



a passion for the Port Hills

Newsletter, February 2009

## Editorial

As many of you know by now, this will be my last newsletter for some time. Liz and I are leaving New Zealand in March for what we hope will be 18 months of travel/work/travel. We will be going back to the UK via Australia, Thailand and Cambodia, and with no firm plans beyond May it will be a case of finding temporary work of some sort to fund where we want to go after that. A number of people have suggested that once we are in the UK, we may not come back at all. However, we both feel now that Christchurch and Sumner, in particular, is home, and all the reasons we came here in the first place still apply.

It's a good time for me to reflect on my seven years as Secretary. First of all, I think Board should be given the credit for being far-sighted enough to realise that for the Society to continue to thrive, a paid secretarial position was needed. In common with many other small NGOs, time has proved that the benefits have outweighed the financial risks. I have been privileged to see seven years of slow, but steady growth in members (a trend that is not reflected in many other organisations), regular newsletters, an interesting outings programme, and perhaps most importantly, the ongoing major contribution of our volunteer work parties. The Eastenders is as strong as it has been at any time in the Society's history. The Ohinetahi group (see Mike White's article) continues to address the major work required to manage a large reserve, with the introduction of the animal pest management being a major step forward. Whilst the Weekenders is going through a lean patch, I am confident that this is only a temporary problem and that it will still be around when I get back. The future looks very promising as well. The gifting to the Society by the Gama Foundation of Omaha Bush, which should be completed this year, is very exciting, and will effectively double the area of land we own.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Society and it has been a privilege to be involved. I would love to take up the reins again when we return to Christchurch and I am delighted that the Society has agreed to make this a possibility by offering an 18 month contract to my successor. We had an excellent response to the advert for the Secretary's position, and the Executive has appointed Society member Jeff Long (see below), whose knowledge and experience will be a great asset for the Society.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council for their generous grants of \$20,000 and \$2,000 respectively. The City Council grant system has changed considerably, with decisions based on alignment with the desired outcomes of the Long Term Council Community Plan. It is pleasing to know that the Society's aims and objectives for the Port Hills are still considered important for the city in the eyes of the Council.

**John Goodrich**  
Secretary



## Introducing Jeff Long

My wife and I have been members of the Summit Road Society since shifting to Christchurch from Invercargill some years ago, and we have been on a number of Society trips. We live on the Port Hills, so have a strong interest in the area.

I have a special responsibility for the Mt Pleasant Community Centre & Ratepayers Assn for resource management matters, which has seen us going as far as the Environment Court and mounting public campaigns. Our son and daughter are both involved with planning and legal and resource management matters, so I have absorbed some of their knowledge as well.

I am a qualified accountant and have wide experience in providing services in a variety of professional fields. My most recent employment was with the University of Canterbury as Director of Finance which, apart from the finance aspect, included many service provision activities. Previous employment has been in a similar role with the Southland District Council, as a new senior staff

member when Telecom South was established, and as a lecturer at what is now the Southern Institute of Technology for the University of Otago.

I have wide experience in many and various voluntary roles, including as Secretary and Immediate Past President of the Mt Pleasant Community Centre and Ratepayers Assn, Secretary and later President of the NZ Philatelic Federation, and I have filled philatelic roles for New Zealand at many overseas events. I am physically active, in the past with basketball, but now more with tennis, and walking and mountain biking on the Port Hills.

Jeff can be contacted via phone on 384 8463 or at the Society's email address:  
secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz

## Membership

For those of you whose subscriptions are due this month an invoice is included with this mailout. We would like to thank you for your continued support. It is worth reiterating what has been said in previous newsletters about the importance of maintaining and increasing our membership base:

- Whilst we still enjoy generous support from the City Council, income from subscriptions is still vitally important to our running costs.
- The more members we have, the more credible we are seen as an organisation, and the better able we are to promote our views.
- A good membership base provides a better pool of volunteers to call on for help and advice.



Anniversary celebrations, Sign of the Takahe, 7th Dec 2008



**Summit Road Society (Inc)**  
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<b>Secretary</b>	Jeff Long	384 8463
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Loughton	322 7082
<b>Board Members</b>	Geoff Bendall	384 9254
	Steve Cottrell	337 9049
	Anne Kennedy	377 0364
	Robin Collie	332 1477
	Tony Edney	329 9868
	Ron Ricketts	337 3544
	Paul Tebbutt	384 3086
	<i>Honorary Life Member</i>	John Jameson
<b>Press Officer</b>	Katherine Trought	332 9877
<i>Representatives</i>		
Selwyn District Council	Annette Foster	347 8651
Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board		
	Jeremy Agar	328 9956
Port Hills Rangers		332 5627
<b>Eastenders work party</b>	Geoff Bendall	384 9254
<b>Ohinetahi</b>	Mike White	03 312 1551

We are a voluntary society working to enhance, preserve and protect the natural environment, beauty and open character of the Port Hills of Banks Peninsula for people to enjoy.  
 We need and welcome contributions to our work through memberships, donations and corporate sponsorships, participation in work parties (non-members welcome - but why not join us as well!), and bequests.

Remember that even if you are not able to take an active part in Society activities your membership is still important. At the end of last year, membership stood at 393, (an increase of 19 since the end 2007), which gives a 'constituency' of well over 1,000 if membership of the various member clubs and groups is taken into account. The Society will continue to look at a range of initiatives to increase membership, but please don't forget that personal contact and recommendation remains the most effective recruitment tool. Make sure that you talk about us with your family, whanau, friends and colleagues. Leave a copy of the newsletter in your doctor's waiting room or your solicitor's reception. By themselves, these are very small things, but it all helps to increase our profile.

## The 'Odd Bods' of Ohinetahi

We are a tough and tenacious team that get stuck in every Tuesday looking after the Summit Road Society's Ohinetahi Reserve, even though our average age is 70 plus. On weeding days we sometimes return blooded and torn from thrashing through gorse and blackberry hunting down the more invasive weeds of old man's beard, passion vine and others. Or, on track maintenance days some return crippled with back pain from spade and grubber work. But there are more strings to our bows than our commitment to the reserve. This workforce is still young at heart and keeps pushing through the pain barrier of aged limbs on other pursuits as well.

There is nimble, diminutive **Anne**, for instance, flying off each year to odd corners of the globe like Estonia to compete in rogaine, a 24 hour orienteering type event, and returning as a world champion in her age group. **Bruce** is our cycling guru, who at 73 competes in such races as Le Race to Akaroa and the incredibly tough 100km Rainbow Rage, and has a bucket full of medals to show for them. Between times he wanders around third world countries on his own. With these interests he, unsurprisingly, is not the most regular attendee on Tuesday's, but makes this with his energy and enthusiasm. **Trish** also travels the world the world seeking out major orienteering events and returns with a smile on her face. Her bottom drawer must be overflowing with medals. John is a long time stalwart of the team now nearing octogenarian status, and a very regular attendee. However, he is known to disappear from time to time to walk the Otago Heritage Trail or to wander about the South Island in his newly acquired campervan. **Robin** doesn't usually wander far from home, only disappearing into his Lewis Pass hideaway from time to time. Not content with his Tuesday workout on the reserve, he returns on several other days each week on possum control and

*Continued overleaf*



*Work parties forge strong friendships*

other tough jobs the team tend to avoid. He should have the title of 'Curator' of the reserve. If the weather is fine, we don't see **Simon** on Tuesdays. He wanders off into remote valleys by himself, but somehow, always seems to return. Also, you can't blame him for heading off to warmer climes to avoid the worst of our winter weather.

**Andrew**, our import from Korea was shocked at the physical work he was expected to do when he first joined the team, but is now finely tuned. He has a long list of organisations he works for as a volunteer, and disappears from time to time to Nepal to support the Sherpa schools or as a volunteer at a Hillary hospital. **Ken** sneaks off to Australia for a couple of months over winter, but when he is around, he is a tenacious worker. **Mike** is a fairly regular Tuesday attendee, but likes to wander the mountains from time to time. He was pleased to escape the worst of last winter's weather by cycling across Australia. **Tom**, with his artificial limbs, does a mountain of work on Tuesdays and loves to operate the weeders. Other than that, he spends time in his workshop restoring vintage motorbikes. He has been known to haul a classic bike up three flights of stairs to display it in the foyer of a solicitor's office.

**Tony**, our Governors Bay representative, disappeared from our Tuesday outings this year to take lessons in French (I wonder where that will lead?). However, he has developed a 'killer instinct' and is on the reserve on other days hunting down our Australian enemies and other four-legged pests. **Alison** joins us from time to time to improve the gender balance of the team, but she is an active tramping club member, and tramping takes priority. This, of course, keeps her fit for the hard work needed on the reserve, so we approve of her extra-curricular activities and enjoy her laughter when she is around. **Ian** and **Joan** are newer members of the team who we are still learning about. They do, however, pleasingly reduce the average age of the team as well as increasing the average energy levels. Sadly we have recently lost the services of **Zane**, (our specialist rock shifter), **Otto** and **Jim**. They all struggled on with us on the premise that it is better to wear out than rust out, until in the end, they had to call a halt.

So, when you are walking the tracks of Ohinetahi Reserve and meet the team, don't dismiss them as ancient, pathetic cronies, because we are really, a fairly lively lot.

**Mike White**  
President

## Volunteer Recognition

It's good to know that the hard work of our volunteer work parties carry out on the Port Hills is recognised. This year, for instance, the Weekenders, who meet once a month on a Saturday morning, mainly weeding and planting around Victoria Park were presented with an award by the Weedbusters organisation. In September, after a morning clearing boneseed from Nicholson Park on Scarborough Hill, followed by an excellent barbecue (including paua patties—yum!), Mike White and Ron Ricketts were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Weekenders. Member Sally Tripp was also presented with a personal award for her major efforts to defeat old man's beard in the Governors Bay area. Weedbusters has previously recognised the Society's efforts in weed control on the Port Hills when, in 2006, both the Ohinetahi and Weekenders groups were presented with awards.

Other awards have flowed in over the years recognising our efforts in maintaining and enhancing the natural environment of the Port Hills. Volunteering Canterbury recognised the work carried out by Ben and Colin Faulkner over many years in 2004 and this was followed by an award for the Eastenders in 2007. The Eastenders also received a Christchurch City Council Civic Award in 2004. The Ohinetahi team received Environment Canterbury's top resource management award in 2006. Bill Le Gros, who has been associated with the Eastenders for a number of years and has put a massive amount of work into the tracks above Sumner, also received a Civic Award in 2006.

In addition to these awards, three of our members have received Queen's Service Medals (QSM) for services to the Society and the Port Hills. They are our founder, John Jameson, Gordon Kirk and former President, Maurice McGregor.

Our volunteer workers are definitely the 'backbone' of the Society. They do not seek reward for their efforts for their work on the Port Hills that we all love, but it is nice to get a pat on the back from time to time. In addition to the obvious benefits to the individual of volunteering, don't forget the economic value. Research shows that for every \$1 given to non-governmental agencies (NGOs), \$3 of service is produced.

**Mike White** President

*For more information about Weedbusters, please see: [www.weedbusters.co.nz](http://www.weedbusters.co.nz) Remember that many plant pests are garden 'escapees' and Weedbusters has excellent resources about what garden plants pose a threat and what alternatives are available. Ed.*



*Gorse (Ulex europaeus). This weed needs no introduction!*

## Pest control at Ohinetahi

A DOC researcher once said that conservation in New Zealand was all about killing things. While that sounds counter intuitive, it is the unfortunate reality of an island nation recently colonised by predators. On the Summit Road Society's Ohinetahi block we have all the introduced predators that threaten native birdlife and forest regeneration. In no particular order these are; rats, mice, stoats, weasels, ferrets, feral cats and of course the ubiquitous possum. Most readers will have seen photos of possums raiding birds nests, and together with the damage done to vegetation, this gives possums number one enemy status.

The Society aims to adopt best practice methods for pest control, and to achieve that we keep abreast of the latest Landcare research, utilise standardised forest monitoring techniques and use the services of professional pest control experts. There is a good network of bait stations in Ohinetahi that target possums and rats. These pests will take poisoned baits but the only practical way to deal with stoats, weasels and ferrets is labour intensive trapping. Typical catch rates for stoats in N.Z. are 100 plus trap nights per stoat. Last season 8 stoats, 3 weasels, 1 ferret and 2 feral cats were caught, and in 2 ½ months of this season our tally is 3 stoats, 2 ferrets and 5

weasels. This season we have added another 4 trapping stations and changed our lure from eggs to rabbit on the advice of DOC researchers.

Pest control is a complex task. For example, we do not know why we are catching mainly male mustelids and not breeding females. One answer could be that the males have greater home ranges and are more likely to encounter our traps. It could also be that the females are more suspicious of our traps. Landcare have observed similar patterns as males are more likely to take baits than females. At one trap that we have, we have caught almost all our weasel tally. No only that, but they have all used the same entrance of our tunnel trap. We have no idea why they behave like that. Similarly, when our catch rates drop, is it because we have caught most of them, or have they just changed their behaviour? This is where our monitoring programme can assist, with bird counts providing a key indicator of abundance. This programme has just started and in subsequent years we should be able to identify population trends.

We do know that stoats and weasels eat rats as well as birds and eggs, so targeting rats alone can transfer mustelid predation to native species. Therefore, we take a multi-pronged

approach, that is, rats and mustelids are targeted at the same time so that prey transference does not take place. With our possum and rat bait we change the type of lure occasionally to help prevent bait shyness.

Regrettably, some misguided person removed a number of our traps and sprung others during the Christmas period. As a result of this interference most of our traps have been moved to more secure locations, we hope with continuing good results.

Killing pests is not a pleasant business, but the rewards come with a healthy regenerating native forest and increasing birdlife. The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to the efforts and initiative of Robin Collie who has carried out the bulk of the pest control programme on Ohinetahi. As property owners, the Society has responsibility for the long term stewardship of this wonderful reserve. Weed and pest control will be ongoing and the work of the volunteers in the Society is a credit to the organisation. If you wish to join any of the work parties please contact the Secretary for details.

**Tony Edney**



One stoat less in our reserves...

## Work Parties

As usual, the work parties have been as busy as ever over the last six months.

At **Ohinetahi**, in addition to the usual and ongoing work, we are now the proud owners of 6 interpretation panels which are receiving very positive feedback. These are courtesy of a grant from the NZ Lottery Grants Board. Also, we have been able to extend the area covered by bait stations and traps courtesy of the hard work and commitment of Robin Collie and Tony Edney. (See Mike White's article).

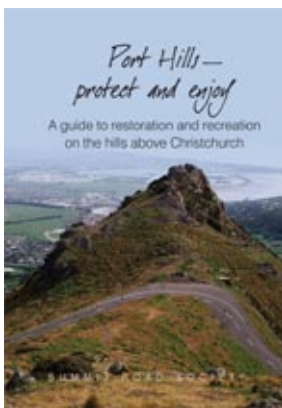
The **Eastenders** are as strong as ever. In addition to further work in their normal area, including a substantial amount in Barnett Park, the group has carried out work on the Crater Rim Walkway in the Cooper's Knob area.

By contrast, however, the **Weekenders** have found the last six months fairly difficult, suffering from the joint problems of a very small group and weekend work and other commitments. Hopefully, this is only a temporary setback, but it would be great to have some additional members.




## Port Hills—Protect and Enjoy


After 12 months or so of planning, meetings and more grey hairs for the President and Secretary, the Society’s replacement guide to the Port Hills was published in December and launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> at a garden party at the Sign of the Takaha. Many thanks to all those members and guests who attended and who helped to make this event such a success. The garden party marked the 60th anniversary of the Society and the centenary of the ‘turning of the first sod’ on the Summit Road in November 1908.




The previous guide is now out of print, and we have been intending to revise this for a number of years. In the event, the team came up with an entirely different concept, and has produced a 50 page ‘family-friendly, focusing on a number of aspects of the Port Hills, including their history, ecology, and the recreational opportunities available. Full of attractive photographs and retailing at \$20, we are confident that this will be a popular addition to the other publications on the Port Hills.

The project was very much a team effort:

 **Lynda Burns**, a Society member, project-managed the process, and devised the concept. We are extremely grateful to Lynda who offered her time on a voluntary basis.

 Writing and research was carried out by **Joanna Orwin**, who, in addition to extensive experience as a non-fiction writer for organisations such as the Department of Conservation and Landcare Research, has written several novels for children and young adults. In the Children’s Book Awards, she won the Book of the Year Award in 1986, and the Senior Fiction Award in 2002.

 **Sandra Parkkali** is a graphic designer who works for the Department of Conservation. She has extensive experience of a wide range of City Council and DOC publications, and along with Joanna, was involved in the Travis Wetland guide. Sandra showed great skill in turning the text into the sort of publication we all envisaged.

 Many of the excellent photographs were taken by **Nick Groves**. With wide experience of the outdoors, Nick’s speciality is mountain photography and his work appears in many outdoor magazines and other publications. He has produced for us a superb portfolio of images of the Port Hills and the Society at work, which we will be able to use in our newsletters and other promotional material.








 The team was supported by the **Activities and Promotions Committee**, Mike White, John Goodrich, John Jameson, Jim Grennell and Dave Pringle.

The launch was attended by around 110 people, with guests from the City Council, Selwyn District Council and the Department of Conservation. Local writer and columnist **Joe Bennett** kindly agreed to formally launch the guide, and gave a rousing speech in which he extolled the virtues and importance of the Port Hills to Christchurch and to the spiritual wellbeing of its residents.

During the afternoon, **John Jameson**, founder member, planted a commemorative tree kindly supplied by the City Council, in the adjoining Cracroft Reserve.

This project would not have been possible without financial support, and the Society would like to thank:

-  NZ Lottery Grants Board.
-  Ground Effect.
-  Holcim New Zealand Limited.
-  Governors Bay Community Association.
-  Christchurch City Council.

We would also like to thank the Port Hills Rangers for their support and for access to City Council material, the Department of Conservation, and the Sign of the Takaha for the excellent service for the garden party.

Copies of the guide are can be obtained from the Secretary. We still need to do some work on distribution and marketing, but we anticipate that it will be available shortly from Service Centres, Tourist Information offices and a range of local retailers.



*John Jameson plants a Kowhai tree to commemorate 100 years since the turning of the first sod of the Summit Road, 28 November 1908.*

 *President Mike White speaks at the garden party.*

## Resource Management Roundup

After the long and time-consuming process of the Rural Variation to the Banks Peninsula District Plan, the last few months have been relatively quiet in the general area of resource management.

### Mt Cavendish

The Society has made a submission to the Department of Conservation opposing a proposal to grant a concession for the construction of a mountain-bike track from the Mt Cavendish Gondola through the Mt Cavendish and Lyttelton Reserves. There are differing opinions among members about mountain-biking, but the Board supports the activity, provided that it is in appropriate places and properly controlled. Of course, many of our members take part. The proposal would be a commercial venture, but non-paying bikers will also be able to use the track. Our opposition was on a number of grounds, including:

- The disturbance and damage to a sensitive ecological area.
- The visual impact.
- Given the number of existing tracks, that there is no need for an additional one.
- The Port Hills Recreation Strategy, which was subject to extensive public and interest group consultation, does not provide for a track in this location.
- Downhill mountain-biking is not appropriate in this location and there would be safety issues.

Whilst the use itself is technically allowable in a scenic reserve, we also felt that the Department had sufficient grounds in the conditions of the lease to the Gondola to refuse the proposal. Christchurch City Council also opposed the granting of the concession. In the long term, the worry is that if the concession is granted, it will give the proponents the incentive to push for a further downhill track to the Heathcote Valley, which in the eyes of the Council is totally unacceptable on ecological and safety grounds.

### Selwyn District Plan

Selwyn District Council is proposing to make a change to the Rural Volume of the District Plan, following public consultation. The Society views this as very positive, and will be making a submission giving its support. Submissions are due by Monday 16 February. The proposed change "...rezones the lowest slopes of the Port Hills to help protect the landscape from the negative impacts of future housing development and other land use activities." To achieve this, the key changes are:

- Rezoning the lowest slopes of the Port Hills, i.e. land between the 20 metre and 60 metre contour line, from Rural Inner Plains (4 hectares minimum permitted lot size) to Rural Port Hills (40 hectares minimum permitted lot size).
- Clarifying the existing earthworks rule to ensure that any effects of earthworks on the Port Hills as an Outstanding Natural Landscape are given due consideration.

- Introduces a new rule to limit tree planting in the Summit Road Protection Area by triggering the resource consent process for amenity planting, shelterbelts and plantations.
- More Assessment Matters to provide certainty and guidance on the potential effects that plantations and dwellings may have on the Port Hills landscape.

In addition to the added protection for the lower slopes, this protects the views to and from the summit and Summit Road.

### Omahu Bush

As mentioned in the editorial, we hope that the transfer to the Society of Omahu Bush will be completed this year. The Society really appreciates the faith that Grant and Marilyn Nelson (the Gama Foundation) have shown in our ability to take on this serious responsibility. Understandably, Grant and Marilyn want to ensure that the work they have started carries on, and that this superb area, with active management, will continue to improve and regenerate. Over the next few months we will be discussing in detail how we can achieve this. An 'Honorary Ranger' will need to be appointed, and it will be essential that a dedicated work party is formed. If you are interested in working on the reserve, please contact the Secretary.



Mt Cavendish Gondola crossing over the Summit Road

## Christchurch City Council's Biodiversity Strategy

Some time ago, the City Council prepared a detailed and complex biodiversity strategy for the city. The Society made a detailed submission, but the overall public response was disappointing, probably due to its complexity and the fact that the timing was not right. However, the Strategy has been re-launched, incorporating Banks Peninsula, and was adopted by the Council on 24 July 2008. Clearly, this is a significant step, and will underpin many decisions relating to the environment, conservation, development and land purchases. The following is an extract from the City Council's website. Please note that any references to Bank Peninsula refer to the 'Banks Peninsula Ecological District', which includes the Port Hills.

### What do we mean by Biodiversity?

Biological diversity (biodiversity) includes our native (indigenous) plants and animals, where they live, and how they interrelate with their environment. It provides many of the basic building blocks that support life. These include natural processes such as converting the sun's energy to produce organic forms, nutrient recycling, catchment protection, waste treatment, climate regulation, surface water management and other processes that occur in nature. Bio-diversity is essential, but often unnoticed and undervalued. Protection of indigenous biodiversity is our unique responsibility.

### What are the issues? Expanding the Christchurch Biodiversity Strategy to include Banks Peninsula

The health of Banks Peninsula bio-diversity contributes directly towards making the City of Christchurch a healthy place to live, work and play. While indigenous plant biodiversity on Banks Peninsula has been well documented, much less is known about insects and marine life, and knowledge of freshwater fish and their needs is not widespread. There are many private and public conservation initiatives but no overarching plan to ensure priorities are collectively agreed and implemented in a coordinated way. A major issue for the Council is determining community expectations and ensuring a balance between providing overall strategic direction and the degree to which local needs are met. Some key issues include:

- **A bio-diversity treasure in the back garden.** Banks Peninsula, including Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, contains biodiversity areas and species of international, national and regional importance currently with little or no protection.
- **What's protecting the treasure?** Only a small proportion (about 7%) of the total land area currently has any form of legal protection for biodiversity purposes. Most Banks Peninsula indigenous biodiversity is on private land and is reliant on the goodwill of landowners for its protection.
- **Who pays to protect biodiversity?** There is very limited budget provision in the current LTCCP for Banks Peninsula biodiversity management and protection, and without strategic direction there won't be more money.

- **What's the priority?** Some highly valued areas have been offered for sale, and requests made by the community for Council to purchase, but without a policy framework how can future land purchases be prioritised?
- **How can we work together better?** Partnerships enabling the Council, iwi, other agencies, community groups and landowners to support and compliment each other's work are required to manage and enhance biodiversity.

### What will the Council be doing now?

- **Council will now be looking to implement the Strategy** through its capital and operational programmes and partnership with the community agencies and landowners. Budget provision for Strategy initiatives will be determined through the LTCCP process.
- **Collaborate with the community:** developing a Council partnership with landowners, other organisations, Ngai Tahu and the community is critical to success on Banks Peninsula—a two way process that encourages and supports private and community initiative; developing links with key individuals and groups in the business community has considerable expertise that could be highly supportive of biodiversity initiatives.



Looking down on the head of the bay, Lyttelton Harbour

## Victoria Park Visitor Centre

The Sunday afternoon roster at Victoria Park is now well established, thanks to the efforts of Ron Ricketts who has agreed to coordinate our efforts. Our presence has two main objectives, further publicity for the Society, and to support the excellent work of the Port Hills Rangers. The commitment is two hours on a Sunday afternoon, once every two months or so. The task is not particularly onerous, involving answering any questions (or at least trying to in the case of the odd curly one!) and talking about the work of the Society. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Ron on 337 3544.



Visitor Centre, Victoria Park



The east end of the Summit Road in winter.

PHOTO: NICK GROVES

## The Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust

*The purchase, protection, enhancement of open spaces on the Port Hills for all to enjoy*

The Harry Ell Summit Road Memorial Trust was set up by the Society in 2002, with the express purposes of:

- To receive funds for the furtherance of the works of The Summit Road Society (Incorporated)... and in particular—
  - (i) To enable the Society to purchase or otherwise acquire land on the Port Hills
  - (ii) To generally further the works of the Society by way of funding the ongoing maintenance of tracks and other facilities
- To invest funds received in either approved Trustee investments or in projects which may be promoted or endorsed by the Society.

The Society shares with many other groups and individuals the growing acknowledgement of the importance to Canterbury of the finite Port Hills environment. Many people now point to the backdrop of the Port Hills as Christchurch's

unique signature, and have asked how they can assist in a tangible way. To meet the above needs it is important that the Society has substantial funds on hand to take advantage of opportunities to purchase. The Society recognises that outright purchase on a willing seller/willing buyer basis is the best way to protect open space. Funds are also required for the continued maintenance of acquired land and ongoing maintenance work.

If you are planning to make a donation, or arrange a bequest which is intended to help to preserve the Port Hills, or indeed know anyone in this position, we would ask you to consider the merits of placing the donation or bequest with the Trust.

It is worth remembering that our acquisition of Ohinetahi Reserve was only made possible by bequests. This land has been protected by an Open Space Covenant and is available for all to enjoy.



Harry Ell (1904)

**For further information please contact Treasurer Paul Loughton Ph 322 7082**