

The Akaroa Mail

and Banks Peninsula Advertiser

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Friday August 11 2017

The Akaroa Mail - The talk of the Peninsula since 1876

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The Trust received the award in Wellington last week for its 'Wildside' project, which for the last 30 years has worked with landowners and the community on predator control throughout the hills and

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It won a ‘Green Ribbon’ award in June.

Among the animals protected by the work are White-flipped penguins, Yellow-eyed penguins and Sooty shearwater.

“It was the landowners who saw the problem and

initiated the response” the Ministry said in its citation.

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The Ministry said that the Wildside is a great example of how partnerships with government agencies, landowners, community organisations, iwi, schools and volunteer Bushmen can work together on a vast scale on both private and public land for the biodiversity and biosecurity protection of New Zealand’s environment and productive farm land.

MPI director-general Martyn Dunne said that the calibre and number of entries received far surpassed expectations, and made it a challenging job for the

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“I really hope that the landowners feel proud of this” Wildside co-ordinator Marie Haley said after receiving the award in Wellington.

“I think the judges were specifically impressed by the age and scale of the Wildside project, and that it is driven by landowners and farmers.”



BPCT Wildside co-ordinator Marie Haley shows off the latest awards.

Wharf intrusions will have to be removed

It looks as if structures on the ‘public space’ of Akaroa’s Main Wharf will need to be removed entirely.

These include the steps and ramps up into the Black Cat and Blue Pearl premises, together with the extended dormer-like roofs on the Black Cat building and the poles that support them.

The private owners of the buildings which are on their own piles and front on to the wharf have a licence to get access to the wharf, but do not have leases or permission from the Council to use the wharf space itself.

The Banks Peninsula Community Board had given Council staff until its meeting

on July 31 for any alternatives or compromises to be reported back to it, but none were put forward at the meeting.

“Council staff were supposed to report back today about Akaroa Wharf, but we haven’t seen anything” Board Member Janis Haley noted.

Andrew Turner asked if there was any background as to why the Board hadn’t received a report.

“We gave them the time they wanted to report back so we know where that report is?” he asked.

“Can we follow up?”

“It would have been really good if they had come back to us and said that they

realised they were meant to produce a report, but we’ve heard nothing.”

In partial explanation community governance manager Penelope Goldstone told the Board that there were two key staff members involved in the wharf issues.

“One has just come back from two week’s leave, and the other has just gone away on leave” she said.

And Board advisor Liz Carter reminded the Community Board that staff were only meant to come back to the Board if there was an argument to be presented that the structures should not be removed.

“It would revert to the first

part of the resolution, which was to remove any unauthorised structures from the wharf” she said.

In that case, Andrew Turner said, the Board would have expected to be told that part of the resolution was to be carried out.

The Board has asked for a report to be presented at its meeting next week outlining what action is being taken, including details of any enforcement action.

Paul Milligan, Chief Executive of Black Cat Cruises told The Akaroa Mail that Black Cat Cruises is working closely with the Council to come up with a solution that is suitable for all parties.



Seats, ramps, poles and roofs extend on to the ‘public space’ of Akaroa’s Main Wharf.

NEXT ISSUE

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