

2050 Ecological Vision for Banks Peninsula including Port Hills



We believe that
conservation is
about people.



A healthy natural environment is the foundation for everything that is of value to people – food, water, shelter, food prevention, health, happiness, and creative inspiration.

We want to inspire people to be passionate about the environment around them, to understand it, their relationship with it, and take action to protect and restore it.

The Ecological Vision cannot be realised by one organisation or agency alone.

Collaboration and a collective approach with Banks Peninsula runanga (Koukourarata, Onuku, Wairewa, Rapaki, Taumutu), agencies, and with other trusts is required.

The Banks Peninsula communities have a history of achievement through working in this strategic way.

This approach will also provide opportunities for collaborations which enhance biodiversity linkages into the city and more widely across the plains.

It is our vision to create an environment in which the community values, protects and cares for the biodiversity, landscape and special character of Banks Peninsula.

To pursue our vision we have adopted eight conservation goals for 2050.

The goals are aspirational but achievable and will be used to guide all conservation management work and result in a substantial improvement in the state of indigenous biodiversity on the Peninsula by 2050.





While biodiversity protection and enhancement is the primary driver for this work, a community-wide effort to realise this ecological vision will contribute towards a prosperous, connected, resilient, and healthy community.

The goals have been identified by the Trustees of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust in collaboration with a group of ecologists led by Professor David Norton of University of Canterbury.



Conservation
demands
robust science.

In order to understand where success has occurred and how things might be improved, we support the gathering and dissemination of scientific information that is accurate, thorough, and attributable.

Appropriate evidence-based monitoring of the eight conservation goals will allow us to provide feedback to the community on the success of management actions, and to learn from the results to improve future management. It also assists the community to understand the ecological values of the Peninsula and promotes further work to enhance those values.

There is a diverse range of land tenure across the Peninsula and a wide range of groups are involved in biodiversity conservation. It is therefore important that inventory and monitoring is fully integrated across these different tenures and groups, including the residents of Banks Peninsula and Christchurch city.

Information needs to be stored in a way that is available for everyone to learn from – monitoring should be as much an educational and advocacy exercise as a method to inform management.



The Eight Conservation Goals

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Goal 1

All old growth forest remnants (more than 1 ha in area) of Banks Peninsula forest cover are protected and appropriately managed.

What does success look like?

These remnants are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity), fenced, and plant and animal pests are managed.

Goal 2

Rare ecosystems are protected and appropriately managed.

What does success look like?

We know what they are and where they are – mapped and recorded. Examples of each rare ecosystem type are protected in perpetuity, and plant and animal pests are managed.

The Eight Conservation Goals

Goal 3

The connections between land, freshwater, and marine habitats are managed to support viable populations of species that depend on them.

What does success look like?

Indigenous species are thriving. An increasing abundance and variety of seabirds are successfully nesting on the mainland. The harbours and bays have large healthy shellfish populations and there is an increase in inanga spawning sites compared to today. The community is actively involved in this work.

Goal 4

Four core indigenous forest areas of more than 1000 ha each have been protected.

What does success look like?

The four core areas are mapped, covenanted (or otherwise protected in perpetuity) and fenced. Each area has a plan developed for the collaborative management of plant and animal pests. The community is aware of, and involved in the care of the areas.



The Eight Conservation Goals

Goal 5

Land and freshwater primarily used for production and for settlement also supports thriving indigenous biodiversity.

What does success look like?

Land managers are aware of and protect ecosystems and biodiversity as a matter of course. Periodic mapping and imaging demonstrates that there is an increase in indigenous biodiversity cover across Banks Peninsula. The whole community is actively involved in projects to enhance biodiversity, such as



Port Hills residents planting and managing appropriate vegetation to develop an ecological corridor (or bridge) from the Peninsula to Christchurch city.

The Eight Conservation Goals

Goal 6

Rare and common indigenous flora and fauna of Banks Peninsula are increasingly abundant.

What does success look like?

There is robust scientific evidence to demonstrate that species are increasing in abundance and diversity. People are recording anecdotal evidence about healthy indigenous biodiversity in their immediate environment (such as bird song, indigenous vegetation cover and decline in exotic weeds).

Goal 7

At least two locally extinct species have been reintroduced.

What does success look like?

There is robust scientific evidence to demonstrate that the populations of the two reintroduced species are healthy and self-sustaining. The community actively nurtures the reintroduced species.



The Eight Conservation Goals

Goal 8

Banks Peninsula is effectively free of pest animals.

What does success look like?

At the highest level there is robust scientific evidence of an increased abundance and diversity of indigenous species (Goal 6). Pest animal numbers are reduced to a level which enables indigenous species to survive and increase. Protected forest understoreys flourish and are free from grazing by exotic mammals. The whole community is involved in this work.



Photo credits

- Pg. 1 Totara at Paua Bay – Patsy Dart
- Pg. 2 The Monument – Kelvin McMillan
- Pg. 2 Wood Pigeon – Jonathon Harrod
- Pg. 3 Guided walk at Western Valley – Rachel Barker
- Pg. 3 Koukourarata covenantors function – Marie Neal
- Pg. 3 Fencers – Marie Neal
- Pg. 6 Cabbage tree – Jon Sullivan
- Pg. 7 Tutakakahikura Scenic Reserve – Shireen Helps
- Pg. 8 Fox & Associates covenant survey – Craig McInnes
- Pg. 8 Tui translocation transport & banding – Frances Schmechel
- Pg. 8 Tui translocation collaborative work – Kay Holder
- Pg. 13 Seals at Red Bay – Marie Haley
- Pg. 14 Stock work at Pigeon Bay – Pam Richardson
- Pg. 16 Otanerito – Marie Haley
- Pg. 17 Traps – Marie Haley

