BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE USING SUSTAINABLE LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

Presented by
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TRC Sustainable Trails Conference
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Banks Peninsula

- Extinct volcanoes
- Twin harbours in craters
- Highest peaks 900m
- Rugged rural landscape
Rod Donald Trust

- Charity established 2010
- Christchurch City Council CCO
- Voluntary Board of Trustees
- Named to honour Rod Donald

Rod Donald Trustees visit a section of Te Ara Pātaka where public access has been recently secured

Rod Donald MP
Green Party co-leader

www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz
Four pillars

- Broad environmental and recreational objectives
- Crystallised into four pillars
Our Vision

Developing environmental guardians of the future through improved public walking and biking access, enhancing biodiversity, promoting knowledge and working in partnership with others.

Ko te whakawhanake kaitiaki taiaro nā te whakahōu ara hīkoi, ara paihikara, te whakaniko rerenga rauropi, te whakamana mātauranga me te mahi tahi ki ngā tāngata e kaingākau kaha ana ki Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū hoki.
What’s the connection?

‘PLANTING THE SEED’: FAMILY PREFERENCES, EXPERIENCES AND BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION IN AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

- Outdoor experience motivates people to take action for the environment
- Concern that fewer kids are getting out into the environment
- Research recommends developing a graduated range of experiences in the front country
- Banks Peninsula is Christchurch front country
- Demand evidenced by response from Christchurch families

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Te Ara Pātaka multi-day trail

• 2.5 day tramp

• Provides a graduated range of front-country opportunity

• Developed in partnership with Department of Conservation

• Upgraded an existing network of tracks

• Connects Lyttelton and Akaroa craters via high summit ridgeline

• 2 huts
  – Historic Packhorse Hut
  – New Rod Donald Hut
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Rod Donald Hut

- Bach purchased and converted by Trust
- 9 bunk hut opened 2015
- Filled a missing gap
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- Bunks booked via DOC website
- Occupancy 50%
- 33% under 18s
- Local users
Why use multi-day trails for building environmental guardians?

• Huts capture hearts
• Time to appreciate nature
Rod Donald Hut
Sustainability features

- Fire risk
  - Solar lights
- Rain water collected off roof
  - 20,000l storage on site
- Worm trench for greywater
- VIP toilet

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Encouraging responsible behaviour

Using the VIP Toilet

The Ventilation Improved Pit Toilet is a modern version of the “long drop” designed to naturally compost your contributions.

There are just two simple rules for you to make it work!

1. Stuff that comes out of your body and paper only down toilet.
2. Add a small scoop of the organic material provided after use.

No nappies
No plastics
No wet wipes
No cans
No bottles
No metal
No shells, sticks, stones
No foodscrap

Always supervise small children

Last to leave?

Please run through our departure checklist.

1. Press the water pump button (by the sink in main room)
2. Hut Clean
3. Pot belly stove door and vents shut
4. Windows latched shut
5. Lights off
6. Both outside doors shut

Thank you for looking after Rod Donald Hut. We hope you have enjoyed your stay.

Using the Pot Belly Stove

1. Prepare materials
   - Gather all necessary materials, preferably under cover
   - Clear out and close the hut

2. Hut Clean
   - Shut the door
   - Close the chimney damper

3. Pot belly stove door and vents shut
   - Shut the door
   - Shut the chimney damper

4. Windows latched shut
   - Shut the window

5. Lights off
   - Shut the light

6. Both outside doors shut
   - Shut the door

Thank you for looking after Rod Donald Hut. We hope you have enjoyed your stay.

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Learning from the landscape
Ongoing challenges

- Multiple usage
- Seasonal closures
- Crossing multiple land tenures
- Securing legal public access across private land
- Multi-agency governance and management
- Finding time for environmental interpretation
Multiple land tenure

- Secure public access UFL or public reserve
- Private land crossing with public access alternative
- Private reserve crossing - small fee applies
- Private land crossing with no security
Securing access

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Multi-agency governance

DOC managed
Council managed
Not managed
Trust taking responsibility
Work in progress

• Multi-party MOU to define maintenance responsibilities

• Secure remaining private land crossings

• Lobbying Christchurch City Council to use Unformed Legal Roads for non-motorised access

• Longer term aspiration to extend to Akaroa and beyond
Questions

On behalf of the children of the future and all users – thank you to Department of Conservation, Christchurch City Council and all landowners en-route for your support.