

2023 – 2024 Chairpersons Report

Hoani Langsbury

This report covers the 2023-2024 financial year, at the time of writing we were only a few possums off achieving eradication on the Otago Peninsula. This has been a goal that has taken 16 years of working together to achieve, on behalf of the Otago Peninsula Community.

We have had many trustees and staff come and go during this period, but it was a lofty goal that was achieved through everyone's commitment and perseverance. Everyone that has been involved in this single species eradication should be immensely proud of what has been achieved.

Though the achievement of this final goal sits outside the financial reporting period, I felt I would have been remis if I had not mentioned it at the time of writing.

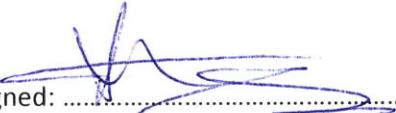
Last year we may have overestimated the final total when we named the quiz night team "Almost 29", 25,000 possums is also a tally to be reckoned with.

The entire OPBG team was exceptional in the way they dealt with the challenges of the last year. It was never going to be easy to get those last few possums. The trustees and staff faced this challenge in a manner that upheld the integrity of the trust.

We acknowledge the assistance provided by the other Predator Free Dunedin Delivery Partners in assisting our team to achieve elimination of the possum, especially in sector 4. We look forward to receiving on-going reports over the next few years in regard to removal of the last few and monitoring for re-invasion

As I write this the OPBG is planning and looking forward to the multispecies work that is ahead of us. I look forward to the time when we can change the "possum free peninsula" signage, to a sign that reflects the pest free status of the Otago Peninsula, "Welcome to the Sustainable Otago Peninsula".

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. It was a difficult time when we had to disband the team at the end of September, but they had achieved everything that we had brought them together for!

Signed:  Date: 18/11/2024