



a passion for the Port Hills

Towards a Predator-Free Port Hills

The Summit Road Society is launching an initiative which it is hoped will result in a 'Predator-Free Port Hills'.

Why?

The Port Hills are valued by Christchurch as part of the natural identity of the city and also for all the recreational opportunities for residents and, increasingly, for visitors. People are drawn to the road cycling experience, the fantastic network of walking and mountain-bike tracks in a stunning environment of rock outcrops, tussock grassland and regenerating native forest. The Christchurch City Council, a number of groups such as the Summit Road Society, private landowners and volunteers are working hard to continue to improve the recreational opportunities and the biodiversity of the Port Hills.

Why 'predator-free' and how can this be achieved?

There is no longer any doubt that the major threat to our native flora and fauna is introduced animal pests. Major efforts at pest control are taking place on the Port Hills by the Council, organisations like ourselves and resident volunteer groups. This is now leading to a noticeable increase in native bird numbers, not only on the hills, but around the city in general, and the rate at which native forest is regenerating.

To complement all this work, the Society would like to focus on the urban/rural boundary around the Port Hills and to encourage and support suburban residents to become involved in predator control.

The Summit Road Society will:

- Arrange for the provision of traps.
- Advise on where to place them and how they should be managed.
- Collect information on what animals and how many are caught.
- Publicise the work and encourage others to join in.
- Provide support to any individuals or groups already carrying out predator control.
- Keep everyone involved up to date on the progress of the initiative.

What can I do?

If you as an individual or a small group already involved in conservation want to contribute to this initiative, please consider having a (pet-friendly) trap or traps in your garden or on your land. You will:

- Be part of what we hope will develop into a significant community-led conservation movement and a part of a growing trend nationally such as on the Otago Peninsula and Miramar Peninsula in Wellington.
- Join the **Predator-free New Zealand by 2050** initiative.
- See increased biodiversity in your own backyard or on your own patch, particularly an increase in native birds.

Registering interest:

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Summit Road Society Secretary, John Goodrich on 326 3035, or by email at: secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz