

OHAU CONSERVATION TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Another year passes and like last year again quite challenging. But we have made progress although it be slow in some areas.

The final signing and receiving of the Management Agreement with the Department of Conservation is a major step forward. We are working to have a separate Memorandum of Understanding with both the Waitaki District Council and Canterbury Regional Council.

Project Mistletoe

We didn't do any possum trapping in the financial year because OSPRI did a control operation. The traps have been left in situ and are to be reactivated. We are working with OSPRI on a Memorandum of Understanding so that we can coordinate our work where we both seek to reduce and control the possum numbers. I wish to thank our trapping volunteers for the great effort they put into this project. The goal of predator free by 2050 means we will all have to work together if we are to achieve this goal. The Ohau area had an excellent display of mistletoe this past year, is it because of our trapping of possums, or the weather or perhaps a combination of both

Project Scenic Rangeland

Weather has been against us this year with a couple of working bees having to be cancelled. The Queens Birthday weekend we cancelled because we assumed nobody would be keen to attend in the hoar frost. We did have an excellent work session at Easter and planted 47 Beech Trees below the Village. The wet season has meant these trees have done very well with the help of the compost, fertiliser and protective wires that were provided on planting. Working bees have concentrated around Lake Middleton and Village areas. The Trust is very appreciative of the work that so many people do on pulling out the Wilding Pines and other weeds when out walking. Thanks to every one for your efforts and attendance at the working bees. We have been very successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Conservation Community Fund and Environment Canterbury for the control of Cotoneaster. Some of the funding is for a 3-year period. DoC has done a considerable amount of wilding pine control by helicopter and contractors have been working on the Cotoneaster

Project Kowhai

As mentioned earlier 47 beech trees were planted below the village and thanks to Viv for holding the plants over the summer period and keeping them watered. We have a 150 beech trees to be planted out this coming season.

Project Middleton

The nesting raft for the Southern Crested Grebes at Lake Middleton has been well use again this year – with 3 chicks hatching and 2 of the chicks fledging. We look forward to the numbers continuing to increase. Thank you Viv and Warren

Equipment Storage

The provision of a storage container for the Trust's equipment has moved forward another step. Finally we have the permission of Department of Conservation and the Waitaki District Council to place a container near the entrance to the Village.

Financial

The Trust is very fortunate to be in a sound financial position. Thanks to the persons who make donations to the Trust both monetary and time. Special thanks to Pure Trails NZ for their very generous donation. The Trust has decided to use this funding to produce information signs about the Trust's work and the habitat and fauna with in the Ohau basin. The problem being finding somebody that can do this and suggestions are welcome.

The Trust

The Trust received with regret the resignation of Genevieve Becroft and Wendy Biggs at the last Annual General Meeting and welcomed Stacey Burnett. Much time was spent in trying to find a Secretary as Viv Smith indicated she wished to step down as Secretary and remain as a Trustee.

We are very fortunate to welcome Katrina Te Rito as Secretary whom is very willing and is grasping the task very quickly. The Volunteer hours of work carried out at both the workdays and that by the Trustees is 803 in total. Thank you everyone for your efforts.

Thank you to the Trustees Viv, Warren, Katrina and Stacey for your support during the year

Grant Eames
Chair