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## **Summit Road Society 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **Combined Reports**

#### **President's 75<sup>th</sup> Report - Summit Road Society 2023.**

Once again, I consider it one of the most enjoyable and rewarding tasks that I am sort of expected to do to present the annual report of the Summit Road Society for the year ending December 2023.

I have been presenting these reports for quite a few number of years and surprisingly every single one has reinforced considerable progress in furthering the vision of Harry Ell who by his commitment and love of the Port Hills that fostered his passion for the Hills wanting them to be a place for all to enjoy, to experience the wonderment of the Hills whether it be the flora or fauna, the opportunity to walk amongst the many types of vegetation and enjoyment of being so close to nature in its natural state, or simply experiencing the many and varied scenic views,

The Port Hills are a place for many and different physical activities, a place of relaxation to appreciate the tranquillity of this open space. Watching or listening to the birdlife that is increasing as a result of the society's Predator Free Port Hills program.

It was pivotal in Harry's vision that a road be provided and maintained so that access to this special place would always be available to the public in general. It should never be restricted to a select few and visits by the public to participate in the opportunities that the Hills provide should be free from charge. From what I know about Harry and my own assessment of his character, donations or fund raising, to ensure that the protection of the naturalness of the Hills, is taken as a way of showing appreciation for the efforts of the many involved in protecting and maintaining the Hills. Donations would be most welcome.

The resilience of the Society has ensured the progress of the Society in all aspects.

The highlight of the year undoubtedly was the completion and opening of the John Jameson Lookout. This project was the culmination of many years of planning and a commitment that it would succeed. Despite the weather a sizable gathering attended for the opening and inspection of the lookout with its design and the outstanding carving depicting the name of the area where the lookout is positioned Ōrongomai (the place where voices are heard) standing tall on its plinth for everyone to see.



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Although the weather was slightly inclement the spirit of the occasion was not dampened in any way, accolades complementing the Pou, and the design of the lookout were received from many quarters. The Society won a certificate awarded from the Civic Trust for the addition to the promotion of Christchurch.

While on the subject of awards our dedicated Secretary Marie Gray received a well-deserved acknowledgement of her commitment to the environment from Kiwi Bank.

With the fencing of Omahu being complete there was a focus to remove the remaining deer and pig inhabitants. The pig population removal has been successful but the remaining deer although small in numbers continues to be a problem. An additional cull reduced those numbers even further but there are still indications that the deer have not been fully exterminated. The continuation of this problem is work in progress to eliminate these pests as they have very efficient survival instincts.

Since the initiation of this eradication project there is the satisfaction that the cost is well and truly justified as there is a noticeable improvement in vegetation growth within the bush itself highlighting the success of the fencing and the eradication of these two pests in particular.

The Jobs for Nature at Linda Woods Reserve (Avoca Valley) has progressed as planned during the year with plantings now reaching fifty thousand plus, with the remaining trees programmed for the final year of 2024.

Arbor Day was again successful with the involvement of school children participating and learning the basis of regeneration by planting trees and the value of working with others to achieve an outcome.

As usual Di Carter's Team and the Eastenders, who dig the holes for the plants, make certain that the day in itself is an enjoyable and productive day ensuring that it will continue to provide benefit to the environment and experience for the participants for an exceptionally long time.

The Society is still progressing from strength to strength with its identity and reputation being recognised with enquiries from people from all walks of life indicating that they would like to join or make donations towards the furtherment of the Society's involvement in the Port Hills, both its promotion and restoration work taking place in its reserves and now its very successful Predator Free Port Hills program.

The Predator Free program is still progressing with the continuation of new traps being constructed and placed in back yards with the intention of eliminating predator pests



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that invade the Port Hills. These are not only a threat to indigenous fauna and flora but are also a threat to the domestic sector gardens and animals.

The volunteer work parties have grown substantially over the last dozen or so years from just the Eastenders who for years worked on their own until the purchase of Ohinetahi to now a total of seven but if we add the coordinators for the Predator Free and planting programmes, we have the equivalent of at least nine. Although one no longer exists (that is the Sunday team that worked at Victoria park but with the other volunteer parties forming those volunteers joined the newly formed work parties) so at the moment the three main reserves have their work and predator trapline parties, plus the old dependable Eastenders whose work is principally on council land.

Each of the Work Parties will present their own reports.

The Christmas BBQ at Victoria Park is the highlight of the year to thank the Work Parties and other volunteers the camaraderie of all those gathered is quite unique and something to enjoy.

With the volunteers in mind thanks also have to be recorded for the Park Rangers who do an outstanding job in assisting the work of the Society. Nick Singleton who was our appointed Ranger on the Board has been replaced by Rodney Chambers who keeps us up to date with relevant information regarding the Port Hills.

Also, recognition of the Board members themselves both elected, and Council appointed is acknowledged for their dedication to the smooth working of the Society.

Amongst those board members is our secretary Marie Gray who resigned after the fiscal year expired to seek further training to enter a career of education. We will surely miss her but wish her all the best in her new venture.

There has been one new appointed Board member Finn Jackson who is committed to the aims of the Society.

The position of Secretary has been abolished and two new positions have been created due to the work required in running the Society.

A position of General Manager will cover what was previously the function of the Secretary and the responsibilities of Predator Free Hills will be controlled separately by a coordinator. It was considered that both these jobs were becoming too demanding for one person to give them the attention they deserved and produce satisfactory results.



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The new appointments are Manager Bill Martin and Predator Free Controller Natasha McIntosh. The Board will give every assistance to both of the new appointees to adapt to these positions.

The new equipment shed at Linda Woods is slowly taking shape, production has been held up for assorted reasons, but indications are that it will be finished for the summer season.

Thanks, must also go to our two graziers who look after the land that is part of the open space of the reserves. Grazing is not the easiest of tasks to maintain a balance of sufficient feed and fire prevention. Richard Bell and Tom Magill have shown that they are willing to respond to any problems that arise regarding stock a very important and necessary component that is necessary to reduce the possibility of fire and control weeds etc while providing income for the Society.

Membership remains steady at 323 and volunteer hours reached 15,808. This figure is conservative as there are volunteer hours by individuals that are not recorded especially John Marsh and Graham Corbishley who somehow seem to fit in with the work parties to achieve a continuation of successful outcomes.

Membership is vital for the Society's continuance; membership is much appreciated and is acknowledged with the progress and enhancement of the Society's reserves.

I must also take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors both commercial and individual. Donations no matter how big or small continue to assist in the financial position of the Society.

I have decided to step down from the Presidency as I need to concentrate on my own property that needs some care and attention that has been put aside while directing my focus on the Summit Road.

I will remain on the Board for the time being to assist in the furtherment of the Society knowing that those who succeed me will provide what is needed to continue the splendid work of the Society.

Bill Woods

Retiring President.

29 / 5 /24.



## **OHINETAHI RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

### **Ohinetahi Work Party Report**

**Volunteer hours: 2129**

2023 was a year that had a reliable and sufficient rainfall so the beginning one and a half months of the year and again from mid-October to the end of the year meant that Merv and David had the weed eaters buzzing and the rest of the work party trimming growth from the sides of the tracks.

The latter half of February and March was the time to tackle old mans beard and other weedy plants – passionvine, spindleberry, cotoneaster etc.

During the year 5 days were spent planting and tidying the Sign of the Bellbird carpark and the John Jameson Lookout area, 4 days of hard and unpleasant work saw persistent areas of blackberry removed from the edge of O'Farrells track from Titoki to Wai-iti track, 6 days were cancelled due to rain and twice we had to scurry home early because of the weather.

Eco Abseil was again active in the Reserve removing spur valerian and other weeds in inaccessible places, mainly in the Faulkners track area. Thanks to the support provided by Di Carter and DOC for their support with this project.

Many thanks to the members of the work party for their loyal support and cheerful willingness in maintaining Ohinetahi as a special place on the Port Hills.

Anne Kennedy

### **Ohinetahi Predator Control Group Report**

**Predators caught: 612 (458 in 2022)**

**Volunteer hours: 876 (912)**

**Numbers of traps: 316 (294)**

The Ohinetahi Group has worked long and cheerfully in 2023. We carried out a modified poisoning programme in June and July with Double Tap on four selected lines and



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followed this up with a Brodifacoum programme throughout the whole reserve from September through to November.

The poison uptake and tracking tunnel and chew card monitoring indicated this was a success with the Random Trap Catch Index for possums on chew cards dropped from 6.7 to 1.7 for the reserve, a very pleasing result when ideally the number should be below 5.

The Predator Abundance Index (PAI) for rats dropped from 30% to 10%. Rats unfortunately remain a major problem in the reserve and account for much of the increase in predator numbers of 150 over the year before.

A highlight for the group was being given permission to trap on City Council land. The Council are supplying the traps, maintenance and lures, and we provide the labour. Eleven traps have been installed initially and they extend around under the Crater Rim and then down a ridge to above the Ōrongomai traps. This line, our tenth, is called Crater Rim and is being looked after by Greg Byrnes who has a lot of experience in trapping having run a programme for 15 years between the Ashley and Waimakariri Rivers.

A second major advance is a co-ordinated approach to trapping with our neighbours in Living Springs on the lower side and City Council on the upper part of the Reserve. This helps to massively expand the area that is being continuously trapped. We co-ordinated poisoning programmes this year and are planning to do the same this year.

We have converted to the Trap NZ app from using our own Google Sheets. This allows us to communicate with our neighbours and is easier for providing reports and finding where the 'hotspots' are in the Reserve. Matthew Hellicar did the bulk of the work in transferring the data and deserves a huge vote of thanks.

Our group personnel remain stable but Marketa Ciholova and Joseph Zermatten moved out of the area and Denise Stroud and Kieran McGuigan have taken over the North Boundary line. The other trappers are Peg Gosden (Ōronogmai) Peter Moore (Ellas), David Knoef (Wai-iti), Darren Tatom and Cath Pollock (Titoki), Helen Hills (Bivvy), Merv Meredith (Faulkners), Russell Genet (O'Farrells) and Matthew Hellicar (Cass Ridge).

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has again generously donated money to keep our trapping programme running in 2024. The money is being used to purchase more AT 220 automatic traps, DOC, Sentinel and Victor traps and replacements and lure.

Murray Smith



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## EASTENDERS WORK PARTY REPORT 2023

### Volunteer hours 2023: 450

2023 was again a busy time for the Eastenders group. There were 19 work parties, 18 of which were equally divided into two main activities, track maintenance/remediation work and noxious plant removal. Only two were cancelled because of poor weather.

Our track work included improving the post-quake overgrown cave track that branches off the Eastenders track to the cave, a walk which has become extremely popular since re-opening. We also upgraded both the Kenton and Huntsbury Reserve Tracks.

Noxious plant work involved our now annual *Nassella* tussock sweeps on Linda Woods Reserve which takes three sessions to complete (approx 175 grubbed) as well as scotch broom stump pasting on Mt Cavendish and Mt Pleasant Reserves and Pigs Ear (*Cotyledon orbiculata*) removal on Scarborough Hill Reserve as a follow up to contract poisoning of the plant. We removed about 1000 kilograms in 2023, which like *Nassella* will probably be an ongoing task for some years yet.

Another annual task was the digging of 400 holes on Latters Spur for Arbor Day tree planting by school children.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who turn up for our twice monthly work parties, especially the hard core of eleven or twelve and also Simon Mangan, our Parks and Reserves ranger with whom I liaise on all work we do on Council controlled land and who also supplies loan tools and smoko break biscuits!"

Graeme Paltridge



## OMAHU BUSH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### Omahu Bush Work Party Report

#### Volunteer hours: 829

Weed control remains a big part of the work program for Omahu volunteers. The 7km of hybrid predator fencing is a huge positive for bush regeneration but has created additional work for volunteers. Woody weeds, especially gorse, need to be regularly cut back and sprayed to keep the fence line clear.

Work party members have also been involved in controlling gorse regrowth in the grazing paddocks and around Gibraltar rock. Tall stands of gorse requiring cutting have been dealt with in earlier years. Work this summer has mostly involved spraying new seedlings growing in areas of previous clearance. Pest weeds including Darwin's Barberry, Buckthorne, Old Mans Beard & Himalayan Honeysuckle have also been removed by our work groups.

The tracks through the bush are much enjoyed by visitors but require ongoing clearing and repair. Further infill planting has been done in the upper part of the Bush, near the Summit Road car park. We are particularly thankful for our volunteers who also return on a regular basis to weed the trees planted in earlier years.

The Bush has ongoing research projects being conducted within it. The research that Manaaki Whenua - Landcare research are undertaking is focused on understanding at what size/age New Zealand dioecious species, i.e. those with separate male and female plants, become fertile. The suspicion is that New Zealand species are much more precocious than dioecious species in other parts of the world. Flagged trees which weren't fertile when first visited have been assessed over time. When individuals are fertile their height, Diameter at Breast height, Basal Diameter are measured, and the gender and reproductive phase are scored. The study is ongoing and has implications in forest regeneration on the Port Hills.

A big thank you to our volunteers for all your help during the year. Thank you as well to the Selwyn District Council for their annual grant, and to Helen Hills and Trees for Canterbury for the trees that they donated in 2023.

Ian Johnston





## **Omahu Predator Control Report**

**Predators caught: 460**

**Volunteer hours: 770**

The predator control team consisted of 7 volunteers/members for the 2023 year, a drop in volunteers from previous years. However, we have a very committed and engaged group.

A total of 770 hours was spent undertaking predator control during 2023. Much of the development work (extending trap routes etc) has been done in previous years, and we are reaping the rewards now.

Our trap catch was a total of 460 predators, above the three-year average of 378. We have seen an increase in possum catch (133) largely as a result of the deployment of the automated AT 220 trap. Pleasingly we seem to be stopping the possums getting into the central part of the reserve in large numbers.

Rat catch numbers were 106, excluding the grazing block, up on the previous four-year average of 83. We continue to see spikes in trap catch numbers during summer.

Mustelids catch was 22 for the year at about the 4-year average. This peaked at 32 in 2020 for context. Interesting we saw very few camera observations.

Another grant from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust/PF2050 funded our work for the year and some modest expansion of our AT 220 network.

We conducted two rounds of overnight tacking tunnels, and 7-day chew-card monitoring to determine predator abundance in April and September. University of Canterbury third year ecology students again undertook the April monitoring for us. Results from the April monitoring again confirmed the need to poison to lower rodent numbers prior to bird breeding in September/October. This is a significant labour-intensive operation, placing toxin in bait stations at 100m centres throughout the reserve. Subsequent monitoring in September/October showed that the months long campaign was very successful for the 2023 year, zero rats and possums detected.

The use of 3 motion-controlled trail cameras, donated to us by a member of the Society continues to be useful with monitoring trap interaction, and the detection of feral cats and deer in the reserve. When coupled with the ZIP auto lure (also part of this donation) we have another method of predator monitoring to confirm our traditional tracking tunnel and chew card techniques.



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The effect of the deer and pig culls done in the past are beginning to show in regeneration of trees and shrubs. Large numbers of matai seedlings are now being seen throughout the reserve. There are a small number of deer (approx. 4) that remain, that are seen regularly in camera footage. It is hoped that these will be eliminated in subsequent culls as there have been signs of breeding taking place.

Again, I wish to thank the Omahu team for all the work, in all weathers in making a difference to the fauna and flora at Omahu Bush. Bird life at Omahu is thriving as a result of all the work that the team has put in over the past years. Thanks to the Secretary and the Board for their support of what we are doing.

Greg Gimblett

### **Omahu Bush Feral Animal Management Programme**

Completion of the perimeter deer fence occurred in March 2022. It is a hybrid fence meaning it is designed to exclude a variety of feral ungulates including deer, pigs and goats. The fence is performing very well, and more knowledge is being gained to allow completion of simple operations and maintenance guidelines. Most of the residual deer within the Reserve were removed during 2023. The perimeter fence has generated more maintenance workload from volunteers, and this is in the form of woody weed control, slip and watercourse maintenance.

Native regeneration was obvious within the Reserve during 2023 as well as excellent growth from the supplemental and enrichment planting of selected natives. The understory is bouncing back because of the fence and ungulate removal. It's important to make sure our secure perimeter is not compromised in any way. How can you help with that? If you see any gates left open, please shut them immediately and contact the Reserve Ranger. Similarly, please immediately report any vandalism to the fence as soon as you see any. This also applies to slips and washouts that might potentially compromise the effectiveness of the perimeter fence.

This work at Omahu Reserve has been largely funded by The Gama Foundation, who gifted Omahu Bush and Gibraltar Rock to the Society in 2010. Their support and encouragement has been invaluable.

Graham Corbishley



## LINDA WOODS RESERVE REPORT 2023

### Linda Woods Reserve Report

#### **Planning and Management.**

Work on the reserve management plan has been side lined again this year by the ongoing Jobs for Nature revegetation project which has been the prime focus of time and energy. The background document is 95% complete and the Landscape Development Plan which has been developed alongside this is 80% complete.

On 9<sup>th</sup> May a “LWR Planning and Management Group” convened for a first meeting. Made up from SRS board members, Avoca and Horotane residents and LWR work party members. They will drive ongoing planning decisions for the reserve, and make recommendations to the board for future development and activities. It is intended that they will also assist in delivering the management plan in the near future. Members are: Bill Woods, Bill Martin, Paula Jameson, Marie Gray, Jane Radford, Brigid Casey, Tim Mundy, Chris Glenn, Helen Hills, Fiona Eunson, John Marsh.

#### **Revegetation Planting Projects**

**Avoca Valley.** The revegetation project is now in its fourth planting season and Jobs for Nature (JfN) funding ends in the spring. Approximately 50,000 trees were planted up to the 2023 season and there is now encouraging growth visible in many planted areas in spite of the recent dry autumn.

Wai-Ora Forest Landscapes (WFL) contractors are continuing the maintenance of earlier plantings with the work party gradually taking over areas as they establish. WFL are planting a further 4000 trees this season. Volunteers and residents will plant a further 1500 trees at planting days. 100 plants are also being offered to residents to plant in the stream catchment. The work party will have an input into this work on a weekly basis.

Trees are being supplied through Trees that Count, JfN and Christchurch Eco Action Trust who assist schools to propagate trees, in our case, Cashmere High School. WFL have also spent part of their maintenance budget on establishing and maintaining a fire break between Avoca properties and new plantings.

**Horotane Valley.** Over the 2023 planting season 3000 kanuka were planted in Horotane Valley, financed by the Mundy family, neighbours in Horotane. These were planted by a small team of residents assisted by corporate teams on Friday afternoons, the LWR work party and the neighbours in accordance with our revegetation plan. These were targeted at gorse infested areas as a start to managing the weeds, taking advantage of cover offered by them. Some of these plants were grazed hard by stock in the dry February/March period, but are now showing new growth and should recover.



A further 4500 plants are to be planted in Horotane this year. Most of these will be mixed species in a fenced paddock. ECan provided funding for fencing repairs. Mundy family, Trees that Count and Eco Action Trust are funding the trees.

### **Weed Control.**

Rocky Bluff Areas: Management of weeds in the rocky bluff areas where we have significant remnant plant communities is a priority in LWR. Boxthorn, gorse, tree lucerne and broom are the most significant of these.

During the year:

- Eco-abseil have tackled the most inaccessible of these, mainly along the central ridgeline bluffs, but also bluffs near Castle Rock.
- Wai-Ora contractors have gone over gorse and broom in those areas accessible with knapsack spray gear, to the south of Gracie's rock.
- Thistle regrowth that occurred along tracks after track benching has been much reduced in 2023, but was treated by GP Excavation in spring.
- Nasella tussock occurs in Horotane Valley. The Eastenders work party inspect the site to remove nasella to meet ECan requirements.

All these areas will need ongoing inspection and re visiting to ensure long term control.

Horotane Valley Gorse: Larger pockets of gorse at lower levels have been planted around as a way of starting a long-term revegetation control. Drone applied herbicide is planned for the mainly smaller pockets higher up the valley. This is currently under discussion with the contractor and neighbouring horticultural growers.

### **Grazing.**

Stock water supply needs to be resolved in the near future as it is some time since it has operated efficiently. CCC ranger Matt Rose has been working on a proposal that will achieve this.

Stock fencing in Avoca Valley has been tidied up through the JfN planting project, and is generally in good order, though stock are often found on the wrong side of the fence. Ongoing inspection is needed to ensure they remain in good order.

In Horotane Valley there are a number of fences in poor repair. New fencing is proposed in the Horotane revegetation plan. These fences need discussion with the grazier to clarify any issues that may arise with stock movement, and then a budget will need to be found to have them installed.



### **Signage.**

Entranceway and safety signs have been installed during the year at the main access points. Further safety signs are to be installed when the work party can schedule the work.

Interpretive signs with track maps have been contracted to Signtech Ltd, and we are currently liaising with Ngāti Wheke over content of these to finalise details. These will be installed at the West Gate on Rapaki Track and at the North Gate from Duncan Park. When funding allows these could also be located at other entrances.

Anne Kennedy has offered to assist with making track signs to be located around the track system in the reserve, and we will focus on this later in the year when planting is completed.

A Track Map has been produced by Bill Kennedy based on the Landscape Development Plan showing current tracks. This has been put on the SRS website and will be included on the interpretive panels when completed.

### **Predator Trapping**

The predator plan for Avoca Valley set up with design input and gear from Boffa Miskell is now continuing under the management of Avoca resident Ross Radford and with support from a core group of resident volunteers. See the detailed report by Ross.

### **Monitoring**

A monitoring program has been instigated in Avoca Valley with assistance from UC students over the summer to monitor progress and changes in the valley with particular reference to an ephemeral stream as the revegetation planting grows. This involves measuring of water levels, photo points to monitor plant growth and recently a citizen science “Bioblitz” to get an idea of biodiversity present in the area.

### **LWR Work Party**

#### **Volunteer hours: 752**

The work party now has sessions every Wednesday morning and have grown to a group of up to 12 on a good day. Tasks have been releasing trees, removing tree protection guards, pre plant spot spraying, planting, weed control, installing signs, track benching and fire break maintenance.

Bill Woods has been working on the Horotane shed/barn over the year and has the floor in place and framing ready for cladding.

Other volunteer groups.... the Eastenders, Conservation Volunteers, various corporate groups and local residents have also helped out at different times through the year.



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### **Thank You**

Much progress has been made at LWR. It is only a start though. This is a very long-term project.

Thanks must go to everyone involved in the work over the last year. There are many of them, on the ground up the valley's getting bad ankles from walking on steep slopes, sitting in committee's or in front of computer monitors, or making muffins for a volunteer group.

Special thanks to Marie Gray who has put so much energy into setting up the projects that have allowed this progress, and has been involved in all of those activities above, until moving on to chase other goals at the end of 2023. Fortunately, she is still involved with the SRS board.

John Marsh - May 2024

### **Avoca Valley Pest Control Report**

The Sentinel and Doc 200 trap lines at the head of Avoca Valley have been in place for approximately eighteen months now and have been regularly catching weasels and hedgehogs while possum catches are more intermittent.

The trap line consisting of Doc200s and rat traps in the lower part of the Linda Woods Reserve were put in place at the end of 2023 and have been very successful catching weasel, hedgehogs and rats.

The trap lines at the head of the valley are checked every three to four weeks by a team of five volunteers sharing the work load while the lower valley traps have been checked more regularly as pest numbers being caught are quite high at the moment.

All catches are loaded onto the Trap NZ app.

Ross Radford

Co-ordinator for Avoca Valley trap lines



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## **PREDATOR FREE PORT HILLS ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

Our Predator Free Port Hills programme continued to grow over 2023. As of 31 December 2023, 1697 households had signed up to Predator Free Port Hills.

Highlights include trap building days in Lyttelton, Avoca Valley, Purau, Halswell, Mt Pleasant and St Martins and 15 stalls at community events. We ran several workshops over the year, including a webinar with Te Korowai o Waiheke and a hands-on session with locals at Orton Bradley Park.

We hosted Cam Speedy from Predator Free NZ Trust in May 2023. Over 120 people attended the talk at Aldersgate Centre. This was followed by a field trip the following day with the leads from different predator control projects across Lyttelton Harbour and Christchurch. Similar events were held in Selwyn and on Banks Peninsula.

We continued to grow our presence on social media. University of Canterbury social media students, Zach Dawson, Andrew Bourner and Taylor McLaren created graphic and video content for sharing on Facebook and Instagram.

We worked with 5 schools over the year, including Halswell School, Mt Pleasant School, St Martins School, Diamond Harbour School and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahī.

We continued to support the work of Pest Free Banks Peninsula and the development of a new regional initiative, Towards Pest Free Waitaha, which will focus on the area between the Rakaia and the Waimakariri Rivers.

At the end of the year, we welcomed our new Predator Free Port Hills Coordinator, Natasha McIntosh.

Sincere thank you to all our volunteer coordinators and backyard trappers who support our vision of a Predator Free Port Hills. Thank you as well to our funders Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Sumner Ferrymead Foundation and donations from individuals and families.

We continue to miss Jeremy Agar but know he would be delighted to see the growth in the programme.

Marie Gray - May 2024



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## UPDATE ON THE JOHN JAMESON LOOKOUT 2023

We were delighted to formally open the John Jameson Lookout in June 2023. The Lookout was the result of years of work by many people.

Maugers Contracting completed the earthworks, foundations and asphaltting, with support from Groundwork and Fulton Hogan, and Southern Stonemasons Canterbury finished the construction of the low stone walls, steps and associated stone paving.

Master carver Caine Tauwhare completed the carving of the pou whenua. Donald Couch and Materia Hutana of Ngāti Wheke developed the content for the Ōrongomai panel and the panorama plane table, which identifies over 40 locations around the harbour. The pou whenua and interpretation highlight the significance of this site to mana whenua. The area is traditionally known as Ōrongomai after the nearby peak, which means 'the place where voices are heard'.

Two other interpretation panels, on the history of John Jameson and the Summit Road Society, and recommended tracks in the area, were installed near the stone wall. Thanks to Paula Jameson for the historical information and Bill Kennedy for his work on the tracks map. Photographer Alex Hubert provided the images with the use of a drone. Signtech completed the design, fabrication and installation of the interpretation panels.

Regan Shanks Stone Masonry crafted the plaque to remember John Jameson. Taege Engineering fabricated the Corten Steel balustrade and plinth for the pou whenua. Wai-ora Forest Landscapes and Helen Hills supplied the native plants, and the hardworking Ōhinetahi volunteer work party, under the guidance of Anne Kennedy, undertook the landscape planting.

On 17 June 2023, a dawn karakia was held to bless the pou whenua and interpretation panels. This was followed by the formal opening ceremony later that afternoon. We finished with a hearty barbeque, thanks to the Christchurch City Council rangers.

The Board is very proud of the John Jameson Lookout. It is a big project for a small organisation like the Summit Road Society. The stone walls stand as an acknowledgement of the dedicated service of John Jameson, the founder of the Summit Road Society, and all the many volunteers who have worked to enhance the Port Hills.

Sincere thanks to all the many people who worked on this project. Special thanks to Graham Densem who drove this project from a concept to reality. Graham worked closely with Nic Kaye (NK Landscape Architecture), Andy Hall (Davie Lovell-Smith), and Paul Loughton from our Board, to bring this project to fruition. Thanks as well to Te Hapū





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o Ngāti Wheke and the Christchurch City Council for their guidance and support, and to our funders who provided the necessary funding.

Marie Gray