

Save The Otago Peninsula (STOP) Inc Soc
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29th January 2015

Attn: Darlene Thomson



Dear Darlene

Keep Dunedin Beautiful 2014 Awards Nomination Broad Bay Slip Site

Save The Otago Peninsula Inc Soc (more commonly known by our acronym, STOP) would like to apply for a 2014 Award for the work done on the Broad Bay Slip Site turning it from a paddock into a bush covered local amenity, with a set of tracks looking out to intimate harbour views, which is now used for dog walking and general exercise, and includes a picnic area and a seat for further recreation.

Background:

The Broad Bay Slip Site is situated between Camp St and King George St at the beginning of Broad Bay.

It was initially part of the Broad Bay Sewage Treatment Station. However, when all previously harbour discharged sewage was pumped into the Tahuna Waste Water Treatment Station, the land was subdivided and sold. This steep hillside could not be sold for housing or leased for grazing because of its instability. It contains two slip areas, one above the other. For many years, when these slips were active, the road below could not be tarsealed because the earth movement, presumed due to water confined within the slip debris of the lower slide (thought to be about 100 years old), led to it creeping out towards the sea and deforming the road and sea wall, causing obviously visible humps in the road surface. The DCC put in a system of drainage to drain the underlying springs that had exacerbated the movement. The sumps still required for this drainage have to be cleaned out on a regular basis and therefore vehicle access and a grassed turning area is required in the centre of the site. The DCC contractors mow the grass circle and the access track and this has been left as a picnic area with a seat donated as a bequest (managed by Forest and Bird) from Shirley Martin is now located at the back of the area.

STOP approached the DCC in about 1988 asking if the organisation could revegetate the area around the sump circle, (which was becoming overgrown with blackberry) with native plants. STOP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, by which the Council would provide the finance for the trees to be planted, and STOP would plant and maintain the native vegetation and remove the pest plants such as gorse, broom, blackberry, old man's beard and banana passion fruit, free up some of the few remaining trees being denied light through muehlenbeckia coverage, and maintain a loop walking track to allow walkers, including dog walkers, to go to the top of the slope and gain views of the Bay and Harbour. Planting began in 1990.

As more trees have been planted, more connecting tracks have been made in order to gain easy access for tree maintenance.

Initially the site was cleared and revegetated with regular working bees of STOP members and other local volunteers. The local United Church also took an interest, planting and maintaining some of the trees. The DOC Conservation Corps assisted. On one occasion members of the "Amenities Society" assisted. One now walks underneath those early trees planted and STOP uses it as an example of what can be achieved with revegetation.

As the bush became well established, STOP members John Langley and Helen Clark from Matariki St took over the responsibility, with Helen growing many of the plants and John maintaining the tracks and extending the planted areas with extra plants provided by STOP and the DCC from time to time. They also negotiated with the DCC to remove some of the non-natives such as sycamores, and the erection of explanatory signage.

We are applying for this award to acknowledge the work put in by John Langley in particular over the past few years. Daily he would take their dog down there and spend half an hour at a time building and clearing the tracks, removing pest plants, planting new trees and releasing those previously planted.

The area has been transformed into a well used recreational area, which for the road traveller also provides an attractive backdrop to a section of the Portobello Road without buildings. As well as local users, the creation of an off street parking area below means that visitors often stop and walk up into the area. When in flower, the gold of kowhais and red of the kaka beak catch the eye. Bird song is a feature.

Photographs to illustrate the transformation over the years are attached.

STOP hopes you will consider favourably including this project in the Keep Dunedin Beautiful Awards 2014.

Yours faithfully



Jenny Winter
Secretary
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Alternative Contact: Lala Frazer, Phone (03) 478 0339



Figure 1: The Slip Site seen from Portobello Road. Entry at the parking pull off has sign saying “Memorial Seat



Figure 2 The upper slope now replanted with memorial seat and sign beside the picnic area where the sumps draining the slips have to be cleaned out from time to time.



Figure 3. The sign with before and after pictures and outlining the project, erected by the DCC



Figure 4: One of the harbour views seen from part way up the track. While the track now leads through bush, there are several such lookout points kept clear along the way to give glimpses of the harbour.



John Langley, the caretaker for the past few years, doing half to one hour each day when walking his dog.