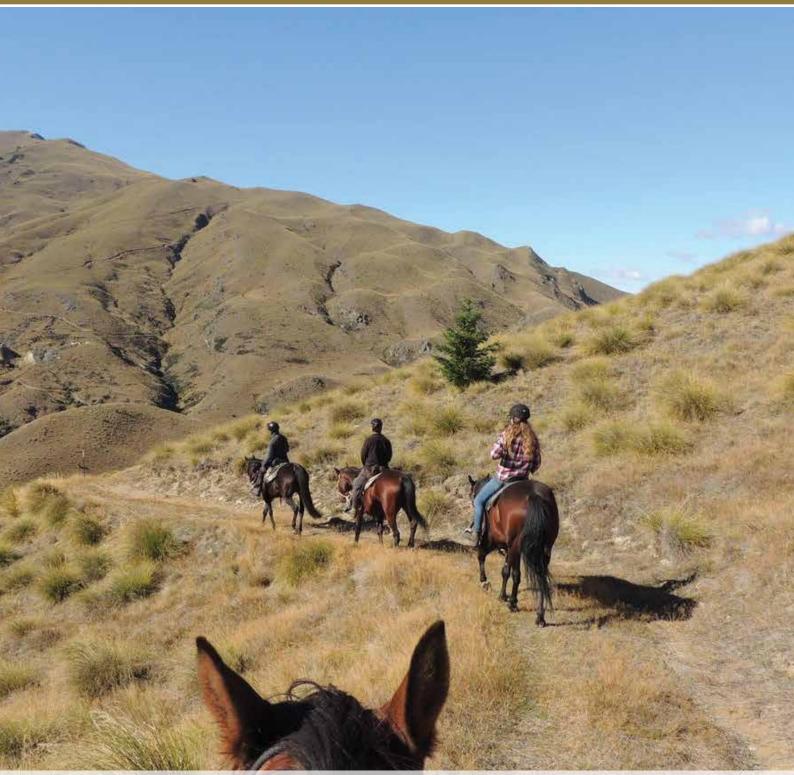


# QEII National Trust Open Space New Zealand Nga Kairauhi Papa Magazine of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Issue 91 – October 2016 \$7.50



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# QEII National Trust Open Space New Zealand Naß Kairauhi Papa

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Riders on a QEII National Trust and Weedbusters NZ joint weedbusting project run during Easter 2016. The project enlisted volunteers on horseback to access difficult high country areas and tackle wilding conifers that threaten to overrun the landscape. Story on page 8. Photo: Jesse Bythell.

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#### A word from the Chair



We celebrate a continuing growth in the number of landowners wanting to covenant land with the National Trust. At the end of the reporting year (30 June 2016) 121 new covenant proposals were approved, which, once registered, will add around 2740ha to the network of covenants around the

country. We registered 118 covenants this financial year, bringing the total number of covenants now formally registered to 4226.

Turn to page 24 for more covenant statistics extracted from this year's annual report. You can read the full report online at www.openspace.org.nz.

We also celebrate the many people who support the National Trust in its work. This issue includes a number of stories that demonstrate the different ways the community engages with the National Trust and with covenantors to help them look after the special features protected in their covenants.

We hope you enjoy the read.

**James Guild** 

CHAIR



Simple and re-useable nylon over boots may prove a useful tool in reducing the spread of kauri dieback disease.

The boots sold by safety suppliers and normally used for industrial hygiene are being trialled by trappers working in conjunction with Dr Karen Verdurmen on the Manaia Landcare Project.

Several sites on the iconic Mt Manaia, which towers above Whangarei Harbour, have recently tested positive for kauri dieback disease (Phytophthora agathidicida), including at least one giant kauri more than a thousand years old.

Project facilitator Martin Hunt says it is important to make sure that pest control activities do not spread the disease.

'We can continue to work in the forests if we understand the problem and adopt a range of strategies to eliminate the transfer of soil.'

Dr Verdurmen says the latest information suggests as little as one teaspoonful of contaminated soil can be enough to set up a new colony of the disease.

The nylon boots are simply put on over their work boots as a trapper approaches a kauri stand and removed after they are clear of the kauri. The covers prevent soil from lodging in boot treads.

Trappers say they do not reduce their traction and are easy to use. They are also light weight and once used can be placed in a plastic bag to be taken home for washing and reuse.

The Whangarei District QEII team now routinely carry a supply of the over boots.

#### How are whio faring?

This summer, several Hawke's Bay catchments in the Maungataniwha native forest block were surveyed to find out how whio/blue duck are faring in the area. The survey team was made up of DOC Wairoa and Opotiki staff, representatives from Tuhoe Whakatane, the land manager of the Maungataniwha native forest block of land, Troy Duncan (local QEII National Trust representative), three volunteers, and two specially trained whio dogs.

The team spread out and explored known habitat areas, criss-crossing streams to listen and look for signs of the blue duck. Results showed that whio numbers are generally good, but that production was poor this year, perhaps due to several severe flooding events. Trapping and surveying will continue in the area to help with the survival of the species.

Whio are only found in New Zealand. They are a nationally vulnerable species, facing a risk of becoming extinct. Their current population is believed to be under 3000. Whio are found in clean, fast-flowing rivers in the North and South Island. They are threatened by habitat loss, disturbance, and predation.



#### Wallaby control

A control programme was carried out over the summer to reduce wallaby populations infesting five South Canterbury forest covenants. The wallabies in question are the red-necked wallaby, Macropus rufogrisea, one of six species introduced to New Zealand in the late 19th century. They are Australia's largest wallaby species, and were introduced for hunting and for their hides. Just like many other introduced species, their numbers have exploded and they now threaten the health of our agricultural and natural environments. The five landowners involved were keen to take action and invested considerable funds to support the project. Environment Canterbury provided a large portion of the funds needed. The control programme successfully rid the properties of 641 wallabies. Some possums, wild pigs, and goats were also picked up.

#### 2016 recipient of QEII Athol Patterson bursary

Congratulations to Cameron Houston, this year's recipient of the QEII Athol Patterson bursary. Cameron is in his third year at Massey University, studying agriculture and environmental science. The National Trust is delighted to support Cameron in his studies and is confident he will go on to make a positive contribution to sustainable farming in New Zealand.

Dr Athol Patterson was a doctor of tropical medicines and taught in various universities around the world before retiring to Waverley where he had two small dairy farms. As a result of a bequest to the National Trust from Dr Patterson, a bursary was set up in 2009 to support students at Massey University interested in sustainable farming practices. The \$2000 bursary is awarded annually.



Gareth Eloff (QEII National Trust) presenting Cameron Houston with his bursary certificate



#### **Covenant status reconfirmed**

The status of open space covenants has once again been challenged and once again the Court of Appeal has ruled decisively in favour of QEII National Trust.

The ruling is the result of a long legal battle between the National Trust and a property developer who has been challenging the status of an open space covenant he owns.

Spanning 4 years, the case has twice been taken as far as the High Court and on to the Court of Appeal by the property developer, who has been trying to overturn the 404ha forest covenant he owns on the Coromandel Peninsula. His intention was to have the covenant removed so the land could be subdivided for lifestyle blocks, to the detriment of the protected area's ecological values and against the intentions of the original covenantor.

The land in question was covenanted in 1997 to protect a block of lowland tawa—towai forest. The block sits within a network of other protected lands that together form a wildlife corridor, connecting the Coromandel Forest Park in the middle of the Coromandel Peninsula to the Peninsula's eastern coast.

National Trust Legal Manager, Paul Kirby, said the latest ruling has further strengthened open space covenants as a robust mechanism for protecting land and it exemplifies the purpose of the National Trust as the perpetual guardian of covenants.

'With the ruling in favour of the National Trust, the intentions and wishes of the original covenantor, who is now deceased, have been honoured and upheld when he was not here to do that himself,' he said.

Described as a complex case by the Court, the decision has established new case law and corroborates existing case law from a previous High Court hearing on the same matter, confirming that open space covenants have the protection of 'indefeasibility' under the Land Transfer Act 1998. It has been confirmed in law that, once registered on a land title, open space covenants bind current and future owners and are not susceptible to attack arising from defects or error.

The Court confirmed that the National Trust acted in the best interests of the original covenantor, Mr Russell, and fulfilled its statutory mandate for the benefit of the people of New Zealand.

'It has been a time-consuming and costly exercise but we now have excellent case law that we hope will put an end to any similar challenges on the status of open space covenants,' National Trust Chief Executive, Mike Jebson, said.

'We are a charity organisation with limited funds but this case was something that we could not afford to drop. It has diverted precious funds that would normally have been used for protecting land and supporting covenantors.

The National Trust was represented by Finn Collins from Gibson Sheat, with second counsel from Paul Kirby, supported by Anna Dayha, Anna Pallesen, and Hamish Eglington, members of the National Trust's in-house legal team.

Note: At the time of printing this magazine the National Trust has been advised that the appellant has now lodged an appeal to the Supreme Court. This appeal has not yet been heard.

# Fencing trial for a pain in the grass problem

by John Williamson (QEII regional representative for Kapiti and Manawatu)

The impact rabbits have had on the environment needs no explanation here. There have been numerous attempts over the years to control this introduced animal pest. We've tried ferrets and stoats, we just missed out on foxes by the skin of our teeth, strychnine (with jam), and 1080. We have also had calicivirus, which had an effect but the results of which are still being monitored.

The effects of calicivirus are cyclic, which means that numbers need to rise to a significant level for a meaningful die-off to happen again. Before this critical mass is reached, rabbit numbers rise to a high enough level to become a right pain in the grass and to the understorey of any bush remnants they take a fancy to. In areas where the ground is easy digging, groundcover is virtually annihilated and never gets a chance to form even the semblance of an understorey. It very much like maintaining a heavy stock presence, but without the compaction.

#### **Kapiti Coast trial**

A rabbit fence has been erected around a small covenant on the Kapiti Coast near Wellington in terrain that is dry, sandy, and very easy for rabbits to burrow in. Built by the owner, with support from QEII National Trust and Greater Wellington Regional Council, the fence is a trial control option that, if successful, can be used to protect a number of smaller bush areas in this particular terrain that are being degraded by constant high rabbit numbers

A successful result will be easily recognised when seedlings start to germinate and aren't subsequently grazed to ground level. The trial may prove that fencing (as opposed to trapping, poisoning, and other methods) is most effective way of protecting from the ravages of rabbits what little remains of the Kapiti Coast's native vegetation.

#### **Rabbit fencing**

Chicken netting can be used on smaller areas to keep rabbits (and hares) out. The netting doesn't need to be very high. Neither will jump to get through a fence but they will strain themselves to get through at around their hop height. Hares may not try to dig under, but rabbits certainly will.

The tried and true method of burying the netting 20cm or so into the ground works, but bending the bottom of the netting out to an 'L' shape so that it is flat on the ground works just as well. Rabbits will go right up to a fence base and start digging against it to try and get under. When they can't get any further because of the wire they move further along the fence base to try again, only to hit the wire again.

Fortunately, rabbits don't appear to have the mental capacity to figure out that they should take a few hops back and start digging a longer tunnel further away from the base of the fence.



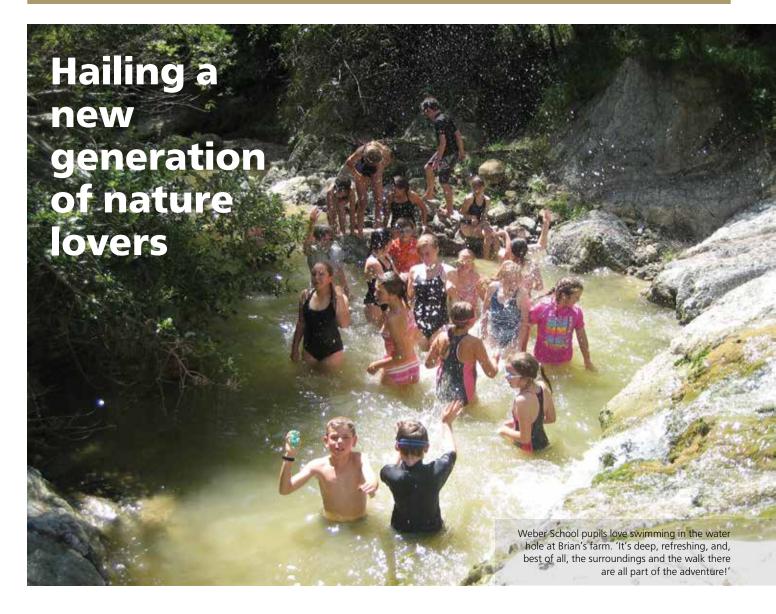
Rabbit fencing with the bottom of the netting folded to an 'L' shape along the ground on the outside of a covenant enclosure. The scratchings are exit tunnels dug by rabbits that were caught inside the covenant when the fence went up (since blocked to prevent return trips).



John Williamson beside the rabbit-proof fence on the Kapiti Coast



Understorey damage caused by rabbits



The Hales family has farmed at Wimbledon near Dannevirke since the 1880s. Brian is the 5th generation to work the farm, which today runs sheep and Angus cattle. Alongside his commercial cattle herd and Romney flock, Brian breeds exotic sheep some 14 different species including Dorpers from South Africa, Arawapawas from Wales, Gotlands from Sweden, and Damaras from Egypt. Part of his breeding programme includes maintaining the sheep's instincts and way of life. Nomadic instincts are fostered in some domestic breeds, while survival instincts are fostered in some feral breeds. Brian is passionate about promoting these diverse breeds and organises annual open days on the farm to showcase their fibre and food qualities.

He is also passionate about promoting a knowledge of nature and the outdoors. Brian trained as a school teacher and taught for a number of years in Hawke's Bay schools before returning to work on the farm full-time. Teaching has stayed in his blood, and since retiring he has had close contact with the local school at Weber. He often calls in to show off a new exotic sheep he has acquired, and he works in with the school's head teacher, mentoring students who come to the farm on school camps or for nature study projects.

Ten years ago 12-year-old Khan Coleman was one such student. Together with Brian he devised a research project exploring the possibility of covenanting a piece of remnant bush on the farm.

The ancient and strange peripatus creature was rumoured to live in the bush and Khan and Brian were on a mission to find it to give their covenant proposal that extra edge. The day before his project was due to be handed in, Khan and Brian found the 'worm' while scratching around in some decomposing tree trunks. The discovery drew much excitement from the science community who wanted to observe this newly discovered population, and Khan was subsequently named Primary School Young Conservationist of the Year for his project. Because it contained this uncommon creature, the bush was accepted for covenanting as well and is now known as Khan's Bush.

The school's visits to the farm go well beyond observation; the students are active environmentalists and they have been helping restore a wetland that had been dried out by willows and weeds over the years. They have planted vegetation to aid the wetland's recovery and they come back regularly to weed around their plantings. Their reward has been observing new life returning to the wetland.

In sharing his farm and Khan's Bush covenant with Weber School students, Brian has fostered an appreciation of nature and the principles of environmental guardianship in many young New Zealanders. For him, it is simple and obvious thing to do. He says kids love being on farms and he would never want to deprive them of that pleasure.









#### Facts about Peripatus



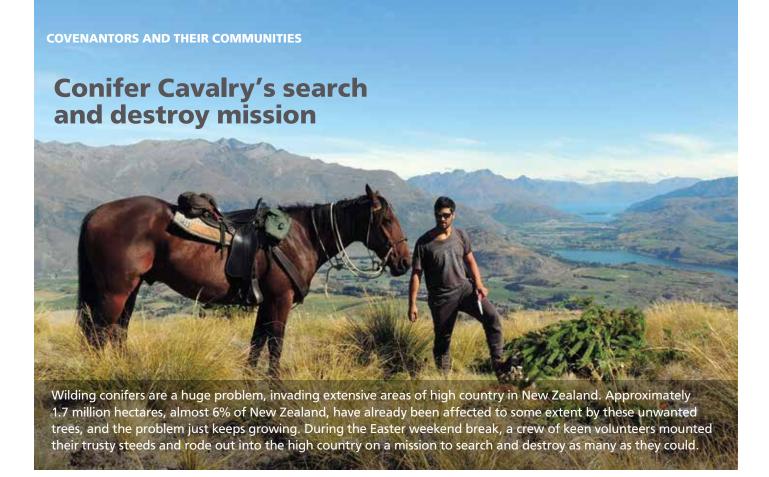
Peripatus are uncommon, odd creatures that look a bit like a caterpillar, falling taxonomically somewhere between a worm and an insect. They have been around, according to the fossil record, for over 500 million years, making tuatara (200 million years) seem young in comparison. Peripatus are like worms with legs — the name peripatus comes from the same root as the word peripatetic, to walk or wander about. They are also called velvet worms because their many fine bristles make them look velvety. Their Māori name is ngaokeoke, from ngaoki, which means to crawl.

There are five named species of Peripatus in New Zealand, with more still to be named. Species in New Zealand have 13–16 pairs of legs (species overseas can have as many as 43 pairs) and grow to 35 millimetres in length (species elsewhere can grow to 22 centimetres).

Source: teara.govt.nz, and RNZ.co.nz

From top to bottom: Weber School pupils learn to make felt using wool from Brian's sheep; Pupils out in the field on a planting day; Pupils testing water quality and checking for aquatic life on a field trip to Brian's farm; The young Khan Coleman standing with Brian at the edge of Khan's Bush covenant.

PHOTOS: SARAH-JANE THIRD, SENIOR TEACHER, WEBER SCHOOL



Wilding conifer seedlings in hard to access areas like the South Island high country are expensive to control using contractors and helicopters. Using a 'conifer cavalry' of volunteers on horseback instead was the brainchild of Jesse Bythell (our Southland regional representative), an inspired approach for areas where trekking in on foot to weedbust would be tedious and time consuming. As volunteer Gilly Darby said, 'If I had to walk up that hill to kill pines I wouldn't have been at all keen, but riding made it fun and special.'

The Easter weed muster was carried out on Coronet Peak Station on the Crown Range between Queenstown and Wanaka. Coronet Peak Station is part of the Mahu Whenua covenants, the largest area ever to be protected with QEII National Trust covenants.

The lessee owner of the property already has an extensive wilding conifer control programme in place, and supported this additional effort to tackle the trees by supplying food for the volunteers and their horses. The neighbouring property also helped out by offering the use of their land to paddock the horses, and their woolshed and shearers quarters for the group to camp in.

The expedition was one of a number of QEII National Trust Community Weedbusting projects that have been funded through the DOC Community Fund and support the Minister of Conservation's War on Weeds. This particular event was run as a pilot, the experience contributing towards a 'how to' guide for people interested in the idea for other parts of New Zealand. The guide will include health and safety plans, instructions on how to map work done on projects of this nature, and logistical considerations for feeding and watering both two- and fourlegged participants in remote areas.

'It's a win for everyone,' QEII Community Weedbusting Project advisor, Anne Brow, said.

'The land manager gets help with weed issues, spread of wildings from scattered seedlings is reduced, and recreational riders get to enjoy high country areas that they normally wouldn't be able to access.'

The QEII National Trust Community Weedbusting Project is a partnership between QEII National Trust and Weedbusters NZ.







A project to plant out around 1250 metres of streamside on John and Marina Poulton's farm near Dannevirke is well under way thanks to the many generous donors who contributed funds using the Million Metres Streams crowdfunding website.

Million Metres Streams was set up by the Sustainable Business Network to help communities and individuals raise the funds they need to protect and improve the health of waterways around New Zealand.

From the funds raised John and Marina were able to plant 1870 plants this winter and plan to plant around 1000 more next winter. The planting took 3 days and was done by contractors with help from John and Marina and their family, their farm manager, and QEII National Trust and Horizons Regional Council staff. Dannevirke High School students laid weed mats around the plants as a fundraiser for pupils going to a Hillary Outdoors course and a netball championship. All the plants used come from the ecological district, supplied by two local nurseries.

The Poultons' planting project is the fourth QEII National Trust project to be crowdfunded on the Million Metres Streams website. Their planting zone falls within an area they recently covenanted with the National Trust, protecting a podocarp treeland gully system with stream flats.

The National Trust's funding advisor and planting assistant, Genevieve Bannister, said the funding came at the perfect time. 'With the covenant now fenced, grazing is no longer keeping the grass down on the flats. John had already cleared the area for planting and getting the plants in when we did will help keep rank grass and blackberries at bay and speed up natural regeneration processes,' she said.

John and Marina said they are thrilled to be part of the Million Metres Streams campaign to protect New Zealand's waterways.

'When we were kids we could drink water from rivers and swim safely where we wanted. We want to make sure our kids and future generations can do the same.

'We couldn't have done so much so soon without the crowdfunding and we extend a huge thank you to every single donor for helping make this happen,' they said.

Horizons Regional Council has been closely involved with the project. It has worked with the Poultons to prepare a whole-of-farm management plan, helped out with fencing costs and, through its He Tini Awa fund, contributed plants and support for restoration work at other sites on the farm.

PHOTOS: GENEVIEVE BANNISTER AND BILL WALLACE





# Restoration, recreation, and reconnection with the land





Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau/Sinclair wetlands are part of a 2000ha wetland complex connecting lakes Waihola and Waipori on the Taieri Plain, 40 kilometres south of Dunedin. The wetlands have been owned by Ngāi Tahu since 1998, and are known to them as Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau (the settlement of Tukiauau). The English part of the name refers to Horace (Horrie) Sinclair, a conservationist who bought the wetland area in 1960 to allow it to revert to its natural state. Before his death in 1998 he covenanted the area to guarantee long-term protection and public access to the site.

For Māori, wetlands were taonga, abundant in food and other resources such as flax for weaving. They were also places of shelter. With the arrival of Europeans vast areas of wetlands in New Zealand were drained to develop the land for farming.

The Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau/Sinclair wetlands are managed sustainably, encompassing these different land uses alongside the protection objectives of the covenant agreement. A cohesive management programme at the wetlands includes cultural harvesting, farming, ecological research, recreation, and education activities. A short duck shooting season is maintained and some land is leased to graze sheep. University students carry out research here, the public can enjoy walkways and kayaking, and education days are held for local schools and community groups.

Underpinning this activity is a very productive pest control and restoration programme run with the support of many volunteers under the guidance of Glen Riley, Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau/Sinclair wetland's programme coordinator.

Open Space talked to Glen about his job and working with the community to achieve Ngāi Tahu's vision for the wetlands.

# An interview with Glen Riley, programme coordinator at Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau/Sinclair wetlands

#### What would a normal work day look like for you?

Normal doesn't happen very often! A typical work day is very flexible to accommodate the differing needs and skills of volunteers and the ever-changing environmental factors. However, you can guarantee that on any one day there will be a hole dug, a weed killed or a tree planted! The main tasks fall under three categories: pest control (animals and weeds), restoration plantings (includes nursery work and planting out), and track and infrastructure work. Then of course there are all of the behind the scenes tasks such as responding to volunteer applications, promotions and social media, reporting to funders, planning larger projects, and ordering materials, to name a few.

#### What is Ngāi Tahu's vision for the wetlands?

The aim of the community engagement and conservation work is to restore the site to a healthy, functioning wetland where native species thrive. We also want it to be a place where people have the opportunity reconnect with the land.

#### In what ways can people reconnect with the land?

People can familiarise themselves with natural food harvesting, learning how to harvest in a sustainable way. We also encourage students to come and study the ecosystem. It is also a beautiful place to just visit, enjoy, and appreciate the uniqueness of our native places.

# What are the special biodiversity values protected in the wetland?

This wetland has a strong population of matata (fernbird) which can be seen and heard on most visits. We also have the more elusive birds like the kotereke (marsh crake) and matuku (Australasian bittern) and the ponds are the ideal home for tuna (eels), especially the short-finned eel. Galaxids, kākahi (fresh water mussel), koura (fresh water crayfish) and numerous invertebrates also live there.

#### What has the restoration programme involved?

Introduced mammal predators are the main pest problem in the wetlands. They have a huge impact on our native birds. Stoats are our biggest problem but we have everything besides — mice, rats, hedgehogs, rabbits, hares, weasels, ferrets, possums, and feral cats. I have reinstated an intensive trapping programme, which has been running for 3 years now. Catch numbers halved from 2014 to 2015 but Autumn 2016 was pretty productive for introduced mammals and we saw an influx of possums and feral cats.

Weeds continue to threaten the wetlands and we have a constant battle with willow (grey and crack). Large, infested areas are treated aerially, whereas small and isolated willows are tackled by volunteers using the 'cut stump' method. The drier surrounding areas that were previously grazed have sprouted gorse and broom. We clear out sections of this and follow up with native plantings, again with volunteers. As the natives establish and form a canopy the exotics are 'shaded out' and lose the battle for dominance.

## How important are volunteers to the success of your restoration programme?

With one part-time staff member and a 315ha wetland to manage, volunteers are crucial. Through our on-site accommodation we have been able to create a very popular volun-tourism programme. Last year over 3000 volunteer hours were contributed to the wetlands, a lot by international travellers. This injection of support has meant we have been able to get on top of the worst of the weeds, and some very specialist volunteering skills have allowed us to do things like rebuild our native plant nursery, which is now a very productive site, create our logo, develop GIS maps for walking tracks and site management, and get fences built to exclude stock.

The community has been just as influential and many schools, clubs, businesses, and individuals have given their time, expertise, products, and services. With a DOC community partnership fund secured late 2015, the Sinclair Wetlands Trust has been able to extend the workforce from one part-time to one full-time member of staff. This has helped us get more community involvement and boost our conservation outcomes.

## How do you manage to enlist so many enthusiastic volunteers?

The key to a successful volunteer programme is 'mutual benefit'. Volunteers give up a lot to come and support an organisation and it needs to go both ways. Volunteers are always looking for something in return. If you can offer that special something, be it a glimpse of their first fernbird, or having a go at 'potting-up' for their first time, or eating their first mingimingi berry or horopito leaf. These are the type of moments that can't be bought or discovered elsewhere. You need to create a real 'buy in' environment and excite people's senses.

To have enthusiastic volunteers the tasks you are asking them to do must be 'MR FUSS'

**M**eaningful

**R**ealistic

Fun

**U**n-repetitive

See where you have been

Safe.

If these six actions are considered you can be sure of a positive work environment where tasks are completed to a high standard. Volunteers will be keen to come back and are more likely to get involved volunteering elsewhere as well.

#### For more information on the wetlands

http://www.tenohoaka.org.nz/the-wetlands

Photos facing page from top to bottom: A school group enjoys a walk in the wetlands; Programme coordinator, Glen Riley, chatting with a group of volunteers about to embark on a planting project; Fernbird/matata; A volunteer at work; Kayaking is a great way to explore the wetlands.











## Shedding light on the night – a citizen science programme to study moths

There are more than 2000 moth species in New Zealand, 90 percent of which are endemic to our country. Around 200 species are yet to be scientifically described. Little is known about our moths. Students from schools across Otago are helping researchers find out more.

Moths play an important role in the ecosystem. They are a food source for a wide range of species and perform an important role as pollinators. Because of their fast life cycle they also respond quickly to changes in the environment, whether that be climate conditions or land use, so they act as good indicators of what is going on in the ecosystem.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtepoti School is one of several in Otago taking part in 'Shedding Light on the Night', a citizen science moth study. They have been setting up moth traps around the school and classifying the different moths caught in them. Some traps were set in artificial light and others in the dark to see how this impacted on moth numbers. (The school students have noted that more moths were caught in the traps set in the dark.)

The project is a joint initiative between Landcare Research, the Botany and Geography Departments of the University of Otago, and Orokonui Ecosanctuary. It is looking to increase people's (particularly children's) awareness about why moths are important. At the same time it is gathering valuable distribution and ecological data, focusing on how moths are affected by different types of light. Dr Anderson has been leading the project with the support of her colleague, Dr Robert Hoare, one of New Zealand's leading taxonomists.

#### The value of citizen science

Dr Ralf Ohlemuller from the University of Otago's Geography Department sees the programme as a small part of a global effort to try and understand how environmental change affects species.

'If you really want to see how environmental change affects species you need to do things in many places and you need to observe things over a long period of time. Citizen science work like this is an excellent chance to address those two shortfalls because we can get lots of people involved in a whole range of places and we can get them excited and hopefully get them to do it over many, many years,' he said.

Dr Anderson said she first realised the value of citizen science support when she was working on her post doctorate in the UK, looking at biotic responses to climate change. Most of the data she worked with relating to moths, butterflies, birds, and plants was collected through citizen science and went back 40 to 50

'That data allowed us to document changes in species' ranges with climate change and with environmental change. That means we can actually have quantifiable evidence that not only is there climate change, but that there's a biotic response to climate

#### A MEDLEY OF MOTHS



Dichromodes gypsotis: Marbled Lichen Carpet Small day-flying moth of open rocky places in Otago and Southland. Larvae feed on lichens on rocks. Not often seen.



Aoraia orientalis: Eastern Aoraia A large ghost moth with a flightless female (pictured), confined to the Otago mountains: Lammermoor Range, Rock and Pillars, and Dunstan Range. Emerges March and April, males fly on cloudy afternoons. One of a number of similar species occurring in Otago.



Asaphodes chlamydota: Elegant Carpet Widespread forest species with larvae feeding on Clematis. Very distinct wing pattern, flies at night.



Elvia glaucata: Lawyer Pug Widespread forest and shrubland species. Larvae feed on bush lawyer (Rubus). Adult resembles a piece of lichen.



Meterana exquisita: Exquisite Owlet Very local and declining moth of tree daisy shrublands, with lovely lichen pattern. Larvae feed on small-leaved Olearia. Adults come to light; Otago is a good area for the species.

change. It's that one step extra — that things are actually responding to that climate change signal,' she said.

Unfortunately, this type of information is hard to come by in New Zealand. The moth study project looks on track to change that. It has recently been extended through a second grant from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund. With additional funding secured, more schools will be encouraged to participate as the project is rolled out further afield.

Dr Hoare's role in the project has been to make sure the children correctly identify the moths for their collections and he has been teaching them the importance of labelling their specimens with where and when they were found. This discipline is vital for analysing population trends.

Other schools that have participated in the project so far include Clutha Valley Primary School, Catlins Area School, Roxburgh Area School, Mt Aspiring College, and Shotover Primary School. As part of the project, Landcare Research will also produce four beginner's guides to common macro-moths that together cover the whole of the South Island, in Te Reo Māori and English.



Barbara Anderson (and her dog) overseeing children setting up a moth trap

PHOTO: GREG NELSON

This article is printed with permission from Landcare Research. It was first published in May 2016 in issue 41 of its online magazine Discovery.



Meterana meyricci: Rose Underwing Owlet Pretty South Island species with larvae feeding on native daphne Pimelea spp. in the subalpine/ alpine zone. Comes to light at night.



Ischalis fortinata: Zigzag Fern Looper Widespread forest moth, with very distinctive wing pattern. Larvae on shield ferns, Polystichum spp. Fairly common, nocturnal, camouflaged among dead fronds



Tmetolophota purdii: Orange Astelia Wainscot Widespread moth occurring wherever its host Astelia spp. (tank lilies) grow from forest to alpine zone. Large and distinctive species with its dusky pink colour. Comes to light at night.



Ichneutica ceraunias: Snow Tussock Wainscot Attractive alpine moth with very feathery antennae. Widespread in alpine areas from central North Island south. Varies in colour. Larvae feed on Chionochloa.



Graphaia maya: Alpine Treasure Owlet Beautifully patterned alpine moth, quite widespread in the South Island and southern North Island. Adults come to light; life history is not fully known.

# The merits of Muehlenbeckia australis/pohuehue

by Brian Patrick (Wildlands Consultants)

Widespread and rambunctious, *Muehlenbeckia australis* might seem like a weed to many but it occupies an important place in our ecology. Also known as pohuehue, *M. australis* is a a climbing vine that is endemic to New Zealand and Norfolk Island. It is one of five indigenous species in New Zealand amongst 20 species of Muehlenbeckia distributed from South America to Australia. They all belong to the Polygonaceae family — the dock family — a cosmopolitan family of shrubs, herbs, and lianes.

M. australis is found from the coast through lowland regions to montane sites in hill country. Its leaves are larger than its other New Zealand relatives and it can grow up to 10 metres and form large dense patches as it climbs over and completely covers its supporting vegetation. My long-term observations of sites close to Dunedin show that it nurtures the supporting and regenerating vegetation it covers this way, allowing those species to push through and dominate over time. I have seen wineberry, mahoe, and fuchsia regenerate this way within a 15-year period.

M. australis is typically a marginal species, covering the edge of forest or shrubland patches and protecting trees from the ravages of wind. Ecologically, it is a most important species in many contexts, as it is able to survive, if not thrive, when sites are disturbed by felling, clearance or fire. Often it is the only native species left following gross disturbance of indigenous vegetation. Riparian sites, gullies, hillsides, and roadsides across the Canterbury Plains showcase the staying power of this wonderful New Zealand native. If left to 'dominate' these sites it will nurture

whatever other indigenous species are left as stragglers or seeds and eventually give way to the taller species. Its survival in these disturbed landscapes means many indigenous insects will also survive, providing food for reptiles and birds.

From an entomological perspective *M. australis* is the single most important host plant for our indigenous insects, many of which also feed on its sister species, *M. complexa*. It supports diverse orders of insects such as our sole praying mantis, many stick insects, countless flies, lacewings, bugs, moths, butterflies, and beetles.

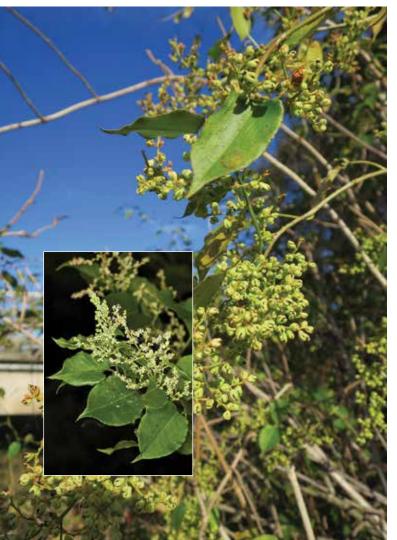
With its ability to survive in adverse conditions and nurture so many species, *M. australis* assumes a role of fundamental importance within our natural and modified landscapes.



Even if simply growing along fencelines and hedges, *M. australis* is still an important food source for insects that in turn provide food for birds and reptiles — something the person who sprayed the fenceline in the picture below probably didn't realise.



Left: Muehlenbeckia australis



#### Moths and butterflies love Muehlenbeckia australis

Muehlenbeckia australis is the New Zealand plant most eaten by generalist and specialist feeding butterflies and moths.

Three out of four of our copper butterfly groups and at least ten other undescribed species of copper butterfly (illustrated and recognized in the 2012 book *Butterflies of the South Pacific*) depend on it. The fourth group of New Zealand copper butterfly feeds on the other *Muehlenbeckia* species.

Five noctuid moths including *Bitlya* defigurata, *B. sericea*, *Meterana* coeleno and *M. stipata* are specialists on this liane. Another three noctuids also feed on it amongst a range of other native plants.

Many geometrid moths are specialists on this host plant including *Chloroclystis sphragitis* on the flowers, and *Pseudocoremia indistincta* and *Pasiphila muscosata* on the foliage. Many others including *Declana floccosa*, *D. leptomera*, *Gellonia dejectaria*, and *Homodotis megaspilata* regularly feed on the foliage of freshly fallen leaves.

Our sole thyridid moth *Morova* subfasciata has larvae that form a swelling on the stems of *M. australis* from within which they feed on the plant's tissue.

Several crambid moths have larvae that are leaf-rollers on the foliage including the orange *Udea flavidalis*.

Specialised leaf-rollers in the Tortricidae family include several in the genus *Pyrgotis*. *Harmologa amplexana* and polyphagous *Planotortrix excessana*, *Catameacta gavisana*, and *Ctenopseustis obliquana* are commonly found on this host plant.

The day-flying moth Zapyrastra calliphana (family Momphidae) has larvae that form leaf mines on the leaves within which they can feed protected.

The large casemoth *Liothula omnivora* often feeds on foliage and many leaf litter oecophorid moths feed on the fallen leaves of this deciduous host plant. This latter group are in the genera *Tingena*, *Trachypepla*, and *Gymnobathra*.



Copper butterfly PHOTO: ALICE SHANKS



The larvae of the moth *Morova subfasciata* live exclusively in a swelling on *M. australis* stems. The adult is an orange, day-flying moth that can be seen flying around the plant

PHOTO: BRIAN PATRICK

Brian Patrick is a consultant with Wildlands in Christchurch and author of Butterflies and Moths of New Zealand and (with his son Hamish) Butterflies of the South Pacific.



If an electricity company becomes aware of a tree that is a hazard it will send the landowner a trim notice. Special conditions apply if the trees to be trimmed are within an open space covenant. Here is a short overview of why tree trim notices are issued and what to do if you get one for trees that are in your covenant.

#### Why do electricity companies issue tree trim notices?

When trees come within a prescribed distance of an electrical conductor, they must be trimmed so they no longer constitute a hazard to the line. If trees come into contact with electricity lines they can cause damage to the lines, electricity outages, injury, electrocution and, in dry conditions, even fires.

#### Who arranges and pays for the trimming?

If a trim notice has been issued, the tree owner must allow the electricity company to cut or trim the tree or arrange for a qualified contractor to do so. Generally, the first trim is at the electricity company's cost and subsequent trimmings are at the cost of the landowner.

#### What about trees in a covenant?

If the trees subject to the trim notice are within an open space covenant a trim notice cannot be issued to you. A different rule applies because the area is protected.

#### What should I do if a trim notice has been issued for trees in my covenant?

Contact the electricity company and let them know that the trim notice is for trees that are protected by a QEII National Trust open space covenant and that the trim notice cannot be issued to you for this reason. They should be aware that, because of the covenant, approval from the National Trust is required before the works can begin. Also, that the works must be carried out by the electricity company at its cost.

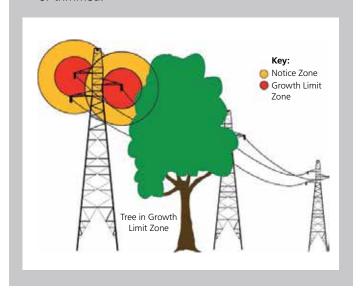
#### How do I get approval to trim the trees in my covenant?

You should ask your QEII regional representative for an approval to trim covenanted trees and to detail how they will check that any trimming is carried out to their satisfaction. This must be a written approval, and can be done by letter or email. Once approval has been given, you can ask the electricity company to contact you to arrange the trimming. We have a template letter on our website (www.openspace.org.nz) that you can use to write to your electricity company about a trim notice that affects your covenant. Alternatively, give us a call on 0800 467 367 (ask to speak to someone in the legal team) and we can send you the template letter.

#### **Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003**

A number of regulations are set out in the *Electricity* (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 that are attached to the Electricity Act 1992. Regulation 8 triggers an exception where an open space covenant is concerned. In summary:

- 1. An electricity company must not issue a cut or trim notice to a tree owner because the electricity line is on land that has a QEII National Trust open space covenant on it.
- 2. The tree owner is under no obligation to cut or trim the tree.
- 3. The electricity company must, at their expense, within 3 months of becoming aware of the encroachment into the growth limit zone, ensure that the tree is cut or trimmed.





# Wicked woolly nightshade



#### **Family**

Solanaceae (nightshade) family

#### Also known as

tobacco weed, flannel-leaf, kerosene plant, Solanum auriculatum



Woolly nightshade berries



Woolly nightshade in flower



Woolly nightshade has colonised an open area in this patch of regenerating bush

www.weedbusters.org.nz

This capsicum-smelling South American invader has made itself right at home in the northern areas of New Zealand and is seeking to expand its territory further down the country wherever it can find a climate pocket that suits. It can grow to 10m tall and has soft stems and large, velvety light green leaves that are whitish underneath. It is covered in a fine dust that can cause allergic reactions or skin rashes in some people. Woolly nightshade has dense clusters of mauve to purple flowers with yellow anthers appearing from January to December, followed by clusters of round berries that ripen from green to a soft, dull yellow.

#### Why is it wicked?

Woolly nightshade grows and matures rapidly, forming dense, tall stands and producing many well-dispersed seeds most of the year. It produces toxins that poison the soil around it, stopping other seedlings from establishing. It's not fussy about conditions, tolerating wet and dry, salt, hot to cool temperatures, semi-shade, disturbance, and grazing. It is likely to invade disturbed forest areas and light gaps, shrublands, coastal and estuarine margins, inshore islands, consolidated sand dunes, wetlands, some tussocklands, and places epiphytes would usually be found, especially in well-drained low-frost areas.

#### How does it spread?

Birds, especially native pigeon, spread the seeds. Common seed sources are gullies, roadsides, neglected farms, orchards, plantation forests, waste land, and shelter belts.

#### What can I do to get rid of it?

- Pull up all small plants (easiest in winter). Leave on site to rot down.
- Cut and squirt herbicide (all year round): make cuts at regular intervals around the trunk, apply appropriate herbicide.
- Cut and paint stumps (all year round) with suitable herbicide.
- Use the frilling technique (all year round) by making deep cuts into tree trunks at regular intervals around the base.
   Apply herbicide to the fresh cut using a paintbrush or low pressure sprayer. Don't ring bark (remove a ring of bark from the tree) as this reduces herbicide absorption.
- Injection method: use either 10mm wide holes drilled at a 45 degree angle 50mm into the trunk at 50mm intervals around trunk, or a series of 80mm wide blazes cut to a depth of 15–20mm, spaced at 20–40mm. Fill each with suitable herbicide.

#### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Keep an eye on your problem site as cut stems will resprout quickly and woolly nightshade reseeds profusely in bared sites within 1–2 years. The plant rarely invades intact habitats, so maintain shade by planting dense cover.

More information on controlling woolly nightshade can be found at www.weedbusters.org.nz.



PHOTOS: MALCOLM PULLMAN

One of my favourite trees has to be the puriri (*Vitex lucens*). The mighty, majestic puriri with its gnarly trunks and delicate flowers graces my covenant and many other coastal and semi-coastal forests of the upper North Island.

Puriri is considered a very important forest tree, especially throughout the winter months, as it often holds flowers and berries at the same time. This makes it a valuable source of food for our nectar-feeding birds such as tui and bellbird and for our berry-feeding kereru.

Puriri is also a favoured home of our largest moth. Known as the puriri moth or ghost moth, these striking, bright green insects can easily fill the palm of your hand. When puriri eggs hatch, the emergent larvae find a suitable spot on the puriri tree's trunk where they proceed to excavate an 'L' shaped tunnel up

to 8 inches deep. This is no easy feat given that puriri is one of the hardest woods we have in New Zealand. They then weave a silken door over the entrance to their tunnel. The doorways are very hard to spot but if you look closely they can be found by very gently pressing on the bark of the tree until a soft spot is found.

After about 7 years the puriri's caterpillars pupate and adult moths emerge from their tunnels en masse throughout spring and summer months. After such a long wait they only get to live for a few nights of very focused activity. They have no mouth parts so can't eat; there is only one thing on the puriri moth's mind — find a mate! Once mated, they will lay more eggs and the cycle starts again.

The puriri tree accommodates more besides moths and birds. Tree wetas and spiders on the lookout for a home will often move into the 'digs' vacated by the puriri moths.



A puriri moth emerging from its tunnel



An unhatched puriri moth chrysalis



A surprise landing

#### **Congratulations to 2016 Ballance Farm Environment Awards winners**

The National Trust has had a close involvement with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards ever since 1991 when Gordon Stephenson, a key founder of the National Trust, came up with the idea to hold the awards programme. This year it formed a partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust to sponsor the Farm Stewardship Award. This award acknowledges farmers who have created special places on their farms to protect and/or enhance cultural, historic or unique natural or man-made features. Winners of this award also need to demonstrate management systems that include productivity and sustainability.

#### Covenantors recognised with awards this year

#### **Northland**

Green Inc & Tahi Estate Ltd

John Craig and Anne Stewart and Suzan Craia

District: Pataua North Farm: Bees and horses Area: 355ha

#### Winners of:

- Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award
- Farm Stewardship Award in partnership with QEII National Trust and The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust



#### Southland

Birchgrove Holdings Ltd Nathan and Marilyn Parris

District: Tuatapere Farm: Sheep and beef Area: 490ha

Winners of:

Southland Recognition Award

#### Taranaki

John and Elaine Sanderson

District: Otakeho; Farm: Dairy Area: 212ha

#### Winners of:

- Farm Stewardship Award in partnership with the QEII National Trust and The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust
- Taranaki Regional Council Sustainability Award



#### **Horizons**

Kapiti Farm John and Marine Poulton and Rod and **Bev Poulton** 

District: Dannevirke Farm: Sheep and beef Area: 545ha

Winners of:

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award



#### Canterbury



#### **Gregan Dairy** John and Cara Gregan

District: Blue Cliffs; Farm: Dairy; Area: 500ha

- Farm Stewardship Award in partnership with the QEII National Trust and The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust
- PGG Wrightson People in Agriculture Award
- CB Norwood Distributors Ltd Agri-Business Management Award

#### Waikato



#### **Glenview Station** Warren and Cindy Clayton-Greene

District: Waitomo

Farm: Sheep, beef, forestry

Area: 870ha Winners of:

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award

#### **Greater Wellington**

Te Awaawa Farm Richard and Becks Tosswill

District: Gladstone Farm: Sheep and beef Area: 646ha

#### Winners of:

• Farm Stewardship Award in partnership with **OEII** National Trust and The New Zealand Farm







#### Otago

Roselle Farm

Brenda and Paula Cross

District: Portobello Farm: Sheep and beef Area: 818ha

#### Winners of:

- 2016 Supreme Award **Winners Otago region**
- · Farm Stewardship Award in partnership with

QEII National Trust and The New Zealand Farm Environment

- Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award
- Otago Regional Council Quality Water Management Award









#### **FARM STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

#### **THE 2016 AWARD WINNERS**



# John Craig, Anne Stewart and Susan Craig

Green Inc & Tahi Estate Ltd

Location: Pataua North Bees and Horses



#### **Richard and Dianne Kidd**

Whenuanui Farm

**Location:** Helensville Industry: Sheep, Bee

Sheep, Beef and Forestry



# Stuart Muir and Kim Jobson

Te Nihi Nihi

**Location:** Aka Aka **Industry:** Dairy



# Peter and Marnie Anstis

Anstis Orchards I and II

Location: Opotiki Industry: Kiwifruit



#### Tim Aitken and Lucy Robertshawe, Jim Aitken, Willa Aitken

The Steyning

**Location:** Tikokino Industry: Deer and Beef



# David and Adrienne Hopkins

Harkaway Trust

#### **Ben and Belinda Price**

Price Trusts Partnership

**Location:** Nukumaru **Industry:** Dairy



#### John and Elaine Sanderson

**Location:** Otakeho **Industry:** Dairy



#### Richard and Becks Tosswill

Te Awaawa Farm

**Location:** Gladstone Industry: Sheep and Beef



#### John and Cara Gregan

**Gregan Dairy** 

Location: Blue Cliffs Industry: Dairy



# **Brendon and Paula Cross**

Roselle Farm

Location: Portobello Sheep and Beef



# **Shane Gibbons and Bridget Speight**

Whare Creek

Location: Redcliff
Industry: Sheep, Beef and
Dairy Support



The overall objective of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is to promote sustainable land management on New Zealand farms believing that role models and education are effective tools to improving farming practices. The Awards programme is run in 11 regions throughout New Zealand.

Find out more by visiting: www.bfea.org.nz

# Chair and Chief Executive Joint report

As our 40th anniversary approaches next year, we have been reflecting on how far the organisation has come since it was established in 1977. We have registered two covenants a week on average since then. The number of covenants has grown from single digits in the late 1970s to just over 4250 covenants today, protecting around 165,000ha.

We are proud of our partnership with landowners and the network of open space covenants that we have established together. This year we formally registered another 118 covenants and approved a further 121 covenant proposals.

We are extremely grateful to the many organisations, groups, and individuals who have helped the National Trust and its covenantors to protect rare and threatened biodiversity on private land. Their support is critical to our success. We are most grateful for the ongoing funding support we receive from many councils and contestable funding agencies.

During the year we developed and strengthened partnerships and programmes that have supported covenantors with weedbusting efforts, pest control, riparian enhancement, and the health of waterways in covenants.

#### More forest protection

This year we received an additional \$1 million funding allocation (spread over 3 years) from the Government to support a pan-Commonwealth programme called the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative (QCC). Announced at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in November 2015, the initiative marks Her Majesty's long reign and dedication to the Commonwealth. It aims to create a network of native forest conservation programmes throughout the Commonwealth.

New Zealand was one of the first Commonwealth countries to support the initiative and we were delighted to be given the responsibility of fulfilling our country's contribution towards it to help protect this most critical of ecosystems. The funding will allow us to establish at least 40 more forest covenants over the 3 year-period than we normally could have with our baseline funding. This year we established 11 additional forest covenants using the fund.

#### **Defending covenants**

We have had to defend the status of a Coromandel open space covenant several times in court in what has been a long legal battle between the National Trust and a property developer. The developer has been challenging the status of the covenant he owns, wanting to have it removed so the land it protects could then be subdivided for lifestyle blocks.

We thought the case had been settled when the High Court ruled on the matter in 2015, confirming the indefeasible status

of open space covenants and clarifying that they were unable to be removed from a land title. However, the appellant did not accept the ruling and challenged the status again, this time in the Court of Appeal.

Described as a 'complex' case, the Court of Appeal ruled decisively in favour of the National Trust. The decision established new case law and upheld the existing case law from the previous High Court hearing. The Court confirmed that the National Trust acted in the best interests of the original covenantor and fulfilled its statutory mandate for the benefit of the people of New Zealand.

We once again had believed that the Court of Appeal ruling would be the end of this costly litigation process; however, we have since been advised that the appellant has lodged an appeal to the Supreme Court. At the time of writing, this appeal has not yet been heard.

This case highlights a strategic risk that the National Trust faces. Ownership changes are becoming more common (this year we processed around 320 changes of ownership), and while the vast majority of those managing covenants for the first time become enthusiastic guardians, a few do not.

Our preference is to resolve covenant breaches through dialogue. If that fails, the National Trust has legal mechanisms in its Act to call upon. Resolution through the courts is costly, time consuming, and distracts us from our core business, but we are prepared to take legal action when facing serious attacks on the integrity of covenants. Over the past 4 years the National Trust has incurred costs of approximately \$430,000 to defend covenants. Attacks like these strike at the heart of our role as the perpetual trustee of the covenant agreement. We are confident that the indefeasibility of our covenants will be enshrined in case law from the highest legal jurisdiction and these sorts of attack will cease.

#### Strategic direction

During the year, the Board revisited the National Trust's strategic plan. Unsurprisingly, our future hinges on partnerships and funding. The focus over the past 3 years has been to strengthen the relationships we have with support agencies, political influencers, and other participants in private sector conservation. While we will continue to reinforce those alliances, we also need to broaden our appeal to a much wider public base. This will see the National Trust lift its profile, particularly with urban New Zealand where we believe there is a reservoir of support for private land conservation.

The National Trust holds a unique position and has an enviable record in biodiversity protection and we must play to these strengths if we are to maintain a financially viable future.

#### **National Trust liabilities**

When reading the financial accounts in this report you will notice a change to the way we have reported what was previously recorded as a contingent liability in past annual accounts. Prior to 1995, the National Trust had a policy to assist new covenantors with the cost of establishing initial covenant fences and replacing those fences at the end of their effective life. At the time, this agreement was probably not considered burdensome, but with the passage of time and escalating costs of fencing it became an unsustainable liability.

Since 1995, the National Trust has continued to offer financial support for new covenant fences when they are established, but no longer contributes to fence replacement costs for covenants registered after that year.

Up until now, this pre-1995 fencing replacement obligation was disclosed as a contingent liability in the Notes to the Financial Statements in our Annual Report but was not included in the Statement of the National Trust's financial position — the future estimate of this liability was not considered to be sufficiently reliable to be recognised as a liability on our balance sheet.

Over the past 2 years the Board and senior staff took extensive external advice to ensure that the information we use to calculate this future liability is robust. As a consequence, the Board has determined that this liability is now appropriately reflected in our balance sheet.

This year, the obligation has been disclosed on the Statement of Financial Position for the first time as a provision liability of \$7.646 million, with the initial recognition expense of the same amount being included in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenditure. This has had a significant effect on the income statement, giving the appearance of a substantial one-off loss. This is explained in some detail in Notes 1 and 12 to the financial statements. The Directors wish to emphasise that the National Trust remains in a secure financial position.

Over the past decade, the National Trust has built up a significant investment portfolio, which will be used to fund the pre-1995 fencing liability into the future. This has been prudent fiscal management, but has also constrained the National Trust's ability to support covenanting and other activities such as weed and pest control. The National Trust intends to reduce this pre-1995 fencing liability further over the next few years, freeing up funds to support covenantors.

The National Trust will continue to honour its contractual obligations to covenantors with pre-1995 fencing agreements. It should be noted that all covenant agreements require regular maintenance of fences, so they are fit for purpose. The National Trust is very grateful for the generosity of the many covenantors who have voluntarily chosen to waive the pre-1995 fencing clause in their covenant agreements to help reduce the liability.

#### **Gordon Stephenson**

The Board and staff were saddened at the news of Gordon Stephenson's death on Boxing Day last year. A key founder of the National Trust, Gordon was a visionary environmentalist with a deep appreciation of New Zealand's natural heritage. His influence and the conservation movement he and Celia Stephenson triggered in establishing New Zealand's first QEII National Trust open space covenant in 1979 changed the

way natural and cultural places on private land are valued and preserved in New Zealand. Gordon was also a great friend and a constant source of support and advice for the National Trust. He is greatly missed.

#### **New Board Directors**

National Trust members elected two new Board Directors this year. Donna Field has a background in resource management and is a Director of Cleardale Station, a 1400ha sheep and beef property in the Rakaia Gorge, Canterbury. Michael Legge is a retired Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Pathology at Otago University. Their combined conservation and environmental planning experience and involvement with many environmental organisations and initiatives has meant they have slotted in effortlessly and have been able to engage immediately with the Board's business.



Board of Directors from left to right: Bruce Wills, Donna Field, Mike Legge, Gina Solomon, James Guild (Chair), Sue Yerex

#### **Acknowledgments**

This year we farewelled retiring Board Directors Megan Balks and James Hunter, who served 6 years and 9 years respectively. The Board of Directors thanks Megan and James and acknowledges the huge contribution both made during their time as Directors. Both were rigorous champions of covenantors' rights and very effective contributors around the Board table.

The National Trust thanks its exceptional staff and regional representatives and acknowledges their professionalism, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to supporting the National Trust's mission and the aspirations of covenantors to protect special places on private land.

**James Guild** 

Chair **QEII National Trust** 



Mike Jebson

Chief Executive **QEII National Trust** 



# **Covenant statistics**

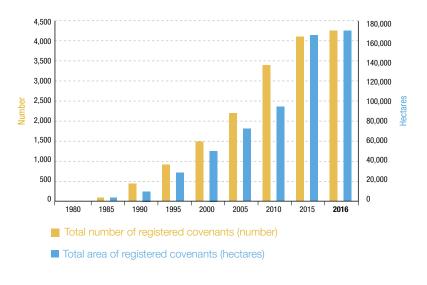
at 30 June 2016

#### National Trust covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments map

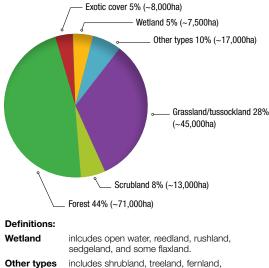
Regional Council area	Total land area in region (ha)	Total approved covenants	Total registered and formalised* covenants	Total number of covenants approved, registered and formalised	Total area approved, registered and formalised covenants (ha)**	Total area registered and fomalised covenants (ha)	Largest registered covenant in the region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)** includes all approved, registered and formalised	Median covenant size (ha)** includes all approved, registered and
Auckland	500,000	18	280	298	4,593.5	4,237.4	840.8	15.4	3.1
Bay of Plenty		11	171	182	9,547.8	9,314.6	6,563.5	52.5	4.3
Canterbury	4,220,000	54	301	353	18,899.6	12,872.0	2,350.0	53.2	8.1
Gisborne	826,500	12	135	147	4,589.2	4,349.2	1,103.8	31.2	9.1
ławke's Bay		5	244	249	10,699.4	10,560.6	4,606.0	43.0	10.0
Horizons	2,221,500	38	350	388	9,101.8	7,794.3	352.3	23.5	8.1
Marlborough	1,049,500	4	76	80	4,337.5	4,029.3	1,055.7	54.2	6.9
Nelson	42,100	2	14	16	311.8	302.3	139.5	19.5	6.0
Vorthland	1,250,000	29	668	697	10,230.0	9,771.4	417.4	14.7	3.7
Otago	3,200,000	28	187	215	63,602.6	62,527.8	21,909.6	295.8	8.4
Southland	3,035,000	22	322	344	7,987.4	7,106.4	808.7	23.2	9.2
Taranaki	723,600	49	355	403	9,351.8	7,851.0	753.9	23.2	3.1
Tasman	978,600	13	154	167	2,779.1	2,449.6	515.6	16.6	4.0
Waikato	2,500,000	37	613	650	17,439.9	16,090.3	801.6	26.8	7.0
Wellington	813,000	32	321	353	6,325.6	5,916.4	824.3	17.9	4.7
West Coast	2,300,000	16	68	84	2,879.8	2,455.1	619.1	34.3	12.0
Totals		370	4,259	4,626	182,676.9	167,627.7		39.5	5.8
		·			·				
Protected of	pen space	N	lumber	Hed	ctares				
Registered (			4,226		,699.4				
Approved co			367		,049.1				
Formal agre	ements		33		928.3				1
			4,626	182,	,676.9				5
Total**			1						- 1
	jistered cove	nant — 21,							100
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#### Statistics continued

#### **Registered covenants**



#### Land cover type



treefernland, boulderfield, gravelfield, herbfield, lichenfield, mossfield, peatfield, rockland, sandfield and other sites eg, cultural or

archeaological

Exotic cover e.g. pasture, amenities, exotic arboretums

#### Monitoring report summary

Total number of covenants monitored in 2015–2016	1907
Total number of covenants monitored that required attention at end of period (1)	237 (12%)

#### Breakdown of covenants that required attention in 2015–2016

	Number of covenants
Covenants with condition issues only	39
Covenants with legal compliance issues only	157
Covenants with both condition and legal compliance issues	39
Covenants with serious legal compliance issues	2
Total	237

#### Nature of issues requiring attention (some covenants have more than one issue requiring attention) (2)

Issue	Number of covenants
Fencing and boundary issues	113
Weeds	103
Stock intrusion	53
Pests	44
Unnapproved activities	16
Total	329

<sup>(1)</sup> An additional 92 covenants were identified as requiring attention during the reporting period but are not included in these tables because they have a landscape-wide problem (eg, an old man's beard infestation) that is beyond the control and ability of the landowner to reasonably manage. A coordinated regional approach involving all stakeholder organisations and landowners is needed to effectively manage such issues. The National Trust is committed to supporting this approach whenever it can.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> Some covenants have more than one issue requiring attention. The National Trust has let landowners know about the issues and provided advice on how to best address them. Resolution timeframes will vary depending on the nature of the issues.

# Statement of service performance

### for the year ended 30 June 2016

The National Trust's operating expenditure for the reporting period was just over \$5 million. Eighty percent of this amount is funded by a government grant with the balance received from donations, funding bids, and other raised funds.

This statement measures the National Trust's performance against goals set in its 2015–2016 Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Conservation.

#### **Covenanting process**

Open space covenants protect a range of values including: ecological, visual, geological, archaeological, scientific, cultural, recreational, soil and water, and social interest. The area, size, and shape of covenants vary, as do the associated costs, so annual fluctuations in covenant statistics can be expected.

Covenant proposals are evaluated against set criteria such as ecological significance, national priorities for protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity on private land, connectivity to other protected places, sustainability of the site, and landowner motivation. When a proposal is approved, registration of the covenant on the land title is targeted to be complete within 2 years.

The covenanting process involves responding to landowner enquiries, evaluating and documenting proposals, assessing proposals for approval, preparing documentation for approved proposals, fencing, surveying, and registering covenants on land titles with Land Information New Zealand. Once registered, covenants are monitored on a regular basis.

Table 1 - The implementation of legal protection of natural and historic resources on private or leasehold land

Legal protection		5 Actual	2015/16 Target		2015/16 Actual	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
Approved covenants	111	2386	110	3300	110	1926
Approved QCC covenants	-	-	8	-	11	816
Registered covenants	113	54,354	115	2500	118	3412

Table 2 — Monitoring numbers and hectares for registered covenants and National Trust-owned properties

Management Services		5 Actual	2015/16 Target		2015/16 Actual	
	Number	Hectares		Hectares	Number	Hectares
National Trust-owned properties	27	1436	27	no target	27	1436
Monitored registered covenants	1743	42,477	1800	no target	1907	39,289

#### **Table 3** − Other activities and statutory functions:

Other activities	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual
Percentage of new covenants approved (excluding QCC covenants) that secure protection of one or more of the four national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land and/or add to a protected corridor or protected landscape	90%	97%
Percentage of new QCC covenants approved that secure protection of one or more of the four national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land and/or add to a protected corridor or protected landscape	100%	100%
Number of covenants (including proposed covenants) identified each year and put forward as a priority for third-party support for protection/management	100	169
Number of regional covenantor events	4	6
Number of registered covenants where the National Trust has exercised functions as the statutory trustee.  Functions include: requests for variations and activity approvals, Resource Management Act 1991 and related activity affecting covenants, significant covenant stewardship support, and compliance and enforcement action	300	465



A collaboration between Groundtruth as the technology developer and WWF New Zealand as initial supporter, Trap.NZ is used by over 250 projects around New Zealand. Trap.NZ features:

- Free system for setting up and keeping records your pest control operation
- Simple entry of trapping and bait station data
- Mobile phone app works off line, out of cell phone coverage. So you can navigate to traps and enter trap checks in the field — then upload when you are back in coverage job done!
- Easy generation of maps and other summaries of catches helping you see what's going on, and providing information you can send to funders and supporters.

You can visit the www.trap.nz website to register and set up your pest control project or join an existing project in your area.

#### Keep your contact details current

It is a constant challenge keeping our covenant and member contacts database current. Every year we receive returned mail because of incorrect addressing and manage hundreds of changes to our database. Please help us keep our database current by letting us know if your contact details have changed recently. We would very much appreciate having your email address too, if you are happy to supply it. Email addresses are a useful contact to have as they are less likely to change. We respect your privacy always and will never pass on your email address or other contact details to a third party without your express permission. You can advise changes or additions to your contact details by selecting the 'Update your contact details' link on our website's homepage (www.openspace. org.nz) or by emailing us on info@openspace.org.nz.

#### Letter to editor

Greetings, kia ora tatou

We are members of the QEII National Trust and wish to congratulate the team on (1) the excellent latest Open Space magazine (issue 90); more appealing photography (particularly of portraits) hopefully appealing to a broader sector, professional layout, information to foster biodiversity and topical stories, and (2) the appointment of Malcolm Rutherford as regional representative for Tairawhiti — fantastic help towards ongoing conservation issues and a dedicated, knowledgeable ecologist. QEII National Trust integrity these days is very reassuring...thanks!

Kate McDonald and Herman Addens

(Thank you for the feedback and encouragement! Ed.)

#### Leaving a lasting legacy

Perpetuity is a long time. Protecting nature and special places on private land in perpetuity is the commitment landowners and the National Trust make with every open space covenant they establish together.

Remembering the National Trust in your Will means you will be part of its ongoing work to take care of these special places.

If you would like to talk about how to leave a legacy, phone 0800 467 367 and ask to speak with the National Trust's Chief Executive.



**QEII** National Trust's regional representatives use Cut'n'Paste weed gels as part of a suite of tools to help control invasive weeds in covenants.

Cut'n'Paste treats the weed with no spill-over to desirable plants and minimises the amount of herbicide required to do the job. It has many applications for highly targeted weed control of a wide variety of species. Available on line at www. cutnpaste.co.nz/ store or at your local hardware store.



# **Recently registered covenants**

Summary of covenant registrations from 1 May 2016 to 18 August 2016

District Council	Name	Covenant name	Area (ha)	Main open space type
Auckland	Fisher	O	9.39	Coastal modified secondary forest and archaeological feature (pa site)
Kaipara Kaipara	Landcorp-Omamari Wetland Landcorp-Maitahi Wetland	Omamari Wetland Maitahi Wetland	40.09 36.58	Raupo-flax wetland with cabbage tree-kanuka-manuka edges Raupo-flax wetland with kanuka-cabbage tree-flax edges
Kaipara	Matheson	Matheson Bush	1.08	Lowland modified secondary forest
Kaipara	White Rock Hills Ltd (Vincent & Lupton)	Kowhai Gully	3.68	Lowland secondary forest and wetland swamp
Auckland	Kauri Hiwi Ltd	Mannering Family Forest	63.70	Lowland primary and modified primary forest
Auckland	Christoffersen	Cl. 1/ 2. I	1.67	Semi-coastal secondary treeland
Auckland Auckland	Clout Cotman	Clout's Bush The Woodhams Cotman Bush	1.86 6.63	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest.  Coastal secondary forest
Kaipara	Ledbury Farm 3	Hugh Javis Forest	2.97	Lowland modified secondary totara, kahikatea, titoki forest
Far North	O'Boyle		6.97	Lowland modified secondary forest
Otorohanga	Te Koraha Farms Limited		208.84	lowland podocarp/hardwood forest
Waitomo	Neal		7.83	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and wetland
Waitomo Waipa	Haywood Griggs & Mulvey	Nga Riu o Te Whanake	20.26 7.10	Lowland modified primary and secondary broadleaved forest  Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and modified secondary flaxland
Otorohanga	Brochendale Farm Ltd	14ga Kid O Te Wilanake	12.82	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
Waipa	BSN Trustees Ltd & White (Steen) – Lot 1		0.99	Lowland secondary forest
Waipa	BSN Trustees Ltd & White (Steen) – Lot 2		2.30	Lowland secondary forest
Waipa	BSN Trustees Ltd & White (Steen) – Lot 3		0.44	Lowland secondary forest
Otorohanga Waitomo	Landcorp-Waiteti Station  Matai Hills Ltd	Waiteti Station	61.98 41.30	Lowland secondary forest  Lowland primary forest and wetland
Waitomo	Matai Hills Ltd		9.35	Lowland primary forest
Waikato	McAlpine	Waimatai Grove	1.84	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
Matamata-Piako	Johnson	Johnson	2.17	Semi-coastal secondary forest.
Gisborne	Richardson	Richardson Covenant	6.96	Lowland primary and secondary forest
Tararua	Stoddart-Arataura Basin	Arataura Basin	22.08	Coastal modified primary treeland, flaxland, shrubland and cliffs
Hastings Central Hawke's Bay	MacFarlane Potter	Waiterenui	2.30 3.42	Cabbage tree treeland Semi-coastal modified secondary shrubland
Stratford	The Hollows Ltd		0.72	Lowland modified primary reedland wetland
South Taranaki	Prankerd	Tipler's Bush and Maata Gully	6.50	Lowland secondary forest
New Plymouth	Marshall	Marshall Bush	4.05	Lowland modified primary forest
New Plymouth	Tatham	Scrub Acres Tatham\Wilson Covenant	22.99	Lowland primary forest
New Plymouth	Ekdahl & Smith	Korito Heights	8.48	Submontane, modified primary, kamahi, rata and rimu forest
New Plymouth South Taranaki	Ingram Willy	Lucky's Lot Willy's Wetland	27.47 1.89	Semi-coastal, modified primary, rimu, miro and puketea forest  Lowland modified primary rushland
Manawatu	Hare	vviily s vveudilu	41.57	Lowland secondary forest and shrubland
Tararua	Day		3.35	Lowland modified primary forest and wetland
Tararua	Day		1.35	Lowland modified secondary sedgeland and riparian margins
Tararua	J&G Bolton Ltd	Manuka	8.69	Lowland modified primary forest and exotic grassland
Tararua	Jones	Pokai Parera Wetlands	11.67	(regenerating manuka scrub)  Lowland artificially created forest (exotic arboretum) and open water
Tararua	Jones	Pokai Parera wetland	9.44	Lowland artificially created forest (exotic arboretum) and open water
Manawatu	Pilone	Gordon and Anne Pilone	6.37	Artificially created wetland and lowland modified secondary riparian sedgeland
10/22222	Carith O Badasalı	Charitable Trust Titoki Gullv	2.00	Lowland modified primary tawa titoki podocarp forest
Wanganui Tararua	Smith & Badcock Poulton	Poulton's Bush	2.90 4.83	Lowland modified primary tawa titoki podocarp forest  Lowland primary and secondary kowhai-totara/manuka treeland in deep gully
Tararua	Bradley	Waiaruhe Wetland	3.02	Lowland modified secondary rushland, artificially created flaxland
				and open water
Hutt City	Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Ltd (Winstone Quarry)		12.48	Lowland modified secondary forest
Porirua	Smith [QCCC]	Fredsmithsson Covenant	5.05	Semi-coastal primary forest remnant
Marlborough	Cowan	Paparua Wetland Covenant	3.06	Lowland secondary rushland, treeland and open water
Marlborough	Cape Campbell Farm Limited (Peter)	Cape Campbell Peninsular Covenant	8.10	Coastal modified secondary grassland, gravelfield, and shrubland
Tasman	Benge	Bencarri 1	4.08	Regenerating lowland forest
Tasman	Benge	Bencarri 2	2.30	Regenerating lowland forest
Tasman Tasman	Benge Benge	Bencarri 3 Bencarri 1	2.63 1.24	Regenerating lowland forest  Regenerating lowland forest
Tasman	Benge	Bencarri 4	1.65	Regenerating lowland forest
Tasman	Benge	Bencarri 6	18.80	Regenerating lowland forest
Westland	Anderson & Hargreaves	Erewhon Creek	5.08	Lowland modified secondary forest
Timaru	Averis  Kentra and Steedley		2.11	Modified lowland primary forest
Waimate Selwyn	Kontze and Stoodley  Jebson	Jebson's Eyrie	1.39 10.51	Lowland modified primary forest  Montane beech forest, scrub and tussockland
Waimate	Craigmore Farming Co Ltd (Elworthy)		16.64	Lowland modified primary forest with wetland
Ashburton	Gray (Westray Farm)	Westray	3.33	Lowland modified primary beech-broadleaf-podocarp forest, scrub, shrubland
Hurunui	NZSF Culverden Kanuka	Lowry Kanuka Covenant	8.33	Submontane modified primary kanuka shrubland
Hurunui	Springlea Ltd (Maxwell)	Springlea Gully	4.96	Lowland secondary forest
Hurunui	Turnbull (Mount Terako) [QCCC]	Mount Terako Covenant	391.75	Montane beech forest, subalpine scrub, shrubland and rockfields, upestral and alpine herbfields, and screes
Waitaki	Searle		2.29	Lowland modified primary forest and treeland
Clutha	Cairn Flat Farm Ltd (O'Sullivan)		25.77	Lowland modified secondary tussockland and shrubland
Southland	Rankleburn Enterprises Ltd (The Trig) (Ritchie)		285.18	Lowland modified primary forest
Southland	Brown and Hopcroft	Atanga Coversat	5.07	Coastal modified secondary forest
Southland Southland	Groundwater-Atanga Covenant  Lapthorne	Atanga Covenant Tussock View Three M's	47.05 2.88	Montane modified shrubland, tussockland, rushland and stream system  Lowland modified primary red tussockland and wetland with creek
Southland	K M S Farms Ltd (Wells)	. 235000 VICTO THICK IVI J	2.80	Coastal modified secondary forest
Southland	Landcorp-Tapsells Wetland-Eweburn Stn	Tapsells Wetland	13.87	A modified primary wetland and shrubland
Southland	Landcorp- Kennedy's Wetland,	Kennedy's Wetland	3.74	Lowland modified primary tussockland and peatfield
C. aldelen d	Centre Hill Station  Landcorp-One Tree Extension	One Tree Extension	14.92	Lowland modified primary tuscockland and ruchland and modified
	Langcorp-one ifee extension	One Tree Extension	14.92	Lowland modified primary tussockland and rushland and modified
Southland Southland		Annie's Bush Centrehill Station	3.13	secondary grassland  Lowland modified primary forest and shrubland
Southland Southland	Landcorp-Annie's Bush, Centre Hill Station  Landcorp-Safari Wetland, Eweburn	Annie's Bush Centrehill Station Landcorp Safari Wetland,- Eweburn Station	3.13 14.88	secondary grassland  Lowland modified primary forest and shrubland  Lowland modified primary wetland and shrubland, and modified

# SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TRUST



Open Space magazine is a celebration of the generosity, passion, hard work, and significant financial investment of thousands of National Trust covenantors who are protecting native habitats, threatened environments, and endangered species on their land. They are protecting the things we identify as quintessentially 'New Zealand'. As guardians of our heritage and our rural environments, their actions ultimately benefit the whole community.

We celebrate a continuing growth in the number of special places protected by covenantors. Currently more than 4600 registered and approved covenants are protecting around 180,000ha of valuable environments and threatened species habitat. That is an area equivalent in size to Rakiura/Stewart Island.

It costs the National Trust, on average, \$25,000 to establish a covenant (that excludes the significant contribution made by the landowner). Costs for the National Trust include survey work, fencing contributions, field work, administration, and legal processing fees. There is also the ongoing cost of monitoring covenants once they are operative.

We can afford to establish around 110 covenants a year but there are at least another 50 landowners wanting to covenant land every year.

The Government supports the protection of biodiversity on private land and provides funds to help meet some of the costs of covenanting. However, this funding source is limited and it is clear that we will have to generate more of our own income if

we want to continue growing the network of covenants in New Zealand. We do this already by seeking grants from a range of sources such as the Lotteries Grants Board and the Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Partnership Fund. We have also started to explore commercial partnership opportunities to support our work. Our recent agreement with fencing producers, Steel & Tube, is one such partnership that will help us significantly reduce fencing costs.

At the heart of the National Trust's success is its partnership with its members and supporters, from whom we have already benefitted from many generous donations and bequests.

We would like to give every landowner with significant natural, cultural, or regenerating areas on their property the opportunity to protect those features with covenants.

We don't want to be in the position of having to turn down quality proposals because of funding constraints.

We want to be able to help covenantors who are struggling to manage their covenants.

For every \$25,000 we raise we can help another landowner protect a special place on their land with a covenant. We are aiming to raise \$1 million and every dollar will be spent on covenants.

If you would like to support us, information about joining as a member or donating to support our work can be found on our website (www.openspace.org.nz).

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have a residential address in New Zealand. (QEII open space covenantors automatically become members.)	Send next year's subscription to me or to the recipient

#### Paekakariki Escarpment Track

The Paekakariki Escarpment track on the Kapiti Coast near Wellington runs all the way from Paekakariki Overbridge to Pukerua Bay. It was conceived by Nga Uruora, a charitable trust that has a goal of reversing the drastic decline of forest along the Kapiti coast to create a continuous ribbon of bird-safe native forest from Porirua through to Waikanae.

The protection and enjoyment of this special place was made possible through a number of interesting collaborations. First of all, as the land is owned by KiwiRail, a lease by a legal entity over the land was needed so the restoration programme could begin. Nga Uruora wasn't eligible so asked if QEII National Trust was interested in helping out by obtaining the lease. The National Trust happily obliged. Nga Uruora and the National Trust then agreed a management plan for the escarpment. Next, a track was needed so volunteers could access the area for pest and weed control. Discussions followed between Nga Uruora and Te Araroa (The Long Pathway — New Zealand's long-distance tramping route that extends from Cape Reinga



to Bluff), resulting in the development of a public access track that could be used by volunteers and walkers. Private landowners have also played a vital role in this collaboration, generously allowing the public to cross their land to access the track.

The popular walking track can be walked both ways starting either at Paekakariki or Pukerua Bay. Walkers will cross two swing bridges along the way, pass through a couple of small sections of cool bush, and enjoy beautiful views of Pukerua Bay.



#### More information

The northern end of the track starts at Beach Road, Paekakariki. The southern end starts at Pukerua Bay shops. Follow signs — do not cross SH1 to access the track at the Paekakariki end.

Parking: Walkers are asked to park at the Pukeura Bay or Paekakariki railway stations.

Length: 9.44km (around 10km from station to station).

Fitness: A good level of fitness is required.

*Time to walk:* Depending on fitness level, around 3 – 4 hours for the one-way trip.

The track: The track is steep, narrow, and exposed. There are many steps, and both the steps and many sections of track are single file. Keep to the marked track and DO NOT enter the rail corridor (illegal, dangerous, and you risk a \$20,000 fine). No dogs. People with vertigo are warned against doing this walk. Children should be supervised. There are seats and interesting information panels along the way but no amenities.

What to bring: Wear good walking gear and have warm clothing and food and water with you. There is no natural source of water on the track, so it is important you take your own drinking water.





