



a passion for the Port Hills

Newsletter, May 2010

Paul Loughton: Award of Honorary Life Membership

Paul has been a life member and Treasurer of the Summit Road Society Incorporated since 1986 and currently serves on the Board and its Executive Committee. Paul has been the Society's representative on the Advisory Committee of the Summit Road Protection Authority since 1999.

He was the Society's representative on the Port Hills 2000 Funding and Promotions Committee from August 1997 to 2000, a sub-committee of Turning Point 2000. Projects to celebrate and mark the Millennium included the penguin colony at Godley Head, a medicinal garden and planting in the Whakaraupo Reserve and the start of a future Crater Rim native forest.

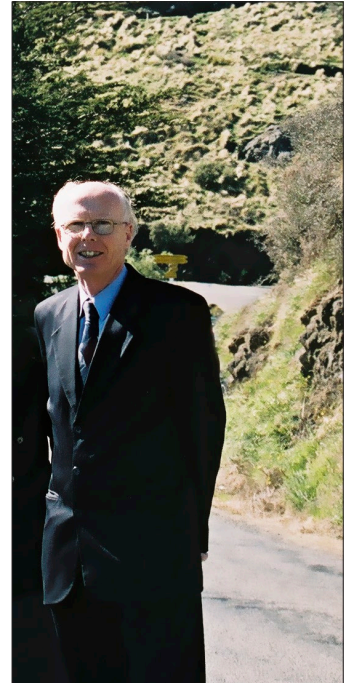
He assisted the late Gordon Kirk with the planning, legal requirements and implementation of the purchase of Ohinetahi Bush.

Paul was responsible for the design and layout of the Society's publication '50 Years Along the Road,' a history of the Society, researched and written by his wife Jennifer Loughton.

During 2002 he was instrumental in the formation of the Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust. The primary purpose of this trust is to raise funds through donations and bequests for future Port Hills land acquisition for protection and maintenance.

Paul has been involved with a wide variety of land management, protection and acquisition issues affecting the Summit Road and the Port Hills. He assisted the Kennedys Bush Road Neighbourhood Association Incorporated with their opposition to Plan Change 20 and more recently their successful opposition to rezoning the land between the top of Kennedys Bush Road, Early Valley Road and the Summit Road.

The Christchurch City Council awarded him a Civic Award for Services to the Community in 2002 following his nomination by the Society.



The 2010 Annual General Meeting

This was held on Wednesday March 17. Reports from the President and Treasurer, as well as our workparty reports were distributed (these will shortly all be on our website). Special mention was made of three Board members who were stepping down—Robin Collie, Geoff Bendall and Ron Ricketts but Robin will continue his huge contribution in the Ohinetahi Reserve, and Geoff will continue his work coordinating the East Enders, and Ron will still be seen on the Victoria Park visitor centre, so we haven't really lost them!

One new Board member was elected—**John Hayman** (left), a member of the Ohinetahi work party. He tells us something about his background this way:

"I was brought up on a farm near Waimate and attended Waimate High School. Next door to the school was the Kirk Brothers Dairy Factory, and I believe Gordon Kirk was one of those brothers. After studying agricultural science at Lincoln College (now University), I spent 8 years working on agricultural projects in India and Indonesia. I followed this with 20 years at the Ministry of Agriculture, researching irrigation and pasture management in Canterbury. After being made redundant in 1991 at age 54, I built a greenhouse and grew tomatoes for the market.

I have been a keen trumper since my 40's and have gradually gained more and more interest in the environment. As a trumper I have benefited tremendously from all the tracks on the Port Hills, so since retirement I have tried to contribute to their maintenance through the track working parties.

I am a keen reader of science issues and over the last 5 years have become more and more alarmed at the potential for catastrophe if we don't do something serious to prevent global warming. Some of the world's leading climate scientists predict that if the world continues with present and projected levels of greenhouse gas production, sea level will rise by up to a metre each 25 years for several centuries, as it has done in the past. That would spell the end to Christchurch and most of the world's coastal cities, and a great deal of the most productive farmland. One small way to counter this problem is to encourage the growth of trees, and the maintenance of biodiversity, hence another reason to support the Summit Road Society."



Promotional Update

We have recently reviewed and updated the Society website, and are doing so yet again as this is written. You haven't looked yet? Go to:

www.summitroadsociety.org.nz

Next, you will be saying you haven't purchased our booklet *Port Hills—Protect and Enjoy* for just \$20, post paid!

We also now have some business cards with all our contact details, and room to add your own. So far, they have been used by Board members to hand out as a promotional tool. Would you like some to help us promote the Society? Free!! Contact the Secretary.

The Society is also working on a DVD to be produced by Bellbird Pictures, which will feature some of the Society's main contributors over the years. It will be similar in approach to that produced for Lindsey and Siggie Sigglecow at the Sign of the Kiwi, who are leaving after 25 years of sterling service. If you are interested in this DVD of the Sigglecow family, it can be purchased at the Kiwi.

Would you like the Secretary or someone from the Board to come and talk at a meeting of your club or society? Free!! Contact the Secretary.

The City Council Open Space Strategy

This was an extremely important discussion document issued by the Council, inviting comments about the future of the open space in and around the city. The Society made a detailed submission, and we hope you did too.



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President	Bill Woods	03 318 4825
Vice-President	Jeremy Agar	328 9956
Secretary	Jeff Long	384 8463
Treasurer	Paul Loughton	322 7082
Board Members	Tony Edney	329 9868
	John Hayman	335 0984
	Anne Kennedy	377 0364
	Paul Tebbutt	384 3086
	Mike White	03 312 1551
<i>Honorary Life Member</i>	John Jameson	354 5925
Representatives		
Selwyn District Council	Annette Foster	347 8651
Hagley/Ferrymead	John Freeman	326 6406
Lytelton/Mt Herbert	Jeremy Agar	328 9956
Port Hills Rangers	Paul Devlin	332 5627
Eastenders work party	Geoff Bendall	384 9254
Ohinetahi	Mike White	03 312 1551
Weekenders	Ron Ricketts	337 3544

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.

Quick Quiz

Where on the Port Hills can you find the following engraved in wood, stone or metal?

- ☞ 1. Let us march on singing ever. The road will tire us less.
- ☞ 2. Fountain donated in 1914 by ...
- ☞ 3. Jog on, jog on, the foot-path way, And merrily hent the stile-a: A merry heart goes all the day, Your sad tires in a mile-a.
- ☞ 4. "...gazed with awe but with courage at the hills and plains of Canterbury..."
- ☞ 5. Blow out, you bugles, over the rich dead..."

Answers back page

New Ohinetahi Pamphlet

For some time the Society has been working on a revamped brochure for our fantastic Ohinetahi Reserve. Now, thanks to a grant from the Eureka Trust, we have been able to complete the project and, as I write this, the final product is with the printers. All going well, you will find a copy with this Newsletter. We hope you like it. Other copies will be made available, free of charge, at various Council service centres and around Lyttelton and Governors Bay. With luck, we might even attract some new members!

Stan (Frank) Robinson

I would like to place on record the dedicated service that Stan Robinson gave over many years, to protect, enhance and develop the Summit Road/Port Hills and reserves that we can all enjoy as city dwellers today.

Stan was a professional town planner, serving in that capacity on the old regional council. It was Stan, in the 1960's, who formulated and promoted the Summit Road Protection Act, and had a long connection with the Advisory Committee to the Summit Road Protection Authority, set up under that Act.

He was also a long-serving member of the Summit Road Society, serving as President for several years and a Board member for many years. We valued his input immensely, especially his ideas around hill work parties, our own land purchase at Ohinetahi, and the setting up of the Harry Ell Memorial Trust.

I was closely associated with Stan's desire to protect the integrity of scenic reserves New Zealand wide, and I counted on his advice in campaigning against commercial development of the Port Hills reserves. We lost the battle over the gondola development, but the result was further strengthening of the Summit Road Act to the point we are at now.

Stan's advice was always readily available, and it was a joy to see him along at our Summit Road annual meetings until last year. Our sympathy goes out to his family at this time.

John Jameson

(Postscript: Stan has left a bequest of \$10,000 to the Society in his Will, a hugely generous gesture which the Society will no doubt put towards an ongoing legacy.)

Eastenders Report for the 2009-10 Year

The work over the year, as usual, has been varied and ranged from Omaha Bush to Sumnervale. Good attendances have been maintained but, especially through the winter, work was disrupted because of bad weather, with seven outings cancelled. Nevertheless, we have managed to keep up with what needed to be done, and the usual enthusiasm and hard work of individuals continues.

The main project for the year was probably the planting under Meridian Energy's "Project Red" in Barnett Park. Christchurch City Council has come to an arrangement whereby Meridian will fund plantings in the park over a five year period. Meridian staff are also involved on a voluntary basis for the actual plantings. We assisted CCC ranger staff with site preparation and carrying plants to the site, as well as the actual plantings for 2009. Sites were prepared and about 900 trees were carried up and planted over a 6 day period in August, for a total of 120 man hours. Nearly all group members were involved on at least one day of the operation. We also received some generous assistance in delivering plants to the site by a group of women walkers who were enthusiastic about the work.

The usual Arbour Day preparations did not involve us last year as Ranger staff tried a new method, but it seemed to make plantings more difficult for the age group involved. Another outing was connected to "Cleanup Christchurch" week, and we volunteered our services to clear rubbish on the Summit Road from the junction of Mt Pleasant Road to Castle Rock. As well as getting plenty of exercise, those who assisted collected 150kg (22 bags) of glass, bottles cans etc plus seven car tyres and a variety of car parts—possibly enough to assemble a car—of sorts!

Upgrading work on the lower Kahukura and Quarry tracks was completed and maintenance continued at Barnett Park, Whakaraupo and Omaha Bush, the latter including installation of guard rails on two bridges. In addition to normal work days, there were some tasks requiring only two

or three hands and these took place as and when required. Turnout on normal days has averaged 20 per outing indicating a hardcore of willing hands.

Another trip to Hinewai will have been completed by the time of this meeting, a group of 9 having volunteered to assist with woody weed clearance at the reserve over a 3 day period.

Group numbers have remained relatively static over the year and, as usual, some have found the problems of age restricting their abilities. Unfortunately, Section leader Ken Rossiter, a stalwart for many years, has been laid up and awaits knee surgery. We look forward to his return in due course.

To conclude, I would like to thank all those involved in the group for their cheerful and willing work over the year. Also, thanks to the Board and Society members for their support and to Paul Devlin, Nick Singleton and Di Carter and their staff at Port Hills Ranger Station for their unfailing help and support.

Geoff Bendall

Convenor

(Note from the Secretary: I slipped up in not sending this annual report to members, but now it has its due attention)



Eastenders BBQ

More Tuis?

Last year, the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust relocated some Tuis from Maud Island to Hinewai Reserve. The plan is to capture (hopefully) another 30 birds for relocation this year. The Society made a donation last year, but this year the Board would like to increase our contribution, with the help of members. If we can gather \$500, we can then name our own Tui! For \$10 or more, you can forward your preferred name to the Society Secretary and a specially qualified group of Board members will select the preferred name.



PHOTO COURTESY HELEN LEACH

Remember that we don't know if the bird will be male or female, although we may be able to choose. Donations and suggested names for our bird please to the Secretary at PO Box 17-719, Christchurch 8081.

Society Archives gifted to the Christchurch City Libraries

Some time ago, the Board decided that the Society's archival material could perhaps be better catalogued and cared for by an organisation which had the appropriate skills and facilities. After considering the Canterbury Museum (who were not really interested) and Archives NZ, the option chosen was to gift the material to the Christchurch City Libraries. As it happens, it was also a very logical choice, as the Libraries also hold the Harry Ell archival material.

We have agreed that the Council may copy and make available the material, either in paper or electronic form, and will hopefully make some of the more important material available on their website.

The last the Secretary saw of the material was fifteen cartons disappearing from his garage into a small City Council library vehicle!

Did you know that the Society now has a Biodiversity Policy as part of its Strategic Plan?

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS
To promote, protect and enhance the biodiversity values of indigenous ecosystems of the Port Hills and specifically the Summit Road Society owned and managed land.	Promote Port Hills biodiversity activities	Include biodiversity topics in articles (SRS, community newsletters & local newspapers). Website publicity SRS, DOC, Online groups. Displays/presentations at biodiversity related events. Attendance of members at biodiversity events.
	Protect Port Hills biodiversity values	Endorse the CRC & CCC Biodiversity strategies where they pertain to the Port Hills. Advocate the strategy to authorities, community and landowners as required. Adopt a biodiversity plan for SRS owned and managed land, consistent with the local government biodiversity goals and our reserve management plans.
	Enhance Port Hills biodiversity values	Liaise with biodiversity professionals for advice and resources. Seek DOC funding for biodiversity enhancement on our Reserves. Recruit and utilise members with biodiversity interest. Continue existing biodiversity work on Reserves.

Trip to Barnett Park

On Saturday March 27 a dozen members set off on a quiet walk around the Barnett Park track, enjoying the nice day and admiring the track and planting work carries out by the East Enders. We then met up with Topsy Rule from the Sumner Historical Association, who told us about the various activities around Barnett Park and the vicinity, with pictures mainly from Mr Monck’s diaries and newspapers of the time. After that it was a short walk to the Moncks Bay cave, where Topsy gave us another talk about the cave and the dig she was involved in when the City Council landscaped the area.

Then it was time for a hot drink at a Sumner café before visiting the Sumner Museum, where Topsy gave us another talk about various items and resources available. Most impressive ! If you haven’t been to this museum, you should make a point of visiting, and leave several hours!

Entrance to Ohinetahi Reserve



Enjoying a delicious breakfast at the Governors Bay Hotel



Breakfast at Governors Bay Hotel & Ohinetahi wander

A nice-sized group of about 30 met for breakfast at the Governors Bay Hotel on Sunday November 29 last year. It was the same day as a major rugby game, so we could nip next door and see how NZ was faring! The food was very good, the service was friendly and efficient, and it got our Sunday off to a good start.

After breakfast, those who were feeling like some exercise walked or drove up Ernest Adams Drive to the entranceway to the Ohinetahi Reserve. John Jameson and Mike White gave us some details of the ‘Gordon’s Garden’ (named after Gordon Kirk) of native plantings, then the more energetic members followed Mike up Titoki Track and then down Ngaio Track.

The bush was in great shape, and the amount of work which the Ohinetahi Tuesday group had put into constructing and maintaining these tracks was very impressive. They are always keen to welcome new members to their Tuesday sojourns—why not give it a go?



Answers to Quick Quiz

1. On the east wall of the Sign of the Takahe.
2. Rhodes Spring near Gibraltar Rock.
3. Above the outside entrance of the Sign of the Kiwi.
4. Pioneer Women’s Memorial at the top of the Bridle Path.
5. WWI Memorial on top of Witch Hill.