



Mid Dome Wilding Trees

Charitable Trust

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Attn: Jolie Hazley

October 2025

On behalf of the Mid Dome Trust, which has been in existence for nineteen years, it's a pleasure to present to you on behalf of my fellow trustees our Annual Report for the 2024-25 year.

Once again, we have had a very busy and productive year. We have welcomed two new trustees; Peter McDonald and Jeff Keen and their enthusiasm and contributions have been valued.

The trust meets four times a year as well as holding a various field trips.

In February a volunteer and corporate day was held with returning volunteers and staff from Rabobank and Bank of New Zealand. The four wheel drive trip into the back of Cattleflat with the extensive view of the wilding issues including finding a number of Douglas fir trees while undertaking control.

In May we hosted a successful day for the Southland District Council Mayor Rob Scott and councillors Tom O'Brien and Matt Wilson outlining the funding struggles and the growing wilding Douglas fir issue on Mid Dome and other areas of Southland. A visit to West Dome cemented the issue that wildings can have on the high country, vulnerable landscapes and biodiversity.

We are pleased that we continue to receive funding from the National Wilding Conifer Programme which has allowed us to maintain some areas of previous control work programme. The yearly contributions we have again received from our funding partners LINZ, DOC and Environment Southland are appreciated but unfortunately due to underfunding the aims of our 2023-33 Wilding Conifer Control Strategy are not being met. While wildings are being contained controlling them to levels where landowners can economically and effectively control themselves is a struggle. A new low funding strategy has been created and attached below.

Project management of the project was made possible by the huge amount of planning and experience of our Programme Manager Boffa Miskell Limited (BML), in particular Brent Rohloff and the rest of their team.

As many of you will know the Mid Dome programme area, due to its access, weather and logistical challenges is not any easy site to carry out wilding work on which means that successful wilding control work is often not easy to achieve. Our



Trustees: Ali Ballantine (Chair), Michael Skerrett, Geoffrey Young, Richard Bowman, John Whitehead Peter McDonald and Jeff Keen

Programme Manager BML and the contractors they employ are to be congratulated for all their skilled hard work which is a key component of our work programme.

This season forward Environment Southland will be overseeing the Project Management contract that BML still hold. For further information on the control sites for the 25/26 season free to check out the GIS platform which makes the planned and previous control work.

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webscene/viewer.html?webscene=b50ee15e38804b08aa8bbc3ebb739f80&viewpoint=cam:168.40476281,-45.60144479,3416.342;96.005,72.541>

Our thanks go to the local landowners for the support, assistance and valuable local knowledge that they have given to the trust and BML personnel during the season.

Our trust and the many other organisations carrying out similar wilding work throughout Aotearoa we will be lobbying hard to ensure that the significant gains we have made from the NWCCP are not in vain due to these legislative inadequacies.

Next year marks our 20 year anniversary and the trust look forward to celebrating this in some way – look out for more details next year.



Ali Ballantine
Chairman
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