

The Ohau Conservation Trust

Annual Report 30th September 2016

The 2015/16 year has been a very busy year for the Trust.

Six working bees have been held during the year. Sixty volunteers contributed 120 hours carrying out the removal of Wilding Pines and the re-vegetation of areas with native plants. A trial was carried out using sacks and stones around the base of new plantings to hold moisture and control weeds. This was found to make a considerable increase in the survival of the new plantings and thus we will continue with this practice. In addition to the working days another 13 volunteers have contributed 945 hours to the Trust's work. I know there are many other hours being put in by people casually pulling out the odd wilding pine when they are passing. Total recorded hours for the Trust is 1065 which amounts to 133 days work.

The Trust has been very fortunate in the financial support it receives. Donations this year amounted to \$1154.00. A very successful fundraising dinner was held at Lake Ohau Lodge where we heard about the drilling project that took place in the lake. It was attended by some 70 persons and netted us \$2113.00. We take every opportunity to source funds.

There are a number of projects we have been working on during the year. The predator control project for the trapping of possums in order to preserve the mistletoe has not yet commenced. We have been in consultation with DOC and swapped traps, and developing an operational plan for the area that the Trust will trap and monitor. We expect implementation to be underway shortly. This past year we have expended \$1194 on plants for re-vegetation and have had considerable success with plantings. All seeds are sourced from the Ohau area and then propagated in nurseries and bought back to Ohau. During the year we completed the first stage of Cotoneaster eradication with funds received through Environment Canterbury. The Trust is hopeful of progress on the project of obtaining a container to store the Trust's equipment. This has been frustrated a little by the changing of the management of the Lake Middleton Reserve and as to where the container might be best situated.

The Ohau Conservation Trust has a memorandum of understanding with the Waitaki District Council, Ecan and Department of Conservation. We are now in the process of getting a formal agreement with DOC and this will make the undertaking of work easier on public conservation lands especially in regard to Health and Safety.

It was with regret that we received the resignation of Trustee Mike Darling during the year. Mike had put a tremendous amount of work into many of the Trust's projects, particularly predator trapping. I acknowledge and thank Mike for this work.

I would like to acknowledge the work of my fellow trustees. Warren Baker who is constantly moving around the area looking at where working bees will be held and taking out those odd wilding conifers and looking after our equipment. Wendy Biggs who organises the re-vegetation programme, access seeds and plants, and supervise their wellbeing. Genevieve Becroft for her continued support in so many ways is appreciated.

Viv Smith our Secretary/Treasurer whom has done an immense amount of work on funding applications and submissions plus many meetings with organisations to try and keep projects moving forward to benefit the Lake Ohau Area. My grateful thanks to you all. The Trust sincerely thanks all the people who have donated funds, time and dealt to the weeds and helped with the revegetation around the Lake.



Grant Eames
Chairperson