



Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Annual Report

It is with pleasure I present the seventh annual report of the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust for the year ending 31st July 2016.

Our seventh year has been another successful one as we work towards our long term goal.

Little did we know when the trust was started that our goal of a “Pest Free Peninsula” by 2050 would become part of a national objective. This has created exciting and fast changing times in the pest control industry. This will have a number of positive effects on our project and will lead to more collaboration with other groups

Operations

Over the last 12 months it has been pleasing to complete our first “mop up” of sector 4. This has been complemented by further work by our Operations Manager and Volunteers. The use of baitsafe bait stations and chew cards are proving to be important tools as we work towards our final goal. It has been a significant milestone to pass 10 000 possum kills. I would again like to acknowledge the support we have received from Peninsula land owners. Our project would not exist without their willingness to provide continued access to their property.

Funding

I would like to acknowledge those who have supported our vision by providing funds during the past year. We are extremely grateful for the local support that OPBG is receiving.

We have continued to be reliant on contestable funding over the last year. This is a reality for a group like ours, however this will need to change in the long term. I believe we are well placed to take advantage of future opportunities. It was pleasing to be successful in the DOC CCPF funding for our Operations Manager. This is allowing us to keep pressure on the Possum population year round, rather than short burst with larger contractors. Thank you to our treasurer Laurie, you are doing a great job.

Volunteers

As many of you will know, behind the scenes, we have a significant amount of effort being undertaken by volunteers. This work is significant in its value, and increasingly more so as the project progresses. Tasks undertaken by dedicated volunteers have include Bird Monitoring transects; Vegetation Monitoring sites; Rat Monitoring lines; Community and Bush trapping and chew carding. A number of volunteers fill multiple roles. We thank you for your time.

Personnel

It has been very pleasing to have Bruce Kyle on board in a more permanent role after a number of years working with our group. Bruce has built up significant knowledge and networks during this time.

At the end of June Cathy Rufaut decided not to renew her contract as Project Manager. I would like to thank Cathy for all her hard work over the previous 2 years, Cathy has had a significant contribution on working towards the goals of the group.

We have been fortunate to have Sarah Irvine take over the Project Managers role, Welcome aboard Sarah and we look forward to working with you.

Trustees

This year has also seen some changes in the makeup of our Board of Trustees. It has been pleasing to welcome Rod Morris, Brian Templeton and Marita Eisenlohr to the Group. Thank you Marita for minute keeping and the work you have done on the Website and Facebook.

I would like to acknowledge Moira's support as Secretary and her contribution in coordination of the monitoring volunteers.

As I will be stepping down from the role as Chair I would especially like to thank the Trustees for the time they have given and the support they have given me, but mostly for the energy that is put towards our vision of bringing about a "Pest Free Peninsula".

Brendon Cross

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Chairperson