



ANNUAL REPORT 2017
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
For the year ending 31 March 2017





Annual Report and Financial Statements for the
12 months ended 31 March 2017.

This Annual Report will be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to be held at the Naval Point Yacht Club, Lyttelton on Thursday 27 July.

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.

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Title page: Tree fern grove near Flea Bay Road. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

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BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST

TRUSTEES & STAFF

Amy Carter is the chairperson at public relations firm Perception PR & Marketing. Her communications and public relations experience includes work with some of New Zealand's iconic charitable organisations including Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Swimming New Zealand, and St John. Amy lives with her family at Taylor's Mistake and has been involved with the Trust since 2011.

Mark Christensen (Chair) is a natural resources lawyer, specialising in biodiversity issues. He became involved with the Trust when working on a Ministerial Advisory Committee on the protection of biodiversity on private land. Mark is a member of the NZ Conservation Authority and a trustee of the NZ National Parks and Conservation Foundation. He is a consultant to the World Conservation Union IUCN, and the Manager of the Sustainable Business Council's Business, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Service Project.

David Collins has an MSc from what was the Joint Centre for Environmental Science (Canterbury and Lincoln universities) and works as a Resource Management Act hearings commissioner around the country. He has a lengthy record of local government service on the peninsula, serving as chairman of the former Mt Herbert County Council and deputy mayor of the Banks Peninsula District Council. Over the last 20 years or so he has been steadily re-vegetating his 11 acre property at the north end of Governors Bay, propagating all the plants.

Francis Helps is one of the founding members of the Trust. For 40 years he has been heavily involved with little penguin and yellow-eyed penguin conservation on the peninsula including introduced mammalian predator control (since 1991), penguin nesting habitat management, penguin breeding, and supervising Massey, Lincoln, Waikato and overseas student penguin studies projects in Flea Bay. Francis currently runs a 600 hectare sheep and beef farm on the peninsula in partnership with his son Daniel and is a shareholder/part owner of Banks Peninsula Track Ltd. Francis chairs the Trust's Covenants Committee.

Philip Helps resides in Port Levy. Married to Jane, they have jointly farmed their Port Levy property for in excess of 40 years. Other interest includes 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.

Ingrid Kerr is a chartered accountant and the Financial Controller for C Lund and Son. She lives on Mt. Pleasant and enjoys a family holiday home in French Farm.

David Miller 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. He has worked in these fields in many regions for the United Nations and as the Ombudsman for the World Health Organisation and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, in Geneva.

Rebecca Parish is the Property Development Manager at Foodstuffs South Island. With a background in town planning, business, resource management, and governance. Rebecca divides her time between a home in Governors Bay and their 130 acre property on a ridge above Okains Bay. Rebecca chairs the Wildside Committee.

Pam Richardson farms in partnership with husband Ian and son Andrew a 710 hectare Banks Peninsula hill country property. In 2007 they won a Ballance Farm Environment Land and Life Award. Pam is a founding member of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Chairperson of the Akaroa Wairewa Community Board, a community member of the BP Zone Implementation Programme, as well as a member of the Goat Eradication Working Group & Banks Peninsula Pest Liaison Committee.

Richard Simpson (Deputy Chair) lives at Fishermans Bay on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula where he and his wife Jill farm 402 hectares, running beef cows and dairy replacements. They have Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust covenants totalling 76 hectares and have been involved with the Trust since its inception in 2001. Richard chairs the Trust's Finance Committee.

Kate Whyte lives with her family at Oashore in the southwest corner of the Peninsula, on a farm she has managed as a privately owned ecological restoration project since 2001. Kate has been actively involved in the Trust's work since its inception and is committed to ensuring it remains a community-led organisation.

Maree Burnett – General Manager; **Marie Haley** – Wildside Coordinator; **Marie Neal** – Covenants Officer; **Jessica Ennor** – Volunteer Coordinator (until October 2016).



BPCT trustees Ingrid Kerr and Philip Helps with Associate Minister of Conservation Hon. Nicky Wagner (middle) at the 2050 Ecological Vision launch.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The 2016/17 financial year has been another successful one in sustainable land management, ecological, and financial terms.

In November 2016 building on the advice of a number of senior expert ecologists, we launched the Banks Peninsula (including Port Hills) Ecological Vision for 2050. This Ecological Vision is not just about the Trust's work – it represents a wider vision for the entire peninsula including the urban part on the Port Hills. We are confident that the Vision heralds a new and exciting period where the various agencies and community organisations

working on conservation and sustainable land management on the peninsula can collaborate and align our work towards shared goals. Already we are seeing agencies and organisations beginning to collaborate around some of the eight goals. Special thanks to the Hon.

Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation for formally launching the Ecological Vision and the Christchurch Gondola for providing a venue that beautifully showcased our peninsula.

The Trust's vision is "to create an environment in which the community value, protect, and care for the biodiversity, landscapes and special character of Banks Peninsula." When we refer to Banks Peninsula it extends to the base of the Port Hills on the city side. We are only starting to involve landowners and like-minded organisations in this part of the city and we see huge opportunities to better link conservation and sustainable land management of the 'urban' city with the 'rural' peninsula.

Two other events during this financial year have assisted this increasing collaboration and shared planning. First, about the time we released the Ecological Vision, the Government announced the ambitious 'Predator Free New Zealand by 2015' initiative. This coincides well with Goal 8 of the Vision, although our Goal extends beyond the predators of rats, possums and mustelids to include other pests such as feral goats, feral deer and feral cats. Second, in February 2017, the Port Hills experienced devastating fires. Most of the land affected is privately owned. While areas of significant biodiversity were very badly affected, the fires provide an opportunity

for taking a strategic approach to planning the revegetation, regeneration and management of these areas, including minimising future fire risk. This contributes towards our Goal 4 of having four core indigenous forest areas of more than 1000 ha protected and managed. We believe the area affected by the fires



BPCT members Alison Evans, Rob Grigg, and Lorna Buchanan attending the launch function for the 2050 Ecological Vision.

could be included as part of one of these core areas (the other current area is centred on Hinewai to the east of Akaroa).

Protecting biodiversity and open space

The Trust continues to have covenanting and support for peninsula landowners as our core functions. The Banks Peninsula (including Port Hills) Ecological Vision 2050 allows us to be strategic in our decisions about which areas to covenant and how we prioritise our support to landowners. Decisions about covenanting activity are made against clearly defined criteria that are consistent with biodiversity priorities agreed with other agencies and organisations, and embrace

landscape scale considerations. Significantly better protection of biodiversity is being achieved through increased connectivity, consideration of representativeness of indigenous species and ecosystem types, and size of areas covenanted.

Effective management of our covenant and ecological information is key to making well-informed conservation management decisions. To achieve this, Vicinity Solutions have been working with us to build a database to manage all of the information associated with the covenanting process. Having readily accessible, accurate ecological information will allow us to take a more proactive and strategic approach in our covenanting work. We are very grateful to Vicinity Solutions for their support with this project.

This year we have been continuing to develop a covenant support programme that will see trained volunteers visit covenants to provide the landowners with advice and assistance on the management of weed and animal threats in their covenant. We plan to have the capacity for each covenant to receive a visit three-yearly, with records from each visit helping build a more comprehensive picture of how our covenants are changing over time.

Facilitating the implementation of the Wildside Project

The Wildside Project is an area of 13,500ha on the Southeastern bays of Banks Peninsula. This landscape scale project involves the collaboration of landowners, Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, and the Trust for the protection of a variety of endemic, threatened, and iconic species. The Wildside covers a mixture of private

rural farmland and private and public conservation reserves. The project focuses on habitat protection and large-scale predator control.

Over 25 years the Wildside Project has grown from a small scale grassroots farmer-led conservation initiative to a nationally recognised conservation programme, that is restoring this living working landscape through pest control operations and the protection of forest habitat.

The Wildside is facilitated by the Trust employing a Wildside Coordinator and the collaboration of engaged parties through the Wildside Committee, chaired by Rebecca Parish, one of our trustees. Outcomes have been set by representatives of the Wildside community. A strategic charter document assists in

collaboration towards reaching outcomes and monitoring is undertaken to ensure the Wildside is on track to achieve these goals. Pest control data and reporting has been standardised and is collated at a central location. A Wildside map assists in management and to educate the

community of the scale and impact of the Wildside Project. Funding support from the Department of Conservation's Community Fund to employ the Wildside Coordinator and corporate partnerships with Blacks Fasteners, Independent Line Services, and Akaroa Waterfront Motels contribute to the financial sustainability of this project.

(Outside the financial year reported on, but before this report was finalised, the Trust's work on the Wildside was awarded the 2017 Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon Award for Community Leadership).

The audited financial statements are provided separately. I am pleased to report that once again



Mike Fraser and Andrew McCarthy from GJ Gardner Homes present Mark Christensen with their principal sponsor's cheque.

we have managed our limited finances prudently. Thanks particularly to the Trust's Finance Committee of Ingrid Kerr and Richard Simpson. Building the financial resilience of the Trust is a priority and we are pleased our membership and donor scheme is assisting with this.

Forging lasting partnerships with commercial supporters is also critical, and this year our structured sponsorship programme has continued and been strengthened. We have been delighted to welcome G.J. Gardner Homes Christchurch North as our Principal Sponsor. Our thanks particularly to Andrew McCarthy, Managing Director of G.J Gardner Homes Ltd.

We continue to be grateful for the support of foundation sponsors Anderson Lloyd, Perception PR & Marketing, Lyttelton Port of Christchurch, and Lincoln University.

Gold sponsors Blacks Fasteners and Independent Line Services continue to provide valued support for the Wildside.

We are grateful to new Gold sponsors, Fox and Associates, Boffa Miskell, Brannigans, and Vicinity Solutions, who support us with surveying, ecological, personnel, and GIS advice and services respectively.

We are also pleased to have Akaroa Waterfront Motels supporting the Wildside Programme as a silver sponsor, and Black Cat, Farmlands, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch Gondola, Frontiers Abroad, Rough and Milne Landscape Architects, and Akaroa Dolphins joining as corporate members of the Trust.

We were delighted to acknowledge the support of all these sponsors and members at the November launch of the Ecological Vision hosted by Christchurch Gondola at the Top Station of the Gondola.

The continued financial support for our activities from the Rata Foundation, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, and the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is critical to our success and continues to be received with thanks.

The trustees wish to thank our marvellous staff – Maree Burnett, General Manager, Marie Haley, Wildside Coordinator and Marie Neal, Covenants Officer. All three have worked tirelessly for the Trust over the year, and our success is substantially because of their commitment, enthusiasm and rapport with landowners. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Personally, I also wish to thank my fellow trustees for your continuing passion and commitment to the Trust's work and vision. Almost entirely landowners on the peninsula and Port Hills, you act, not only as governors of the Trust, but as examples to your neighbours and to the wider community. It is a privilege for me to work with you all.

And, a final thankyou – to all the covenanting landowners, the residents of the peninsula and the Port Hills who support us in various ways, and all our other members – all of you who share our vision and are working with us to value, protect, and care for the biodiversity, landscapes, and special character of Banks Peninsula.



Mark Christensen
Chairperson

2050 ECOLOGICAL VISION FOR BANKS PENINSULA (INCLUDING PORT HILLS)

GOAL 1 – All old growth remnants (more than 1 ha in area) of Banks Peninsula forest cover are protected and appropriately managed.



Ancient Totara at Waipuna Pass. Photo credit: Kelvin McMillan.

What does success look like?

These remnants are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity) and fenced. They have active management plans.

GOAL 2 – Rare ecosystems are protected and appropriately managed.



View from Banks Peninsula Track with Akaroa Heads in the background. Photo credit: John Sullivan.

What does success look like?

We know what they are and where they are – mapped and recorded. Examples of each rare ecosystem type are protected in perpetuity and actively managed.

GOAL 3 – The connections between land, freshwater, and marine habitats are managed to support viable populations of species that depend on them.



New Zealand fur seal colony at Red Bay. Photo credit: Marie Haley.

What does success look like?

Indigenous species are thriving. An increasing abundance and variety of seabirds are successfully nesting on the mainland. The harbours and bays have large healthy shellfish populations and there is an increase in inanga spawning sites compared to today. The community is actively involved in this work.

GOAL 4 – Four core indigenous forest areas of more than 1000 ha each have been protected.



Red Beech forest at Tutakakahikura Scenic Reserve. Photo credit: Shireen Helps.

What does success look like?

The four core areas are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity) and fenced. They all have active management plans. The community is aware of, and involved in the care of the areas.

GOAL 5 – Land and freshwater primarily used for production and for settlement also supports thriving indigenous biodiversity.



Stock work at Pigeon Bay. Photo credit: Pam Richardson.

What does success look like?

Land managers are aware of and protect ecosystems and biodiversity as a matter of course. Periodic mapping and imaging demonstrates that there is an increase in indigenous biodiversity cover across Banks Peninsula. The whole community is actively involved in projects to enhance biodiversity, such as Port Hills residents planting and managing appropriate vegetation to develop an ecological corridor (or bridge) from the peninsula to Christchurch city.

GOAL 6 – Rare and indigenous flora and fauna of Banks Peninsula are increasingly abundant.



Female jewelled gecko. Photo credit: Shireen Helps.

What does success look like?

There is robust scientific evidence to demonstrate that species are increasing in abundance and diversity. People are recording anecdotal evidence about healthy indigenous biodiversity in their immediate environment (such as bird song, indigenous vegetation cover and decline in exotic weeds).

GOAL 7 – At least two locally extinct species have been reintroduced.



Tui on flax. Photo credit: Finn Scheele.

What does success look like?

There is robust scientific evidence to demonstrate that the populations of the two reintroduced species are healthy and self-sustaining. The community actively nurtures the reintroduced species.

GOAL 8 – Banks Peninsula is effectively free of pest animals.

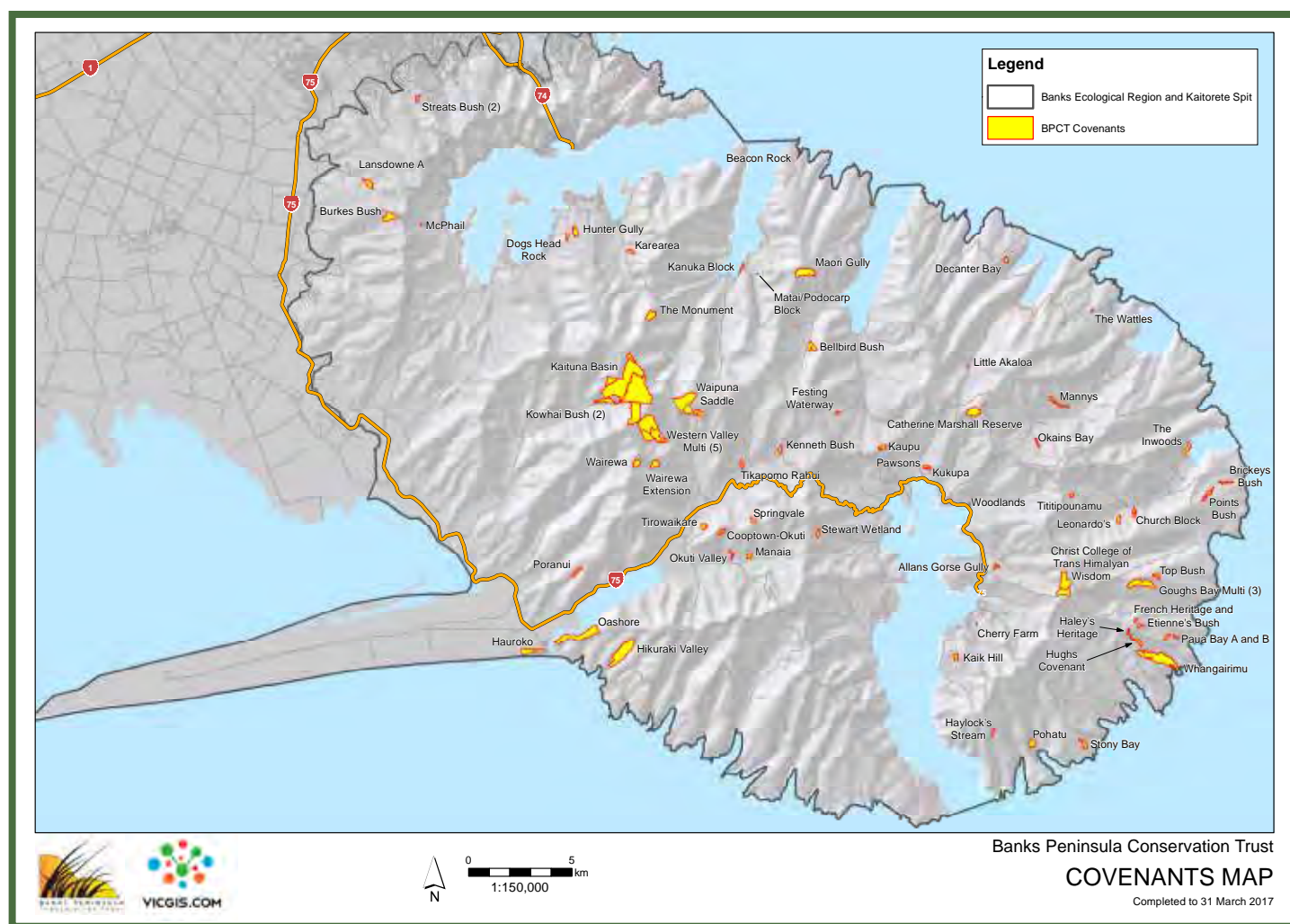


Trappers workshop. Photo credit: Marie Haley.

What does success look like?

At the highest level there is robust scientific evidence of an increased abundance and diversity of indigenous species (Goal 6). Pest animal numbers are reduced to a level which enables indigenous species to survive and increase. Protected forest understoreys flourish and are free from grazing by exotic mammals. The whole community is involved in this work.

COVENANTS



The Banks Peninsula Conservation 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. Establishment of a covenant includes fencing the area, ecological survey, land survey, and undertaking the legal requirements to register the covenant on the land title. Landowners retain full ownership of their covenant and manage it with advice from the Trust provided through an ecological management plan developed for each covenant.

As at 31 March 2017 the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has 62 covenants that provide legal protection for 1,140 ha of land.

Lansdowne A

Tucked in the head of Early Valley, Lansdowne covenant is truly unique. It encloses a steep rocky gorge covering nearly ten hectares with microclimates ranging from hot dry outcrops to damp shady areas in the valley floor. A stunning waterfall follows a series of unusual rock pool formations. 'Brice Falls' was officially gazetted by the current owners in honour of the pioneering family who originally owned this property. The stream originates in Kennedys Bush Reserve at the head of the valley, flows through the covenant, down the Lansdowne Valley into the Halswell River and eventually reaches Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere.



Brice Falls. Photo credit: Andy Nicholson.

Sadly, the recent devastating Port Hills fires significantly damaged this site. Much of the regeneration progress was set back which had been gaining momentum in an exciting transition from exotic weed dominance to young native broad-leaved species habitat over many years. Gorse and broom were acting as a nurse crop for emerging native seedlings in many areas. Despite this frustration, the owners immediately addressed the need to reinstate stock fencing to protect regeneration and protect the waterway.

Prior to the fires the owners were assisting the regeneration process by planting hundreds of trees over many years to compliment remnant native shrubs and trees. They immediately began this work again. Pleasingly many shrubs and trees which appeared completely burnt and dead soon after the fires, have now resprouted. Controlling the worst weeds and mammal pests (possums, goats, and deer) will ensure a new canopy can develop

which will in turn protect an emerging young understory in time.

The owners' vision to facilitate the transformation of this highly altered ecosystem back to its former forest glory is inspiring. Tall podocarp forest was removed by fire during Maori settlement, replaced predominantly by tussock-dominated shrub lands. Accounts from the 1850's record "The whole of the Hoon Hay and surrounding basins filled with splendid bush", massive tōtara, white pine (kahikatea), black pine (mataī) and plenty of giant broad leaf, manuka, konini

and tree ferns". Despite a major fire setback in 1868, remnant trees and shrubs survived in secluded areas such as this. The covenant is an important biodiversity steppingstone between urban and rural areas providing habitat, food and shelter across the landscape for the spread of birds, invertebrates and lizards.

Hugh Wilson, botanist, assured that nature left to "run her own and fascinating course" would ensure steady native regeneration within 20 to 40 years at this site when he visited in 2004. Kanuka was already outcompeting gorse and broom, forming its own canopy to harbour native regeneration only five years after fencing. It is inspirational knowing that under the right conditions, this cycle will repeat again despite the damage caused by the fires, and that the area will reach its full potential eventually – even though that legacy may be centuries away.

This project was funded through the Department of Conservation Biodiversity Advice & Condition Fund, the Selwyn Natural Environment Fund, and the landowners.

Manny's Reserve

Okains Bay landowners Chris and Annie Thacker named the covenant after Chris's grandfather. The Thackers are keen conservation-minded farmers, well known for their involvement in several community and farming groups. They enjoy sharing their achievements with outside groups which also include planting natives in other riparian areas on their property.

This area was identified by botanist Hugh Wilson in the 1980s as an area worthy of protection, especially as there is little remaining hardwood forest nearby. Regenerating native bush and mature remnant trees cover the gully which meanders down a south facing slope. Lowland forest species including kōwhai, fuchsia, broadleaf, five-finger and small-leaved shrubs predominate. This ecological reservoir will act as a stepping stone in the landscape for the dispersal of native flora and fauna to other areas.



Headwater source of the Okains Bay drinking supply, now fenced to exclude stock. Photo credit: Geoff Walls.

The three kilometres of fencing were constructed by local fencer Chris Stuart and made possible through funding from Environment Canterbury's Immediate Steps programme, Department of Conservation's Biodiversity and Condition Fund, with landowner contribution.

Kaupu

Nestled below the Summit Road over-looking Pigeon Bay, Kaupu is a six-hectare block incorporating old forest remnant alongside new plantings. Of note are towering tōtara, kahikatea and giant mataī trees estimated to be at least 800 years old. Original gnarled old fuchsia and broadleaf trees are mingled throughout.

In 1992 botanist Hugh Wilson noted how badly trampled and browsed out the understory was by cattle. Fenced in 1997, and managed for conservation goals, this is a great example of what can be achieved in a relatively short time frame. Soft understory species such as pigeonwood and broadleaf are now reappearing. General ground floor regeneration is thriving, boosted by an intensive pest and predator trapping programme supported through Environment Canterbury funding and a highly-committed landowner. The programme targets possums, mustelids, hedgehogs and rats.



*Broad-leaved species regenerate in the absence of stock and pests under the canopy of an ancient totara.
Photo credit: Marie Neal.*

Tirowaikare

Overlooking Lake Forsyth, Little River and around to the Hilltop, sit two remarkable patches of remnant native forest. One is being protected through the QEII National Trust and the other seven-hectare area with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

Tirowaikare meaning 'view of the rippling waters', sits on a west facing slope above the township and is a special example of secondary forest in the area. Lowland tōtara is a key species accompanied by fantastic ancient specimens of mataī and kahikatea. A diverse range of broad-leaved trees

are flourishing to form new canopy layers whilst protecting young seedling podocarps beneath. Species include tītoki, narrow-leaved lacebark, kaikōmako, ngaio, akeake, māhoe, kōwhai, lemonwood, pigeonwood, fierce lancewood (an at-risk species), rōhutu, and the unusual small-leaved milk tree.

Many interesting shrubs feature, including kawakawa and several small-leaved species such as poataniwha and *Raukaua anomalus*. In the absence of browsing animals, the forest floor is now able to regenerate. In addition to a plethora of general seedlings, there are various ferns and patches of locally uncommon bamboo rice grass. Climbers, including native jasmine, mistletoes and climbing fuchsia are



Ancient matai. Photo credit: Marie Neal.

thriving. Ecologist Geoff Walls noted evidence of tree ferns growing here in recent times, and it is hoped that one day they will return.

Birdlife is abundant with kererū, bellbird, grey warbler, fantails and bellbirds enjoying the habitat. A stream running through the property provides a home for aquatic insect species, and the general habitat will support a plethora of other invertebrate life.

A rare fungus, "Noddy's flycap" was recently discovered here by ecologist Melissa Hutchison who described it as resembling Gandalf's wizard hat. This is not

found anywhere else in the world. Another exciting find by entomologist Brian Patrick was that of a rare moth, *Epichorista lindsayi* which is dependent on the bamboo rice grass. It had not been seen on Banks Peninsula for nearly 90 years.

Barberry, spread by birds is a nuisance in the covenant. There has been fantastic ongoing work by volunteer groups to support the owners in their efforts to manage and hopefully eradicate this threat. Local contractors Chris and John Stewart constructed deer fencing through funding made possible by Environment Canterbury's Biodiversity Strategy.

French Heritage and Etienne's Bush

Exceptional regeneration has taken place in these newly fenced blocks in a relatively short time. During his recent survey at the site, ecologist Geoff Walls noted this to be the best example of regeneration in his experience in New Zealand.

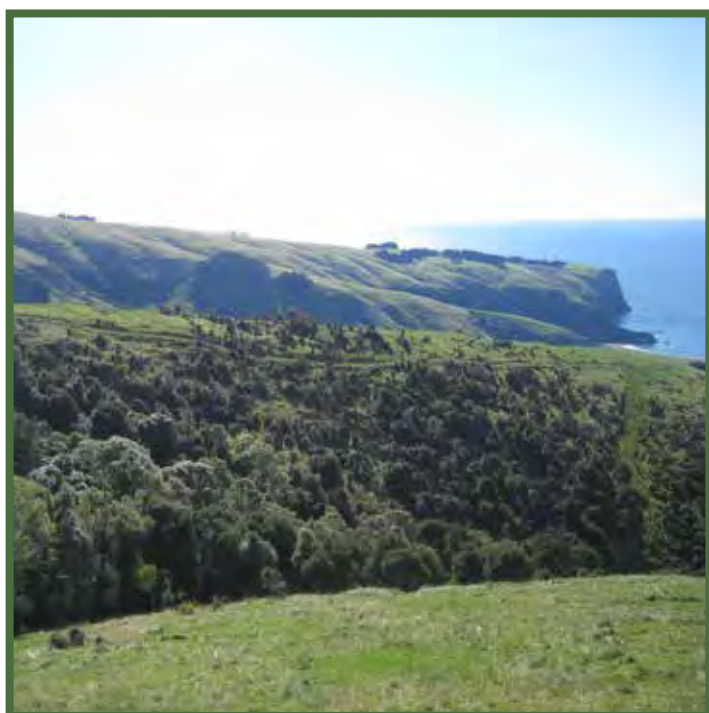
'French Heritage' and 'Etienne's Bush' are owned by the Haley family and constitute two neighbouring blocks covering 4.3 hectares at the head of Goughs and Paua Bays. Stands of mature trees grow amongst regenerating mixed lowland forest which follow two streams. Predominant species include kōwhai, tōtara, lancewood, fuchsia, broadleaf, five-finger, lacebark and many small-leaved shrubs. North facing remnants such as this are rare on Banks Peninsula. Geoff Walls noted in particular the presence of some rare species; Climbing groundsel *Brachyglottis sciadophila*, orchids, and the beautiful rare white mistletoe *Tupeia antarctica*.

Fencing out stock which had access to these waterways will protect stream vegetation, water quality and aquatic life within it. This covenant

which is the Haleys' second, falls within the Wildside programme area so pest trapping is active. Protection of habitat from the mountains to the sea –'ki uta ki tai' was achieved with their original covenant nearby (Haley's Heritage) –a first in Canterbury.

Impressive connectivity to other protected bush areas close by is constantly improving which will encourage the movement and establishment of increased biodiversity. The covenant is close to six other BPCT covenants plus Hinewai Reserve. As well as healthier flora and fauna, stream health is set to improve with the flow on effect literally improving life for native fish species and marine mammals downstream. Goughs Bay, Paua Bay and nearby Fishermans Bay and Stony Bay/Otanerito all provide valuable habitat for seals and seabirds, including white flippered and yellow-eyed penguins.

Environment Canterbury and The World Wildlife Fund provided funding for this project and Nick Thacker from Okains Bay constructed the fencing.



Regeneration in the newly protected bush areas overlooking Goughs Bay.
Photo credit: Marie Haley.



Overlooking Paua Bay.
Photo credit: Marie Haley.

Burkes Bush



Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Officer, landowners and BPCT liaison working together to preserve natural heritage.

Photo credit: Marie Neal.

This significant 16 hectare area of remnant podocarp forest near the sign of the Bellbird on the Summit Road provides an important stepping stone for the spread of biodiversity on the Christchurch City side of the Banks Ecological Region. Hugh Wilson, botanist produced a special report on this area in the 1980's, highly recommending it for protection. It is now one of many protected areas, public and private, stretching from Gebbies Pass to Kennedy's Bush Reserve and further around to Victoria Park. Fortunately, this covenant narrowly escaped the recent extensive Port Hills fires of February 2017. Telling burn marks on trunks of ancient podocarps within the forest reveal that this special place has escaped destruction before.

Canopy closure is formed by a wide range of established species. Tōtara, mataī and kahikatea are

most notable. Fuchsia, mahoe, lancewood, olearia and many other broad-leaved species are present inside the bush where suitable understory conditions exist, while kanuka overcoming gorse dominates the edges as regeneration extends outwards. Native jasmine vines thrive throughout.

A long-term monitoring programme is being set up to measure the effectiveness of covenanting (excluding browsing stock and managing pest species), for biodiversity gains. The owners are also vigilant in the battle against deer and pigs in the area. Fencing was constructed by High Country Fencing and funding was made possible through Environment Canterbury's Biodiversity Strategy.

WILDSIDE PROJECT

The Wildside is a landscape scale restoration project collaboration between landowners, Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust working for the protection of a variety of endemic, threatened, and iconic species across 13,500ha of the South-eastern corner of Banks Peninsula.

The Wildside focuses on predator control for species protection most notably of endangered yellow-eyed penguins and endemic white-flipped penguins. Seven hundred predator traps controlling feral cats, ferrets, stoats, and weasels are laid out across 7,500 hectares of the Wildside. Possums are controlled over 5,500ha to less than two percent residual trap catch (RTC) for habitat protection, and rats within high-value conservation covenants.

The Wildside is largely private land (93.5%) with nearly 20% of this held in conservation covenant. Many streams are fenced for stock exclusion with one catchment covenanted from summit to sea – ki uta ki tai – with others in the process of being protected.



*White-flipped little blue penguin.
Photo credit: Marie Haley.*

White-flipped penguins

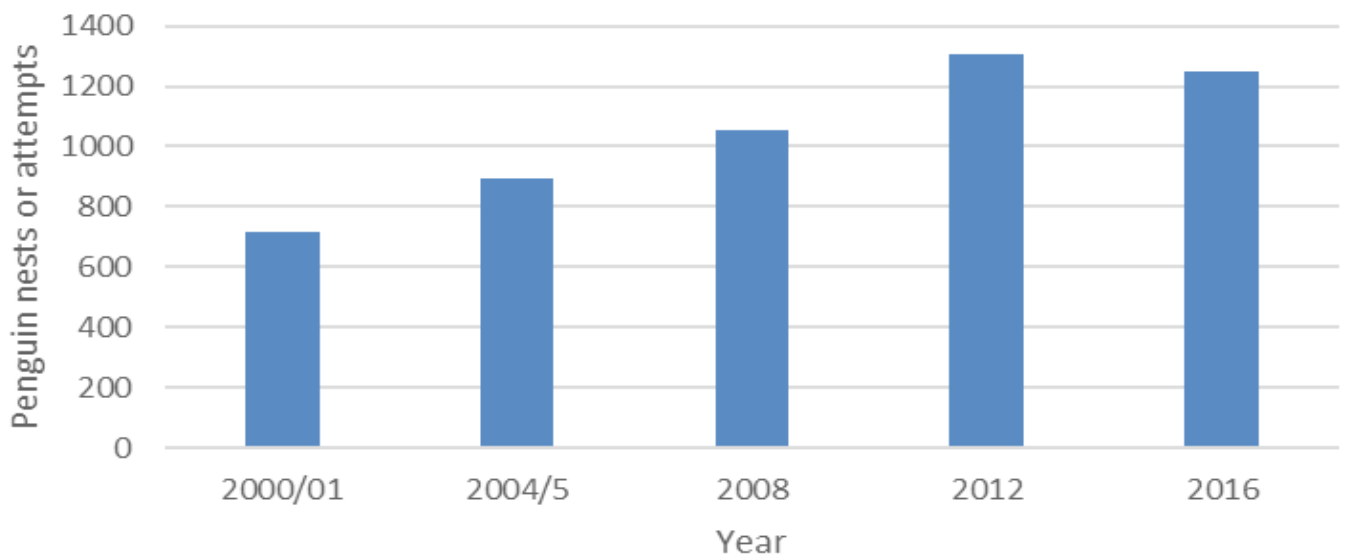
White-flipped penguins (WFP) have recently been downgraded to At Risk from Threatened on the Department of Conservation Threat Status of NZ Birds 2017, A 'direct result of successful conservation management programmes' however, 'the maintenance of many of these gains will depend on the continuation of successful conservation programmes; otherwise, the status of the taxa will soon worsen'.

On the Wildside, WFPs have begun to recolonise historic nesting habitat in which they have not been recorded for 20 or more years. Flea Bay is the largest colony of WFP and the largest mainland colony in Australasia. Every four years teams from Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Pohatu Penguins count the nests or nesting attempts to produce a whole colony count. This effort takes two or more weeks of continuous searching. In 2016, 1250 pairs of penguins were counted, this is a small drop on 2012 with 1304 pairs. However, the population in Flea Bay had been significantly reduced by predation pre 2000 with ongoing collaborative suppression of key predators (stoats, ferrets and feral cats), monitoring, providing additional nesting sites and rehabilitative care the colony at Flea Bay has had an annual five-percent population expansion. The result in 2016 may indicate that the colony has reached a natural limit for the habitat, with new nests and moulting sites being found routinely both north and south of Flea Bay supporting this theory. Monitoring of other colonies will be repeated in 2017 to understand wider trends.



White-flipped penguin nests in site where penguins have not been recorded for 20 years. Photo credit: Marie Haley.

White Flipped Little Blue Penguin Flea Bay/Pohatu Colony Count

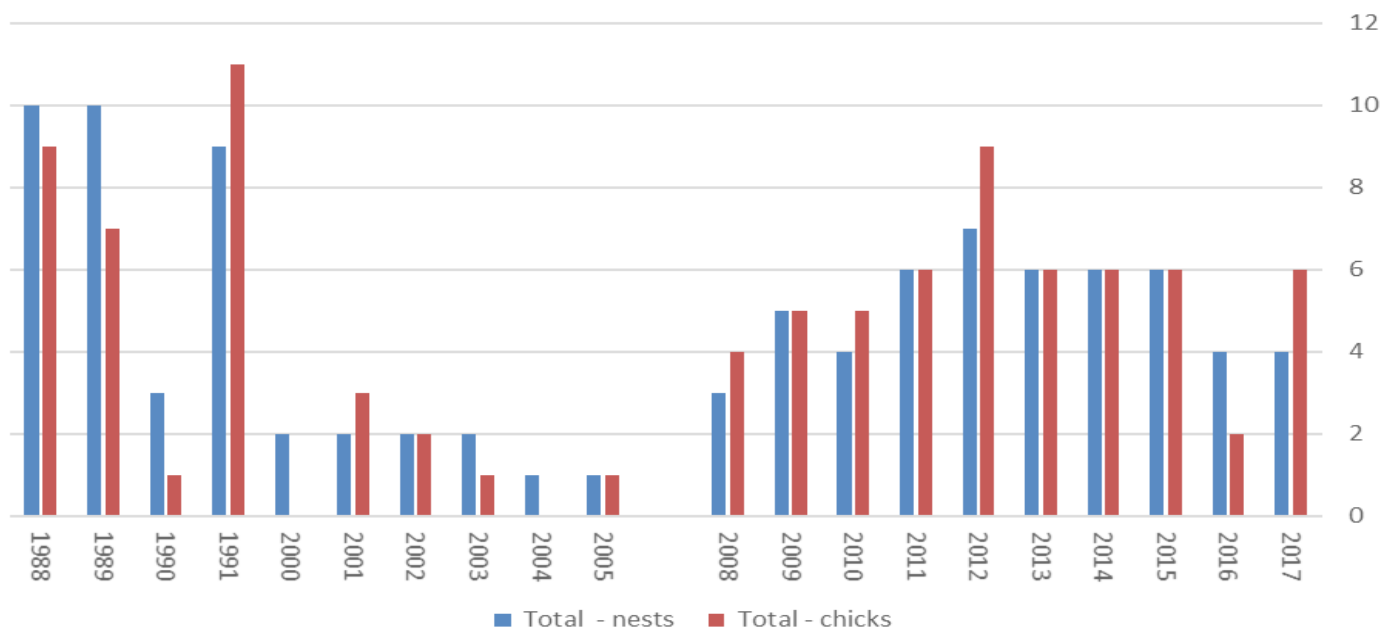


Yellow-eyed penguins

Yellow-eyed penguins (YEP) have been upgraded to Nationally Endangered with the key threats being changes in ocean currents, sea temperature and fish stocks, with lesser threats of tourism disturbance, fisheries and predation at sea and on land.

On Banks Peninsula the YEP population is steady and we have had no mass mortality or disease events. We are also free of much of the tourism pressure. In the 2017 summer the Wildside team recorded eight juvenile penguins, four nests, six chicks and the first Banks Peninsula born microchipped chicks were recorded throughout their juvenile year. A total of 25 yellow-eyed penguins.

Yellow-eyed Penguin Nests and Chicks Fledged on Banks Peninsula





Juvenile yellow-eyed penguin after first moult.

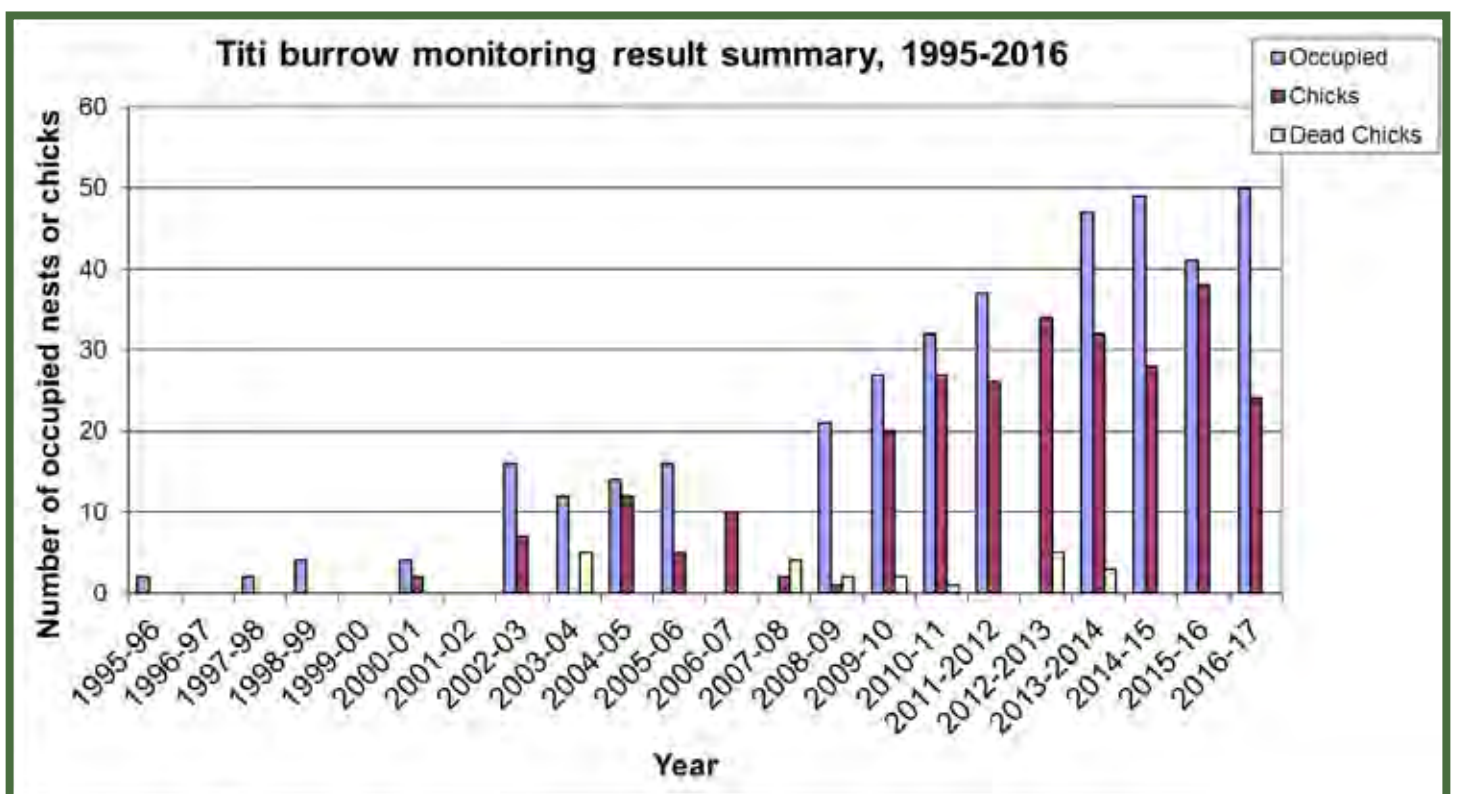
Photo credit: Marie Haley.

Titi

In 2016 a record 50 nest burrows were occupied by titi in the Stony Bay colony, a remarkable recovery in 20 years from the near loss of the last mainland colony in Canterbury. Twenty-four chicks were recorded in early 2017, lower than in recent years. However, many burrows were found with down indicating that a chick had grown to fledging stage and many had likely fledged earlier than usual. There were no dead chicks and no indication of anything unusual occurring inside the colony.

Predator control

Possums have been controlled for biodiversity gains across 5,500ha of the Wildside in partnership with Hinewai Reserve, Christchurch City Council and the Banks Peninsula Pest Liaison Committee. Monitoring lines have shown that the residual trap catch (RTC) remains at four percent. Two high value covenants were sites of rat control operations reducing rats from 60% detection down to zero detection in one covenant, the timing of this operation was early spring for the benefit of forest nesting birds. Feral cat and mustelid control continues across 7,500ha for pelagic seabird protection. The first ferret was caught in Flea Bay after many years absence.



Habitat Protection

Of the 13,500ha that comprises the Wildside most is held in private land (93.5%), with only 6.5% in public reserves (2.5% CCC and 4% DOC land). Of the private land most is farmed, but a huge 2360ha of private land is covenanted (17.5% of the Wildside). The core of this is Hinewai Reserve at 1570ha – the largest private reserve in New Zealand. Three hundred and ninety-four hectares of private land are Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust covenants with 347ha held in QEII Trust covenants.

This mixture of private and public reserves forms a core area of over 2,500ha, becoming the first of the core areas of Goal Four of the 2050 Ecological Vision. Summit to sea protected areas provide protection across the altitude and habitat gradient, connections allow for species movement and limit isolation improving the likelihood of genetic diversity.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environments 'Taonga of an Island Nation: Saving New Zealand's Birds' May 2017 report highlights the need for covenanted and protected areas to have predator control to ensure that the species held within may thrive. With possums controlled across most of this core area, widespread cat, and mustelid control, and rat control in core covenants, the natural integrity of the regenerating forest is preserved.



Hinewai Reserve forms the core habitat protection of the Wildside.

Photo credit: Marie Haley.

Community

Community leadership and engagement remains the central tenet of the Wildside. The Wildside is a community of conservation leaders supported in their endeavours by the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. The Wildside Coordinator supports the community in conservation action, linking community to expert advice or funding.

In 2016/17 several new river protection projects on private land were supported, (covenanting or fencing streams from stock access) through funding from the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee. A freshwater invertebrate workshop was held with Dr Jon Harding from the University of Canterbury, as well as speakers on Environment Canterbury funding and land management plans.

A trapping workshop was well attended with Andy Cox of the Department of Conservation leading a discussion on predator control as well as Phil Crutchley of the Christchurch City Council leading a beginners workshop. Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust covenantors Bob Webster and Carol Jensen shared their monitoring experiences at Waipuna Saddle in an informative presentation.

School education included an Environment Leaders camp and workshop at Hinewai Reserve where the Wildside Coordinator demonstrated predator traps, penguin protection and discussed conservation as a career option. Okains Bay School visited Pohatu Penguin colony and Duvauchelle School made a visit to Hinewai Reserve.

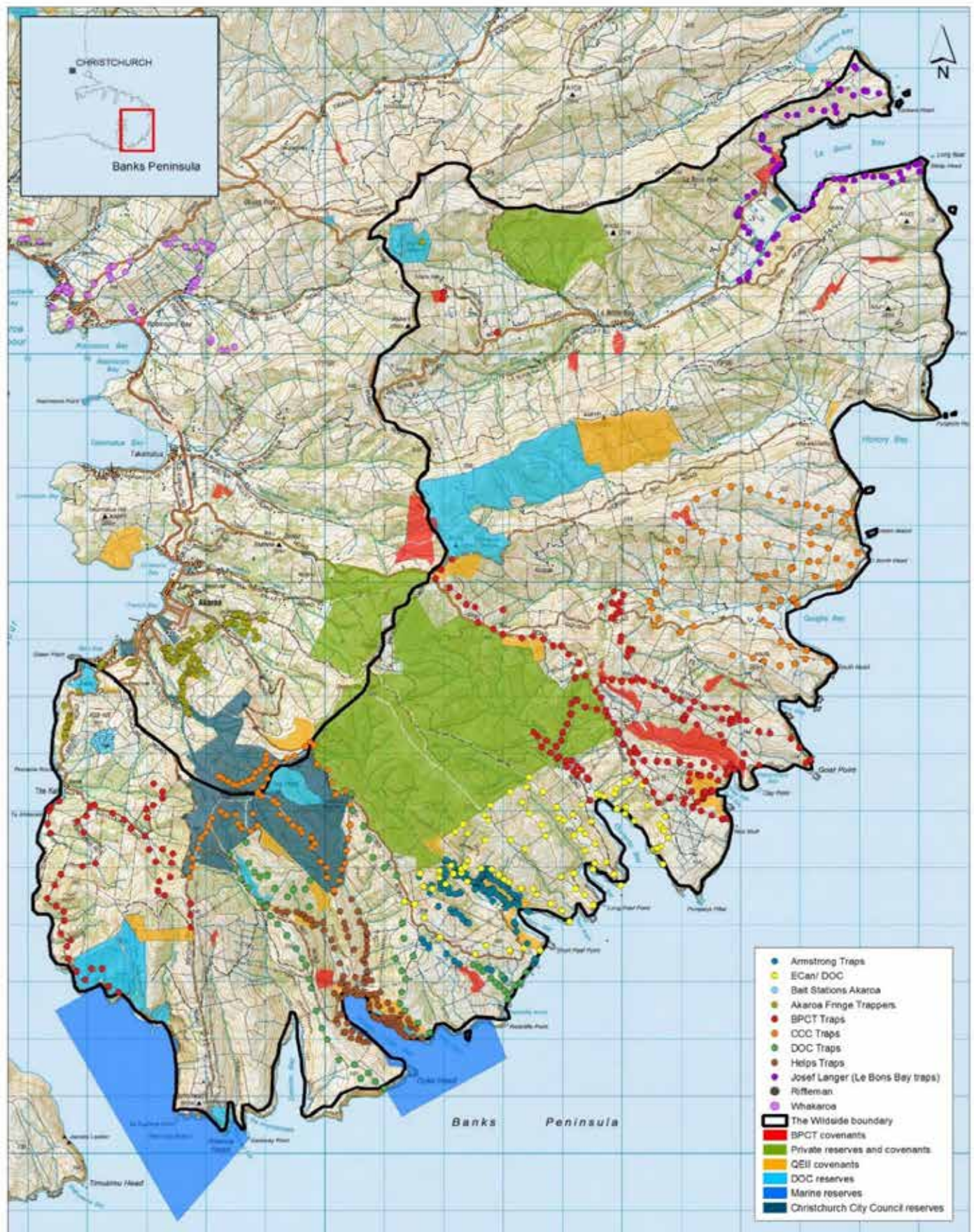


Canterbury Enviroschools Leaders Camp 2016 at Hinewai Reserve.

Photo credit: Marie Haley.

Dr. Jon Harding of UC explaining his freshwater invertebrate sample.

Photo credit: Marie Haley.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ahurei

New Zealand Government



The Wildside

Protected Lands and Predator Traps
on Banks Peninsula



OUR SUPPORTERS

The success of the Trust is possible thanks to the generous ongoing support of our corporate partners and funders.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2017

Statement of Responsibility

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the financial statements and review letter for the year ending 31 March 2017.

The Trustees accept responsibility for the preparation of the annual financial statements and the judgements used in these statements.

The management accepts responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the Trust's financial reporting.

In the opinion of the Trustees and management, the annual financial statements for the year fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

The Trust's 2017 financial statements are authorised for issue by the Trust Chairperson and General Manager.



Mark Christensen
Chair



Maree Burnett
General Manager

Dated 27 June 2017

Dated 27 June 2017

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 31 March 2017

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust delivers programmes to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Banks Peninsula through sustainable land management.

Programme outputs include:	This Year	Last Year
1. New area protected by Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Covenant	52.21 ha	361 ha
2. Wildside Project – landscape scale programme on the Southeastern bays of Banks Peninsula		
- Trapping network	~750 traps	~700traps
- Catchments protected summit to sea	1	1
3. Community outreach & engagement		
- community publications	8	3
- field days	8	5
- school visits	4	3

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
Revenue			
Grants – Covenants		70,907	143,838
Grants – General		160,556	184,160
Donations		19,803	29,572
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members		4,826	9,027
Revenue from providing goods and services		4,665	226
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		7,318	8,656
Income in Kind	5	36,390	42,284
Sponsorship		65,318	14,543
Total Revenue		369,783	432,306
Expenses			
Expenses related to public fundraising		6,935	4,864
Volunteers and employee related costs		164,811	150,596
Costs related to providing goods or services		1,679	-
Covenant Expenses		70,307	131,149
Project Expenses		15,388	19,140
Expenses in Kind	5	36,390	42,284
Other Expenses		58,109	58,511
Total Expenses		353,619	406,544
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		16,164	25,762

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 March 2017

	Note	Actual This Year \$	Actual Last Year \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Banks accounts and cash	1	202,512	224,940
Debtors and prepayments	1	39,258	61,015
Term Deposits – maturity greater than 90 days		175,000	130,000
Total Current Assets		416,770	415,955
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant, and equipment	2	4,842	2,799
Total Non-Current Assets		4,842	2,799
Total Assets		421,612	418,754
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	1	26,611	32,672
Employee costs payable	1	9,891	2,801
Unused donations and grants with conditions	1	156,812	171,147
Total Current Liabilities		193,314	206,620
Total Liabilities		193,314	206,620
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		228,298	212,134
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	3	228,298	212,134
Total Accumulated Funds		228,298	212,134

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Actual This Year	Actual Last Year
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Grants – Covenants	52,475	153,508
Grants – General	190,009	136,924
Donations	20,037	29,403
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members	4,826	9,026
Receipts from providing goods and services	4,621	331
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	7,318	8,656
Sponsorship	58,623	12,043
Net GST	25,500	-5,443
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	222,698	212,247
Donations or grants paid	-	50
Covenant Expenses	99,700	101,756
Project Expenses	15,388	19,140
Other Expenses	-	-
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	25,623	11,255
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to acquire property, plant, and equipment	3,051	281
Payments to purchase investments	45,000	25,000
Repayments of loans borrowed from other parties	-	-
Capital repaid to owners or members	-	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	-48,051	-25,281
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	-22,428	-14,026
Opening Cash	224,940	238,966
Closing Cash	202,512	224,940
This is represented by:		
Bank Accounts and Cash	202,512	224,940

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2017

Statement of accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust's has elected to apply PBE-SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Banks Accounts and Cash

Banks accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year.

Note 1: Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Bank accounts and cash	Cheque Account	144,376	8,377
	Main Account	(262)	3,680
	Call Account	56,815	166,308
	Endowment Fund	1,583	1,575
	Term Deposit	-	45,000
	Total	202,512	224,940
Debtors and prepayments	GST receivable	-	889
	Prepayments	-	100
	Accounts receivable	6,758	60,026
	Sundry Debtors	32,500	-
	Total	39,258	61,015
Creditors and accrued expenses	Accrued expenses	2,200	32,072
	Trade and other payables	-	600
	GST Payable	24,411	-
	Total	26,611	32,672
Employee costs payable	PAYE owing	5,458	2,925
	Wages and salaries earned but not yet paid	4,433	(124)
	Total	9,891	2,801
Unused donations and grants with conditions	Department of Conservation	-	(11,207)
	Environment Canterbury	40,335	71,511
	Other	3,374	35,167
	ECAN – Interflow Restorative Justice	61,777	68,176
	Grants Received in Advance	51,326	7,500
	Total	156,812	171,147

Note 2: Property, Plant, and Equipment**This Year**

	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Office equipment	634	-	-	116	518
Computers (including software)	1,338	1,741	-	553	2,526
Field equipment	827	1,310	-	339	1,798
Total	2,799	3,051	-	1,008	4,842

Last Year

	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Office equipment					
Computers (including software)	802	-	-	168	634
Equipment	2,018	86	-	766	1,338
Total	1,131	195	-	499	827
	3,951	281	-	1,433	2,799

Note 3: Accumulated Funds**This Year**

	Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	Total
Description		
Opening Balance	212,134	212,134
Surplus/(Deficit)	16,164	16,164
Closing Balance	228,298	228,298

Last Year

	Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	Total
Description		
Opening Balance	186,372	186,372
Surplus/(Deficit)	25,762	25,762
Closing Balance	212,134	212,134

Note 4: Commitments and Contingencies

Commitment	Explanation and Timing	At balance date This Year \$	At balance date Last Year \$
Commitments to lease or rent assets	Office rental in next 12 months	13,020	13,020
	Office rental – year 2 – 5	5,425	18,445

Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at balance date (last year – nil).

Note 5: Other

Goods or Services Provided in Kind	
Legal Services – Anderson Lloyd	11,190
Marketing and Communications – Perception PR & Marketing	24,060
Financial Services – Tony Cole	1,140

Note 6: Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year.

Note 7: Events after the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report.



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30 June, 2017

AUDIT REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST

We have undertaken a review of the financial report which provides information about the past financial performance of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and its financial position as at 31 March 2017.

Committee's Responsibilities:

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of a financial report which fairly reflects the financial position of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust as at 31 March 2017 and the results of the operations for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Auditors' Responsibilities:

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial report presented by the committee and report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion:

A review includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial report.

We conducted the review in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. We planned and performed the review so as to obtain the information and explanations which were considered necessary. We obtained sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial report.

Other than in our capacity as auditors we have no relationship with or interests in the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

Qualified Opinion:

As with other organisations of a similar nature, control over revenues prior to being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In this respect alone we have not obtained all of the information and explanations that we have required.

In our opinion, except for the adjustments that might have been found necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning the revenues of the organisation, the financial report fairly reflects the financial position of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust as at 31 March 2017 and the results of operations and cash flows for the period ended on that date. The review was completed on 30 June 2017 and our qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Tony Cole Financial Services Limited
Tony Cole Financial Services Limited

