



## From the Secretary

A belated Happy New Year to all our members and supporters. We are later than we would have liked with this newsletter, but I think it was worth the wait. In the last issue I made reference to the good autumn and winter. Once again, summer has followed what now seems to be the normal pattern of very mixed weather in early summer and then stunning weather later on when everyone is back at school and work. Talking of the weather, the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a couple of 'typos' in the last newsletter, which were entirely my fault. It's still fascinating that you can re-read something several times and miss something obvious. I referred to 'barmy' weather when, of course, it should be 'balmy'. My excuse is that finalising newsletters often sends me a bit barmy! The other one, in a bold heading was 'Abor' Day with a missing 'r'. In fact, this completely confuses the spell check as 'Arbor' is the American spelling rather than the English 'Arbour'. I'm normally quite pedantic with americanisms creeping into our language, but can defend this one as the first Arbor Day in the form that we understand it now was in Nebraska in 1872.

The Society has been as busy as ever since the last newsletter. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the City Council for its continued financial support and the Port Hills Ranger team for all their practical help and advice without which our work would be far more difficult. I'd also like to mention the three Community Board representatives on the Society's Board who provide a valuable link between us, the local communities and the City Council. We recently said farewell to Paula Smith from the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board who will continue to be a great supporter of the Society and its work, and welcomed Denis Aldridge. Denis is CEO of Living Springs, so as well as his Community Board role, will provide an important link with one of our neighbours that has the same philosophy as the Society in respect of the Port Hills.

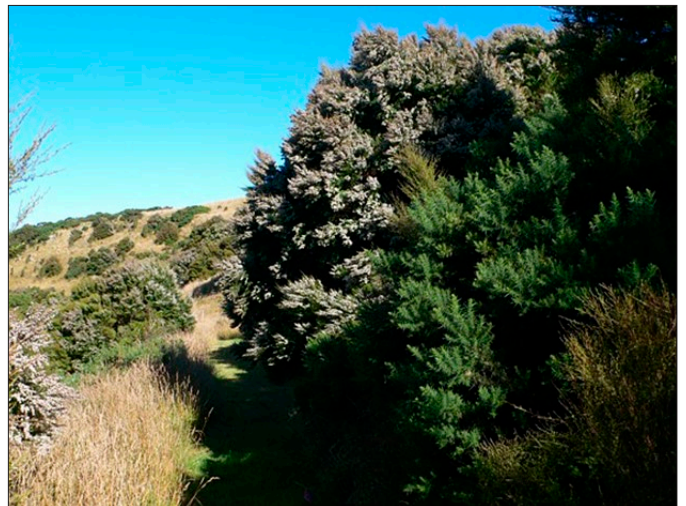
For those members whose subscriptions are due, invoices are enclosed with this mail-out. Once again I'd like to repeat that your support is important and valuable, whether you are an active member or not. The more members we have, the more credible our voice is. Membership at the end of last year was down slightly, but once again, we still have the support of local tramping clubs and walking groups. Word of mouth remains the most powerful way of introducing new members, so please spread the word.



*Libertia grandiflora* (Mikoiko) & *Clematis marata* at Omahu

## Omahu Bush

The past six months at Omahu have been business as usual, with the team continuing to tackle the gorse problem, dealing with a few other weed species, and keeping the tracks maintained. Very little native planting has been done at Omahu where natural regeneration has been relied on, but this last winter, as an experiment 50 trees kindly donated by Trees for Canterbury, which included some kanuka and pittosporum, were planted close to the top of Rhodes Track. The latest news is that these are doing well, so further planting in the area is planned for next winter. The New Zealand Native Orchid Group visited again over Show weekend. There were no significant new finds, but the visit reinforced the fact that there are some important plants at Omahu. What they did point out were a number of sun and onion orchids growing on the small bluffs at the side of the road opposite the car park.



Prendergast's Track, Kanuka vs gorse



Onion orchid (*Microtis unifolia*)

## Ohinetahi Update

There is good news and bad news at Ohinetahi. On a positive note, our 'dangerous boulder' was satisfactorily dealt with by Abseil Access, who 'deconstructed' the loose and overhanging section by a combination of rock breakers, drills and low velocity explosives. The remaining section is firmly grounded in the hillside and provides protection for a further boulder behind it and a short way up the hillside. The Engineers have advised that in their view, the potential risk in the area is no greater than can be expected for this type of terrain. On this basis, the Board is happy to reopen the remaining tracks at Ohinetahi, with appropriate signage about potential rockfall risk. Needless to say Anne Kennedy and her team are delighted, and can now start to carry out some long overdue maintenance.



Before boulder



After boulder

In the last issue we explained about the problems of spur valerian on the bluffs and rocky outcrops at Ohinetahi, the risk to native vegetation, and the project to deal with this. Specialist contractors, Solutions 2 Access Ltd have now completed the first phase of dealing with this weed plant, which has included accessing the bluffs by abseil. Due to the difficulty of access and finding suitable vantage points, it was only possible to properly assess the extent of the problem when work started. Unfortunately Martin Freeman and his team discovered that the problem is much more serious than was first thought, and will cost much more than the original estimate of \$24,000. The next step is to review our project plan in consultation with Di Carter from the Port Hills Rangers, Martin Freeman and Environment Canterbury. The problem, of course, is not restricted to Ohinetahi and unless a comprehensive approach is taken is likely to affect a much wider area. As an example of the risk from wind-blown seeds, it is now being found on Quail Island/Otamahua. Once again, the Society would like to acknowledge the funding received from the Rata Foundation, WWF New Zealand and Environment Canterbury.

We also have a bit of a mystery. Someone walks along the tracks with a pair of snippers and randomly snips at the native bush even though it is not hanging over the tracks. Often the leading shoot of young trees is cut off. CAN WHOEVER IS DOING THIS PLEASE STOP! We are proud of the way the native forest is regenerating, and of the countless hours our volunteers put into encouraging this to happen. Clearly, this sort of behaviour is unacceptable. If encounter any problems on the tracks, please contact the Secretary and we can ensure that they are sorted out.



**Summit Road Society (Inc)**  
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| <b>Vice-President</b>        | Jeremy Agar    | 328 9956     |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | John Goodrich  | 326 3035     |
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| <b>Board Members</b>         | Hamish Grant   | 928 2456     |
|                              | Anne Kennedy   | 337 0364     |
|                              | Paul Tebbutt   | 384 3086     |
| <i>Honorary Life Member</i>  | John Jameson   | 354 5925     |
| <b>Representatives</b>       |                |              |
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| Hagley/Ferrymead             | Islay McLeod   | 389 0954     |
| Lyttelton/Mt Herbert         | Denis Aldridge | 021 280 0093 |
| Spreydon/Heathcote           | Melanie Coker  | 669 0336     |
| Port Hills Rangers           | Paul Devlin    | 332 5627     |
| <b>Eastenders work party</b> | Paul Tebbutt   | 384 3086     |
| <b>Ohinetahi work party</b>  | Anne Kennedy   | 337 0364     |
| <b>Omahu Bush work party</b> | Paul Tebbutt   | 384 3086     |

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 and corporate sponsorships, participation in work parties (non-members welcome - but why not join us as well!), and bequests.

## The Eastenders – An Occasional Muse

2016 sees the start of the 32nd year that the Eastenders have been working on the Port Hills. True, no existing members were in that first foray but we do have people who joined in the late 1980's and who are determined to see out 20 years of track building and maintenance.

The initial idea, discussed by friends who enjoyed walking the hills behind the coastal suburbs, was to build tracks around the home region of Sumner/Redcliffs and Mt Pleasant (hence Eastenders) in order that they could share their enjoyment of those hills - and many of the tracks in existence today were built by those first stalwarts.

Our present membership consists of people from many walks of life, from Agriculture to Zoology and everything in between!! All are welcome and we are always looking for new members to swell the ranks.

Today it is not so much about track building (although a sparkle does appear in quite a few eyes when new tracks are mentioned) as track maintenance - and the gang has, over recent months, been busy working on drainage and improvements on Captain Thomas and Scarborough Bluffs tracks behind Sumner. Quite a lot of rock was removed from the tracks by either prising them out with metal bars or breaking them up with picks and crowbars in order to improve the gradient of the track. Drains were installed across the track where necessary, large 'toe' drains were dug on the uphill side of the track in order to drain the slope and box drains were installed at intervals within the track.

If you don't know these tracks I would highly recommend giving them a go—you could start at the end of Upper Sumnervale Drive and zigzag your way up the hill on the western side of the valley, heading up towards the top of Evans Pass. Watch for mountain bikes, as this is a shared track for the most part. Cross the road (look out for the traffic) and enter Rapanui Bush—which was planted by local schoolchildren, some of whom are now Eastenders, in the 1940's as a re-vegetation project – and find the engraving on the wooden seat (clue: It has a Summit Road Society connection).

At the junction within the bush you can either turn right and climb up to the car park at the top or turn left and head back down towards Sumner on the Scarborough Bluffs Track. Magnificent sweeping views of the heads and Pegasus Bay reward you as



*Debating the route; Scarborough Bluffs; Alan Davey & Kit Gresson*

you walk and then, when you arrive above the road just before Sumner village you come to another junction. Here you can choose to zigzag back down to the road where you can cross to the stile on the opposite side and walk down to the small reserve at the end of Upper Sumnervale Drive where you started.

Alternatively you could climb back up towards the top of Scarborough, a walk that meanders around the very steep bluffs above the eastern side of Sumner and which eventually comes to the sheep yards just below the road to Godley Head - where you can choose to return via the road or continue down to Taylors Mistake and then return to Sumner via the 360 Trail around the beach and up to Nicholson Park.

All up a very enjoyable way to spend a few hours and to see firsthand exactly what the Eastenders spend their time doing on those Monday mornings!

*Paul Tebbutt*

### **Doug Meherne**

The Society offers its condolences to Nancy and the family after Doug Meherne's death, aged 94, on the 8th of January. Doug was one of the original members of the Eastenders when the group was formed in 1983, and worked with them for over 20 years. His wife, Nancy, confirms that the work and companionship was an important aspect of his life. Doug had a very interesting past and we will publish more details about him and his life in the next newsletter.



## "The Hill Road; Summit Road Association; Its useful work"

Anne Kennedy continues with her research into the Port Hills and the Summit Road, and found the following report from the June 20th, 1914 issue of *The Sun*. The reference to the house at Kennedy's Bush is interesting. This is, of course, the Sign of the Bellbird, which, once again, has been the victim of vandalism. Currently, following a fire, the roof is missing. Rather than simply repairing the damage, the City Council carrying out some emergency repairs to prevent further damage from the weather, and is convening a group which the Society has been invited to join, to consider the future use and management of the building.

"A general meeting of the Summit Road Association was held in the Cadena Rooms last evening, when some very interesting references were made to that fine asset of the city—the road along the summit of the hills. It was not the annual meeting of the association but it practically took the place of that gathering. A report for the period ended May 31, 1914 was presented. The report read as follows:-

Since the last general meeting a considerable amount of work has been accomplished. The booklet, which was suggested at the last meeting has been published and highly praised. Mr. S. Hurst Seager, the honorary architect to the association, designed a house for Kennedy's Bush Reserve, and Messrs J. and W. Jamieson Ltd., generously advanced the whole of the money required to erect the building, the stone for which was taken from a deposit near the site. The board in charge of the reserve has appointed a caretaker, and refreshments are now supplied to visitors. Many of the business people of Christchurch have generously made contributions towards furnishing the house. The fine springs at Cooper's Knob Reserve have been fenced in, and through the gift of the Hon. R. Heaton Rhodes a pretty drinking fountain has been erected in stone. Valuable additions to the reserves along the Summit Road have been secured. Mr. R. M. D. Morten has presented Ahuriri Bush Reserve of 27 acres; the Hon. R. Heaton Rhodes, Cass's Peak Bush Reserve, Mr Robert Allan has presented a pretty piece of bush near Cass's Peak and a gift of \*50 by Mr. A. E. G. Rhodes, supplemented by a Government subsidy, and aided by generous terms, conceded by Mr. Walter F. Parkinson, has secured a very beautiful piece of bush at the northern head of Kaituna Valley. Through a handsome donation supported by the granting of easy terms, three acres of beautiful native bush in Kaituna Valley, equalling about 70 acres, has been secured but a large amount of the

purchase money has yet to be found. Cooper's Knob Hill is now a public reserve acquired by exchange, thanks to Hon. R. Heaton Rhodes. An area of about 70 acres, including about 15 acres of bush, have been acquired; also an area of about 30 acres: these two areas have been added to Kennedy's Bush Reserve, and form a link with Hoon Hay Reserve, so that a fine reserve now exists, extending the whole length from the east face of the Hon Hay Hill to the South face of the Cass's Peak Hill. The Hon the Minister of Lands, Mr Massey, has authorised the grading and survey of the Summit Road from Cooper's Knob, the present terminus, to the Port Levy-Kaituna Pass, by way of the south face of Mt. Herbert. The road will run round the head of Kaituna Valley, and afford a succession of beautiful views, and will pass through some areas of native bush, which will add a great charm to the road.—On behalf of the executive Committee, George, Chairman."

### FINANCE

The balance sheet showed that the income from May 7, 1912 to May 31 last was £208 2/6, which included £109 5/6 in subscriptions and £77 17/- in donations. The expenditure was £643 6/8 leaving a balance due to the Bank of New Zealand of £435 4/2. The statement of assets and liabilities was prima facie a very alarming one, but the real position was not that alarming. The only assets were booklets on hand £39 11/8, while the liabilities amounted to £1206 3/8 which represented practically the purchase of reserves, for which the association was only nominally liable.

The position was elucidated by the chairman, Mr Geo. Harper. He said that, strictly speaking, the amounts should not be put in as liabilities of the association. The reserves were invested in the King and the association had only been the instrument of obtaining the money with which the reserves had been acquired. He referred to the very generous assistance given to the association by Messrs J and W. Jamieson, Mr Albert Loe, and also the Hon. H. F. Wigram, who had guaranteed the association's overdraft at the bank so that certain reserves could be purchased. He hoped that before long a motor track would be made to Kennedy's Bush. The association got most of its revenue from subscriptions and donations, and he hoped it would receive generous assistance this year. Its work had been started by a small band of enthusiasts in 1909, and what had been accomplished since should ensure that those pioneers would ever be held in grateful memory by the people of Christchurch.

### THE ENTHUSIAST

The Summit Road has no more enthusiastic advocate than Mr. H. G. Ell and it is mainly owing to his energetic and whole-hearted work that the Summit Road exists today. In his address last evening Mr Ell expressed the hope that the generations yet to come would keep in their memory the pioneers of the road. He felt it was a very poor New Zealander who lived only for his own day and generation. When they were out on the road they had something of the feelings of the old pioneers who had done for Canterbury what they were doing in a small way for the people of the city. He referred to the assistance which the association had received from the Hon. R. H. Rhodes, the Hon. H. F. Wigram, Messrs J. and W. Jamieson, R. E. M'Dougall, A. E. G. Rhodes, R Allen, S. Hurst Seager and their excellent



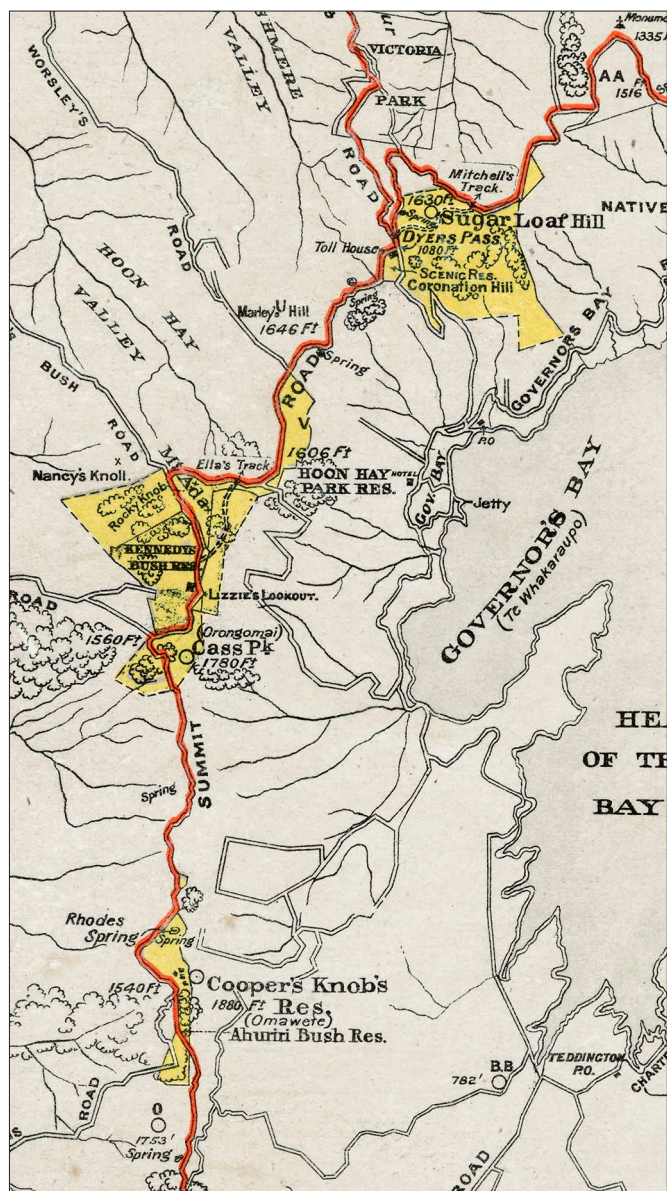
Coopers Knob from Kennedy's Bush. [ca. 1920]

Image from Christchurch City Libraries, File Reference: CCL Harry Ell papers 0329, PhotoCD 13, IMG0092, Archive 202

secretary, Mr. C. H. Gilby. Mr Ell gave a most interesting sketch of the recent acquisitions and the present position of the road, and exhibited several maps with which officers of the Land Department had courteously supplied him. He predicted that within a few years the association would have a road running along the tops of the hills from Christchurch to Akaroa. He also hoped that eventually there would be an under-cliff walk added to the present attractions. Speaking of the plant and tree life on the hills, Mr Ell said that he hoped the members of the association would always resist the introduction of *pinus insignis* and *macrocarpa* on the reserves. They wanted the tussocks, ferns, flax, cabbage trees and New Zealand alpine plants. The work of the association would stimulate public interest in the Summit Road, and he hoped more young men and women would join the association.

## BROADEN THE OUTLOOK

Dr. Chilton said that a large amount of good work had been done by the association. The balance sheet itself was a sign of its vigorous life and even if the association was legally liable for the amount shown in the liabilities, the position would be a satisfactory one. The value of the reserves far exceeded the monetary indebtedness—they could not now appreciate their



Cropped map of Port Hills-Akaroa Summit Road & reserves [1918?] Image from Christchurch City Libraries, File Reference: CCLMaps 123231



*The Sign of the Bellbird, a tea-house, Kennedy's Bush [ca. 1925]*

Image from Christchurch City Libraries, File Reference: CCL Photographs, letters and memorabilia of a professional photographer/Sydney Benjamin Taylor 0342, PhotoCD 3, IMG0025. Archive 380.

future value. As long as they had Mr. Ell with them they need have no fear of their finance, as Mr. Ell had a happy faculty of always going to the right place to find the money required. Efforts should be made to preserve the reserves in their native state. A great many people would go to Kennedy's Bush and possibly some of them might not be able to overcome the natural desire to take ferns away with them. He suggested that part of the scheme of the expansion League should be to advertise that such was a desirable and pleasant place in which to live, and that there were attractions here which could not be seen elsewhere. One of the means to secure expansion would be to support the Summit Road Association. Christchurch was extremely flat and on the hills one could secure that broader physical outlook which assisted in the cultivation of the broader mental outlook.

## A BOTANIST'S APPRECIATION

A very interesting sketch was given by Mr. R. M. Laing of plant life to be found on the line which will be followed to the Hilltop Hotel and thence to Akaroa. The road would pass over the highest summits of the Peninsula and some views would be obtained which for beauty could not be surpassed. He referred to the many native and sub-alpine plants which would be found. There was the New Zealand cedar, the mountain cabbage trees (with bronze leaves so much more beautiful than the ordinary cabbage tree), the mountain primrose and the alpine veronica. In no city in Great Britain was such a walk open to the public within easy reach of the city. He did not think that people half realised the beauty and value the road would bring to the city.

## VIRGIN FOREST

Mr. Ell said that after leaving Cooper's Knob the road would go through some virgin forest at Kaituna. He sincerely hoped that the road would not be made more than 12ft wide through the bush. A chain road would rob the bush and the walk of its glory and beauty. The chairman said it was not the annual meeting of the association and the report was merely an interim one. The annual meeting would be held in September. A vote of thanks was passed to the officers on the motion of Mr. Laing, special mention being made to Mr Ell's services.

The business was followed by a programme of songs, instrumental selections and recitations those contributing being Mrs. L. L. Cordery, Misses Alice and Annie Gibb and Messrs L. L. Cordery, J. Mercer, Clarke, Carter, D Adams, and E. Macdonald. On the motion of Mr. J. C. Anderson a vote of thanks was passed to the performers.

## Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust

On the 7th November the Trust achieved a major milestone with the opening of the Rod Donald Hut. Mike White writes:

*"Suky Thompson (Manager of the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust) acknowledged decades of work by Ben and Colin Faulkner on the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula at the official opening of the Rod Donald Hut on Saturday 7 November, exactly 10 years since Rod Donald died. Ben had a special invitation to attend but unfortunately, his failing health did not allow it.*

*On a beautiful day, around 150 people walked to the hut, which is about one hour east of Port Levy Saddle above Little River for the opening. Rod Donald's father cut the ribbon and together with Rod's widow and children, opened the hut. The Summit Road Society was represented by Paul Tebbutt and Mike White.*

*The nine bunk hut was the inspiration of the Rod Donald Trust to encourage families and young people in particular to traverse the hills between Gebbies Pass and Hilltop staying at the Sign of the Packhorse Hut, recently upgraded by the Department of Conservation and the new hut. The Rod Donald Hut is positioned equidistant from both the Packhorse Hut and Hilltop (three to four hours walk) providing a medium grade two and a half day tramp. Bookings through the DOC website are essential to guarantee a bunk at each hut, search*



Rod Donald Hut. 150 people attended the opening

for "Department of Conservation Online Bookings" and click on the tab "Back Country Huts and campsites", then scroll down the "Please select" menu until you find Banks Peninsula and select your hut(s). The Rod Donald Hut is a wonderful addition on Banks Peninsula as it enables multi-day freedom tramping on the peninsula."

Janey Thomas, a long-standing Society member and the designer of our newsletters and other artwork, adds her impressions of the hut (and Summit Walkway) following a pre-opening visit:



By Janey Thomas

Not far from Christchurch is a walkway that will surprise and delight on a scale you don't quite expect. Even for those who know Banks Peninsula well, as I do...

The existing Summit Walkway connecting the Port Hills to Akaroa has been one that I have always supported. Since the opening of the Rod Donald Hut, it has made this marvellous track more accessible to walkers and families who wish to take their time and enjoy the scenery.

The walkway starts from Gebbies Pass but due to the Sign of the Packhorse being closed to renovation at the time, we decided to join the walkway at the Monument Track intersection (via Kaituna Valley). Husband Roger and friend Kay were my tramping companions.

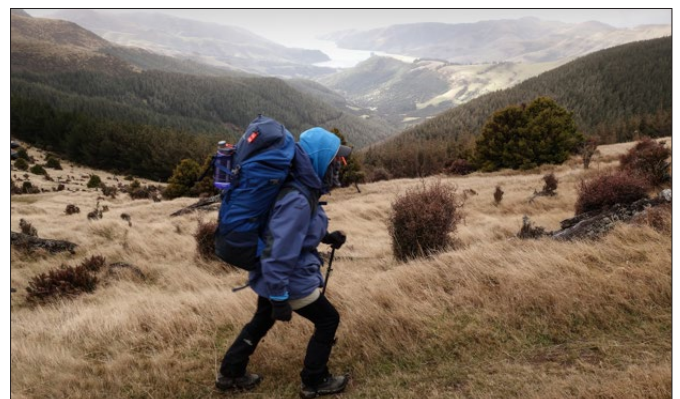
### 29 July 2015

On a cold but clear morning we shuffled cars at Hilltop and Kaituna Valley (alerting the farmer to our plans) and after scoffing a divine pie and coffee from the Little River Cafe & Store enroute, we began the walk up Monument Track as the dark clouds approached. A brief front was forecast but would not last long said MET. We were well prepared as good trampers should always be.

The front hit just as we reached the Kaituna Saddle and that

wind meant business! For a while we were forced to link arms and shuffled east along the farm track in gusts of 80+km.

We sheltered and lunched under a stand of sturdy totara at the Kaituna Spur Reserve which was very welcome, while the wind roared overhead. As we approached Port Levy Saddle car park the rain turned to sleet closely followed by stinging horizontal hail and visibility dropped dramatically! Familiar with the track, we carried on in the relative shelter of more remnant totara before taking on the exposed Waipuna Saddle. There stands a magnificent stand of wind-sculptured totara



which allowed a brief respite from the elements and the hail eventually stopped. Hunks of chocolate were handed out as we sat on a drenched log, warm and dry on the inside and checked the map.

The hut was not far off now, so we left the trees and headed off into a thick stand of gorse which had a very well cut track leading down to the best sight in the world, the Rod Donald Hut! What was the first thing we did? We lit the pot belly and before long the main room was toasty! The solar lights were luxury. So many little thoughtful details make this hut a true treasure. We warmed ourselves by the fire, made a hot drink and collected firewood. A very pleasant evening was spent eating and talking and feeling very fortunate while the storm raged outside.



### 30 July

In the morning we woke to a frosty world... we admired the views down into Kaituna Valley while we consumed huge bowls of hot porridge and dried fruit.

The second day was picture-perfect. Back up to Waipuna Saddle we started meandering eastward again and through the "Totara Graveyard", a poignant reminder of our pioneers' need for pasture and timber...

For a while we followed the farm track NE to point 717 before it sidled east to Mt Fitzgerald (826m). We lunched on a bleached totara log and marvelled at the ever-changing light patterns on the distant hills. From the top of Fitzgerald we could look down on Port Levy glistening in the sun and west beyond the Port Hills we could make out the distant white-capped Southern Alps... how many tracks can boast a view like this? Around every corner the vistas changed and we 'wow-ed' again and again.



The Mt Sinclair Reserve impressed with its regenerating bush and sturdy mature totara lining the track, while further on we walked through flax, fuchsia, horopito, olearia, griselinia, all in beautiful condition... it was heartening to see the tremendous re-growth happening, for fencing this remnant allows biodiversity to flourish. A treat for me personally was to see a pair of tomtits, this was a big surprise.



We dawdled and marvelled... we all agreed this track was up there with some of the best in the country. When Akaroa Harbour came into sight our jaws dropped!



One final stop at Whatarangi Totara Reserve where Kay dug deep into her pack and produced three giant ginger kisses. They did not last long! Lastly we descended through Montgomery Park Reserve and we took our time in the upper reaches as the track was steep and rocks somewhat slippery due to the south-facing nature of the reserve. Further down we came across an impressive ancient totara with massive girth, what a sight to behold.

We finally burst out of the bush onto the Summit Road at 5pm to see the moon rising over the harbour and hurried along the road in the gathering dusk to the Hilltop Tavern where a sign said 2-for-1 pizza!

What a wonderful 48 hours which will long be remembered...

In Harry Ell's own words;

*This great Hill-top Road, with the miles upon miles of pathways midst wild Nature, will be a fine heritage for the rising and coming generations. Such an investment for the common good is worthy of a place in posterity.*

More photos can be viewed on my Flickr albums...

Google search: "flickr summit walkway day 1" and "flickr summit walkway day 2"

## 'A Pest-Free Port Hills'

The Board recently agreed that the Society can announce its resolve to work towards making the Port Hills a predator-free zone. This is obviously a long-term goal, but much can be achieved now to remove predators like possums, stoats and rodents, so that our native birds and lizards can prosper. We are inviting the area's community boards, all of which have similar aspirations, to join us in this project, together with any groups or individuals already carrying out animal pest control or wanting to get involved.

We will concentrate on the hill suburbs, especially on streets which border paddocks and bush, where wildlife potentially abounds. We encourage residents to join us in whatever capacity they feel can best help achieve this goal. Some residents might want to host traps. We would be happy to be invited to talk to neighbourhood groups to discuss our vision and to hear your views.

If you are interested, please contact the Secretary.

This may be a very ambitious project, but there are now many other similar projects underway across the country. A good example is the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG) which was set up by the local community to "... facilitate the removal of animal pests on the Otago Peninsula (9,500 ha) to protect the area's biodiversity, lifestyle, and economic values." The group identified possums as the most controllable of the many animal pests on the Otago Peninsula, and are the primary focus of the OPBG in the first stages of working towards their vision: "A Pest Free Peninsula By 2050". To date, the community has caught around 8,500 possums.

For more information on the Otago Peninsula project see:

[www.pestfreepeninsula.org.nz](http://www.pestfreepeninsula.org.nz)

It is also worth looking at Te Motu Kairangi (Miramar Ecological Restoration) which has the same aspirations for the Miramar Peninsula, with a community-led project. Their website is:

[www.temotukairangi.co.nz/about-the-project/goal-progress-history](http://www.temotukairangi.co.nz/about-the-project/goal-progress-history)

For other projects visit Predator-Free New Zealand at:

<http://predatorfreenz.org/>



Kay Taylor at the Bay Heights entrance to Ohinetahi Reserve



Kay Taylor enjoys the bush, Bush Road Track, Ohinetahi Reserve

The trust, which is a registered charity, was set up in 2002 to build up a fund for the purchase of land on the Port Hills and for the maintenance of existing Port Hills parks and reserves. Since that time, funds from donations and bequests have been slowly increasing. To add to the substantial legacy from a former member received in 2014, the trustees are pleased to confirm that two further legacies were received in 2015. The support for Christchurch's Port Hills and the work of the Society is very gratifying, and hopefully a good indication of how important the hills are to the public. Due to this support, the trustees are now in a position to actively look into opportunities to bring even more land on the Port Hills into public ownership.

Legacies form an important income source for many charities, so if you would like to see more land on the Port Hills protected why not consider making a donation in your will?

