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## From the Co-Chairs

The last twelve months have been a series of endings and beginnings for Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust. Our role as temporary custodian of Te Ahu Pātiki Conservation Park came to an end in early September when we transferred the land to its forever owner Te Ahu Pātiki Charitable Trust. This marks the end of a huge piece of work for Rod Donald Trust, and a new beginning as our role transitions to supporting the Te Ahu Pātiki Trust.

Another significant end for us was the retirement of long term Trust Manager Suky Thompson and the beginning with our new Trust Manager Andrew Turner. The Trust is delighted to be starting a new phase of recreation and conservation work on the Peninsula with exciting strategic opportunities beckoning.

The Trust has supported several organisations working towards pest eradication on Banks Peninsula, and whilst we hope this is the beginning of the end for pests, there is much work needed yet.

The Trust is looking forward to extending Te Ara Pātaka and securing additional recreational routes on the Peninsula. We hope you enjoy the existing opportunities during the 2022 Walking Festival!



Jenn Chowaniec  
Co-Chair



Richard Suggate  
Co-Chair



Andrew will provide the strategic impetus to lead the Trust in a new decade of Banks Peninsula public access and conservation support

## A warm welcome to our new Trust Manager!

The Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is delighted to have Andrew Turner on board as its new manager. 'Andrew's mix of private sector management and Council and community service along with his nine-year experience as a Rod Donald Trustee makes him ideally suited for the position,' said Trust Co-Chair Jenn Chowaniec.

After a robust recruitment process led by Brannigans Consulting Ltd, the Board decided Andrew's skill set and Peninsula relationships were the best fit for the Trust's future needs,' said Trustee and Chair of the Employment, Audit and Risk Portfolio group Paul McNoe.

As a long-time resident of Lyttelton Andrew states, 'I'm looking forward to

working for the Trust to further increase public recreation and biodiversity protection on Banks Peninsula. Giving nature a helping hand and connecting Peninsula communities are passions of mine and this role will enable me to continue this work.'

As aptly quoted in the Press, 'Andrew is shedding his deputy mayor suits for less formal attire!'



Retiring Trust Manager Suky Thompson handing over the information records to Andrew

# Changes within the Trust

## Suky Thompson's Walking Access Commission Award Presentation and Retirement Function

**Our long standing Trust Manager Suky Thompson retired in July, having played an integral role in the day to day running of the Trust for the last 11 years.**

The tributes flowed at Suky's retirement luncheon, where she was formally presented with an Outdoor Access Champion Award from the Walking Access Commission. This New Zealand wide award recognises the significant and lasting contribution Suky has made to both improving and securing outdoors public access on Banks Peninsula.

Trust Co-chair Richard Suggate shared memories, stories, and also acknowledged the many attributes that have enabled Suky to be so successful in her role.



Walking Access Commissions Celia Wade-Brown Chief Executive Ric Cullinane and Geoff Holgate present Suky with her award.



Thanks Suky your huge commitment, and best wishes for your future exploits and adventures!



Our brochure illustrator Steve Pearce surprised Suky with this wonderful caricature, summing her up perfectly even down to the earrings!



A highlight for Suky was the Te Ara Pātaka walkway formal opening in 2016

## Board Chair

Maureen McCloy, Trust Chair since 2019, recently stood down from this position to allow time for other roles, but continues on our Board. Many thanks to Maureen for her extraordinary work as Chair, and her leadership role in the acquisition of Te Ahu Pātiki and the establishment of the new Te Ahu Pātiki Trust. Richard Suggate and Jenn Chowanec have now stepped into this position as Co-Chairs.



## Trustee Bob Webster Retires

It was with sadness that we farewelled our long standing Trustee Bob Webster after eight years of exceptional service. Bob's knowledge of land management, skills at mapping and affinity with the land and Peninsula landowners have been critical to the Trust's success so many thanks Bob for your huge contribution and commitment.



Wanda getting Festival plans underway with Hinewai Reserve Manager Hugh Wilson

# Te Ahu Pātiki Charitable Trust

Photo: Matt Latham

**‘Sometimes you have to move mountains to protect mountains,’ words from Rod Donald Trust Co-chair Richard Suggate, embody the huge journey undertaken by the Rod Donald Trust that has now concluded with the newly formed Te Ahu Pātiki Charitable Trust becoming the official kaitiaki of the Maunga.**



The Trust Deed was signed in March 2022. Founding Board: Mananui Ramsden, Scott Winter, Chris Glasson, Roy Tikao, Maureen McCloy and Bob Frame Photo: Founding partner representative Yvette Couch-Lewis



Covenant and Easement signing in April 2022 – Rod Donald Trust Co-Chairs Jenn Chowanec and Richard Suggate, Alice Shanks QEII Trust and Geoff Holgate Walking Access Commission Photo: Suky Thompson

Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata, Orton Bradley Park and the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust form the foundation of the Te Ahu Pātiki Trust's board, led by Co-Chairs Roy Tikao and Maureen McCloy, working to uphold as its core kaupapa the maintaining of mana whenua values and the protection of the Maunga.

With over 3,000 donors, grant funding from ECan, Christchurch City Council, Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa Outdoor Access Commission (formerly Walking Access Commission) and the QEII National Trust the work will now continue to ensure gorse and weed control, pest control, catchment preservation, and conservation protection extending from the maunga to the moana. A QEII National Trust Covenant now protects biodiversity and walking easements guarantee public access in perpetuity as the Park undergoes its journey towards the full restoration of indigenous flora and fauna.

The Jobs for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao fund has enabled a significant restoration project of the Te Wharau stream



Taken by Mark Belton from Emerging Forests whose initial work to register the property in the Emissions Trading Scheme led to an outcome that now aids the future viability of the Park.

catchment, with over 400 possums already caught and work underway to plant 30,000 native trees.

‘Graded Earth’ Track builder Matt Coultas has been hard at work upgrading the park's track network. Over the winter he re-routed the Valley Track (part of Mt Herbert Walkway) through Orton Bradley Park. ‘This now allows for year-round access within the Te Ahu Pātiki park, and links with access from Kaituna, the Packhorse and the Mt Herbert Summit,’ states Founding Trustee Bob Frame. All of the track work was completed to a very high standard providing for good all-year round management vehicle, mountain biking and walking access.



A planting team hard at work in the lower slopes of Te Wharau Valley in Orton Bradley Park.



Matt Latham from ‘Two Boys Fencing’ has undertaken the huge task of fencing...



...often on extremely steep terrain!



Matt Coultas explaining his work to repair slips and create safe stream crossings on Faulkner track.



## Volunteer Planting Day



Becky and William hard at work!

Left: Trust Manager Suky Thompson welcomes the Jacob's team back volunteering for a third year!



Grant funding from the Rod Donald Trust helps assist BPCT with its volunteer programme

Many thanks to Sophie Hartnell, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Volunteer Coordinator, and Jenn Benden and her team from Jacobs Engineering who returned to the Hut for a third time to help out. The weather was perfect as two teams worked planting 55 new trees on the open grassland below the hut and weeding the trees planted the previous year, many of which were well enough established already to have their protective sleeves removed.

Hut Manager David Brailsford worked with a third team further up the hill carrying gravel to improve some slippery areas of the tramping track. One volunteer, Greg, recalled the hut from well back in the 1990s when the Gunn family who built it used to host the occasional mountain biking event on the property. Greg's recollection was of a landscape that was entirely scattered gorse paddocks – a far cry from the incredible naturally regenerating native forest that is now bursting through that gorse over most of the property.

## Hut Maintenance

Our Hut Manager has been busy upgrading the old pot belly stove and replacing it with a new Tiny Rad wood burner which will be far more fuel efficient and easier to cook on.

Improvements have also been made to the hut track with the gravelling of sections, new steps, better drainage and gorse control being undertaken.

Although hut usage by international visitors has decreased dramatically due to the pandemic the last two years have shown the highest ever overall occupancy rates, proving the ongoing popularity of this amazing hut!



Bunk beds have now been kitted out with new mattresses



Trust Administrator Sue Church farewelling the old pot belly....before the new wood burner is installed



New woodburner

## 'Baby Trees' project success



Seedlings planted in 2018 are now thriving along the trackside leading down to the Rod Donald Hut. What began as our 'Baby Trees' project is now helping to transform the gorse laden area into a lovely bush track.

Hut Manager David Brailsford shows the evidence of the projects success, bearing in mind that all of the planting started out as small seedlings not even reaching to top of their tree protectors.



## 2021 Highlights

Tickets sold quickly for the ever popular Walking Festival with 28 walks on the programme in locations all around Banks Peninsula.

One of the highlights was the Christchurch Blind low-vision group's 'Hinewai Hike', with Peter Coldicott and Erin Eyles leading the party through the Reserve with guide dogs in tow, and finishing the adventure with a great meal at the Duvauchelle Hotel.

The Festival concluded with the Guides Appreciation Dinner at Orton Bradley Park's Base Camp. The Festival is only made possible by the large team of volunteer guides and tail end Charlies who give freely of their knowledge and time. We are very grateful to them and also the many private landowners who allow access on their properties to make this event possible.



A 'RAP' with a View on conservation land high above Little River had the added bonus of one of the best 360° views on the Peninsula!



A giant tōtara on the Christchurch Blind low-vision group's 'Hinewai Hike'



'Steephead Reconnoitre with Raconteurs' – Guide Hamish Dalglish had grown up on the property and shared many stories about the history of Le Bons Bay, alongside Alice Shanks who shared her botany expertise in the areas of native bush.



**4 FUN FILLED WEEKENDS NOVEMBER 5-27**

There are some wonderful walks on the southern side of Lyttelton Harbour, including a gorgeous half day walk on beautiful Manaaki Mai and its hidden valleys with Paul and Andrea Dahl.

A family friendly walk is also a great option with Rosemary Baird and staff from the Heritage Zealand Pouhere Taonga staff!

We are also delighted to

have Kamala Hayman, editor of the Press, join board members of the Te Ahu Pātiki Charitable Trust to explore Mt Bradley and the new conservation park.

Take the chance to learn about the Whakaora Te Ahuriri project - the incredible work being done to restore Ahuriri Wetland, or join CCC Rangers as they follow in the footsteps of



Green Dots and Grand Views' visits a stunning private native restoration project of over 15,000 plants in the Otahuna Valley and the Tai Tapu Sculpture Garden



Dog lovers will enjoy the chance to take a four-legged friend along to climb Panama Rock!



Take a look at the changing landscapes of Diamond Harbour with guide Graeme Fraser

Frank Worsley exploring the Akaroa Skyline.

The Festival runs every Saturday and Sunday from 5th-27th November so mark it on your calendar!

**Tickets are selling out quickly so book at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)**

**Search Banks Peninsula Walking Festival 2022. Make sure you follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**





The cattle have been provided with an alternative scratching post in the form of a giant bottle brush. Photos David Brailsford

Innovative solutions have been put in place by our great track maintenance man David Brailsford as he addressed the issue of cattle damage to signs and markers on the Monument Track.

Grazing stock do a great job keeping the grass down making it much easier to walk through, but they can be tough on the man-made features.



The new signs now have their own protective layer. Photos David Brailsford



You can now connect from Newtons Waterfall to Misty Peaks Track high above Akaroa – be warned this is a steep one!

## New walking tracks to explore!

CCC Rangers Nick Singleton and John Fitch have been busy in recent months constructing three new walking tracks on the Peninsula. Te Oka Reserve now has a skyline track that showcases amazing views in all directions. A new

*Below: Kawatea Track is a great walk for families if you are heading over to Okains Bay, and enjoy a lovely sandy swimming beach and picnic spot when you get to Kawatea/Little Okains Bay*

link has been established to reach the summit in Misty Peaks Reserve above Akaroa and a gentle walking track is now in place to Kawatea/Little Okains Bay.

Details of these new walks are featured in our latest walking brochures and on our website [bpwalks.co.nz](http://bpwalks.co.nz)



John and Nick - CCC's dynamic duo!



Te Oka Reserve's new walk 'Te Oka Tops' offers a 3km 'there and back' poled route along the breath-taking skyline

### Kawatea Track



Track maintenance is a huge job. This aerial imagery shows massive slips from the recent Eastern Bays storm event causing huge damage to Hinewai Reserve's track network





**The Trust, as a member of Pest Free Banks Peninsula, continues supporting projects aiding the vision to see the Peninsula become predator free by 2050.**

A very successful Pest Free Banks Peninsula initiative is the feral goat eradication programme, with a recent



operation resulting in approximately 800 goats mustered and a further 1,300 goats removed from the landscape in the Southern Bays area.

Rod Donald Trustee Bryan Storey says, 'Feral goats have become a big issue on Banks Peninsula but steady progress is being made to overcome the problem thanks to this project.'



Te Kāhahu Kahukura is a large scale collaboration of landowners, residents, organisations and agencies whose vision is to see the Southern Port Hills area become a thriving and resilient indigenous forest supporting native flora and fauna by 2050; a taonga for Ōtautahi. Natural regeneration, restoration planting, targeted enrichment planting of podocarps, and collaborative animal and plant pest control are all important parts of the programme.

The focus of Te Kāhahu Kahukura is south of Victoria Park/ Rāpaki, extending towards Gebbies Pass, from the plains to Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour, including Ōtamahua/Quail Island.

In April this year Living Springs hosted the Te Kāhahu Kahukura MoU signing, with Yvette Couch-Lewis from Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke opening the speeches by sharing of the importance of the area and the vision going forward. 18 partner organisations, including the Rod Donald Trust, are signatories to this exciting initiative.



### Covenant Support Programme

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust continues working to fulfil the eight core goals of its 2050 Ecological Vision for Banks Peninsula. Ongoing programmes enable this work, with grant funding from the Rod Donald Trust assisting with their covenant support programme.

A covenant is a powerful legal mechanism that ensures enduring conservation protection, enhances

habitats and encourages biodiversity, while landowners still retain full ownership of their land. More than 90 covenants are already registered with BPCT, who assist landowners by developing a personalised ecological management plan. This information includes everything from fencing advice to guidance on the legal requirements for registering a covenant on the land title.

## Conservation Volunteers New Zealand Whaka Ora Pest Project

The Trust was delighted to provide Conservation Volunteers New Zealand with a funding grant to assist with their newly established Whaka Ora Pest Project (WOPP). WOPP will coordinate and deliver predator control and invasive pest plant management in various parks, reserves and on private land within the Lyttelton/Whakaraupō area.

CVNZ have the vision of 'inspiring change by connecting people with nature' and by engaging volunteers to make a positive contribution to

conservation landscapes, habitats, species and heritage can be protected.

Some initial project goals include organising pest plant and trapping workshops, weed control work, establishing monitoring and trap lines, and working with schools in the Whakaraupō area providing educational material about pests including a 'How safe is my cat?' programme.



*He rau ringa e oti ai  
- By many hands the  
task is completed*



CVNZ Regional Manager Hamish Fairbairn out in the field at Rāpaki

## Strategic Planning continues

Despite the recent changes within the Trust overall planning, goal setting and working to fulfil the Trusts vision continues. A planning meeting earlier in the year began with a tramp on private conservation land in Little River before Trustees got down to the business side of the day. These sessions are invaluable for both reflecting on our achievements and helping to define our objective going forward.



### Website and Walking Products

For the latest walking information make sure you check out our website [bpwalks.co.nz](http://bpwalks.co.nz) and purchase our walking brochures at local i-SITES.



## Current Trustees and Staff

**Trustees:** Co-Chair Richard Suggate, Co-Chair Jenn Chowanec, Maureen McCloy, Bryan Storey, Paul McNoe and Bob Frame.

**Staff:** Andrew Turner Trust Manager, Sue Church Trust Administrator and David Brailsford Hut Manager.

Many thanks to Trustees for your remarkable commitment and many hours of voluntary work. We're reviewing the needs of the Board and will determine a process to fill current vacancies.



What a great fundraising initiative!

## Trustees 'Queen Kereru and her cloak of feathers' Art Auction

We were so impressed with the children's art class at Corina Hazlett Art Studios who produced an amazing painting that was auctioned on TradeMe as a fundraising project for the Rod Donald Trust. Raising \$1,810 Corina tells us, 'this has been a wonderful project for my youngest students raising awareness through their art of the valuable work the Trust does.'

Corina has now expanded the project and her fundraising effort for the Trust by producing a range of clothing merchandise featuring the image – visit [corinahazlettdesign.digitees.co.nz](http://corinahazlettdesign.digitees.co.nz) for details.



Visit [corinahazlettdesign.digitees.co.nz](http://corinahazlettdesign.digitees.co.nz) to purchase 'Queen Kereru' for yourself – a great gift idea too!



Rod Donald Trust Co-chair Richard Suggate, Artist Corina Hazlett and the successful bidder NGC Windows Director Tom Foster

Below: The final bid!



## Donations and Bequests

The Trust welcomes donations, however big or small. If you support our work or have enjoyed Rod Donald Hut, our publications, the Walking Festival or one of the new Reserves, please visit our Givealittle page.

If you would like to consider leaving a legacy via a bequest contact our Trust Manager [manager@roddonaldtrust.co.nz](mailto:manager@roddonaldtrust.co.nz)



Follow our news during the year on:  
[www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz](http://www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz)

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