



ANNUAL REVIEW

Year ended 30 June 2016

Draft V3 - updated with final figures

Chairman's message

I'm proud of the strides the Trust has made this year. Building on the foundation work of its first few years, the Trust has achieved major milestones progressing its four pillars; access, biodiversity, knowledge and partnership, and its profile in the community is building through its positive actions.

Our flagship project, the walkway from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop, gained a new name this year - Te Ara Pātaka. We thank the four peninsula rūnanga for working together to come up with such an appropriate name for this mighty track linking the two craters of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū. Te Ara Pātaka and its network of feeder tracks is now promoted on the DOC website and many people are using it. I'm proud of the leadership role that we have taken on this project and with the excellent working relationship we have developed with DOC, trampers and landowners en route.



*Simon Mortlock
Trust Chair*

Two successful projects have held formal openings this year. First the Rod Donald Hut serving Te Ara Pātaka formally opened in November, blessed into being by kaumātua James Robinson and a large gathering of agency and community members including Rod Donald's family. Then in February, the Trust joined with NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust and Hinewai Reserve staff to formally open Purple Peak Curry Reserve to an equally enthusiastic gathering.

The hut continues to progress our kaupapa across the pillars. It has experienced a high level of visitation, particularly by Christchurch families and youth – the Trust's principal target; it is surrounded by regenerating biodiversity protected by a QEII covenant, and we are developing knowledge in our novice users through informational signage. The hut has been well received by the community, creating goodwill and respect for the Trust.

Purple Peak Curry Reserve also progresses the four pillars. The Hinewai team has created the best walking track in Akaroa, as featured on the Trust's updated walking publications and website. The reserve is full of biodiversity surprises and could not be in better hands than those of Hugh Wilson and the Hinewai team who are managing it on behalf of its North Island based owners, the NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust.

We certainly succeeded in getting the public out into the environment this year. Both openings included large groups of people tramping through covenanted land with knowledgeable guides, and November's Banks Peninsula Walking Festival broadened this form of active public education right across the Peninsula on a whole host of topics delivered by passionate local guides.

I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Trust this year by working on our projects, enjoying our events or getting out and appreciating Banks Peninsula more as a result of our efforts. My thanks go to my fellow Trustees for entrusting me with the chairmanship of the Trust and especially to Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao who joined the Trust this year and have stepped up to the challenge magnificently. They, along with the existing Trustees, have brought many and varied strengths to the Board, worked hard to review quantities of material across our wide range of projects and made wise decisions. They've also helped to move the Trust forward in its governance, relationships and brought immense knowledge to the table. We also could not have managed without our manager, Suky Thompson, and, new on the scene, her assistant Sarah Pritchett, both of who beaver away on Banks Peninsula where they live and which they love. We will be sad to say goodbye to Stewart Miller who retires as a Trustee this year, having served the Trust since its inception and contributing his deep knowledge of Banks Peninsula, farming and local government.

Management Report

Back in February 2012, the Trust developed its first “Five Year Strategic Plan”. With a wonderful set of objectives in its deed, lofty aspirations to lead, link and influence, and an almost blank sheet of paper it decided to expend its capital to leave an enduring legacy and set a guideline threshold that up to 40% be used in the first five years.

In the subsequent three years it adopted a set of projects furthering its four pillars, working with others to maximise its use of capital and taking advantage of its adaptability to seize opportunities and to step in where others could not.

2015-16 has been the fourth year of that plan, and one in which the Trust has focussed on progressing the key projects underway rather than looking for new directions. Te Ara Pātaka, Rod Donald Hut, Purple Peak Curry Reserve, Panama Reserve and our walking publications have all made huge progress. We now run both the hut and our publications as “self-funding cost centres”, expecting the revenue they bring in to cover their running costs, and are pleased that they are proving popular enough to pay for themselves. Financial sustainability of projects, such as reserves, is important to the Trust, and in our work with partners, this is something we are also looking to achieve. The Trustees were sufficiently impressed with the strides that Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Orton Bradley Park have made to continue grant funding them to further their goals and ensure their good work has a strong future. Similarly, we have helped fund the Governors Bay Jetty Restoration Trust’s work to fundraise for the jetty restoration, a key icon of Lyttelton Harbour and a focal point for the Lyttelton Head to Head Walkway, and a new book about the area. Our finances moved to the Xero accounting system giving us the ability to match our accounts to our business model. I’d like to thank our accountant David Jessep and his staff for their patience as we worked to develop this.



*Suky Thompson
Trust Manager*

We learnt an enormous amount from the Rod Donald Hut project: about working with DOC; working sustainability in remote and ecologically fragile areas; and the desire of Christchurch people to explore Banks Peninsula. Visitors have praised the hut for its high standards and to date users have been immensely respectful. It has proved a wonderful tool to get young people out into the environment. We were delighted when a group from Youthtown, including some who had never tramped before, walked there in April, and then shared their delightful photographs with us.

We’ve also built up a network of colleagues in partner organisations and professional contractors with an in-depth understanding of what we aim to achieve, making us an effective partner on joint projects. Hence we’ve been the prime contractor to DOC to waymark and upgrade Te Ara Pātaka, jobs that became urgent once the word had spread about this wonderful track. We are pleased that waymarking and track improvements are nearing completion, directional signage is not far away and a simple brochure and trail head maps are also in development. Interpretation is moving at a slower pace but with the new name in places we are developing interpretation focus groups and an overall plan. This is not something to be rushed, and we have many of the more practical steps along the track to get through first.

The payoff of from our work on advocacy this year is already apparent. As changes are made, particularly with the District Plan, it should be easier to implement projects encouraging the public to experience the peninsula in an environmentally sustainable manner and enhance its biodiversity.

I’m pleased that all up our achievements this year have only depleted the Trust’s capital by \$148,000, \$73,000 of which was used for donations to community organisations. The Trust itself runs economically with its contract staff FTE of about 1.2 workers.

I would like to thank the Trustees for their support and huge voluntary contribution, my assistant, Sarah Pritchett, for coming up to speed on a huge variety of tasks, the other professional contractors who have contributed their particular skills with such enthusiasm and commitment to the Trust’s work and the many people in our partner organisations who have supported the Trust this year.

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1 Introduction

This Annual Review document accompanies the Trust's Annual Report, telling its performance story for the financial year of 2015-16. The Trust has also issued its annual newsletter "Storehouse Stories" in late May this year, presenting similar information in a more "newsy" manner with many images of the performance story described below. Readers wishing to gain a broad and deep understanding of the Trust's work this year are recommended to read both Storehouse Stories and the Annual Report after reading this Annual Review to fully appreciate the progress the Trust has made this year and its financial position at the year close.

2 Governance and Management

There was a significant change in Trust governance this year, as three of the initial Trustees, including Chair Garry Moore, stepped down at the end of the 2014-15 financial year. Three new Trustees, Chrissie Williams, Debbie Tikao and Cynthia Roberts took up office and Simon Mortlock took the role of Chair.

The management of the Trust continued to be provided by external contractor Peninsula Projects, with its principal, Suky Thompson, continuing in the role of Trust Manager. Peninsula Projects has in turn sub-contracted to Sarah Pritchett who has acted as the Trust's assistant manager during the year. The management service includes both day to day operational management of the Trust and managing its projects.

The Trust has met as a full Board 7 times during the year, including a field trip to Purple Peak Curry Reserve and the Rod Donald Hut combined with a strategic planning session.

As the year draws to a close, the Trust prepares to farewell initial Trustee Stewart Miller who retires at the end of his term. Stewart has been a co-opted Trustee for the past 3 years, and as the Trust has more than its required number of Trustees, there is no need to replace him immediately. The Trust will appoint an appropriate person in the fullness of time. In the meantime, his outstanding knowledge and experience of Banks Peninsula and his strong links with the rural community will be missed.

2.1 Financial management

At the start of the financial year, the Trust took full control of its financial management, transferring ownership of its bank accounts from Christchurch City Council staff to the Trustees and its accounting service to independent accountants DJCA. This enabled the Trust to manage its financial affairs directly through the online Xero system. While this has required considerable work to set up, it is now proving its worth as the Trust has structured its financial reporting to match its own business model and can generate reports and gain near instant access to its financial position.

2.2 Legal services

The Trust has retained the firm of Mortlock McCormack to act as its legal advisor. Under the arrangement, work done by Trustee Simon Mortlock is pro-bono, and work by the staff at cost. This generous arrangement with Mortlock McCormack has ensured that the Trust has had access to legal advice as necessary. The Trust thanks Mortlock McCormack for use of its boardroom for meetings and lawyer Michael O'Flaherty for his assistance during the year with reviewing Health and Safety plans and preparation of legal documents.

2.3 Health and Safety

The Trust has been mindful of Health and Safety issues throughout the year. Although the Trust does not have any employees or provide a defined workplace, it does have involvement in particular areas of Banks Peninsula and holds itself responsible for individuals that are engaged in activities directly or indirectly provided by the Trust.

The Trust has included safety information in all its walking publications, developed a Health and Safety Plan for its hut, and adopted a Health and Safety plan to cover its practices under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

3 Major projects in progress and attendant relationships

Major projects forming the bulk of the Trust's work this year have included:

- Te Ara Pātaka¹
- Rod Donald Hut
- Purple Peak Curry Reserve
- Banks Peninsula Walking Festival
- Lyttelton Head to Head walkway
- Updating Walking products
- New brochures for Lyttelton
- Panama Reserve

Each of these projects furthers different aspects of the Trust's pillars of *Access*, *Biodiversity*, *Knowledge* and *Partnership*, as should be apparent from the further explanations below.

3.1 Te Ara Pātaka (Summit Walkway)

The Trust is proud to be leading this project. Three years ago, the Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation to develop the existing track network from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop, and all the feeder tracks linking to it into a cohesive entity. The project aims to develop the network into an introductory tramping opportunity primarily aimed at Christchurch families and young people. It is right on the doorstep of the city and has great potential to improve understanding of the rural and natural environment. The Trust is also collaborating with landowners en route including Orton Bradley Park, and with the City Council, peninsula rūnanga, local communities and businesses to make the project a success.

Last year the Trust had developed a cross-agency project plan, and assisted DOC to secure internal capital funding of \$65,000 to improve the main track with waymarking, signage and track upgrades where most necessary. Part way through the year, the Trust became aware through consultation that the then working name of "Spine of the Lizard" was not well received by the Peninsula rūnanga, and determined to work with them to develop a new name.

Progress on the project this year includes:

- Opening of Rod Donald Hut enabling the track to be walked from end to end (see more under Rod Donald Hut below);
- Listing of the track network on the DOC website, with the track locations correctly marked and a full description of the routes and huts given.

¹ Formerly the Spine of the Lizard, and with secondary name Summit Walkway.

- Building relationships with the four rūnanga, resulting in the new name of Te Ara Pātaka as the new principle name, while retaining Summit Walkway as a secondary name to respect the pākehā relationship with the track, particularly the Summit Road Society derived from Harry Ell's work 100 years ago.
- Installing waymarking and implementing many track improvements making the track easier to use and follow for the novice users. This has included a major and creative upgrade to the track through Montgomery Reserve, work on the southern flank of Mt Bradley, and installation of many kilometres of track markers. Progressing waymarking became a priority for the Trust after the hut opening and its attendant publicity. Concerned that inadequate marking, especially on the Mt Herbert plateau, could lead to people getting lost the Trust stepped up and offered to act as the prime contractor to DOC to get this work done. Local sub-contractors have been engaged to carry out the work, which has been principally funded by DOC, with the Trust contributing to waymarking and some improvements on the feeder tracks that are outside the scope of the DOC capital fund. We'd like to thank David Brailsford, Steffan Kraberger and Bruce King for their hard work in challenging locations. This on-the-ground work has involved the Trust in considerable liaison with landowners, and their co-operation and goodwill has been greatly appreciated.
- The Trust has also taken a lead in developing a directional signage plan for the whole network, involving the design of 31 interrelated signs conforming to the DOC signage standard, with DOC staff heavily involved and making significant contributions. At the time of writing, the 31 green and gold DOC directional signs are nearly ready for production, and the Trust will fund 15 of them, again principally for the feeder tracks.
- A basic brochure covering the recreational use of the track (but not yet interpretation) is in development as are map signs for track entrances.

The focus of work this year has been on getting the track network functionally "up and running". The aim is for waymarking, signage, brochures and maps to be complete in time for the last weekend of November when the Trust will celebrate and publicise Te Ara Pātaka with a Harry Ell centenary event as part of the 2016 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival.

We would like to thank Andy Thompson, who has now taken up the position of DOC Mahaanui Area Office Manager for his support throughout the project. It was gratifying to see him leading his team of workers on the remote backside of Mt Bradley cutting the tetchy track there back to its original line. Sarah Ensor working on signs, and local ranger Derek Cox are also thanked, along with many other DOC staff who have worked to support the project.

The Trust has been amazed and delighted at the public response to Te Ara Pātaka, with many people using it, including its target market of Christchurch families and young people.

3.2 Rod Donald Hut

For the first four months of the year, Trust efforts focused on completing the Rod Donald Hut to meet DOC's Back Country Hut Serviced standard. Builder David Brailsford worked to install the state of the art eco-friendly greywater disposal system designed by Andrew Dakers and the VIP toilet – a modern version of the long drop with an active ecology to break down human waste. These facilities pioneer what we hope are sustainable ways of managing the significant issues of dealing with human waste in remote areas.

While David was busy digging holes, Trust Manager Suky Thompson developed 15 signs for the hut covering everything from "How to Light the Woodstove" to the "Hut Eco-Features". The signs aim to orient users to the track network, obviate contention over bunks, convey safety information such as carbon monoxide warnings, encourage users to care for the hut and explain the name Rod Donald and the work of the Trust. The support of our graphic designers, Rosalie Brown and Lee-Ann Collins

at RGB Design was much appreciated as they turned ideas and mountains of information into works of art.

Once the building was complete and signage installed, a Health, Safety and Technical manual was drawn up, Niall Mugan from Keystone Ecology appointed as the day to day Hut Manager, with a service contract matching the DOC “BCC Service Hut Standard” requirements. The Trust’s lawyer reviewed the Health and Safety Plan in conjunction with the signage underpinning much of it prior to the Trustees inspecting the hut on a site visit, meeting Niall Mugan and adopting the plan. The hut was then inspected by DOC and duly installed on the DOC online booking system.

The hut formally opened on 7 November 2015 – the first event in the 2015 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival, and 10 years to the day since Rod Donald had died. The Trust was delighted that his family (father David, partner Nicola and three daughters) attended the opening and participated in the tapu lifting ceremony by Wairewa kaumātua James Robinson. Among the 120 or so guests were several others from Wairewa rūnanga, the former property owner Paul Maurice, eminent botanist Hugh Wilson, DOC staff, QEII Trust, neighbours, landowners along the track, tramping clubs, Summit Road Society and many more. The event was carefully planned as it involved transporting everyone up narrow Western Valley road and many people then tramping in to the hut. We’d like to thank all our speakers, helpers, children who served out food, and everyone who made the day such a fun and relaxed event.

The Trust has been well used since it opened, and so far so well looked after by users, that Niall Mugan was prompted to email the Trust Manager in March asking “*Seems very clean up here. Did someone visit [to clean] recently?*” To which the answer was no – it must have been the good tramping fairies.

Although it is relatively early to assess, to date the Hut appears to be paying its way (including its servicing, firewood and insurance costs), and all the facilities are working well.

3.3 Purple Peak Curry Reserve

In contrast to the Trust’s leadership role with Te Ara Pātaka and the Rod Donald Hut, in the Purple Peak Curry Reserve project its role has been one of support.

The Trust assisted the North Island-based owners, New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust by being its local contact and working closely with Hugh Wilson and his staff from Hinewai Reserve who are managing the reserve on the ground. Our role has included doing whatever was needed – such as the detailed arrangements for the formal opening (liaising with the local Lions Club to hire the marquee, sourcing chairs from the Duvauchelle A&P show, arranging the walk guides, facilitating the NZNFRT visit, running the formal opening check-in desk etc) and supporting Hugh Wilson (an avowed non-computer user) with developing the reserve management plan through typing and emailing the document between parties. The Trust has also worked in its core areas, upgrading its walking products to promote the walks through the new reserves and working with Christchurch City Council to augment existing and create new “Akaroa Country Walks” signage that includes the reserve.

The Trust also worked hard to try to purchase 27 ha of neighbouring bush to add to the reserve but no agreement was reached.

3.4 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

The Banks Peninsula Walking Festival once again proved a useful vessel for the Trust to actively promote its work and educate the public about its projects and the Peninsula. Festival organisation involved collaboration between Project Lyttelton, Little River/Wairewa Community Trust, Akaroa District Promotions and the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust. The Trust gave a \$2000 grant toward promotional costs, used the festival to feature the opening of its new Hut and included several walks promoting its projects including the Panama Reserve, the Purple Peak Curry Reserve, the Summit Walkway (not yet called Te Ara Pātaka), the Rod Donald Hut and the GeoPark project.

The Trust had nominated Lynne Alexander of Akaroa for the Walking Access Commission's new Walking Access award, and when the Commission announced this had been successful and enquired as to an appropriate forum to award it, the Walking Festival provided the perfect opportunity. Participants in the Purple Peak Curry Reserve Sneak Preview walk enjoyed the additional bonus of gathering at Tree Crop Farm just below the new reserve for nibbles, drinks and a wonderful speech by the obviously delighted Lynne.

3.5 Updating Walking products

The projects also generated work to keep the Trust's walking products up to date. The Banks Peninsula Walks Directory was updated in September to include Rod Donald Hut, and then again in February to include Purple Peak Curry Reserve, and the new Curry Track. Then Akaroa Country Walks brochure underwent a major overhaul to squeeze in the "Round the Mountain" route - the big new circular walk made possible by Purple Peak Curry Reserve and Curry Track. The new brochure was released at the opening of the reserve along with corflute prototype "Akaroa Country Walks" signs featuring the new reserve.

The brochures and books continue to sell well and pay for their reprint and minor upgrade costs. This year the Trust has over 4000 of its brochures and 210 books.

At the end of last year, the Trust commissioned an upgrade to www.bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz from the initial "quick and dirty" version to something more sophisticated. The website developer Wired had been contracted and a detailed specification agreed. The new site went live in January 2015, involving a large amount of data input. Shortly afterwards, Akaroa District Promotions directed all its walking enquiries through to the new site. The website was also updated to include the Purple Peak Curry Reserve and new tracks.

The new site gives users a mobile responsive set of maps with pop-up windows for individual tracks, the ability to upload photos and report problems and to source further information about tracks. A news feature enables the Trust to post warnings after serious events such as earthquakes or storms, or to let users know of new walking opportunities.

3.6 Brochures for Lyttelton

The success of the Akaroa based walking brochures prompted a request from the Lyttelton Harbour community via its Information Centre to develop similar brochures for the Lyttelton basin. The Information Centre offered to contribute both financially and with local expertise and the Trust signed an MOU with it to produce three brochures. Work has been progressing on these through most of the year. At the time of writing a brochure called "Lyttelton Town and Hills" featuring 5 circular walks from the Lyttelton Information Centre is nearing completion. Work has commenced on a brochure for Diamond Harbour.

3.7 Lyttelton Head to Head walkway

The Trust has kept a watching brief on the Lyttelton Head to Head walkway being progressed by Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board and Council staff, and has participated in its Working Party meetings, generally represented by Sarah Pritchett, herself a Lyttelton Harbour basin resident.

An opportunity for the Trust to contribute to the walkway presented itself in the form of the Governors Bay Jetty Restoration Trust. This group has been seeking to restore the landmark jetty after its closure since the earthquakes and failure to make Christchurch City Council's repair list along with the other Peninsula jetties. As a Governors Bay resident and member of the group, Simon Mortlock stepped aside during the decision making. The Trust was sufficiently impressed by the dedication, skills and planning of the Governors Bay Restoration Trust to grant its request for \$10,000 to seed fund its efforts to raise \$2.5 million. The plan is to completely rebuild the jetty giving it a 100-year lifespan and includes a raised deck height to cope with predicted sea level rise.

3.8 Panama Reserve

The Panama Reserve in Le Bons Bay has progressed at a more sedate pace, but nevertheless significant progress has been made. The Langer Trust has completed a detailed assessment of the property for Carbon Credit registration under the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative and there has been some progress made in defining the activities planned for the reserve including low key camping. A Deed to Enter covenant is being worked on with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

The portion of the reserve owned by Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust will transfer to the Langer Trust in the coming financial year, but the Trust will maintain an interest in seeing that the walking tracks and camping progress as per its agreement with the Langer Trust.

4 Assessing new projects

Several interesting new projects have been brought to the Trust's attention during the year and the Trust has refined its methodology for assessing such requests to take into account the many different aspects to project success that it has discussed.

4.1 Le Bons Bay Environmental Education Centre

The primary school used to be the heart of the small and relatively isolated community of Le Bons Bay on what is now known as the Peninsula's "Wildside" because of its remoteness and environmental riches. The community of Le Bons have been keen to keep the facility going in some way to maintain that heart and to make use of the excellent and well-maintained resource situated in the centre of the Le Bons village. The Trust has kept a watching brief on the project since it was first approached, and attended a hui and a hāngi this year. The Trust has been impressed with how the community has formed itself into a Trust and worked with Koukourārata rūnanga resulting in the purchase of the school site by Koukourārata, and its lease by the community. The aims of the centre fit well with those of the Trust and its location near the Panama Reserve presents opportunities to make greater use of a project in which the Trust has already invested.

Trust concerns with the project are around its ongoing viability, particularly given its remote location. Feedback has been given to the Le Bons Bay Environmental Education Centre Trust and they have indicated they will come back when the proposals are more fully developed.

4.2 Geo Park

The Trust has expressed its support in principle for the concept of a UNESCO GeoPark designation for Banks Peninsula. It was pleased to receive an update from Dr. Sam Hampton, the main driving force behind the idea and to give feedback. Progressing the GeoPark is on the Trust's agenda for the coming year.

4.3 Ōtamahua/Quail Island

As the year drew to a close, the Trust was approached by DOC's Mahaanui Area manager Andy Thompson and the Ōtamahua/Quail Island Trust to assist with developing recreational facilities on Ōtamahua/Quail Island. Andy Thompson has been so inspired by the success of Rod Donald Hut and Packhorse Hut on the DOC booking system, and how this directs revenue back to the local DOC area office, that he and his team would like to set similar accommodation up on the island with a view to generating income that could be ploughed back into the island and support the work of the Ōtamahua/Quail Island Trust. An historic cottage may provide a suitable shell to develop, and there is an unused barracks on the main beach which could house interpretation and double as a shelter. The Trust looks forward to working with DOC and the Ōtamahua/Quail Island Trust on this exciting project next year.

4.4 Two books

At its final meeting of the year, the Trust considered funding support for two books, one on the biodiversity of dryland Canterbury including Kaitorete Spit and one on the head of Lyttelton harbour. The Head of the Harbour book is well advanced and a donation was made toward its publication cost. The Trust recognizes the importance of the unique biodiversity of Kaitorete Spit, but decided it needed more information on the proposed book before it could consider committing funds to the project.

5 Other Activities

The Trust has engaged in a number of activities in general support of its operations during the year. These have included making grants to other groups with common interests, making submissions to the policies of other organisations that impact on its areas of interest, liaising with the Banks Peninsula Community Boards, rūnanga and other groups with common interests and publicising its work.

5.1 Grants

The Trust has been grant funding both Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Orton Bradley park with \$25,000 per annum to supplement their operational costs for the past three years. Both grants expired during this financial year, but the Trust was so impressed with the strides made by these organisations that both were granted extensions.

In the case of Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, which provides a principal vessel for the Trust to achieve its biodiversity goals, the grant was extended for a year with an additional sum of \$15,000 allocated to assist funding a Volunteer Coordinator. The Trust anticipates that some of the voluntary activities will be directed toward Lyttelton Harbour and dealing with invasive pest species such as spur valerian. The Trust was pleased to attend the BPCT Foundation Sponsors launch and to see the steps that it is making toward financial sustainability. Later in the year it was pleased to attend the Covenantors' lunch at Koukourārata, and really sense the pride that landowners are taking in their conservation work, and the sheer numbers involved on Banks Peninsula.

In the case of Orton Bradley Park, the grant has been extended for two years. The Trust was impressed with the new facilities at the park aimed at families, with the increasing use of the park for activities that also garner revenue, including camping and weddings, and with the new café which is underway. The Trust would like to work with the park to eventually remove the entrance fee, but appreciates that at this stage it does bring in much needed revenue. The Trust is also pleased to work with the Park staff on maintaining two of the important feeder tracks to Te Ara Pātaka, the Mt Herbert Walkway and Faulkner Track to the Packhorse Hut.

5.2 Advocacy

The Trust engages in advocacy when plans or legislation affect its core objectives. This year has been busy, with submissions on the Council's District Plan Review, Freedom Camping Bylaw and Representation Review.

The Trust employed local activist Jan Cook as its consultant to manage the complex, lengthy and legalistic District Plan process and to advise on the drafting of its submissions. The Trust's submissions were based on its experience to date with developing low impact outdoor recreation, something that the Banks Peninsula Plan encouraged in its objectives, but then placed roadblocks to in its rules. The proposed replacement appeared not to have given much consideration to the needs of such outdoor recreation in rural areas, and the Trust is pleased that agreement was reached with the Council as a result of its submissions on permitting activities such as walking tracks, tramping huts and associated signage at levels compatible with the environment. The Trust was similarly pleased with improvements to proposed rules around biodiversity and that the Akaroa Historic Area

was re-included. We are already noticing the impact of these changes (which we are confident will flow through to the plan when it is released) for projects such as DOC's proposed hut on Quail Island. The process of attending hearings and mediations continued right through the year, with attendant daily waves of emails. The Trust could not have managed to participate without Jan Cook's assistance, attention to detail and in-depth knowledge of and experience with the existing Banks Peninsula Plan – both its good points and its problems. Her expertise and determination enabled us to keep going while many other smaller submitters, overwhelmed by the complexity of the process without expensive legal representation, withdrew.

The Trust took a strong stand on the Christchurch City Council proposed Freedom Camping bylaw. As providers of low cost visitor accommodation ourselves with the Rod Donald Hut, we were well aware of the issues involved in the rural environment, including waste disposal and fire, and also with the consent requirements for providing such accommodation on private property. The Trust felt that the enabling stance the Council was taking on Freedom Camping would lead to environmental and social problems, given the scale of activity on Banks Peninsula. The Trust welcomes visitors to Banks Peninsula, but submitted that camping, particularly in non-self contained vehicles, should be provided in well-managed low cost campgrounds and that controls were necessary to prevent things getting out of hand in a highly mobile industry driven by social media. The Trust was disappointed with the resultant bylaw, and is pleased that the Council will now review it given the number of problems that did eventuate this summer.

The Trust was also concerned at the initial Representation Review proposals of the Council to either split up the Peninsula politically or to combine it with city suburbs. The Trust submission requested that the existing ward boundary and councilor position was retained and argued that this was permissible under the Local Electoral Act given the isolation of many of the Peninsula communities. The Trust was pleased that the Banks Peninsula ward will now be retained.

In all three cases above, the ability of the Trust to make strong submissions has proved important to furthering its kaupapa, and the Trust is pleased that it has been able to represent the concerns of many people on Banks Peninsula who do not have the time, energy or ability to engage in these increasingly difficult processes.

The Trust also participated in the Annual Plan process and felt that the workshops held by the Community Boards provided a useful vessel for assessing where its own areas of interest overlapped with those of the wider public. The Trust was pleased to have the opportunity to provide input to the Community Boards submissions as well as make its own.

5.3 Community Engagement

Quite apart from its formal opening events and the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival, the Trust is increasingly engaged with the wider community through its projects as they roll-out. The goodwill and interest created by Rod Donald Hut has been phenomenal, with the project being mentioned across social media and in many other forums such as the Federated Mountain Clubs newsletter, quite unbeknownst to the Trust. Tramping clubs, youth groups and many others have visited the hut and learnt about the Trust as a result.

The Trust has also actively attended several meetings over the year. Manager Suky Thompson gave a presentation to the Summit Road Society in November, where the common interest in honouring Harry Ell was discussed. She also presented to the Christchurch i-site, who frequently deal with questions to do with walking on Banks Peninsula. In May she had the pleasure of acting as guest lecturer at Lincoln University for outdoor recreation students presenting Te Ara Pātaka as a case study of a sustainable long distance trail project – this year with the information of live experience to support the theory.

5.4 Publicity

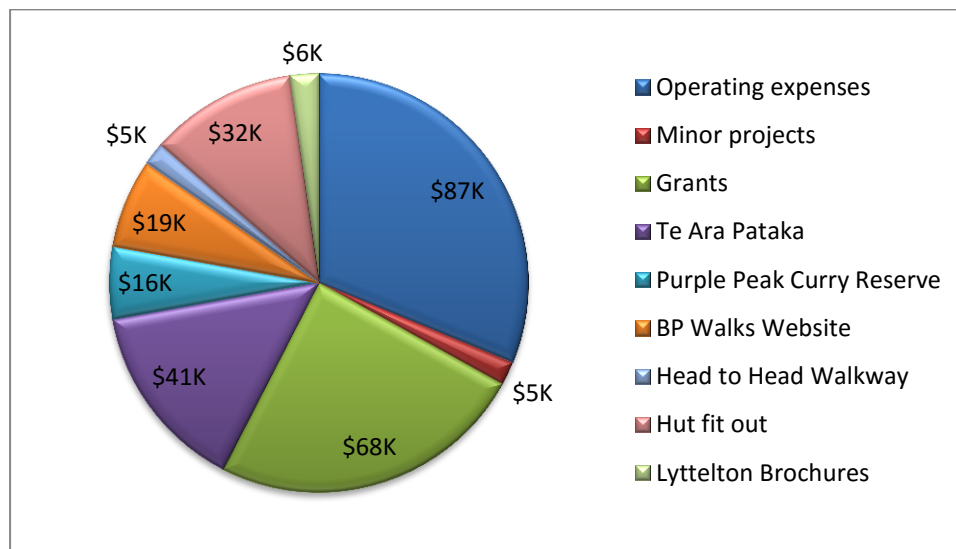
The Trust is pleased with the media attention its projects have received this year, with articles appearing in the Christchurch Press, Wilderness Magazine and several in the Akaroa Mail.

The Trust has also published its annual newsletter, Storehouse Stories, near the end of the year, and kept its website updated with News articles throughout the year. Assistant Manager Sarah Pritchett has introduced a Facebook page to widen appeal to younger audiences. An update of website project articles is also in progress.

6 Expenditure summary

The Trust has spent a total of \$278,274 this financial year. This includes both operational expenditure and capital expenditure, but excludes expenditure on two operational areas that are run as self-funding cost centres (walking brochures and books and operating Rod Donald Hut) as these both made a net profit.

Figure 1 Expenditure breakdown*



* Apply key clockwise starting at top.

Operating expenses were the biggest single cost. These include remuneration for the Trust's two contract management staff, accounting fees, audit fees, insurance, and administrative expenses.

Minor projects include the Trust's District Plan advocacy work and production of Storehouse Stories.

Grants cover the Trust's grants to Orton Bradley Park, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and the Walking Festival.

Te Ara Pātaka spending has been principally on project management work, and our net expenditure on track marking and signage after subtracting the income we received from contracting the bulk of this work from DOC.

Purple Peak Curry Reserve again covers principally project management, including our redevelopment of the Akaroa Country Walk brochures and our work towards the formal opening, plus some of the more minor opening costs – NZNFRT having paid for the bulk of it.

BP Walks website is the cost of developing our new mobile responsive walking website.

Hut fit out covers the final work done during this financial year to complete the hut and the costs of our formal opening again, including the project management cost.

Lyttelton brochures is the total cost of researching and designing our Lyttelton Town and Hills brochure to the production ready stage.

Not included in the above summary are the costs of running the Rod Donald Hut and the costs of producing our walking brochures and books. That is because these have not (during this financial year) cost the Trust. The hut has generated a small income and the walking brochures and books are near to cost neutral.

Income The total income from interest and donations, and our net profit from hut usage and sale of brochures and books was \$129,866.

Capital Depletion Subtracting our costs shows that in progressing its projects, supporting partner organisations and making the achievements described above, the Trust has depleted its capital by \$148,408.

7 Looking forward to 2016-17

Next year will be the final year of the Trust's first 5 year strategic plan, and one in which it will focus on progressing or completing projects in progress as well as looking forward to develop the next strategic plan. Priorities at the start of the 2016-17 year are to:

- support and participate in the 2016 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival;
- arrange a celebration as the final event of the Walking Festival for the Te Ara Pātaka project honouring Harry Ell, whose dream it in part fulfills. Prior to the celebration the Trust will work with DOC to complete track work, install directional signage and maps and produce the Te Ara Pātaka brochure;
- complete work in progress on the Purple Peak project, including working with Council to finish the Akaroa Country Walks signs and developing an interpretation about Akaroa's Antarctic hero Frank Worsley;
- produce and distribute the new Lyttelton brochure and develop brochures for Diamond Harbour and Governors Bay;
- hold a seminar with Peninsula landowners to discuss Health and Safety implications of walkers on public tracks across their land;
- hold a strategic planning meeting to develop the next strategic plan;
- work with the Josef Langer Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Permanent Forests Ltd to ensure goals of the Panana project are met;
- continue to build relationships with the peninsula rūnanga and others to develop an interpretation plan for Te Ara Pātaka;
- work to design two day shelters for the Te Ara Pātaka project;
- work to resolve long term ownership issues of assets;
- continue to build relationships with groups involved in outdoor recreation including development of volunteer activities and other forms of community engagement;
- find ways to increase support for biodiversity including at the hut; and,
- continue to participate in the Lyttelton Head to Head project.
- Implement and monitor its Health and Safety Plan

The Trust will be governed in the coming year by Simon Mortlock, Andrew Turner (until November and thereafter subject to his re-election), Brian Patrick, Bob Webster, Stuart Wright-Stow, Debbie Tikao, Chrissie Williams and Cynthia Roberts. Governance issues that the Trust needs to resolve internally are the long term future for the legacy projects and work it is creating so that it can remain open to being a change innovator for new projects, and whether and how to start fundraising to supplement its funds.

The Trust will continue to be managed by Suky Thompson, with increasing assistance from Sarah Pritchett.

In addition to the projects already in progress, the Trust will remain open to other key opportunities that emerge during the coming year and looks forward to the next steps on its journey to re-establish Banks Peninsula to its traditional status of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū – the storehouse that nourishes.