

IN THIS ISSUE

- Inspiring Hinewai
- Native Forest Climate Change interface
- Pest Free progress
- Discovering walking during Covid-19
- Photo competition results
- Te Ahu Pātiki project launch
- Walking Festival Adventures

From the Chair

I am delighted to announce Te Ahu Pātiki – a project building on our 10 year track record of success. With your help we aim to secure the two highest peaks on Banks Peninsula – Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki and Mt Bradley – to create a 500ha conservation park. This biodiversity hotspot, stunning recreational asset and highly visible landscape will be protected in perpetuity to create an enduring public legacy and achieve ki uta ki tai – summit to sea protection.

Te Ahu Pātiki gives us cause to celebrate as we near the end of an uncertain year for everyone due to COVID-19. Many Cantabrians are now looking to local and low carbon short breaks, including the jewel on their doorstep Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula. We hope you find all our walking information on our website www.bpwalks.co.nz useful for your next trip.

Our achievements are a credit to the Trustees and contractors who have served the Trust. Together we are developing environmental guardians of the future through improved public walking and biking access, enhancing



biodiversity, promoting knowledge and working in partnership with others.

Maureen McCloy
Chair



Rod Donald Trust celebrates its first 10 years.

10th Anniversary

The Trust was founded by Christchurch City Council in 2010 with a mandate to work on recreation and conservation in the area formerly administered by the Banks Peninsula District Council. The Trust was named to commemorate Green Party co-leader Rod Donald as a well-known environmentalist on the Peninsula and given one-off funding derived from the sale of endowment land belonging to the former Banks Peninsula Council.

“The Trust has a long list of achievements to show for its first 10 years”, said Trustee Andrew Turner.

Major projects include developing and securing public access on the Te Ara Pātaka tramping track, providing Rod Donald Hut, protection of over 450ha for biodiversity with full public



Rod Donald Hut is popular with families introducing their children to the joys of tramping.

access, promoting all the walks on Banks Peninsula, running the Walking Festival, seed funding Pest Free Banks Peninsula and much more.

Our projects have all involved partnerships with community organisations and government agencies. The Trust takes a lead for public walking and cycling access, and supports enhancing biodiversity. We look for synergies and to fill gaps. We exercise due diligence to ensure our vision is upheld. We get value from every dollar.

Te Ahu Pātiki Project Launch



**STOP
PRESS!**

Rod Donald Trust
Secures
Te Ahu Pātiki

See Centre Pages
For The Full Story!



HINEWAI CELEBRATION

A huge crowd made their way down the Otanerito Valley, some arriving on foot, in shuttle vans or by car, to join Hugh Wilson and his twin sister Hilary at Hinewai Reserve for their 75th birthday celebration. The stunning February day was perfect for the hundreds attending, with a wide range of activities and stalls. "The day was a real tribute to Hugh and his team for all they have achieved and the environmental awareness they have raised", shared

Trustee Cynthia Roberts who attended. The Rod Donald Trust was proud to sponsor the Art Competition. An amazing variety of high quality work was entered with winners selected by popular vote.

Many enjoyed the Trust's stall promoting walking on Banks Peninsula, and well done to Ellen van Dijk, winner of our prize draw for a free night at the Rod Donald Hut.



Chief event organiser Tricia Hewlett announcing art competition winners with John Wilson, David Round, Hugh Wilson and Hilary looking on.



1st Prize winner - Tracey Foley - "Thank you" - inspired by the film 'Fools and Dreamers' and gifted to Hugh by Tracey.



New Ranger and Parks Staff Welcomed

The Trust hosted a friendly community function to welcome new Ranger and Park Staff stationed in the area in October 2019.

New DOC officer Sam Gillooly has taken up a role with the Duvauchelle based DOC team and Alice Webster is the new Banks Peninsula Wildside

Coordinator. The Council have created a locally based Community parks team, also at Duvauchelle, and their great work is apparent in better maintained reserves. John Fitch the new Regional Parks Ranger was previously senior teacher at Little River School and Rodney Chambers, also a Regional Parks Ranger, has a wonderful local connection as a previous owner of the Rod Donald Hut!



Back row: Paddy Macbeth, Fiona Waghorn, Paul Bainbridge - CCC Community Parks, John Fitch - CCC Regional Parks Ranger, Rodney Chambers - CCC Regional Parks Ranger, Sam Gillooly - DOC Ranger.

Front row: Kerri Bowen - CCC Community Parks Team Leader, Alice Webster - BPCT Wildside Co-ordinator.

Banks Peninsula Walks Directory



Our new look Banks Peninsula Walks Directory launched at the Hinewai Open Day is available from local i-Sites and the DOC Visitor Centre on Worcester Boulevard

Native Forest/Climate Change group

The Trust pulled together a collaborative Native Forest/Climate Change group last year to push for measures that support carbon sequestration through the natural regeneration of native vegetation. Members of the group include experts from Christchurch City Council, ECAN, DOC, Manaaki-Whenua, QEII Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Hinewai.

"This is a win-win for everyone," says Suky Thompson, "The income from carbon credits incentivises landowners to shift marginal land use from grazing to growing native trees. Hinewai demonstrates how efficiently natural regeneration sequesters carbon on a landscape scale bringing great ecological gains. However, the current regulations are framed to suit plantation forestry, not the natural regeneration we seek to foster."



Trust Manager Suky Thompson presents the group submission to the Emissions Trading Scheme via Zoom to the Parliamentary Select Committee, supported by Hugh Wilson from Hinewai, Helen Greenup from ECAN, Laura Molles from CCC and Larry Burrows from Manaaki Whenua.

The group spent significant effort this year on a major submission to the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme) Amendment Bill promoting a change to simplify the registration and credit earning processes for naturally regenerating forests when they are protected in perpetuity by conservation covenants.

The group is now working with MPI to try to improve 1 Billion Trees grant criteria for natural regeneration.



"The QEII National Trust is increasingly interested in helping our covenantors earn from their native forests," says local QEII representative Alice Shanks, "and invited Suky to speak on the topic at our national conference."

Pest Free Progress

"Pest Free Banks Peninsula is a collaboration among local government, DOC, rūnanga and community organisations, with overall management provided by Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Great progress toward the start of a Pest Free Banks Peninsula has been made this year", said Rod Donald Trust Pest Free representative Richard Suggate. "The Trust is proud to have contributed seed funding to enable the initiative to get up and running. This year thanks to 5 year funding from a new targeted rate struck by ECAN and \$5.11 million from Predator Free NZ Ltd, the initiative is on a firm financial footing."

The vision is to remove pest animals (possums, stoats, feral cats and goats initially and some rat control)



over the entire 110,000 hectares of the Peninsula by 2050. Operational work will commence in early 2021 with Sarah Wilson now appointed as Project Leader and 10 staff to come on board. Funding for eradication programmes at this stage includes the extended Wildside area around Akaroa, Kaitorete Spit, Te Kākahu Kahukura Pest Control and support for Port Hills community action.

Visit pestfreebankspeninsula.org.nz to find out how you can help and read the Pest-Free Strategy under 'The Opportunity' tab.



Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, announced a \$5.11 million funding boost for large scale pest control at an event on pest free Ōtamahua/Quail Island in August 2020.



“Soon into lockdown it became apparent how important outdoor recreation was to Christchurch people,” says Chair Maureen McCloy, “and we decided to put effort into improving our Banks Peninsula Walks website and making our popular walking brochures downloadable from it so that people could get out exploring more of Banks Peninsula once the lockdown eased.” “If you prefer a proper brochure, they are available at all Peninsula visitor centres and the DOC visitor centre in Christchurch,” says Trust Administrator Sue Church.

Check out our walking website www.bpwalks.co.nz with its new Track Search capability, enabling you to quickly find a walk meeting your chosen criteria. Find exactly what you are looking for with our updated information and maps, and



you can even check out the Peninsula weather here before you head out!

What else has been happening at the Hut?

‘People power’ helps keep the hut and surrounding area maintained and we are always grateful for volunteers. Thanks to the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, assisted by the ‘Jacobs’ team, who undertook a huge day of tree planting and gorse cutting

along the access track working after Hut Manager David Brailsford wielding his chainsaw cut a wide swathe of track.

Look out for the new trees planted along the track on your next visit.



Rod Donald Hut’s annual maintenance and spring clean was brought forward to Level 3 of the lockdown and the main room emerged a new colour!

Book a stay with your family and friends at www.doc.govt.nz



What a great show of team work by volunteers from Christchurch branch of the engineering firm ‘Jacobs’!



Some new fun - ‘Gravel as You Travel’ enables hut users to sprinkle a little gravel on muddy track patches as they walk out (All credit to Pete Ozich of Diamond Harbour for this clever idea and catchphrase!)



The working bee team taking a well-deserved break at the Hut.



Many hands make light work.

Photo Competition Winners!

Our 'lockdown' challenge to sort through your walking photos meant we had a great response to our photo competition. We were delighted with the high standard of entries and impressive variation of subjects.

"Thank you to Rod Donald Trust for offering the photographic competition for us to relive happy moments," said Dennis Chang, competition place getter. "The postie delivered the lovely package this afternoon. So exciting - what wonderful prizes. Robinsons Bay Olive Oil to sample, gift cards from artist Tricia Hewlett to admire and send to friends and I am eagerly anticipating visiting the Barry's Bay Cheese Factory on our next trip to Akaroa. Armed with the maps, there is every reason to do many walks on Banks Peninsula in the coming months."



Interesting Peninsula Walk Features 1st place – Jeremy Buchanan, Ōnawe Isthmus.



Out and About Walking with Family and Friends 1st place – Dennis Chang, Stanley Park.



Interesting Peninsula Walk Features 2nd prize – Mike Bowie, McCanns Skink (Oligosoma maccanni) Quail Island.



Interesting Peninsula Walk Features 3rd prize – Ellen van Dijk, Kaituna Valley.



Stunning Peninsula Views 1st place – Peter Coldicott, Governors Bay Foreshore Track.

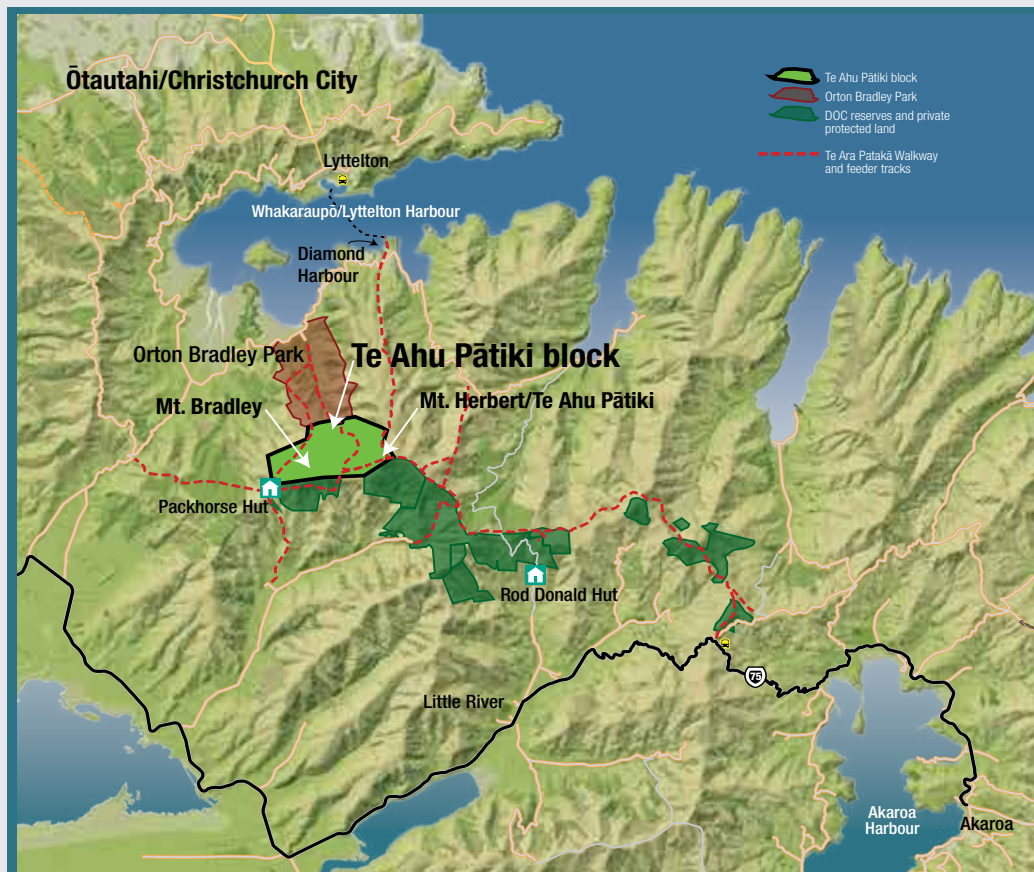
ANNOUNCING TE AHU PĀTIKI PROJECT

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust welcomes your contribution to help
Please donate generously via the Christchurch Foundation platform –

Te Ahu Pātiki is 500ha of iconic land including the summits of Mt Herbert/ Te Ahu Pātiki and Mt Bradley, the two highest points in the Christchurch/Ōtautahi district.

Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust is proud to announce an agreement with the landowner to purchase this substantial block and bring it into public ownership.

Our vision is for this land to become a conservation park protecting and restoring native biodiversity, with full permanent public access.



PROTECTING OUR ICONIC TAONGA

Mt Herbert /Te Ahu Pātiki and Mt Bradley



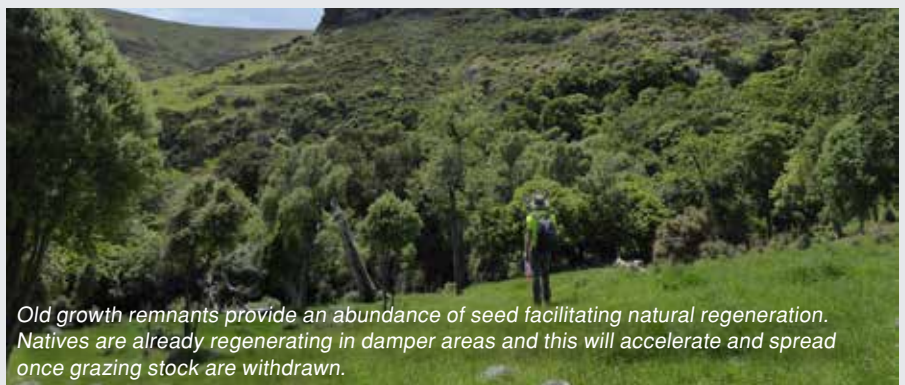
Help us purchase these iconic peaks
for details on page 9

With your assistance Te Ahu Pātiki will become

- ◆ a highly visible landscape transforming to native forest
- ◆ a biodiversity hotspot completing a 1700ha network of continuous protection
- ◆ a stunning recreational asset for walking, biking and climbing
- ◆ a protected catchment from summit to sea – ki uta ki tai



Tiny Pekapeka flourish in the rocky heights
Delicate Kātote spread their fronds over streams
Strong Tī Kōuka punch through and tower over gorse
Mighty Tōtara return to these lands to stand for centuries



Old growth remnants provide an abundance of seed facilitating natural regeneration. Natives are already regenerating in damper areas and this will accelerate and spread once grazing stock are withdrawn.



You will be able to watch the highly visible gorse covered slopes transform from yellow to green over time, as has happened at Hinewai.

Join us to create a legacy

with this stunning new asset,
the highest place in our natural stadium



“When the landowners of Loudon Farm unexpectedly offered to sell us the peaks, the of securing public access to the much greater opportunity of creating a Hinewai-like Lyttelton/Whakaraupō. We are delighted that negotiations have reached the point where project public.” MAUREEN MCCLOY



Christchurch MP and early conservationist Harry Ell first had the vision of walking from Christchurch to Akaroa 100 years ago, on a route now known as Te Ara Pātaka/Summit Walkway. The Sign of the Takahe, Kiwi, Bellbird and Packhorse were intended as resthouses on the way.

We were thrilled that the Harry Ell Memorial Trust made the first pledge toward the Te Ahu Pātiki Purchase. *“We see this purchase as a once in a lifetime opportunity”* John Goodrich, Harry Ell Memorial Trust Chair

Securing access on Te Ara Pātaka – the Summit Walkway

Rod Donald Trust has been working to foster and further Harry Ell's vision since 2012, in partnership with DOC.

The Te Ara Pātaka track network formally opened in 2016 after we had completed the track signage, waymarking, improved some tricky sections and opened Rod Donald Hut.

Since then the Trust has been working to secure enduring public access where the tracks cross private land.

Te Ahu Pātiki is the final missing link to secure public access on the main Te Ara Pātaka ridgeline route between Gebbies Pass and Hilltop.

The new park will open recreational opportunities for walking and mountain biking and give new access to the formidable Mt Bradley summit.

Connecting tracks feed up from Orton Bradley Park and Diamond Harbour ferry jetty.

Partnering with Orton Bradley Park

We are delighted to announce neighbouring Orton Bradley Park as a major project partner pledging a substantial contribution toward the purchase of Te Ahu Pātiki, and offering to manage and eventually own the land.

Orton Bradley Park occupies 600ha immediately below Te Ahu Pātiki. It operates a model farm park with walking tracks, camping areas and

an outdoor education centre, acting as a natural gateway to Te Ahu Pātiki above.

Over 100ha of native bush in the Park has already been covenanted protecting the lower part of the Te Wharua stream catchment. The addition of Te Ahu Pātiki achieves ki uta ki tai – summit to sea protection for the largest stream flowing into Lyttelton/Whakaraupō Harbour.





project grew from one conservation park for here we can make this

Te Ahu Pātiki is named after Ngāti Wheke tupuna and events of significance to local hapū.

Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki

Mt Bradley



The purchase is supported by Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke who have mana whenua over this area. We are working closely with Ngāti Wheke to shape the future of this land.

Together we can create this legacy for our tamariki and generations to come



Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust official newsletter

DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT THE TE AHU PĀTIKI PURCHASE

Fundraising target is \$600,000

BECOME A



donation of \$50,000+



donation of \$10,000 - \$50,000



donation of \$1,000-\$10,000



donations under \$1000

All donations gratefully received and acknowledged

HOW TO DONATE

Please make your donation via the Christchurch Foundation platform

Visit website www.christchurchfoundation.org.nz

- Click Our Projects tab
- Select the Te Ahu Pātiki project
- Enter your details

Payment options are Credit Card or Bill me Later for direct credit. Note a fee will be added to credit card transactions.

All donations qualify for 33% tax relief.

Email enquiries@christchurchfoundation.org.nz for your tax receipt

Please contact Suky Thompson, Rod Donald Trust Manager, if you are interested in becoming a major sponsor via manager@roddonaldtrust.co.nz

For further information on the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust and the Te Ahu Pātiki project, please visit our website www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz

Initial Sponsors



Thanks to Christchurch Foundation and Te Hapū on Ngāti Wheke for their support

Banks Peninsula Walking Festival 2019 – Highlights

The Walking Festival was a huge success, with over 500 participants out and about enjoying a large variety of walks in stunning locations around Banks Peninsula. The amazing weather meant that walks went ahead every weekend.

Our first ever multi-year event involved walking all of Kaitorete Spit, with the first 16km stage being completed by many. Children enjoyed a 'Pirates Treasure Hunt' on Quail Island, walkers explored Little Port Cooper, and old favourites such as 'Grunts and Dykes' and 'Penguins of Godley Head' continued to be popular. The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust led walkers through the newly covenanted Catherine Marshall Reserve high above Duvauchelle.

40% of our survey respondents had not participated in the Festival before with 70% of the total saying they lived outside the Banks Peninsula area, so it is great to see so many from further afield getting involved with this popular event.

Comments such as:

"Having experts like Sam Hampton or Hugh Wilson and Paul Newport from Hinewai made for an even better day as we learnt so much from them" is typical of participants feedback.



Catherine Marshall Reserve - "I had good conversations along the way, and intend to join a walking group as a result."



"Guides all were wonderful – inclusive, friendly, knowledgeable and well organised."



'Youthtown' on the 3 day Te Ara Pātaka walkway challenge



Te Oka - "I have really appreciated opportunities to learn more about the area I live in, including native vegetation and conservation efforts"



Banks Peninsula Walking Festival 2020

This year's programme is proving to be as popular as ever with a great variety of walks.

Tickets have sold quickly since the Festival was launched last month but there are still some events with spaces left. Take the opportunity to plan a great family day out and join the 'Kids Nature Trail to Omaha Bush' on 28th November or try the 'Orton Bradley Farm Adventure' on the 29th.

For dog lovers there is even the chance to take your pooch along on 'Grunts, Dykes and Dogs!' in Le Bons Bay.

The festival runs every Saturday and Sunday from 7-29 November. Check out www.bpwalks.co.nz for details or book tickets at www.eventfinda.co.nz

Join 'Thar She Blows' to explore Oashore Bay and go whale spotting!



Many thanks to Lands End landowner Richard Hutchinson for providing access to his stunning farm.



Peter Squires will lead a jaunt over to Browntop Saddle from Takamatua.



Popping out of the bush on the Mt Pearce Ridge Walk.

Banks Peninsula Adventure Race

“Congratulations to Scott Smith and his team for organising the highly successful Adventure Race last December fundraising for orienteering,” said Trust Manager Suzy Thompson. “It was great to see 170 exceptionally energetic people cycling and jogging a section of the Te Ara Pātaka walkway, and thanks to local landowners who also permitted parts of the event to cross their properties.”



a night's accommodation at the Rod Donald Hut as a prize.

The Rod Donald Trust was delighted to play a role in this event, providing

Scott Smith handing out prizes at the old Port Levy's school.



Checkpoint at Port Levy Saddle.



Parts of Te Ara Pātaka now open year round

Department of Conservation have been keen to end or reduce seasonal closures and have more tracks open year round. Lambing is a stressful time for farmers, and appropriate public behaviour is important for year round opening to work. The Trust was delighted when DOC took up our suggestion of getting farmer's messages across from the lamb's point of view. “We thank Peter Barrett who farms at Kaituna Valley for running a trial with the new signs last year. That success has helped farmers on the section from Port Levy Saddle to Hilltop to have confidence to give it a go this year,” say Tim Brady, DOC officer working on the project. Check www.bpwalks.co.nz or the DOC website for details.



“Many thanks to Matt Latham from ‘Two Boys Fencing’ for the great job done completing a tough fencing job on the south face of Mt Bradley”, said Trustee Bob Webster.

The 21ha block was purchased in 2018 by the Trust to secure long term access on this section of the Te Ara Pātaka walkway. The land is now part of the DOC Sign of the Packhorse Scenic Reserve and the new fence means native vegetation can regenerate without getting munched by grazing stock.



Enduring public access

Most of Te Ara Pātaka is on unformed legal road or through reserve land, but parts cross private land and rely on the goodwill of the landowner to stay open. The Trust has been making good progress with securing enduring public access through land purchase, and is excited that our new Te Ahu Pātiki project will further fulfil this vision.

Explore Governors Bay

Governors Bay has many wonderful tracks and trails. Two new brochures help you explore and offer a range of walks from gentle to challenging.



Geopark features at Whaka-Ora showcase day

Whaka-Ora is a new collaboration between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, ECAN, Lyttelton Port, Christchurch City Council and Ngāi Tahu working to improve the health of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. The group ran a showcase day at Living Springs in July 2020, which the Trust was delighted to attend. Geopark advocate Dr. Sam Hampton had attendees spellbound with his descriptions of the Peninsula's protracted and fiery birth and gentle transformation over subsequent millenia.



Whaka-Ora co-chairs Yvette Couch-Lewis (Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke) and Roger Gray (Lyttelton Port Company) speak at Living Springs.



"Sam Hampton is a born educator", says Trustee Bryan Storey. "I'm excited to announce the Rod Donald Trust is supporting the GeoPark concept with funding toward the first GeoTrail. Watch this space!"



Kate Russell, CCC's Programmes and Partnerships Manager for Parks joined the Trustees at their annual Strategic Planning meeting at beautiful Kaituna Valley Homestead. The team took time out for a photo. Pictured from left are Trustees Andrew Turner, Maureen McCloy, Cynthia Roberts, Kate Russell (CCC), Bryan Storey, Bob Webster and Richard Suggate.

delivering outcomes for the Council over the next decade provided it can secure further funding."

We were very pleased that the Working Party concluded the Trust "is the most cost effective way to deliver many aspects of the Council Public Open Space Strategy for the Banks Peninsula area, support biodiversity enhancement, improve visitor information and support the Council to deliver aspects of its Climate and Ecological emergency response", and put forward a proposal to the Council to fund the Trust in the future in its 2021 Long Term Plan. We now await the Council's decision with some trepidation in the post Covid-19 environment.

Strategic Planning

"The Trust has been working closely with Christchurch City Council this year to plan our future once our current endowment of funds is fully committed", said Trustee Paul McNoe. Council set up a Joint Working Party to examine the matter and it held a series of meetings September 2019 to January 2020. A Synergies, Priorities and Gaps review found that the Trust "is performing well in

terms of achieving the Council's strategic objectives because of the inherent flexibility and agility that it has under its current funding model. It is a lean, risk taking and flexible community based organisation."

It also determined that "the goals of the Strategic Plan Striding Forward | Hikoi Whakamua position it well to continue

Current Trustees and Staff

Trustees: Chair Maureen McCloy, Andrew Turner, Bob Webster, Cynthia Roberts, Bryan Storey, Richard Suggate, Paul McNoe. Staff: Suky Thompson Trust Manager, Sue Church Administrator and David Brailsford Hut Manager.

Trustees put in many hours of voluntary work, splitting the load between portfolio groups. "Board meetings are always a challenge," says chair Maureen McCloy, "as we have such a big agenda pulling the work of our many portfolio groups together". The Trust has two vacancies on its Board and intends to conduct a recruitment process later in the year.

Donations and Bequests

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

"Bequests are particularly welcome as a way to bolster our finances long term," says Maureen McCloy.



Follow our news during the year on:

www.rodonaldtrust.co.nz

Follow us on  RodDonaldBPTrust

Donations are welcomed.
You'll find us on Givealittle.
Search for Rod Donald.



For our walking information see
www.bpwalks.co.nz