

Peninsula goats' delicate menu

Akaroa daisy (*Celmisia mackauji*), the Banks Peninsula forget-me-not (*Myosotis australis*) and Banks Peninsula hebe (*Hebe strictissima*) sun hebe (*Heliohebe lavaudiana*) are all eaten by nimble feral browsers.



Sun hebe (*Heliohebe lavaudiana*)



Banks Peninsula hebe (*Hebe strictissima*)



Banks Peninsula forget-me-not (*Myosotis australis*)



Akaroa daisy (*Celmisia mackauji*)



Photos courtesy of DCC & CCC

IF IT'S RARE AND TASTY then chances are it's a delicacy for someone or something. In the case of Banks Peninsula the diners are wild (feral) goats and their delicate diet is the peninsula's rare daisies, hebes and forget-me-nots. These plants that grow mostly in hard-to-reach places like rocky outcrops, are safe from the usual threat of sheep but nimble goats make a meal of them, usually when other food is scarce. As well as dining on these and other rare plants, goats can also severely damage forests, increase the risk of erosion and open-up light gaps for weeds to invade. To lessen the threat to biodiversity from goats the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation, and the Christchurch City Council are asking people who own goats on the peninsula to ensure that their fences are goat-proof, or that their goats are well tethered and tagged.

i Report sightings of wild goats on the peninsula as soon as possible to David Hunter, Target Pest Enterprises on: 03 325 1103, 03 325 1215 or 0274 374 743.

So how do I control my goats?

The best goat-proof fence is one which is made from deer fence netting that is well secured at ground level. If you are unable to do this the minimum standards are:

- a standard nine wire high tensile fence
- six posts per 20 metres of fence line
- a maximum spacing between battens of 1 m
- electrified wires at 30 cm, 60 cm and 120 cm

Ensure that the stays and angle strainers are not on the goats' side of the fence (goats are agile enough to climb these).