



a passion for the Port Hills

Newsletter, Autumn 2018



"Service to the community is the rent we pay for a place on this earth..."

—Toc H motto and a guiding philosophy in John Jameson's life

In memory of John Jameson

John Jameson, the founder of the Summit Road Society, passed away in March 2018. This special feature details John's lasting contribution to the Port Hills and the people of Christchurch.

John's grandfather, Harry Ell, dedicated much of his life to preserving the last remnants of native bush on the Port Hills and establishing rest houses for those walking along the Summit Road. John was 14 years old when his grandfather passed away in 1934. He had vivid memories of his grandfather battling to further his vision for the Summit Road.

John grew up in Christchurch, firstly in Cuffs Road and later at 41 Opawa Road. He spent three years at Christ's College and began his working life as a junior clerk at Shell Oil Company. WWII struck and John spent time on active service in the Royal New Zealand Air Force at Harewood and in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and the Admiralty Islands. On his return to New Zealand, John married Margaret. They went on to have three children, Geoffrey, Paula and Peter.

Following WWII, the rest houses and reserves along the Port Hills were in a sorry state. The rest houses had been vandalised and several of the reserves had been grazed and even logged. In 1947, John began to brainstorm ideas for a group to resurrect and extend his grandfather's vision.

In 1948 at the age of 26, John gave a now legendary talk at the District Convention of the Jaycees in Kaikoura. The topic was his proposal to form an association to enhance and promote the beautification of the iconic Summit Road. The convenor took him aside and told him his address was 'the worst he's ever heard'. John was advised to 'take steps to vastly improve his presentation'. John took this advice to heart and enrolled with Toastmasters, going on to win the Jaycees' public speaking cup. Despite his inadequate

speech delivery, the Jaycees took up John's ideas. The Summit Road Scenic Society held its inaugural meeting on 18 February 1948 with Sir Heaton Rhodes as its patron, Freddy Freeman as president and John as a committee member.

The Society was incorporated in 1953 and in 1976 dropped the word 'Scenic' from its name. John remained an active Board member until 2010 when, at the age of 89, he decided to retire from active service due to hearing difficulties. During more than 60 years of active involvement, John served as the Society president 12 times and was also vice president and secretary for a number of years. He was still receiving Board meeting minutes, with his apology always officially recorded, right up until March 2018.

The late Gordon Ogilvie, author of several books on the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula, described John as having the same foresight, tenacity, and persuasiveness possessed by his grandfather, but a great deal more tact and teamwork.

John initiated the Summit Road Society's Arbor Day plantings with local schools, a tradition that continues to this day. In August 1948, John first organised 300 school children to plant trees at Cracroft Reserve.

As far back as 1951, John advocated an extension of the Summit Road from Gebbies Pass to Hill Top and went public with this concept in 1972. It was a very controversial proposal which never gained traction. While the road link was never completed, Te Ara Pātaka - the Summit Walkway, opened in November 2016.

During 1970, the City Council accepted John's proposal to maintain the heraldic insignia of all New Zealand's governors-general at the Sign of the Takahe. John continued his interest in this project for many years.

The Sign of the Takahe was badly damaged during the Christchurch earthquakes but has since been restored. The Society is keen to

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John receiving his QSM in 1998 and speaking at the 2008 book launch "Port Hills—Protect & Enjoy".

organise a family day at the Sign of the Takahe for members later in the year.

John is also remembered for leading the battle against the establishment of the Gondola on the Mt Cavendish Reserve. This reserve had been gifted in perpetuity to the Nation by the Morton family in recognition of its botanical value. John stated that the desecration of the Mt Cavendish Scenic Reserve would be 'too high a price to pay' and that it would be difficult to resist future developments on the Port Hills. In the end, the Society lost the battle and Gondola was built. This led the Society to recognise that the best way to protect the Port Hills was to own the land itself. It now owns three reserves, Ohinetahi Bush Reserve, Omaha Bush Reserve and Gibraltar Rock Reserve.

John was also instrumental in forming the Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust, a separate trust specifically for bequests and donations. The aim of the trust is to purchase or otherwise acquire land on the Port Hills for conservation and to fund the ongoing maintenance of tracks, vegetation and facilities.

John was one of the foundation trustees. The first donation of



John with his family and nieces at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque to the opening of the Summit Road, Sign of the Kiwi, April 2009

\$1000 was made in 2002 by Al Fagerstrom, a visiting American professor who had fallen in love with the Port Hills.

In recognition of John's tremendous service to the Summit Road Society and the Port Hills, he was presented with a number of awards over the years. In 1983, he was presented with the Society's highest honour of Honorary Life Membership. In 1984, he was given the Nature Conservation Council Award for his role in forming the Summit Road Scenic Society. In 1996, he received a Civic Award for Community Service. He was nominated by both the Summit Road Society and the Personal Guiding Service. John also helped found the Personal Guiding Service (now Guided City Walks Christchurch) to showcase the history and beauty of Christchurch.

In 1998, John was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his work on the Summit Road and its reserves and his other public-spirited activities. Again he was nominated by the Summit Road Society and endorsed by the Personal Guiding Service.

In April 2009, John was the lead speaker for the unveiling of the plaque at the Sign of the Kiwi to mark 100 years since the turning of the first sod in the construction of the Summit Road.

John Jameson passed away on 30 March 2018 at the age of 97. He will be dearly missed by his children, grandchildren, friends and family. His was a life well lived and his contributions to the Port Hills, to the Summit Road Society and to the people of Christchurch will long be remembered.

The Hon Ruth Dyson wrote to the family following the news that John had passed away: 'He (and all your family) can be so proud of the achievements, leadership and stubborn determination to do the right thing for so many years. He made such a massive contribution to our region and we owe him a debt of gratitude'.



Founding trustees of the Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust; Maurice McGregor NZ 1990 Comm. Medal, Graham Densem, Gordon Kirk QSM, John Jameson QSM and Paul Loughton.

From the Secretary

For those of you who don't know me yet, my name is Marie Gray and I took over from John Goodrich as Secretary at the start of the year. John is now enjoying a well-earned retirement.

Just a bit about me—my family is from Lyttelton and I grew up walking the tracks around the Port Hills. I am married with two children, Matthew age 3 and Alex age 7. My eldest son Alex is a budding conservationist and we spend many a weekend bird watching, searching for bugs and going to environmental events around the community. My professional background is in human resources, advocacy and administration, including several years in the not-for-profit sector. I have been learning te reo Māori for about 18 years and am actively involved in my children's kura and kōhanga reo.

I have been in the role four months now. It has been a learning curve, there are so many people to meet and lots of things to learn. I want to extend a special thanks to John Goodrich for his kindness and patience in showing me the ropes. I am enjoying the challenge and really glad to be part of a Society that is making a real difference.

I would like to make special mention of John Jameson who sadly passed away on Good Friday. I never had the opportunity to meet John, though of course I had heard so much about him. I was privileged to attend his funeral. The Reverend Megan Herles-Mooar spoke about how John Jameson had lived his life by the philosophy, 'Service is the rent we pay for our place on this earth'. It made me reflect that we are very fortunate here in Christchurch to have had a champion like John. He worked tirelessly to pursue his grandfather's vision for the Port Hills and left a lasting legacy in the Summit Road Society. And we are fortunate to have had so many volunteers over the years who also subscribe to this philosophy of paying the rent.

It lifts my heart to walk the Port Hills reserves with my children and see the excitement on their faces as they spot fantails, tui, bellbirds, kererū and kahu soaring above. So on behalf of my children, thank you John.

Marie Gray



New Secretary Marie Gray with Alex (7 yrs) & Matthew (3 yrs)

Rakaia Field Trip – 4 March 2018

On a fine Sunday morning, 10 Society members set off for Dorie to visit Kai Tegels' and John Evans' farm. Their 271ha mixed farm is located 15 minutes from Rakaia. They specialise in vegetable seed production but in the rotation mix is also pasture for sheep and beef. They have planted 9000 trees on their farm for biodiversity and conservation purposes, which was the main reason for our visit.

Upon arrival, we jumped into the farm vans to visit the planting spots. We stopped briefly along the way to look at the different crops the farm grows. All in all, they grow 12 different types of crop. Many of the crops had already been harvested as we visited right in the middle of harvest time.

We stopped at several different planting sites around the farm, all at different stages of growth. Because Kai and John use bees to pollinate their crops and understood the importance of other beneficial insects, they started to plant shrubs and trees that would attract these insects. They started off with a project with Trees for Bees in 2012, followed by a Better Biodiversity project a year later. Since then, they have completed three more plantings, all dotted around the farm.

We were entertained by Steve Brailsford, a consultant specialising in tree crops, forestry and restoration based in Tai Tapu. Steve has worked closely with Kai and John on their planting programme. He spoke knowledgeably about the different plants, the planned approach they have taken to each planting and the importance of weed control for the first few years until the trees are well established. The goal is to create habitats for beneficial native insects. He pointed out an *olearia adenocapa* seedling (plains olearia or Canterbury plains tree daisy). This rare type of olearia is only found in South Canterbury and is ranked among the 50 most threatened New Zealand plants. A few years ago, a small population was rediscovered on Rakaia Island. Entomologist Brian Patrick also rediscovered a rare type of moth living among the plants.

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 <p>Summit Road Society (Inc) PO Box 37-115, Christchurch 8245 Website: www.summitroadsociety.org.nz Email: secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz</p>		
President	Bill Woods	03 318 4825
Vice-President	Jeremy Agar	328 9956
Secretary	Marie Gray	349 3409
Treasurer	Paul Loughton	322 7082
Board Members	Hamish Grant	928 2456
	Anne Kennedy	337 0364
	Melanie Coker	669 0336
	Paula Jameson	351 4221
Representatives	Selwyn District Council	Bill Woods 03 318 4825
	Spreydon/Cashmere	Less Sampson 021 772 929
	Banks Peninsula	Jed O'Donoghue 328 8481
	Linwood-Central-Heathcote	Darrell Latham 326 6195
	Port Hills Rangers	Paul Devlin 941 7570
	Eastenders work party	Graeme Paltridge 384 3592
	Ohinetahi work party	Anne Kennedy 337 0364
Omahu Bush work party	Ian Johnston 332 8319	
<p>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.</p>		

We stopped for lunch and a cup of tea at the old farmhouse. We had all brought packed lunches and a friend of Kai and John had baked us an apple cake which was quite delicious. This was followed by a visit to a well-established planting right next to the silos. We had an opportunity to peek inside the silos full of seed. After being processed, this seed will end up in the Netherlands.

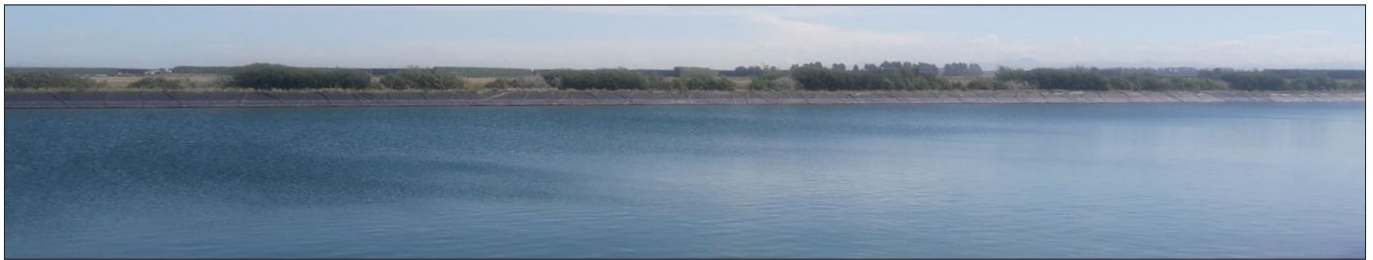
We finished with a visit to the irrigation pond. This is the most established site and was quite a sight to behold, a clear sparkling pond surrounded by native bush. Kai and John are leading the way among crop farmers in the area and showing the benefits of planting for biodiversity and conservation.

It was an enjoyable day with a great sense of camaraderie. Many thanks to Kai and John for hosting the day and to Steve for sharing his knowledge and experience. We are keen to go back in a year or so to see how those plantings are coming along.

Marie Gray



Inspecting the plantings



The irrigation pond surrounded by plantings

Predator Free Port Hills

In November 2106, the Summit Road Society announced the launch of our Predator Free Port Hills initiative. Our mission statement declares that our aim within five years is to place a trap in an average of every fifth residence in the urban fringes of the Port Hills, that is, from Taylors Mistake to Halswell and from Lyttelton to Purau.

We see saturation coverage of traps as entirely viable. This is because hillside residents share our ambition to restore native fauna—birds, lizards and insects. Having a trap in the garden takes little time and only a token amount of money for each household. The Society will provide traps on loan and subsidise traps for purchase.

Since our launch, two further developments have helped. The central government announced its aim of a Predator Free NZ by 2050, and we are now connected to like-minded groups throughout the country. You can see our joint efforts at Trap NZ. And locally we have partnered with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, whose ambition is for a predator-free Peninsula. Thus, immediately neighbouring urban and rural areas are united. Facilitating this, we're also partnered with CCC, DOC and ECan.

In our first year, with start-up funding from the Summit Road Society, we distributed 320 traps. Another independent group providing a further 100 traps now also gives its support to the Predator Free Port Hills concept. Some residents want to trap on other public land. You can do that through us. If you're looking to trap on CCC or DOC reserves, get in touch.

We ask that all trappers record their results with us and Trap NZ. If all the thousands of urban residents work together, we can amass enough data to know what works and what doesn't. We'll know where there are gaps in our coverage and thereby know

where to try to recruit more people. To co-ordinate efforts, we've set up groups in—so far, almost all—the hill suburbs, where local knowledge is so important.

If you'd like to join in, please get in touch with the Secretary and we can go over options for what traps suit your situation and connect you to the others in your neighbourhood. If you're already trapping, we ask that you let us know your results. Ideally we'd like to know where every trap is and how many nasties they've caught. Only with this sort of total knowledge can we realistically hope to achieve our goal.

Whether you want to trap yourself or not, there's another way to help. The Society relies on donations and funders, so we're always on the lookout for partners and sponsors. We have posters to publicize the initiative which we're looking to place with sponsoring schools, cafes, businesses, offices and individual households. Just \$50 will sponsor one trap.

Many hands will make light work and the bellbirds and kereru will thank you. Next thing we might see are some tui flying in from Banks Peninsula.

Jeremy Agar



A few of the traps we have on offer

Predator Free Port Hills T-shirt Design Competition



Entries close 31 May. If you have any kids or grandkids who might be interested, please see our Predator Free Port Hills Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PredatorFreePortHills



Midwinter Dinner

Sign of the Kiwi on the Summit Road
 Saturday 30 June 2018, 7.00pm
 \$45 per person for 3 course meal

As seating is limited, this is a priority invite for Society members. Please RSVP to the Secretary by 1 June
 Ph: 349 3409, text 027 4702020
 Email: secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz

Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust

The Trust was set up in 2002 and formally registered as a charity with the Charities Commission in 2008 (registered number: CC27183). Its purpose, as stated in its trust deed is:

‘To receive funds for the furtherance of the works of the Summit Road Society... 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.’

The Board is made up of a minimum of three members and a maximum of six, of which a majority should be Summit Road Society Board members. At its February meeting the Board agreed to make some changes to its membership. Graham Densem, who has been chair for the last four years resigned, Marie Gray was appointed as a trustee and as secretary, and John Goodrich was also appointed and elected as chairperson. We are pleased that the other trustees are happy to continue:- Paul Loughton (Treasurer), Jeremy Agar and Paul Tebbutt.

By now, Marie should need no introduction as she has very ably and enthusiastically taken over my role as Summit Road Society Secretary. However, members may not know that Graham has a long association with the Society and it’s appropriate here to acknowledge the contribution he has made, not least of which was as a founding trustee of the Harry Ell Trust, along with John Jameson (see separate article), Maurice McGregor, Gordon Kirk and Paul Loughton. Graham has written newsletters, organised outings, was involved in the 50th anniversary celebrations, and as a landscape architect with considerable experience of resource management issues, has been able to provide invaluable advice for the Society on numerous occasions.

I’m delighted to be able to continue with my involvement in the Society and its work. As far as routine trust business is concerned, our funds continue to grow, thanks to donations and bequests and I’d like to think we are embarking on a period of more proactive activity in contributing to the protection of the Port Hills and the ongoing work of the Summit Road Society.

Ngā mihi – **John Goodrich**



Paul Loughton, John Jameson and Graham Densem, July 2014

Condolences

The Society sends its condolences to the family of Leicester Fulford who sadly passed away in March 2018. Leicester was a hard working member of the Eastenders for over 10 years. He is remembered as a congenial fellow who always got on well with the rest of the team.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday 10 March at the Cashmere Presbyterian Church. It was a stormy night with wind, rain and hail and I grew concerned that the turnout would be poor. I needn't have worried as over fifty members and supporters attended.

President Bill Woods opened the meeting with a minute's silence to remember our Society's founder, John Jameson, and former President Maurice McGregor. The President then presented his report to members. It had certainly been a challenging year with the Port Hills fires but, as Bill summarised, 'When approached by people from all quarters about how the Society would handle the situation, I reassured them that nature was very resilient and what's more the Summit Road Society is very resilient as well. This disaster has certainly proven the resilience of the Society. The disaster was put behind us and immediately action was taken to set about making the necessary decisions to make the most of restoration.'

Treasurer Paul Loughton tabled the 2017 financial report and highlighted the main points. The Society's finances are in good order and we are thankful for the many donations received in 2017.

Anne Kennedy presented her report on Ohinetahi Reserve. It was a year of extremes with the fires in February, heavy rains in July and the long hot dry in November. However, through it all, the team carried on. Thanks to the assistance of many groups and individuals, nearly 5000 trees were planted last winter. The team also continued with the regular work of clearing weeds and maintaining tracks.

Ian Johnston presented his report on Omahu Bush. The main project of clearing the broom and gorse around Gibraltar Rock is nearing completion. Omahu also has a very active trapping programme and the team had caught a total of 94 predators over the year.

I presented the Eastenders report on behalf of Graeme Paltridge. A highlight was the reopening of the Taylor's Mistake track that had been closed since the earthquakes. The team spent several days bringing this track up to standard.

Following each of the work party reports, there was applause from Society members to acknowledge the tremendous effort these volunteers put in week in, week out. The full reports and accounts are available on the Society's website, www.summitroadsociety.org.nz

We then moved on to the Election of Officers. All existing Board members were re-elected. Please see the table for a full list of Board members including contact details.

Following the AGM, we were delighted to welcome John Clemens who spoke on the topic "Herbicides: a necessary evil?" John examined the questions:

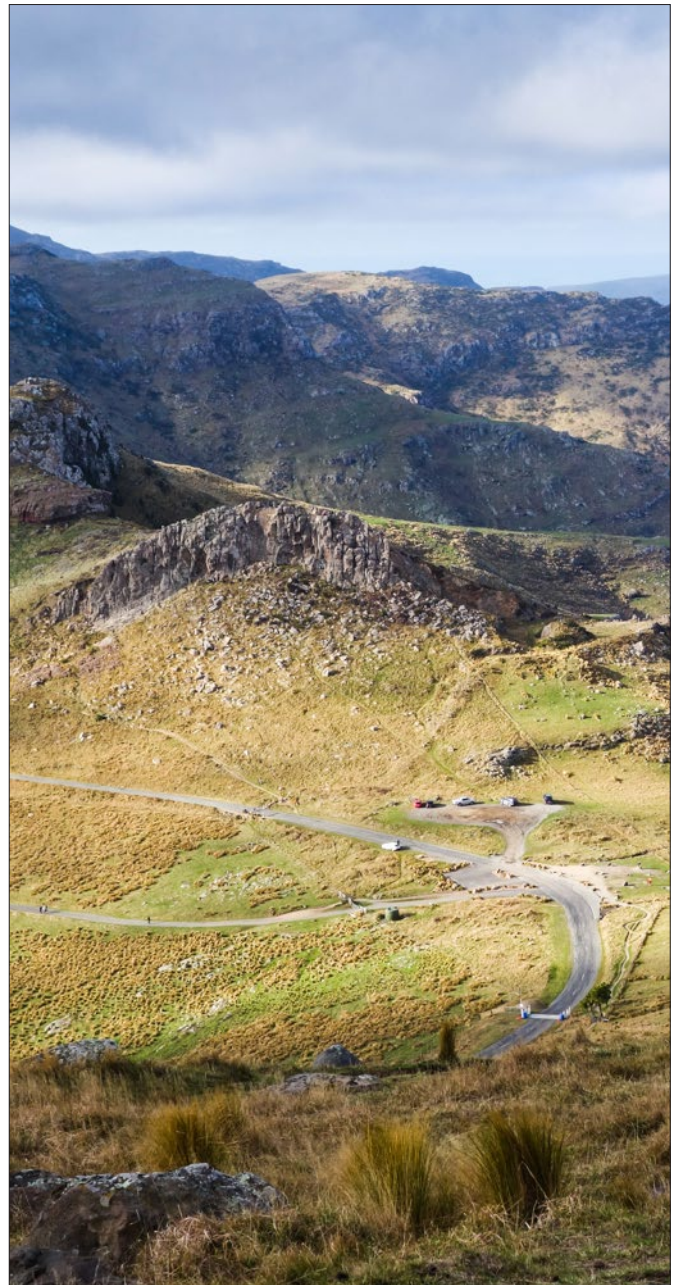
- ❑ Is weed control necessary?
- ❑ Are herbicides necessary or are there alternative control methods?
- ❑ If we accept that herbicides are necessary, how do we best choose and use them?

John outlined the different approaches to weed management, both modern and historical, including alternative weed control methods and accepting a different outcome. He then talked in detail about herbicides, in particular glyphosate, and summarised the evidence on the risks and benefits. I found it an interesting, evidence-based discussion that prompted me to think through the issues for myself.

Following John's presentation, Bill Woods and Paul Loughton gave a moving talk about John Jameson, his achievements over the years and in particular his contribution to the Summit Road Society and the Port Hills.

We finished with a light supper. Most attendees stayed and in fact we didn't finish until well after 10pm. It was a great opportunity for Society members to catch up with old friends and meet like-minded people. I concluded that next year I need to buy more biscuits! All in all, it was a very successful AGM.

Marie Gray





Ohinetahi Reserve Restoration after the Fires

The fires of February 2017 had a devastating impact on Ohinetahi with 83 hectares of land burnt and decades of conservation work undone. However, in true Kiwi spirit, the troops rallied. Almost 5000 trees were planted in winter 2017—630 trees for Sally Tripp's special planting project and a further 4300 trees to replace the lost vegetation. Many thanks to everyone who helped achieve this—the Student Volunteer Army, Aurecon, NZ Rogaining Association, Kaiapoi Long Walkers Club, Westie Walkers, Steve Muir's church-based group, Pioneer Tramping Club, Forest and Bird, Andy, Diane, and Miriam plus many others who also came. Thanks too to Ged, a neighbour of the reserve, who carried stakes and plant cages up to our boundary on his farm bike. It was truly an extraordinary effort.

Then came November and the big dry—days of 25 degrees plus and no rain. Our new plants were looking rather jaded and dying. We put out a call for people to water them through Facebook and email and were thoroughly amazed and grateful at the response as people carried water down to the plants. We lost some but others came through this dry spell remarkably well.

Luckily we've had regular rain from December onwards. This has also meant the weeds have come away. In April we organised a weeding day with the Student Volunteer Army. We were also joined by six students from St Martins School who are completing their William Pike Challenge. We were blessed with fine weather and spent the morning pulling weeds that had grown inside and around the plastic cages protecting the seedlings. It was tough work at times, especially on the steep sections but there was a great sense of camaraderie. The volunteers were particularly taken with the view out over the harbour. We hope to organise another planting day in winter with the Student Volunteer Army.



Volunteers weeding the plantings at Ohinetahi

Sally's Plot

Sally and Dick Tripp have been friends and staunch supporters of the Summit Road Society for many years now. Sally is our 'resident' fern expert and, with Rosemary Koller, produced the book 'Ferns of the Port Hills' in 2010. Not content with Dick and herself investing lots of time and effort weeding, planting and trapping on their own property in Governors Bay, Sally offered in November 2016 to make a substantial donation to the Society for a planting project at Ohinetahi. 'My motivation for planting trees is really my concern for the health of the planet. Planting trees is one the best ways we can counter the increasing effects of climate change. I want in a small way to leave the world in better place for my grandchildren. To have a designated area would be something that they can come to see how the trees are growing'.

Sally committed to contribute funds over three years to cover the costs of plants for the restoration of bush habitat in the Reserve. Pre-fire, the location on Cass Ridge was identified by Anne Kennedy and approved by Sally as the most suitable option out of a number of options considered. This area was originally in grass, and despite being affected by the fires, remained the most suitable site for this project. We planted 630 trees in winter 2017 and intend to plant similar numbers in 2018 and 2019.

This is an excellent example of how contributions can be made for a specific project. Whilst not everyone is in a position to donate money, the contribution of time is equally valuable and the volunteer hours that come from Society members truly helps to 'enhance, preserve and protect' the Port Hills.



A ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) with Mt Herbert as a backdrop

Omahu Bush

The team at Omahu have been keeping busy with track maintenance and weed control. Their main project for the last year has been clearing the area around Gibraltar Rock of gorse and broom and this is nearing completion. They also widened Rhodes Track to enable access for the 4WD lawn mower, and are working hard to clear the area of gorse and blackberry. They noted good success using the scrub cutter blades on the weed eaters which work well on easy terrain such as tracks.



The team hard at work widening Rhodes Track

Omahu Bush Predator Control

The Predator Free Port Hills and Predator Free 2050 initiatives have brought about a renewed interest in Predator Control at Omahu Bush. The Trapping Team now consists of members, Helen Hills, Paul Tebbutt, and Greg Gimblett together with recent recruits, Richard Crouch and Brent Williams in 2018.

Recent monitoring (chew cards) has identified the overwhelming presence of possums in the reserve. Recent funding received has enabled us to concentrate our efforts on the installation of an additional 40 Sentinel traps, specifically to target possums. In the first two weeks of having 20 traps in place, we have trapped 4 possums compared with 6 the whole previous year.

Additional Modified Victor Tunnels (Rats and Mice) have also been more widely distributed throughout the reserve, and continue to trap these predators.

On completion of the Sentinel trap installation in the next month, trap numbers will be at 175, an 85% increase on 2017. Monthly checking now involves at least three people per visit, 'an enjoyable walk in the park'. Anyone who is interested is welcome to tag along. Although not a stoat and weasel habitat, we continue to trap them in our DOC 200 traps, in addition to hedgehogs and rats.

Fallow Deer have been observed in the Reserve, as have wild pigs. Pigs, being the scavengers they are,



Gibraltar Rock, the gorse has been cleared on the right hand side

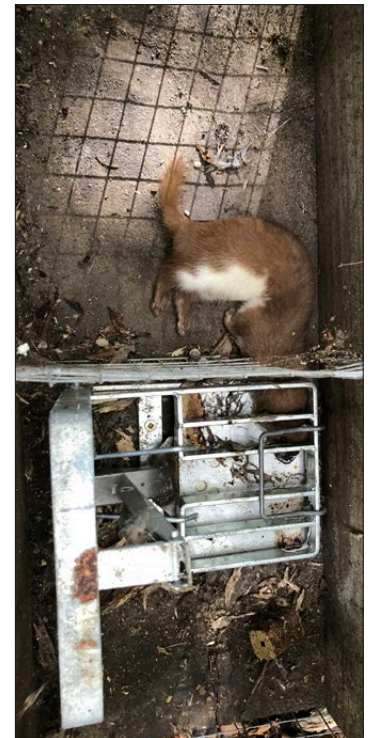
remove all evidence of our kills from the Good Nature self-setting traps. It is hoped that a co-ordinated cull with CCC and other land owners will take place this winter.

Kereru, fantails and bellbirds are in evidence in good numbers within Omahu, and we hope to continue to see increases in their numbers as the trapping programme reaches its peak.

Greg Gimblett



Our first kill with the new Sentinel trap within a week.



Always great to see a Weasel in our DOC 200 trap.

Omahu Bush Fencing

One of our neighbours at Omahu Bush, Ahuriri Farm, is replacing the fencing around their entire property. As deer is a significant issue at Omahu, this has provided the perfect opportunity to upgrade our boundary fence to a deer fence. The first posts were delivered on 18 April and this fence should be completed within the next month or so.

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Keith Taege from Taege Engineering unloading the posts



Eastenders

The Eastenders team have been hard at work upgrading the 'Eastenders Track' in Barnett Park (Moncks Bay). Over several working bees, they cleared out earth toe drains, installed new timber box drains and resurfaced the track. They also tackled the remains of a large slip that came down across the track a few years ago, and brought down some very large boulders. This was a fantastic effort given that much of this work was completed in the heat of summer. Coming into autumn, the team continued their work to improve the track, cutting back vegetation, clearing weeds and grass, and assisting in the demolition of an old culvert bridge.



Upgrading Eastenders track



One of the boulders blocking the track

Kids Talk

Anne Kennedy, Mum and I went up to Ohinetahi Reserve. We went up Titoki Track, Ngaio Track and O'Farrells Track. We saw a family of pīwaiwaka (fantails) and some other birds like korimako (bellbirds), kererū (wood pigeons) and pīpiwharaua (shining cuckoos). As we went, Anne was teaching us about the different plants and trees in the reserve. She showed us what stinging nettle looks like and the difference between thistle and gorse. Some of the native plants we saw on our journey were five-finger, mānuka, cabbage trees, māhoe, poroporo and coprosmas. I tried to trick Anne by putting an extra leaf on the five-finger to make a new species called the six-finger tree. The blackberries we found along the track were delicious. All up we walked about two hours and had a really good time there.

Alex Gray (age 7 years)

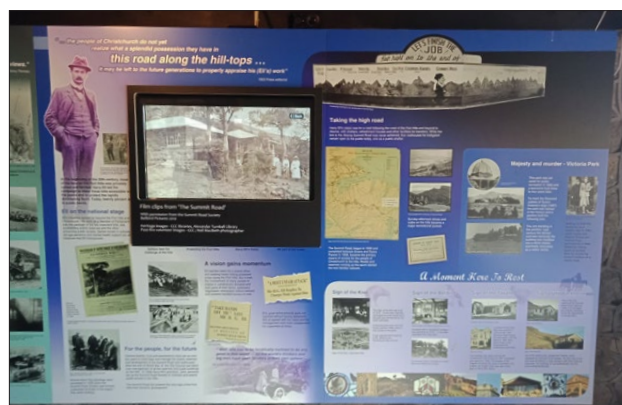
From the Secretary: I would like to include a kids' column each newsletter. If you have any children or grandchildren that might like to write about their experiences up on the Port Hills, please send them through. Don't forget to take photos!



Alex on O'Farrells Track overlooking the harbour

Victoria Park Visitor Centre Display

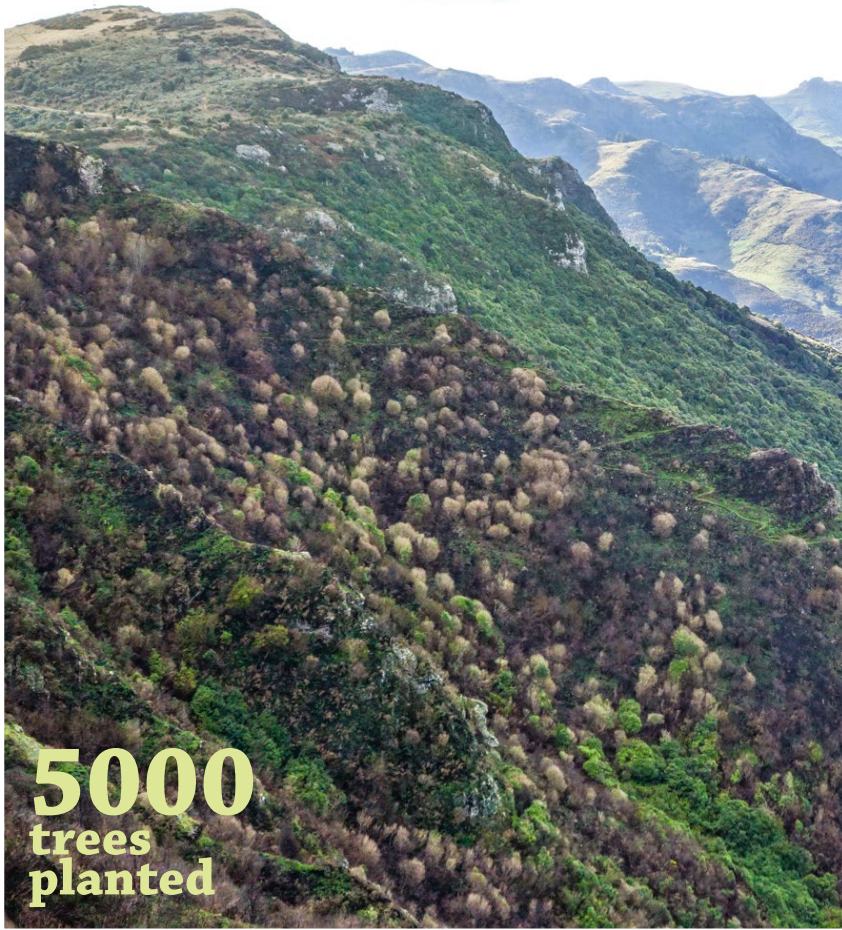
The Summit Road display at the Victoria Park Visitor Centre is up and running again. It's well worth a visit. The display provides information about Harry Ell, his vision for the Summit Road and the four rest houses. The display also includes excerpts from our DVD *The Summit Road* including interviews with the late John Jameson and Gordon Ogilvie.



The Summit Road display at the Victoria Park Visitor Centre

Ohinetahi

back from the ashes



5000
trees
planted



**...and many,
many volunteer
hours.
Thank you!**

