

News and Updates



Covenant

We are excited to have been welcomed into the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) covenanting programme. We're working through the first stages of creating this formal protection in perpetuity including signing a Deed to Enter as a commitment to the process, confirming covenant layout, and sorting through fencing, funding and future flexibility details. The covenant will operate under the strict Reserves Act, which means strong legal protection, but special built-in options will be allowed for things like track maintenance and basic hut sites down the line. There's still some legal back-and-forth to work through, and a few walks over the land ahead of us, but we're on track. Once the deed is signed and funding confirmed, we'll move toward tendering for fencing and locking in the next practical steps of land and ecological surveys. A specific management plan will be written to guide the long-term management for the area. Big thanks to the team at BPCT for guiding us through this process.

Track

The Christchurch City Council have been busy repairing the old wharf road so it is suitable as a walking track. It is due to be finished by late October and we have heard great things from the trustees who have checked it out already.



Fences

We're making great progress on one of our key conservation goals: getting a new fence up the gully and along the river. This isn't just about keeping stock out, it's a big step toward protecting and restoring the native bush and waterways we all care about.

The good news? We're getting support from the BPCT who are helping us get this project off the ground (or should we say, into the ground!). But before the posts go in, there's a bit of paperwork. This gives us the green light to line up funding and (hopefully) get into a fencer's queue before winter weather slows everything down again. As part of the process several fencers will be invited to walk the proposed fence line with us before they submit quotes. This ensures we get competitive pricing and that everyone's on the same page (and paddock!).



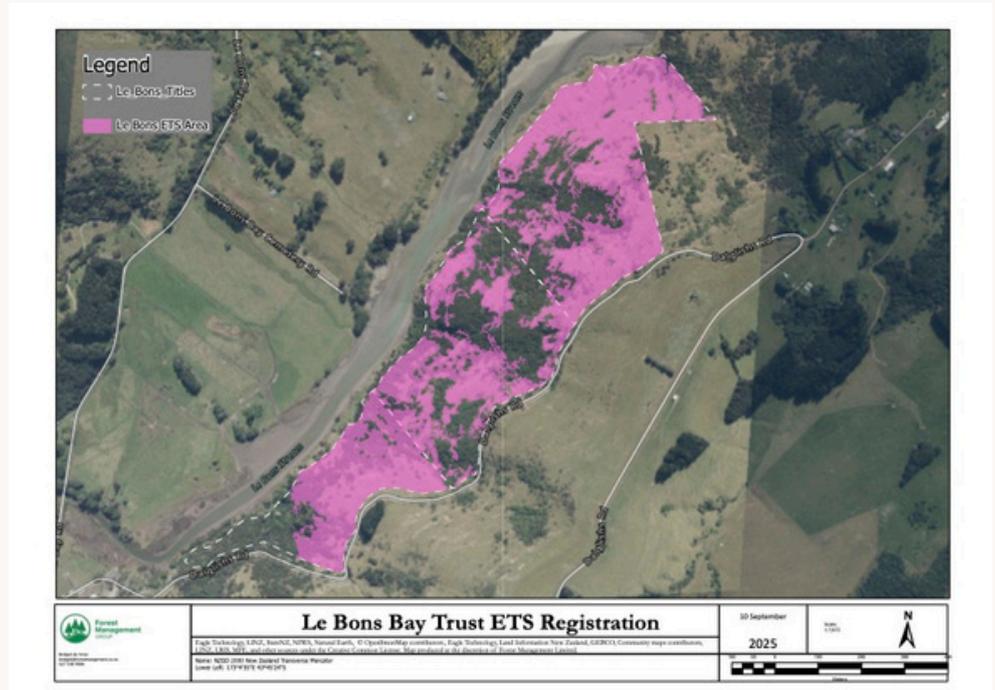
Emission Trading Scheme

We're excited to announce a big step forward in the Trust's involvement in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). One of our team members has begun the process of registering the Trust, which will allow us to earn carbon credits for the native bushland we protect and restore. The first step involves opening an Emissions Trading Register account; this is like a digital bank account where carbon credits are held and managed. Once set up, the Trust will be able to receive carbon units annually for the eligible forested land we manage. Below is a map showing the area we're registering in the ETS. The shaded areas (outlined in pink) represent the forest blocks eligible for carbon credit claims.

These areas have been assessed according to ETS rules, including forest type, age, and location. Once registered, the Trust will begin to receive carbon credits over the next 25+ years. These credits can be sold on the carbon market, generating a sustainable income stream.

This funding will support:

- Ongoing biodiversity protection
- Pest control and regeneration projects
- General operating costs of the Trust



Pigs Ear

You might have spotted it — that fleshy, grey-green succulent clinging to the rocky faces near the river mouth and along the track. It's called Pig's Ear (yes, really!), and while it might look harmless, it's a serious problem for our local ecosystem. Originally from South Africa, Pig's Ear has made itself a bit too comfortable here on Banks Peninsula. It spreads fast, takes over native habitats (being especially damaging to rocky outcrop areas where it can quickly outcompete many Banks Peninsula endemic species – ie plants found occurring naturally here and nowhere else in the world), and can be toxic to animals. Not exactly a welcome guest! But we've got a plan — and we'd love your help. We're holding a collaborative community workshop with BPCT and QE11 in early November to learn how to tackle this invader. If you're keen to help out and learn more, watch this space! More details will be sent out soon. And in the meantime, if you see any Pig's Ear on your wanderings, let us know — every sighting helps us control the spread. Let's give our native plants a fighting chance.

