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2024 – 2025 Chairpersons Report

This report covers the 2024-2025 financial year, at the time of writing we were only a few possums away from being confident that the Otago Peninsula is Possum free. This has been a goal that has taken 17 years of working together to achieve, on behalf of the Otago Peninsula Community.

We have had many discussions about what achieving this milestone means for the trust and we are looking forward in anticipation of partnering with the Ōtākou Rūnaka and Otago Peninsula Trust to establish the Otago Peninsula as a sustainable community.

We acknowledge the support of Predator Free Dunedin, City Sanctuary and The Halo Project over the last 12 months. Everyone that has been involved in this single species eradication should be immensely proud of what has been achieved.

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 down to the last possum. The trustees and staff faced this challenge with enthusiasm whilst upholding the integrity of the trust.

As I write this the OPBG is planning and looking forward to leading the research into the strategic revegetation – rewilding plan. This was identified by the Otago Peninsula community through consultation as the priority project under 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 has been a positive year, with everyone retaining their focus on achieving our goals and planning for the future!



Signed:

Date: 20th October 2025

Hoani Langsbury, Chair
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust