



Wildside Newsletter

Issue 2, October 2015

BLACKS FASTENERS

BPCT is pleased to announce that **Blacks Fasteners** has become a key sponsor of the Wildside project.

Blacks Fasteners, 100% New Zealand owned and operated, are based in Christchurch. Blacks are well recognised and respected across Banks Peninsula's rural community and have an impressive record of supporting conservation, sport and culture. Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust are proud to be working with Blacks Fasteners in the protection of special places and species on the Wildside.



Le Bons Bay headlands have predator trapping to protect nesting habitat of white-flippered and yellow-eyed penguins.

WILDSIDE DOC REVIEW

A review of the Wildside Project has been completed in partnership with the DOC Community Conservation Partnerships Fund. Key recommendations were for habitat protection including fencing, covenanting and browser control to be the highest priority. Controlling predators at important penguin colonies and the titi colony is the next priority. This is good news for the Wildside as 25% of the area is covenanted or held in reserve and predator control focuses on protecting sea bird colonies. If landowners are interested in habitat protection through covenanting please contact BPCT.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Hugh Wilson reported seeing four New Zealand falcon flying together over Hinewai Reserve. Two adults, a male and a female, were flying together and two young falcon were flying along beside mimicking the adults. This is the first real sign of breeding at Hinewai.

TRAPPING WORKSHOP

A trapping workshop was held in Akaroa and was well attended by trappers from across Banks Peninsula. Andy Cox and Wayne Beggs (DOC) presented best practice advice for rat, mustelid and feral cat control. Phil Crutchley (CCC) and Dave Hunter (Excell) presented the practical component demonstrating trap types and maintenance. A new home made trap setting device was shown to the group; made from an old totara fence batten, staple and wire hook makes trap setting a breeze. A key outcome from the workshop was to get trappers together to walk trap lines and share their field experience. Contact Marie Haley to arrange to visit with another trapper, the best practice documents or the prototype trap setting tool.

WEEDS UPDATE

The Christchurch City Council (CCC) undertook an aerial survey of the Banks Peninsula coastlines in 2012 to document the fauna and flora of the coastal cliff habitat that occurs within the CCC legal road corridor, an area that is considered to be a rare ecosystem. In the Wildside section 10-20% is covered in vegetation, with 76% of this being native vegetation. Boxthorn was the most common weed species found. CCC has also undertaken important weed work in Le Bons Bay on spur valerian, sycamore, banana passionfruit and controlling waterway willows. Wilding pines at Misty Peaks Reserve, and old man's beard were also controlled in Akaroa. If you're concerned about a weed threat on your property and need some advice/assistance please contact Di Carter at Di.Carter@ccc.govt.nz



Yellow-eyed penguin nest search team, Marie Haley BPCT, Dave McFarlane YEPT, Phil Crutchley CCC, Andrew Crossland CCC, and Wayne Beggs DOC.



Adult YEP found marked with blood.

Contact Us

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Wildside Project



YELLOW EYED PENGUIN

Yellow eyed penguins (YEP) are a key focus species on the Wildside. During the 2014/15 breeding season six nests were located, six chicks fledged and fifteen adults were observed on Banks Peninsula. YEP nesting success has fluctuated since records began in 1988, with up to nine chicks fledging and only one in other years. However, by 2000 only nine chicks were recorded to fledge in nine years. Now, with a sustained monitoring and predator control collaboration 41 chicks have fledged in the past seven years. Most importantly adult breeding birds are no longer found dead at nest sites adding to the fecundity of YEP on Banks Peninsula. The Wildside Committee is delighted with this success achieved through sustained effort.

Predators are being controlled across the YEP breeding habitat on the Wildside and no predation has been recorded for several years. YEP are being monitored throughout their breeding season and starvation or diseases do not appear to be an issue. There is a wide range of good habitat available close to landing sites and stock interference appears to be low. However, one adult YEP had to be taken into care with a bite wound to the foot which appears to have come from a seal or barracuda, while two other adult YEP were found marked with blood from unknown causes.

SET ASIDE THE DATE

A Wildside social function will be held on Sunday the 8th of November, at the Le Bons Bay Domain at 2pm. Bring walking shoes for an optional visit to Panama Reserve. Please RSVP by 2nd November to marie.haley@bpct.org.nz.

BECOME A BPCT MEMBER

Becoming a member means you, your family, or your business can be part of a network of supporters who receive updates on our latest projects and have the opportunity to attend field days and other Trust events throughout the year. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a member or our work, give one of our team a call on (03) 329 6340, visit our website www.bpct.org.nz, or check us out on Facebook.

Acknowledgements

Wildside Partners:



Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Partners:

