



Wildside Newsletter

WILDSIDE FUNDING

The Wildside was a recipient of Department of Conservation Community Conservation Partnership Funding (CCPF) in 2014 with a grant of \$124,400 over three years for the Wildside Coordinator's position.

As a requirement of this CCPF funding, DOC is guiding a review to identify options to improve the management and effectiveness of the Wildside program. This review is looking at the overall strategy, outcome monitoring, reporting and the trapping program in the field.



John Stuart demonstrating a DOC200 trap to Duvauchelle School children in Flea Bay.

Issue 1, May 2015

OUR WILDSIDE PROJECT

The Wildside is a large-scale collaborative predator control project for the protection of endemic, threatened and iconic species, between the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT), landowners, the Christchurch City Council, Department of Conservation, and Environment Canterbury on the south-eastern bays of Banks Peninsula. Landowner involvement is critical to the project's success so we hope to keep you informed and inspired about the value of the Wildside with regular updates.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

John Stuart is a well-recognized figure out on the hills of the Wildside, with his floppy old hat, shorts and putties regardless of the weather. John has been contracted by Josef Langer Trust (JLT) for several years to assist landowners with predator trapping. This year that funding is coming to an end as JLT shift their focus to managing Panama Reserve, however we hope to have John's work on the Wildside continue. Funding is currently being sought by BPCT to support this. John normally catches most feral cats in winter but this year he has already caught 22. A mother and three young were caught in Flea Bay all black with white feet, and another from the same litter was caught in Stony Bay several weeks later. Stoat catches have been well down right across the Wildside this summer, with numbers dropping every year which is great news and a tangible demonstration of the success of our Wildside trapping program. The Wildside Coordinator welcomes requests from landowners for assistance with predator control.

SEA BIRD SUCCESS

The Wildside is an important breeding area for our endemic white-flippered penguin, holding 70% of the subs-species with the largest colony at Flea Bay. They bred successfully this year but the chicks were often late getting away. Our other endemic penguin, the yellow-eyed penguin, is at its northern breeding range on the Wildside. Although it is a small colony they have bred without sign of predation for five years and have been free of the disease and starvation events of Otago. Six chicks fledged in in 2014 and in 2015. Titi/sooty shearwater breed at Stony Bay in the last remaining mainland site in Canterbury, thanks to conservation efforts of landowners the Armstrong's. The predator fence which keeps them safe from predators was damaged in the earthquakes but had full repairs completed in 2014. Forty-nine active burrows were recorded in December with 28 chicks detected in April.



BPCT volunteers and CCC staff monitoring titi inside the predator excluder fence at Stony Bay.



Wildside Coordinator Marie Haley with a juvenile yellow-eyed penguin.

Contact Us

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Wildside Project



NEW RESERVES

A quarter of the Wildside is already held in either public or private reserve and this year we have three significant additions; Hinewai Reserve has a 190ha extension protecting the beautiful Purple and Coppertop peaks and Grehan Valley. Out at the Akaroa headland a purchase of 90 has of Hamilton land will extend the Nikau Palm Gully from the new Akaroa Marine Reserve almost ki uta ki tai – from summit to sea. In Le Bons Bay a 100ha extension to the JLT Reserve brings this reserve to 200ha and is under process of covenanting with BPCT, uniquely this reserve allows dogs under strict control.

SET ASIDE THE DATE

- A Wildside social function will be held on Sunday the **8th of November**. This will be a chance to celebrate our Wildside project, meet other landowners, agency staff, and share stories from the field.
- Wildside Committee meetings will be held this year on June 9, September 1 and November 24. Landowner involvement is welcomed.
- This is your Wildside newsletter so drop a line to tell us what you would like to hear about. Interested in being more actively involved? We would love to hear from you. Newsletters will be distributed three times per year.
- Watch out for our BPCT membership launch coming to your mailbox soon. We'd love your support as members.

FERAL DEER AND GOATS

The Wildside has been free of feral goats for some years now, but numbers can build quickly if we turn our backs. If any feral goats are seen, please report them to Marie Haley.

Feral deer continue to be seen on the Wildside and most concerningly around Hinewai Reserve and other protected areas. DOC is collecting DNA to better understand the deer population on Banks Peninsula so if a deer is shot please pluck a hair sample from the neck and rump of the animal and place the whole hair in a plastic bag. It is important not to touch the hair follicle. Please contact Marie Haley or Wayne Beggs from DOC if you have samples or see a deer.

Acknowledgements

Wildside Partners:



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Partners:



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Te Papa Atawhai



