

OPBG Newsletter October 2016

Working Towards a Pest-Free Peninsula since 2008



FUNDRAISING CALENDAR 2017

Superb photos that capture Peninsula landscapes and wildlife
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS MAKING THE PENINSULA POSSUM FREE



Price: \$20 each

Available on the Peninsula from:

Macandrew Bay Pharmacy
Bellamy's Gallery
Macandrew Bay Store
Portobello Store
Penguin Café, Portobello
Happy Hens, Portobello
Albatross Colony, Taiaroa Heads

Also available at: the DoC Visitor Centre,
Dunedin iSite in The Octagon

WORKING TOWARDS A PEST-FREE PENINSULA

OPBG has launched their first ever **Fundraising Calendar 2017** this week. We are proud to present a collection of beautiful photographs showcasing our Peninsula landscapes and diverse wildlife in a calendar that would make a great present for family and friends. You can get your calendar at the Peninsula outlets listed in the flyer or order online from our website via this link: http://www.pestfreepeninsula.org.nz/?page_id=1136



Our Sponsors:

- Allan's Beach Farmstay
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- Possums' End
- Hereweka Garden Retreat
- Robyns Nest



WORKING TOWARDS A PEST-FREE PENINSULA
www.pestfreepeninsula.org.nz

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Thanks to our photographers: Rod Morris, Ian Turnbull, Molira Parker and Rob Tipl. Design and printing by Certa Solutions, Dunedin.

Thank You to our Sponsors:

*Allan's Beach Farmstay
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All proceeds go towards making the Peninsula possum free!

Find us on 

Last newsletter we mentioned our Stage 2 Backyard Biodiversity Project, which is up and running and Sarah Irvine, OPBG Project Manager, has given this update on how it is going:

Backyard Biodiversity Detectives

Backyard Biodiversity Detectives are at large in Dunedin! Children from eleven Dunedin Schools are currently participating in Backyard Biodiversity, a fun and informative



environmental education programme aimed at engaging children and their families in investigating and monitoring biodiversity in their own backyards – at school and at home. Funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment Unlocking Curious Minds grant has enabled OPBG to provide the Backyard Biodiversity programme and equip each participating school with a biodiversity monitoring kit. Each kit comprises footprint tracking tunnels, pitfall traps, a lizard shelter, insect shelter, chew cards, wax tags,

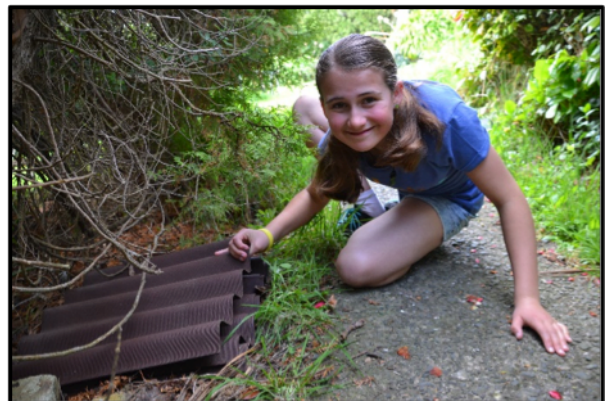
and an easy-to-follow information pack. In addition, each school has been given smaller kits to rotate between families so they can explore their backyard at home for small mammalian pest species.

The information the students and their families collect is entered into an online data management system, designed by Dragonfly Data Science, and is part of a real-life science project. OPBG's Educator,



Carol Tippet, has been very busy

visiting the participating schools to talk with the children about biodiversity and mammalian pest species, and show them how to set up their kits. We're looking forward to seeing the results of this project in December.



Photos:

The girls are checking tracking tunnels, lizard shelters and putting wax tags on tree stumps.

Meet your volunteers: OPBG is fortunate to be able to call on many volunteers without whom it would be impossible to achieve our goal of a possum free Peninsula. We would like to acknowledge one of you in every newsletter from now on and who better to start with than **Brenda Cameron**:

Brenda's name and email appears in every newsletter and many of us regularly contact her to report dead possums. However that is not all Brenda does and we will let her tell her own story:

My volunteer role with the OPBG is quite varied and I really enjoy all the different aspects.

My primary role is maintaining the spreadsheet which logs all reported home kills and road kills and sightings and this can keep me reasonably busy at times.

People text me, email me or call into the Portobello Store where I work, to report. When Bruce is catching up with land-owners/farmers who are trapping then he can be reporting their kills to me almost daily as he makes his rounds, depending on the time of year and the movements of possums.

I also maintain a 10 trap line for OPBG near our home and my husband Wayne usually comes with me on the weekly check of these traps. It is over grazed land and through a covenanted bush block so offers variety and can be a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

My sister Laurel and I have been doing the Bird Surveys on the Leith Walk track between Portobello and Hoopers Inlet for the past 5 years – a role we both really enjoy as it is a delightful walk through beautiful native bush. It also includes a strip of farmland and the marshy edge of the inlet so the variety of birds seen is always a pleasant surprise.



A big thank you and keep up the good work!

NEED TO REPORT A POSSUM DEAD OR ALIVE?

Contact Brenda Cameron at: brenda.wayne@xtra.co.nz