

*Working Towards a Predator Free  
Peninsula since 2008*

**OTAGO PENINSULA  
BIODIVERSITY  
GROUP**



The Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group – Trustees, Staff and Volunteers

## **A Message from the Chair October 2018**

### **The Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group and Predator Free Dunedin**

You may have seen recent publicity regarding funding received by Predator Free Dunedin and wonder how this relates to OPBG's predator control work on the Peninsula.

Formed in March 2017, Predator Free Dunedin is a coalition of twenty conservation-focused groups and agencies with the aim of eradicating predators from the city and rural landscape. Predator Free Dunedin aims to build upon the work of OPBG, Landscape Connections Trust, Orokonui Ecosanctuary, OSPRI, Dunedin City Council and the contributions of other community predator control efforts undertaken across the City. Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Otago Peninsula Trust, The Pukekura Trust and Save the Otago Peninsula Incorporated are also part of Predator Free Dunedin.

The funding provided by Predator Free 2050 Ltd over five years is to support existing projects being undertaken by OPBG (Predator Free Peninsula Project) and the Landscape Connections Trust (Halo Predator Free Project), and a new Urban Linkage Project that connects these two existing projects. Significant funding has also been provided by the Dunedin City Council and the Otago Regional Council. The overall Predator Free Dunedin Project will be managed by the recently formed Predator Free Dunedin Trust, with trustees appointed by the twenty coalition partners.

As part of Predator Free Dunedin, OPBG can further pursue the ambitious vision of eradicating possums from the 9,000-hectare Otago Peninsula, continuing the predator control work it began in 2008. OPBG has already removed almost 17,000 possums from the Peninsula through the combined efforts of contractors, landowners, volunteers and the wider community.

The Predator Free Dunedin Project represents a huge opportunity for OPBG to help accelerate Dunedin's efforts to become predator free and to reassert its status as New Zealand's wildlife capital. The community and volunteers are pivotal to the success of this ambitious yet achievable goal.

One change OPBG has made to more closely align with the Predator Free Dunedin Project is to change its familiar 'Pest Free Peninsula' tagline to 'Predator Free Peninsula'. Along with this we are building an exciting new website, which can be found at [www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz](http://www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz)

If you would like to learn more about the Predator Free Dunedin Project and OPBG's role in it, you are welcome to attend a **public meeting on Wednesday 24 October at the Macandrew Bay Hall from 7-9 pm**. The key to the success of the combined bid to PF2050 Ltd, was that we are a community-led project; this is what excited them about working with us to achieve our community aspirations and the eradication of the possum from the Otago Peninsula. The importance of volunteers and the community is unchanged, with the help of our dedicated volunteers and the Otago Peninsula community we look forward to the long-term achievement: a '**Predator Free Peninsula**'.

Hoani Langsbury,  
Chair, Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group

