



Annual Review 2014-2015

Chairman's message

When Banks Peninsula joined the City in 2006, one of the things most important to me as Christchurch Mayor was for the city was to embrace the new area and to reflect its whakapapa and what it brought to make this an even greater City. Banks Peninsula brought in its kete funds from the sale of historic endowment land. At the time Christchurch was a wealthy Council and we determined to put the funds into a charitable trust for conservation and recreation on Banks Peninsula and to consult the public on whether the new trust's name should honour the recently deceased MP Rod Donald. After public consultation approved these ideas the Trust was formed by the Christchurch City Council in 2010. The Council appointed an initial set of Trustees who in turn elected me as their Chair.



Garry Moore, Chair

The initial Trustees have gone about their duties cautiously and judiciously over the past five years. Right from the start we committed to supporting and reinforcing what others were doing, rather than duplicating their efforts, and to filling the gaps. We commissioned a stocktake to find out about the good work already in progress on Banks Peninsula and who was doing what, and this is when we first engaged Akaroa-based Suky Thompson to work as our staff member.

After the stocktake, we established four pillars as our guiding support structures, *Access, Biodiversity, Knowledge* and *Partnership* against which all our projects and work would be assessed. We also came to realise that four pou whenua, or historic figures, inspired our work; Rākaihautū, the first Waitaha ancestor, symbolised the beginning of human interaction with the natural environment and the abundance of food and forests found in that environment until relatively recently; Christchurch MP Harry Ell was fundamental to the introduction of New Zealand's first Scenery Preservation Act in 1906, the protection of some of its first bush reserves and had a vision of linking reserves together on a summit route from Christchurch to Akaroa; Cora Wilding who in her dedication to getting young people out camping and tramping for their health founded the Youth Hostel Association and its first hostel was on Banks Peninsula; and Rod Donald himself, with his commitment to the environment, local communities and entrepreneurial initiative.

Now as I step down after steering the Trust into being established, and a further five years as its first Chair, it gives me great pleasure that the Trust is about to open the first substantial public tramping hut on Banks Peninsula since Harry Ell built the Packhorse Hut in 1916. The new hut will be named the Rod Donald Hut and is situated high in Western Valley. It both continues Ell's vision of a walk from Christchurch to Akaroa and is above Rod Donald's grave in Little River. We are actively working to encourage more young people to get out tramping and the first group to stay at the hut and test it out prior to opening were six students from Burnside High School. We have begun our engagement with tangata whenua, and are seeking their help in naming the multi-day network of tracks which the hut serves and the massive tōtara tree at its terminus in Montgomery Reserve near Hilltop. This ancient tree could be up to 2000 years old and I'd like to see it fully honoured as our equivalent of Tāne Mahuta on Banks Peninsula, and its brothers and sisters similarly honoured – ancient remnants and regrowth alike, along with the tōtara preserved in our historic buildings.

Kaitiakitanga is both the challenge and the role of the Trust and I firmly believe we have made a great start on establishing this. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees who are continuing. Claudia Reid and Nuk Korako are also stepping down and I thank them for their contribution. It is wonderful to welcome aboard our replacements, Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao, and to pass the office of Chair to fellow initial Trustee Simon Mortlock who will hold the reins for the next 6 months until the new Trustees have settled in and the next Chair is elected by the Trustees.

I wish to thank the Christchurch City Council for establishing the Trust and am delighted to retire as Chair with everything in such a positive state.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Garry Moore'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a single diagonal stroke.

Note to readers:

The name Spine of the Lizard is used in this Annual Review 2014-15 to refer to a walkway project the Trust is working on in conjunction with Department of Conservation. Subsequent to discussions with Peninsula rūnanga as the year closed, the Trust determined to discontinue use of this name and to find a new and more culturally acceptable name. The name Spine of the Lizard is used in this document as it was the name used in the year under review.

Executive Summary

The 2014-15 year has seen the Trust make great strides towards its kaupapa of working in partnership with others, supporting their efforts and plugging the gaps to improve access, knowledge and biodiversity on Banks Peninsula. As the year has drawn to a close, it feels as though the Trust has completed its start-up phase and developed into a fully-fledged organisation and become a key player on Banks Peninsula. Flagship achievements during the year have included:

- progressing our project, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, to develop the existing network of walking tracks from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop into an introductory tramping experience aimed at young people of Christchurch;
- purchase and development of the new Rod Donald Hut along this route to complement the Sign of the Packhorse Hut with a second night of accommodation;
- working in partnership with the New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust, Maurice White Native Forest Trust and Christchurch City Council to purchase and develop a big new reserve bordering onto Hinewai above Akaroa;
- working in partnership with the Josef Langer Trust to add more land to its reserve in Le Bons Bay, with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to covenant this land and Permanent Forests to register it for carbon credits;
- participating in and promoting the second annual Banks Peninsula Walking Festival held in November 2014;
- marketing our “Banks Peninsula Walks Overview” book and three Akaroa walking brochures and keeping them updated with new developments;
- meeting with the executive committees of all four Peninsula rūnanga, developing relationships and visiting the marae at Koukourārata.



*Suky Thompson
Trust Manager*

Work has gone in to documenting the Trust's systems and processes to capture the institutional knowledge that has been built up by a close team over the past five years. At the close of the year, the Trust has a full portfolio of exciting projects and is looking forward to the formal openings of the Rod Donald hut and the two new reserves and continuing to work with a wide range of partners to improve walking and cycling access to Banks Peninsula, increasing support for biodiversity and furthering the spread of knowledge about this special place.

Financial Performance

This Annual Review document is intended to accompany the Trust's audited Annual Report and financial statements for 2014-15 to give readers a more comprehensive understanding of the Trust's work during the year. While our profit and loss statement shows that the Trust posted a deficit for the year, we were pleased to include in our expenditure grants of over \$212,000 to partner organisations, including \$160,000 toward the purchase of the Akaroa reserve. The difference between our forecast in our Statement of Intent and actual spending is due to the large number of projects that the Trust has undertaken this year and to the treatment required under the accounting standards. Expenditure can only be classed as capital if it results in physical assets being added to the Trust's balance sheet, not to assets that end up in the ownership of other organisations. Hence these grants and our work on the Spine of the Lizard project have been classed as operational expenditure.

Financial Position

The Trust has an excess of \$3.5 million in assets as at 30 June 2015. This was reduced from 2014 as a result of the above grants and project work.

I'd like to thank the many people in our partner organisations who have supported the Trust during the year and look forward to another year of working together.

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1 Introduction

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust (“the Trust”) has a bold vision to facilitate the restoration of Banks Peninsula to its traditional status as Te Patakā o Rākaihautū – the storehouse that nourishes.

In this vision Banks Peninsula has a rich biodiversity, planted streams, lakes and seas flowing with clean water. The local people are prospering and passionately participate in conservation. The Peninsula is known as an ecological island and a place for appreciative recreation, with low impact activities such as walking, cycling and affordable camping fostered to encourage learning about and respect for the environment.

The Trust aims to achieve this vision through partnership with Peninsula communities, linking groups together and supporting their efforts on a project by project basis. The projects and the work of the Trust are underpinned by four strategic pillars of *Access, Biodiversity, Knowledge* and *Partnership*.

The financial year 2014-15 was the Trust’s fifth year of operation. During the year it built further on work underway to:

- progress the Spine of the Lizard project improving a network of tracks linking the Lyttelton and Akaroa craters in partnership with Department of Conservation;
- complete the purchase of a new hut to support this track network and fit it out for public overnight tramping use;
- conduct research into youth and outdoor recreation on Banks Peninsula;
- support the second Banks Peninsula Walking Festival;
- continue to participate in the Lyttelton Head to Head project
- work with New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust to create a reserve above Akaroa;
- work with Josef Langer Trust to augment its reserve in Le Bons Bay;
- investigate whether carbon credits provide an effective way for native forest restoration projects to generate income to offset their costs;
- distribute and update its new walking products; and,
- update its Walking Strategy to reflect progress and learnings.

The Trust kept the public informed of its work throughout the year, played an advocacy role in support of its projects and objectives and liaised with numerous other groups working on Banks Peninsula.

Taken together the Trust has made major steps on the journey to its vision and is now well established as a leader and significant contributor to the recreational and environmental management of Banks Peninsula. This 2014-15 Annual Review presents the achievements of the year grouped under the headings

- governance and management
- major projects and attendant relationships
- other activities

It is intended to accompany the Trust’s 2014-15 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements to flesh out the activities and achievements of the 2014-15 year.

The Annual Review concludes with a look forward to the activities anticipated in the coming financial year.

2 Governance and Management

During its fifth year of operation the Trust has built on and benefited from the effective and efficient methods of governance and administration developed in the previous years. This has enabled it to successfully initiate and manage a number of significant projects.

2.1 Governance

The Trust's deed provides for it to have a maximum of nine Trustees, up to seven of which are to be appointed by the Christchurch City Council ("the Council") and the Trust can co-opt two. Trustees are appointed for terms of up to three years, with the expiration dates generally falling on June 30 at the end of the financial year and with terms staggered to ensure continuity as membership changes.

Council appointed Trustees during the 2014-15 financial year were Garry Moore, Claudia Reid, Nuk Korako, Simon Mortlock, Andrew Turner, Bob Webster and Brian Patrick, with Stewart Miller and Stuart Wright-Stow co-opted. Garry Moore continued to serve the Trust as its Chairperson through the year, ensuring that meetings progressed in a friendly and productive manner. Trustees have held regular meetings spread throughout the year and are grateful to the firm of Mortlock McCormack for providing their Boardroom free of charge for this purpose and to Lincoln University who have also hosted meetings.

At the start of the year, the Trust welcomed aboard Bob Webster and Brian Patrick as new Trustees. Bob Webster is a Banks Peninsula landowner and brings extensive professional experience in the area of pastoral lease tenure, while Brian Patrick is an entomologist and ecologist, and was at the time of his appointment residing on the Banks Peninsula. They both worked hard to come up to speed with the Trust's activities during the early part of their term and have made significant contributions since.

2.1.1 Strategic Planning

The annual Strategic Planning meeting was held in February at Okuti Eco Stay, near Little River. Trustees spent a full day thrashing out the direction for the coming year, and grappling with issues of a more general nature than would typically be addressed at its regular meetings.

There was a general consensus of confidence that the Trust was heading in the right direction, and the need to concentrate on and complete the projects it has underway. At the same time, the decision was taken to increase focus on biodiversity and on the Lyttelton Harbour basin.

2.1.2 Changes to Trustees

The terms of long serving initial Trustees Nuk Korako and Claudia Reid expired at the end of this financial year, and both determined not to seek renewal due to other commitments. At the Strategic Planning meeting, Garry Moore tendered his resignation effective from June 30 to enable him to focus on his passion for affordable housing.

The Trust advertised for expressions of interest in the positions coming vacant and was pleased to receive a good response from a number from high calibre applicants. It recommended to Council the appointment of Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao and was pleased when these were confirmed in May, giving a chance for some handover and interaction between the outgoing and the incoming Trustees. The Trust now looks forward to the contributions of the new Trustees who collectively bring additional experience in local government, working with iwi, links with Banks Peninsula rūnanga and extensive knowledge of outdoor recreation, ecology and landscape design. All Trustees give their time on a voluntary basis, and the Trust thanks the incoming Trustees for making time available to join meetings and be introduced to various partner organisations prior to the official start of their terms.



The Trust welcomes aboard (from L to R): Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao



The Trust give an enormous vote of thanks to (from L to R) Nuk Korako, Claudia Reid and Garry Moore for their work in initiating and establishing the Trust and guiding it through its first five years. It wishes them all the best in their future endeavours

2.2 Trust Management

The Trust has engaged Suky Thompson from Peninsula Projects since 2011 to manage its day to day work. She has been instrumental in building it up and driving its projects forward, and this year, in recognition of the increasing workload and breadth of matters she was covering, the role was retitled as Trust Manager.

The Trust Manager is responsible for administering the Trust, servicing the Board and managing its projects. During the year, the Trust Manager has been assisted for short periods by Annette Hamblett and Anthony Patete. More recently Sarah Pritchett has been recruited by Peninsula Projects to provide assistance with the growing workload. Sarah Pritchett lives in Church Bay and also works part-time for Project Lyttelton bringing a breadth of experience, contacts and skills to the Trust team.

The Trust Manager has liaised on a regular basis with Patricia Christie, the External Reporting and Governance Manager at the Council, and the staff from the Corporate Finance team who have provided the Trust with its financial administration and accounting service to date. The Trust has met all the statutory requirements within the required timeframes and appreciates the assistance it has received from Council staff with this process and with financial administration.

The Trust has now made the decision to move its accounting services to the firm of DJCA, effective July 1, 2015, to have a greater level of transparency around its finances and keep costs down. Work has been ongoing in the latter part of the year to prepare for this significant change.

Work has also been undertaken to document the systems and processes that the Trust has developed as it has grown over the past five years, so that this information can be passed on as personnel at a governance and management level change over time.

The Trust Manager has also worked to build relationships with staff in the Trust's partner organisations on a project by project basis and has a wide network of contacts in Department of Conservation, Christchurch City Council and the many community groups working in areas of interest that overlap with the Trust.

2.2.1 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. During the year the Trust has also used the services of Dorothy Stewart from Helmore Bowron Scott where Mortlock McCormack have had a conflict of interest around its involvement with the Josef Langer Trust.

3 Major projects and attendant relationships

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

- Spine of the Lizard¹
- Rod Donald Hut
- Lincoln summer scholarship
- Banks Peninsula Walking Festival
- Lyttelton Head to Head walkway
- Akaroa reserve
- Le Bons Bay reserve
- Carbon Credits workshop
- Managing new walking products, and
- Updating the Walking Strategy

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

3.1 Spine of the Lizard Project

The Trust is very proud to be leading the Spine of the Lizard project, which furthers the vision of Christchurch MP Harry Ell who, over 100 years ago, began work on the Summit Walkway from Christchurch to Akaroa along the high spine ridge connecting the Lyttelton and Akaroa craters.

The Trust has 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 from communities below such as Diamond Harbour, Kaituna Valley, and Orton Bradley Park into a cohesive entity.

The project aims to develop the existing track network into an introductory tramping opportunity primarily aimed at Christchurch families and young people. It is right on the doorstep of



Remnants of Tōtara forest along the Summit walkway.

¹ The name Spine of the Lizard refers to the project itself. The name of the cohesive walkway that the project is seeking to create is currently under discussion following consultation with Peninsula rūnanga.

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 business to make the project a success.

Early in the year the Trust worked with staff from Department of Conservation and Christchurch City Council to prepare an application to the NEXT Foundation to assist with funding the project. This initiated a set of joint walks to examine the entire Summit Walkway track and some of the feeders to determine what work was involved in the project and what needed funding. While the application to the NEXT foundation was not successful in securing funding, the preparatory work it engendered drove the project significantly forward.

The Trust then held discussions with senior DOC staff about the project and its long-term future, and from this produced the “Concept and Project Plan” document describing the outcomes of the project and a plan for how they would be achieved. This document then fed into DOC’s internal capital bid process and both partners were delighted when the bid was successful, giving the local Mahaanui office funding from July 1, 2015 to improve and mark the main track.



Map from the Concept Plan showing the track network

The Trust is negotiating with landowners along the route and has been delighted with the response from those it has contacted and their support for the project.

During the latter part of the year, DOC began seismic strengthening of the Sign of the Packhorse Hut at the Gebbies Pass end of the route, and the Trust has been busy (see below) developing the Rod Donald Hut to provide the second night of accommodation en route.

The local rūnanga have expressed discomfort with the use of the lizard as a symbol, due to its traditional connotations as a harbinger of evil to some whānau. Discussions have commenced to find a new name acceptable to the parties to apply to the track network, but in the interim, the project itself is still referred to as the Spine of the Lizard.



Members of Rangiora Tramping club overlooking Lyttelton Harbour and Christchurch from the summit of Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki, the highest point on the walk

The Spine of the Lizard project predominately furthers the Trust's pillar of improved public walking and cycling Access on Banks Peninsula and of working in *Partnership* with a large number of other players. In future years it will provide scope for furthering *Knowledge*, as the changing scenes along the track, from pine plantations, pastoral farmland, extensive tōtara skeletons, regenerating bush and old growth forest graphically demonstrate the vast environmental change to which the area has been subjected. Interpretation forms a later part of the project.

3.2 Rod Donald Hut

Early in the Spine of the Lizard project, the Trust had committed to developing a second hut to break the journey between the existing Packhorse Hut at the Gebbies Pass end and Hilltop. When a 10ha property with a small hut on it, and perfectly positioned to provide the second night of accommodation, came on the market in April 2014, the Trust agreed to purchase the property at the end of the 2013-14 financial year, subject to due diligence. The due diligence report recommended that the Trust proceed with the purchase.

The previous owner had registered a QEII covenant on the property, thus protecting the regenerating bush on the property in perpetuity. The Trust was delighted that QEII Trust and its local representative Alice Shanks were very enthusiastic about the idea of a tramping hut on the property and that this use fell within what was permitted under the covenant. The Trust would like to thank the previous owners, Paul and Ruth Maurice for their work in securing this property and for the great assistance they gave to the Trust during its purchase.

The Council indicated that a resource consent would be required to change the use of the building to a public tramping hut, and identified an affected neighbouring property whose owners would need to be consulted. The Trust was even more delighted when the owners, Bob Webster and Carol Jensen, turned out to be so supportive of the project that Bob Webster offered to become a Trustee.



Trustees and Trust Manager checking progress at the Rod Donald Hut. From left to right: Brian Patrick, Stewart Miller, Suky Thompson, Stuart Wright-Stow, Simon Mortlock, Bob Webster, Andrew Turner and Garry Moore. The Hut will open to formally open to the general public by spring 2015, and is currently undergoing a "soft opening" with use by invited groups

The Trust took possession of the hut in August 2014, and once the resource consent was granted, contracted local builder David Brailsford to renovate and fit it out to meet the DOC Back Country Comfort Seekers Serviced Hut Standard. The Trust would like to thank David Brailsford for his outstanding work in fitting out the hut and nutting out gnarly problems such as how to meet the fire safety regulations; the Department of Conservation for their support in enabling use of the Back Country Building Code which has made compliance considerably easier, eco-engineer Andrew Dakers who designed the simple and environmentally friendly water and wastewater systems and steered its applications through the consent process; and Kent Wilson and Phil Carr from Christchurch City Council who were most helpful throughout. The Trust would also like to thank Nicola Shirlaw and the Donald family for permission to name the hut after Rod Donald.



David Brailsford proved to be a builder and joiner who could turn his hand to any task in this demanding and remote environment – even making great coffee for site visitors!

By January the hut fit out was sufficiently complete for some invited groups to trial it out and the Trust to gain their feedback. The Trust was delighted that Duke of Edinburgh award coordinator Andrew Smythe from Burnside High School took up the challenge, and his group of high school students were the first people to walk from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop with an overnight at the new hut. The Trust would like to thank the students for their enthusiasm, assistance with modeling for information signage at the hut and pitching in to drag two large new water tanks up the hill.



Burnside High Duke of Edinburgh team set off at Gebbies Pass trail head - from left – Andrew Smythe (co-ordinator), Ali Pickering, James Smythe, Hugh Martin, Breanna Henderson, Olivia Burnett, Tash Cheal, Alison Middlekoop (deputy co-ordinator).



Many hands make light work. Burnside students haul one of the water tanks 40m above the hut to store emergency fire water and ensure the fire hoses have good pressure. There is now 10,000l of fire water stored on site and a further 10,000l of drinking water. Water from the roof is collected at the hut and pumped uphill to the tanks using a solar powered pump.

The hut has been used by several private groups since including a local group from Little River who stayed there to celebrate a 7th birthday party, the Auckland Catholic Tramping club who hired two vans at the airport, split the group into two parties and walked the entire route from both ends, swapping keys in the middle. A group of stalwart women from Rangiora Tramping Club stayed overnight in May and joined with Trust Manager Suky Thompson to hold the Trust's first working bee, clearing vegetation along the Summit Walkway at Mt Fitzgerald.



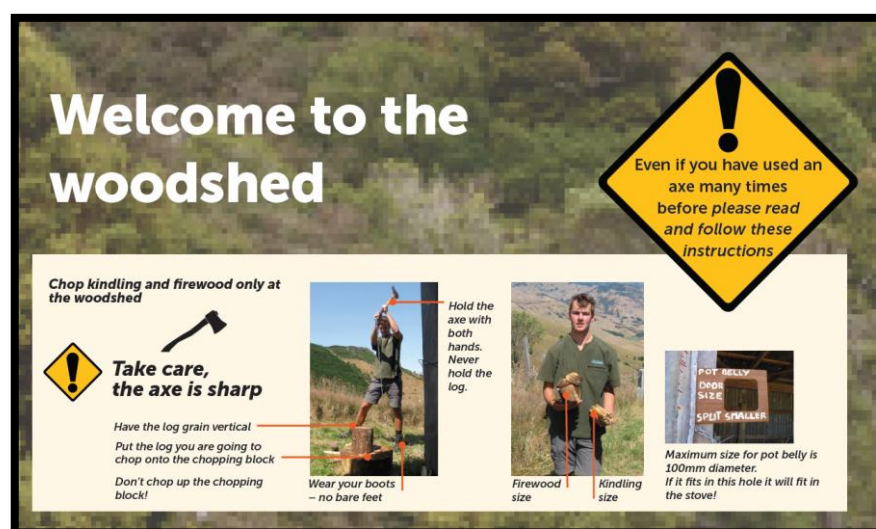
Trust Manager Suky Thompson and Rangiora Tramping Club members clear bush lawyer near Mt Fitzgerald.



The birthday kids had a wonderful time and loved the tramp - "Well driving there would have been no fun at all" said young Isabella, the birthday girl.

Bearing in mind that the target group for the Spine of the Lizard and the hut are novice trampers, the Trust has put a considerable effort into developing attractive and appealing information and safety signage for the hut. These aim to give novice users the skills to manage at the new hut safely and enjoyably and to use its eco-features such as its toilet and water systems appropriately.

An example of one of the informative new signs developed for the hut to assist novice users develop back-country skills.



The Trust has determined to “soft open” the hut to start with and continue to gain experience from invited groups, prior to fully opening it to the public by the spring of 2015. It has negotiated an agreement with DOC to advertise and book the hut through its online booking system once this happens.

The Rod Donald Hut supports all four of the Trust’s pillars: it improves *Access* through the provision of very easy to reach tramping accommodation, *Biodiversity*, as the Trust is now the owner of a QEII covenanted property featuring active bush regeneration, *Knowledge* through the interpretative usage signage and in the future with biodiversity signage, and *Partnership*, not only with DOC, but with a whole host of users who come to stay and use the facility.

3.3 Lincoln University research project

The Trust and Department of Conservation co-sponsored a Summer Scholarship at Lincoln University into the “Demand for local outdoor recreation opportunities among Christchurch youth groups: Implications for Banks Peninsula Spine of the Lizard project”. The student appointed, Jessica Hughes Hutton, proved to be very capable and hard working. Her initial task was to compile a database of all organisations in Christchurch who took young people for outdoor recreation. The leaders of the 150 organisations identified were then asked to complete an online survey. This produced a very high response rate, with 72 usable surveys being completed. Finally Jessica Hughes Hutton conducted qualitative interviews with 13 of the survey respondents. Among the findings were that 12% of the respondents reported visiting Banks Peninsula for outdoor recreation with the most popular tracks being those linking to the Packhorse Hut. Reasons cited for not visiting the Banks Peninsula for outdoor recreation included a tradition of going elsewhere and the need for more information about opportunities on Banks Peninsula.



Student Jessica Hughes Hutton on the Summit Walkway.

A lack of circular tracks were cited as reasons for youth organizations not utilizing Banks Peninsula as much as they could, as well as the terrain not being challenging enough for older children.

The results of the research will assist in the development of a marketing strategy for Banks Peninsula tracks, including the Spine of the Lizard.

The research was presented to the Trust at a seminar held at Lincoln University in May 2015 and was very well received and further cements an excellent working relationship with the staff in the Department of Social Science, Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Sport whose research interests overlap with the work of the Trust. The full report is available from the Lincoln’s LEaP archive as Research paper 29 on <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/Lincoln-Home/Research/Research-Centres/Centre-for-Land-Environment-and-People/Publications/#papers>.

The research project supports the Trust’s *Knowledge* and *Partnership* pillars. It has created a wealth of information to feed into the Spine of the Lizard and other projects, strengthened the partnership with Lincoln University staff, and provided a huge list of youth organisations for the Trust to contact and engage with as its projects develop. Many of these will now be invited to stay at the hut prior to its formal opening. The Trust would like to thank Jessica Hughes Hutton for her excellent work, supervisors Stephen Espiner and Emma Stewart for their support and work with the Trust and all the outdoor recreation leaders who took the time to participate in the study.

3.4 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

Following on from the success of the first Banks Peninsula Walking Festival, this year the Festival expanded to run over four weekends in November. Project Lyttelton has taken the lead on organising this festival, which grew out of its Lyttelton Walking Festival, with the Trust assisting on a pan-Peninsula committee alongside Akaroa District Promotions and Little River/Wairewa Community Trust.

A hallmark of the festival is that it features local people guiding walks that they are passionate about, and want to share their knowledge about.

The Trust Manager guided three walks in this year's festival featuring aspects of the Spine of the Lizard project. The first was a full day loop walk from the Orton Bradley Park and around the south side of Mt Bradley to the summit of Mt Herbert, giving the Trust a chance to showcase the work that had been done over last year to clear the tracks up from Orton Bradley and around the back of Mt Bradley.



Heading down from the Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki summit toward Mt Bradley on the return loop to Orton Bradley Park

The group did a little impromptu marking as it went along, which proved helpful for subsequent groups.



The Trust also ran two very popular trips for a preliminary look at the new Rod Donald Hut. The walk was co-led by Trustee Bob Webster who, with Carol Jensen, owns the neighbouring property where they are busy protecting old growth forest and encouraging regeneration. The walk started with a little pilgrimage to the site of the long gone Wanderer's Tramping Club Tom Cundell Hut near the Port Levy Saddle. After paying suitable homage to the historic site, the group went on to see the tōtara graveyard at Waipuna Saddle before dropping down to inspect the new Rod Donald Hut.



Bob Webster talks to the group at the Tom Cundell Hut site which he and Carol Jensen had recently located after much searching. Many Christchurch trampers remember this hut, including Hugh Wilson who used to visit it on family tramps in his childhood. Its good to have found it again and to know the new hut is only a short distance away

The Ōnuku rūnanga also took up the Trust's suggestion to lead a walk on the Onawe Peninsula to show their excellent new tracks and the guide Te One Tainui spoke movingly about the historic events here and did a wonderful job of taking the groups to the summit.

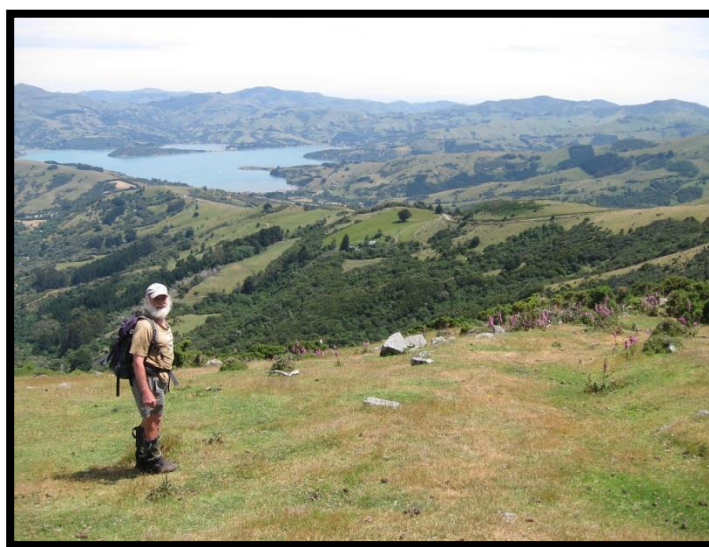
The Walking Festival enables the Trust to further its pillars of *Access, Knowledge and Partnership*.

3.5 Akaroa Reserve

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust has worked in partnership with the New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust (NZNFRT), Maurice White Native Forest Trust who own Hinewai Reserve and the Christchurch City Council to secure a 190 hectare block of land above Akaroa, previously owned by the Curry family.

This purchase is the first foray into the Banks Peninsula for the largely North Island based organization NZNFRT. It effectively means that Hinewai Reserve will extend

down towards Akaroa as the reserve will be managed by Hugh Wilson and his team from Hinewai. The Trust welcomes Andrew Youngson who has moved to Hinewai to work on the new reserve.



Hugh Wilson makes a preliminary assessment of where to locate new tracks in the new reserve high above Akaroa

The new reserve protects swathes of regenerating bush and the bulk of the Akaroa water catchment which feeds the L'Aube hill reservoir below. The Trust has signed an MOU with both NZNFRT and Maurice White Native Forest Trust to protect the bush and enshrine public access. Ownership will transfer to the NZNFRT as soon as the surveying of titles is complete. NZNFRT have also signed a separate covenant agreement with the Christchurch City Council who contributed funding in recognition of the significant catchment protection.

Hugh Wilson has already been enthusiastically working to develop new walking tracks across the land, including to the historic site of Antarctic explorer Frank Worsley's childhood home. Once walking tracks and signage have been installed the reserve will be open to the public.

The Akaroa reserve principally supports the Trust pillar of *Biodiversity*, as it will be managed under the same regime as neighbouring Hinewai, the leading example of biodiversity restoration on Banks Peninsula, where conservation values come first. With walking and road Access from Akaroa, the reserve is likely to attract a large number of visitors. A track over the summit ridgeline will join with Hinewai, and connect to the existing track network from Akaroa and with road access at Heritage Park on Long Bay Road. The reserve creates a unique *Partnership* between this Trust, the two native forest restoration trusts and the Christchurch City Council. This Trust will take an active role in the use of the reserve for *Knowledge*, initially through inclusion on its maps, and assisting with walking signage. A sign commemorating the Worsley site is also in progress.

3.6 Panama Reserve

The Trust also worked in conjunction with partner organisation Josef Langer Trust to secure 107 hectares at Le Bons Bay to be incorporated into the Langer Trust's Panama Reserve. The reserve will be managed by Langer Trust's Robin Burleigh, and the Langer Trust will take over ownership of the land in two years' time. By then it should be protected by a covenant and include a walking track linking it to the Panama Rock dome. This will enable the Langer Trust to almost double the size of its existing reserve. The Trusts are now working together to protect the reserve with a covenant and develop walking tracks linking it to the Panama Rock dome. The land will be managed by the Langer

Trust from the outset and open to the public once the Reserve manager Robin Burleigh has developed a walking track from the new block to the existing reserve and signage is installed.



Robin Burleigh, Panama reserve manager, Rod Donald Trustee Bob Webster and botanist Carol Jensen walking on the existing Langer reserve with good views to the new addition behind

The Le Bons purchase also principally supports the Trust pillar of *Biodiversity*. It will be managed in a similar way to Hinewai, allowing native vegetation to regenerate naturally, with walking Access provided on tracks. There are also plans to have a small family friendly campsite on the block. *Partnership* and *Knowledge* also feature, as the Trust has become a customer of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to protect the area with a conservation covenant, and with Permanent Forests to register it under the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI).

3.7 Carbon Credits Workshop

The Trust held a workshop in early October 2014 to investigate whether registering native forest restoration properties for carbon credits can assist with their long term financial sustainability and to explore if there is a role for the Trust in coordinating partnerships across Peninsula properties. The move was in part prompted when the Trust learnt that partners Hinewai Reserve and New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust were earning enough from carbon credits to underpin staff salaries.

Enviromark Solutions hosted the workshop at Landcare, and the speakers were Dr Ann Smith of Enviromark Solutions, and Mark and Ollie Belton from Permanent Forests NZ. The Trust would like to thank the speakers for their informative presentations and Landcare Research for hosting the day.

Trust partner organisations Joseph Langer Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and QEII National Trust also attended the workshop. The assembled group determined to use the Panama Reserve as a pilot project and as described above, work is now underway to register both the Langer and the Rod Donald holdings in Le Bons Bay for carbon credits under the PFSI scheme.

Initial site visit to assess the Panama reserve for carbon credits registration.

Reserve in background

Pictured (L to R) Francis Helps – BPCT, Mark Belton – Permanent Forests, Simon Mortlock – Rod Donald and Langer Trusts, Ollie Belton – Permanent Forests, Marie Neal – BPCT, Robin Burleigh – Langer Trust, Maree Burnett – BPCT



The objective is to develop *Knowledge* about the process of earning carbon credits, and then to work in *Partnership* with others who are running native forest restoration projects to assist them with their financial sustainability.

3.8 Distribution and update of walking products

In the 2013-2014 year the Trust completed a project to comprehensively map all the walks on Banks Peninsula and developed the Banks Peninsula Overview reference book and three detailed brochures about walks in the Akaroa area. Since then the Trust has sold the products to four information centres and several other retail outlets on Banks Peninsula and in Christchurch to onsell at retail prices. To date over 600 copies of the Banks Peninsula Walking Overview book and 6000 copies of the walking maps have been distributed. The products have been kept up to date as new walks have opened, and the latest version of the Overview book includes the Rod Donald Hut. The Trust has been running the project on a self-funding basis, with sales of product funding reprints and the costs involved in making minor updates.

The second part of the project was to develop the Banks Peninsula Walks website (www.bpwalks.co.nz) which gives the same information as the Overview book online, and includes the additional updateable track status field to indicate whether tracks are currently open, closed or have warnings. Where possible this information is given through a link to an agency (such as Department of Conservation) website. Where this information is not available on another organisation's website, contacts are being developed with agencies to obtain the information regularly so that the status can be updated manually by the Trust. The Trust is now working to augment this website significantly so that traffic from other organisations including the busy Akaroa.com site can be channelled through to it as the definitive reference site for walking on Banks Peninsula.

Toward the end of this year, the Trust agreed to partner with the Lyttelton Information Centre to develop a similar set of brochures for the Lyttelton harbour area.

These projects spread *Knowledge* about *Access*, and have also included interpretative information about *Biodiversity* where appropriate.

3.9 Lyttelton Head to Head walkway

The Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board formed the Head to Head Working Party in August 2013, and the Trust was invited to be part of this to shape the Head to Head project. An obstacle to progress was the Council's decision to reallocate the funding for the project for the 2014-15 financial year, and the Trust was pleased that the Council heeded submissions from the Lyttelton community and itself to reinstate this funding so that work could continue. The funding has enabled Council staff to upgrade some of the existing tracks and install signage. A project to create an overview map/brochure is being funded by the Lyttelton Community Board.

The Trust sees its primary role as assisting to achieve *Access* across private land sections. Trust staff met with Te Hāpu o Ngāti Wheke in June 2015 and the issue of options for access across Rāpaki were canvassed.

3.10 Walking Strategy

The Trust published its draft Walking and Cycling Strategy on its website in 2013, and held over further work until the mapping project had been completed so that the results could be



Sarah Pritchett explores the coastline of Moepuku point.

added to the document. This has now been done, and an updated version of the Strategy taking into account the projects and progress over the past two years has now been uploaded. The next step is to improve the Strategy with more cultural information prior to publicizing it at the next Banks Peninsula Walking Festival.

4 Other Activities

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

4.1 Publicity

The Trust has continued to use its website as the main vessel for publishing information about its activities during the year through a news feed which is updated when significant events are ready to enter the public domain.

In March the Trust issued its second Newsletter “Storehouse Stories”, using the ISSUU online system to publish it and inform those who had registered their interest in the Trust through the website and via other means.

The *Akaroa Mail* has very kindly published articles sent to it throughout the year - in September to confirm the appointment of our new Trustees and the purchase of the Rod Donald Hut, and in March to announce Garry Moore, Claudia Reid and Nuk Korako’s decisions to finish up, describe the Trust’s projects and to draw attention to the advertisements for expressions of interest in the Trustee positions. The *Akaroa Mail* has also run advertisements for the Trust’s walking products throughout the year at no charge, and we are most grateful to the support given to the Trust by Michael de Hamel, the editor of this outstanding local newspaper.

4.2 Advocacy

The Trust made a written and verbal submission to the Council’s Long Term Plan and to Stage 2 of the Proposed Replacement District Plan in support of its objective and projects.

4.2.1 CCC Long Term Plan

The focus of the Trust submission to the Long Term Plan was:

- support for the Lyttelton Head to Head walkway
- support for cycle connectivity to the Little River Rail Trail including through Halswell
- support for partnering with Peninsula communities to repair wharves and jetties
- request to include the “Spine of the Lizard” as a Council supported project, but with no additional cost implications
- concern over the proposed reductions to parks maintenance budgets and satisfaction levels
- support for continuation of funding to key community ecological organisations

The Trust has yet to hear the results of this submission.

4.2.2 Proposed Replacement District Plan Stage 2

The Trust has also made a submission to the Stage 2 of the Proposed Replacement District Plan regarding provisions for rural Banks Peninsula and its open space areas. The principle thrust of this submission is that the provisions in the Banks Peninsula District Plan developed over 15 years of public processes should come over into the Replacement Plan, and secondly that the Council’s Open

Space Strategy should be recognized in the replacement Plan so that the recreational routes it envisages can be taken into consideration when processing subdivisions.

4.3 Liaison with other organisations

In addition to partnering and working with the many organisations as already described in conjunction with its projects, the Trust has also liaised with both of the Banks Peninsula Community Boards, the Wairewa, Koukourārata, Ngāti Wheke, and Onuku rūnanga, the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Orton Bradley Park, Canterbury Conservation Board, Environment Canterbury, and the Rangiora Tramping Club. In addition the Trust's manager presented to the Sociological Association of Aotearoa NZ conference in Christchurch in December.

4.3.1 Community Boards

The Trust has continued to liaise with the Akaroa/Wairewa and Lyttelton/ Mt Herbert Community Boards. Two Trustees and the Trust's Manager attended the joint Banks Peninsula Community Board workshop in October and spoke to the Akaroa/ Wairewa Board about the Spine of the Lizard project and the LTP submission in April. Contractor Sarah Mankelow who is working on a marketing plan for the Spine of the Lizard spoke to the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Board on the same subject matter. The Community Board Chairs were also invited to the Trust meeting held at Lincoln University in May and to hear the results of the Summer Student research. The Trust has also liaised during the year with the Chairs on projects in common including the Lyttelton Head to Head walkway and the new Akaroa Reserve.

4.3.2 Banks Peninsula Rūnanga

The Trust has met with the Wairewa rūnanga executive committee in November, the Koukourārata executive committee in December, the Ōnuku rūnanga executive committee in February and Ngāti Wheke executive in June. It also visited Tūtehuarewa marae in beautiful Koukourārata (Port Levy) in June where topics discussed included the use of ngārara (lizard) symbol and name in the Spine of the Lizard walkway and various projects that exist within the respective rohe of each rūnanga (such as the Head to Head walkway for Ngāti Wheke). The Trust is having regard for the views of rūnanga and has decided to find a new name for the Spine of the Lizard track network. The Trust would like to thank all those people involved with peninsula rūnanga and their executive committees for the gift of their time to hear and discuss its projects and the very warm welcome it has received.

4.3.3 Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

The Trust has made a quarterly grant of \$6,250 to the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) since 2012. This grant is in recognition of the excellent work carried out by BPCT and the leadership role that it plays on Banks Peninsula within the realm of biodiversity protection and recovery. This Trust seeks to support existing organisations rather than duplicate their efforts, and funding of BPCT enables the Trust to in part achieve its *Biodiversity* goals through this support.

The Trust has been aware that BPCT has undergone a major restructure and change of staff in the previous year as it seeks to become more financially self-sustaining. The Trust has been pleased to meet with the new staff and commends BPCT Trust manager Maree Burnett and covenant officer Marie Neal on getting up to speed with their new roles.

The Trust's Manager has met on a regular basis with the Maree Burnett to discuss ways in which the organizations can work in partnership on projects with shared objectives during the year and Maree Burnett has attended a Trust meeting to update the Trustees on the progress being made by BPCT and its future directions.

4.3.4 Orton Bradley Park

The Trust has also made a quarterly grant of \$6,250 to Orton Bradley Park since 2013 in recognition of the Parks contribution to the Trust's pillars of *Access*, *Biodiversity* and *Knowledge*. Orton Bradley Park provides two of the feeder tracks leading to the Summit Walkway and is seen as a core partner

in the Spine of the Lizard project. The Park offers many walking and more recently biking tracks. It has protected native forest with covenants, and it offers an insight into the past through its farm buildings and working machinery established in Orton Bradley's time.

The Trust was very pleased to learn that Orton Bradley Park had been successful in its application to the Community Trust to develop its Outdoor Recreation Centre and associated low key public camping facilities, and with the report given to it by Manager Ian Luxford in June.

4.3.5 Canterbury Conservation Board

The Trust's Manager spoke to the Canterbury Conservation Board in February about the Trust's work and submission to the Conservation Management Strategy.

4.3.6 Environment Canterbury

The Trust's Manager met with Environment Canterbury commissioners in November as part of an Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board initiative to introduce them to Banks Peninsula and in February presented to Environment Canterbury's well attended Natural Environment Recovery Programme lunchtime lecture about outdoor recreation and the Spine of the Lizard project.

4.3.7 Hornby Rotary

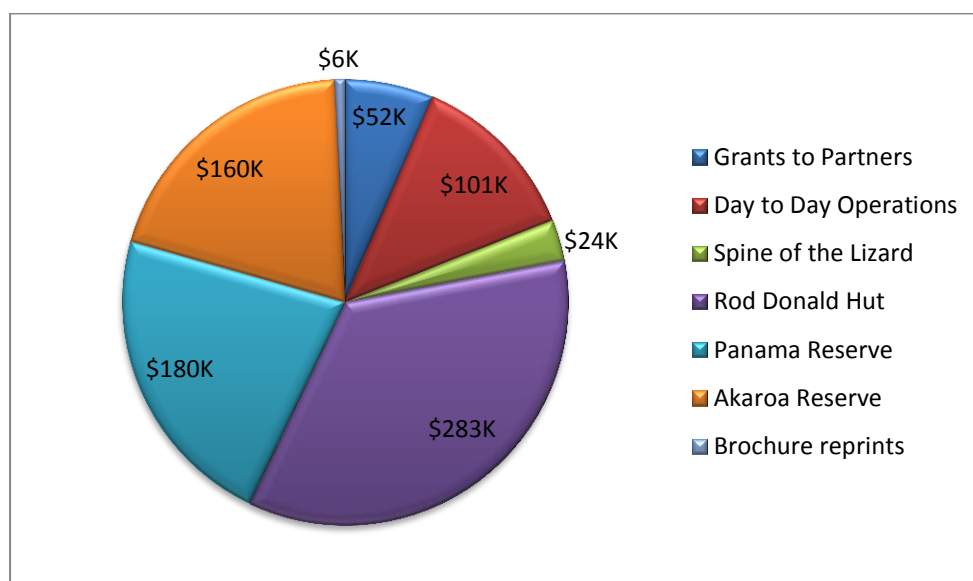
The Trust has continued to support the work of the Hornby Rotary club at Caton's Bay with a grant to assist with weed control through the areas that have been cleared of willows and replanted with natives.

4.3.8 Rangiora Tramping Club

Garry Moore and the Trust's Manager spoke to the Rangiora Tramping Club in March, which resulted in a group from the club staying in the Rod Donald Hut and participating in the first working bee on the Spine of the Lizard route.

5 Expenditure summary

The total expenditure as shown in the Annual Report is \$806,000 during this financial year. This includes both operational expenditure and capital expenditure.



The largest cost was the Rod Donald Hut. This includes the property purchase and the nearly all the cost of fitting the hut out. There will be some minor further costs in the coming financial year for the last of the building work and the design and construction of signage, but the bulk has been completed during this year. The other two large expenses were the contribution to the Akaroa

Reserve and the Panama Reserve. The contribution to the Akaroa Reserve was a grant to the New Zealand Native Forest Restoration to assist with their purchase of the land. The contribution to the Panama Reserve was a direct purchase by the Trust of a 107ha block. The Trust will recoup the bulk of its investment when the land is on-sold to the Langer Reserve next year at cost, less a \$50,000 loan which will be then written off if the Langer Trust meets all its agreed commitments.

Comparison with Income 2014-15

The Trust has had a goal of keeping its day to day operational costs, including operational grants to its partner organisations within its annual income for as long as possible. The Trust gains its income predominantly from interest on the investment of its initial capital sum, and so as it spends this sum, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the operational costs within the income, and this year the total exceeded the income for the first time.

The total income from interest, sales and donations was \$143,964. The day to day operational work including the Spine of the Lizard and brochure printing came to \$139,358, but this excludes the operational grants to partners of \$52,000 and the donation to the Akaroa reserve, both of which appear as operational costs in the Annual Report.

5.1.1 Prometheus finance

Prometheus Finance went into liquidation in December 2014. The Trust had invested a portion of its funds in Prometheus in 2012, as a way of having its funds work towards Trust goals while they were invested. As Prometheus was not a credit rated bank deposit taker and fell outside of the Council's investment policy, the Trust conducted a due diligence exercise prior to making the investment. This had revealed that that Prometheus had a higher Capital Adequacy ratio than legally required, and on this basis of the Trust invested 7% of its funds in a longterm deposit. Trustees became aware that Prometheus had been posting a loss after the 2014 Auditor's report, but the company's decision to go into voluntary receivership soon after came as a shock. The Trust was pleased to receive notification in March that following the successful sale of the loan book, the deposit would be refunded in full inclusive of interest through a series of installments completing in September 2015.

The Trust has subsequently changed its investment policy to restrict investment to credit rated bank deposit takers.

6 Looking forward to 2015-16

At the close of the 2014-15 year, the Trust has a large number projects and associated relationships that it is progressing. Its priorities at the start of the 2015-16 year are to:

- arrange a formal opening event, probably in conjunction with the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival to open the Rod Donald Hut then manage it for overnight tramping stays;
- finalise the name for the Spine of the Lizard track network and continue working with Department of Conservation, landowners and other partners to progress it. Goals for the coming year are to get the tracks improved, signage and trail head maps in place, complete negotiations with landowners to secure access, begin fundraising for two shelters and to work toward the long term ownership and maintenance of the assets created;
- work with the NZNFRT and Hinewai reserve manager Hugh Wilson to map the new reserve above Akaroa and assist with signage, and, subject to negotiations with an adjoining owner, add further land to the reserve;
- work with the Josef Langer Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Permanent Forests Ltd to register a conservation covenant and then to register under the PFSI;

- maintain and market the walking products and develop the website www.bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz into a site with additional features and the ability to work on small mobile devices, and to work with Akaroa District Promotions and Christchurch City Council to funnel all Banks Peninsula walking queries to it;
- develop three new walking brochures for the Lyttelton area in conjunction with Lyttelton Information Centre and other local groups;
- support and participate in the 2015 Banks Peninsula Walking Festival;
- continue to build relationships with the peninsula rūnanga;
- 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; and,
- continue to participate in the Lyttelton Head to Head project.

The Trust will be governed in the coming year by Simon Mortlock (interim Chair), Andrew Turner, Brian Patrick, Bob Webster, Stuart Wright-Stow, Stewart Miller, 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. At a management level the Trust recognizes that as it has grown from a start up to a fully operational organisation and is undergoing significant changes at both the Board level and in terms of its financial administration. It will continue to document and formalize its processes and to consider the security of its file management and document storage.

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.