



a passion for the Port Hills

## **SUMMIT ROAD SOCIETY: 72nd PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020**

Once again it is my privilege to present the report of the Summit Road Society for the year ending 2020.

It has been another year of progress due to the enthusiasm and dedication of members and supporters of our Society. The Society is in good heart and continues to work in the best interest of the Port Hills with a few ongoing programmes that will be referred to in detail by the various leaders of those projects.

One project is the John Jameson Lookout at the Sign of the Bellbird. The Board is fronting this project as our leaders have more than sufficient to keep any normal person busy. The project is coming along nicely but like most undertakings of this size it has its hiccups but none too severe that it causes undue delays. The resource consent for the earthworks is to be obtained for our next application for funding.

The annual Arbor Day planting was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The mid-winter dinner was also cancelled due to Covid. This function not only has become a tradition, it also has a social aspect. It allows members who may not normally meet each other during the year to catch up with each other and talk about common interests.

It is at this time of the year that I and the Board get to thank all those who have been part of the Society's work over the past year. There are a vast number, far too many to mention individually.

- First of all there are the Work Parties who look after the Port Hills as if they owned them personally.
- The Rangers, who are always there to assist and guide us in our work to protect and enhance these majestic hills.
- The individuals who willingly give their time to assist with special projects that seems to be increasing year by year.

That is good as it shows that the Society is in good heart and will continue to be a functional part of the Canterbury environment.

Special thanks must go to the Board as the centre of the organisation that provides the provision of finance and the organisation to allow the Society to function successfully. Speaking of the Board we are so lucky to have a secretary that manages the secretarial work so efficiently but manages to pass on her enthusiasm to all the members by that I mean all members.

My personal thanks go to both Marie and Jeremy in assisting me to carry out the role of President. The work of the Society has increased vastly over the past years and the reporting of what has happened during the year is taking up too much time at the AGM so reports are being reduced in size to allow more time for keynote speakers.

That does not mean the work of the Society during the year will not be relayed to the membership as the biannual newsletter that also has vastly increased in size covers all that we are doing, mostly as it happens.

Membership total is down by one to 336. Although we have had new members join, a number of members passed away in the 2020 year and others also shifted away from Christchurch. In August 2020, Society stalwart Ben Faulkner passed away after a long life of service.

The volunteer hours total an impressive 12,667 hours down 287 from the previous year but when the toll of Covid is taken into account this year's figures would have been higher than 2019.

The Society can be proud of its achievements during the 2020 year.

*Bill Woods  
President  
May 2021*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2020**

### **General**

Members will have to forgive the briefness of this report, I am still in learning and understanding mode. I may be still in learning mode until the end of this year.

The Summit Road Society Incorporated (The Society) is governed by the need to produce financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, its Rules and as it is also a registered charity, by the Charities Act 2005.

The Charities Act 2005 places the greatest compliance requirements on the Society as the Society is required to prepare its performance report (otherwise known as its financial statements) in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. What does this mean?

For registered charities whose operating payments are under \$125,000 this means cash accounting, what is also referred to as Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Cash (PBE SFR-C (NFP)). When elected the performance report is simple undertaken on a cash basis, no accruals and no non cash transactions.

Some members will know that earlier in the year Parliament introduced the Incorporated Societies Bill. This Bill is intended to replace the current Incorporated Societies Act 1908. Members will appreciate that 1908 was some time ago and the governance, management and expectations of members of societies has changed. One of the requirements of the Bill will be that all incorporated societies will be required to comply with generally accepted accounting practice. It is my belief that this will follow the model for registered charities. It should be noted that currently incorporated societies do not have to comply with generally accepted accounting practice.

## Performance Report to 31 December 2020

The draft performance report for the Society is attached to this report. As at the date of this report is remains unaudited but the auditors are still working on it. All the material and significant entries have been made and I do not expect any major changes.

It has taken a bit of time to deal with the “non cash” entries that have happened during the year and for me to understand some of the reasons behind this. I must state this is NOT a reflection on the previous Treasurer but simply me trying to get my head space into what has been happening.

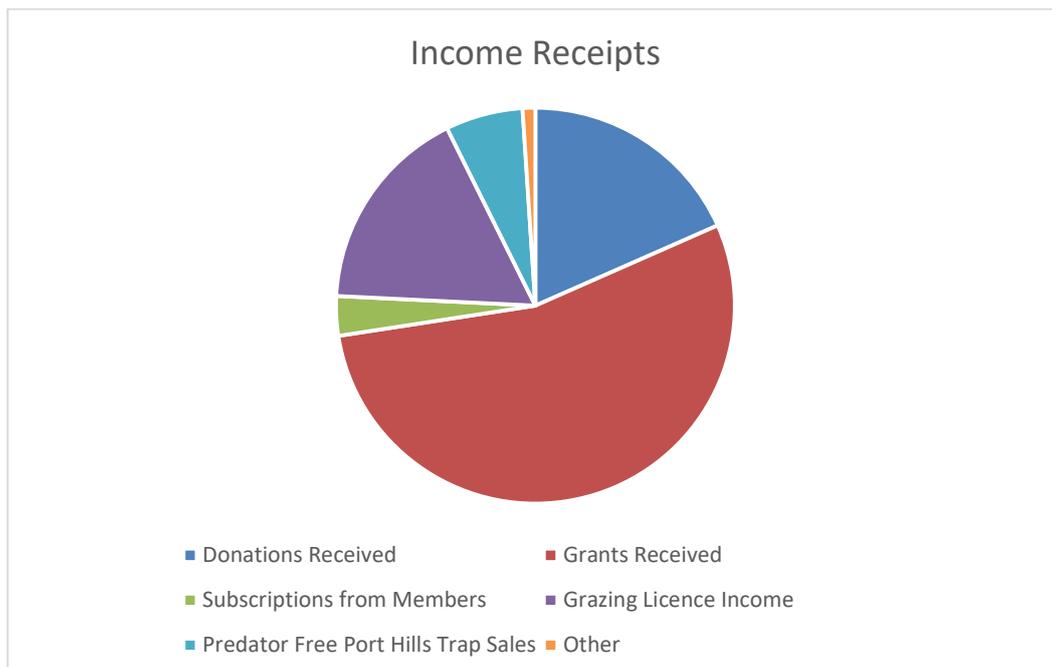
As this is the first year that the Society has prepared its Performance Report using the PBE SFR-c (NFP) standards there is no need to include comparatives but simply “attach” last year’s financial statements. I have done this.

The Entity Information pages (pages 1 and 2) is straight forward and reflects the structure, objectives and how it is resourced so that users of the performance report get an understanding of what the Society is about and why it exists.

The Statement of Service Performance (Page 3) is setting out, at a very high level, what the Society is attempting to achieve, it is the “why are we doing this?” question and also how do we measure the impact we are having in meeting those achievements.

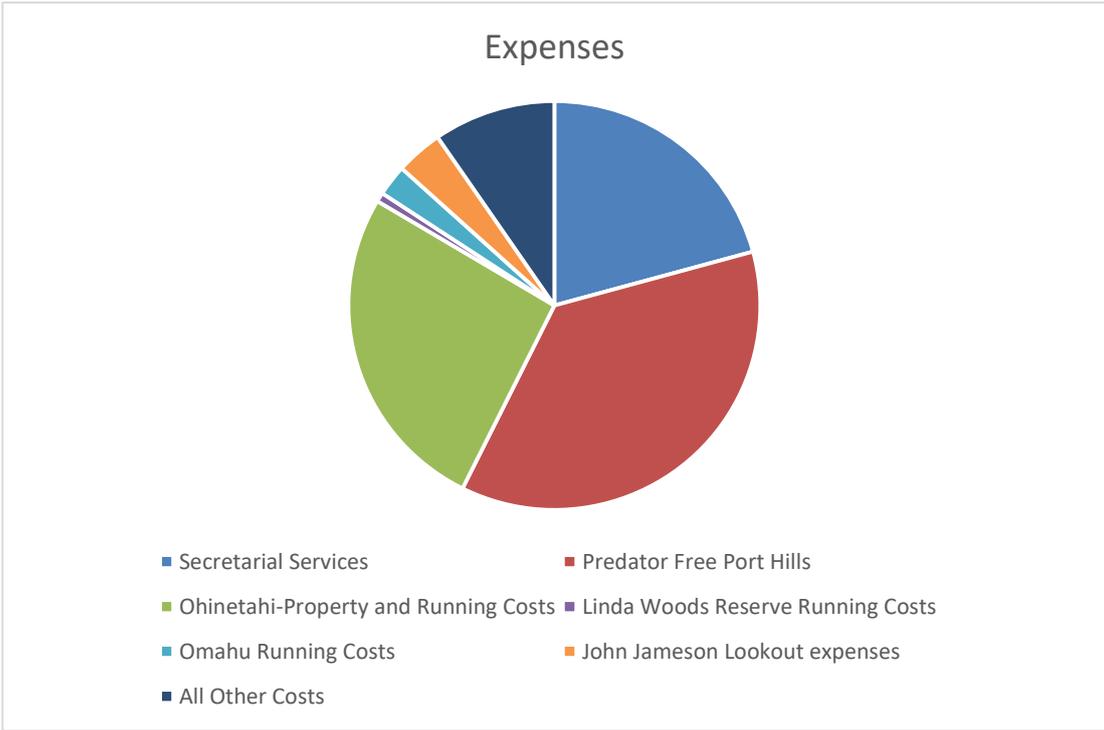
More work is required on this and how we measure these. The Society’s Secretary has indicated that there is some work on collecting the information on this page so I will be looking at changing these in the coming years, it is a start.

Page 7 details out the major sources of receipts of income for the Society. Any references on the Statement of Receipts and Payments (page 4) that relate to “Note 2” are detailed on this page.



As members can see the Society is weighted toward Grant Income with around 54% of its income coming from Grants. Major grants have been received from the Rata Foundation, Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council. Trap sales also provide income to the Society. However, in an endeavor to make traps as accessible as possible the Society subsidises the cost of the traps for people in the community. The objective is to be cost neutral if possible but the Society has the bigger picture in its focus, that is, achieving a Predator Free Port Hills.

Page 8 details out the payments of the Society and this page provides the details of Note 3 in the Statement of Receipts and Payments on page 4.



As members can see, the major costs associated with the Society’s work relate to its focus on being Predator Free on the Port Hills with 37% of its payments being directed at this activity. Ohinetahi property and running costs account for 26% of the total costs of the Society. Ohinetahi running expenses were high in 2020 due to spur valerian control and rockfall remediation being undertaken. Secretarial costs are then the next biggest cost but in my short time with the Society my view is that Marie is a wonderful asset of the Society and keeps Board members informed and up-to-date.

Cash operating surplus of the Society was \$37,305 (see half way down page 4) and the Society had \$52,241 in its bank accounts as at 31 December 2020 and also \$113,853 in its Westpac term deposit, total cash of \$166,094.

Page 5 is the Statement of Resources and Commitments. It is not a full balance sheet but is a simple way for readers of the Performance Report to see that resources and what commitments the Society has as at balance date. The amounts have been taken from the Society’s accounting system.

*Peter van Hout*  
*Treasurer*  
*May 2021*

# OHINETAHI RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## Ohinetahi Work Party Report

Because of the lockdown and rain, we lost 11.5 work days in 2020. It was a dry winter and that 6.5 days were lost to rain was frustrating and left us wondering how the rain gods have an uncanny ability to pick Tuesdays.

Five days were spent clearing and releasing the trees that have been planted since the fire. A further 5 days were spent planting 1000 more trees. Weed-eating and clearing the tracks began in mid-October and continued until the end of December. The remainder of our time was spent in the never-ending task of weed control. Where the 2017 fire has destroyed the bush cover the seeds have survived in the soil. The result is where we had weeds mostly under control, we now have lots of seedlings germinating.

There is good news though. The broom gall mite is becoming established on the scotch broom and we are hopeful that it will reduce the vigour of these plants which have flourished since the fire.

During lockdown a neighbour in Governors Bay witnessed a rock fall in the Faulkners track area. Martin Freeman who has been clearing the cliffs in this valley of Spur Valerian identified another 3 areas of unstable rock. Thank you to those members of the work party who acted as sentries while Martin remediated these rocks.

Lastly, thank you

- 1) to the team of 10-12 who turn up each week to help maintain the reserve;
- 2) to Martin Freeman and Lindsay Main for their work in the fight to rid the reserve of Spur Valerian;
- 3) to those who monitor the trap lines;
- 4) To our secretary, Marie, and the Board for their support.

*Anne Kennedy*  
*May 2021*

## Ohinetahi Predator Control Report

Our trap network has remained at 224 traps spread across the Reserve. Monthly checking is undertaken across 6 trap runs by a group of hardy volunteers, Helen Hills and Robin Collie, Brian Boyes, Russell Genet, Matthew Hellicar, Merv Meredith, Emily Trevail and Jake Wright. Some 430 hours of volunteer hours were recorded for the year. The reserve is very steep so we are very grateful for the work they do.

For the 2020 year, 350 predators have been removed, up from 193 the year before on the same trap numbers. For the 2 years when records have been kept we have passed the 500 mark.

Chew card and Tracking Tunnel monitoring was undertaken in January and November to determine relative predator abundance. The Residual Trap Catch (RTC – a possum population index) ranged from 2.5-4.2 (low). Tracking tunnel results for rats ranged from 0-15%. We

propose to repeat this monitoring in June 2021 which will help us build up a better understanding of predator numbers in Ohinetahi.

Thanks again to all the team, and all those SRS members who have been involved with predator control at Ohinetahi over the many years leading up to today.

*Greg Gimblett*  
*May 2021*

## **EASTENDERS WORK PARTY REPORT 2020**

Notwithstanding the Covid outbreak which early on put paid to three work parties, it was nevertheless a moderately successful year for the Eastenders work group. We managed to complete 14 sessions out of a possible 19, with Covid lockdown and inclement weather accounting for the remaining five. Our annual tree hole digging exercise in preparation for Arbor Day planting by school children was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. We averaged 12.5 persons per work party, ranging from eight to 18.

Most of our work was done on the tracks of the Port Hills from Victoria Park eastwards. Around the Victoria Park-Sugarloaf area we had eight work parties. The Harry Ell track required its annual drain clearance but on Mitchells/Gilpens, Cedric's and Scotts tracks more substantial work was done rebenching and improving drainage. The Eastenders Track at the back of Barnett Park required two sessions for its annual maintenance and the Jollies Bush Reserve needed one session for vegetation cut-back and step replacement. We also had a work party near Evans Pass under the watchful eye of Ranger Matt Rose who tutored eleven of us in the recognition of the noxious weed *nassella tussock*, a difficult plant to recognise until one gets their eye-in. We grubbed out around 80 plants in an area that is known to be fairly heavily infested and then put our newly acquired skills to work on the Linda Woods Reserve where we found approximately 20 on one section and three on another. Linda Woods Reserve only has a low density of these tussocks but the Society is obliged to do an annual check and remove any plants found.

There are 57 people on my Eastenders email list of which about 20 or so are regulars. I would like to thank all those that turn up for our work parties. It is satisfying work in good company and as a bonus the views of the hills, the plains and the mountains can be spectacular. I also want to thank ranger Hamish Masters who oversees our work on Council land as well as the end-of-year get-together where he lives up to his name as barbeque master, and to Society Secretary Marie Gray with her excellent administration skills.

*Graeme Paltridge*  
*May 2021*

# OMAHU BUSH ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## Omahu Bush Work Party Report

We lost 4 work days during the Covid lockdown and another 4 days due to inclement weather and public holidays. 600 man hours were worked over the year 2020. About 5 to 8 regular workers turn up on our scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays to do track maintenance, gorse and broom control and fence line spraying. We will soon have about 7km of fence lines to maintain.

The deer fencing is well under way with the southern boundary due to be started and the north-west boundary fence is to be rewired to completely enclose the bush and grazing blocks. The opening up of the old track network in the grazing block has made access to the lower parts of the reserve much more user friendly. Our existing tracks have had several new culverts installed or replaced to improve drainage and control erosion.

More native trees were planted next to the existing plantings. The regenerating bush on the slopes of Gibraltar Rock is doing well since the gorse has been removed.

A new walking track is being planned following the old stone wall on the north-west side of Gibraltar Rock to meet up at the bottom of Prendergast Track.

Thanks to all the good keen volunteers who turn up every work day to keep the reserve looking great.

*Ian Johnston*  
*May 2021*

## Omahu Predator Control Report

Pigs and deer continue to have the biggest effect on bush regeneration. Installation of the perimeter deer fence commenced at the end of 2019 and hopefully should exclude them from the reserve soon. A cull of the remaining ungulates is the next pressing task.

Trap numbers are approximately 260 with some additional DOC200 and Victor rat traps added during the year.

Our core group of 6 volunteers (Greg Gimblett, Jeff Hall, Brent Williams, Graeme Sleeman, Dean McLea, Allan Brent) remains the same in spite of the loss of Tom Brunel and Matthew Hellicar. We clocked up 7630 hours during the year with trap checking, monitoring and trap network maintenance.

The total trap catch for the year to December was 411 predators up from 342 the year before. We recorded our 1000th predator caught since records began.

We undertook monitoring of our key measurable predator numbers In May, June and October RTC (possum) ranged from 0.8 -5.4 which is regarded as low in spite of monthly catches as high as 21. Tracking tunnels (rats) ranged from 0-20% (zero after poisoning).

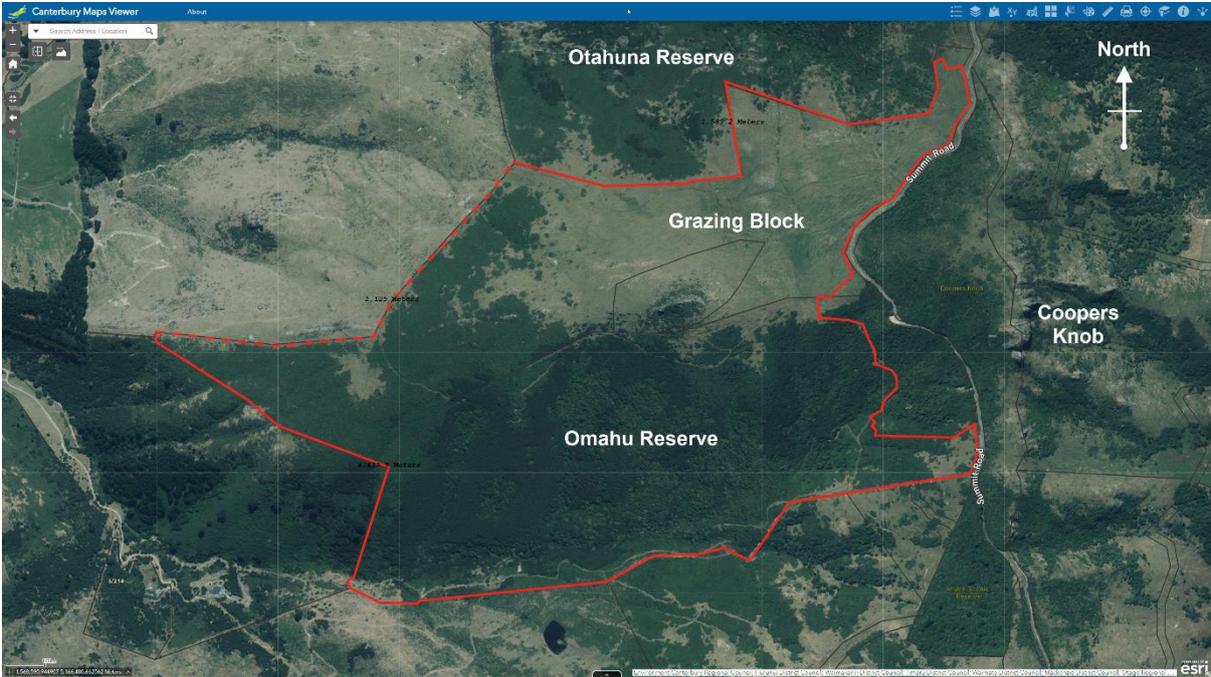
We again under took a poisoning program in August with the 2nd generation anti-coagulant 'Double Tap'. This lowered our rat population to 0 (as measured with tracking tunnels) and has kept our rat catch to below 6 until March 2021. It was previously as high as 24. Our RTC (possum) was 3.3 but have rebounded strongly (based on catch – monitoring for 2021 still to be done)

*Greg Gimblett  
May 2021*

**Omahu Bush Feral Animal Management Programme**

Feral deer, goats, and pigs (feral ungulates) have been in residence on various parts of the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula for decades. Their impact adversely affects native flora and fauna, and the animal populations can increase very quickly, compounding the problem. The Society has been implementing the construction of a new deer fence around the perimeter of the Reserve to help protect it by minimizing the risk of future intrusion of feral deer and pigs.

The fencing work is nearing completion and the aerial image shows the completed section of perimeter fence (red solid line). There is a short section of old deer fence (red dashed line), which is about to be rehabilitated and this work will be completed within the next couple of months. There are some additional minor works to complete to make the fence as effective as possible and it is the attention to this detail that will help to maximize the effectiveness of this new perimeter fence.



This work is being done in collaboration with Otahuna Reserve to the north and private landowners to the south. Otahuna Reserve have completed a large portion of their perimeter fence with 1500m remaining to be done. Once completed, the perimeter fence will help to protect a combined area of more than 300 hectares of precious native biodiversity and will also enable various biodiversity enhancement options to be initiated within the reserves in the future.

This work at Omaha Reserve has been largely funded by the Gama Foundation, who gifted Omaha Bush and Gibraltar Rock to the Society in 2010. Their support and encouragement has been invaluable. We are also fortunate to have an experienced fencing contractor (Chris Stuart) doing the work. The new fence benches now allow unrestricted access to the entire perimeter of the Reserve and this will be particularly useful in the future for fence maintenance and for pest (weed and animal) control.

*Graham Corbishley*  
*May 2021*

## **LINDA WOODS RESERVE REPORT 2020**

We continued to develop the management plan for Linda Woods Reserve over 2020. We are very grateful to landscape architect and Heathcote local, John Marsh for his many hours of work on this project.

Early in 2020, we received a report on the reserve's ecological values. Although highly modified, remnant indigenous vegetation occurs in rocky refugia and sheltered shady aspects. The reserve retains good examples of indigenous shrublands and to a lesser extent silver tussock grasslands. Botanical values include threatened, at risk and locally notable species.

In February, we held a very positive public meeting with the local community seeking their aspirations and thoughts on the development of the reserve. The feedback process was somewhat disrupted by lockdown however we continued discussions with key stakeholders wherever possible by Zoom and sought feedback from recreational groups via online surveys.

Following lockdown, we commissioned a more detailed rockfall assessment. The rockfall mitigation for Avoca Valley was completed December 2020. Thank you to our volunteer spotters who assisted with this work. The rockfall mitigation for Horotane Valley will be completed in 2021.

Thank you as well to the Eastenders who spend many hours searching for and grubbing nassella tussock plants in the reserve.

The other big development following lockdown was the government's Jobs for Nature programme as part of the recovery from Covid-19. There have been a series of funding rounds calling for projects that will restore our natural environment and create jobs. We have been working closely with Wai-ora Trust to apply for various funding opportunities for the restoration of Avoca Valley. In time, we intend to plant 87,000 trees and plants over 33ha of the valley. This will be staged as funding permits.

*Bill Woods and Marie Gray*  
*May 2021*

## **PREDATOR FREE PORT HILLS ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

2020 was a busy and challenging year for Predator Free Port Hills given Covid-19 restrictions. However, we adapted by focusing on social media and moving to Zoom workshops, and in the process managed to reach a new group of trappers.

Key achievements over the year included:

- A predator monitoring trial in the summer of 2019-2020 focusing on three residential suburbs, with support from an ECAN summer student
- Development of a tactical plan for Predator Free Port Hills 2020-2024
- Predator Free Port Hills stalls at 15 markets and community events
- Trap building days at Halswell and Diamond Harbour
- Four Zoom and three face-to-face trapping workshops
- The launch of our new website and reporting system [www.predatorfreeport hills.org.nz](http://www.predatorfreeport hills.org.nz)
- The roll out of a new campaign "Sign Up Your Neighbour"
- Two electronic newsletters and regular social media posts
- The launch of a trapping pilot in urban parks with the Christchurch City Council

Trappers reported 1860 catches in 2020, which brings the total to 5,140 catches as at 31 December 2020. We are still in the process of bringing over reserve data so this figure will increase.

We also continued to support the wider Pest Free Banks Peninsula programme. In November, the Minister of Conservation announced \$5 million dollars of funding for the eradication programmes at Kaitōrete Spit and the extended Wildside.

*Jeremy Agar and Marie Gray  
May 2021*

## **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED JOHN JAMESON LOOKOUT 2020**

Over 2020, we held meetings with various groups to seek feedback on the design of the proposed lookout area. The landscape concepts were revised to incorporate feedback received and the results of an engineering survey.

In March 2020, we were delighted to receive the news that our application to the CCC Capital Endowment Fund was successful and we had been granted \$150,000 towards this project. We then turned our attention to applying for the remaining funding. In November 2020, we were granted \$50,000 from the Stout Trust, managed by Perpetual Guardian. We have now raised 70% of the total cost. Our focus in 2021 is to raise the balance of the funding required.

We are very grateful to landscape architects, Graham Densem and Nic Kaye, and engineering firm, Davie Lovell-Smith, for their assistance with this project.

*Marie Gray  
May 2021*