

A PASSION FOR THE *Port Hills*



SRS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

Port Hills Fire 2024

The Port Hills Fire of 2024 has left its mark on the Ōhinetahi Reserve, reminiscent of the 2017 fire but thankfully on a smaller scale.

At about 3.15 pm on the 14th February 2024, acting SRS president Paula Jameson received a phone call to say there was a fire on Worsleys Spur. Almost simultaneously, she saw the huge pall of smoke, and it was clear it was a severe fire.

The fire followed a similar path to 2017, crossing the Summit Road at Mt Ada and spreading down the ridge towards Governors Bay. Unlike the more devastating 2017 fire that consumed 80 hectares in Ōhinetahi Reserve, this event affected a smaller area, with approximately 22 hectares burnt below Mt Ada. This smaller scale was a relief to the community and allowed for a more manageable response.

Immediately after the fire, precautions were taken to assess and mitigate rockfall risks, resulting in the closure of Ōhinetahi Reserve including popular areas like the Bivvy Rock climbing area.

The community's response has been commendable, with various organisations and individuals stepping up to support recovery efforts. From Garden City Helicopters providing transportation for plants to local farmer Ged Double assisting with logistics, the collaborative effort highlights strong community spirit. The SRS has also received over \$3500 in donations from a Givealittle page that was setup to fund the fire restoration.



Aerial photograph of the Ōhinetahi Reserve showing the area around Mt Ada affected by the February 2024 Port Hills fire.



REPLANTING INITIATIVE

A significant effort is underway to replant the affected areas with 4000 native plants. This initiative is supported by volunteers and organisations such as Conservation Skills NZ, Ngāti Wheke, Garden City Helicopters and Riverside Nurseries, showing a commitment to rejuvenating the natural environment.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A community planning day was held on the 11th August, co-hosted with Conservation Volunteers Christchurch, providing opportunities for locals to contribute directly to the recovery process.

Regular planting days every Tuesday are also organised with the Ōhinetahi volunteer group, led by Anne Kennedy. Contact Anne Kennedy (03) 337 0364. It was wonderful to see organisations like Anzco Foods and Conservation Volunteers Christchurch coming together for the first planting day on Tuesday 23 July. The community and the environment will surely benefit greatly from their mahi.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous help received from the following entities:

- Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) whose rapid response undoubtedly minimised the fire's impact.
- Christchurch City Council (CCC) who contributed financially to the rockfall assessment.
- Garden City Helicopters who provided transport for 2000 plants at no cost.
- Hamish Fairbairn and Conservation Skills NZ for scheduling in four planting days free of charge.
- Dylan Steeples and the Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Tiaki Taiao team who played a crucial role in planning and implementation of the replanting programme.
- Paul Dahl and Ngāti Wheke who funded the Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Tiaki Taiao team and contributed to plant costs.

- Riverside Nurseries who assisted with planting efforts without charge.
- Ged Double and Rebecca Parish, local farmers, who facilitated the movement of 1000 plants to the planting site through their farm.
- ANZCO volunteered on the initial planting day, showcasing corporate support for community efforts.
- Anne Kennedy and the Ōhinetahi work party volunteers for preparing the planting site.

This collective effort illustrates the resilience and solidarity of the community in response to environmental challenges. By working together, these efforts not only aid in the recovery but also strengthen community bonds and ensure the preservation of the Port Hills for future generations.



Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Tiaki Taiao team replanting on Ōhinetahi reserve

As part of the fire recovery, the SRS is advocating for a comprehensive fire management strategy across the Port Hills area. This initiative is crucial in light of the recurring fire events, including the notable incidents in 2017 and now in 2024, which have impacted the natural landscape and community.

Bill Martin, General Manager

Ōrongomai stolen

The Summit Road Society Inc. came into being as a consequence of vandalism and theft.

During the late 1930's and 1940's, with the caretakers of the three Resthouses (Bellbird, Kiwi and Packhorse) no longer in residence, the resthouses were often vandalised and fittings and furniture either trashed or stolen. In 1947, John Jameson, disturbed by what he saw as the desecration of his grandfather Harry Ell's vision, set about discussing the formation of a group that would further the vision of Harry Ell by working to enhance, preserve and protect the nature, beauty and open character of the Port Hills for people to enjoy.

Fast forward 75 years of Summit Road Society activities to the opening of the John Jameson Lookout with its magnificent pou whenua, Ōrongomai.



Ōrongomai

Now theft has struck again. Sometime on Easter Sunday or Monday this year, Ōrongomai was stolen. This would have taken significant effort by three or more people. Below is the joint Press release from Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke and the Summit Road Society Inc:

Sculpture overlooking Lyttelton Harbour stolen

Ōrongomai, by Ngāti Wheke carver, Caine Tauwhare, has been taken from the John Jameson Lookout on Summit Rd in the Christchurch Port Hills.

The pou whenua sculpture was carved from totara for the Summit Road Society and symbolises the significance of Ōrongomai to Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke. The carving is shaped like a taringa (ear) and evokes the nearby peak, Ōrongomai, which means 'the place where voices are heard'.

The Lookout is named after Summit Road Society founder, John Jameson.

His daughter, Paula Jameson, the society's acting president, is devastated by the theft.

"We put years into creating the Lookout in memory of my

father and the pou whenua is integral to it. We've had so much positive feedback from the community about it since it was installed and to lose it now is devastating.

The Society commissioned Caine Tauwhare to create a pou whenua (post marker) when it redeveloped the Lookout.

The theft was reported on Tuesday after the sculpture was taken some time over Easter Weekend.

"I don't know who did this or why, but it makes me sad. I just want them to bring it back," says Caine Tauwhare.

He says the pou whenua is an integral focus of the design of the John Jameson Lookout, representing the partnership between the Summit Road Society and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke.

"We tautoko the Summit Road Society for their loss."

The carving is 1.5m tall and stood on a 2.5m high plinth. It weighed about 60kg. It was fixed with bolts, which were welded in place.

"They would have needed to cut it out with a grinder," Caine Tauwhare says.

"It would have taken three or four people to get it off and carry it."

Read Toi Ōtautahi's article: [Matt Calman Talks to Tohunga Kaiwhakairo Caine Tauwhare](#) or watch [Tahu News on Instagram](#).

Recently, in consultation with Ngāti Wheke and the police, the Society offered a reward:

"A \$1000 reward is offered by the Summit Road Society for information leading to a successful recovery of the stolen carving. The return of the carving is also covered by the reward. If you have relevant information, please email manager@summitroadsociety.org.nz. Alternatively, contact the police citing case number 240402/2072."

Although this offer has been spread widely through social media, we have had no information come forward as yet. An empty plinth is a sad reminder of what we have lost.



Empty plinth remains at the John Jameson lookout.

Paula Jameson ONZM
President, Summit Road Society Inc



Predator Free Port Hills

The first half of 2024 has been one of transition for Predator Free Port Hills (PFPH).

Natasha S. McIntosh has provided a fresh perspective, building on the strong foundation laid by Marie Gray. During the first quarter, handover was the main objective. The Predator Free initiative is surprisingly complex with a lot of players.

PFPH had two successful Trap Building Days – one at Te Kura ō Ōhinetahi Governor's Bay School in April and at Te Raekura Redcliffs School in May. The May event included a donation of trees from Trees for Canterbury, and we built a record number of 70 rat tunnels for the local community.

In addition to building traps, PFPH held multiple community events to help engage current trappers and recruit new ones. Tim Sjoberg from Pest Free Banks Peninsula gave tips for successful trapping and provided a progress update on Banks Peninsula's eradication efforts. Matthew Hellicar introduced innovations in trapping and monitoring, including the use of AI and thermal imaging. To keep up to date on events, follow us on social media and subscribe to our newsletter on predatorfreeporthills.org.nz

Last, but certainly not least, community sponsors have upped their game. Local businesses have offered in-kind support, such as wood cutting and trap building from Blokhaus, moving materials using the Scarlett Hydraulics fleet, and much to the delight of attendees, Tussock Hill provided wine for our Cacophony Project hui. If your business would like to support our kaupapa, or if you need a trap for your property, get in contact with Natasha, Coordinator for PFPH, at natasha@predatorfreeporthills.org.nz

Natasha McIntosh
Predator Free Port Hills Co-ordinator



Ōhinetahi Reserve

Ōhinetahi Reserve Work Party



As the year began, we were wondering where the predicted dry weather was as we coped with lush, long grass and growth along the tracks.

But as January progressed, things started to dry out and the days warmed up and we were grateful to take to the shade of the bush, tracking down Old Mans Beard, passion vine, spur valerian, cotoneaster and other weeds, mainly in the Faulkners Track area. Sadly, we found plenty.

In March we tackled passion vine at the south end of the Reserve as well as elderberries and other weeds in the Titoki area. It's a never-ending battle with these exotics!

Three sessions were spent releasing trees planted since the 2017 fire and now we are preparing the area ravaged by this year's fire for planting this winter. Burnt gorse is sprouting at the base, grass is providing a green tinge to the blackened ground and weed seedlings are sprouting.

Anne Kennedy
Ōhinetahi work party co-ordinator



Fiona Eunson



David Knoef

SPUR VALERIAN CONTROL

The rocky bluffs in Ōhinetahi host a number of endemic and uncommon plant species, including the Lyttelton forget-me-not (*Myosotis lytteltonensis*), three species of filmy ferns (*Hymenophyllum sp*), prostrate kōwhai (*Sophora prostrata*) and the endemic Banks Peninsula sun hebe (*Heliohebe lavaudiana*).

We are continuing and expanding our spur valerian control programme in order to protect these rare and special flora.

Martin Freeman from Eco Abseil undertook his regular inspection of spur valerian in autumn this year. Due to the prolonged drought, the spur valerian hardly flowered this year which made it difficult to spot. The good news is that few plants would have set seed. However we are likely to see a big flush this spring, around October/November.

Summit Road Society supporters can help by spreading the word about the threat that spur valerian poses to our native flora. Tell your friends and neighbours, share our posts on social media, write to your local Community Board and advocate for continued funding for weed control. To remove spur valerian in your garden, we recommend cutting off the taproot at the base and applying glyphosate 100ml/L. Spraying the entire foliage of each plant with a weed killer and wetting agent is also effective. Grazon 6ml/litre or Glyphosate 10ml/litre can be used. The taproot must be poisoned or completely removed, or else it will regrow.

Anne Kennedy
Ōhinetahi work party co-ordinator



Drought affected spur valerian (Photo by Martin Freeman)

Ōhinetahi Predator Control Report

Jan-June 2024

PREDATORS CAUGHT: **451***

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **418**

The fire in February swept through an area where there were 11 traps but we lost only one trap and the others were spared.

The invasion of rats in the Reserve has continued despite poisoning last year. The excess numbers of predators caught over last year are mainly rats. We are poisoning again currently to try and lower numbers before bird breeding in the spring. This has meant cold and sometimes wet days for our dedicated trapping crew of 10.

Anecdotally, the bird life has increased in the Reserve with regular visitors commenting on this and the trappers also noting an increase in bellbirds and especially fantails. There has been a possible sighting of a ruru (morepork) in the Reserve. Moreporks are known to be in the neighbouring Living Springs Reserve and we are hopeful of more sightings in Ōhinetahi.

We are wanting to establish automatic bird monitoring devices in the Reserve. The technology has been developed by the Cacophony Project and each device costs \$1000. Two to four devices would be required and any contributions to help fund these would be a great boon for our group. Monitoring by trained observers has not been done in Ōhinetahi for several years now and having devices in the Reserve permanently would help us to gauge how successful our trapping programme is in terms of bird numbers.

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has provided funding for traps and bait and deserves a huge vote of thanks. Without this support we would struggle to maintain our programme.

Murray Smith
Ōhinetahi Predator Control Group

*340 in same period in 2023

Eastenders

The Eastenders group undertook eight work parties during the first five months of this year.

Controlling pest plants took three sessions, one of which was removing spindleberry trees from the Horotane entrance to Linda Woods Reserve. Spindleberry is a competitive invader from Europe (there is also a similar form from Japan) which forms dense thickets both in the open and the shade, blocking light for understory plantings and seedlings. Two other sessions were spent mopping up residual pig's ear succulent from Godley Head Rd where it borders Council reserves. Whilst there, we also cut and stump poisoned Pride of Maderia bushes from the Rapanui Bush margins on Evans Pass. Some of these plants were quite substantial with trunks up to 200 mm thick. Seedlings from these plants were invading the Bush Reserve.

Because of ongoing drought conditions, track maintenance was delayed due to concrete-hard clay although we did manage to tidy up the Hidden Valley Track (Bowenvale) and toe drains on the Harry Ell Track. Releasing young plantings from weeds in Barnett Park also occupied two sessions but we had to be on the lookout for paper wasp nests which seem to have burgeoned over the past year or so. Although not as aggressive as German or common wasps, they nevertheless do not like being disturbed and can pack a painful sting as some of our team can attest. They particularly like making nests on divaricating shrubs and trees so we are now armed with a wasp jet spray which has a range of up to 4m and an instantaneous knock-down effect. We destroyed about 20 nests over the two work party sessions.

At this time of the year we also dig around 400 holes on Latters Spur as preparation for Arbor Day planting by school children.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers in the Eastenders; an average of 11 who turn up each second and fourth Monday of the month. And a big thanks to Simon Mangan, our Parks and Reserves Ranger who is seconded to our team to scope out jobs that need doing, loan out tools and supply biscuits for 'smoko break'!

Graeme Paltridge
Eastenders co-ordinator

Bill Woods QSM

Honorary Life Membership of the Summit Road Society

After 26 years of dedicated service, Bill Woods was awarded Honorary Life Membership at our AGM. Bill has been involved with the Summit Road Society Board since 1998, initially as the Selwyn District Council representative and later in a private capacity. He became President in 2009 and held the role until he stepped down in May 2024. Demonstrating exceptional diplomacy and leadership, Bill played a key role in acquiring and managing the Omahu and Gibraltar Rock reserves, and the Linda Woods Reserve, which is named after his late wife. Ngā mihi nui.



Omahu Bush

The war on weeds continues with regular spraying of gorse & broom. A large patch of Old Man's Beard has been removed to from Rhodes track and Darwin's Barberry on the southern boundary.

We are endeavouring to keep about a metre either side of the 7.5 k deer fence clear of vegetation (mainly gorse) by spraying and weed eating.

Two of our work party members had their cars broken into and another had a tyre slashed at the Gibraltar Rock car park.

Omahu members hosted a walk through the Omahu tracks as part of the Festival of Walking from the Tai Tapu end of the reserve. This was a very popular walk featuring the waterfall and several very large Podocarps.



A muddy section of the Nelson Track has had extra drains & steps installed. A pilot track has been cut through the Stone Wall trapline to open up more access for the trapping group.

Te Kākahu Kahukura has donated 100 podocarps which will be planted in July. A big thank you to Helen Hills for her donation of an assortment of native trees to plant this winter.

The Summit Road has been closed from the Kiwi end during the week to repair the major slips and access has to be gained from the Gebbies Pass end.

Thank you to all our volunteers for turning up for our Friday work days.

Ian Johnston
Omahu work party co-ordinator

Omahu Predator Control Report

The group of eight continue at Omahu. Volunteer hours were down to a monthly 47 hours from 70 in 2023. We are reaping the rewards of having invested in our network, and having done the maintenance over the past years, so for much of the year we have settled into our monthly trap run and monitoring routines.

We continue to be heartened by comments we get from Reserve users on the bird life in Omahu. We have tended to take it for granted, and it's not until engaging tramping groups, and research people who make comment, that we pause and say, "Yeah, you are right. It's of kind of special." A few of the group are now involved in predator control in Arthurs Pass and, in contrast, it's very noticeable how good the bird life is at Omahu Bush.

Rat trap catch numbers are very high at 112 YTD, (for 6 months vs 6-year average of 90). The tracking tunnel and chew card data from April showed zero rats. We may have dealt to the trap shy rats in last winter's poisoning. Rats remain

a target because of their ability to climb trees and predate on eggs and chicks. Our winter poison campaign is critical in lowering rat numbers for successful bird breeding outcomes, and will be repeated this winter. It also serves to lower mice numbers and therefore mustelids, which tend to peak in the reserve when mice numbers are high.

Possum catch numbers are higher than average for the six months YTD at 70 (YTD average 110). We will this summer be converting some of our older Sentinel possum traps to the automated AT 220 traps to expand our coverage and can expect the catch to go up as a result. We remain fairly confident that possums are being caught on the boundaries with minimal number in the heart of the reserve.

Our mustelid capture for YTD (6 months) 2024 sits at 15 compared with the 6-year average of 23, so is tracking up.

We continue to see feral cats in the reserve in our camera monitoring, particularly in the lead up to winter. Our limited capture methods have had some success. Given the location and distance, we have not moved to more effective live capture

methods. Until technology improves, and unit cost lowers, it is not an option for our volunteer group.

We will be expanding our trail camera monitoring network to four cameras paired with auto lures from three. These are deployed 24/7, 365 days throughout the Reserve and have provided us with very interesting footage, from feral cats to fallow deer, hares, hawks and pigs. Regular deer sightings have given us a good picture of the likely remaining numbers and their favorite habitat. This information should prove useful for future culls.

While traversing Omahu, we are heartened by the emergence of totara and matai in significant numbers throughout the Reserve. It's likely that past deer culls account for the increased numbers of matai seedling sightings.

We continue to work closely with other predator control groups within the southern Port Hills as part of Te Kākahu Kahukura's project area and are appreciative of the support of the City Council and Living Springs.

Greg Gimblett
Omahu Predator Control Group
July 2024

THE BENEFITS OF *Green Spaces*

In a world that now revolves around cell phones and computers, more and more people are looking for the 'magic bullet' which decreases anxiety and gives meaning to life.

There is massive promotion of large numbers of supplements and seminars on how to decrease stress and enjoy life more, all at no small financial cost.

The magic bullet is not to be found in a bottle or a seminar. Scientific studies show the nearest thing is physical exercise and green spaces. Physical inactivity is now the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality. Over 56% of the world's population now live in cities and this proportion is set to rise to 70% by 2050.

future generations. As the Christchurch population increases, the need to get out into green spaces increases and the numbers using the Port Hills for recreation is plain for all of us to see.

The three Summit Road Society Reserves, Linda Woods Reserve, Ōhinetahi and Omahu, provide crucial havens on the Port Hills for urban dwellers.

The hard work, all done by volunteers, has enhanced this natural environment by tree planting and removing invasive weeds and ridding the area of predators. Swathes of bush in other areas of the South Island are silent but birdsong in the Summit Road Reserves flourishes. Bellbirds, kereru, fantails and other native species are increasing. There is now a dawn chorus for



Omahu Bush & Gibraltar Rock Photo by Phil Brown on Unsplash

There is a world-wide movement to promote green spaces in urban environments. This has been conclusively shown to be good for the environment by providing clean air, improved water quality and cooling effects in the concrete jungle but also has positive effects on the population living in cities. Studies have shown green spaces increase productivity, strengthen social cohesion. People talk to one another more, and depression and high blood pressure decrease.

The science is clear but as with all things - including the fact of global warning - the message is not palatable to significant numbers of the population. This makes pioneering advocates of green spaces such as Harry Ell even more remarkable.

His vision in promoting the Port Hills as open green spaces is of benefit not only to our generation but all

those lucky enough to live adjacent to the Reserves. The Reserves act as a reservoir for birdlife and the numbers of native birds now being seen in the City are also increasing.

None of this happens on its own. New volunteers are always needed for the work parties who regularly maintain the Reserves. Not everyone can contribute physically but there is always a need for funds to continue this work. The Summit Road Society uses any donated funds wisely and the return on investment is greater for future generations than anyone can imagine.

If you wish to contribute contact:
manager@summitroadsociety.org.nz

Murray Smith
Ōhinetahi predator control co-ordinator



Linda Woods Reserve

In May this year, a first meeting of the 'LWR Planning and Management Group' was convened by Paula Jameson to steer future activities in LWR.

The group consists of residents from Avoca and Horotane Valleys, work party members (all of whom are currently active in our volunteer 'reveg' and trapping work), Board members and manager Bill Martin. Their task will be to finalise the draft management plan for Board approval and then make recommendations to the Board on how it is implemented.

TRAPPING – AVOCA VALLEY

Trapping lines continue to be monitored at least once a month. The six ATR 220 traps (self-setting traps for possums) that were installed at the beginning of 2024 are doing an excellent job. These are all located at the northern end of the LWR and results manually recorded on the Trap NZ app. While these traps do reset, they need regular checks as quite often the dead animal does not drop down when the trap releases. In total, 21 possums have been caught by these traps since installation.

The DOC 200 traps and rat traps in the northern part of the LWR have been very successful at catching weasels, hedgehogs and rats.

The Sentinel and DOC 200 traps at the top (south end) of Avoca Valley have been in place for approximately 18 months and have been regularly catching weasels and hedgehogs while possum catches are more intermittent. We had our first catch with a Trapinator in June.



Weasel down!

MONITORING – CITIZEN SCIENCE 'BIOBLITZ', AVOCA VALLEY

Over the late Summer/Autumn months Jasmijn Baptist, a research student from the Netherlands, worked with members of the Summit Road Society and University of Canterbury staff gathering data about Avoca Valley biodiversity. Jasmijn organised a 'Bioblitz' with Avoca Valley residents and fellow students in April. This was part of a global day of "nature" data gathering. In a two hour period, 340 observations of plants, birds and insects (plus an egg) were made and 83 species identified. This was to gather baseline data about wildlife populating a portion of the Avoca Valley Stream catchment.

Long term, ongoing research will measure biodiversity changes as native bush habitat re-grows. This will have particular relevance to an ephemeral stream. The 'Bioblitz' is a valuable way of gathering information and is likely to be repeated in the future.



A Western European Little Owl enjoying the valley.



Bioblitz action - Brigid and Ralph on the trail of invertebrates in Lower Avoca

PLANTING - AVOCA VALLEY

Our "Jobs for Nature" phase of the revegetation project is now in its final season. We have had great support again from "Trees that Count" and also the Cashmere High School Eco-Action Nursery, allowing us to increase the number of trees we get in the ground by 5600 this year. 3000 mixed species were planted through June and July in the Upper Avoca (emerging) Bush below Witch Hill by the contract team from Wai-ora Forest Landscapes, these in the Upper Avoca (emerging) Bush below Witch Hill. They also planted a further 1000 kānuka on the heavily eroded lower eastern slopes.

This was followed up over two weekends in June, when 25 to 35 volunteers, including a detachment from Student Volunteer Army and enthusiastic Avoca residents, planted a further 1400 kānuka on the lower eastern slopes. The LWR work party provided backup with pre-plant preparation.

A further planting of wetland species by kura students is planned at one of the Upper Valley springs very soon with assistance from the Ngāti Wheke hapū at Rāpaki .

PLANTING – HOROTANE VALLEY

2023 was the first season of planting in Horotane when 3000 grazed kānuka were planted around some of the larger gorse infested areas. We had excellent results with grazed kānuka plantings over 2021/22 in Avoca when we had relatively moist growing conditions. However the 2023/24 growing season, with its prolonged dry summer and autumn, saw sheep vigorously grazing kānuka in Horotane when there was little other green feed about – this only seemed to become a problem later in the season. A surprisingly large proportion of these nibbled plants are now making a comeback with fresh growth, but they will take a while to make up the lost ground.

This year planting got underway late in May with a group from Christchurch company, Ground Engineering, who planted 500 trees on their Big Day Out. Over the winter we plan to plant 4500 plants, ranging from tōtara and matai to harakeke, in the fenced off area of Shed Paddock, and kānuka in unfenced areas. This is being funded by Trees that Count and the Mundy Family of Horotane Valley, with planting labour supplied by a mix of locals and business groups in regular sessions on Friday afternoons. Fletcher Living, Hughes Developments, Engeo Geotech Consultants, Kamo Marsh Landscape Architects, Stoneworks Stonemasons Ltd, DataNest and CK Electrical staff teams are expected to join us over July and August. The LWR work party will also be featuring with support on Wednesday mornings and ECan have been very helpful with funding for fencing upgrades and guarding equipment.

John Marsh
Linda Woods Reserve co-ordinator

Avoca Valley Pest Control Report

The Sentinel and Doc 200 traplines at the top of Avoca Valley have been in place for approximately 18 months now and have been regularly catching weasels and hedgehogs while possum catches are more intermittent.

The traplines (Doc200s and rat traps) in the lower part of the Linda Woods Reserve were put in place toward the end of 2023 and have been very successful at catching weasel, hedgehogs and rats.

A number of the AT220 traps (self setting traps for possums) have been installed in the lower part of the Linda Woods Reserve from the beginning of 2024. These traps are working well and have caught over 20 possums so far and a number of rats. While these traps do reset, they need regular checks as quite often dead animals do not drop down when the trap releases.

With winter closing in, there has been a drop off in the number of pests being caught this past month.

Ross Radford
Co-ordinator for Avoca Valley trap lines



Linda Woods team, Horotane Valley



Ground Engineering's day out in Horotane 'Shed Paddock'

Arbor Day 5 June 2024

The annual Arbor Day planting with the CCC rangers at Victoria Park was a great success. One hundred students from Cashmere Primary and Somerfield Schools planted 405 natives! Thank you to the Port Hills rangers, parents and volunteers for helping on the day.

Kay Holder



A recent photo of Kay with her Regional Parks rangers from both the Coast and Plains group as well as the Port Hills and Peninsula group

We were devastated to hear of the sudden death of Kay Holder, Manager of Regional Parks at the Christchurch City Council. Kay was a champion for the protection and restoration of nature. She was a friend and supporter of the Summit Road Society over many years. She advocated for us to receive an increase in annual funding. She was a valued member of our Avoca Valley steering

group. She supported our efforts, big and small, to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity on the Port Hills and expand public access, offering advice, guidance, encouragement and support along the way. Kay was quietly spoken, fiercely determined, wise and practical. We will miss her.

Board of Summit Road Society



Photo by Tonia Kraakman on Unsplash



Summit Road Society

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CHARITABLE TRUST NUMBERS:

Summit Road Society: CC 27184
 Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust: CC 27183

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS CAN BE MADE VIA THE SECURE WEBSITE:
givealittle.co.nz/org/summit-road-society

We are a voluntary society working to enhance, preserve and protect the natural environment, beauty and open character of the Port Hills of Banks Peninsula for people to enjoy. We need and welcome contributions to our work through memberships, donations, corporate sponsorships, bequests, and participation in work parties (non-members welcome—but why not join us as well!)



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for regular updates
Summit Road Society & Predator Free Port Hills

Thank you to Jennifer Loughton for proofreading

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