

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Annual Report

It is with pleasure I present this fourth annual report of the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust for the year ending 31st June 2013.

The last year has seen continued progress with the project as we continue with strong community support towards the long term vision of a “Pest Free Peninsula”.

It has been pleasing to make our way further down the Peninsula towards Dunedin City. In doing this means we have covered nearly the whole of the Peninsula at least once. The initial work done through sector 4, by far the biggest of the sectors has given us a chance to get out and complete an initial knock down of possums. From the information we have gathered we have a much better understanding of what will be required in future operations.

This year the trust has put a lot of time into developing a strategic plan; this was done with the help of Ahika Consulting Ltd. It has been a chance to reflect on what we have achieved and has given the trust a chance to discuss where we see ourselves in the near future. It has allowed us to create a long term vision of “Working with our community to create a pest-free Peninsula by 2050, in order to enhance our biodiversity.”

This will not be achieved without the on-going support of funders.

- Department of Conservation(Bio Funds) for their continued support of our Project Manager
- Ministry for the Environment for funding sector four knock down
- Department of Conservation for managing pests in its reserves on the Peninsula
- Community Trust of Otago in funding the community trapping work through sector 4
- Speights Environment Fund for funding the community trapping work in sector 4

I would like now to acknowledge our grateful appreciation to those who have supported our vision by providing funds during the past year. We are also extremely grateful for all the local support that the work is receiving. We thank them for their time and enthusiasm for the project.

I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic work our ever growing number of volunteers has been undertaking including

- 23 one km Bird Monitoring Transects
- 14 Vegetation Monitoring sites
- 10 Rat Monitoring Lines

The benefits of this work to our vision are on-going and will increase as time goes on. I have heard from other projects that they wished that they had such comprehensive data from the beginning of their projects to be able to quantify the work they have under taken.

As a trust we would like to thank the contractors that we have used this year, we are grateful for their high quality of work that they do in at times trying conditions. It has been pleasing to have both DM Holdings and Otago Pest services working for us, as they have from the beginning of this project. I would like to thank them for the understanding that they have shown this year in working around our funding ability and work program.

Bruce Kyle has been doing some great work for us as well and has done a fantastic job on sector three reducing numbers there to very low levels. Trap catch in this buffer is now 0.001%, i.e. one possum caught per 1000 trap nights.

Once again I would like now to acknowledge the support we have received from the land owners, we are very grateful for the on-going access on to landowners property so we can carry out the work/monitoring intended.

To all Trustees, Thank you for the time you have given to progressing our vision of bringing about a “Pest Free Peninsula”. I would especially like to thank Moira for the work she does for the trust as Secretary, Archivist, Vegetation Monitoring, Bird Monitoring and Rat Monitoring work. Thank you.

Last but in no means least I would like to thank Richard Wilson for the work he does keeping things going from Fundraising to Film Stardom and everything in between.

Thank you for your commitment to the work and enthusiasm in helping the trust achieve its goals

Brendon Cross

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Chairperson

28th August 2013

