



Eastenders receive 2003 Christchurch Civic Award

Congratulations to the Eastenders who recently received a Christchurch Civic Award. Left to right: Alan Davey, Geoff Bendall, John Willocks, Bob Cawley and Ken Rossiter.



Eastenders 20th Anniversary

The work party now known as the 'Eastenders', was formed in October 1983, following a suggestion by Tim Sundstrum of Broadleaf Lane, Mt Pleasant. Their first activity, with a party of eight or so, led by the late Gerald Ward, was the restoration of the Major Hornbrook Track. The group has been active ever since, currently has more than 40 members, led by John Willocks, and contributes around 2,000 volunteer hours of practical conservation work each year on the Port Hills, for the benefit of the community.

Since its formation 20 years ago, the group has restored and maintained many tracks between Castle Rock and Godley Head. It has also built a number of new tracks, for example the Mt Pleasant Bluffs Track, the Mt Cavendish Bluffs Track, the Whaka Raupo Track (a Turning Point 2000 project), the Kahukura Track, and the extension to the Captain Thomas Track. In addition to work on tracks, the Eastenders have carried out a significant amount of weed control and planting, particularly in Jollies Bush and Rapanui Bush.

To mark the 20th anniversary of its formation, a celebratory morning tea for members, former members and partners was held on the 13th October at the Mount Pleasant Yacht Club. Almost 100 people attended, including two of the original members, Ross Broadbent and Doug Maherne, and Cynthia Ward, the widow of Gerald Ward, the group's first leader.

Current leader, John Willocks is known for his collection of crowbars, some of which are so substantial, that members have difficulty carrying them onto the hill. Maurice McGregor presented him with another for his collection to replace one that went missing in mysterious circumstances a few years ago. Rumours abound about whether it was in fact lost, or whether it was deliberately left by someone who wanted to spare his colleagues the effort of carrying it on future occasions. Paul Devlin, Head Port Hills Ranger, spoke highly of the Eastenders' work, giving his fond recollections of his first encounter with the group where he was faced with over 20 people 'tooled-up' and raring to go.

Annual General Meeting 2004

The 2004 AGM is scheduled for March 16th. Location, time and guest speaker to be notified early 2004.

Regional Park

In the last Newsletter, a brief mention was made of the idea of a Regional Park for the Port Hills, and the fact that we believe that the Society should take a lead role in promoting this. There is still a great deal of confusion about the term 'Regional Park' and a wide range of views about what form this might take. Our work is focussing on two areas:

- We are currently finalising arrangements with a consultant, to prepare what we are calling a 'vision document'. This is intended to set out the rationale for a 'Regional Park', to look at the options and structures that might be available, the implications of these, and the processes for implementation. This 'desktop' exercise should help to clarify our thinking, and provide us with a basis for further discussion and consultation.

- In parallel we will be working closely with the City Council to develop what is currently being called an 'Inter-Agency Forum'. Membership and the terms of reference are still to be finalised, but the hope is that agencies and groups with an interest in the Port Hills will be able to discuss their goals, any problems and issues, with a view to agreeing some common management objectives.

There is a wide range of groups involved in all sorts of aspects of the Port Hills. This is very positive and encouraging, but at the same time can prove confusing. Hopefully the forum will be able to draw groups together, and at least ensure that we all know where we are going, and hopefully that it is in the same direction!

The Board and Committee wishes all members the compliments of the season.



Work Parties

The work parties have continued to be busy during the winter and spring, between them contributing in excess of 250 volunteer hours per month on Port Hills tracks and reserves.

The Eastenders have carried out work on tracks, including Breezes Bay, Cavendish Bluffs, and the Captain Thomas, have planted natives at Heathcote quarry and Rapanui Bush, and have released a substantial number of native plantings in the Sumnervale Reserve. The group also prepared the

site for the Arbor Day plantings.

The Ohinetahi Reserve group has been busy dealing with the clearing of weed species, including Old Mans Beard, burberry and banana passion fruit, as well as track maintenance in the Reserve. Noxious weeds have probably become the group's highest priority, and as Mike White commented "The more we do, the more we find needs doing". Planting of native species along the reserve boundary closest to Governors Bay has

now been completed, and we were pleased to have obtained funding for this from the Department of Conservation's Biodiversity Condition Fund. We were also pleased to be a part of Environment Canterbury's pest control programme for the Port Hills, and two visits by Target Pest Control resulted in a substantial number of possum kills.

The Weekenders have had a mixed bag of work, including some weed clearance in Sugar Loaf and Scott Reserves, and track

maintenance in the same area. The group remains small and would welcome any new members who are able to commit a Saturday afternoon once a month.

If you are interested in joining any of the work parties, the contacts are:

Eastenders:
John Willocks 384 3254
Ohinetahi:
Gordon Kirk 332 7134
Weekenders:
Jim Grennell 358 4438



The Ohinetahi Reserve work party



Summit Road Society (Inc)
PO Box 17-719, Christchurch
Website: www.summitroadsociety.org.nz
Email: secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz

President	Maurice McGregor	332 0597
Vice-President	Mike White	03 312 1551
Secretary	John Goodrich	326 7330
Treasurer	Paul Loughton	322 7082
Board Members	Barry Gerard	326 5105
	Anne Kennedy	377 0364
	John Watson	332 5169
	Janey Thomas	03 314 9514
	(Selwyn District) Bill Woods	03 318 4825
(Hagley/Ferrymead)	John Freeman	326 6406
(Spreydon/Heathcote)	Paul de Spa	941 8660
Work Parties		
Eastenders	John Willocks	384 3252
Kiwigang	Anne Henderson	352 8058
Ohinetahi	Gordon Kirk	332 7134
Weekenders	Jim Grennell	358 4438

Obituary

Gerald Ward

Founder member of the Eastenders, and leader for many years, died in July. Born in England and educated at Clifton College and Cambridge, Gerald, after war service, taught in England, South Africa and here in New Zealand, before becoming a fruit grower at Loburn. Innovative in his own orchard, he was active in the Fruit Growers Association, becoming President and in 1984 was awarded the C.B.E. in recognition of his work for the industry.

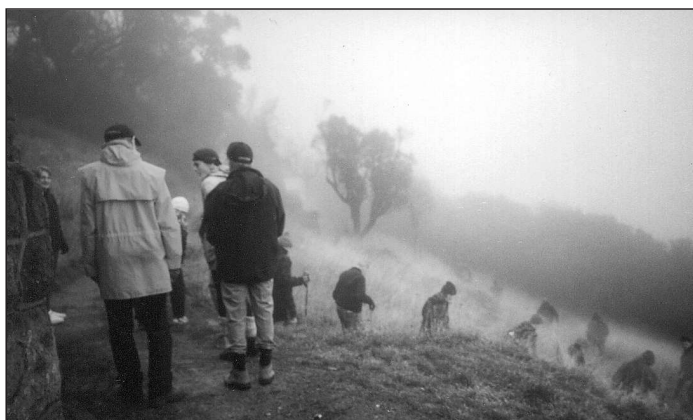
In 1983, Gerald and his wife Cynthia retired to Scarborough. Gerald was one of the small group that met during that year and formed the work party which became the 'Eastenders'. Under his leadership the group flourished. Gerald, with his wide network of friends, was very effective at recruiting, and his careful but unfussy organisation, coupled with a considerate and courteous manner, made a happy atmosphere. Recruits stayed and brought their friends! It was always a pleasure to work under such a leader. Gerald led the group until 1994, and continued to work as a member until a few weeks before his death.

A family man, married to Cynthia for 53 years, with six children and 11 grandchildren, his wide interests included education, mountaineering, theatre and tennis. An author and well-read, he always made interesting and entertaining contributions to the tea break discussions. We miss him!

Bob Cawley and James Samuel

Outings

Since the last Newsletter, four Outings have taken place, all of which were successful, and thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part. The 2004 programme is currently being planned.



Disappearing into the gloom at Kennedys Bush

◀ The Birds of Kennedy's Bush

Despite the mist and drizzle, the 25th May saw over 20 intrepid souls assembling at the Sign of the Kiwi for an interesting and entertaining introductory talk by Andrew Crossland on local birds. Andrew, who is a Port Hills Ranger and an ornithologist, then led us down into the damp and dripping bush, astonishing us with his ability to attract birds with his 'squeak bottle'. For the uninitiated, glass rubbed with polystyrene is irresistible to birds such as fantails, silvereve, bellbird and grey warbler. We even had a brief glimpse of a tomtit, a species that has recently returned to the Port Hills. Rumour has it that the Ohinetahi Reserve work party the following week was severely disrupted by the sound of polystyrene on glass!

Summit Road Circuit ▶

This bus tour was a repeat of the successful Outing in 2002, and again led by John Jameson. From the city via Princess Margaret Hospital and Sumner, the bus took the Summit Road to Dyers Pass then to Teddington for lunch via Governors Bay and Allandale. After lunch it rejoined the Summit Road from Gebbies Pass, returning to Princess Margaret and the city down Dyers Pass Road. With regular stops at points of interest, and with a running commentary on the history of the Port Hills and surrounding area, this was a really enjoyable and educational day. The icing on the cake was a visit to the Sign of the Takahe, where we marvelled at the hard work and determination of Harry Ell in securing for Christchurch such an unusual and attractive building. John as usual did a superb job as guide, and entertained us for the whole journey, only stopping when the last person stepped off the bus!



Modern-day settlers looking at the plains



The Mahys speak about Mansons Peninsula and self-sufficient house

◀ Mansons Peninsula Walk

Mansons Peninsula (Kaitangata Point) is a prominent feature of the head of Lyttelton harbour, not normally accessible to the public. For the last 11 years, areas of the peninsula have been left to regenerate, or have been replanted by the current owners, Penny Mahy and her husband. Penny very kindly agreed to allow the Society access to her property for the October Outing.

A beautiful spring morning saw over 60 people assembling at Allandale for the walk to the start of the peninsula. We were greeted by Penny at their house, where she outlined the challenges of managing their 74 hectares and the work her and Rob had put into revegetation and pest control. They also spoke about their house itself, which is completely powered by solar energy with generators as back-up. Following this, we were free to 'wander at will', enjoy the views and picnic in the sunshine. The Society would like to thank Penny and Rob for making this enjoyable day so successful.

Historic Sumner

In June, the Society was a guest of the Sumner and Redcliffs Historic Society. Around 25 members and supporters watched a video about the history of the area, followed by a question and answer session with local expert Topsy Rule. The Sumner Museum was then opened, and a leisurely hour or so was spent browsing through its fascinating collection of local history and memorabilia. For those who have not visited the museum before, it is well worth the trip.

Storage and Records

Storage of records is becoming an increasing problem for the Society. It seems that to a number of members, the employment of a Secretary has been a golden opportunity to get rid of boxes of maps, books, folders, letters and all sorts of other material that has accumulated over the Society's history. Whilst John does not mind, it will rapidly get to the stage where he will not be able to find his desk!

In view of this, we are now looking for premises to store our records. All we need is a small room with sufficient space for a few cabinets and a desk, and which is easily accessible. Location is not critical, but it would be preferable to have something on the southern side of the city.

We are starting to sort through all the records to get them in to some sort of order for archiving, and we also need to update our display material.

If any members or supporters know of storage premises, or would like to join a small group looking at the Society's records, please contact the Secretary on 326 7330.



Good progress was made recently by John Goodrich (left), John Jameson (right), Janey Thomas and Anne Just with sorting through the Society's records. A place to store these records is needed.

Environmental Compensation

In his article in the May Newsletter, "The next Resource Management challenges", Graham Densem wrote about urban and residential spread, and the need for the Society to secure a "...strongly delineated urban-rural boundary on the hills, on the rural side of which high standards of rural and natural landscape remain in perpetuity...".

The proposals by Kennedy's Bush Developments, currently with the Environment Court raise some interesting and thorny issues for us to grapple with. In simple terms, the proposals are to allow residential development above the District Plan boundary at the top of Kennedy's Bush Road in return for 190 hectares of land on the upper slopes vesting in the City Council. Such a

proposal is covered in the City Council's District Plan:

6.3.14 In limited circumstances, to apply the concept of "environmental compensation" where land of high landscape or natural value is protected or made available for public use, in exchange for urban development rights.

The policy goes on to explain the circumstances where this may apply, concluding that "... This may result in development in locations which may not meet all other policy criteria, but any such arrangement must still require permitted development to be sustainable and environmentally acceptable."

The Society's position on the KBD proposal is quite clear, in that the securing of further land for public use

on the upper slopes is totally in accordance with our aims and objectives. Indeed, we applaud the City Council's policy of the ongoing acquisition of land on the Port Hills. At the same time, however, we also have concerns about the erosion of the urban-rural boundary as referred to by Graham. The Society's main concerns are:

- The criteria adopted by the Council in determining when environmental compensation might apply.

And

- The ability of the Council to properly manage any land acquired, given that they have limited and finite resources.

Currently, we are discussing these issues with the Council.

Help Needed

We recently commissioned Malcolm Douglass, a long-time supporter of the Society and its work, to carry out a review of the Board and Committee structure, and the new position of Executive Secretary, implemented at the beginning of the year. Malcolm concluded that the structure is working well. He identified three areas of development that require further support:

- Resource Management work.

- Archiving our records and correspondence.

- Preparing a vision document on the concept of a Port Hills Regional Park.

The Board, at its November meeting agreed to set up an 'Archiving and Records' group and to seek additional members for the Resource Management group.

The Archiving and Records Group will need to sort through the records, correspondence, photographs, press cuttings etc., that are held by a number of members, and look at building up more material to use for display. A start has been made on this work, but a lot more needs doing, if we are to avoid the risk of information about the Society's work over the years going missing. We also feel that it is important to continually update material to use for displays and publicity. The intention is that this group will work to the Activities and Promotions Committee. In the longer term, we hope that someone from this group will be prepared to take on the role of Society 'librarian'.

The Resource Management Group has met in the past on an ad hoc basis when particular issues arise. There will continue to be pressure for development on the Port Hills, and Graham Densem in the last Newsletter highlighted some of the next challenges. The Executive and the Board believe that the Society's 'watchdog' role for the Port Hills will continue to be important. One challenge that Graham did not mention was the possibility of the amalgamation of the Banks Peninsula District Council and Christchurch City Council. At the very least, the Society should be developing a policy for amalgamation, as far as it relates to the Port Hills. We would like to see the Resource Management group strengthened and put on a more formal basis.

If any members or supporters are interested in joining either of the above groups, please contact the President, Maurice McGregor 332 0597 or Secretary, John Goodrich

Port Hills Rangers update

A dry winter was finally broken by some great rain at the end of August. This came as a welcome relief as the major plantings that occurred during June were under considerable threat from the dry spell.

The positive side of a dry winter was that the track systems remained in brilliant condition throughout the winter and spring and when the rains did come some quick track inspections revealed the weak points, drains were cleared, water tables recontoured and the tracks kept in one piece.

Welcome to Phil Crutchley, a new ranger for the Port Hills team. Phil has been lured over the hill from Akaroa, where he worked for DOC as a field ranger. Phil brings some superb biodiversity and recreation skills and a real passion for managing lowland forest and grassland ecosystems. In the immediate future, Phil will mainly be involved with helping Di Carter with her projects and setting up predator controls. He will then pick up on some recreation delivery gaps as time goes on.

Plenty of volunteers have kept Nick on his toes with coordinating track development and maintenance programmes. The team have done some great work on berming and realigning sections of the Scarborough MTB track, Mt Vernon MTB track and the Marleys Hill track. A new track that by-passes an unsustainable and dangerous section of mountain bike track from Godley Head down to Taylor's Mistake is currently underway and will prove to be a good solid connection that will resolve a long standing concern for

both managers and users of the area. New MTB cattle stops have been installed in several locations to provide continuous riding along track systems. The downhill MTB users have been working on improving track lines, resolving safety concerns on jumps and installing signage. The Captain Thomas Track has had considerable input from the team to resolve drainage and track alignment issues with neighbours.

Nick is working on developing the plans for the new office, and the team is really looking forward to seeing this project underway and getting out of the woodshed! Five brand new, sparkly students have started and been introduced to Mr Bushcutter and Mrs Grubber. They will spend their time between track work, weed control and maintenance work at Halswell quarry. The final draft of the Track Service Standards document is completed and is available to view if people wish to. Contact me for more information

Di Carter has turned her focus from new plantings to maintaining the previous years efforts and killing any trespassing plant species that she has deemed undesirable (a big list). Several groups have been in to help release around revegetation sites and contractor crews have been shown what weed work they are required to carry out. Both Di and Phil have been prilling (encapsulated herbicide) isolated gorse and broom patches. Every Thursday and Friday for the last few months Di and the team can be seen lugging big pine disks into the scrub. This is not the beginnings of a new log cabin or remote ranger base but a method of monitoring invertebrate

density and diversity within our bush reserves. It ties in with vegetation monitoring and bird surveys so we will soon have some visible indicators of the health and diversity of our bush reserves and be able to relate this to management programmes, natural events or pest incursions.

Andrew has been busy with wildlife monitoring. The surveys that Andrew is carrying out are providing more valuable data for informed decisions on how council manages the balance between wildlife, recreation and infrastructure. Some indicative results from surveys along the Waimakariri are already demonstrating how rich this area is in birdlife in an area that was previously thought to be rather barren. Bush bird surveys are occurring monthly and add to the data that Di is collecting.

My time has been occupied with a lot of community meetings, Trusts and 'friends of' committees. This type of community involvement is increasing and their demand to become involved in directing the future of our parks is a valuable tool for ensuring that our plans are robust and community tested.

A new challenge for me is the inclusion of the team based at the Groynes/Styx Mill/ McCleans island area (Plains region) as a temporary part of my role. The team there have a different focus and needs that I am enjoying learning about. The pressures on areas like the Groynes are immense and I am gaining a new understanding of the value that these more accessible parks provide.

We held the last of our

formal meetings on the Port Hills Recreation Strategy recently. At this meeting were the group that we termed 'leading lights', the people that play key roles in either managing other public land on the Port Hills, private landowners and those with particular skill sets such as recreation and leisure. The meeting presented to the group the broad findings of the recreation survey along with the list of submissions on the plan and recommendations for action.

Discussions centred around service standards, levels of development and the suggested zoning patterns for low, moderate or high recreational development.

The need for coordinated inter agency co-operation was also re discussed and seen as a priority for the Christchurch City Council to take the initial lead role. We will be meeting with the Summit Road Society shortly to discuss some methods of pursuing this.

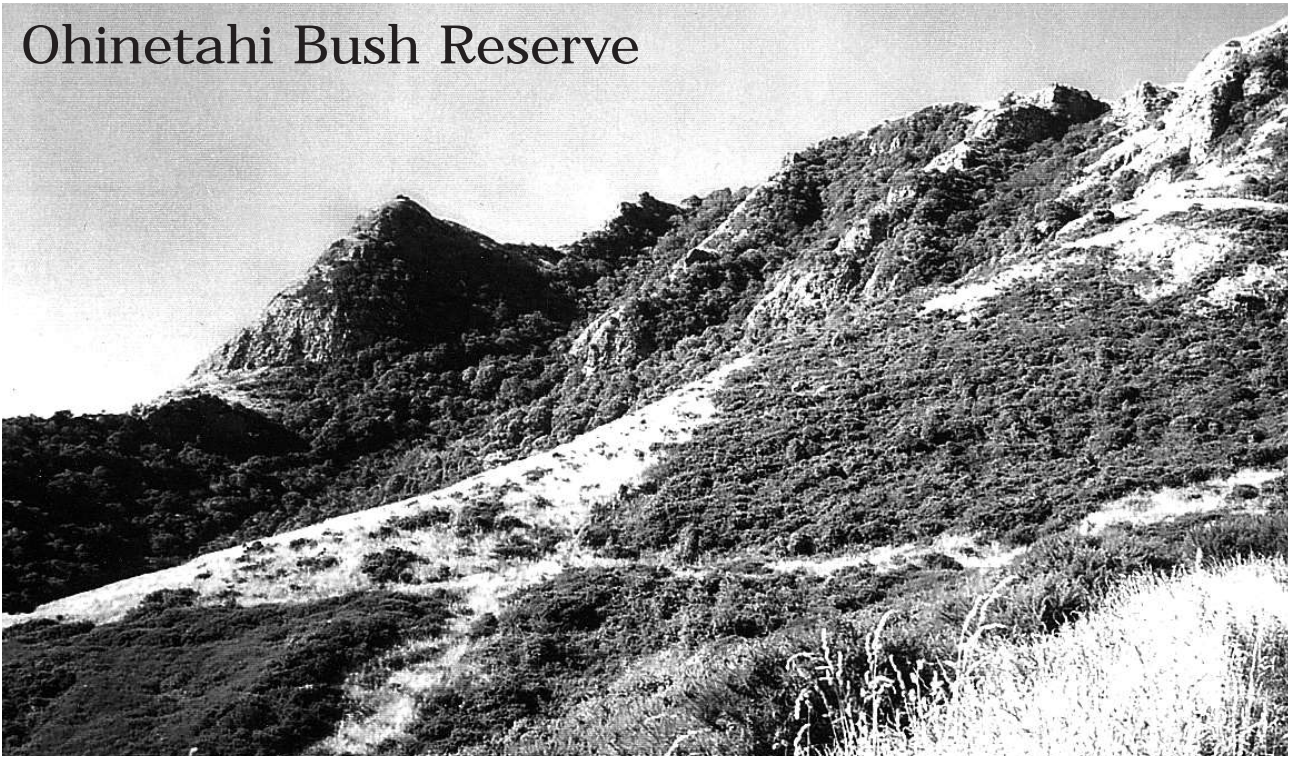
The Regional park concept was also vigorously discussed and while the views were at times quite polarised, most agreed that the concept was best retained to land currently under public ownership or with agreed public access rights. Again, I hope to be discussing the regional parks models with the Summit Road Society to keep these concepts active.

With summer upon us we look forward to seeing many of you out on the hills. Keep up to date with the fire risk and maintain a wary eye on the hills and plains for us.

Paul Devlin
Head Ranger
Port Hills Reserves
Christchurch City Council



Ohinetahi Bush Reserve



Ohinetahi Bush Reserve, owned and managed by the Summit Road Society could be considered its flagship. It is an area of 150 hectares that stretches above Governors Bay to Allandale, generally above the 150 metre contour, extending up to the crater rim of the ancient Lyttelton volcano. It is rugged terrain of steep but shallow gullies, spurs, ridges, massive rock outcrops and intrusions. It has strong volcanic characteristics. As viewed from Governors Bay Road it is scenically spectacular as are the views from the Reserve looking across the Lyttelton Harbour basin and the surrounding hills.

Vegetation is mixed, ranging from open grassland, bracken and gorse clothed areas, to regenerating native forest at various stages of maturity. There is a sprinkling of matai and mature totara trees, but in the main, forested areas comprise the smaller hardwood species. In the cooler gullies there are a wide variety of ferns.

In common with many bush areas in Canterbury, bird life is fairly sparse. Native species include bellbirds, fantails, grey warblers, silvereys, and wood pigeons.

A network of tracks allows access to the Reserve from the Summit Road and Governors Bay as shown on the map included for Society members with this Newsletter. An open space covenant has been placed over the whole of the Ohinetahi Reserve. This is a legal agreement between the Society and the

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, which protects privately owned open space in perpetuity.

HISTORY

The Reserve derives its name from the area of Ohinetahi between Governors Bay and Allandale. Much remains to be learned about its pre-European history. There was a Ngai Tahu pa somewhere in the area. Ohinetahi means 'The Place of the One Daughter' that of the chief, Manuwhiri, son of Te Rangi-Whakaputa. The Reserve was used by the iwi for hunting (birds) and other food gathering.

Most of the original forest cover was destroyed by fire either in pre-European times, or by the early European settlers. The bush cover seen today is of variously aged regenerating forest.

A section of Bush Road track follows an old benched trail along a contour. There is no indication what this was used for, but it may have been logging or as an access route from the plains via Gebbies Pass to Lyttelton township in earlier times.

In the 1970's Irish American entrepreneur, Gerald O'Farrell, purchased large tracts of land in the area, including much of the current reserve. Promoting himself as a millionaire, he planned an extensive residential settlement before being bankrupted and exposed as a charlatan. A legacy of his is the O'Farrell Track, which he bulldozed close to the 150

metre contour, a large section of which is within the Reserve and remains one of its major tracks.

The open grassland on the Reserve directly above Governors Bay was rich horticultural land used to grow early season potatoes for the Christchurch market followed a crop of tomatoes each season. This activity continued well into the 1960's.

The acquisition of the Reserve for the Society was the brainchild of Gordon Kirk. Gordon is a former President of the Society, an Honorary Life Member, and still actively involved in Ohinetahi Reserve. He clearly understood the ecological, recreational and scenic values of the land, having owned and worked on parts of it for 20 years. Through his insight and efforts, the first block of 28 hectares was purchased in 1992 after protracted legal dealings with the mortgagee of the O'Farrell estate. The purchase was made possible by funds from the Forest Heritage Fund and Governors Bay Community Association, with the balance coming from the Society's reserves. Since that time further adjacent blocks have been purchased. Efforts are continuing by the Society to purchase further adjacent and appropriate blocks.

MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE

A management plan has recently been completed for the Reserve. After much debate, and advice from botanist Hugh Wilson a policy has now been established to work towards the

Continued...

regeneration of native forest for the whole of the Reserve. Generally this will be achieved using the succession method that was strongly recommended by Hugh, and which he practices at Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula. This makes use of bracken fern, gorse and broom cover as a nursery bed for the propagation of native plants, the seed of which are spread by the wind and by birds. These plants eventually grow through, blocking out the light thus killing the nursery crop.

However it is a legal requirement to clear boundaries of gorse and broom and this is being achieved. Our boundary above Governors Bay has been cleared of gorse and planted with seedlings

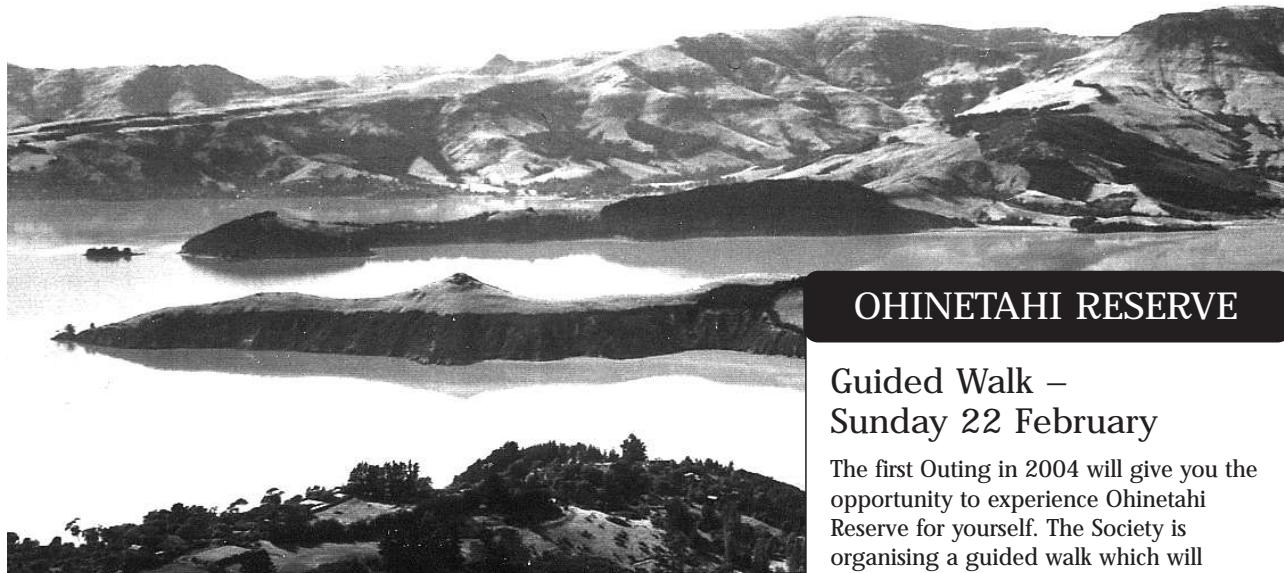
selected as fast growing and fire resistant natives. Funding for the purchase of these seedlings was obtained this year from the Ministry for the Environment's Biodiversity Condition Fund.

The Reserve's network of tracks has been built and is maintained by the hard working Ohinetahi work party. These are all marked on the Reserve map. The tracks traverse a wide variety of terrain and travel through steep rugged and spectacular forest and open spaces.

The working group carries out regular work on weed eradication. They are always on the lookout for old mans beard, banana passion fruit, burberry, hawthorn and cherry (a legacy of the

cherry orchards of Governors Bay in years gone by.) Honeysuckle, currant and blackberry are also dealt with as time permits. The method of eradication is cutting at root level and painting with herbicide.

Control of pests is a more difficult problem. This winter, Target Pest Control under contract to Environment Canterbury eliminated over 300 possums using cyanide bait stations. The Society's work party has assisted in laying bait stations using Campaign and Talon pesticide. However the forest is slowly being modified with only seedlings unattractive to possums surviving.



OHINETAHI RESERVE

Guided Walk – Sunday 22 February

The first Outing in 2004 will give you the opportunity to experience Ohinetahi Reserve for yourself. The Society is organising a guided walk which will descend from the Sign of the Bellbird to Governors Bay on tracks created and maintained by our work party. There will be sufficient time en route to take in the superb views over Lyttelton Harbour basin, see first hand the diverse plant life and regenerating bush and to hear about the work carried out on the reserve by our volunteers.

Whilst the walk is downhill, the terrain is steep and rough in parts, and a reasonable degree of fitness is required. The walk itself is expected to take between two and three hours.

Assemble at the Fire Station, Ernest Adams Drive in Governors Bay at 1.00 pm. A minibus will then take participants to the Sign of the Bellbird car park for the start of the walk. The cost will be \$2.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. Maps of Ohinetahi Reserve will be available for non-members for a gold coin donation.

To register, please contact the Secretary, John Goodrich, (326 7330), by Monday 16 February.

THE OHINETAHI WORK PARTY

The Ohinetahi work party meets on the Reserve each Tuesday throughout the year. There are 12 in the team and there is a good turnout each week. All the tracks within the Reserve have been built by the team and are being maintained and improved on a regular basis. As set out above, weed control, pest control and planting keeps the group busy. In the early summer two weed-eaters are busy each Tuesday dealing with the rampant grass growth along the tracks. The team also works outside the Reserve on other City Council reserves and was a major player in developing the tracks on Omahu Reserve further south towards Gebbies Pass. New members are always welcome. If you wish to help, please contact Gordon Kirk (332 7134), who has led the Ohinetahi work party since its inception.

Come and visit this spectacular reserve and walk one of the tracks through its exciting terrain.



Anne Kennedy showing how it's done

The Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust

The purchase, protection, enhancement of open spaces on the Port Hills for all to enjoy

The Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust was set up by the Society in 2002, with the express purposes of:

- To receive funds for the furtherance of the works of The Summit Road Society (Incorporated)... and in particular—
 - (i) To enable the Society to purchase or otherwise acquire land on the Port Hills
 - (ii) To generally further the works of the Society by way of funding the ongoing maintenance of tracks and other facilities
- To invest funds received in either approved Trustee investments or in projects which may be promoted or endorsed by the Society.

The Society shares with many other groups and individuals the growing acknowledgment of the importance to Canterbury of the finite Port Hills environment. Many people now point to the backdrop of the Port Hills as Christchurch's unique

signature, and have asked how they can assist in a tangible way. To meet the above needs it is important that the Society has substantial funds on hand to take advantage of opportunities to purchase. The Society recognises that outright purchase on a willing seller/willing buyer basis is the best way to protect open space. Funds are also required for the continued maintenance of acquired land and ongoing maintenance work.

If you are planning to make a donation, or arrange a bequest which is intended to help to preserve the Port Hills, or indeed know anyone in this position, we would ask you to consider the merits of placing the donation or bequest with the Trust.

It is worth remembering that our acquisition of Ohinetahi Reserve was only made possible by bequests. This land has been protected by an Open Space Covenant and is available for all to enjoy.

For further information, please contact Paul Loughton, the Treasurer, on the number above.



Budding conservationists planting on the slopes of Bowenvale Valley



Port Hills Ranger Paul Devlin (kneeling) demonstrating planting techniques

Arbour Day 2003

Arbor Day is an annual event dedicated to tree planting, which began in America in 1872. New Zealand began Arbor Day plantings in Greytown, Wairarapa in 1890. The Society initiated Arbor Day in Christchurch in 1948, with 28,800 trees planted between then and 1964.

Thursday 5th June was a beautiful warm and sunny day, ensuring that the 2003 Arbor Day plantings were a great success. Three schools took part, Cashmere Primary, St Marks and St Martins, who between them planted over 400 native plants at Victoria Park. The Eastenders carried out the site preparation, the Park Rangers demonstrated on site how to plant the trees, other members explained the aims and work of the Society and helped the students with the planting.

Thanks to a grant from the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board for the purchase of spades, all children were able to participate fully. Despite having to concentrate on keeping their feet on the sloping hillside, the children still found the energy to run round the trail bike jump-track circuits before returning to their buses. We really appreciated receiving a bundle of essays from one class describing their reaction to the event.