipping will help them identify individual birds and over time determine survival, recruitment and breeding success.

Excitingly, for the first time on Banks Peninsula, kororā were tracked at sea using GPS devices. A special technique was used to tape the tiny GPS's to the penguins' lower back. Five devices were deployed on 15 breeding adults during their guard stage (when they had chicks of 1-3 weeks old). After 2-5 days, the devices were retrieved, and the dive location, depth, and accelerometer data downloaded. This data will hopefully shed some light on the foraging trips taken by the penguins. Data analysis is currently underway, and deployment of devices again next season is being planned.

Rachel, Georgia and Alexandra weigh a penguin chick as part of the kororā monitoring programme at Pōhatu. Photo credit: Lucy Howell.

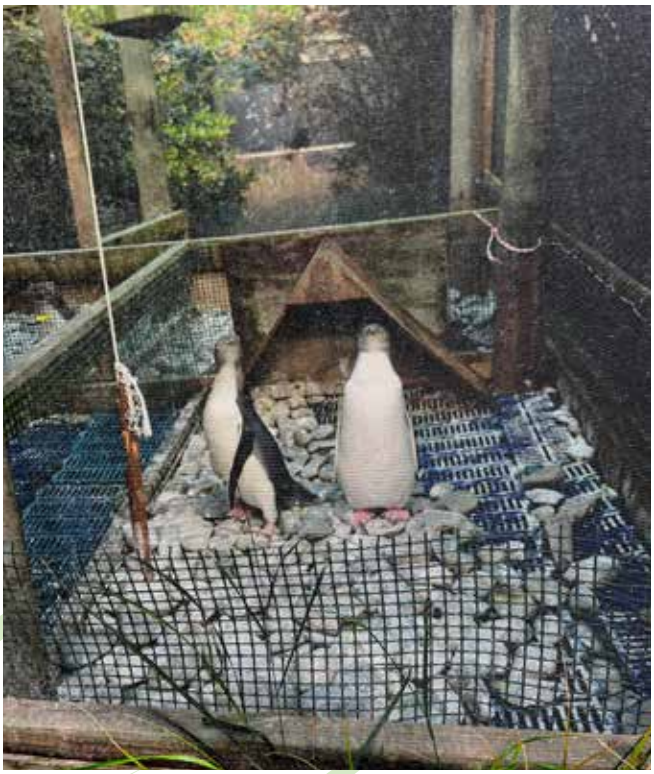
Rachel delicately attaches a GPS tracker to the back of a penguin, one piece of tape and feather at a time. Photo credit: Julie Chandelier.

Summary of Kororā research and monitoring activities at Pōhatu:

- BREEDING IN MONITORED NEST BOXES
  - 171 breeding pairs
  - 353 eggs
  - 269 hatched chicks
  - 194 chicks fledged, of which 68 required rehabilitation or human intervention
- MARKING
  - 269 penguins (112 adult and 157 chicks) have been microchipped
- REHABILITATION
  - 10 adults + 90 chicks (22 from natural nests) were rehabbed this year
  - 80 chicks fledged from rehab
- GPS TRACKING
  - 5 GPS devices deployed on 15 adults (1 device lost)
  - 13 successful tracks with GPS data (11 with dive data too)
  - Foraged 10-24 km from Pōhatu, with maximum diving depths of 38m

Hoiho

Hoiho unfortunately seem to have the odds stacked against them, and sadly this season we may have had the last chick hatch on Banks Peninsula. At sea hoiho not only face predation (e.g., from barracouta), but also incidental capture in commercial fishing set nets, changes to their food supply, driven by the fishing industry and this seasons marine heat wave, forcing them to hunt further and deeper to find food.



Banks Peninsula's hoiho chick (on the right) at Penguin Rescue.
Photo credit: Rosalie Goldsworthy.

On land life isn't much better for the chicks, with almost all hoiho on the mainland succumbing to disease and requiring human intervention to survive. This season one hoiho nest was found on the Wildside. The pair produced two eggs, though only one hatched. The chick, despite the odds (had to be uplifted twice from its nest and treated for Diphtheria, Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a gastro bug and dehydration, then as it was a reluctant feeder had to learn about food satiation and hunger), got to fledging and eventually departed for the big blue.

Tragically, after a successful moult, Sunshine (the chick's mother, and last known breeding female on Banks Peninsula) was found dead on the beach, most likely due to a bone infection caused by a foot injury. A serious blow to the northern-most extent of the hoiho population.

2022-2023 Hoiho Numbers:

- 1 hoiho nest found
- 2 eggs laid
- 1 egg hatched
- 1 chick fledged
- 3 Otago fledglings turn up in Kaikoura and Sumner Beach
- 2 known single adults remain on the Wildside of Banks Peninsula

Penguin Parties

The Pōhatu team have been putting on Penguin Parties for several years. In 2023 the annual Penguin Party was held during Sea Week at the Gaiety Theatre in Akaroa. It was bigger and better than ever with a penguin dance, kids' activities, local hand-made crafts, a bake sale, scientific posters and research presentations.

Joey the sea queen, Kev the penguin, Ave the penguin pirate, Henri the penguin keeper from the International Antarctic Centre and Rachel the penguin scientist, put on quite the show, at the third annual Penguin Party (2023). Photo credit: HPCT.

GOAL FOUR – FOUR CORE INDIGENOUS FOREST AREAS OF MORE THAN 1000HA EACH HAVE BEEN PROTECTED

These large-scale biodiversity hubs contain old-growth and regenerating forest and naturally uncommon ecosystems, with altitudinal variation providing ecosystem resilience. Establishing large hubs of continuous native habitat from summit to sea and across spurs, valleys and rocky tops enables a rich diversity of native plants and animals to thrive. They support larger populations, increasing genetic diversity. Fauna species can move safely between food and water sources, and adapt as the seasons and climate change; this is particularly so for smaller species that are less able to cross large open gaps in a more fragmented landscape, e.g., tomtit, rifleman, and gecko.

Biodiversity hub progress:

1. The Wildside is the "original" biodiversity hub. Centered around Hinewai Reserve, it now includes close to 3,000ha of contiguous protected habitat including summit to sea protection.
2. Kaituna to Waipuna and surrounds – this emerging biodiversity hub includes 1,733ha of legally protected land. A further 462ha have been retired for conservation purposes and (while not yet legally protected) contribute to contiguous indigenous habitat totalling 2,195ha.
3. Te Kākahu Kahukura is centered around Kennedy's Bush in the Southern Port Hills and includes south of Victoria Park/ Rāpaki, extending towards Gebbies Pass, from the plains to Whakaraupō / Lyttelton Harbour, including Ōtamahua/Quail Island. Approx. 1,656ha of protected land managed for conservation purposes can be found in this area.

Waterfall in Hinewai Reserve.
Photo credit: Daniela Aebli Photography.

Rebuilding

This year, following on from the devastating deluge of December 2021, landowners, fencers, workers and earthmoving contractors have been busy working hard to re-establish hundreds of kilometres of fencing, tracks, roads, bridges, communication and power networks, and other infrastructure. All of which had been destroyed, dislodged or disappeared when hundreds of powerful landslides came crashing down hillsides and gouging out everything in their path, to be deposited in flooded tangles of debris on the valley floors or swept out to sea.

Environment Canterbury contributed approximately $200,000 to the rebuild cause. This was distributed amongst 21 landowners who applied for help. The focus of this funding was on protection of high value native biodiversity in flood affected areas across the Extended Wildside. A majority of this funding went towards fence and floodgate repairs to covenant boundaries, ensuring stock could once again be excluded from these treasured areas. We were really impressed at the speed with which many landowners prioritised and were able to get stock out and fences up to re-protect their covenants. Funding also went to re-instating fences protecting native biodiversity, not under covenant, expanding areas of biodiversity protection and retiring flood affected land.

The Johns' were quick to repair fences and flood gates to keep stock out of their covenants. The fence repairs were done by Tom Evans who repurposed damaged mussel buoys for the floodgates. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

December's deluge, and subsequent scarring of the Wildside's faces, stripping bare the streams, rerouting and recontouring the valley floor and stream paths, got people reconsidering their fence line routes and thinking about whether certain areas were worth trying to reinstate. With climate change increasing the odds of such events becoming more common – and July proving so, with three more "one in 150-year rain events" occurring – some decided it was not worth the effort to rebuild certain farm tracks, culverts, bridges and fence lines. What would have been smaller and more marginal farmland has instead been retired or paddocks reshaped to reduce the risk of the fence lines yet again being taken out.

'Bridging a gap' for Banks Track walkers (after the main bridge was taken out by floodwaters in Dec '21), Mark Armstrong didn't think it would be quite so temporary, being taken out by floodwaters less than six months later. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

Although the weather continues to throw curveballs at us – with our most substantial snow in years falling in October, there are plenty of signs that nature is bouncing back. Much of the (approximately 70 hectares in Hinewai Reserve alone) scoured land which had been ripped naked by December's events is resprouting with vigour. On Hinewai, Hugh Wilson has reported gorse, foxgloves and inkweed as the most dominant re-coloniser's. However, the race is on, with seas of wineberry and poroporo popping up everywhere, and numerous native species such as kānuka māhoe, sevenfinger and fuchsia resprouting from both enduring tree and root fragments, and new seeds alike.

May 2022 - Looking across the landslide that had five months earlier gouged out this path, dissecting East Track in Hinewai.
Photo credit: Alice Webster.

March 2023 - Looking across the regrowth on the same patch of landslide where it dissects East Track in Hinewai. Predominantly gorse seedlings, but five-finger and poroporo can also be seen sprouting up.
Photo credit: Alice Webster.

Gorse flowers under snow in October!
Photo credit: Christo Trought.

Something kind of fishy

With so many of the Wildside's streams and their shady banks being scrubbed bare from top to bottom, unearthing many different layers of sedimentary substrate and revealing their naked new lines to the light, an orange algal-like coating of iron bacteria choked most streams in the initial months. Seeing this along with the many dead fish and eels, stranded high and dry, far from their stream homes led a group of us to pursue finding out more about what impact this event had on stream life and how quickly it would recover.

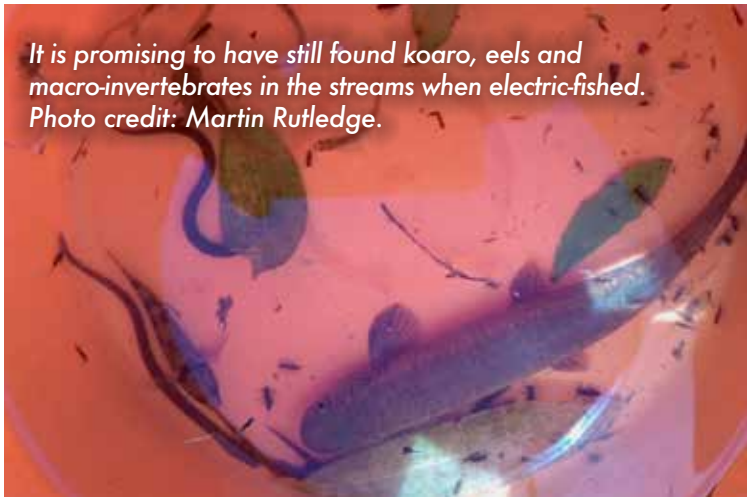
Although Covid thwarted our plans to survey stream life on numerous occasions, eventually two days of electric fishing were undertaken. Primarily funded by CCC, ECan also provided management and financial support for the stream monitoring programme. It was decided to survey sites in Pōhatu and Goughs Bay, as they had been monitored previously.

The lower Pōhatu site showed healthy instream habitat with abundant and diverse native fish populations.

The site at Goughs Bay had been more impacted by floods, with less riparian vegetation left and fine sediment reducing the quality of the habitat. It was pleasing the team caught a few mature redfin bullies, koaro and longfin eels, which means these individuals must have been able to find refuge during the flood events. They were however in low numbers, indicating large portions of fish had likely been either killed or washed out to sea during the flood events.

It was really positive to see improved water quality and invertebrate populations seem to have bounced back post flood, and look to be in a reasonably healthy state, which will help further fish recruitment. This is good news as Banks Peninsula is the main Canterbury strong hold for redfin bully and banded kokopu and supports a rich diversity of other native species.

It is hoped we will be able to re-monitor these sites again to see how quickly the fish and stream invertebrate populations recover.



It is promising to have still found koaro, eels and macro-invertebrates in the streams when electric-fished.
Photo credit: Martin Rutledge.

Martin Rutledge looks for any signs of life where the stream used to be. Upstream, the flow goes to ground, amongst the metres of built-up boulders and debris deposited here behind a tangled fence and plantation tree barrier. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

Christ's College students at Pohatu on the Wildside during their annual service week with the Trust. Photo credit: Kevin Parthonnaud.

Walkers heading west along the Te Ara Pātiki Kaituna Basin ridge - flanks of Mt Herbert, Mt Bradley and the Southern Alps beyond. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

KAITUNA TO WAIPUNA AND SURROUNDS

Gathering momentum in the hills around and behind Kaituna Valley, Te Ahu Pātiki Mt Herbert, Orton Bradley, and Western Valley to Waipuna Saddle, is an impressive virtually contiguous tract of conservation land. This network, now covering 2195ha includes several BPCT covenants; Te Ara Pātiki Kaituna Basin, Te Pōhue The Monument, Waipuna Bush, two Kōwhai Bush covenants, five Western Valley Multi covenants, Belleau Wood, Pekelharing extension and a valuable new covenant just recently started – Glen Ātahu, also in Western Valley.

Together with significant DOC, QEII and private land protections the result is impressive and exciting for future generations. The older, established DOC Reserves; Sign of the Packhorse Scenic Reserve, Mt Herbert Scenic Reserve, Kaituna Spur Reserve and Waipuna Saddle Scenic Reserve sit well spread in between the various BPCT, privately-owned and QEII managed pieces of conservation land, including the fantastic new 500ha Te Ahu Pātiki Conservation Park.

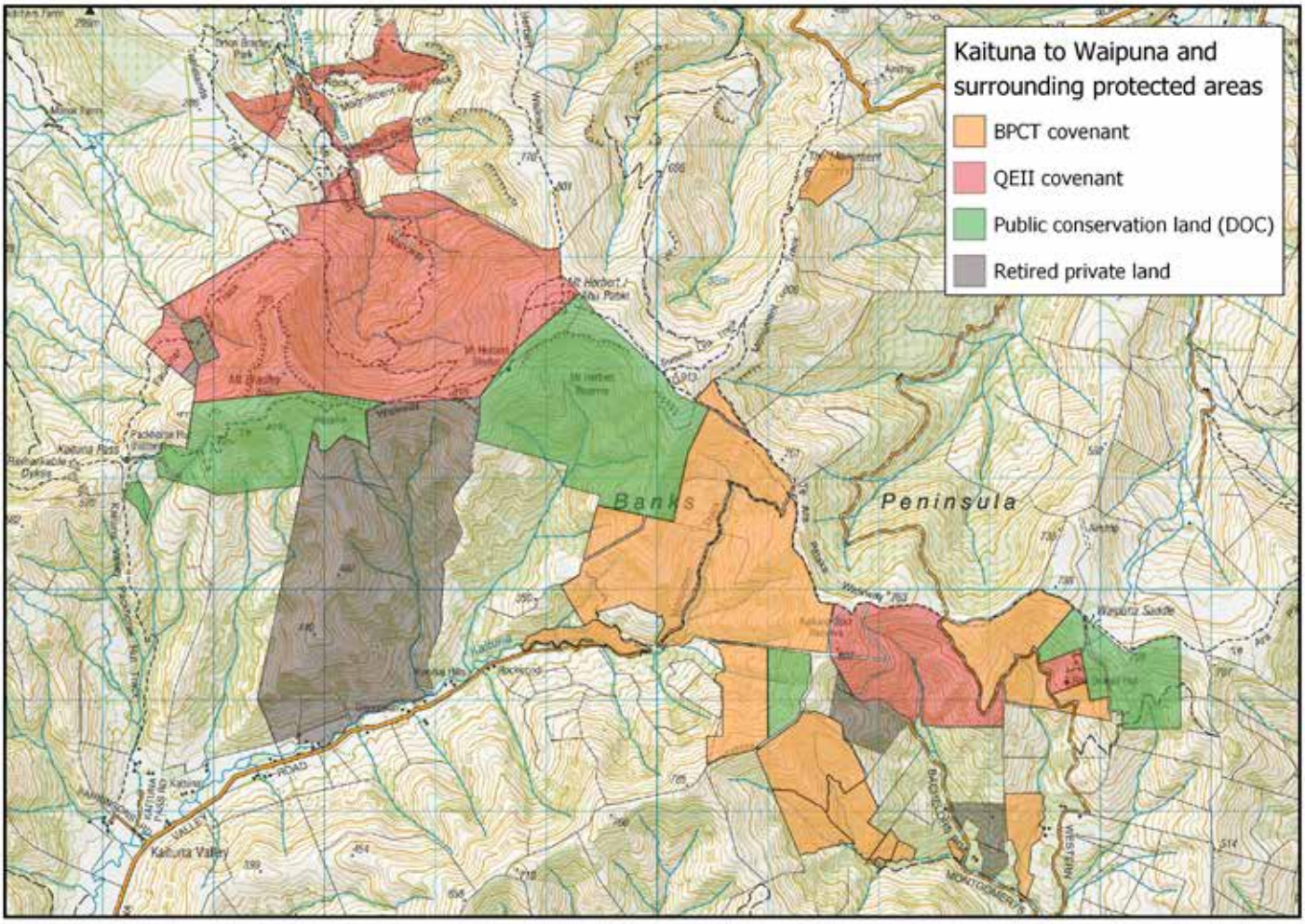
Extensive habitat connectivity provides the ecological stability and diversity needed for plant, bird, insect, lizard and other life forms to establish, survive, thrive and spread faster via ecological corridors to new ecological stepping stones in the wider landscape. It is also fantastic that people can move extensively within this area using the myriad of available walkways to really absorb and appreciate the scale, diversity, and ecological richness of this outstanding landscape.

Several key catchments and many important waterways are also protected in this core conservation area, good news for aquatic life, water health; and erosion mitigation – especially important with increased heavy rainfall events in our changing climate patterns.

A guided day walk in March led keen trampers from the Purau-Port Levy saddle up The Monument North track to the Kaituna ridgeline and along the Te Ahu Pātaka walkway to see first-hand how these dots all connect. The weather was perfect, amazing views were enjoyed in all directions to the many protected areas and beyond; southward to Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere, Kaitōrete Spit and the Southern Alps, and northward over Koukourārata Port Levy to the Kaikōura ranges.

It was a good chance to discuss challenges being faced across this large swathe of protected land – the dilemma that improved habitat and connectivity can also be attractive to unwanted weed and animal pests, particularly feral ungulates. However, extensive control work via the Pest Free Banks Peninsula Strategy is well underway on the latter, so the future for this core area is looking bright.

Areas protected for conservation – Kaituna to Waipuna and surrounds.
Map credit: Bob Webster.



100th covenant

Congratulations to Annelies and Kees Pekelharing whose latest protection recently became the 100th special area to be protected in perpetuity by a BPCT conservation covenant. It adds another precious piece to the rapidly expanding core area of protected native forest, not only in Western Valley but within a much wider contiguous stretch of conservation land from the Kaituna – Mt Herbert/Orton Bradley area around to Waipuna Saddle, now covering 2195ha.

What a success story from the area being ravaged by goats back in the 1980's when Hugh Wilson carried out his botanical survey, to the ecologically-rich place it is now. Lush tree fern canopies and flourishing ferns abound amongst the carefully chosen and managed enrichment plantings done over the years to supplement the struggling remaining bush. Adjacent to five other contiguous covenants, it also protects the beautiful key waterway Hukahuka Turoa stream.

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust & Jacobs project day

Our annual project day with Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust continues with staff and family from Jacobs assisting with planting, weeding, and track maintenance. The Rod Donald Hut sits within the Waipuna to Kaituna contiguous area of protected land. We would like to acknowledge RDBPT for their ongoing support and Suky Thompson for her enthusiasm over the years! We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Annelies and Kees Pekelharing amongst 100th BPCT covenant in Western Valley. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

Volunteers from Jacobs planting at Rod Donald Hut. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

TE KĀKAHU KAHUKURA

Te Kākahu Kahukura was formed after the devastating Port Hills fires of 2017. It was set up around the shared vision that...

by 2050, the Port Hills will have at least 1000 hectares of thriving and resilient indigenous podocarp forest supporting an abundance of native birds and invertebrates. It will be a taonga for the Ōtautahi Christchurch community to value, protect, and engage with.

Te Kākahu Kahukura is underpinned by a partnership agreement which includes iwi, local agencies, community conservation groups, and private landowners.

This year has seen a real focus on building momentum and a refresh of our strategy. As a result, we are working in four important areas as part of our Kahukura Red Admiral Programme. The programme involves developing a site specific, landowner support and restoration action approach within the Te Kākahu Kahukura area that links to existing work of Te Kākahu Kahukura, BPCT and our partners.

1. Identifying our Red Admiral sites: focuses on identifying key sites (and landowners), and mapping, quantifying, and reporting on aspirations and actions at these sites over time.

2. The Podocarp Enrichment Programme: continues the current project at existing sites and those identified going forward. This includes sites within an extended focus area and considering sites with other forms of protection, such as Māori Reserve Status, Long Term Carbon Agreements, Management Plans, Land Owner Agreements. The programme also aims to extend the species mix via the idea of companion planting a range of species alongside podocarps.

3. Pest Free Banks Peninsula (on the Port Hills): continues the current focus on the Southern Port Hills 1000 ha area in support of partner organisations. The goal is to lock in partners, sites, and seek ongoing funding with Pest Free Banks Peninsula. The programme also considers linking to other pest and weed control initiatives in other sub-zones over time.

4. Connecting and communicating across the community: aims to engage the community through biodiversity events, land owner support, and celebrations of success across partner organizations.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and reporting back on progress.

Maury Leyland
Co-chair of Te Kākahu Kahukura Working Group

Te Kākahu Kahukura Working Group

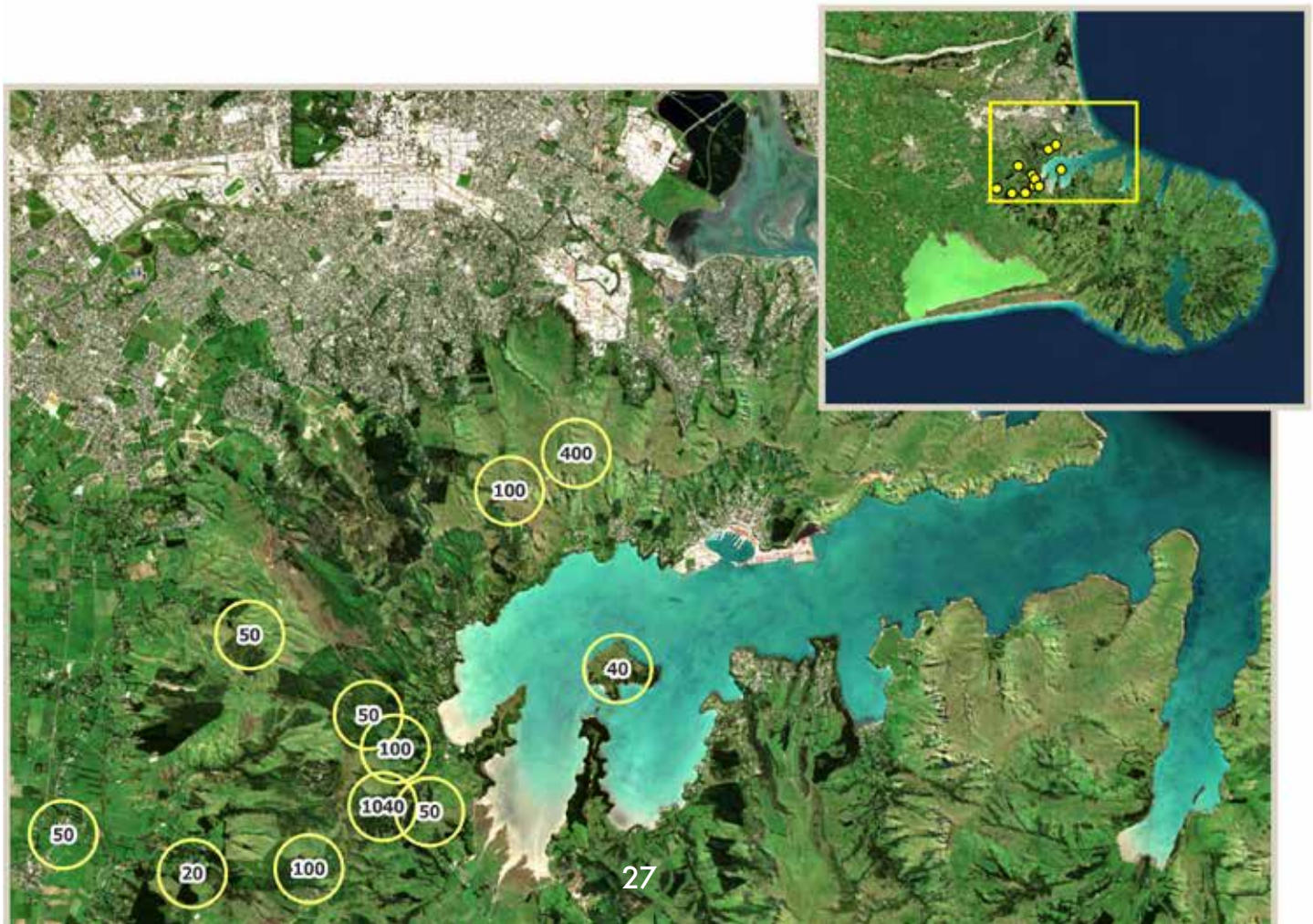
Craig Pauling & Maury Leyland
– Co chairs
Penny Carnaby
– Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Marie Grey & Paula Jameson
– Summit Road Society
Alison Evans and Paul Devlin
– Christchurch City Council
Andrew Spanton
– Selwyn District Council
Denis Aldridge
– Living Springs
Hamish Fairbairn
– Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
Helen Hills & Ian McLennan
– Ōtamahua Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust
Karen Banwell
– Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour
Richard Suggate
– Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
Stephen Brailsford
– Brailsfords
Will Todhunter
– Environment Canterbury
Lisa Chrisstoffels and Sophie Hartnell
– Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust staff

Podocarp enrichment programme

Two thousand tōtara were planted at 11 different sites within the Port Hills ecological district in 2022 as part of Te Kākahu Kahukura's podocarp enrichment programme. To ensure these trees reach maturity the planting sites are either protected or in areas with an ecological vision that aligns with the vision and strategy of Te Kākahu Kahukura's. Living Springs and Omahu Bush continued their enrichment planting in 2022 and nine other sites joined the BPCT-led programme. These tōtara were donated by Trees that Count.

The Te Kākahu Kahukura's working group has agreed that the Southern Port Hills is the starting point for the landscape scale restoration vision and that the city side of the Port Hills and Whakaraupō will join in creating the lungs for a climate resilient city in the future.

Podocarp enrichment planting map 2022. Map credit: Sarah Bisley.



BPCT and CVNZ volunteers planting at Living Springs. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

The enrichment programme and the wider Te Kākahu Kahukura vision to revegetate the Port Hills in native forest are increasingly engaging local community groups and residents of Ōtautahi/Christchurch as the effects of climate change become more evident. Malcolm Long, Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network, spells out the importance of the ecological vision of Te Kākahu Kahukura in this fascinating if confronting, article: https://ohrn.nz/port-hills-erosion///

Volunteers at 1A, Rāpaki, planting alongside the Kaimahi for Nature crew. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

The podocarp enrichment project was initiated in response to Professor David Norton's assessment of the southern Port Hills native vegetation and the lack of mature phase podocarp forest species. Without the necessary seed source, the regeneration of these forest giants would be extremely slow.

Enrichment planting helps to boost the populations of these podocarp species, thus speeding up the eventual return to podocarp dominant forest, that the southern Port Hills would naturally have been cloaked in.

The Te Kākahu Kahukura Strategy outlines the intention to plant 10,000 podocarp species, tōtara, matai, and kahikatea in the Te Kākahu Kahukura area, with the intention of both enhancing native biodiversity values, controlling erosion and sedimentation, and for carbon sequestration purposes. Suitable planting sites for enrichment planting have certain criteria, and careful site mapping is being undertaken to establish optimum areas for these trees. To build rigour around the project and to ensure the trees reach maturity they are planted in protected areas and are monitored for the first two years.
This information will be collated and stored to map the trees' progress and ensure the best outcomes.

Volunteer Derek Erasmus and Donna Lusby from CVNZ planting at Omahu Bush. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Seed collection and propagation workshop

An important part of restoration is education and ensuring the right plant is in the right place. In March BPCT ran a successful seed collection and propagation workshop at Living Springs. The workshop was led by Tom Ferguson, resident botanist at Wai-Ora, who shared his extensive knowledge. Attended by Te Kākuhu Kahukura working group members and private landowners, the workshop focused on the importance of eco sourcing and the resulting benefits including genetic purity and better growth and survival of plants.

Tom Ferguson, Wai-Ora, shares his knowledge at the seed collection and propagation workshop. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Port Hills fire restoration

The BPCT Volunteer Programme continues to support covenant landowners within the Te Kākahu Kahukura area affected by the devastating 2017 Port Hills fires. Trees for Canterbury have supported the restoration of these covenants by generously donating trees. Lansdowne A and B, adjoining covenants, were both devastated in the fires and the Volunteer Programme works alongside contractors from Brailsfords and volunteers from the South West Baptist Church to restore the area back to native bush. Fire breaks and fire-resistant species will increasingly be a consideration in restoration projects as the effects of climate change become more evident. Thank you to the landowners for their enthusiasm and commitment to the project, Steve Bush and Trees for Canterbury, Stephen Brailsford and the team for their support and expertise, and the amazing volunteers from the South West Baptist Church for being so committed to this project.

Lansdowne B landowner Phil Claude and friends planting at Lansdowne A. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

The Rotary Club Of Cashmere

Rotary Club Of Cashmere

Cashmere Rotary generously gifted $5,000 to Te Kākahu Kahukura this year as part of the $20,000 pledge made to the project in 2021. A project is underway to plant 15 to 20 of the funded tōtara in honour of a recently deceased member who was recognized within the club as "Tōtara" for his strength of service to the local and Pacific communities. Club members planted and attended maintenance working bees on Mt Ada which has been a commitment covering more than a decade of reforestation of the Port Hills, and have also contributed to the many community restoration days on Cashmere Stream as part of the 200,000 plants that now complete the Te Kuru restoration project. The clubs likes to think of this as "working at both ends of the Tui/Kereru corridor".

BPCT personnel and Rotary Club of Cashmere members celebrating the Club signing the Te Kākahu Kahukura memorandum of understanding and becoming a key supporter of the podocarp enrichment programme.

Otamahua /Quail Island ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION TRUST

Otamahua Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust

We are looking forward to the 2023 planting season on Ōtamahua/Quail Island. Volunteers will plant 2,500 trees and shrubs over four weekends in August. The planting site is a challenging area, full of Californian thistle and prone to frost and waterlogging in the winter. We will be planting hardy species like mānuka (at close spacing), flax, Coprosma propinqua, cabbage tree, and toetoe. Site preparation work (two sprays with glyphosate) was completed in autumn 2023.

Deer eradication continues with the Department of Conservation funding shoots in September 2022 and planned for May 2023. We hope there will also be another operation later this year.

Our main focus in the past year has been to poison wilding pinus radiata and *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*. We are receiving favourable comments from residents around the harbour basin seeing the trees slowly turning into skeletons.

Volunteers releasing trees and removing plant guards on the north-east ridge in May 2023. These trees were planted in 2019. Photo credit: Ian McLennan.

Many seedlings sprout in inconvenient places around buildings or at track edges. Over winter we have been busy transplanting them (kanuka, akiraho and ngaio) into areas mainly under the poisoned wilding pines. As the pines are no longer providing shade or robbing the soil of moisture the seedlings have a good strike rate and grow quickly. Flax and cabbage trees were also planted on a 2014 slip at the south west point of the island and 40 tōtara donated by the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust were planted in August 2022.

Weed work continues and progress has been made on boneseed, boxthorn, spur valerian and karo below the cliffs, primarily west of Middle Gully where it is safe to work. Rock fall since the earthquakes still makes it impossible to work below the cliffs elsewhere. Volunteers have been busy pulling broom and wilding pine seedlings and releasing trees from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 planting seasons.

Regular monitoring of traps and tracking tunnels continues and the island remains pest free except for mice and deer. No mustelids or rats have been caught on the main island, but a few rats have been caught on Aua/ King Billy Island. Stoats, rats, weasels and a ferret have been caught on Moepuku Peninsula. We are looking to replace our traps with stainless steel DOC 200s as our existing traps are rusting prematurely and are difficult to calibrate.

Every year we are excited to see our trees rising above the pasture grasses to fill in another corner of the mosaic of planting over Ōtamahua.

Ian McLennan
for Ōtamahua Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust

Kaimahi for Nature Whakaraupō

If you've joined a planting day in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour, you might have worked alongside the Kaimahi for Nature field crew. Maybe you met them digging in tōtara with BPCT at Living Springs, or in the hills behind Rāpaki with Conservation Volunteers NZ. They look pretty legitimate with their high-vis, ATVs and radios but who are they are really what are they up to?

Kaimahi for Nature Whakaraupō is a partnership between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Living Springs and Conservation Volunteers New Zealand. Led by Ngāti Wheke and funded by DOC, the partnership contributes to the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour plan which aims to restore the natural and cultural ecosystems of Whakaraupō ki uta ki tai – from the mountains to the sea. The three-year project is steeped in mātauranga Māori and has the long-term vision of restoring mahinga kai in the harbour.

The two Kaimahi field crews are based out of Living Springs and Rāpaki. They spend their days planting, weeding, fencing, trapping and monitoring. Since 2021, they've put an incredible 39,400 native plants in the ground, built 2.2 km of fencing, and caught almost 2,500 possums, rats and mustelids. By the end of the three-year project, they will have planted an incredible 68,500 native seedlings and established an extensive trapping network. They also help with restoration plantings at Purau, Steadfast Stream, Diamond Harbour, Mahy's Peninsula, Ōtamahua, Governors Bay and on a few private properties dotted throughout the harbour.

DOC funding will run out in 2024 and the team are looking for help to keep the project alive. Living Springs is looking for volunteers to get involved in trapping, planting and building tracks. And, back towards the port, Lyttelton folks can link up with Whaka-Ora Pest Project (WOPP) to help trap predators and tackle invasive weeds in the hills above the town.

Living Springs

Living Springs has had a busy year in terms of our conservation work, much of that is attributed to our Jobs for Nature field team, in addition to a large grant and other successful fundraising efforts aimed directly at our conservation programme. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, our team planted approximately 22,000 native seedlings in the 2022 season. This season 3,400 have been planted, with a further 11,000 to go in (giving a total of approximately 36,400 seedlings over the last year/two seasons). In the 2022 planting season we received 1,040 tōtara seedlings as part of the TKK project and this year we have planted 350 tōtara. Monitoring work shows our last year's seedlings including tōtara have very high success rates, with many putting on growth in their first season. This year we received further funding for fencing to mark a big Milestone. With work currently underway, all our catchments can now be closed from stock, so that in addition to planting work in our lower riparian areas, natural regeneration can take place in all our upper catchments, protecting the entire Allandale stream (ki uta ki tai). This Milestone has required around eight kilometres of new fencing and has retired 150Ha of Living Springs property for restoration processes to take place.

Native Seedlings planted.
Photo Credit: Living Springs.

He rau ringa e oti ai – many hands make light work!
Photo credit: Living Springs.

A significant amount of our predator management efforts take place in these retired bush blocks, although we currently have 300Ha of our 400Ha under various levels of control in terms of trapping efforts. There are currently approximately 550 traps (including AT220's, Sentinels, Trapinators, DOC200's, Victor rat traps) out targeting possums, rats, mustelids, hedgehogs, mice and feral cats at Living Springs. We also utilise trail cameras with Motolures all over the property to monitor target species. Our seasonal monitoring efforts using chew cards, tracking tunnels and cameras also help us target hot spots to focus our efforts and are helping us build a picture of our pest populations in response to our trapping work. Development of a good working relationship with organisations and close local landowners CCC and Summit Road Society is further helping us all to work towards elimination of pest species on a much greater landscape scale. Our initiative Predator Free Allandale (PFA) also works on this principle. We now mentor and work collaboratively with almost 20 different local landowners in the Allandale and Teddington catchments, totalling approximately 1100Ha of pest management coverage overall. Our weed management programme has also been a big focus this year, with our field workers spending countless hours working towards largescale eradication of invasive species over the entire 400Ha property. Our main target species are predominantly wilding pine seedlings and Old Mans Beard.

Summit Road Society

In addition to our predator control work under the banner of Pest Free Banks Peninsula, the Summit Road Society continues to restore and enhance the bush in Omahu, Gibraltar Rock and Ohinetahi Reserves.

Activities over the last 12 months include:

- Installing equine mesh around the deer fence at Omahu Bush to deter feral pigs
- A weed survey at Omahu Bush with follow up control by volunteers
- Ongoing weed control by volunteers at Ohinetahi Reserve
- Engaging a contractor to remove spur valerian and other high-threat weeds around the rocky bluffs at Ohinetahi Reserve
- Enrichment planting at Omahu and Ohinetahi, including tōtara donated from the Te Kākahu Kahukura programme

Removing a wilding pine at Omahu.
Photo Credit: Summit Road Society.

Anne and Kiwi Paul removing passionvine stump at Ohinetahi Reserve.
Photo Credit: Summit Road Society.

Te Kākahu Kahukura partner organisations

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Banks Peninsula Geopark
Brailsford Limited
Canterbury Regional Council
Cashmere Rotary
Christchurch City Council
Christchurch Foundation
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
Kaunihera Taio ki Waitaha / Environment Canterbury
Living Springs Trust
Lyttleton Port Company
Maury Leyland and John Leyland Penno
Ōtamahua / Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust
Ōpāwho Heathcote River Network
Pest Free Banks Peninsula
QEII National Trust
Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
Selwyn District Council
Summit Road Society Incorporated
Te Ara Kākāriki
Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki) Rūnanga
Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour

No OF BPCT PROTECTIONS IN WORKING FARMS **39**

Kawatea covenant

Capped by a rocky knoll capturing a magnificent 360 degree view of Okains Bay, its valley walls and the Summit road, in lower-mid Okains – lies Kawatea the newest BPCT covenant owned by Kerry and Judy Thacker who undertook this project together with son Nick.

At just over 9ha it is packed with more than the usual diversity of species due to its many different aspects, slopes, altitudes, geology, soil types, and a stream corridor.

The south-eastern lower slopes are clad in different stages of secondary regrowth forest housing some beautiful well-established broadleaved-tree specimens including kōwhai, fuchsia, ngaio, broadleaf and ribbonwood along with some adolescent mataī and tōtara. Nearby there are bigger podocarp specimens ensuring an ongoing seed source for recolonisation into the covenant. Many well-established small tree and tall shrub species such as kaikomako *Pennantia corymbosa*, red matipo or mapou *Myrsine australis, Melicope simplex* and older gnarled-trunked coprosmas feature, having managed to withstand grazing. With stock fairly recently excluded it is great to see a wide range of seedlings emerging through native grass patches and in bush understory which can develop unhindered into healthy young plants. It was especially pleasing to find highly palatable seedlings of kawakawa, five finger, broadleaf and various ferns appearing already too.

View to Okains Bay over rocky knoll on Kawatea covenant. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

Tougher tactics are needed to survive on the rocky knoll exposed to the elements. Hardy grey shrub communities dominate for good reason. They can withstand the incessant stresses of wind, rain, hail, snow and wide temperature fluctuations. During our visit in July burned-off foliage was still recovering from the previous summer's drought. The rocky knoll and rubble field below it provide fantastic lizard habitat. The lizards in-turn will act as seed dispersal agents by eating and passing the tiny berries these shrubs produce.

Of much interest are the fascinating lichens, mosses and liverworts in the area, some of which were noted by ecologist Melissa Hutchison during her botanical survey in March. These are often completely overlooked life forms and generally little is known about them on Banks Peninsula. One liverwort in particular is strangely alien in appearance *Targionia hypophylla* classified as At Risk-Declining. It's known as 'orobus-seed liverwort' because of the unusual spore capsules, which split open like a mussel shell, and resemble snake heads.

Nick Thacker and Francis Helps by stream in Kawatea covenant - Summit Road to West Peak bluffs beyond. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

A surprising diversity of climbers abound including native jasmine *Parsonsia heterophylla,* scrambling fuchsia *Fuchsia perscandens* and climbing groundsel *Brachyglottis sciadophila* (Nationally Threatened, in Decline). Melissa also spotted some curious creeping and scrambling herbs *Chenopodium allanii* – classified as At Risk-Naturally Uncommon and *Australina pusilla*, a tiny cousin of native nettle but without the nasty spines, uncommon on Banks Peninsula.

An unusual liverwort Targionia hypophylla at Kawatea covenant. Photo credit: Melissa Hutchison.

Immersed in a working farm landscape, Kawatea contributes a really important ecological stepping stone in the Okains area for the dispersal of native flora and fauna in and out of other native areas. Not far away on the Western valley side lie House Gully, Manny's Reserve and West Peak covenants in the Ruddenklau's farm (Emerald Hills, previously owned by Chris and Annie Thacker). Also, just over the eastern ridge is Luke Thelning Reserve – a significant catchment protection connecting with several QEII covenants to Little Okains Bay.

Wētā photo story published

Julie Chandelier, a photographer friend of BPCT Wildside Coordinator Alice Webster, was fascinated by Alice's work involving wētā motels. She decided to photograph the wētā in their new motel homes, as well as the backstory of how their homes came to be. This included photographing BPCT Trustee David Miller and the timber he donated from milled trees on his property and the Akaroa Men's Shed who crafted the timber into 120 wētā motels. The story published by Avenues, including making the front cover of the April 2022 edition.

Wildside Coordinator, Alice Webster on the cover of Avenues magazine installing a wētā motel. Photo credit: Julie Chandelier.

The Akaroa weedaholics take on Old Mans Beard

Weeds often take a back seat to our furry four legged pests, both in the media, and when it comes to funding support. However, the dangers invasive weeds pose to our native ecosystems are anything but laid back. Instead, they are sophisticated spreaders and survivors, that every season when left to their own devices, are able to spread and make the task of saving our native ecosystems exponentially harder and more costly.

An inspirational bunch from the Akaroa community have started a grassroots weeding group to tackle this important issue. They have all become rather addicted to weeding, thus the name, the Weedaholics. They are aware that conservation weeds such as old man's beard (OMB), banana passionfruit and sycamore can all cause significant and sometimes irreparable damage to native bush ecosystems. They love the native forest around Akaroa and are fighting back against the weeds on the forests behalf.

The Weedaholics kicked off in February 2023 and have already volunteered almost 90 hours of weeding. This has mostly focused on the Grehan Valley area so far. They thought this was a good place to start as it has large OMB infestations and many other high priority weeds. The valley is also home to numerous covenants and conservation blocks and is the gateway to wider regenerating native bush areas in Purple Peak Curry Reserve.

The group decided its priorities should be to support owners of conservation land, in particular QEII and or BPCT covenanted land, who need a bit of help getting on-top of their weeds. We've all heard of "a stitch in time saves nine" and this definitely applies to weeds. Winning at weeds is all about front-loading, if a big effort can be put in early to create an initial large knockdown, the landowner is then in a much easier position to maintain and "mop up" on their own.

Weed infestations can be daunting for individual landowners, but having a team of enthusiastic volunteers turn up and help boost efforts has encouraged and inspired landowners to work more on their own weed infestations, now believing a win is possible. Knowing that the friendly bunch are also available to share practical advice and offer an understanding ear to the stresses of owning and controlling a weed infestation is also important for maintaining tenacity with weeds.

Members of the group are also interested in the bigger strategic picture of the best approach to tackling the worst conservation weeds across the whole peninsula and believe it will take a collaborative approach from agencies and community to address the possible tsunami of weeds waiting to smother Banks Peninsula's amazing native ecosystems.

If you have a weeding addiction, or would like to start one, please contact Rachel on 027 304 4676 to join the group.

Weeder extraordinaire, Rachel Howells, with armfuls of OMB vine.

Weeding Bee #4 – Enjoying Ad and Hollie's hospitality after weeding OMB in their BPCT covenant. Photo credit: Hollie Hollander.

Ryman Residents Build Homes for Native Birds and Wētā

Residents at Charles Upham Retirement Village have built boxes upon boxes for ruru, rifleman and wētā to call home. Ryman Healthcare paid for the materials and a team constructed them all in their village workshop. Our Wildside Coordinator Alice, distributed them to landowners who are keen to be part of a wider community biodiversity monitoring programme.

The construction team from Charles Upham hand over their handiwork to BPCT Wildside Coordinator, Alice Webster. Photo credit: Alan Wood.

This sign is on the side of all the new nesting boxes. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

Pawsons Valley covenant

It was great having new owner of Pawsons Valley covenant Steve Flynn along on our covenant support visit in February to help with photopoint monitoring. Steve's a dedicated possum trapper, not just on his own property but also in the wider farming area and the results are evident in the range of species doing well in the native bush. One notable highlight of this is the extensive patches of climbing native spinach *Tetragonia implexicoma* throughout the covenant.

New Pawsons Valley owner Steve Flynn helping with photopoint monitoring on covenant visit. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

Kōwhai and karamu emerging through kanuka canopy light wells at Pawsons Valley covenant with flourishing shrub layer underneath. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

Port Saddle restoration project

Since 2017 we have planted 2,913 plants with 295 volunteers and 228 Enviroschools students from Lyttelton Primary, Diamond Harbour, Heathcote, and Governor's Bay schools at our restoration site, Port Saddle, in partnership with Lyttelton Port Company (LPC). Most of the work in restoration is in the maintenance and weeding and we've worked with 14 groups; corporates, schools, and conservation organisations to achieve a monumental 4,500 hours of volunteer time to ensure the plants survive. In addition, 61 local volunteers have assisted at the restoration site to support the biodiversity at Port Saddle.

Keen young planter at the annual Port Saddle community plant out. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Port Saddle is a restoration site covering 17ha above the township of Lyttelton. It provides a unique opportunity to work with volunteers on an active restoration site. It provides much of the volunteer work for many of our corporate, school, and partner conservation organisations because of its proximity to Ōtautahi/Christchurch and because of the intensive nature of active restoration.

CVNZ Workskills crew learning about under runners and erosion at Port Saddle. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Thanks to Kim Kelleher, Kirsty Brennan and Charlotte Jones from LPC for their continued support of this project. We wish Kim well in her future endeavours. Thanks also to the many groups who work alongside us at Port Saddle; Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, Fox and Associates, ASB, Engco, Rough and Milne, and Christ's College, and to our local volunteers whose commitment to the success of this restoration project keeps the momentum going.

Overview of completed 2022 planting area with Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour behind. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Taumutu trapping

Pest Free Banks Peninsula is working alongside the Taumutu community and the Te Taumutu Rūanaga marae at Ngati Moki. The community has already been reducing feral cats in the area, which in turn is acting as a buffer to the Kaitorete operations.

Dave Tilson has been volunteering with servicing the Taumutu trapping buffer. Although it is hard to quantify how much of an impact the Taumutu trapping buffer is having on reducing reinvasion into Kaitorete, the number of animals being removed is having a positive impact on the biodiversity in and around Taumutu. Marae staff and long term whānau have commented that there are more kereru in the trees around the marae and that they have heard Bittern booming in the nearby wetland.

Dave Tilson of Taumutu servicing traps as a volunteer. Photo credit: John Williamson.

Tītitipounamu CESP

In June, we undertook a CESP visit to Tītitipounamu covenant in Le Bons Bay. This was one of the very first covenants to be monitored by the CESP programme, designed to connect with landowners and track the health of covenants though citizen science monitoring techniques, photopoints and transect bioindicator vegetation monitoring.

Magnificent mataī at Tītitipounamu covenant, Le Bons Bay. Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Woodills South Block CESP

In February we visited the two adjacent covenants in Grehan Valley collectively known as Woodills South Block covering just over 8ha. It was really enjoyable being shown around by both owners to see what they have achieved, but also useful in recognising the key challenge faced in some areas. Massive amounts of old man's beard has been cleared to date through persistent effort (after some initial contractor assistance in one spot,) though there is still some to remove. Long term success in keeping this weed under control also depends on effective management by others in the area, underlining the importance of neighbourhood, agency and Trust collaboration. Because old man's beard seed only lasts two years, there are good odds of keeping on top of it with regular control work – firstly cut and pasting or spraying, then follow up seedling pulling.

The Woodills South track meanders through these covenants to Purple Peak road, a wonderful community asset made possible by the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust when the covenant project first began. With effective pest management under way, no stock grazing, and the process of old kanuka canopy breaking down to create lightwells, the signs of understory recovery are proliferating in the form of many palatable species including kawakawa, fivefinger, broadleaf, wineberry and ferns – along with young tōtara seedlings sprinkled generously throughout. How neat that visitors can share in this journey thanks to these dedicated landowners working so well with Mother Nature.

Young helper under magnificent remnant kahikatea at Woodills South covenant after extensive old man's beard control. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

GOAL SIX – RARE AND COMMON INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA OF BANKS PENINSULA ARE INCREASINGLY ABUNDANT.

Examples of covenant photopoint photos tracking changes over time

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Balguerie Stream PP02.1 270°
taken in March **2018**.
Photo credit: Geoff Walls.

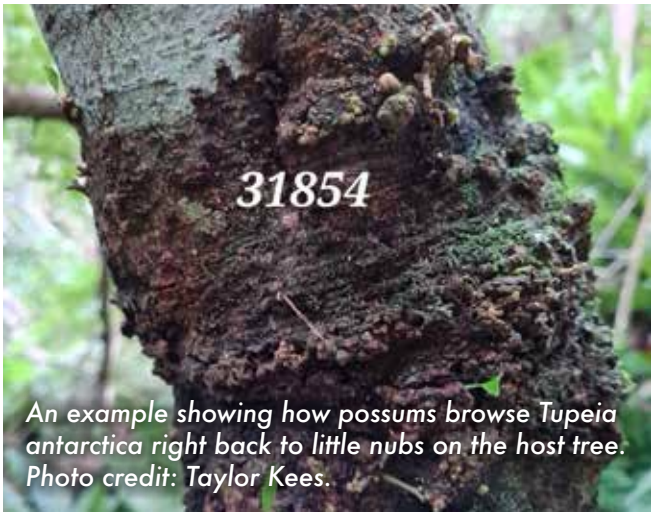
Balguerie Stream PP02.1 270°
taken in March **2023**.
Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Tititipounamu PP02.1 225°
taken in June **2009**.
Photo credit: Melissa Hutchison.

Tititipounamu PP02.1 225°
taken in June **2022**.
Photo credit: Sophie Hartnell.

Covenant engagement and support programme update

Over the past year we have enjoyed completing another set of valuable support visits to a diverse range of protected areas in the five-yearly covenant support programme revisit cycle. It is great to reconnect with both original and new landowners to celebrate successes, discuss any concerns and share management information. With 101 conservation covenants now completed, the schedule is busy as we aim to see 20 covenants each year. Special thanks to our volunteers Hamish Fairbairn, Fran Johnson and CVNZ staff Donna Lusby and Katie Dunlop. No two days are ever the same and it is always rewarding to be constantly learning, and recognising the impressive quiet progress which covenant holders are making in protecting ecologically special places through an entirely voluntary mechanism.



An example showing how possums browse Tupeia antarctica right back to little nubs on the host tree. Photo credit: Taylor Kees.

New growth of Tupeia antarctica. Photo credit: Taylor Kees.

Mistletoe monitoring

On Banks Peninsula, we are fortunate to be a strong hold for white mistletoe/tāpia *(Tupeia antarctica)*, which is currently classed as 'Nationally at risk – Declining.'

White mistletoe is highly sensitive to possum browse and is therefore one of the main biodiversity monitoring projects for the Pest Free Banks Peninsula possum elimination programme. Several different locations are being monitored. A population of white mistletoe at Peraki Saddle Scenic Reserve (only controlled for feral goats) on the southern side of Akaroa harbour is being monitored as a control site to compare with sites closer to areas controlled for possums.

It can be hard to find *Tupeia* in a forest with high possum numbers, as they browse the mistletoe right back to the host tree.

Alice measures the circumference of the host tree that supports multiple large clumps of Tupeia antarctica. Photo credit: Mark Nixon.

Detecting mistletoe in possum scat

Some exciting research we were able to get underway – thanks to the CCC, Maryanne Walker of Lincoln University and the ZIP team and their possums – was to design mistletoe-specific primers and determine if mistletoe can be reliably detected in possum poo using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods. The main advantage to detecting mistletoe in possum diets using molecular analysis of their poo, is to provide another method for monitoring the often elusive mistletoe populations.

This preliminary study successfully designed primers that can amplify mistletoe DNA. It also provided initial results into the use of PCR to analyse possum poo as a new method to monitor mistletoe populations. However, further work needs to be done to determine if this is a reliable method for detecting mistletoe in wild possum populations.

A sample of white mistletoe (Tupeia antarctica), before it was offered to an allocated possum. Photo credit: Alison Evans.

Forest vegetation indicator species monitoring

How do we know if our rare and common indigenous flora and fauna are increasingly abundant? On the Extended Wildside we are trying to increase our understanding of the current state of our native biodiversity. This is especially important if we want to truly understand the effects of the Pest Free Banks Peninsula possum elimination programme on our precious native forest species.

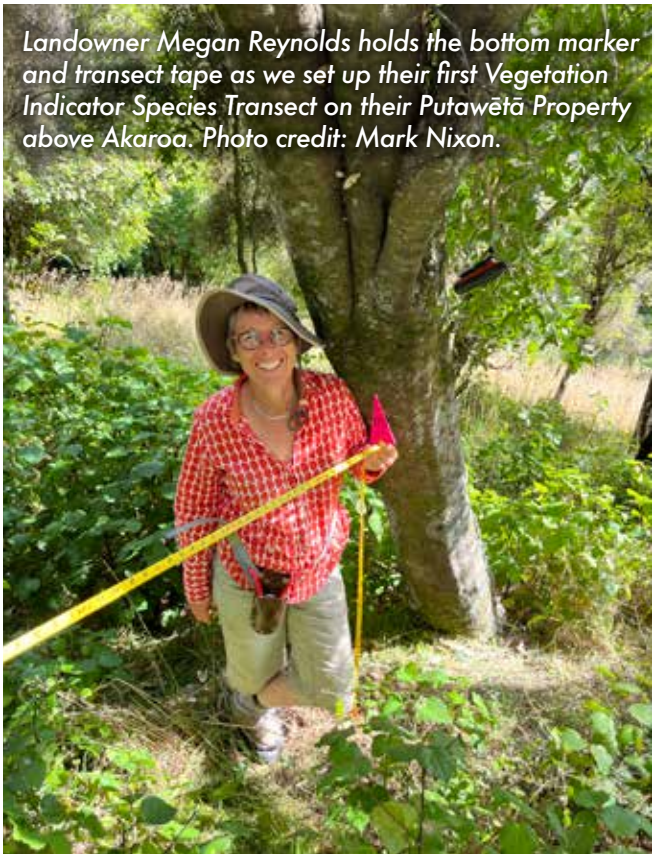
Traditional vegetation monitoring plots and transects require the expertise of a knowledgeable botanist and are therefore expensive and time consuming to establish and re-monitor and do not necessarily answer the questions around effects of browsing animals. The BPCT sought the guidance of local legend and botanical extraordinaire Hugh Wilson to develop a simple and quick method to monitor change to forest vegetation once stock had been removed from covenants. This presence/absence of indicator species monitoring has become part of the CESP. This method focusses on a handful of key native species that are especially susceptible to browsing from animals such as stock and possums.

This method was taken one stage further, again in collaboration with Hugh and other local botanists, with the aim of trying to detect changes in forest vegetation from the elimination of possums. This Forest Vegetation Indicator Species Monitoring uses a set of species, favourites of possums, and counts the numbers of seedlings, saplings and trees within a 10m x 4m transect, as well as recording additional observational information and photos at the site.

Alice undertaking an Indicator Species Transect with volunteer John Fulton recording at Cloud Farm. Photo credit: Jess Helps.

An additional 14 transects (12 of which are on private land) were established this year (bringing the total to 25 transects), with the focus on trying to establish them in forests ahead of the Pest Free Banks Peninsula possum elimination programme. Many of these sites have been established with landowners, giving them the skills to continue to monitor the site themselves and to establish further monitoring sites on their properties if they wish to.

The key species are five finger, seven finger, tree fuchsia, māhoe, kawakawa, *Astelia fragrans*, all ground ferns, adult tree ferns, hen and chicken fern, hounds tongue fern and both white and green mistletoes.



Landowner Megan Reynolds holds the bottom marker and transect tape as we set up their first Vegetation Indicator Species Transect on their Putawētā Property above Akaroa. Photo credit: Mark Nixon.

Alison Evans (CCC) recording for Alice as she does the Indicator Species Transect in Misty Peaks Reserve. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

An example of a browsed ground fern found doing an Indicator Species Transect within a covenant. Photo credit: Alice Webster.

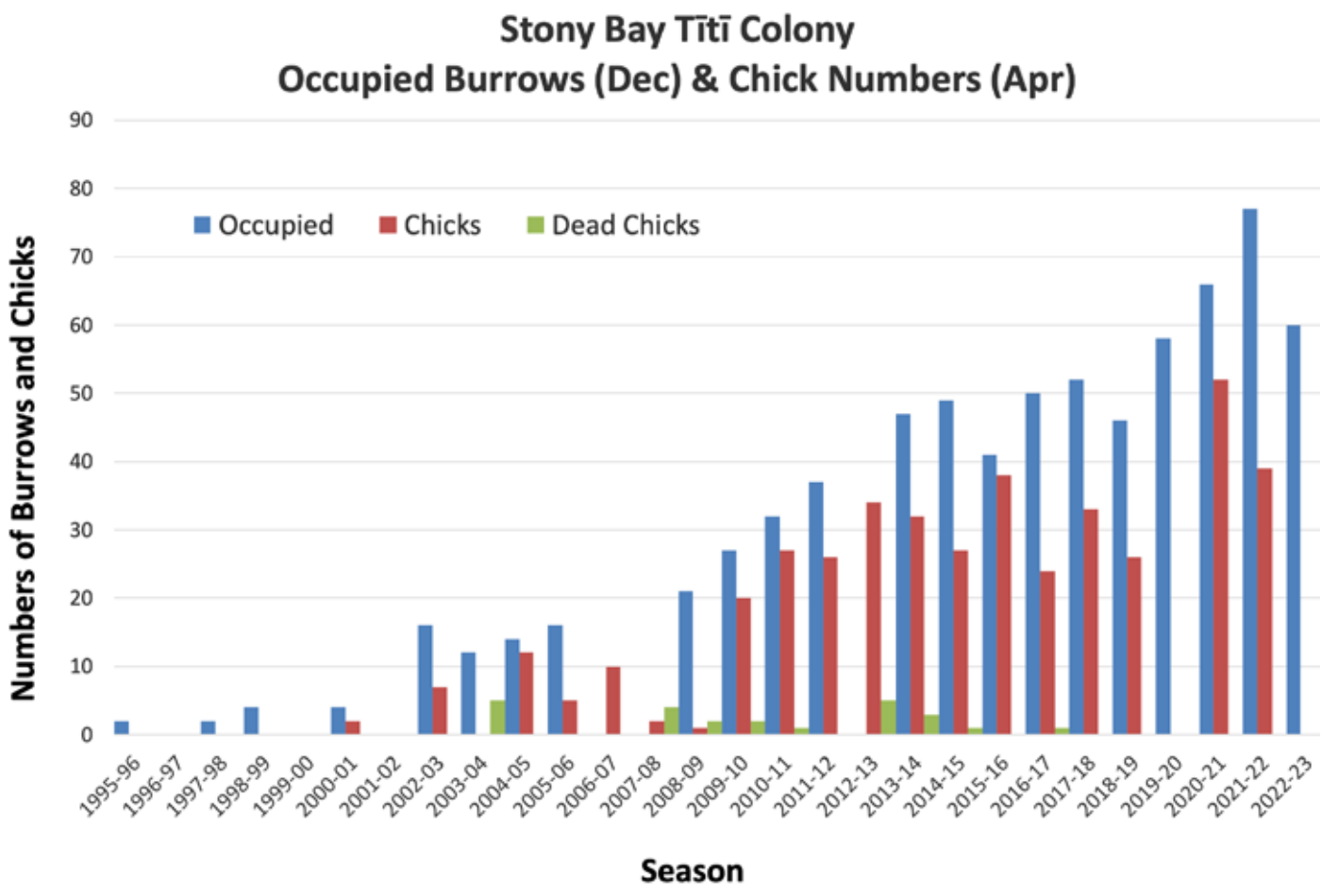
Tītī Colony Mysteries

Since the landslides of December 2021 breached the predator proof fence surrounding the tītī colony at Stony Bay on the Wildside, this year has been plagued by rat incursions. The fence was properly repaired by February, but even with increased trapping, cameras, tracking tunnels and toxin knockdowns, we are continuing to get rats caught in traps. We are not sure whether these elusive rats are breeding within the fence or if there are deep fissures in the cliff substrate where they can get access from outside the fence.

Tītī monitoring occurred again in April and December 2022, where teams used burrow-scopes to record the number of active burrows and then chicks present within the burrows. Considering there had been stoat and rat presence within the colony since the December 2021 deluge damage, the total chick numbers in April were better than imagined.

Tītī social hour, caught on a trail camera set out amongst the burrows to try and detect rat incursions.

Phil Crutchley (CCC) enjoying having Anita Spencer (ex-DOC) back on the tītī monitoring team, December 2022. Photo credit: Kaitlyn Leeds.

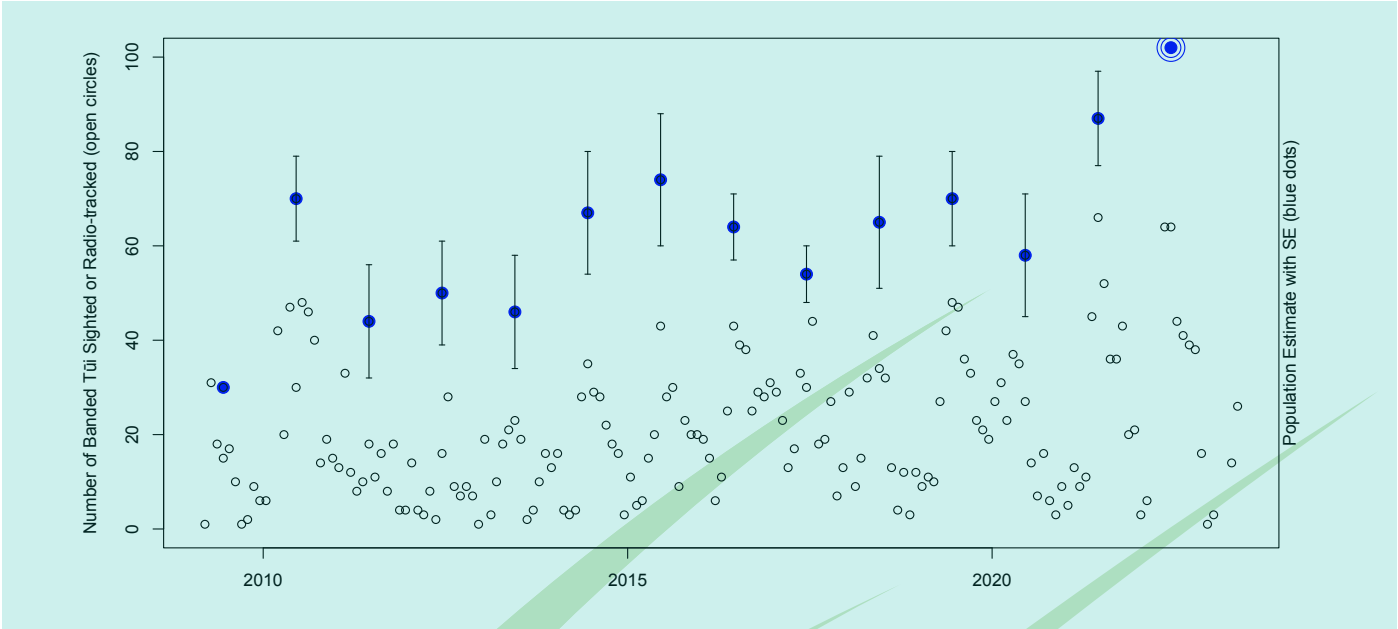


Burrow scoping results from bi-annual monitoring.
Every December burrows are scoped and are recorded as "Occupied" (blue bars) if an adult bird or egg is found.
Every April burrows are monitored with the number of "Chicks" (red bars) being recorded.

Tūī Programme

Although the banding team's 2022 plans were repeatedly thwarted by bad weather, we still managed to band 11 new tūī. More importantly, the volunteer observers in Akaroa once again did a stellar job of spotting both newly banded birds and others in the population, despite the increasingly challenging job of working out who's who. As the number of banded birds increases, our limited selection of colours means we have many similar-looking combinations.

This ongoing effort has shown once again that the population is continuing to grow. As always, we note that our estimate is based solely on the subset of birds that visits Akaroa during the winter. Based on what we are hearing from other areas, however, it does sounds like tūī are ticking up Peninsula-wide. Korimako continue to turn up in droves during our banding sessions and at feeders generally, and do not appear to consider tūī more than a temporary inconvenience when feeder traffic is bustling.



In last year's report we mentioned Rere, a female who was treated and released after nearly succumbing to lead poisoning. We are happy to report that she has been re-sighted several times since, and appears to be in good health. We are also pleased that we are seeing some of the Peninsula -hatched birds survive into double digits.

Thank you yet again to everyone who supports the project. If you don't have tūī in your area yet, please do keep an eye out for them, and spread the word that we are still interested in hearing about people's sightings.

Tūī fledglings with parent.
Photo credit: Kaye Miller.

Rere.
Photo credit: Kaye Miller.

Eddie.
Photo credit: Kaye Miller.

Biddy and Bell birds.
Photo credit: Laurie Richards.

Bryn.
Photo credit: Laurie Richards.

GOAL EIGHT – PEST FREE BANKS PENINSULA

PEST FREE
BANKS PENINSULA

A vision for a pest free Banks Peninsula Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū

In 2050 a cacophony of native birdsong resounds across the Peninsula at dawn and dusk. Indigenous plant and animal species thrive and Banks Peninsula, including the Port Hills and Kaitorete, is a taonga enjoyed by the people of Ōtautahi Christchurch, Canterbury, and visitors to the area.

Pest Free Banks Peninsula Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (PFBP) is a collaborative programme to protect and enhance biodiversity on the Peninsula through the widespread eradication of animal pests. This community-led initiative has been formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by 14 foundation signatories in November 2018.

It aims to make Banks Peninsula Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū free of pest animals, so the indigenous biodiversity can thrive and become more widespread across the Peninsula and into Christchurch City. Pest Free Banks Peninsula supports Ngāi Tahu values, community development and sustainable agriculture and tourism.

PFBP Project Oversight Group

During the year we saw some changes in the composition of the Oversight Group. Members who remained unchanged over the year included:

Mark Christensen (Former Chair, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust)

Rik Tainui (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Chair of Ōnuku Rūnanga)

Jo McPherson (Eastern South Island Operations Director, Department of Conservation)

The following members made important contributions and farewelled us during the year:

Mark Witehira (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu)

Councillor Lan Pham (Environment Canterbury)

Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner (Christchurch City Council)

Councillor Jeff Bland (Selwyn District Council)

And we welcomed the following new members:

Councillor Paul Deitsche (Environment Canterbury)

Councillor Lydia Gliddon (Selwyn District Council)

Councillor Sarah Templeton (Christchurch City Council)

PFBP Project Management Group

David Miller (Chair, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust)

Shaun Burkett (Environment Canterbury)

Paul Devlin (Christchurch City Council)

Andy Thompson (Department of Conservation)

Maree Burnett (Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust)

Marie Gray (Summit Road Society)

Jeremy Agar (Predator Free Port Hills)

Richard Suggate (Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust)

Denise Ford (Selwyn District Council)

Laura Molles (Ecologist)

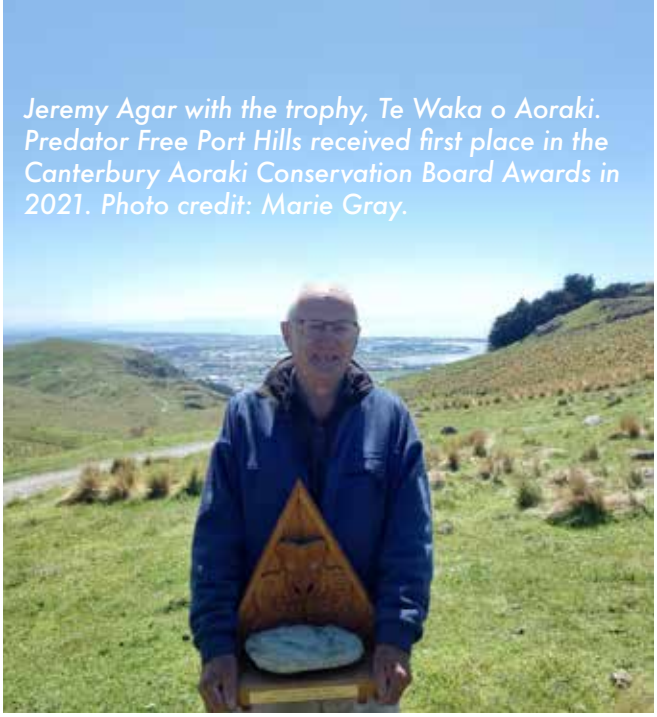
Paul De Latour (Landowner)

Matthew Hellicar (Cacophony Project)

Sarah Wilson (Project Leader)

In Memory of Jeremy Agar

Jeremy Agar sadly passed away in December 2022. Jeremy was involved in the Summit Road Society for nearly twenty years. He was the driving force behind the community and backyard trapping programme, Predator Free Port Hills. He was also a foundation member of the Project Management Group for Pest Free Banks Peninsula.



Jeremy Agar with the trophy, Te Waka o Aoraki. Predator Free Port Hills received first place in the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards in 2021. Photo credit: Marie Gray.

Jeremy was passionate about creating safe habitat for our native birds across bushland, neighbourhoods, farmland, schools and everywhere in-between. He made an extraordinary contribution to conservation on the Port Hills and the Peninsula and he is dearly missed. Rest in peace Jeremy.

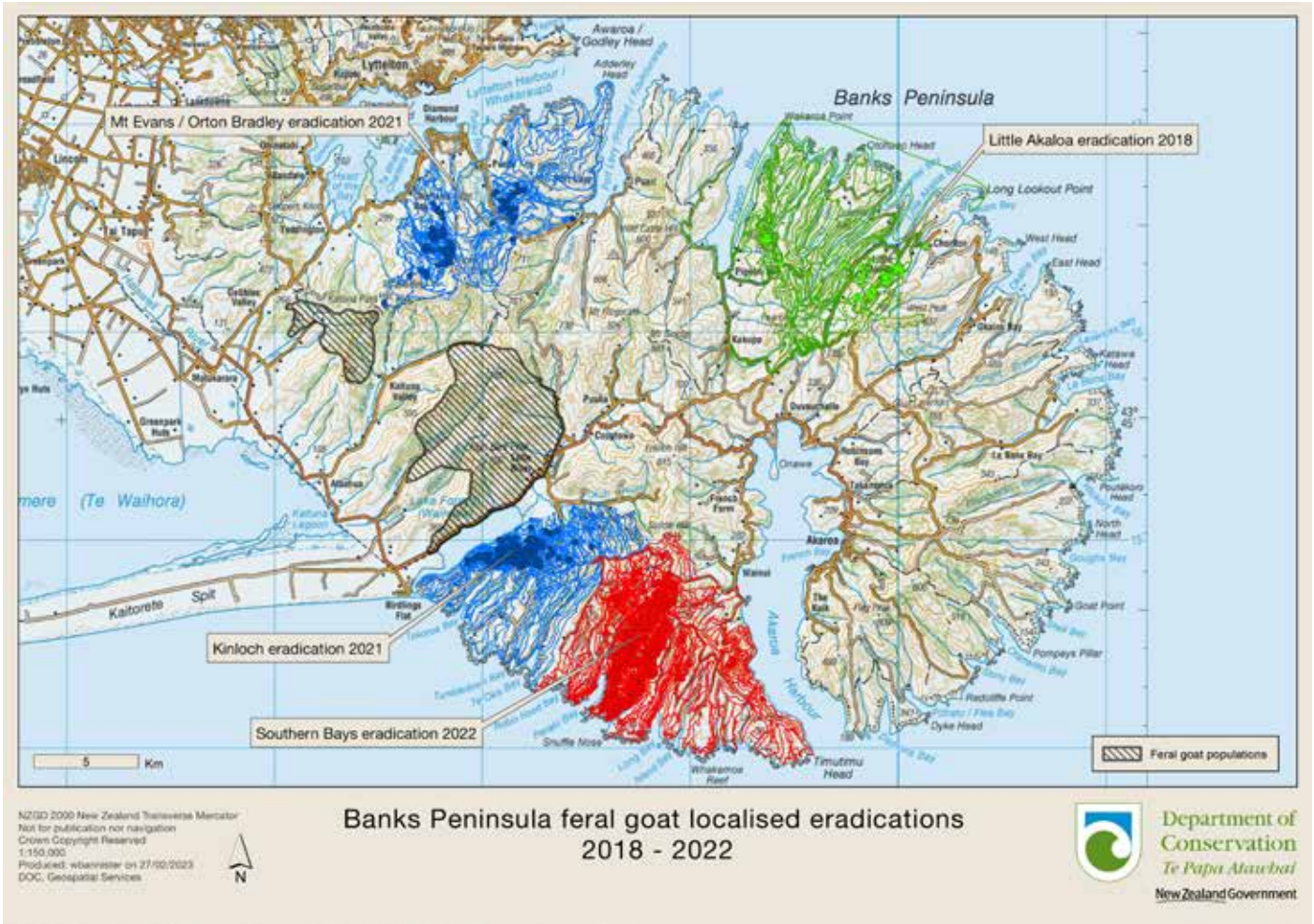
Feral goat eradication programme

The Feral Goat Eradication Committee has worked with landowners and the community to make significant progress towards the objective of feral goat eradication. Feral goats from each target site are mustered and transported to a secure farm off the Peninsula. This is followed by a mop up cull of remaining feral goats. Using this approach we are on track for goat eradication across the true Peninsula (not including the Port Hills) by 2024.

The map shows distributions of feral goat hunting effort for the operations at Little Akaloa in 2018 (green) and Mt Evans / Orton Bradley Park in 2021 (blue). The focus of this year's efforts has been in the southern bays and in particular, Peraki (the southernmost area in black shading).

The most recent operation in Peraki was the biggest undertaken to date and was successful thanks to strong landowner, agency, and professional hunting team collaboration.

Feral Goat operations 2018 – 2023.
Map credit: Department of Conservation.



Planning for operations in the other black-shaded areas (McQueens and Prices Valleys) began early in 2023. Significant funding was secured from the Department of Conservation's national ungulate fund which enabled planning for both of these blocks to be undertaken in the 2023 year.

ECAN has been leading work to ensure all owners of domestic goat herds on the Peninsula are educated around their responsibilities under the regional pest management plan. ECAN will continue to have these conversations on the Peninsula to manage the risk of feral goat populations re-emerging.

Feral pig control

Feral pigs are a significant threat to biodiversity and farming operations, causing erosion and widespread damage to tracks and vegetation. Numbers of feral pigs have been growing since illegal releases in 2020.

The Feral Pig Committee is managing this threat. Committee membership consists of landowners, BPCT, Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust, and agencies including DOC, ECAN and the CCC, and is chaired by Graham Corbishley.

Since 2021 around 1000 feral pigs have been removed, primarily from the Kaituna valley area. In the last 12 months alone 600+ pigs have been removed using sophisticated trapping methods. This enables a mob to be identified and then the whole mob trapped at one time and humanely dispatched. One mob numbered 55, including 30 new piglets! The Committee has also been successful in applying for funding from the CCC Biodiversity Fund as well as the Rod Donald Trust.
Increasingly, the efforts to control feral pigs have been aligned with the feral goat operations to take advantage of the expert hunters and increase the effectiveness of the control programme.

Extended Wildside and Kaitorete elimination programme

We are grateful to the key funders of our ambitious vision for Banks Peninsula/Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū. The vast majority of the funding required for the 5-year programme has been secured with significant funds coming from ECAN, Predator Free 2050 Ltd, the DOC Jobs for Nature fund and several local funds. These have provided the stimulus to see tangible progress in our $10 million elimination programme, which will help communities (through local employment and economic opportunities) and biodiversity to flourish.

To achieve these gains for biodiversity, our elimination objectives to 2026 are as follows:

Kaitorete (~5000 hectares): A multi-species elimination of hedgehogs, feral cats, mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) and possums. This is an ambitious elimination of six species which is a first on mainland Aotearoa / New Zealand where there is no predator proof fence.

Extended Wildside (~ 23,000 hectares): Elimination of possums and suppression of feral cats, mustelids, and rats in areas of high biodiversity (see map below).

The field team undertaking these two large projects had significant challenges in 2022/23. We continued to face the evolving challenge of COVID. Several of the team were sick and needed to isolate and one field team member was diagnosed with long covid and on light duties for months. Despite these challenges, the team continued to learn and improve. Each of the projects are described in detail in the next sections.

Kaitorete operations

On Kaitorete the team set out a network of traps using a "rolling-front" approach. Two hundred and twenty-eight traps were set out in a grid of one trap per hectare. Trap technology includes remote reporting of live cage traps that provide notification online once the trap has been triggered. This enables staff to clear the trap quickly and humanely. It also allows staff to only visit the triggered traps, which creates real efficiencies. The traps are also fitted with motolures which allow for mayonnaise to be automatically dispensed twice a day. Traps have also had camera monitoring to determine which traps are most effective for each of the six target species.

Once the traps stop triggering and catching target animals the trap is moved forward along Kaitorete. In this way Kaitorete is gradually being cleared of pests. The map below shows the layout of the traps at the end of March 2023.

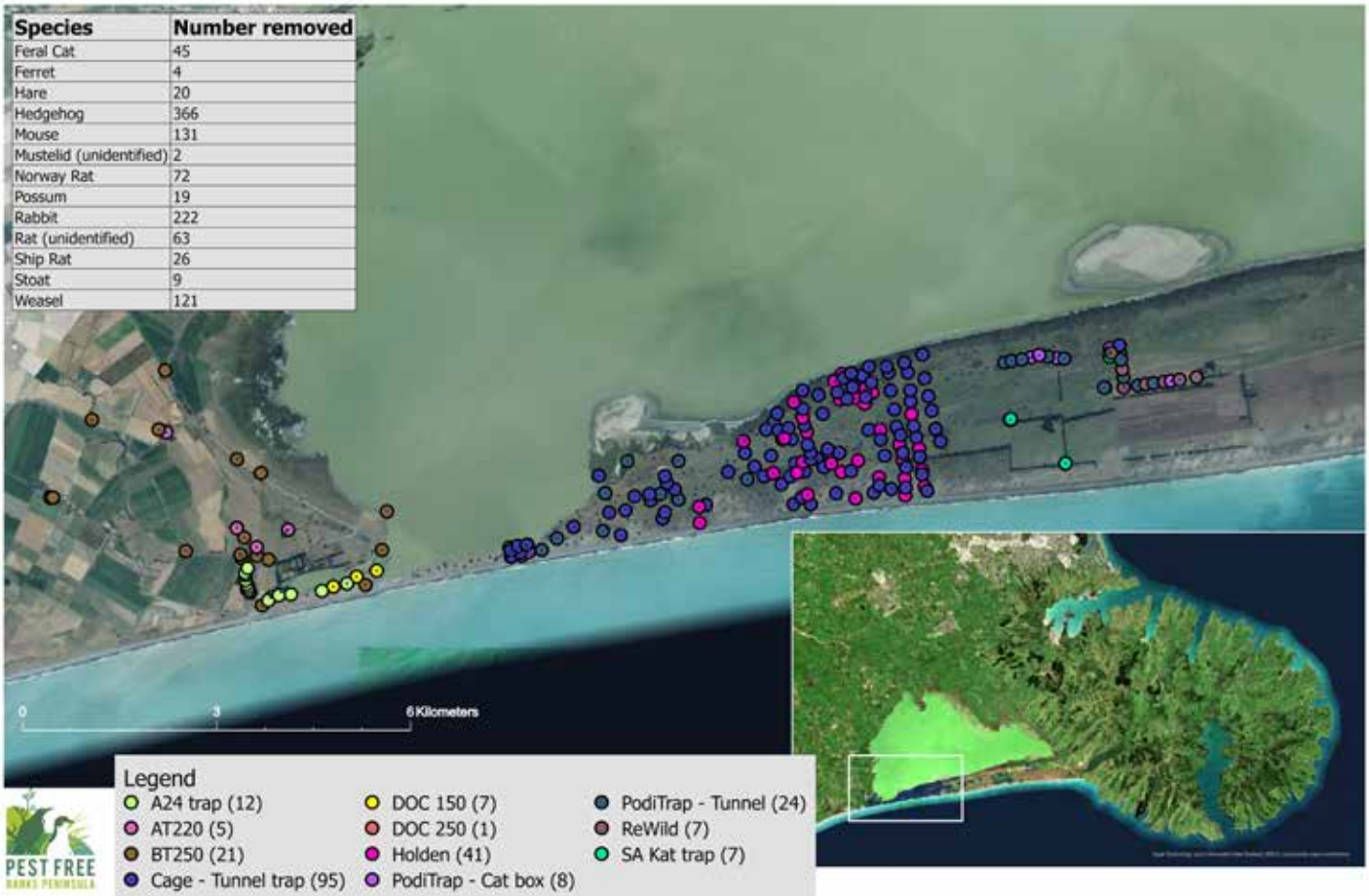
Map credit: Sarah Bisley.

Flooded cage trap.
Photo credit: John Williamson.

The team has continued to need to adapt traps to the harsh coastal environment and deal with large swells which have buried traps and washed them away.

We also installed a low height "active fence" at the narrow western end of Kaitorete to hold the gains and learn about reinvasion. We have engaged strongly with the community and Te Taumutu Rūnanga in the Taumutu buffer area which is a critical part of holding the line and preventing reinvasion.

Species	Number removed
Feral Cat	45
Ferret	4
Hare	20
Hedgehog	366
Mouse	131
Mustelid (unidentified)	2
Norway Rat	72
Possum	19
Rabbit	222
Rat (unidentified)	63
Ship Rat	26
Stoat	9
Weasel	121

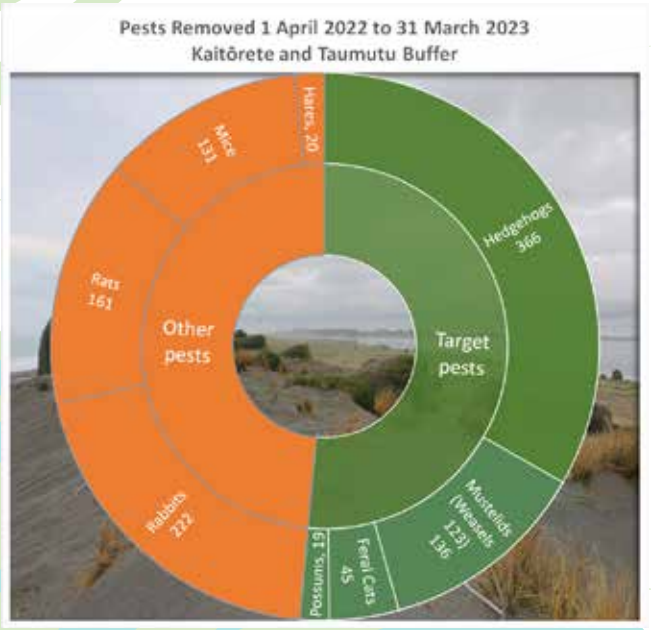


We are also engaging with the community at Birdlings Flat to inform them of progress and what to expect as we progress eastward.

After the initial knock-down, we tested the effectiveness of the removal of hedgehogs (the target species with the smallest home range). A pulse of leg-hold traps over 14 nights showed that no hedgehogs were caught in the knockdown area. In addition, the area was grid searched by the hedgehog dog, Nightshade, and no hedgehogs were detected. This proof of concept for elimination of hedgehogs on the mainland is the first time this has been achieved in Aotearoa. The news story on this achievement was picked up by TVNZ, RNZ, Stuff, The Press and other local media.

Nightshade our hedgehog detection dog. Photo Credit: Karin Bos.

Building active fence at Kaitorete. Photo credit: John Williamson.



Extended Wildside operations

The start of the possum knock-down was far slower than any of us would have anticipated. It turns out that gearing up for a 23,000 hectare elimination programme is far more complex than many of us had initially thought. The hardy field team cut many kilometres of track through difficult gorse to ensure we could get access once the operation began.

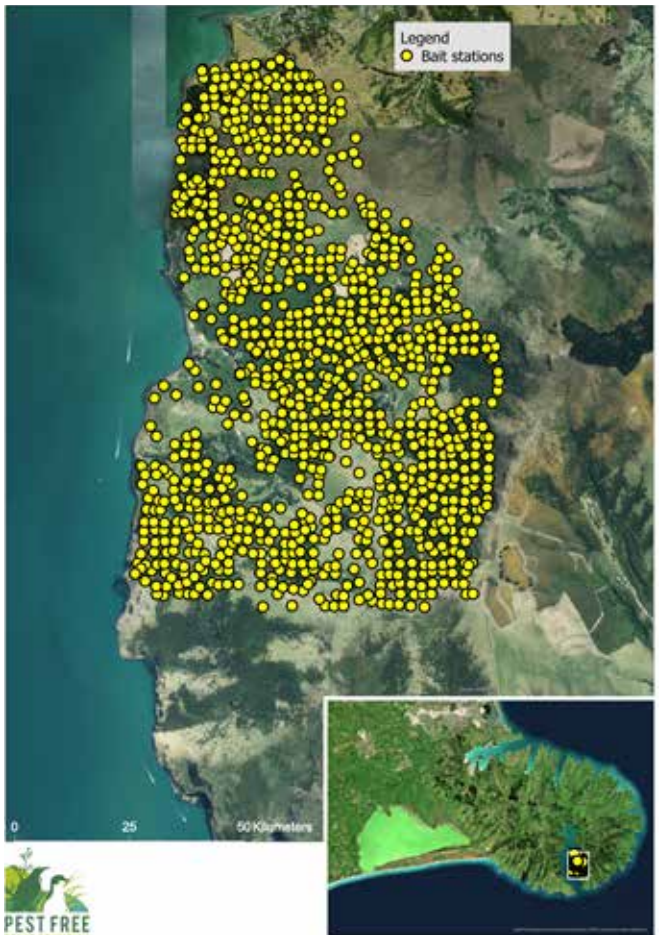
We also needed to get landowner permission from every landowner in the areas that we wished to work. These are very detailed discussions and agreements with each landowner that include mapping water takes and working with farming operations. The permissions from Te Whatu Ora/ the Ministry of Health took a significant amount of work so that we finally started installing bait stations and beginning the knockdown operation in November 2022.

Once the team did get started, we had a mantra of "slow down to speed up". We were deliberately slow initially to ensure the safety of the team and the precision of the work. By the end of the March 2023, we were very proud of our excellent safety record and that possum numbers were sharply declining in the knockdown area.

Bait station on Extended Wildside. Photo credit: Ollie Rutland-Sims.

By the end of March 2023, the first 800 hectares south of Akaroa had an active network of bait stations which had begun the heavy-lifting of the possum knockdown. While the start of the operation has been slow, we are constantly learning and improving.

We also encountered some extremely challenging terrain – steep and rugged – early in the installation. We expect we will get faster as we progress.



Extended Wildside bait stations installed prior to March 2023. Map credit: Sarah Bisley.

We have also worked closely with the local Akaroa Area School. In July we ran a two-week trapping effort that included eager school participants as well as other locals.

Akaroa Area School students. Photo credit: Tim Sjoberg.

In the wider community we have been focusing on mustelids and feral cat suppression, including working with landowners to install DOC200 traps and Poditraps to enable them to control pests that are affecting local biodiversity. In the coming year we will be rolling out a series of catchment-based community workshops to enable communities to be upskilled and take control of their own local areas.

During the year we started installing the new AT220 self-resetting traps. These traps are being used as a trap buffer to enable us to 'hold the line' once possums are eliminated from the target area. These traps automatically lure and can self-reset after a possum has been trapped. This enables us to only need to revisit the trap about every four months – a real game changer.

Guy with AT220 trap.
Photo credit: Alex Albright.

The collector app that we have developed to store all the data we are collecting about bait-stations, traps and all the other myriad of detail that we need has progressed significantly. We are still getting to grips with how we analyse and view the results. This is a critical part of the project that has been a bespoke build. Thank you to Vicinity Solutions for their support.

During the year we were delighted to receive support from Team Hutchinson Ford in the form of a flash double cab Ute. We have been putting the Ford Ranger through its paces in all weather conditions and it has delivered!

The PFBP team with our sponsored Ford Ranger.
Photo credit: Tim Sjoberg.

Predator Free Port Hills

Predator Free Port Hills is a backyard and community trapping programme led by the Summit Road Society. After some challenging years through Covid disruptions we are now growing again. We now have 1,543 households trapping on the Port Hills. Over 10,000 catches have been reported by backyard trappers with a further 10,000 predators caught in reserves across the Port Hills and Lyttelton Harbour.

We hosted a trapping workshop in Lyttelton in November 2022. Community trap building days have been held in Huntsbury and Lyttelton.

Our school programme has also been ramping up. Over the last year, new schools include Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi, Hornby High, Lyttelton Kidsfirst Kindergarten, St Martins School, Cashmere Primary and Halswell School.

We also held a predator free kid workshop in partnership with Envirokids. We continued working with Diamond Harbour School and Christ's College. Students from Christ's College and Hornby High prepared wood and mesh for our community trap building days.

We have hosted a further two meetings with the emerging Predator Free Christchurch network. Communities are enthusiastic about growing the Predator Free vision.

We continued to work with CCC and Conservation Volunteers NZ regarding community-led trap lines in CCC parks and reserves across the Port Hills and Lyttelton Harbour. We ran a workshop for new parks trappers at the end of last year.

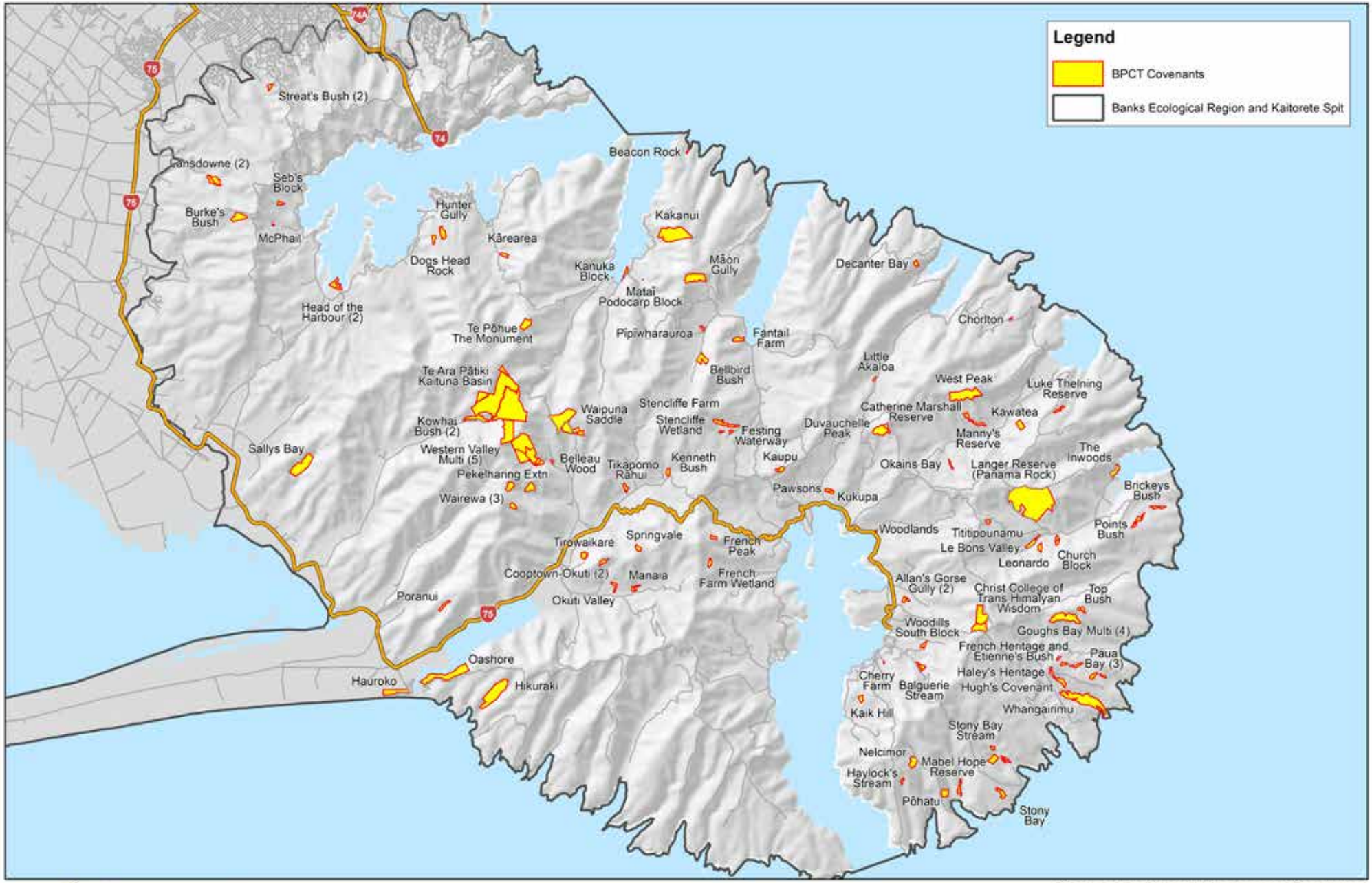
Marie Grey
for Predator Free Port Hills

Lyttelton Trap building day in March 2023. Photo credit: Marie Gray.

CONSERVATION COVENANTS

The Trust works with landowners to legally protect important biodiversity and landscape values in perpetuity through the covenanting process. A covenant is a powerful legal mechanism for protection that requires current and all future landowners to manage the land for conservation purposes.

As at 31 March 2023, 1,609ha of land are protected via 101 Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust covenants.



Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

COVENANTS MAP

Completed to 31 March 2023

Lyttelton Port Company – Our principal sponsor

The Trust is delighted to have the ongoing support of Lyttelton Port Company (LPC) as our principal sponsor. In addition to the very welcome financial support, the Trust and LPC partner on a range of conservation projects. We invited LPC's environmental team to share some of their highlights with us...

LPC's sustainability strategy goes beyond how we impact nature within our own footprint. Our strategy talks to how we can enable wider-scale ecological restoration through partnerships with those around us. We are pleased to continue our support for the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, and remain the Trust's principal sponsor.

Gollans Bay Quarry covenant

In May 2022 we entered into deed to enter a conservation covenant with the Trust to protect 11.4 hectares of our land above the Gollans Bay Quarry. The area is important habitat for native Waitaha geckos and several rare or threatened plants including the Banks Peninsula Blue Tussock and Annual Fern. Gollans Bay Quarry has been used by LPC to supply rock for maintenance and coastal protection work since the early 1950s. The quarry was a key source of material for the construction of Cashin Quay from 1958 – 1964, and in the construction of the latest six hectares of the Te Awaparahi Bay reclamation. We are looking forward to working with the Trust and Boffa Miskell to identify ecological enhancement opportunities within the covenant.

This year we have continued our work with pest management and marine mammal research, all contributing towards our biodiversity positive goals.

Waitaha geckos that were found on site. Photo credit: Jaz Morris, Boffa Miskell.

Pest management

Our predator control programme is in full force with over 40 traps active. Battery Point is a key focus area, as pests are funnelled down from the hills to Gollans Bay, home to lizard and gecko populations, as well as the coal area, where we are encouraging white-flippered penguins to nest. We have DOC 200, D-rat, Flipping Timmy and Trapinators which are checked and rebaited every three weeks. To date we have caught 4 weasels, 5 rats, 9 hedgehogs and 18 possums.

Hector's dolphin research

Working with the Cawthron Institute and Styles Group, we have wrapped up the data analysis on our five-year acoustic monitoring programme of Hector's dolphins in Whakaraupo / Lyttelton Harbour. More than 100,000 hours of underwater information was collected by four Soundtrap hydrophones (underwater microphones) in the harbour. Hydrophones allow scientists to visualise the sounds people can't hear.

They let us see the oceans the way marine mammals see the oceans. Our monitoring programme is already yielding practical benefits. Our data was fed into a deep learning system (type of AI) to develop a computer model that accurately detects Hector's dolphins. The dolphin detection model was used during SailGP to detect any dolphins on the course during the event. The computer model was put into buoys on the course. Whenever a dolphin was detected, the computer program would ping, and eight seconds later, scientists would get a text alert. This provided an extra layer of protection for dolphins during the event – and only possible with LPC's dataset.

Crystal Lenky
Head of Environment and Sustainability
Lyttelton Port Company

Real time dolphin detection buoys.
Photo credit: Matt Pine, Styles Group.

Our mahi relies on the generosity of our community. We gratefully acknowledge all those who support us to continue as conservation sector leaders in Aotearoa.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Principal

Lyttelton Port Company

Foundation

anderson lloyd.

Gold

Boffa Miskell

FOX

VICINITY SOLUTIONS

BAYLEYS

INDEPENDENT LINE SERVICES

MERRELL.

Ford Team Hutchinson Ford

TRUSTS & GRANTS

The Rotary Club Of Cashmere

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL · YOUR PEOPLE · YOUR CITY

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai

Environment Canterbury Regional Council

THE ISAAC CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE TRUST
A study in conservation

Lions Club of Akaroa

MAINLAND FOUNDATION

PREDATOR FREE 2050

Pub Charity Limited

Rātā Foundation

Lotto NZ Lottery Grants Board

Rod Donald banks peninsula trust
te pātaka o rākaihautū

Working Waters Trust

VALUED DONORS

- Coca-Cola Europacific CCEPP NZ
- Banks Track
- Christ's College
- South Pacific Underwater Research
- Cyclone Computers
- ASB Bank
- EV City
- Jack and Charlotte Gibbs
- Melissa Hutchison (Dr)
- Kate Whyte and Bruce McCallum
- Julian Cross
- Fiona Christeller & Nigel Oxley
- Michelle Vaughan (Dr)
- Penny Carnaby and Tina Troup
- University of Florida Biodiversity Study abroad Class taught by Professor Mark Hostetler

GARDEN CITY ACCOUNTANTS

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

Financial Statements - Consolidated
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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P O Box 4333 | Christchurch 8140 | Ph 03 374 6343 | Email admin@gcbt.co.nz | www.gcaccountants.co.nz

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Compilation Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Compilation Report to the Trustees of Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

Scope
On the basis of information you provided we have compiled the special purpose financial statements of Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust for the period ended 31 March 2023. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the policies as detailed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Responsibilities
You are solely responsible for the information contained in the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

The financial statements were prepared exclusively for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the financial statements.

Review Engagement Undertaken
Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information you provided. A review engagement has been performed and assurance expressed in a separate letter.

Disclaimer
As mentioned earlier in our report, we have compiled the financial statements based on information provided to us which has been subject to a review engagement. Accordingly, neither we, nor any of our staff accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on the compiled financial information.

Garden City Business & Tax Ltd t/a Garden City Accountants
Accountants/Taxation Consultants
Christchurch
18 August 2023

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Statement of Profit & Loss - BPCT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
Income		
Trading Sales		
Sales	48	3,570
BP Zone Committee Grant	10,000	-
Covenant Administration Fee	700	-
MPI - Farm Support Programme	20,000	-
Total Trading Sales	30,748	3,570
Covenant Grants		
Covenants Grants - ECAN	21,585	18,250
Covenants Grants - Other	28,628	29,145
Total Covenant Grants	50,213	47,395
Donations		
General Donations	29,342	54,930
TKK Donations - Voluntary Carbon Offsetting	13,579	3,408
Donations - Covenants	1,500	1,083
Donations - General Predator Control	5	-
Donations - Tui	206	-
Total Donations	44,632	59,421
General Grants		
CCC Annual Grant	77,500	70,625
Rata Foundation Grant - General/Wages	40,000	40,000
DOC Community Conservation Hub Grant	35,700	45,642
Rod Donald BP Trust Annual Grant	30,000	30,000
CCC Grant - TKK	1,363	567
Total General Grants	184,563	186,834
Memberships		
Pest Free Banks Peninsula		
ECAN Grant- Pest Free BP	42,581	23,000
Other Grants - Pest Free BP	-	10,506
Total PFBP Grants	42,581	33,506

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Statement of Profit & Loss - BPCT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
Sponsorship		
LPC Sponsorship	40,000	40,000
Sponsorship - General	22,043	10,000
Total Sponsorship	62,043	50,000
Income in Kind		
Income in Kind - Anderson Lloyd	1,000	14,473
Income in Kind - Other	134,355	52,275
Total Income in Kind	135,355	66,748
Sundry Income		
Interest Received	9,618	2,790
Total Sundry Income	9,618	2,790
Total Income	559,753	450,264
Expenses		
Communicaion Expenses		
Membership Database	6,606	5,960
Community Engagement - Comms & Events	810	1,324
Total Communicaion Expenses	7,416	7,284
Covenant Expenses		
Covenant Ecological Surveys	-	9,225
Covenant Fencing	25,770	-
Covenant Land Surveys	4,350	30,540
Covenant Other	20,093	7,630
Total Covenant Expenses	50,213	47,395
Employee Expenses		
ACC	3,635	2,110
Kiwisaver Employer Contributions	7,409	6,267
Mileage Office Staff	6,312	4,436
Salaries	283,580	252,138
Professional Development	-	150
Total Employee Expenses	300,936	265,101

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Statement of Profit & Loss - BPCT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
General Expenses		
Governance/Trustees	-	162
Bank Fees	166	110
Disbursements	1,350	-
Field Equipment/Clothing	284	482
Accounting/Review	2,245	1,495
Food/Catering - Meetings	1,305	1,080
General Expenses	4,712	663
Health & Safety	327	148
Legal Expenses	11,441	-
Subscriptions	83	83
Travel & Accommodation	-	4
Depreciation	502	336
Interest Paid	-	16
LPC Restoration Project	5,111	2,851
Funding Model - Marie Grey	-	715
Fundraising Expenses	34,137	18,000
Other Projects - Expenses	2,000	3,425
Total General Expenses	63,663	29,570
Office Expenses		
Computer Expenses	283	561
Light, Heat & Power	1,274	881
Photocopier Lease	1,415	1,379
Postage & Stationery	196	625
Rent	13,020	13,020
Telephone	1,388	1,588
Webhosting	190	190
Repairs & Maintenance	54	-
Total Office Expenses	17,820	18,244
Other Project Expenses		
Tui Project	100	850
TKK Project	1,363	5,745
Pest Free BP Project	(20)	-
TKK Podacarp Enrichment Programme	7,740	-
Total Project Expenses	9,183	6,595
Wildside Expenses		
Pest Free Bank Peninsula Expenses		
Expenses in Kind		
Enviro Consultancy - In Kind	4,893	12,093
Land Survey & GIS - In Kind	129,463	40,182
Legal Expenses - In Kind	1,000	14,473
Total Expenses in Kind	135,356	66,748

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Statement of Profit & Loss - BPCT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
Total Expenses	584,587	440,937
Net Profit (Loss) For Year	(24,834)	9,327

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Profit and Loss PFBP

Pest Free Banks Peninsula
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
Income Elimination Programme		
Grants Elimination: SDC SNEF Grant Released	-	5,000
Grants Elimination: DOC Kaimahi for Nature Released	249,581	662,361
Grants Elimination: Wildside Trapping Released	-	4,752
Grants Elimination: ECAN Released	7,897	61,968
Grants Elimination: Other Released	-	5,728
Grants Elimination: PF2050 Ltd Released	875,364	831,049
Grants Elimination: ECAN Community Engagement & Other Released	-	5,826
Grants Elimination: DOC CCF Project Leader Released	51,667	51,667
Grants Elimination: DOC CCF Wildside Co-ordinator Released	-	14,583
Sponsorship	-	10,000
Total Income Elimination Programme	**1,184,509**	**1,652,934**
Income Feral Goats		
Grants Feral Goats: DOC Released	10,000	92,500
Grants Feral Goats: CCC Released	21,438	71,117
Grants Feral Goats: ECAN Released	257,336	40,000
Total Income Feral Goats	**288,774**	**203,617**
Income PFBP Programme - General		
General Donations	6,382	1,601
Grants General: ECAN Released	48,309	46,389
Total Income PFBP Programme - General	**54,691**	**47,990**
Other Revenue	1,174	-
Te Kakahu Kahukura Funding via CCC Grant	14,835	35,593
Grants Feral Pigs: Rod Donald Released	11,526	-
Grants: ECAN Wai Fund Feral Pigs Released	22,220	-
Total Trading Income	**1,577,729**	**1,940,134**
Gross Profit	**1,577,729**	**1,940,134**
Other Income		
Interest Income	21,503	106
Total Other Income	**21,503**	**106**
Operating Expenses		
Elimination Programme		
ACC Levies	10,256	2,376
Accounting/HR Support - Elimination Programme	14,300	-
Consulting & Science Advice - Elimination Programme	1,210	227
Communications Contractor - elimination programme	14,041	5,029
Community Engagement, communications, branding - Elimination Programme	1,237	286
Mobile Costs Field Staff - Elimination Programme	7,691	2,142

	2023	2022
General Expenses - Elimination Programme	6,289	1,483
Health and Safety Costs - Elimination Programme	1,020	2,655
Internet and domain names - elimination programme	252	250
Elimination programme GIS and information management	33,498	18,904
Office Expenses - Elimination Programme: Wildside Co-ordinator	2,386	2,090
PPE and uniform Field Staff - Elimination Programme	10,200	39,733
Recruitment Costs: Elimination Programme	697	-
Public Liability Insurance - Elimination Programme	7,655	6,232
Equipment Field Staff - Elimination Programme	10,655	30,167
Existing Wildside Network - Elimination Programme	4,790	63
Motor Vehicle - Eradication Programme	43,095	19,946
Training Field Staff - Elimination Programme	2,736	19,722
Travel & Accommodation - Elimination Programme	3,465	2,983
Financial Management - Elimination Programme	2,945	5,290
Mileage - Eradication Programme	7,272	6,537
Salaries - Elimination Programme	722,146	689,046
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions - Elimination Programme	20,425	19,299
Extended Wildside CAPEX and Operational Materials		
Toxin Knock Down	61,209	31,475
Extended Wildside aerial toxin operations	315	-
Active Removal Network	1,932	751
Wildside Lean Detection Network	14,037	316,830
Possum Response & Urban Trapping	16,234	59,718
Possum Trapping Buffer	705	134,325
Muscat Control	21,344	38,630
Total Extended Wildside CAPEX and Operational Materials	**115,777**	**581,729**
Kaitorete		
Kaitorete Knockdown	392	199
Kaitorete Removal	36,725	127,186
Kaitorete POA	79	2,101
Kaitorete Response	21,510	14,000
Taumutu Buffer	3,892	27,443
Kaitorete Lean Detection	75,555	-
Total Kaitorete	**138,153**	**170,929**
Total Elimination Programme	**1,182,189**	**1,627,117**
Feral Goat Eradication		
Feral Goat Eradication Programme: Mustering	15,521	15,075
Feral Goat Eradication Programme: Hunting	263,253	188,542
Feral goat project management	10,000	-
Total Feral Goat Eradication	**288,774**	**203,617**
Feral Pig Control		
Feral pig control surveillance and field equipment	11,989	-

Profit and Loss PFBP

	2023	2022
Feral pig ground hunting and surveillance	13,063	-
Total Feral Pig Control	**25,052**	**-**
Te Kakahu Kahukura Project		
Te Kakahu Kahukura - Summit Road Society Project	14,835	15,593
Te Kakahu Kahukura - Living Springs Project	-	20,000
Total Te Kakahu Kahukura Project	**14,835**	**35,593**
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	285	125
Biodiversity Outcomes Monitoring	597	-
BPCT Project Co-ordination	30,000	23,000
Community Engagement & Events	506	895
Computer/IT Expenses	804	2,300
Freight & Courier	31	7
General Expenses	-	457
Office Expenses	316	-
Repairs and Maintenance	-	35
Salaries	19,450	19,000
Kiwisaver Employer Contributions	583	570
Total Operating Expenses	**52,572**	**46,389**
Depreciation	33,818	27,509
Interest Expense	2	16
Total Expenses	**1,597,241**	**1,940,240**
Net Profit	1,991	-

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Balance Sheet (Liabilities & Trustees' Funds)
As at 31 March 2023

	2023 $		2022 $
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	78,552		66,191
Wages & Paye Payable	44,325		34,125
Accrued Expenses	4,501		38,006
FRA Covenants ECAN	98,488		84,560
FRA Grants TKK	58,070		-
FRA Covenants - CCC	127,778		87,566
Grants Received in Advance - ECAN PFBP	-		(33,506)
Grants Received in Advance	116,990		37,123
BP Zone Committee - Grants Feral Pig Control	7,500		-
CCC - Grants Feral Pig Control	60,000		-
ECAN - Wai Fund Feral Pig Control	(22,220)		-
GST Holding Account	187,630		104,872
Farm Biodiversity Support Prog Grants	10,000		-
Grants Elim - CCC	200,000		-
Grants Elim - CCC	194,932		150,000
Grants Elim - DOC CCF Wildside Co-ordinator	0		(3,500)
Grants Elim - DOC Kaimahi for Nature	-		183,401
Grants Elim - ECAN	1,880,129		1,288,032
Grants Elim - ECAN Community Engagement & Other	-		(6)
Grants Elim - PF2050 Ltd	1,051,566		440,294
Grants Elim - DOC Local Office	16,000		16,000
Grants Elim - DOC CCF Project Leader	(4,306)		(30,139)
Grants - CCC	69,572		84,407
Grants - ECAN	47,483		267,578
Grants Goat - CCC	37,445		18,883
Grants Goat - DOC	(10,000)		-
Grants Goat - ECAN	-		40,000
Elim Prog Sponsorship - Receipts in Advance	15,000		-
Rod Donald - Grants Feral Pig Control	53,474		-
Wilderness Ball Prepaid	-		(3,213)
Sarah Bisley	-		975
Mark Le Leivre	-		12
Sarah Wilson	-		600
Lisa Chrisstoffels	819		-
Rounding	-		1
Total Current Liabilities		4,323,728	2,872,260
Trustees Funds			

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Balance Sheet (Liabilities & Trustees' Funds)
As at 31 March 2023

	2023 $		2022 $
Revenue Reserves			
Retained Earnings Bgt Fwd	230,799		221,472
Trustee Income	(22,844)		9,327
Total Revenue Reserves	207,956		230,799
Total Trustees Funds		207,956	230,799
		4,531,684	3,103,059

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Balance Sheet (Assets)
As at 31 March 2023

	2023 $		2022 $
Current Assets			
Bank - 25 Account	1,355,390		1,215,161
Bank - Call Account	250,602		247,736
Bank - Endowment Fund	22,128		21,928
Bank - Bus First On Call Account	2,439,310		714,257
Accounts Receivable	130,090		610,700
John Williamson	2,714		(542)
Tim Sjoberg	362		(505)
		4,200,596	2,808,735
Investments			
Term Deposit 14	20,000		20,000
Term Deposit 18	40,000		40,000
Term Deposit 22	25,000		25,000
Term Deposit 23	65,000		65,000
Term Deposit 24	25,000		25,000
		175,000	175,000
Fixed Assets			
As Per Schedule - BCPT	1,818		1,440
As Per Schedule - PFBP	154,269		117,884
		156,087	119,324
		4,531,684	3,103,059

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Fixed Asset & Depreciation Schedule
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Asset	Cost Price	Book Value 01/04/2022	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	---- Depreciation ---- Mth Rate	$	Accum Deprec 31/03/2023	Book Value 31/03/2023
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust									
Computer Equipment									
Back up Hard Drive	428	2				12 0.0%	0	426	2
Back Up System	1,801	5				12 40.0% DV	2	1,798	3
Computer System Hardware	7,926	5				12 40.0% DV	2	7,923	3
Computers	2,688	29				12 40.0% DV	12	2,671	17
Laptop - Harvey Norman	1,741	52				12 50.0% DV	26	1,715	26
Laptop	1,079	4				12 40.0% DV	2	1,077	2
Laptop and Mouse	1,707	3				12 40.0% DV	1	1,705	2
Laser Priinting - Wildside Office	86	19				12 18.9% DV	4	71	15
Printer & Screen	2,074	48				12 25.0% DV	12	2,038	36
Laptop Partnerships Manager			880			7 50.0% DV	257	257	623
Total Computer Equipment	19,530	167	880				318	19,681	729
Field Equipment									
All Flex NZ	1,310	748				12 10.0% DV	75	637	673
Electric Fence	1,152					12 50.0% DV	0	1,152	0
Gazebo	503	13				12 40.0% DV	5	495	8
Geosystems - Belt Chain Measurer	195	78				12 12.0% DV	9	126	69
Henry Stoat Traps	1,606					12 50.0% DV	0	1,606	0
Personal Locator Beacons	920	12				12 40.0% DV	5	913	7
Sentinel Traps	700					12 50.0% DV	0	700	0
GPS Unit	521	192				12 30.0% DV	58	387	134
Total Field Equipment	6,907	1,043					152	6,016	891
Office Equipment									
BCPT Sign	971	111				12 12.0% DV	13	873	98
Office Equipment	1,640	119				12 15.0% DV	18	1,539	101
Olympus Camera	655					12 80.0% DV	0	655	0
Vacuum Cleaner	321	1				12 50.0% DV	1	321	0
Total Office Equipment	3,587	231					32	3,388	199
Total Fixed Assets BPCT	30,024	1,441	880				502	29,085	1,819

Note: This Statement must be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountants Statement.

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Fixed Asset & Depreciation Schedule
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Asset	Cost Price	Book Value 01/04/2022	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	---- Depreciation ---- Mth Rate	$	Accum Deprec 31/03/2023	Book Value 31/03/2023
Pest Free Bank Peninsula									
Computer Equipment									
Laptop	1,290	645				12 50.0% DV	323	968	322
Laptop	1,290	645				12 50.0% DV	323	968	322
Laptop	1,290	645				12 50.0% DV	323	968	322
Laptop & Phone - Sarah Wilson	817	409				12 50.0% DV	205	613	204
Acer Nitro 5,17.3" Ryzen 7.5800H 16GB	2,919	2,919				12 40.0% DV	1,168	1,168	1,751
Laptop - 2022			880			7 50.0% DV	257	257	623
Total Computer Equipment	7,606	5,263	880				2,599	4,942	3,544
Field Equipment									
Radios	5,450	3,272				12 40.0% DV	1,309	3,487	1,963
Shipping Container			5,111			5 10.0% DV	213	213	4,898
Thermal Scope			8,695			11 30.0% DV	2,392	2,392	6,303
UBCO Bike			8,144			3 40.0% DV	815	815	7,329
Total Field Equipment	5,450	3,272	21,950				4,729	6,907	20,493
Motor Vehicles									
2 Seater ATV	31,646	26,583				12 16.0% DV	4,253	9,316	22,330
2014 Toyota Hilux	29,717	24,269				12 20.0% DV	4,854	10,302	19,415
2015 Hiace Toyota Van	27,643	22,575				12 20.0% DV	4,515	9,583	18,060
Electric UBCO Motorbike & Rack	8,178	7,156				12 30.0% DV	2,147	3,169	5,009
Ford Ranger	30,251	24,706				12 20.0% DV	4,941	10,486	19,765
Trailer 10 x 5 Tandem & Cage	4,467	3,632				12 25.0% DV	908	1,743	2,724
Mitsuhishi Outlander PHEV - 2022			23,730			11 20.0% DV	4,351	4,351	19,379
Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV - 2023			23,470			1 20.0% DV	391	391	23,079
Total Motor Vehicles	131,902	108,921	47,200				26,360	49,341	129,761
Office Equipment									
Printer			608			9 30.0% DV	137	137	471
Total Office Equipment			608				137	137	471
Total Fixed Assets PFBP	144,958	117,456	70,638				33,825	61,327	154,269

Note: This Statement must be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountants Statement.

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. **Statement of Accounting Policies**
These financial statements are for Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust is engaged in the business of Conservation.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on an historical cost basis have been used, with the exception of certain items for which specific accounting policies have been identified.

The information is presented in New Zealand dollars.

Changes in Accounting Policies
There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

Specific Accounting Policies
In the preparation of these financial statements, the specific accounting policies are as follows:

(a) **Goods & Services Tax**
These financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of accounts receivable and accounts payable which are shown inclusive of GST.

(b) **Taxation**
Income tax is accounted for using the taxes paid method. The income tax expense charged to the Balance Sheet is the tax paid in the current year, adjusted for any tax payable in prior years.

(c) **Going Concern**
These financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the trust is a going concern.

2. **Audit**
These financial statements have not been audited.

3. **Contingent Liabilities**
At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities. Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has not granted any securities in respect of liabilities payable by any other party whatsoever.

4. **Securities and Guarantees**
There was no overdraft as at balance date nor was any facility arranged.

Note: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes and the Accountant's Statement