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From the Chair

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's my pleasure to report on how the Trust has furthered its four strategic pillars of Access, Biodiversity, Knowledge and Partnership with a raft of projects since our last issue of Storehouse Stories a year ago.

Back then we were advertising for new Trustees to replace Garry Moore, Claudia Reid and Nuk Korako who were stepping down after breathing the Trust into life and nurturing its first few years. On behalf of the Trust, I thank those outgoing Trustees for their outstanding contributions.

Continued overleaf



Trust Chair Simon Mortlock speaking at the Rod Donald Hut opening.



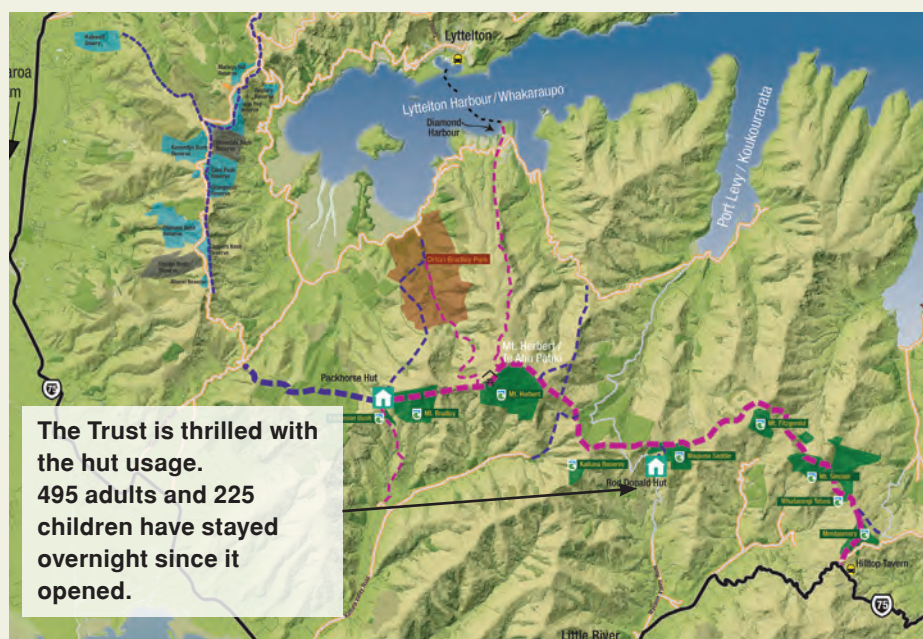
The late Rod Donald's partner Nicola Shirlaw, daughters Zoe, Holly and Emma and father David Donald. The Trust is extremely grateful to the family for enabling Rod's name to be used on the hut and for their participation at the opening on such a sad but special day for them.

Rod Donald Hut Opens to the Public

The Trust officially opened its new Rod Donald Hut on the tenth anniversary of namesake Rod Donald's death. The hut provides a special way to remember this passionate environmentalist and his love for Banks Peninsula. 120 people attended the opening event, most of them tramping to the new hut.

The nine bunk Rod Donald Hut services Te Ara Pātaka – the Summit

Walkway – and is freely available for day use. Overnight users need to book bunks using the DOC online booking system at www.doc.govt.nz, and the standard hut fees apply. "Booking is an important step", says Trust manager Suky Thompson. "Our joint research with DOC identified that the lack of guaranteed bunks was a barrier to family participation in overnight tramping".



The Trust is thrilled with the hut usage. 495 adults and 225 children have stayed overnight since it opened.

Read more about the Trust's flagship project Te Ara Pātaka inside

Rod Donald Hut opening kicks off the walking festival



Iaeen Cranwell from Te Rūnanga o Wairewa, kicked off the speeches with a powerful whaikōrero. Over 120 people attended the opening.

The Rod Donald Hut officially opened on November 7, 2015 as the first event in the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival.

A tapu-lifting and blessing by kaumātua James Robinson of Rūnanga o Wairewa was followed by speakers covering a wide range of topics.

Rod Donald Hut sits on a beautiful 10 ha covenanted bush block high above Little River. QEII Trust regional representative Alice Shanks recalled visiting the property to measure restoration progress before it came into the hands of the Trust. She thanked the two previous owners, Rodney Chambers, who placed the original covenant on part of the land, and then Paul and Ruth Maurice who extended the covenant to cover the whole 10ha in perpetuity for native bush restoration.

“Tramping as children taught my brother and I stoicism and resilience. I hope this hut provides many first tramping experiences for young families from Christchurch”, said Laura King of Federated Mountain Clubs, articulating the hopes of the Trust.

Hugh Wilson from Hinewai delighted the audience with his recollection of childhood tramps to the Tom Cundell hut. Now gone, it stood for many years at Port Levy Saddle, not far from the new Rod Donald Hut.

“We hope that this hut will help youngsters from Christchurch learn to appreciate the environment, and follow

in the footsteps of Hinewai Reserve’s Hugh Wilson to become the kaitiaki of the future” said the Trust’s manager Suky Thompson at the conclusion.



Months of hard work by the Trust and builder David Brailsford are rewarded by the number of families using the hut and the shrieks of glee when kids arrive.

Continued from previous page

From the Chair

We were delighted with the level of interest in the positions and our three new Trustees, Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao are proving an excellent choice. With the departure of Garry Moore we also needed a new Chair, and I thank my fellow Trustees for selecting me for the role.

Highlights of the year including opening of the new Rod Donald Hut and working with the four Banks Peninsula rūnanga to determine a culturally appropriate name for the Summit Walkway. The other big event this year was the official opening of the wonderful new Purple Peak Curry Reserve above Akaroa, cementing our partnership with the North Island owners Native Forest Restoration Trust and with the Hinewai Reserve

team who are managing this big new regenerating area.

The Trust would like to thank all of our readers for your ongoing support and hope you enjoy reading more about these projects in our newsletter.

Ngā mihi,
Simon Mortlock
Chair

Banks Peninsula Walking Festival 2015

The Trust was delighted to contribute to the annual Banks Peninsula Walking Festival. "We'd like to thank Project Lyttelton for managing this festival again", says Trust Manager Suky Thompson, "it provides the perfect vehicle for people to learn more about beautiful Banks Peninsula from enthusiastic and knowledgeable local guides".

Thirty-nine walks on offer over four weekends in November included urban strolls around Lyttelton; an exploration of areas of significance to tangata whenua; and whole day walks along the "wildside" of Banks Peninsula.

Other walks highlighting projects of particular interest to the Trust were Dr Sam Hampton's introduction to the GeoPark concept in Pa Bay; Robin Burleigh's exploration of Panama Reserve that he manages; and Tina Troup's Mount Sinclair walk offering a taste of the Summit Walkway.

"The highlight for me was the Sneak Preview of the Purple Peak Curry Reserve led by Hugh Wilson", says Trustee Chrissie Williams. "Despite the damp weather there was a large and enthusiastic crowd and many opportunities for botanising".



Visiting the Frank Worsley House site on the Purple Peak Curry Reserve Sneak Preview

Planning has already begun on the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival 2016 with the Trust, Akaroa Promotions Office and Little River Trust all stepping up to take larger roles in the development of this festival, as it becomes a significant Banks Peninsula event. If you would like to guide a favourite walk, please do get in touch.



Walkers on Robin Burleigh's "Grunts and Dykes" walk admire Panama Reserve from the deck of Langer Lodge

My First overnight tramp Visiting an old favourite



"DOC have done a wonderful job of seismic strengthening and refurbishing the 100 year-old Packhorse Hut, situated between Gebbies Pass and Te Ahu Pātiki/Mt Herbert" said the Trust

assistant manager Sarah Pritchett, who with her husband Phil Swallow and children Otis and Louis, led an overnight tramp to the Packhorse as part of the Walking Festival.

Starting off from Kaituna with Trust's assistant manager Sarah Pritchett 4th from the left

Six other children, aged between 7 and 9 and their parents made up the group. "Tramping with other families always makes it easier to motivate children" Sarah explains.

Highlights for the children included "Playing around on the rocks (outside the hut)", "toasting marshmallows", "the bush with the big (matai) trees" and "the hut and the bunks". There is no doubt that this overnight tramp was the first of many these young children will embark on in their backyard of the Banks Peninsula.

Was your first overnight tramp to the Packhorse hut? We'd love to hear your memories of it. Send them to sarah@roddonaldtrust.co.nz

Te Ara Pātaka – Summit Walkway gets a New Name

The Trust has worked with the Department of Conservation since 2013 to improve the summit track running from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop and the tracks connecting to it from valleys below into a well-managed network. In the early stages the project used the name Spine of the Lizard. “When we discovered this reference to lizards was culturally inappropriate we reverted to the name of Summit Walkway while further consultation took place” explains Trust Chair Simon Mortlock.



The much loved Tōtara “toothbrush trees” on Waipuna saddle

The four Banks Peninsula rūnanga (Ōnuku, Koukourārata, Wairewa and Ngāti Wheke) have now chosen the name Te Ara Pātaka for the main

track, referencing the Māori name for Banks Peninsula – Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (the food basket of Waitaha ancestor Rākaihautū). “It’s a great honour to have been gifted this name by the Banks Peninsula rūnanga, which refers directly to their long history here and relationship with the landscape”, says Trustee Debbie Tikao.

Te Ara Pātaka is now being used on new maps and signage in production, with Summit Walkway retained as the secondary name to aid the transition and honour Harry Ell’s vision for a route linking Lyttelton to Akaroa via the spectacular summit ridgelines.



Steffan Kraberger, Bruce King (armed with his measuring stick) and Derek Cox reach the summit of Montgomery Reserve after a planning walk.

joint effort between Trust contractors and DOC rangers, and the Trust appreciates the impact that new DOC Mahaanui Area Manager Andy Thompson, a long time supporter of the project, is having.

“I’d particularly like to thank all the private landowners on the way who have been so helpful, taking us on their farm tracks and giving permission for stiles and marking to be erected on their properties” says Suky Thompson.

The Trust and DOC have been working to improve the Te Ara Pātaka tracks and add waymarking, starting with Montgomery Reserve.

“The steep track followed a natural rockfall”, says Suky Thompson, “and was really tough coming down on those with stiff knees or heavy packs”. Wooden steps were out of scope for DOC, but once ranger Derek Cox had come up with the idea of re-organising the rocks into “clever steps”, the Trust contracted local stone expert Bruce King from Cooptown and young landscaper Steffan Kraberger to assist. This highly skilled duo started in October and had the work done by Christmas.

Next Steffan and the Trust’s hut builder David Brailsford installed waymarking over the often misty Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki summit to Port Levy Saddle and Purau Saddle. A pile of sturdy wooden posts lying on the track were reclaimed to form the

main markers over the tops, along with orange topped warratahs augmented with reflective strips. The pair were delighted when a group of school children came walking past on their way from Gebbies Pass to their school camp at Orton Bradley Park. “It was fantastic to see these young children using the track,” says David.

Improvements between Packhorse Hut and Mt Bradley have been a



Women out Walking test the track in the Montgomery Reserve and pronounce it vastly improved!

Once these basic jobs are complete the Trust and DOC aim to work with Banks Peninsula rūnanga and the wider community to develop interpretation for the track.



School kids on the track to Orton Bradley Park encounter the track marking contractors



PHOTO: OLI GIBBS

Packhorse Hut sporting its new colours after DOC completed seismic strengthening and refurbishment. Overnight users must also now book their bunks in the Packhorse using the DOC online booking system.



Harry Ell (with permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library)

Harry Ell Centenary

"Our Te Ara Pātaka project continues Harry Ell's original vision to have a network of summit reserves from the Port Hills to Akaroa connected by a track with rest houses for walkers", say Simon Mortlock. The Trust and DOC intend to celebrate progress on the project on the last weekend of November during the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival. Visionary Harry Ell

campaigned for public access along the Port Hills, secured the first scenic reserve at Kennedy's Bush, pushed the first Scenery Preservation Act through parliament and built the Packhorse Hut. If you would like to participate in the centenary celebration as a guide, please contact the Trust.

Banks Peninsula Walks Website

The Banks Peninsula Walks website (www.bpwalks.co.nz) has had a major overhaul. Head to this site if you want to get an overview of all the walking opportunities on Banks Peninsula. The updated website is mobile friendly and allows walkers to upload photos and also to report track problems. "We're delighted that Akaroa District Promotions is funnelling all their walking enquiries to our site", says Suky Thompson, "as this also means our tourists and visitors get up-to-date information"



Hollie Hollander, Akaroa District Promotions Marketing Manager presents Suky Thompson with the Customer Service Award in recognition of the Trust's contribution to public recreation and biodiversity on Banks Peninsula. The Trust thanks the Akaroa Mail for sponsoring this award and for the wonderful support it gives to the Trust.



Sponsor a shelter

Have you ever been on a long tramp and been caught short between huts? The Trust envisages two additional lunch shelters for Te Ara Pātaka to provide mid-day destinations for youngsters. Rain water will be collected from the shelter roofs, and there will be toilets and interpretation panels to tell the stories of the land, its geology, biodiversity, mana whenua and Pākehā settlers.

To get this project off the ground the Trust is seeking sponsors. If you are interested in finding out more or know of a business or individual who may be interested in helping, contact suky@roddonaldtrust.co.nz



Cr Andrew Turner discusses the new reserve with former owners Graeme and Maryn Curry, and a delighted Hugh Wilson



Founding NFRT Trustee Geoff Davidson speaks to the mostly local crowd at the Purple Peak Curry Reserve opening



NFRT ecologist Sharen Graham was thrilled to spot a rare jeweled gecko in the reserve remarking "I never thought I'd see one in the wild"

Purple Peak Curry Reserve Opening

The Trust was delighted to support the Native Forest Restoration Trust (NFRT) in their purchase of the Purple Peak Curry Reserve, which officially opened in February. Christchurch City Council also made a significant financial contribution, as the reserve includes the Akaroa water catchment. Hugh Wilson and his magnificent team from Hinewai are managing the new reserve, which is situated on adjacent land previously farmed by the Curry family.

The North Island-based NFRT got their first view of the rich flora and fauna on the new tracks in the reserve the day before the opening. "I have been blown away with what the Hinewai team have achieved already and it will only get better" said Tim Oliver the Chair of the NFRT.

Speeches were kicked off by kaumātua James Robinson blessing Te Piki o

Te Ake (Purple Peak). Most of the 130 people attending the opening were locals, demonstrating how well this project is received in Akaroa and the respect that Hugh Wilson's work at Hinewai has engendered over the years.

After speeches almost everyone walked through the reserve which demonstrated its versatility. Those short on time or puff headed to Browntop Saddle and a chance to shake Hugh Wilson's hand while admiring the view; those with more energy carried on to the reserve entrance adjacent to Heritage Park, and the really keen walkers headed on to Akaroa down Grehan Valley. Everyone was hot but happy after their walks through the beautiful new reserve on this blistering summer day and the Trust,

NFRT and Hinewai teams already brewing up potential new projects. Find out more about Peninsula newcomers NFRT on www.nfirt.org.nz



Hugh Wilson with NFRT's Sandy Crichton, Sharen Graham and Bev Davidson admire the giant matai and kahikatea along Curry Track

Sites of Significance

Historical ...

Frank Worsley was born in Akaroa in 1872 and grew up to captain the *Endurance* for Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-16. He spent a lot of his childhood on the family farm in Grehan Valley, just off the Curry Track on the new reserve. There are plans for an interpretation panel to be placed here.

The Māori name for Purple Peak is Te Piki o Te Ake, meaning "Te Ake's topknot". Te Ake was a Ngāi Tahu Chief, who was involved in the conquest of the Ngāti Māmoe Pā at Parakākāriki on the southwest side of Otānerito Bay.

...and Ecological

Hugh Wilson's thorough botanical survey of the Purple Peak Curry Reserve details the biodiversity of this 190 hectare mix of native bush, gorse and exotic grasses. Among the 133 native plant species are podocarp trees, the "chronically threatened" raukawa, native hardwood tree species, red beech, tree ferns and cabbage trees.

There is also a rich diversity of fauna including native birds, more recent arrivals, and gecko, skinks, spiders, insects and butterflies.



Raukawa by Hugh Wilson from Plant life on Banks Peninsula



Marie Haley from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust leading one of the walks. Marie grew up in neighbouring Goughs Bay on the family farm and said "Hugh Wilson moved next door when I was 6 and at that point I realised I could be something other than a farmer's wife and still work on the land that I love"



Public Walking Information

The Trust has been busy keeping its walking products up to date with all the new opportunities for walking as they come on stream.

The Akaroa Country Walks brochure now includes Purple Peak Curry Reserve and the Trust is working with the Council to update the on-site map panels to include it as well.

Look out soon for the first of our new brochures on walks in Lyttelton Harbour, a joint project between the Trust and the Lyttelton Information Centre. The new Lyttelton Town and Hill Walks features walks with magnificent views over Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour), a walk that explores the fascinating history of this port town, and a coastal walk to Pony Point Reserve (which borders Cass Bay and Rāpaki).

"We're excited that we will soon be able to offer this brochure" says Wendy Everingham from the Lyttelton Harbour Information Centre. "The most frequent question our volunteers are asked about is local walks. This details all the options and makes our job so much easier."



Akaroa local Lynne Alexander receiving a Walking Access award from Geoff Holgate of the Walking Access Commission in recognition of her work in opening up tracks in Akaroa, beginning with Woodills Track which traverses her land and that of a neighbour

Paihere GeoPark

Dr Sam Hampton of the University of Canterbury has been developing the concept of a GeoPark for the Banks Peninsula, called the Paihere (which translates as "bundle") GeoPark. A GeoPark highlights regions of geographical significance, including geology, natural and human history, and landuse. Some GeoParks are UNESCO recognised with the aim being to give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.

Dr Sam Hampton presented his idea to the Trustees in November and the

BPCT Extended Support and Sponsors Lunch

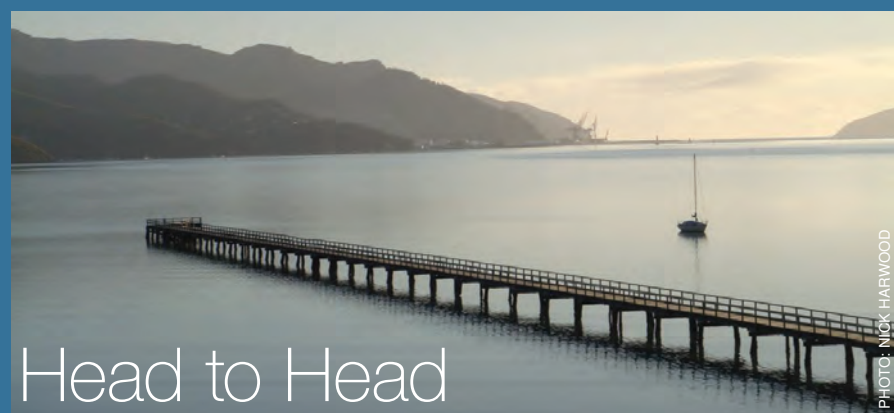
The Trust has been supporting the important work of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) for the past three years with an annual grant to lessen the burden of fundraising and facilitate operational work developing covenants with landowners and enhancing biodiversity. The Trust has extended this grant for another year, and contributed to the new position of volunteer coordinator.

The Trust congratulates BPCT on its "Foundation Sponsors" launch as a good step towards becoming more financially independent.



GeoParks highlight areas of geographical, geological, ecological and human significance, all of which abound on Banks Peninsula

Trustees reaffirmed the Trust's support for this project in principle. The Chair of the Trust Simon Mortlock is working with Dr Hampton to establish the most effective way the Trust could help this project progress.



Head to Head

Work is continuing on the Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community Board-led Head to Head walkway, which is supported by the Trust and other local community organisations.

Existing tracks on the Lyttelton side of the harbour have been improved and signage put in place. A brochure has been produced by the CCC and information on existing sections of

the track is available from <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/rec-and-sport/walks/multi-day-walks/head-to-head-walkway/>

The Trust is contributing to the Governor's Bay Jetty Trust Board's fundraising campaign to replace the earthquake damaged jetty after being impressed with the enthusiasm and skills of this local group. "We see the jetty as belonging not just to the local Governors Bay community but to the whole of Christchurch" says Louisa Eades from the jetty committee "It will be an important part of the Head to Head walkway with a seating area at the end to providing a rest for walkers".

Changes at the Trust



Farewelling retiring Trustees and welcoming new Trustees at Riccarton House, June 2015. From L to R: Nuk Korako, Suky Thompson, Brian Patrick, Debbie Tikao, Bob Webster, Claudia Reid, Cynthia Roberts, Garry Moore and Stuart Wright-Stow

Farewell to Retiring Trustees

Last June the Trust honoured retiring Trustees Garry Moore, Claudia Reid and Nuk Korako who had steered the Trust through its gestation and early years. Chair Garry Moore had lead the process, Claudia Reid brought a sound understanding of local government and Nuk Korako a much-needed tangata whenua perspective. We wish them all well with their new endeavours.



Stewart Miller This June Trustee Stewart Miller will step down at the end of his term, having served since the Trust's inception. Stewart's local government and farming background has provided invaluable context to the Trust's work.

We wish Stewart all the very best in his retirement and will miss his insightful comments around the table.

The Trust is now interested to find a Trustee who can combine a strong financial background with a love for Banks Peninsula.

Nau mai

Three new Trustees Chrissie Williams, Cynthia Roberts and Debbie Tikao were appointed from July 2015 by Christchurch City Council on the recommendation of the Trust. Chrissie Williams has a history of working with local body, iwi and conservation and outdoor groups; Dr Cynthia Roberts has a background in ecology, conservation restoration and ecotourism; and Debbie Tikao is



Retiring Trustee Nuk Korako overlaps with new Trustees Chrissie Williams and Cynthia Roberts and continuing Trustees Simon Mortlock and Brian Patrick at a visit to Koukourarata in May 2015

a landscape architect with a particular focus on cultural landscape values and strong links to Ōnuku Rūnanga.

Cynthia Roberts sums up her experience so far "The Trust's aims coincide with areas that I feel passionate about (environment, biodiversity, culture, education and recreation). I love being part of an organisation that does really make a difference".

Presence on the Peninsula

In May 2015 Sarah Pritchett was contracted to assist with the Trust's growing workload, thus enabling our manager Suky Thompson to spend more time on project work. Sarah Pritchett lives with her family in Diamond Harbour and is focusing on our projects in the Lyttelton Harbour, while Suky Thompson lives full time near Akaroa, so the Trust hopes we have our ear to the ground across the Peninsula.

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.

"We could not have managed the complex District Plan process without the experience and hard work of our consultant Jan Cook" say Suky

Thompson. The Plan Hearing Panel commended Jan's clear and logical evidence and for playing a full part on behalf of the community. Early indications are that the District Plan will give better recognition to activities such as walking, more manageable provisions for biodiversity protection and continued recognition of the Akaroa Historic Area as a result of the Trust's participation.

The Trust welcomes visitors to Banks Peninsula, but opposed the

Freedom Camping Bylaw as notified, foreseeing environmental impacts and economic issues from competition with campgrounds and accommodation. The Trust was disappointed with the resultant by-law, and is pleased that the Council will now review it given the number of problems that did eventuate this summer.

The submission to the Representation Review met with much more success, and the Trust was pleased that the Banks Peninsula ward will be retained.

Send us your stories, thoughts and comments. Email sarah@roddonaldtrust.co.nz, or post to Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust, PO Box 5, Little River, Banks Peninsula 7591

www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz or
www.facebook.com/RodDonaldBPTrust/

Donations are welcomed.
Go to <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/roddonaldbankspeninsulatrust>

 **Rod Donald
banks peninsula trust**
te pātaka o rākaihautū

For walking information visit
www.bpwalks.co.nz