



Covenantors Newsletter

Issue 2, November 2016

COVENANT MILESTONES

59 BPCT covenants have now been registered and two more are currently being processed by LINZ. This will total 1111 hectares protected by the Trust. Currently there are another 14 active blocks being advanced.

New landowners are continually expressing new interest, providing ongoing opportunities to protect more Banks Ecological Region biodiversity into the future.



Craig McInnes of Fox and Associates Ltd. surveying Haley's new covenants at Goughs Bay.

WELCOME

Welcome to BPCT's second e-news for covenant holders. It's been great meeting more of you over the last six months at socials, workshops, and meetings, or as you've dropped into the office for a chat. I've really enjoyed getting out in the field and experiencing more of your properties first-hand as well.

Working with new landowners to actively advance projects through to the next stages is rewarding, as is supporting those with covenants already in place. Please feel free to get in touch with the office about any queries, issues or news you think we would like to hear about.

CHAMPION CANTERBURY BUSINESS AWARDS

In the recent awards ceremony BPCT was named a finalist in the Champion Charity section from a diverse range of entries. Though we didn't win the section, valuable profile of the Trust's work was gained and recognition of the Trust's work at a regional level was very encouraging.

FOX & ASSOCIATES SURVEYORS

We are proud to announce land surveying firm Fox and Associates Ltd. as a new Gold Sponsor. This local company's motto 'Creating legacies with land' is a great fit with the Trust's goals. Craig McInnes (Associate), our key contact is well versed in the covenants survey process ensuring things run smoothly. Craig comes from a farming background and is skilled in rural planning and survey areas. When not working his family enjoy tramping, camping, boating and fishing. Craig enjoys getting into the field and meeting Banks Peninsula landowners whenever possible. We recommend his services highly! Further information about Fox and Associates can be found via their website www.foxsurvey.co.nz.

FEATURE COVENANTS

Kaituna Basin Covenant/Te Ara Pātiki – 'The flounder path' is a jewel in the crown of over 700 hectares of virtually connected native forest and is the largest block yet protected under BPCT covenant (334ha). It sits below the back Peak of Mount Herbert – 'Te Ahu Pātiki', the highest point on Banks Peninsula (919m). Both DOC's Mount Herbert Scenic Reserve and Kaituna Spur Reserve share boundaries with it. Several other BPCT covenants are in the area; Kowhai Bush, Waipuna Saddle, The Monument, and Western Valley Multi. It protects the original spring source of the Kaituna river and its initial



Expansive views across Kaituna Basin covenant overlooking ancient windswept totara.



Goats on the wrong side of the fence cause devastation to protected habitat.

tributaries. This area contains an amazing range of subalpine flora and showcases the survival and regeneration of all four common Peninsula podocarps; thin bark totara, lowland totara, kahikatea and matai. There are excellent examples of regenerating shrubland, bush, open grassland and montane rock communities. Many endemic plant species are present. Several native and uncommon invertebrates, lizards and birds live here, including breeding populations of NZ falcon high up in the rocky crags. Owners Vicky and Chris Parr are actively developing pest and weed management programmes to protect and enhance this very special environment.

Kaituna Valley was a traditional access and trading route for Ngāi Tahu travelling from Koukourarata /Port Levy to the great māhinga kai (food and resource gathering area) of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. The publicly accessible Monument walking track leads past the homestead through the middle of the property up to the summit and over to the Purau saddle. Walkers can connect westward to the Packhorse track or eastward to the Port Levy Saddle track. Anyone is welcome with no prior notice required.

Funding for this project was made possible through BPCT with support from ECan, DOC and WWF. Fencing was carried out by Chris Stuart from Little River.

‘French Heritage’ and ‘Etienne’s Bush’ owned by the Haley family are 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 kowhai, totara, lancewood, fuchsia, broadleaf, five- finger, lacebark and many small-leaved shrubs. North facing remnants such as this are rare on Banks Peninsula. 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 (Haley’s Heritage) –a first in Canterbury. It is looking hopeful that these two new blocks will also be well connected to other remnants in years to come.

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

FERAL GOATS

Untagged and unfenced goats devastate biodiversity and present health risks to other farmed stock through spread of disease, and compete for grazing. Vegetation loss of any kind paves the way for erosion potential and water quality loss.

In 2003 BPCT, DOC, CCC and ECan formed the Feral Goat Working Group to address exploding goat numbers on Banks Peninsula. The group’s objective is to facilitate the destruction of all feral goats on public and private land with landowner support. Promoting communication and education are key goals.

It is a legal requirement that any domestic herds are restrained behind adequate fences and are identifiably marked (i.e. tagged) as outlined by the



Above: Flowering Old Man's Beard
Clematis vitalba.



Old Man's Beard seed heads formed
ready to disperse.



Native *Clematis paniculata*, a
beautiful small evergreen vine –not a
pest.

Wild Animal Control Act 1977. This act is administered by the Dept. of Conservation.

After almost 14 years of persistent input and nearly \$350,000, feral goat numbers have been reduced by approximately 5000 animals through helicopter and ground operations. Small remnant populations now persist in a few isolated pockets but without ongoing pressure, will soon breed quickly again. With community support, removing these could be finally achievable. The group welcome assistance from landowners and will be following up in areas where there are ongoing issues.

The primary contractor organising practical operations is Dave Hunter of Excel Pest Control, EDI Downer Ltd. Please report any sightings of feral goats to Dave on 027 4374743/ david.hunter@downer.co.nz, or to the BPCT office.

The group's general information brochure 'Feral Goats on Banks Peninsula' is being circulated digitally with this e-news. Hard copies are also available from the BPCT office.

EOS ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

In September, EOS who are independent Aquatic Research consultants ran a Whitebait connection workshop/ hui in Little River as part of their 'Whaka Inaka' Canterbury project. EOS are enthusiastic about getting school groups and the community out in the environment and engaged with freshwater systems. They have produced an excellent aquatic invertebrate identification chart. If you're interested to learn more about what's in your stream, pick a copy up from the BPCT office or visit EOS www.eosecology.co.nz to find out more.

WEED ALERT – OLD MAN'S BEARD

ECan are promoting renewed efforts on controlling this invasive species which has made an unwelcome comeback in recent years. As a Banks Peninsula landowner you may have received a flyer outlining identification and control methods.

This pest *Clematis vitalba* which smothers and kills all plants to the highest canopy should not be confused with our beautiful *Clematis paniculata* which also has large white flowers. Native clematis usually has 3 leaflets per stem, smooth stems, and is evergreen whereas Old Man's Beard is a deciduous, climbing, layering vine. It has very long, ribbed woody stems and its bark can be rubbed off. Leaves almost always consist of five leaflets. Creamy white, fragrant flowers (2-3cm across) are produced from December to May, followed by grey, hairy seeds with distinctive white plumes in dense, fluffy clusters which hang around over winter, hence its name.



Karina Hadden displaying a long tailed bat. Current abundance and distribution on Banks Peninsula is unknown.

The most effective method is cutting and poisoning stumps, being sure to cut vines that may contact the ground and resprout.

For further information contact Rich Langley at ECan on 03 941 7572 or 027 201 5653. Weedbusters are a collaborative agency group and also have excellent resources on this and many other weeds: www.weedbusters.org.nz.

BATS

A Lincoln University summer student will be searching for long tailed bats *Chalinobus tuberculata* on Banks Peninsula this season and hopes the public can help. Karina Hadden, supported collaboratively by CCC, DOC, and BPCT will use acoustic recorders placed in suitable bat habitat –including caves and bush edges. Results will be added to DOC’s national database. Please forward any potential sightings to karina.hadden@lincolnuni.ac.nz or project coordinator Mike Bowie: mike.bowie@lincoln.ac.nz.

BPCT 2050 ECOLOGICAL VISION FOR BANKS PENINSULA

This document is available from our website. Thanks to those of you who gave us feedback on the Vision and attended our launch function last week. The Vision gives clear direction for BPCT’s work in the long term, and provides a platform for collaboration with landowners, agencies, and the wider community. It’s aspirational but achievable and we’re excited about the future it describes!

BPCT AGM

The recent public AGM held in Lyttelton was well supported and several covenant holders attended. For those who couldn’t make it, call in to the office to pick up a copy of our annual report.

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