



Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust 2018 - 2020 Business Plan

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust's vision is

“to create an environment in which the community values, protects, and cares for the biodiversity, landscape and special character of Banks Peninsula”.

To pursue our vision, BPCT has adopted eight conservation goals for 2050. These goals are aspirational but achievable and will be used to guide all conservation management work and result in a substantial improvement in the state of indigenous biodiversity on the Peninsula by 2050.

This Business Plan sets out how BPCT will be contributing to the realisation of the eight goals over the next three years. All of the Trust's activities and projects, and allocation of our resources, will contribute towards achieving the 2050 Ecological Vision.

The Wildside Project and the BPCT Covenanted Programme are established core services of the Trust, which have made a significant contribution to enhancing and protecting biodiversity on the Peninsula for well over 10 years. They are recognised as core functions of the Trust throughout the plan.

Goal One

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



Success looks like: These remnants are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity), fenced, and plant and animal pests are managed.

Actions

General

1. Jon Sullivan (Lincoln University) leads the identification of all remaining old remnants (for completion by mid 2018).
2. Aerial photography, existing surveys, and local knowledge is used to map potential sites.
3. Identified sites are ground truthed.
4. An accurate map of old remnants is overlaid with a map of protected areas (BPCT and QEII covenants, private reserves, publicly owned land).
5. A strategy for securing the perpetual protection of unprotected remnants is developed (late 2018 – 2019).

Covenantee Programme

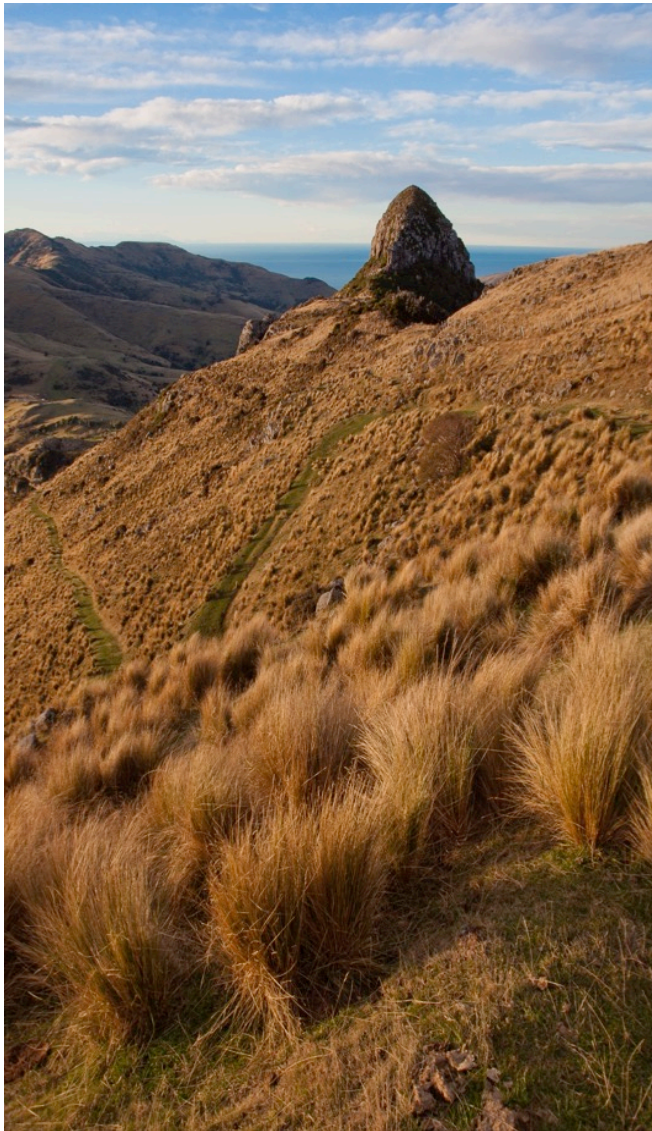
6. Covenant selection criteria is updated to prioritise potential covenants containing old remnants (2018).
7. Development of outstanding ecological management plans for covenants with old remnants are prioritised (2018).
8. Support from volunteer programme is prioritised for covenantors who need assistance managing sites with old remnants.

Wildside Project

9. The Wildside Coordinator assists the lead scientist with identification of sites.
10. Ground truthing Wildside sites is given priority.
11. The Wildside Coordinator works with landowners to educate about this goal and encourage protection.

Goal Two

Rare ecosystems are protected and appropriately managed.



Success looks like: We know where they are and what they are – mapped and recorded. Examples of each rare ecosystem type are protected in perpetuity, and plant and animal pests are managed.

Actions

General

1. Susan Weiser (Landcare Research) will advise on identifying rare ecosystem types on the Peninsula (early 2018).
2. A plan for mapping the location of the various rare ecosystem types identified in 1 above is developed and implemented (2018).
3. An accurate map of rare ecosystems is overlaid with a map of protected areas (BPCT and QEII covenants, private reserves, publicly owned land).
4. A strategy for securing the perpetual protection of examples of each rare ecosystem type is developed (2019).

Covenantee Programme

5. Covenant selection criteria is updated to prioritise potential covenants containing rare ecosystem types (identified in 1 above).
6. Development of outstanding ecological management plans for covenants with rare ecosystem types are prioritised.
7. Support from volunteer programme is prioritised for covenantors who need assistance managing sites with rare ecosystems.

Wildside Project

8. The Wildside Coordinator assists the lead scientist with identification of potential rare ecosystem types found on the Wildside.
9. Ground truthing of Wildside sites is given priority.
10. The Wildside Coordinator works with landowners to educate about this goal and encourage protection.

Goal Three

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

Success looks like: Indigenous species are thriving. An increasing abundance and variety of sea birds 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.

Actions

General

1. The Akaroa Streams Restoration project enhancing inanga spawning beds is completed, engages Akaroa Area School, and is publicised to the local community (early 2018).

Covenantee Programme

2. Covenant selection criteria are updated to prioritise potential covenants containing freshwater streams and coastline (2018).
3. Development of outstanding ecological management plans for covenants with streams or coastline are prioritised (2018).
4. Support from volunteer programme is prioritised for covenantors who need assistance managing coastal sites or streams.

Wildside Project

5. Streams that are covenanted, fenced (but not covenanted), and unprotected are identified (2019).



Goal Four

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

Success looks like: The four core areas/biodiversity hubs are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity) and fenced. Each area has a plan developed for the collaborative management of plant and animal pests. The community is aware of, and involved in the care of these areas.



Actions

General

1. All currently protected areas (BPCT and QEII covenants, publicly owned land, private reserves are mapped by Vicinity Solutions (early 2018).
2. Hinewai Reserve and surrounding protected areas is acknowledged as the first "core area/biodiversity hub".
3. The Port Hills Biodiversity Hub concept is introduced to landowners via a workshop offering practical expertise and support (April 2018).
4. Potential partners to develop the Port Hills Biodiversity Hub concept are secured (late 2018).
5. A stakeholder group (runanga, agency staff, ecologists, trustees, etc.) is established to develop criteria for selecting two further potential core areas (2019).
6. A strategy for achieving protection and collaborative management across the identified areas is developed (2020).

Covenanted Programme

7. Covenant selection criteria is updated to prioritise potential covenants that are in proximity to identified potential "core areas" (2018).
8. Covenants that form part of a "core area" are part of the collaborative management plan for the larger area.
9. Landowners buy-in of "cross boundary" management is encouraged and supported through education.

Wildside Project

10. The Hinewai Reserve and surrounding protected areas is acknowledged as the first 1000ha + core area. The extend of the area is mapped, the "story" written, and publicised (early 2018).
11. A workshop is held for landowners comparing ecological management techniques and collaborative management is explored (by mid 2018).
12. The Wildside Coordinator documents a collaborative management plan (2018).
13. Local schools have the opportunity to learn about/care for this area (annually).

Goal Five

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

Success looks 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.



Actions

General (Led by David Norton – University of Canterbury)

1. David Norton (University of Canterbury) leads mapping of land use on Banks Peninsula (e.g., sheep & beef, dairy, forestry, horticulture, urban settlement, etc.) (2019).
2. Identify and map the extent of remnant native habitat (regenerating and diffuse biodiversity) that is not protected to analyse spatial attributes.
3. Use information from 2 & 3 above to inform the development of strategies for enhancing biodiversity on private land, e.g., develop optimisation scenarios for future land use that results in win-win outcomes for primary production and biodiversity (2020).
4. Local schools and Port Hills community support the Port Saddle Restoration project (ongoing).

Covenanted Programme

5. All landowners are supported in the management of their covenants:
 - a. new covenants have a management plan in place on registration
 - b. all historically outstanding management plans are completed (end of 2018).
 - c. The Covenant Engagement & Support programme is implemented by staff with volunteer support, supports covenantors with advice on weed and pest management, and includes photopoint monitoring. (18 visits in 2018)
 - d. The restoration group provides targeted support to landowners with key weed issues.

Wildside Project

6. Landowner workshops delivered annually.
7. Wildside e-news promotes sustainable land management practices, which support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Goal Six

Rare and common indigenous flora and fauna of Banks Peninsula are increasingly abundant.

Actions

General

1. Commission relevant experts to write summary reports on key biodiversity groups (plants, birds, reptiles, invertebrates) focusing on (2019):
 - lists of common, endemic and regionally rare species;
 - information on trends in species abundance in recent decades and current or potential future threats;
 - summary of current monitoring (if any) and monitoring techniques that could be used long term.
2. Identify priorities for monitoring using reports in 1 above (initiated by end 2020).
3. Develop long term monitoring programme that utilises agency initiatives, research organisations programmes, and citizen science (initiated by end 2020)

Covenantee Programme

4. Work with Vicinity Solutions to develop an online database that captures and manages all covenant information (fully populated by end of 2018).
5. Engage Lincoln University in a project to demonstrate the long term biodiversity benefits of covenanting (2018 onwards).
6. Establish a community-driven covenant monitoring programme using photo points & simple biodiversity indicators (2018).

Wildside Project

7. The Wildside Coordinator establishes a formal log for recording anecdotal evidence and encourages reporting by the Wildside community.
8. Wildside Charter identified species outcomes are monitored periodically.

Success looks 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 Seven At least two locally extinct species have been reintroduced.

Success looks 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.

Actions

General

1. Foster a sustainable and growing Tui population on Banks Peninsula.
 - a. Work with Laura Molles (ecologist) to build science-based evidence for the sustainability of the re-introduced Tui population (research paper 2018).
 - b. Facilitate the ongoing community monitoring of the Tui population (ongoing).
 - c. Educate the local community about how to nurture the tui population (e.g., what to plant in gardens, responsible use of feeders, predator management).
2. Investigate potential species and partners for future trans-location projects (2019).



Goal Eight Banks Peninsula is effectively free of pest animals.

Success looks 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.



Actions

General

1. Establish and chair a multi-agency working group to:
 - develop a MOU for partners of "Pest Free Banks Peninsula 2050" (2018);
 - seek funding to engage a contractor to develop an operational plan (2018);
 - secure funding to begin implementation of the plan (2019).
2. Chair the Goat Eradication Working Group and work with landowners to encourage the removal of all feral goats (ongoing and in alignment with 1. above)
3. Support the work of the Banks Peninsula Pest Liaison Committee (ongoing and in alignment with 1. above)
4. Lobby agencies on the importance of appropriate mechanisms within planning documents to manage pests; and appropriate resourcing to deliver the operational plan (2018).

Covenanting Programme

5. Prioritise support for covenantors wishing to establish a trapping programme (2019).

Wildside Project

6. Continue to work with agencies and landowners to manage the Wildside predator control programme (ongoing).
7. Complete re-alignment of Wildside trap lines and implementation of recommendations from the best practice review (2018).
8. Establish standards of practice for contractors walking traplines and write trapping manual for landowners (2018).
9. Deliver a predator control workshop for members of the Wildside community, covenantors, and the wider BP community (annually).

A well funded organisation with an engaged membership, and sound governance & management practices.

Actions

Governance/Management

Strong leadership is provided through an effective governance structure.

1. The Trust board undertakes annual self-evaluation.
2. A trustee succession plan is in place that takes in to account the mix of skills and experience required for the trust board to be most effective.
3. A regularly reviewed risk management plan is in place.
4. A structured performance management process is in place for all staff.
5. Staff receive appropriate professional development opportunities.
6. The health and safety of all staff, volunteers, and contractors is addressed in a comprehensive plan.
7. BPCT is seen as a thought leader in the conservation sector within Canterbury.

Financial Resilience

1. Long-term financial targets are established by the trustees.
2. A trustee sub-committee is established to develop a funding strategy to achieve the targets in 1 above.
3. Strong relationships with core funders are maintained and grown (ongoing).
 - a. The implementation of a stakeholder management plan ensures key relationships with funders are maintained.
 - b. Funding reports and reconciliations are completed in full and to deadlines.
 - c. Funders support is appropriately acknowledged.
4. The membership scheme generates revenue from individual, family, and corporate members, and enhances donor giving.
 - a. Trustees and staff continually seek opportunities to signup new individual and family members.
 - b. Twelve new corporate members are secured annually.
 - c. All existing corporate members are retained.
 - d. Membership database is accurately maintained with all giving records and supports Trust communications.
5. Sponsorship revenue is grown.
 - a. Existing sponsors are appropriately serviced including an annual recognition function or tailored experience.
 - b. Two new gold level sponsors are secured (by 2019).

Communications / Membership & Volunteer Engagement

1. A communications and events plan is developed annually that targets members and donors, covenantors, and sponsors/funders.
2. Members and supporters are kept engaged with regular communication and invitations to two "field" events per year.
3. The Trust has a presence at Banks Peninsula A&P shows in alternate years (2019, 2020).
4. An engaged and well-managed volunteer workforce supports the Port Saddle project, covenant support programme, and restoration group.

