

Annual Report 2021/22



This report covers the eighteenth year of the Trust working to protect and enhance the special Lake Ōhau natural environment.

The period from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 has been a time for restoration activities for the Trust and its volunteers.

We replaced all the burnt possum traps and reorganised our traplines around areas of burnt beech forest. There are 113 possum traps out there, continuing to catch possums, with 58 caught in this reporting period.

In April 2022 we started our major restoration planting project to establish a native forest on the site of a burnt out plantation forest between the Village and Lake Middleton – our Avoca Forest project.

We held 6 planting sessions and planted 938 plants – 753 were planted in Avoca Forest including the 400 trees we received funding for through Trees that Count. The other 185 plants were plants in the Aubrey Reserve along Lake Ōhau and at the entry to the Village.

Activities and events during our year that ended on 30 September 2022 included:

- 92 volunteers spent 308 hours preparing for and doing planting.
- 163 hours was spent by 11 volunteers possum trapping.
- We received our 80 mustelid traps, to replace the 80 traps that were destroyed in the October 2020 wildfire.
- The Trustees all attended a Trapping workshop run by Predator Free NZ. We learnt how to set up a trapping project on paper and in the field! It was very informative.
- A very special volunteer worked long hours on a weed-eater, clearing a walking track around Lake Middleton and walking tracks in the Avoca Forest. We are very grateful for this work so people and visitors in the community could get out and enjoy some time visiting our special places.
- In addition to the planting and trapping volunteer hours, 1442 hours was contributed including administration, training, weed control, other planting and plant care and wilding tree removal. This is a big commitment of time and energy to our native ecosystems – and very much appreciated.
- Two grants from ECan were received - \$11,000.00 for control of willow spread at Lake Middleton and \$13,081.00 for cotoneaster control (to continue the control work we have been doing with DOC and ECan for the last few years).
- A grant of \$41,106.30 was approved by the Matariki Te Rākau Fund administered by MPI, to purchase trees for Avoca Forest for planting in 2023 and 2024.

\$18,886.67 was paid for the 2023 planting and the remaining funds will be paid for the 2024 planting season.

- Donations of pouches for trapping gear from Twin Needles and 2 PLBs from the Macpac “Fund for Good” were gratefully received.
- Just over \$800.00 was received in other donations during the year. We really appreciate the support we receive from a wide range of people.

We have really appreciated working with Matai Nurseries in Waimate to source plants for our planting sessions. Alison, Greg, John and Nancy and their staff have been so helpful and accommodating of our needs.

The DOC Twizel staff have been a great to work alongside on all our projects (as most of our projects are on public conservation land). Thank you for the advice and support we have received during this time.

Being a Trustee of a charitable trust is not an everyday occupation for many people – in fact it is becoming harder and harder to get people to step up and work in the not for profit sector. Helen, Katrina and myself are proud to be the Trustees for the Ōhau Conservation Trust. There are always interesting activities to undertake or arrange, knowledge to be gained and other committed people to work with.

This is an opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees and volunteers for your commitment of time and energy to looking after our special Lake Ōhau natural environment.



Vivienne Smith-Campbell

Chairperson, The Ōhau Conservation Trust