



Figure 5. Our large sign erected near the stile thanks to ADC funding in 2020, with flourishing plantings into the distance.

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust 20th birthday greeting

Hugh Wilson

Kaitiaki, Hinewai Reserve

Kia ora and greetings, 20 year celebrants! I'm really sorry I can't be with you in person. Your wonderful new Chairperson used her gently persuasive powers and talked me into sussing out how I could manage a mad March mission to Orton Bradley, but my ruthless calendar told me I had school groups coming to Hinewai just before, and just after, this Big Day Out. Even with an electric bike (and of course I'm not old enough for one of those yet) travelling thither and hither in such short time was not only a challenge, it was impossible. But I am with you in spirit.

20 years is a great milestone. The road behind is littered with achievements. Many more doubtless lie on the road ahead. Golly, is it really 2 decades ago when we sat through those long meetings at Little River and elsewhere trying to thrash some practical realism in to the District Plan?

In the end it astonished me – (conservation-focussed and some would say bordering on the fanatical) – that the Conservation Trust largely grew out of a farmer initiative, not just from frustration at coercive and patronising bureaucracy, but also – I have to say it – because Banks Peninsula farmers were clearly more conservation-minded that they were often judged to be.

For me personally it has been a steady and heady learning curve, as I imagine it has also been for farmers, who continue to manage most of the Peninsula's 100,000 hectares.

Now, in 2021, conservation needs are widely seen as acute, the way we manage local land and the entire planet is increasingly urgent, human challenges come thick and fast – but awareness and action are growing hugely too – grounds for a lot of hope.

The old adage is that we should think global and act local. As I see it, the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has been acting locally in excellent ways. Personally I've loved being part of it, peripherally at least, right from the beginning, and I hope I can continue to contribute. The local place we call home and are responsible for is an astonishingly wonderful and beautiful place. It is worth all our efforts.

Piki mai kake mai! Up and at it! On we go!

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust 20th Anniversary address

Dr David Miller

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Trustee



(Photo: Jon Sullivan)

Tēnā koutou katoa, and acknowledgements to Andrew Turner, Eugenie Sage, Lyttelton Port Company staff, Andrew McCarthy, distinguished guests, Trustees past and present, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) staff present and past, covenanters, corporate partners, supporters and friends.