

## 2021 – 2022 Chairpersons Report

Hoani Langsbury

At the end of June 2022 the number of possums dispatched on the Otago Peninsula was 21,894. We had commenced work installing AT220's in Sector 4 and continued our toxin operations, this will become the focus of our working as we head into the next year of operations.

This annual reporting period continued to provide challenges, with the realisation that we were not likely to have progressed the eradication of the possum on the Otago Peninsula sufficiently to be confident that we would achieve eradication in the next year.

We have had primarily two properties on the Otago Peninsula that we have not been able to access formally, with these contributing to our inability to meet the milestones that we had agreed to with Predator Free Dunedin.

We took on some additional work through funding achieved via the ORC. This enables us to undertake education and other associated work related to rabbits. This extra work is lead by the Peninsula Co-Ordinator Paula. The control of rabbits is going to be a key to achieving the eradication of mustelids, which is the most likely Otago Peninsula predators to be targeted on the successful eradication of the possum.

Our long serving Operations Manager Bruce retired at the end of this reporting period, we acknowledged the many years of service and expertise that he brought to the Trust. His contribution to the thousands of possums so far removed from the peninsula are a legacy he leaves behind.

This had the position of Project Manager taken up by Micaela, followed by the addition of TNTs to our increasing number of staff. The Trap Network Technicians will be an integral part of our team, that is committed to achieving the eradication of the possum.

In closing this report, I wish to acknowledge the dedication of the Trustees and hard work of the employees that has enabled me to report on another successful year.

Signed:  Date: 16/10/2023