QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhī Papa

Open Space™

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Snapshot: Taranaki I Celebrating covenantors I Covenantors for kiwi
Climbing weeds I Annual Report excerpts I Lifestyle: Meet the Walls family

Contents OCTOBER 2013

3 News and events
5 Snapshot: Taranaki
10 Celebrating covenantors
16 Managing your covenant
18 Weeds – anti-social climbers
20 Lifestyle – Covenanting a family affair
22 Covenantors for kiwi
25 Kiwi avoidance training for dogs
26 Annual Report excerpts
32 Fragments

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COVER PHOTO
Peat bog, Southland.
Photo Graeme Watson.

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Phone 04 472 6626 **Email** info@openspace.org.nz
Design Becky Bliss **Editor** Anne McLean
Email editor@openspace.org.nz **www.openspace.org.nz**

Regional Representatives

FAR NORTH Greg Blunden
Tel: 09 407 9311
gblunden@openspace.org.nz

WHANGAREI Nan Pullman
Tel/Fax: 09 434 3457
npullman@openspace.org.nz

KAIPARA Nick Matich
Tel: 09 439 8932
nmatich@openspace.org.nz

NORTHWEST AUCKLAND Chris Floyd
Tel: 021 066 2165
cfloyd@openspace.org.nz

SOUTH AUCKLAND – WAIKATO Lynette Benson
Tel: 09 232 2898
lbenson@openspace.org.nz

COROMANDEL – WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY Hamish Kendal
Tel: 07 576 0770
hkendal@openspace.org.nz

WAITOMO Malcolm MacKenzie
Tel: 07 873 7728
mmackenzie@openspace.org.nz

TARANAKI Neil Phillips
Tel: 06 753 6433
nphillips@openspace.org.nz

CENTRAL- MANAWATU John Williamson
Tel: 06 328 6851
jwilliamson@openspace.org.nz

EAST WAIKATO-TAUPO Robbie Bennett
Tel: 07 315 7556
rbennett@openspace.org.nz

EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY Wayne O'Keefe
Tel: 07 315 7556
wokeefe@openspace.org.nz

GISBORNE Meg Gaddum
Tel: 06 862 3418
mgaddum@openspace.org.nz

HAWKE'S BAY Troy Duncan
Tel: 06 844 3838
tduncan@openspace.org.nz

TARARUA Bill Wallace
Tel: 06 376 7796
bwallace@openspace.org.nz

WAIRARAPA Trevor Thompson
Tel: 027 3333 243
tthompson@openspace.org.nz

WELLINGTON Trevor Thompson
Tel: 027 3333 243
tthompson@openspace.org.nz

NELSON-TASMAN-MARLBOROUGH Tom Stein
Tel: 03 574 2978
tstein@openspace.org.nz

WEST COAST Daniel Lowe
Tel: 03 768 7384
dlowe@openspace.org.nz

NORTH CANTERBURY Miles Giller
Tel/Fax: 03 313 5315
mgiller@openspace.org.nz

CHRISTCHURCH Alice Shanks
Tel: 03 337 1256
ashanks@openspace.org.nz

SOUTH CANTERBURY Rob Smith
Tel: 03 689 7735
rsmith@openspace.org.nz

COASTAL OTAGO
Robin Thomas
Tel: 021 477 455
rthomas@openspace.org.nz

CENTRAL OTAGO
Rob Wardle
03 448 9519/0274 320 369
rwardle@openspace.org.nz

WAIAU CATCHMENT (Southland) Mark Sutton
Tel/Fax: 03 249 9373
msutton@openspace.org.nz

SOUTHLAND Graeme Watson
Tel: 03 234 8805
gwatson@openspace.org.nz

From the Chair

We come to the end of a busy year for the Trust. During the (financial) year 108 covenants were registered and a further 112 proposals were approved, growing the network of covenants by some 3,575 hectares. QEII covenantors are now collectively protecting around 125,000 of open space values across New Zealand's productive landscapes. The continuing generosity of covenantors in protecting our precious places is not recognised widely enough outside the rural sector, something the Trust is working on to remedy. More words from me and the Chief Executive on the year's activities and a summary of the Trust's 2013 annual reporting statements can be found on pages 26 – 31. A full copy of the 2013 Annual Report is available on line at www.openspace.org.nz.

James Guild
TRUST CHAIR

Letter to the editor

I have read the news clip in the March 2013 edition of Open Space (indefeasibility of open space covenants). My husband and I have a covenanted property in the Far North. My thoughts on reading this article were: Yes, yes, yes. This is so reassuring to know. I would hate to think that a few years down the track a subsequent owner of this property could have the covenant agreement nullified. That is not what we signed it up for. A 'few years down the track' is not my understanding of perpetuity. According to the article, this is the first time the Trust has been to court on this matter. I presume this means that buyers of covenanted properties are happy to take on the covenant and continue protecting their piece of the environment. I hope there are not other situations where the Trust has 'let a covenant go'. If that is the case, why have the property 'protected'? Anyway, keep up the good work.

Asta Wistrand

Guest Editorial – Professor Bruce Clarkson

The importance of landscape scale approaches

I recently had the pleasure of attending a covenantors' meeting at Turihaua Station, just north of Gisborne. The trip from Hamilton on the Sunair Cessna gave me all the inspiration I needed to talk about the importance of protecting bush on private land with open space covenants. It was a perfect flight, with clear skies and no bumps, the plane rising gracefully to about 2500 m above sea level. We flew slowly enough to recognise many of the places I have visited over the last 40 years of botanising from the coast to the mountaintops. All the East Coast mountain peaks were snow-covered and the interior uplands clothed in dense native forest. I refreshed my memory reciting the names of the mountains from south to north: Maungahaumi, Arowhana, Maungawaru, Hikurangi, Whanokao, Raukumara, and Pukeamaru, all glistening in the sun. But the contrast with the lowlands was striking and concerning. How little of our lowland and coastal forest remains intact. The closer to Gisborne, the more fragmented and smaller the forest patches were. Nearly all of the land on easy terrain has been cleared of its indigenous cover to develop the productive agricultural systems so vital to our economic well-being. What remains is reduced to small, often isolated patches, important out of proportion to their size and harbouring many of our most threatened flora and fauna. This is hardly surprising considering these were the richest and most diverse of our indigenous forest ecosystems.

But how will we ensure these patches survive in the face of the immediate threats of pest animals and plants, and how will they be resilient enough to cope with emerging threats such as climate change? Covenanting is, of course, the first step, followed by fencing and pest control. But for long term survival we will need to more systematically build their resilience by buffering and corridor development, including riparian planting, reconnecting patches and weaving them together to form an interconnected network. This will enable reinstatement of key processes (regeneration, colonisation, and establishment) and the ecological interdependencies essential for healthy functioning ecosystems. This landscape scale approach, in combination with the nurturing provided by individual landowners, will be the only way critical restoration thresholds ensuring long term viability can be achieved. Landowners and government agencies will need to work alongside each other, often with volunteer support, to achieve a shared vision of landscape scale stewardship. Although there is an economic cost for restoration, restored natural assets will subsidise production values through the ecosystem services they provide and be more sustainable in the long term.

Gatherings like those at Turihaua will increasingly echo the past farming cooperative approach, for example to dairy company establishment and seasonal tasks like hay and silage making. Establishing regional conservation cooperatives will give economies of scale for purchasing and sharing of equipment and labour. The QEII Trust will evolve to play a critical coordinating and monitoring role for this landscape level approach to protecting and enhancing our indigenous biodiversity heritage. Future aerial observers will wonder what triggered this change in approach. They will need to look no further than the landowners' sense of place, the deep affection and attachment to their local and regional landscape and their practical understanding of what is needed to get the job done.

Professor Bruce Clarkson is Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Waikato University, and heads the Environmental Research Institute within the faculty. He is recognised as one of New Zealand's foremost authorities on ecological restoration. In 2005, together with independent consultant Dr Wren Green he carried out a review of progress in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. He was awarded the Loder Cup in 2006 and is a member of the international expert panel developing the City Biodiversity Index to measure countries' progress in relations to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to which New Zealand is a signatory.

Covenantors' event at Turihaua Station

Hamish and Angela Williams hosted a mid-winter covenantors' event at their property, Turihaua Station, in Gisborne. The 2,000 ha station has been in the family since 1897 and is one of Gisborne's oldest farmed properties and the oldest established stud farm in New Zealand.

Their 15 ha covenant protects a rare remnant block of coastal forest. It is important for biodiversity protection in Waiapu Ecological District given that only around 377 ha of primary, secondary or scrub and forest remains in the district. Covenantors listened to Professor Bruce Clarkson speaking on forest ecology before walking up to the covenant where discussions continued on pest and weed control challenges and solutions. (Watch Prof. Clarkson's talk on our Facebook page).

The Williams family is a long time benefactor to the community, conservation and the QEII National Trust. The late Bill Williams bought Gisborne's Eastwoodhill in 1965, establishing the Eastwoodhill Trust that would manage this internationally recognised arboretum, now protected with a QEII covenant. Pouawa Sandhills, just north of Gisborne, was gifted to the Trust for public use and enjoyment from the estate of Janet Mary Williams who died in the Mount Erebus aircraft disaster. The family has also generously donated funds to help with the development of the ecological education facility at Aroha Island, another Trust property.

QEII's Dr Brian Molloy scholarship recipient selected

Dr Brian Molloy, Marine Aubert and Prof. Dave Kelly.

Canterbury based Marine Aubert is the inaugural recipient of the QEII National Trust Dr Brian Molloy doctoral scholarship. The scholarship selection panel comprised the Trust's CEO Mike Jebson, Dame Anne Salmond, Professor Bruce Clarkson, Trust Director Megan Balks and Dr Brian Molloy. Marine will be studying the interactions between plants and birds, and evaluate plant regeneration success in isolated forest patches, which may be at risk because of the need for mutualisms with birds for pollination and seed dispersal.

"Marine's research will add to New Zealand's scholarship on forest ecology and will be able to assist with the development of conservation management strategies once results have been published," Dr Brian Molloy said.

The QEII National Trust Dr Brian Molloy Scholarship provides for an allowance of $30,000 per annum, to be applied to living expenses, tuition fees and associated student services levies, and a research and travel allowance of $20,000 per annum. Marine will complete her study through the University of Canterbury in Christchurch under the supervision of Professor Dave Kelly.

Change of ownership

We know there can be a lot to remember when selling your property, and inevitably some things fall by the wayside. Change of ownership of your covenant is potentially one of those overlooked tasks. However, notifying QEII with a quick call to your regional representative or a letter from your lawyer is all you need to do to alert the Trust so we can get alongside the next landowner and advise them of their responsibilities. You can also notify the Trust of a change of ownership by using the online form on our website (www.openspace.org.nz).

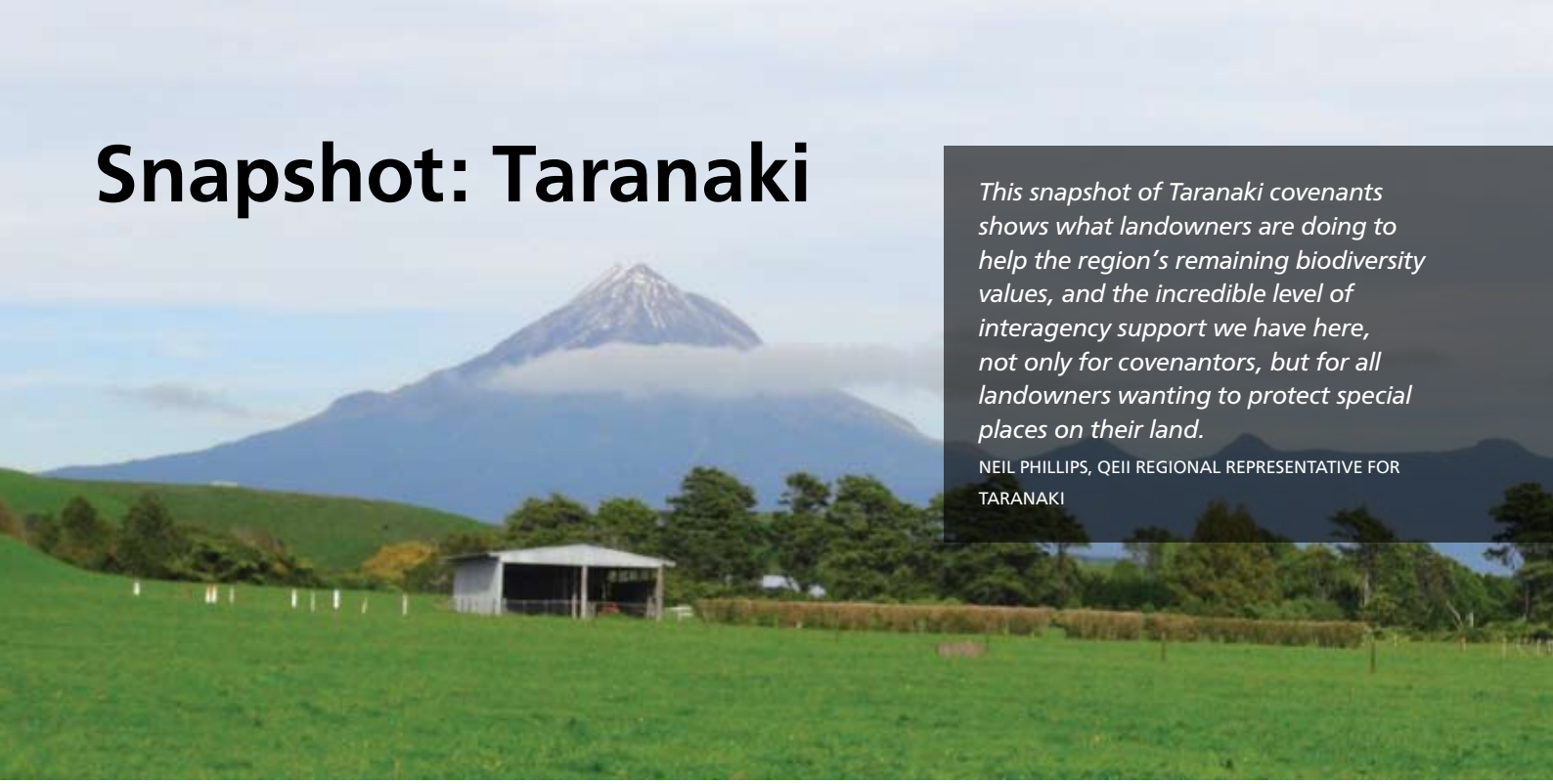
Although we have systems in place for identifying changes of ownership, it is often difficult to track down the details of the right person to contact. In some cases it can be months before we are able to contact the new owner. This is best avoided; if a new owner does not know about the covenant they could inadvertently damage or destroy the area before QEII has been able to contact them. By letting us know before you go, you are helping us provide ongoing protection of the covenant agreement and allowing time to alert the new owner to their responsibility for its continued care and protection.

No matter what stage your covenant is at when you decide to sell – whether you have just started fencing, or whether the covenant has been registered for years – it is always a good idea to contact QEII about the sale as soon as you can so the handover to a new owner goes as smoothly as possible.

Heather Hay – QEII Legal Team

PHOTO: PHIL ROBINSON

Snapshot: Taranaki



This snapshot of Taranaki covenants shows what landowners are doing to help the region's remaining biodiversity values, and the incredible level of interagency support we have here, not only for covenantors, but for all landowners wanting to protect special places on their land.

NEIL PHILLIPS, QEII REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TARANAKI

Taranaki is an exceptionally fertile region, thanks to generous rainfall, mild temperatures, and rich volcanic soils. As early as the 1840s the region was called "the garden of New Zealand". Ideal conditions for horticultural crops and farming mean that much of the Taranaki landscape has been highly modified for production. Today less than 10 per cent of the original indigenous vegetation remains on the ring plain and coastal areas towards South Taranaki.

Around 170 native plant and animal species are identified as threatened or at risk in Taranaki. Kokako, brown kiwi, whio, kaka and the northern New Zealand dotterel are on the list, as are regionally distinctive species like the Taranaki giant snail (*Powelliphanta Egmont*) and the Egmont red tussock. Even species considered common like the wood pigeon/kereru are under threat.

"I can't emphasise enough the importance of protecting Taranaki's remnant natural areas, regardless of size. There are lots of threatened species living in patches of habitat on private land and every single effort contributes towards the larger picture of protecting Taranaki's biodiversity," says QEII regional representative, Neil Phillips.

Taranaki has 270 registered and 70 approved covenants collectively protecting around 8,000 ha* of open space values on private land.

*Estimated area as not all approved covenants have had final surveys done.

Location of stories

Neil Phillips
QEII Regional Representative for Taranaki

Environmental award winner 2013 – Category: Community

Neil has spent the last 14 years working with landowners in his QEII Rep role, the last 6 practically full time for the Trust. He shifted to New Plymouth 7 years ago after selling the dairy farm he and Denise owned near Stratford. They now run a few deer, sheep, and cattle on a smaller block as well as owning a wholesale native seedling business. Neil originally shifted to Taranaki 30 years ago to work in Egmont National Park as a ranger after attending Lincoln University. He knows Taranaki well and is keen on helping landowners with anything relating to covenanting land on their properties. He regularly works in conjunction with local councils who may also be able to help landowners out financially at the same time.

Neil's contacts: mobile 027 2680664 – phone (06)753 6433 email: nphillips@openspace.org.nz.

Pests and weeds tackled in Taranaki

The Whiteheads and Baumanns welcomed covenantors to their properties in May this year.

Neil and Jackie Whitehead own a 128 ha dairy farm at Tikorangi. They feel fortunate to have several blocks of prime native bush scattered across their property in this dairy-intensive area, and are dedicated to protecting them.

Their enthusiasm for conservation was triggered 5 years ago when they spotted two kiwi browsing in a paddock at the edge of one of their forest blocks. The last time kiwi had been spotted in the area was about 20 years ago so this was an exciting spectacle for Neil and Jackie, who immediately set about putting pest control measures in place.

To help manage costs they invited family, friends and local businesses to sponsor traps in each bush area.

"We got such a great response and have caught over 1,000 pest animals since we started – possums, rats, mustelids – you name it. We are particularly surprised at the number of cats we get," they said.

Each sponsored trap has been issued with a number, and sponsors can log into the Whiteheads' website (www.kererukeep.org.nz) to check their trap's catch rates.

"We couldn't have done this without our sponsors. Everyone loves knowing how much their trap is catching, and always want to do the rounds when they come to visit," Jackie said.

The Whiteheads have covenanted five of their bush blocks and have plans to protect more. Each block has distinct characteristics. An undrained site contains kahikatea and rimu, a more sheltered basin has king fern/para, while in another area puriri and rata predominate.

Winners of 2011 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Award for Biodiversity and Native Bush Enhancement.

Steve Ellis, Environment Services Manager at Taranaki Regional Council, demonstrates pest control options to covenantors.

Neil Whitehead beside a sponsored trap.

Swamp forests, which were once widespread in Taranaki, are now a rarity. Keren and John Baumann are protecting two blocks of this threatened environment on their property. The vegetation types of these low-lying wet areas include rushland grasses and kahikatea, tawa, mahoe and swamp maire. The forests had been logged at some time in the past but have recovered well. Weeds and a number of exotic pines have been removed with the help of the Taranaki District Council, with follow-up action by the Taranaki Tree Trust, which supplied hundreds of native plants to revegetate open areas and fence-line margins around the covenants.

PLACE TO VISIT

Otunahe Scenic Reserve and kiwi haven

Karen and Bob Schumacher

Otunahe Scenic Reserve is a 70 ha QEII National Trust covenanted reserve, which lies on the farm property of Bob and Karen Schumacher. The area is home to many native bird species such as fernbird, bellbird, tui, kereru, North Island robin, New Zealand falcon, whitehead and kiwi.

Both the farm and the reserve lie within the much larger Purangi Kiwi Project Area, a predator-controlled area cared for by the East Taranaki Environment Trust (ETET). ETET was formed by a group of landowners dedicated to improving kiwi habitat by managing pests in east Taranaki. Kiwi numbers have grown to over 500 pairs thanks to the Trust's work controlling predators.

You can visit the reserve on your own or book a guided walk. On the guided walks you can find out what some of the birds are up to by taking part in a telemetry monitoring exercise, enjoy morning or afternoon tea together, and even hear kiwi calling if your walk is booked for the evening. To find out more about visiting this special place, contact the Schumachers on 06 756 8064 or visit www.etet.org.nz.

Site of significance protected at Lake Kaikura

Only one per cent of former wetland areas remain on Taranaki farmland, making the Dwyer, Stevenson/Le Prou, Schrider covenant, also known as Lake Kaikura, a valuable biodiversity asset. Lake Kaikura is one of a series of lakes in the area and the fourth to be protected with an open space covenant. Crossing three dairy farms, the covenant protects 9.5 ha of wetland and swamp forest that shelters a range of plant species including the small tree wharangi (*Melicope ternata*) which, while not threatened nationally, is recorded as uncommon and probably much depleted in the district. The covenant is also home to important bird species like the spotless crake (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*), a regionally uncommon species, and the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris poiciloptilus*), a nationally vulnerable species.

Neil Schrider takes a break from fencing.

The Taranaki Regional Council has played a vital role in supporting the protection of this 'site of significance' with a generous contribution towards the cost of a two-year planting and maintenance project around the covenant margins. So too has the South Taranaki District Council with funds to support the landowners and QEII with the cost of fencing around the long windy lake and catchment areas feeding into it.

High scientific ranking for Pipiriki covenant

The Pipiriki covenant has one of the highest scientific rankings possible for a Taranaki forest block. The block is sited on flat ground with fertile ash soils over lahar deposits. It is located in an area almost completely depleted of native vegetation and is a significant and rare example of the semi-coastal wetland forest that was once found on the region's poorly drained lahar mounds. The Maori Trustee owners – supported by Taranaki regional and district councils, QEII National Trust, Te Puni Kokiri, and volunteers – are working on restoring areas that have been damaged by browsing stock. The restoration efforts will be greatly aided by a two-year Taranaki Regional Council-funded revegetation programme that includes labour and follow-up maintenance.

Fact file: Melicope ternata

Melicope ternata (common name wharangi) is a coastal shrub in the Rutaceae family. It has aromatic lime green glossy trifoliate leaves. Two species of Melicope are the only members of the citrus family native to New Zealand. As with other members of this family, both wharangi (*Melicope ternata*) and poataniwha (*Melicope simplex*) emit a pleasant scent when their leaves are crushed. The two species of Melicope are quite different in appearance, but often hybridise to produce variants knows as *Melicope x mantellii*.

Wharangi produces small yellowish-green scented flowers that develop in early spring, followed by brown capsules each with four small pods, each containing one black shiny seed that birds like to eat. The plant produces a gum that, when chewed, is claimed to remedy bad breath. Its wood was once used for inlaying work in cabinet-making and its gum to perfume hair oils and pomades.

Retirement plans on hold

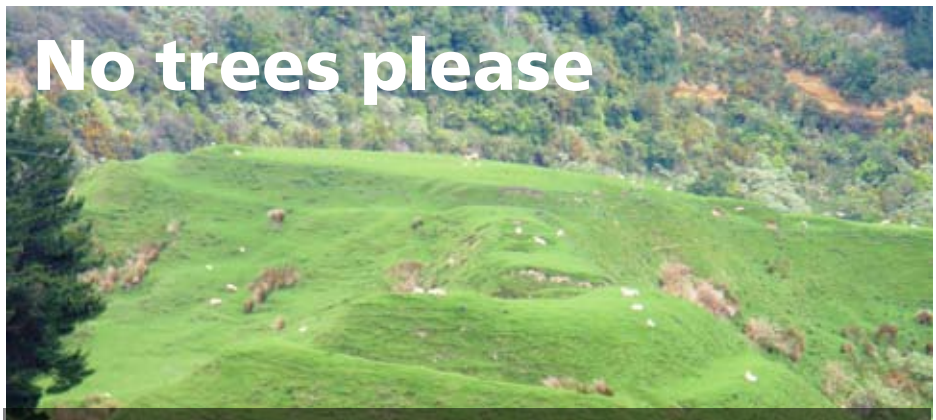
David and Marie Russell's retirement option was a 'bach in the bush' – but they haven't stopped to put their feet up. Since buying a 250 ha block at Toro Road, Purangi, they have poured time and money into protecting and enhancing its native plants and wildlife. Their property is rich in indigenous biodiversity, including rare birds such as the spotless crake and North Island fernbird. It is classified as a Key Native Ecosystem and contains a regionally significant wetland. The Russells have worked closely with the Taranaki Regional Council to implement a biodiversity plan prepared for them in 2010. They have carried out fencing and predator control, and planted more than 6,000 native plants. Most of their property is now protected with a QEII covenant. The Russells were recipients of a Taranaki Regional Council sustainable land management award in 2013.

Taranaki Tree Trust

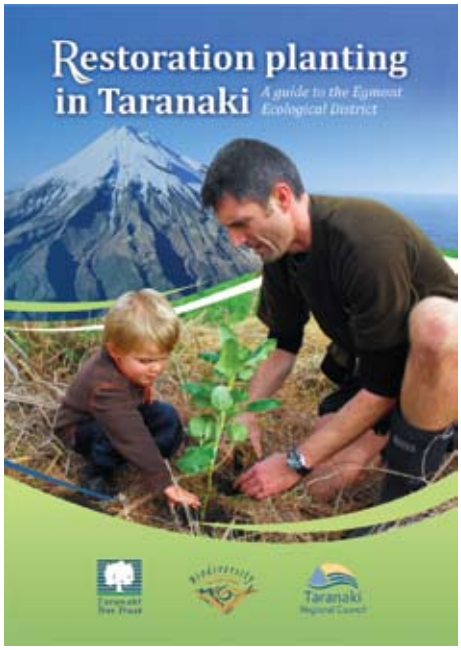
Taranaki Tree Trust
www.taranakitreetrust.org.nz

The Taranaki Tree Trust is a charitable trust dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the region's natural ecosystems and landscapes. The Trust allocates grants to help landowners and community groups with the restoration of wetlands, bush remnants, coastal ecosystems, and habitats of threatened species. It also helps with amenity planting to enhance community areas such as schools, marae and public reserves. Last year the Trust supported the planting of over 18,700 native plants. Twenty-two of the 31 projects it supported were on private land, 30% of which were in open space covenants. "We support as many restoration projects as we can, and like supporting covenant projects because we know the ecosystem will be protected in perpetuity," Trust Co-ordinator Leigh Honnor said. The Trust wants to help you increase the diversity of plants within your covenant, and with restoration plantings inside fence lines and where weeds have been controlled. It also has some really helpful publications such as *Restoration Planting in Taranaki – A guide to Egmont Ecological District* which is hot off the press. Check out the Trust at www.taranakitreetrust.org.nz or contact Leigh Honnor on 06 765 7127.

No trees please



Unlike most covenantors Jim and Marjorie Newlove wanted to discourage forest regeneration in their covenant. Their covenant agreement document stipulates no trees or heavy grazing. This is because it protects the remains of a large pa site and the Newloves wanted to safeguard the history traced in the mounds and clearly-defined pits and trenches. The property has recently changed hands. New owners, Andrew and Alison Hurley, are committed to the care and protection of the covenant, which has been formally recognised by the Historic Places Trust and the South Taranaki District Council.



We raise a glass to covenantors recently recognised with awards acknowledging their care of the environment.

QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL

Bud Jones has been awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for his contribution to conservation and music. He and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, own Pokai Parera Farms in the northern Wairarapa, where Bud has created a wetland wildlife habitat including five large lakes and 21 smaller ponds spread widely over 85 hectares. The property is protected in perpetuity by a QEII open space covenant. Bud has also made a major contribution to music in New Zealand, most notably his 39 years of service with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as Sub-Principal Percussionist.

2013 FORESTRY AWARDS

Te Karaka's Bob Wishart and Meg Gaddum (QEII regional representative for Gisborne) are winners of the North Island Farm Forester of the Year Award. "Our farm was pretty treeless and erosion-prone when we started farming, so we put trees in for land stability first. We got more serious with farm forestry after Cyclone Bola hit and put in 57 ha in pines over a five-year period in case a similar weather event ever happened again," Meg said. Today their farm carries 147 ha of planted forest that they say provides doses of extra income, shelter and shade, and emergency stock food. Meg and Bob also have a 17 ha block of native forest on their farm which they have protected with the Trust.

The South Island, Forester Farm of the Year Award went to Charles and Sandi Wiffen for their work on their sheep and beef farm just north of Parnassus in North Canterbury. They started planting around 20 years ago to beautify the farm and offer shelter and shade for stock. Today they have over 40 ha of plantation trees. They also have pockets of native bush on the farm and have covenanted a 30 ha block with the Trust. They have fenced off from stock a further 100 ha and a wetland area.

SOUTHLAND ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Roger and Alison Thomas are the farming section winners of Environment Southland's 2013 Awards round. They have a QEII open space covenant over 3.5 ha of native bush on their 263 ha sheep and beef property, and another 7 ha covenant of mixed bush, native scrubland and hanging bog planned. Roger admits he has always been a bit green, but even if protecting and enhancing the farmscape is almost an unconscious act, it still gets written into the farm budget.

KIWIBANK 2013 NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR

Dame Anne Salmond is a distinguished scholar, writer and environmentalist. Through her books she tries to bring a greater understanding of the Maori experience and how it shapes us as New Zealanders. She's also a committed environmentalist who is passionate about bringing Kiwis together to build a better future for our country and our children. Dame Anne and Jeremy Salmond and three other trustees set up the Longbush Ecological Trust which aims to foster innovative approaches to ecological restoration at Longbush Ecosanctuary (see story in Open Space issue 82), an area they have protected with an open space covenant.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FOR QEII NATIONAL TRUST

Queen Elizabeth II Trust has been selected as one of three winners in the community category of Taranaki Regional Council's annual environmental awards. The awards recognise outstanding initiatives in Taranaki to protect and enhance the environment. They also aim to encourage environmental stewardship and the sustainable development of natural resources. "Covenanting is a partnership with landowners, and everyone involved – from the field to the team at the Wellington office running all the official covenanting processes – is equally committed to the Trust's work. It's fantastic to get an award that recognises the whole operation," QEII regional representative for Taranaki, Neil Phillips said.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards®
Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

Northland

Ken and Janine Hames – Ewenny Farms

Ken and Janine farm beef cattle on their 256 ha property near Paparoa. Their careful timing of livestock purchases and sales, and matching age and weight to the land's capacity, avoids pugging and ensures sustained production on Eweeny Farms. Eweeny contains 63 ha of native bush in eight blocks, four of which have been fenced with the remainder on a 'to do' list. Around 4.5 ha have been covenanted. A 22 ha block of pines has been planted for a retirement fund. The property also has an established arboretum, providing further aesthetic value to the land.

Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Farm Award, Ballance Agri-nutrients Nutrient Management Award, and the Waterforce Integrated Management Award

Waikato

Hamish McMullin and Selina Rutherford

Hamish and Selina bought their 204 ha property in the hills east of Cambridge with a goal of transforming the run-down unit into a profitable, sustainable sheep and cattle farming business. The judges were impressed by the fact that, while the area of farmed land on the property was decreasing because of the retirement of sensitive areas, production continued to increase. The farm runs back into the Te Tapui Scenic Reserve and contains headwaters for both the Piako and Karapiro catchments. It also contains an old stand of native bush, 20 ha of which has been covenanted with the Trust. Hamish and Selina have planted around 5,000 natives over the past 8 years, and have successfully reduced mustelid, possum and feral cat numbers.

Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Farm Award and Waterforce Integrated Management Award

Waikato

James and Ella, Pamela and the late Richard Bailey

James and Ella have been in charge of the family's 470 ha Tirau sheep and beef property for only 4 years but their connection to the land spans five generations. The property has a commercial ewe flock, a purebred Hereford herd, trading cattle and dairy grazers. The judges commented on the family's environmental planning, which they use as a central tool to prioritise and plan farm projects. In 2009 James and his late father, Richard, placed QEII National Trust covenants on 9.3 ha of land covering gullies with native bush remains. These have been left to regenerate. "Sustainability, simplicity and profitability are the three things I consider when making farming decisions," James says. "Ultimately my vision for the farm is to have a property that has minimal impact on the environment while producing high quality food and fibre."

Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award and PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award

Waikato

Graham and Rosemary Davison

Graham and Rosemary Davison have a clear and long-standing commitment to combine environmental stewardship with successful farming on Pinewoods, their 103 ha dairy farm south east of Otorohanga. The judges noted that extra care has been taken to avoid soil structure damage and riverbank erosion. The judges were also impressed with the Graham and Rosemary's work over many years to protect existing rare stands of kahikatea, their plantings to encourage native bird life, and their pest control work. A covenant has been placed over 7 ha of lowland bush on the property. The judges said, "Pinewoods is one of the most picturesque properties in the district. A massive amount of effort has gone into enhancing the existing native stands. They are a sight to behold and well occupied by the native bird life." Rosemary oversees possum and rat control on the farm. She also runs a 14 km trap line through bush on a family dry stock property further east in the Upper Waipa headwaters. "We really like that we have got all sorts of native birds you don't normally expect to see on dairy farms," she says.

Waikato River Authority Catchment Improvement Award

Horizons

Curwen and Marija Hare

The Hares were commended for successfully turning around the fortunes of their farm business to maximise production without having a detrimental effect on the environment. They adopted a Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Initiative plan (SLUI) to assist them with the transformation. When Curwen and Marija bought the farm in 1982 there were only 13 paddocks. Now there are 43 on the beef, dairy grazing and sheep farm. Steep areas account for about 25 per cent of the farm area. Using SLUI planning information, they completed 7 km of fencing around these gorges last summer and the areas are now in the process of being covenanted.

Curwen and Marija Hare are the Supreme Award winners for the Horizons region. Also winners of the Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award and the Waterforce Integrated Management Award

Horizons

Richard and Rachel Steele

The Steeles purchased Retaruke Station, an hour south of Taumarunui, in 1993. In 2005 they purchased the 611 ha property next door. The Steeles run several ventures from their farm including eco- and adventure tourism, roading contracting and manuka honey partnerships. Around 150 ha is in a forestry partnership where redwoods are planted in headwaters to mitigate earthflow movement. They have retired 80 ha of regenerating native bush and have covenanted 119 ha of mature native bush. This area contains remnants of massive rimu, matai and kahikatea that had been logged illegally prior to their ownership. Some of the remaining kahikatea are believed to be around 890 years old. The Steeles received the Massey University Discovery Award and the Meridian Energy Excellence Award for their energy efficient practices, including the construction of an off-the-energy-grid home on their property.

"Conservation and environmental considerations come first, hands down. In 100 years you won't be known for being great sheep farmers, but what you did for conservation counts forever."

Massey University Discovery Award and the Meridian Energy Excellence Award

East Coast

Terry and Judy Walters (managers), Smedley Station

At Smedley, a 5,054 ha central Hawke's Bay sheep, beef, deer and training property, Terry Walter's aim is to combine respect and old-fashioned values with modern farming practices. The judges commended the Smedley operation as "a working farm not only practicing profitable and sustainable management, but also teaching this ethos to tomorrow's agricultural leaders." Each year an intake of 22 carefully chosen cadets live, learn and work on Smedley for 2 years. The station welcomes a wide range of visitors and interest groups including horse trekkers, 4WD groups, schools, and Forest and Bird members. Hundreds of hectares of retired indigenous bush and well-maintained pastures dotted with totara have been retained for shade and shelter and help make Smedley an extremely attractive property. Since taking over in 2002 Terry has overseen the fencing, retirement and transfer of 150 ha "so far" into QEII open space covenants. Doing this incrementally is a conscious decision so each new intake of cadets can learn about and take ownership of a bush protection project. "They can't help but leave here knowing that the QEII process exists, and why," Terry said.

Supreme Award Winners for East Coast. Also winners of the Ballance Agri-nutrients, Nutrient Management Award, Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award, Hill Laboratories Harvest Award and Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

East Coast

William and Nancie Barclay

William and Nancie Barclay were thrilled when they drew Tahora, their high hill country block northwest of Gisborne, in a Lands and Survey ballot in 1982. It ended a six-year quest for a farm during which William had travelled throughout New Zealand to participate in literally hundreds of ballots. The judges noted the Barclay's shared passion for trees. As Nancie says, "We have planted trees every year, even when times were really tough." The Barclays have organised a public walkway through the property that allows others to experience the farm's beauty. Adding to the farm's aesthetics is their 5.7 ha covenant protecting a rare primary beech forest remnant.

PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award

Wellington

Ross and Louise Harrington

A 863 ha flat to medium hill country property north-east of Masterton has progressed appreciably in the 10 years since Ross and Louise Harrington came to manage it. The judges commended Ross and Louise on the strong performing unit and the level of ownership they demonstrate for the operation. The judges also recognised the high level of biodiversity protection the Harringtons have achieved over a relatively short period. Permanently flowing waterways are fenced off and riparian areas are being planted out. Some 123 ha of the sheep and cattle property have been retired including three bush blocks totalling 16 ha, which have been covenanted with the Trust.

Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award

Canterbury

Roy Veronese and Annabel Tripp

At Snowdon Station, a 11,000 su sheep, Perendale stud and cattle operation in the Rakaia Gorge, judges found an enduring commitment to the land, and farming practices that ensure this commitment will continue. Strategic native tussock and matagouri blocks within cultivated areas give the property balance and provide good protection and cover for lamb survival. An ongoing forestry programme also protects soils and stock. Annabel's parents, Tony and Nicky Tripp, placed a QEII covenant on 24 ha associated with the Ford stream and wetland, acknowledging the strategic importance of Snowdon for the headwaters of the Selwyn River. Roy and Annabel added a further 24.2 ha and have identified four more areas for QEII protection, including a unique manuka wetland.

Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award and Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

Otago

Tom and Jan Pinckney

Northburn Station is located in the heart of Central Otago, overlooking Lake Dunstan just north of Cromwell. There Tom and Jan Pinckney run a traditional high country merino operation with some significant added extras. They have also established a biodynamic vineyard and grow organic fruit and vegetables, run a function venue, and a wine and farmgate shop known as 'The Shed'. The judges commended Tom and Jan's efforts to protect the property's ecological and historic values. Low intensity management is helping preserve the values of an upland tussock block while a 3 ha covenant protects historic grassland research plots, known as the Cockayne Plots. In the early 1920s, Dr Leonard Cockayne, one of New Zealand's foremost plant research scientists, set up a number of fenced experimental plots on Northburn Station. The original fences around the plots remain to this day although one or two were opened in the 1930s. As part of the QEII covenanting process, each plot was surveyed and then enclosed with a new rabbit-proof fence.

Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

Southland

South Coast Dairy Ltd/Chris and Lynsey Stratford (equity managers)

The South Coast Dairy Ltd property sits between Curio Bay and Haldane Estuary. Following consent to convert to dairy, the company's business partners were motivated to make their 202 ha property a successful, sustainable operation. The judges commended South Coast Dairy's conscientious enhancement of the farm's natural features, and water-saving devices and practices. The property has 29 ha of primary podocarp bush, which the partners have covenanted. A further 20 ha of riparian margins, gullies and wetlands have been fenced off five to 30 metres from the water's edge. Riparian plantings have been completed to a very high standard after consultation with Environment Southland, DOC, and the Landcare Trust.

"We are really pleased the water is showing significant improvement since we have been here, and there is a big reduction in the presence of coliform," say equity managers, Chris and Lynsey Stratford.

Waterforce Integrated Management Award and Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

2013 Gordon Stephenson trophy winners

On behalf of all entrants and indeed all farmers we wish to express our thanks for your continued support of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. We are extremely delighted and honoured to be awarded the Gordon Stephenson Trophy. Gordon spoke to our group of 'supreme winners' while we were in Hamilton where he gave a hugely inspiring and motivating talk. He truly is a New Zealand legend. We are looking forward to our role as 'agricultural ambassadors' for the coming year and promoting sustainable farming both here and overseas. Once again thank you for your generous support. Roz and Craige MacKenzie

With thanks to Ballance Farm Environment Awards Trust for words and pictures.

A Dry Run

Throughout last summer, most of New Zealand sweltered under record or near-record sunshine, while much of the North Island, Canterbury and Westland got less than half their normal seasonal rainfall. NIWA Principal Scientist Brett Mullin told media that the long dry spell came courtesy of huge, "blocking " high pressure systems: "They sat over the country and steered the rain-bearing weather systems around them."

Normally, he said, blocking highs tend to sit over eastern New Zealand, but high pressure systems this summer had been especially broad, stretching across the country and out over parts of the Tasman Sea.

As a result, on 15 March the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) declared that the entire North Island was experiencing "a medium-scale adverse event due to drought". Earlier that week, authorities had declared a fire ban over practically the entire North Island – the first such sweeping measure in New Zealand's history. On 22 March, MPI extended the drought declaration to the Buller and Grey districts.

NIWA has confirmed that for parts of the southern North Island, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay and the west of the South Island, the 2012-2013 drought was the worst in 40 years, even more severe than the 2007-2008 Waikato drought. In Hawke's Bay, it was second only to the devastating drought of 1997-1998. For Marlborough and North Canterbury, the drought was less severe than the droughts of 1997-1998 and 2000-2001. However, this year's was the most pervasive. Only the dry of 1972-1973 (Wairarapa, Tasman, Otago and Southland) came close to matching its sweeping geographical reach.

In some locations, the Potential Evapotranspiration Deficit (PED) index – a measure of combined soil moisture loss to transpiration by plants and evaporation – confirms the driest conditions in 70 or so years. A little rain in mid-March did nothing to alleviate soil moisture deficits, which were up to 50mm below the normal late-March average.

As autumn unfolded, those high pressure systems were not expected to monopolise the skies over New Zealand, and indeed they did not. But March remained very dry, and the PED index climbed even higher, taking the 2012-2013 drought well clear of the drought of 1972-1973.

New Zealand droughts typically break in autumn, although sometimes this is delayed until early winter. When the rains came in April, rainfall in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu and the upper South Island was well above normal for that time of year. By the end of April, soils had been recharged with water throughout much of the country, but by late May some regions were still dry, particularly Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa.

The 2013 drought cannot be linked categorically to climate change, but NIWA's climate modelling indicates that droughts are likely to become more frequent and more severe in the north and east of the country. For example, a drought in eastern or northern New Zealand with a one-in-20 year return period based on data from 1971 to 2000 may occur twice, or even four times as often by the end of this century.

Article reprinted with permission from NIWA.

Tips to help new plantings survive droughts

Droughts are part of our changeable climate in New Zealand. Plants have a varying level of tolerance to drought, but after long dry periods even the most tolerant may begin to decline in health or perish. Newly planted areas are particularly vulnerable to drought conditions.

- Plant coastal and lowland sites in May or June so plants establish over winter before the summer dry.
- Plant more deeply if the soil is well drained and exposed. This will ensure greater stability and increased access to moisture over longer periods in dry weather.
- Ensure your plant is well watered before you begin.
- Mulching preserves moisture, slows drying, and retards the advance of weeds. Mulch generously around new plantings with bark chips, newspaper, woollen mats, sheep manure, cut grass, or other biodegradable material. The best time to apply mulch is in the spring before the soil has started to dry out.
- If it is exceptionally dry over summer you may need to water your plants, especially in the first year.
- Keep a record of plant mortalities - what species and what areas had the poorest survival, and why? This information will arm you for the next planting season. Perhaps the conditions are unsuitable for a particular species e.g. did the site have too much wind, exposure or drainage? You may want to mention species losses to the nursery you purchased your plants from as it could be the cultivar rather than something you did or didn't do.
- Always select plants that occur naturally in your ecological district. They will, in time, be a seed source so planting endemic plants will help protect the uniqueness of the native flora of your region. Endemic plants are better adapted to local conditions and are more likely to survive and thrive, especially during extreme weather conditions. Planting eco-sourced native plants will also avoid the risk of 'genetic pollution' which leads to species loss and a decrease in biodiversity.

Shocking use for swanny

Tip provided by T J Irvin (Slammerman)

Many farmers have told me they have ringing in their ears and shot tendons in their arms from using the waratah driver.

A cheap and simple solution to this problem is to stuff the driver with wool. I have tried many other materials but wool works the best. I came up with the idea one day after forgetting my ear protection so used a strip of my Swandri to muffle the sound. It broke my heart to rip up my favourite swanny but it worked a treat. I love it when things are that easy.

The "Baaffle", as we call it, is made by tightly rolling up a 5 to 10cm-wide strip of woollen fabric. It can be secured with a piece of old bike tube cut into a rubber band. This also helps with grip inside the driver. The woollen Baaffle is pushed to the top of the driver when it is used, working as a shock and noise absorber at the point of contact. When things start to get noisy again you know it's time for a replacement Baaffle.

More information at www.theslammer.co.nz

Tax reforms encourage conservation plantings

Riparian plantings by farmers can now be deducted as an operational expense rather than being classified as capital expenditure after the passage through Parliament in July of amendments to the Income Tax Act 2007. Conservation Minister Dr Nick Smith says the tax change is important for conservation and water quality as it will encourage farmers to plant trees and shrubs in riparian strips along creeks and rivers, increase habitat and reduce the level of sediment and nutrients entering into natural waterways.

The key change to the Income Tax Act 2007 is that it now explicitly allows deductions for plantings to prevent or mitigate discharges into water courses or water bodies. It also extends the provision from just trees to shrubs and other plantings.

Tradescantia leaf beetle release update

It is still too early for conclusive results but the signs are looking promising two years on from the trandescantia leaf beetle release into a Northland covenant (Open Space article refers, Issue 81, October 2011). The beetle clearly enjoyed the long dry summer of 2013, breeding and spreading noticeably and making some impact on the rampant ground covering weed it feeds off. Next season will tell us more as the beetle becomes more established at the site.

Gnawed leaf edges are a tell-tale sign of beetle browse.

Anti-social climbers

Exotic climbers and vines are some of the most striking and attractive plants in gardens. Many have masses of colourful flowers, or interesting foliage and fruit. They are great for covering unsightly fences or sheds, or for trailing up trellises for privacy or shelter. But these climbing beauties have a dark side when they get out of control. A number of them end up as unruly nightmares for both owners and neighbours, and a major threat to the environment if they escape into natural areas. Weedbuster's Carolyn Lewis explains.

CLIMBING ASPARAGUS – JEFFSMITHPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.NZ

Most of the weedy climbers smothering our bush and forests were originally ornamental garden species. One of the best known is old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), but there are other less 'famous' ones, such as climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and mignonette vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), that have shown their true nature in the last few decades. These weedy climbers are now banned from sale, propagation and distribution, and have recently been joined on the unwanted list by the showy chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*) and the eye-catching cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*). Others, such as jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*) and wonga wonga vine (*Pandorea pandorana*), are also causing concern in some regions of New Zealand.

Climbers and vines are biologically programmed to spread, and to head into the sunlight wherever they grow. Contrary to popular belief, most don't strangle the plants they grow over in their quest to enjoy the sun; they just use these plants as support to get to where they want to go. Because of this they don't need sturdy stems to support them, and most have spindly, flexible stems anchoring them to the ground.

There are exceptions to every rule, of course. Jasmine can ringbark the plants it grows up, and climbing spindleberry will wrap itself so tightly around tree trunks that the trunks can't grow in diameter.

Also contrary to popular belief, climbers and vines don't live off the plants they use for support. Some species, like ivy, produce aerial roots that can capture water and nutrients in the bark of the trees they are growing up to allow them to grow even if their root system is removed from the ground. Luckily this is not the case with most climbers, which will die if their root system has no contact with soil.

These features do not mean that the supporting plants are unaffected. Many plants and trees are damaged or killed from the weight of vines and climbers. This is especially true of the moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*) and the mignonette vine that produce large amounts of heavy propagules. Supporting plants can also die from lack of sunlight caused by the dense foliage of weedy piggybackers like the chocolate vine or Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

If these climbers and vines can't find something to climb up, they will spread along the ground, forming dense mats as effective as any groundcover at keeping out native seedlings and smothering low growing plants.

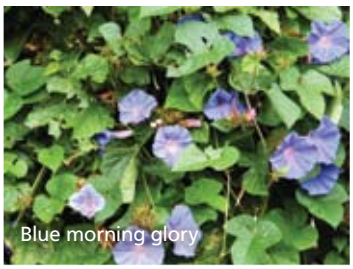
As with any invasive weed, climbers and vines spread in a variety of ways. Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mollissima*), Chilean flame creeper (*Tropaeolum speciosum*) and asparagus weed plants produce seed-bearing fruit that is spread by birds. Others, such as Chilean glory vine (*Eccremocarpus scaber*), cat's claw creeper and old man's beard, have wind-spread seeds. Mignonette vine has nodules along its stems that fall off and can be carried a long way by water.

Some weedy climbers and vines, like blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*) and convolvulus, do not (or very rarely) set seed in New Zealand but will grow from stem fragments. These can only get to bush areas by people moving them there. Even without seeding, these climbers are some of the most commonly found throughout New Zealand, indicating that dumping garden waste is still a major source of weed infestations on bush margins, especially near roads.

Controlling vines and climbers is a challenge, and control options range from physical removal to applying herbicides.

In most cases, cutting stems that have taken root will cause the foliage above ground level to die off. With many vines and climbers, any stems that make contact with the ground will take


Banana passionfruit


Blue morning glory


Blue passionfruit


Bushy asparagus


Cat's claw creeper


Chilean flamecreeper


Chocolate vine


Chilean glory


Climbing asparagus


Climbing dock


Climbing spindleberry


Cup and saucer vine


Ferny asparagus


Japanese honeysuckle


Jasmine


Mignonette


Mile-a-minute


Moth plant


Old man's beard


Smilax

Where to go for help

Check out the weed search at www.weedbusters.org.nz for specific control options for each weed species.

If you are not sure which weeds you have growing in your covenant, you can get help with identification from your local QEII contact, regional council biosecurity officers, or Department of Conservation area office staff.

If you want to try identification online, check out Landcare Research's plain language weed key at http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/identification/plants/weeds-key.

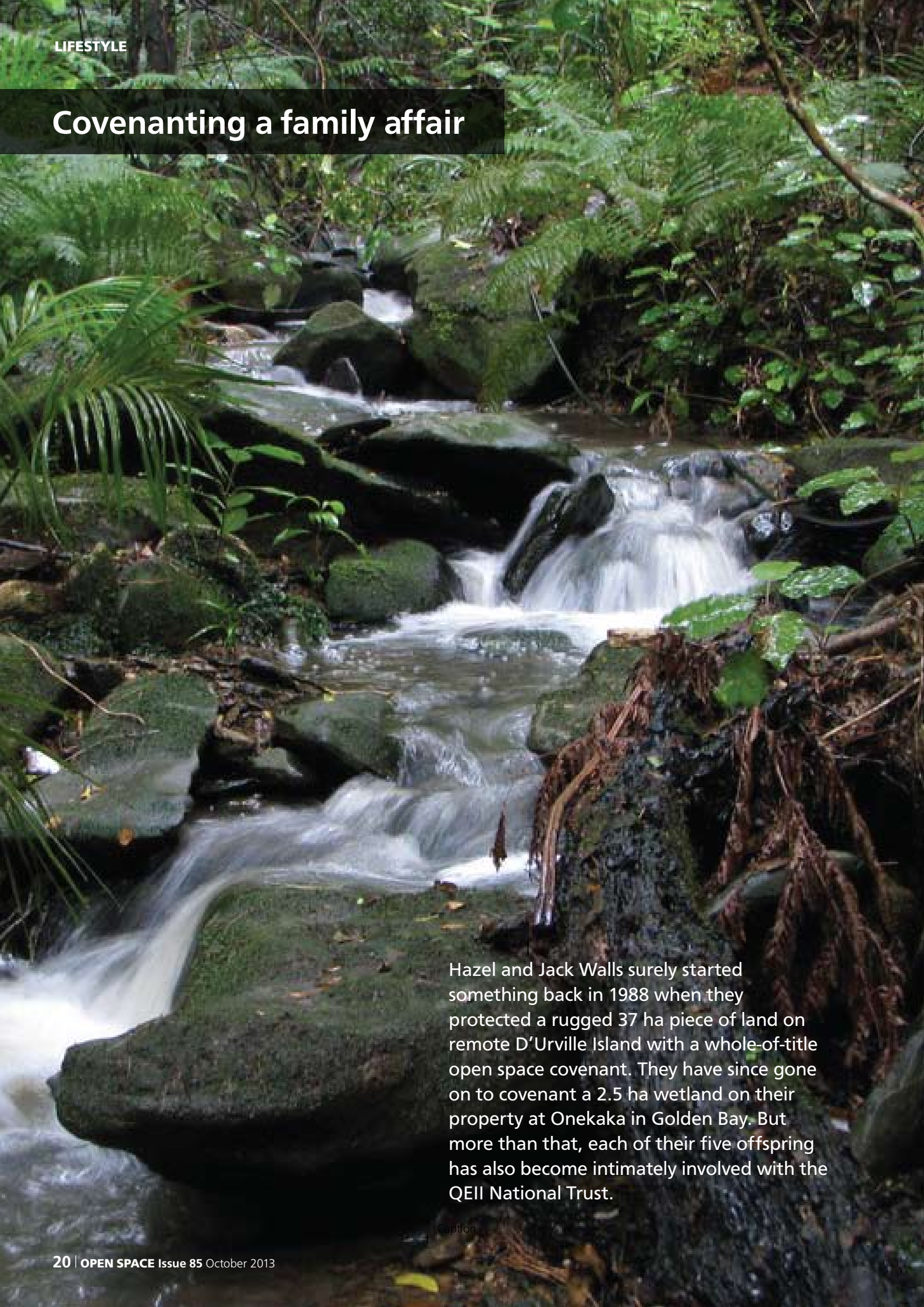
WEEDBUSTERS

www.weedbusters.org.nz

root, so ensure that these stems are cut and that no fragments are left on the ground to regrow. Don't try pulling vines off the supporting vegetation as you will cause more damage to the plants you are trying to save! The pieces of stem that have formed root systems need to be dug up and disposed of off-site or treated with herbicide to prevent them from resprouting.

There are plenty of non-weedy climbers that can be used in place of weedy exotics, and gardeners are encouraged to plant these instead. New Zealand has some truly gorgeous native climbers, including puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*), the orange flowered rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*), and Three King's vine (*Tecomanthe speciosa*). Non-native alternatives that stay where they are planted include yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and Chilean bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*), as well as star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) and firecracker vine (*Manettia luteorubra*).

Covenanting a family affair



Hazel and Jack Walls surely started something back in 1988 when they protected a rugged 37 ha piece of land on remote D'Urville Island with a whole-of-title open space covenant. They have since gone on to covenant a 2.5 ha wetland on their property at Onekaka in Golden Bay. But more than that, each of their five offspring has also become intimately involved with the QEII National Trust.

Caption

Members of the Walls family from left to right: Angela Walls-Renwick, Alastair Wilkinson, Fiona Walls, Geoff Walls, Jack Walls, Hazel Walls, Simon Walls, Kathy Hindmarsh, Kath Prickett. Scenic shot: D'Urville Island.

Words and photos by the Walls family.

Angela Walls-Renwick, the youngest, lives in New Plymouth with her husband Gary. They have an urban open space covenant, a 0.2 ha pocket of mature tawa-kohekohe-puriri-pukatea forest with king ferns by a pretty stream. This might not sound much, but it is contiguous with Huatoki Scenic Reserve, which constitutes a primeval forest corridor from Mt Taranaki to the city. Angela, Gary and their daughters love their bush. They were initially attracted to the property because it had a covenant proposal in progress, which they completed soon after taking possession. They keep typical weeds such as tradescantia and old man's beard firmly in check, run predator traps and have re-introduced podocarps. Kereru, tui, rirorirо, kotare (kingfisher), pipiwharauroa (shining cuckoo) and puriri moths frequent the garden around the house.

Kath Prickett, the eldest, and her husband Nigel live in Auckland and own an 18th share of a 423 ha hill country block near Mangawhai in Northland. With that goes a building site and access to the entire property, which is protected by an open space covenant. The property is clad in remarkably diverse primary and secondary forest and is home to many native birds and Hochstetter's frogs. It also has an impressive pa site on a high bush-clad ridge. The co-owners have been running a network of traps to catch pests for many years, and kiwi have just been released into the block (see article on page 23). Kath and Nigel have also built a cottage modelled on the historic New Zealand Forest Service back-country hut and spend as much time there as possible.

Fiona Walls and her husband Alastair Wilkinson live in Upper Moutere, Nelson. Their lovely undulating property has a 0.75ha pocket of beech forest, a miraculous remnant of the dense forest that once cloaked the Moutere Depression prior to human arrival. Fi and Al have transformed this previously neglected and deteriorating relic into a well-nurtured ecological gem. They have fenced it off, covenanted it with the Trust, removed exotic trees, got rid of huge thickets of blackberry, dealt with the old man's beard, trapped possums, hedgehogs, rats, cats and stoats and shot rabbits. They have also planted a significant amount of native species grown from local seed. As a result, the bush and its surprising inhabitants – which include totara, white maire, scarlet mistletoe, tui, kereru and morepork – are healthy and have an assured future.

Simon Walls lives with his partner Kathy Hindmarsh at Onekaka, Golden Bay, near to sister Hazel and her husband Jack. They own a slice of the same wetland system, and covenanted their portion (2.1 ha) at the same time. In a remarkable collaboration, two other neighbours joined in, and this unique harakeke-manuka-kahikatea wetland is now protected and managed as a unified whole. In his work as a DOC ranger, Simon has discovered special native plants and animals throughout Golden Bay, leading to a boost in the number of open space covenants. Kathy spearheads the Keep Golden Bay Beautiful programme, growing thousands of locally-sourced native plants and organising regular plantings on public and private land.

Geoff Walls lives with his partner Sue Scheele in Christchurch. He is an ecologist who works closely with the Trust, and served as an elected member of the Board of Directors from 1998 to 2007. Sue, a Landcare Research scientist, has become a skilled bush cook from years of experience at the covenanted D'Urville Island property. Of the family Geoff is the most frequent visitor, and over 40 years of visits, he and other family members have recorded many changes. With stock excluded, the bush has developed dense tiered undergrowth, rough pasture has given way to scrub, scrub has grown up into forest and the stream has been restored to full health. The arrival of stoats on the island led to the demise of kaka, kakariki, robins and riflemen, but the quality of the habitat that has regenerated on the property has produced many pleasant surprises. Bellbirds have re-established, fernbirds and falcons have appeared and, just recently, long-tailed bats have been spotted for the first time.

Back to Hazel and Jack. What they started all those years ago has inspired the next two generations. All five of their children have engaged with the natural qualities that make New Zealand unique, and have gone out of their way to nurture and safeguard special places. All of their children, as well as their 12 grandkids, visited D'Urville Island when they were small and are returning there as adults. Now in their 90s, Hazel and Jack live close to the bush, surrounded by a beautiful native garden. Their partnership with the Trust has led to the regeneration and preservation of precious native flora and fauna, while their own delight in nature has kept them young.

Covenantors for kiwi

PHOTO: DOC

Northland kiwi population boosted

Landowners are boosting kiwi populations in Northland by establishing predator-controlled habitats that will give them safe places to live and breed.

In South Kaipara 13 kiwi have been released into a 25 ha covenanted area of native bush on Mataia, a property owned by the Gardner family. The releases were made possible after years of intensive pest control work and heralds the end of a 50-year absence of kiwi in the area. The kiwi were brought over from DOC's kiwi crèche on Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf, with more to follow in the next few years.

The covenant is part of a larger area of native bush and surrounding farmland that the Gardners have set aside to create the Mataia Restoration Project. On behalf of the family, Gill and Kevin Adshead are inspiring the wider community to support pest control, restoration working-bees and dog aversion efforts so that kiwi can once again roam safely in the area.

Kiwi are not the only species to benefit from the pest control work.

"We've noticed uncommon plant species taking seed and more bitterns, fernbirds and banded rails in nearby wetlands," the Adsheads said.

Trust CEO Mike Jebson with a DOC kiwi handler.

QEII reps Nick Matich and Nan Pullman chat with visitors at the release.

PHOTOS: MALCOLM PULLMAN

Further north 14 Northland brown kiwi were transferred from the Motuora Island kiwi crèche to Marunui Conservation in the Brynderwyn Hills near Mangawhai. The calls of kiwi can be heard there once again after nearly 50 years' absence.

Marunui Conservation's entire property, comprising 423 ha of indigenous forest, is protected with a QEII open space covenant, the largest in Northland.

Advance publicity and enthusiastic local support, combined with fine weather, ensured a great turnout at the release event. A powhiri by representatives of Ngati Manuhiri, Patuharakeke Te Iwi and Te Uri o Hau, welcomed and blessed the birds. Trained kiwi handlers were generous with the time given to display four of the birds to the crowds to the delight of children and parents alike – proof of the attraction of a kiwi encounter.

All the birds have a transmitter attached and since their release have been monitored on a regular basis. While most have settled close to their release sites some have been keen to explore their new home.

Since the release Marunui shareholders and volunteers have assisted DOC track and catch all the kiwi to check on their condition. They are now in much better shape than when released, with most having put on weight, some as much as 400 to 450 g.

Another encouraging sign is that several of the birds appear to have paired up, with one couple tracked to the same pampas bush! Expectations are high that some chicks may be produced in the latter part of the breeding season. The challenge for Marunui's shareholders will be to keep them safe. Trapping for all predators is being maintained at a high level with help from local volunteers.

Further releases of kiwi are planned over the next 2 years to establish a founding population of about 40 birds. Some of these will come from Matakohe/Limestone Island in Whangarei Harbour as well as from Motuora.

The goal of reintroducing kiwi to an area within its former range was identified in the Northland brown kiwi taxon plan and is an important step in helping with the recovery of the species.

All kiwi were raised as part of the BNZ sponsored programme *Operation Nest Egg/Kiwis for kiwi*.

A win for kiwis at Whinray Reserve

Words by Fiona Fisher

The Fishers' QEII covenant block on farmland at Motu, one hour's drive north of Gisborne, has a new resident. It's where the Whinray Ecological Charitable Trust (WECT) recently released its 10th brown kiwi chick. The 16 ha block of podocarp forest, covenanted in 2006, is adjacent to the 430 ha publicly-owned Whinray Scenic Reserve, serving as a corridor for native bird species by linking the reserve to several outlying scrubby farm gullies. Corridors such as this one mean that both flighted and flightless native birds can reach new areas and set up new territories within the protection of the canopy.

The covenant block is already home to at least one pair of adult kiwi. Other endangered species living within the block include the North Island weka, kereru and long-tailed bats. The block is particularly suitable for kiwi as they seem to thrive on the masses of invertebrates that live in the rank grass on the edge of and within the block.

WECT's project is called *Operation Nest Egg* and is possible thanks to sponsorship from the *Kiwis for kiwi* programme. Eggs are collected from the wild at Motu and incubated in Rotorua at *Kiwi Encounter*. At 20 days old the chicks are returned to Motu and placed in the kiwi crèche where they are fed until they reach 1,000 g. That's when they are released into the podocarp forest at Motu.

WECT Chairman, Graeme Rylott, says that less than 30 per cent of kiwi eggs hatch in the wild so incubating them artificially gives them an almost 100 per cent chance of hatching. If this is followed up by stoat control, chicks have a very good chance of reaching adulthood.

DOC has trapped over 800 stoats at Motu in the past 10 years. This has been of huge benefit to kiwi, weka, falcon, blue duck and a host of other species. With DOC reducing its involvement, ongoing pest management has been handed over entirely to WECT. WECT's work will continue to inspire ongoing community involvement and sponsorship that will keep pest numbers at a level that guarantees the safety of kiwi and other wildlife.

Mr Rylott and his team believe that approximately 12 kiwi pairs live in the Whinray Scenic Reserve, as well as a number of juveniles and several single birds scattered throughout the scrub and broadleaf forest on the Fishers' farm surrounding the Reserve.

It has been a real team effort by many organisations to make this project a success. Raukumara Red Venison is a major sponsor and their contribution pays for a range of items such as safety equipment for the Trust's kiwi team members working in the bush. DOC has assisted by driving the eggs and chicks to and from Rotorua. *Kiwis for kiwi* sponsor the kiwi radio transmitters so birds can be located and their progress monitored. Dan and Jane Griffin have provided the land for the kiwi chick crèche at Motu and many others have played a key part in the project.

Motu School is about to start a programme to transfer rare lizards and tree weta into the pest-free kiwi enclosure at Motu. The enclosure will provide a safe haven for lizards, and the weta population will grow to provide the kiwi chicks with a tasty snack!

AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS

Kiwi and dogs simply don't mix. Dogs find the kiwi's distinctive scent irresistible and every dog, regardless of its size or temperament, is a potential kiwi killer. Kiwi have no breastbone, so their ribcage is very vulnerable to collapse, making them extremely easy to crush in a dog's jaws, even if just a playful bite. It is now recognised that dogs reduce the life expectancy of adult Northland brown kiwi to an average of just 14 years. Given kiwi have been estimated to live between 30 to 80 years this fact is very troubling.

Avoidance training teaches dogs to stay away from kiwi. Demand for this kind of training is growing as more people hear about it. In addition, more and more landowners are providing access only to hunters who have trained dogs and, in some areas, hunting permits are only issued to people whose dogs have been certified as showing avoidance behaviour at the training courses.

How it works

As part of the training, dogs are walked past different props such as a stuffed kiwi or kiwi nesting material. If the dog shows an interest in these objects it is given a short shock from the trainer via a special collar, learning that these objects are something to stay away from. If the dog avoids the props in repeat exercises it is certified as having shown consistent avoidance behaviour. Refreshers are held, usually after around 12 months, to make sure the dog remembers what it has learnt.

Does it work?

Preliminary research shows that:

- Every dog showed avoidance to a prop it had been corrected on.
- All dogs remembered after 1 month, and 87 per cent remembered after 1 year.
- If there is a 3–year delay before a dog is retrained or tested, it showed less avoidance behaviour.
- Pet dogs showed more interest in the props if the owner was not present, suggesting that dogs should never be left to roam uncontrolled.
- Dogs in packs behaved differently to dogs on their own.

Not a silver bullet

Avoidance training is not a silver bullet. Even after it has been trained, an uncontrolled or roaming dog may still attack kiwi. The best avoidance strategy is simply to keep dogs away from places where wild kiwi live. Visit www.kiwisforkiwi.org.nz to find out more about kiwis, dogs and avoidance training.

MALCOLM PULLMAN

Kiwi killed by dogs.

PHOTO: DOC

Report from the Chair

The 2012/2013 year has been one of change for the Trust. Following the retirement of Margaret McKee as CEO in June 2012, the board decided to undertake a review of the Trust's goals, strategies and structures before appointing a new CEO to take the organisation into the future. Patrick Waite was engaged as interim CEO during this process and the directors are extremely grateful for the strong guidance and executive skills he brought to QEII during his 8 months with the Trust. In December Michael Jebson was appointed CEO, taking up the position in March 2013. The board is confident Mike's background in primary sector policy management, conservation, and farming equips him well to bring a fresh direction and energy to the Trust.

The review process was useful in identifying what the Trust does well, where improvement is needed, and where new opportunities are possible. Under Mike Jebson's leadership we expect the process of review and reform to continue as staff management teams work on specific projects that need to be addressed if the Trust is to fulfil its role as the leader of private conservation in New Zealand.

> "The generosity of those thousands of individual actions manifested in covenants is still not widely appreciated outside the rural sector"

Other changes this year include two new board appointments. After the maximum 9 years as a Trust director, Yvonne Sharp retired and Susan Yerex was appointed by Hon Kate Wilkinson as her replacement in September. Prior to June, Edward Ellison advised that he was not available for reappointment and his position has since been filled by Gina Solomon. The Trust has benefited greatly from the governance skills and unfailing common sense that both Yvonne and Edward brought to the board table and I welcome the new perspectives that Sue and Gina have exhibited. In the membership elections, sitting directors Megan Balks and James Hunter were re-elected, providing important institutional knowledge and consistency at the board table during a time of change.

The Department of Conservation, with which the Trust has a close working relationship, has also been subject to change. Its new direction will see a more collaborative, partnership approach to conservation–a philosophy that has underpinned the National Trust since its inception 36 years ago. A shift in attitude is emerging regarding the responsibility we all share for conservation and how nature is valued at political, commercial, and community levels.

Concepts such as valuing nature as capital, sharing natural resources, community solutions to local issues and business investment in sustainable programmes are all gaining wider acceptance and endorsement. The Trust has always seen protection of private land as an individual responsibility with a national benefit. While it is pleasing to see these principles gain traction, the generosity of those thousands of individual actions manifested in covenants protecting precious places in perpetuity is still not widely appreciated outside the rural sector.

Each new covenant sees both partners making a long-term commitment. The landowner undertakes to apply resources to maintain the integrity of the covenant and the Trust commits to on-going monitoring, support, and protection of the covenant agreement. The costs of those responsibilities are frequently overlooked and undervalued but as society moves to recognise the true value of our natural assets, this should change.

The directors and I are looking forward to the future with confidence that the QEII National Trust will play an increasingly important role in protecting our heritage.

James Guild

Chair

Report from the Chief Executive

The number of landowners covenanting special features on their land has grown enormously in the 36 years since the Trust was established. It took 26 years to protect 2,000 covenants and only another 10 years to rapidly approach the milestone of 4,000 registered covenants. Landowners are protecting an area equivalent in size to the combined areas of Aoraki/Mt Cook, Egmont/Taranaki and Abel Tasman national parks. This is an untold story of New Zealand farmers and other landowners, which is helping to give real substance to New Zealand's clean, green international image.

The significance of this grass-roots conservation movement cannot be underestimated because it is affecting protection in the very areas where our natural and cultural heritage is most at risk and least protected. It represents a very personal and significant commitment by landowners working with the Trust to protect special places for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

The growth, however, hasn't been matched by a commensurate growth in government funding (our government funding has been static for 5 years). This has naturally impacted on the Trust's workload and operating budget. Our proportion of funding from Vote Conservation is 0.74% to support the protection of special places found in the two thirds of New Zealand's land area that is privately owned and sits outside the conservation estate.

To address this issue, a review of the Trust's business operations has been carried out to ensure it is well positioned to continue its vision of growing the network of protected places across New Zealand's productive lands. We are focused on working more efficiently, with a fresh strategic direction marked by an approach that introduces smarter systems and processes. It balances the Trust's independent role and function with a readiness to foster partnerships and collaborations with other individuals and organisations also committed to the protection and enhancement of New Zealand's open spaces.

Our primary partnership is with the Trust's covenantors. We will be working to continually improve services to them, promote their altruistic conservation work, and broker support for the challenging job they have taken on. We want to support community groups with their conservation initiatives. We will also seek opportunities to work with stakeholders and other individuals, groups, and businesses to mobilise greater support for the Trust's work and for the wider goals of conservation and biodiversity protection.

The Trust has invested in new technology to improve its covenanting processes. Regional representatives are now equipped with GPS units to assist them with monitoring visits. They also are trialling handheld tablets to feed monitoring information directly from the field into the Trust's covenant database. These trials are being run concurrently with a major upgrade of the database that aims to achieve significant savings in the time spent on covenant administration and reporting, and improvements in the quality and timeliness of information provided to covenantors.

> "Landowners are protecting an area equivalent in size to the combined areas of Aoraki/Mt Cook, Egmont/Taranaki and Abel Tasman national parks"

One of the functions of the Trust is to promote research and studies into matters relating to open space and it engages with universities and research institutions in New Zealand to that end. This year the Trust established the QEII National Trust Brian Molloy Doctoral Scholarship to advance this objective. The scholarship (worth $50,000 per annum) was established in recognition of Dr Molloy's significant contribution to the Trust, conservation, and the fields of ecological science and taxonomy.

As the number of covenants grow, and as we move to the second and third generation of landowners who have taken over covenanted land, the Trust's function as perpetual trustee begins to be tested. It has a new task of ensuring subsequent owners are well informed about the responsibility of care they take on for the covenant(s) registered on the title to their land. The vast majority of new covenantors freely embrace the role, but several cases have arisen recently where the Trust has had to invest resources to defend the integrity of the covenant agreement.

I am thoroughly enjoying working for the Trust and am excited by the opportunities we have in front of us in growing our role of securing the protection of New Zealand's special places on private land.

Mike Jebson

Chief Executive

Statistics

Registered and approved covenants

as at 30 June 2013

QEII covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments map

Summary – 30 June 2013

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	3,803	104,393.90
Approved covenants*	410	19,815.69
Formal agreements	33	928.29
Total	**4,246**	**125,137.88**

Largest covenant 6,564 ha

Average size 29.5 ha

Altitude range Sea level to 2,200 m

Region with most registered covenants Northland: 609

Region with largest area in covenants Canterbury: 18,139.10 ha

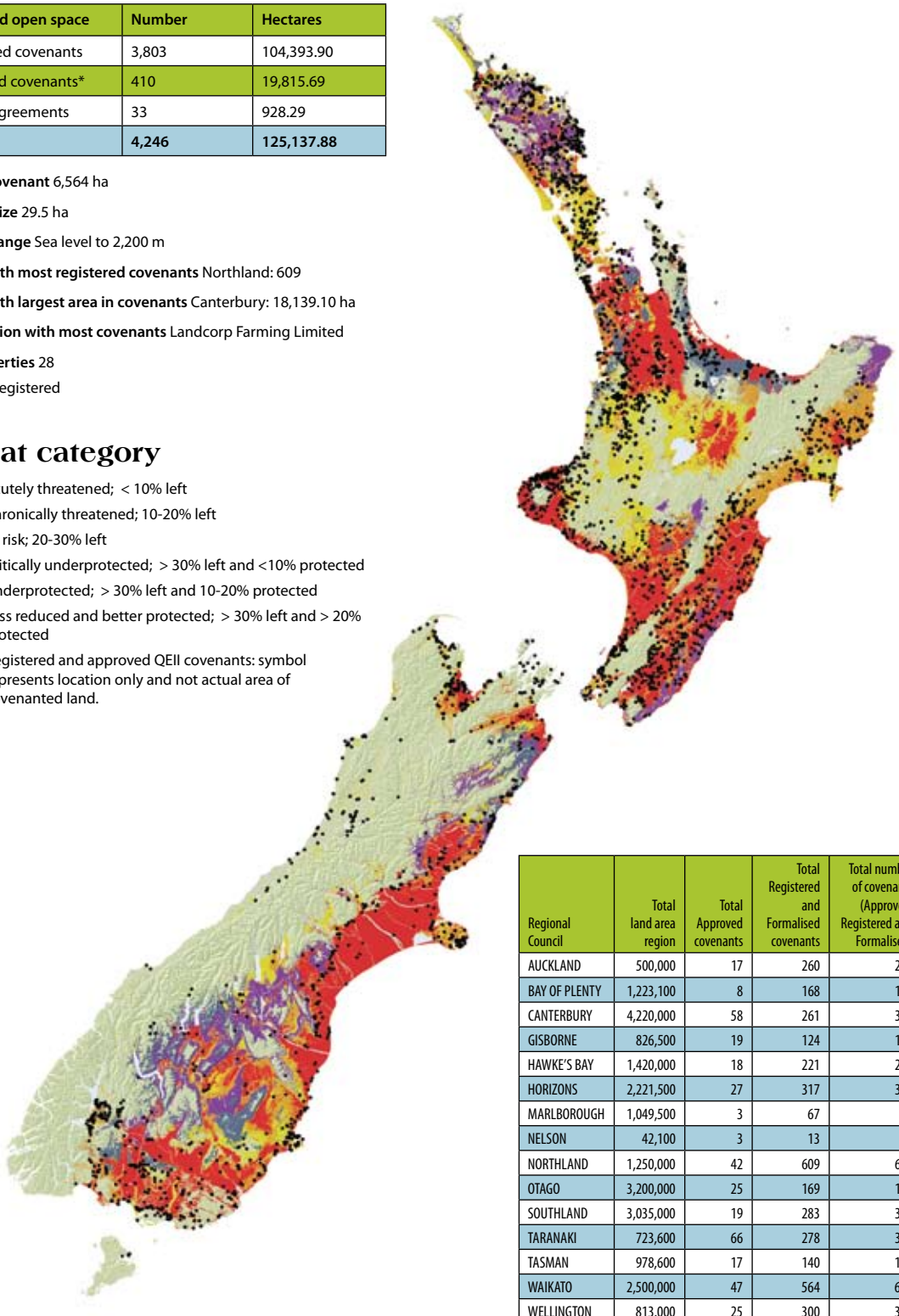
Organisation with most covenants Landcorp Farming Limited

QEII properties 28

* Not yet registered

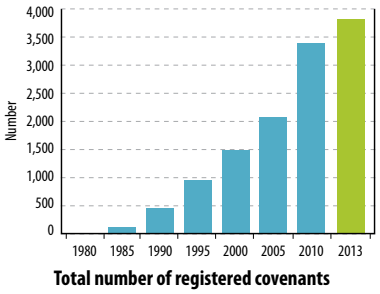
Threat category

- Acutely threatened; < 10% left
- Chronically threatened; 10-20% left
- At risk; 20-30% left
- Critically underprotected; > 30% left and <10% protected
- Underprotected; > 30% left and 10-20% protected
- Less reduced and better protected; > 30% left and > 20% protected
- Registered and approved QEII covenants: symbol represents location only and not actual area of covenanted land.

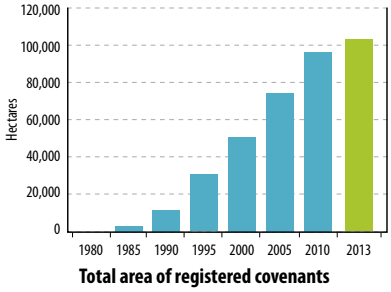


Regional Council	Total land area region	Total Approved covenants	Total Registered and Formalised covenants	Total number of covenants (Approved, Registered and Formalised)	Total area Approved, Registered and Formalised covenants (ha)	Largest registered covenant in the region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)
AUCKLAND	500,000	17	260	277	4,126.33	841	14.9
BAY OF PLENTY	1,223,100	8	168	176	9,504.36	6,564	54.0
CANTERBURY	4,220,000	58	261	319	18,139.10	1,679	56.9
GISBORNE	826,500	19	124	143	5,171.44	1,104	36.2
HAWKE'S BAY	1,420,000	18	221	239	10,598.13	4,606	44.3
HORIZONS	2,221,500	27	317	344	8,284.60	352	24.1
MARLBOROUGH	1,049,500	3	67	70	3,908.94	1,056	55.8
NELSON	42,100	3	13	16	344.85	140	21.6
NORTHLAND	1,250,000	42	609	651	9,842.44	417	15.1
OTAGO	3,200,000	25	169	194	11,318.28	2,735	58.3
SOUTHLAND	3,035,000	19	283	302	6,162.59	214	20.4
TARANAKI	723,600	66	278	344	9,723.64	390	28.3
TASMAN	978,600	17	140	157	2,481.19	641	15.8
WAIKATO	2,500,000	47	564	611	16,683.14	802	27.3
WELLINGTON	813,000	25	300	325	6,070.74	824	18.7
WEST COAST	2,300,000	16	62	78	2,778.10	619	35.6
Grand Total		410	3,836	4,246	125,137.88		29.5

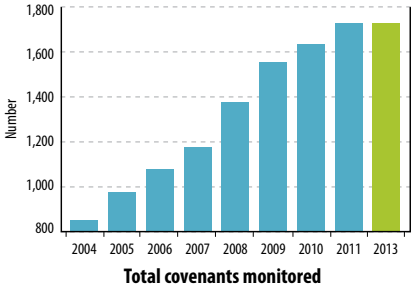
Registered covenants



Total number of registered covenants

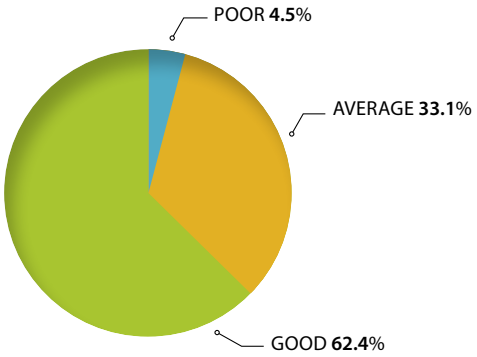


Total area of registered covenants

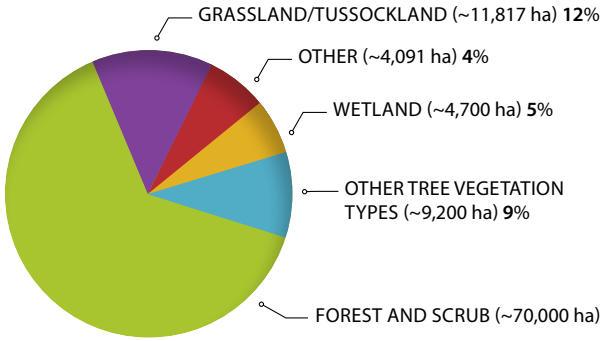


Total covenants monitored

Monitoring of covenants
2012/2013



Main covenant type
(percentage of land area protected)



includes shrubland, treeland, fernland and treefernland

includes flaxland, open water, reedland, rushland, sedgeland and water

Includes boulderfield, gravelfield, herbfield, lichenfield, mossfield, peatfield, rockland, sandfield, other sites e.g cultural or archaeological

Adherence assessment

During the 2012/2013 financial year 1,718 covenants were monitored for adherence.

Monitoring includes an assessment of the condition of the covenant area and confirmation of compliance with the covenant terms.

Good adherence is where the covenant area is in a good condition and the landowner is in compliance with covenant terms.

Average adherence is where the covenant area is in an average condition and the landowner is in compliance with the covenant terms.

Poor adherence is where the covenant area is in a poor condition and/or the landowner is not complying with the covenant terms.

Poor adherence report – 2012/2013

QEII is the perpetual trustee for covenants. Registered covenants are monitored biennially. Where there has been a breach of a covenant or a covenant area is in a generally poor condition this is recorded and steps are taken to improve the situation.

In some cases, where things do not improve, QEII may resort to legal enforcement.

Of the 1,718 covenants monitored in the 2012/2013 financial year 95.5% were in compliance.

	2012/2013 financial year		Total as at 30 June 2013	
Poor Adherence Type	Covenants in Poor Adherence for the first time	Percentage of total number of visits (1,718)	Total number in Poor Adherence	Percentage of total number of registered and formalised covenants (3,836)
Encroachment	2	0.1%	8	0.21%
Feral animals	8	0.5%	26	0.68%
Fencing	39	2.3%	82	2.14%
Pest plants	6	0.3%	30	0.78%
Farm stock	22	1.3%	50	1.30%
Total	77	4.5%	196	5.11%

	2012/2013 financial year		Total as at 30 June 2013	
Poor Adherence Level	Covenants in Poor Adherence for the first time	Percentage of total number of visits (1,718)	Total number in Poor Adherence	Percentage of total number of registered and formalised covenants (3,836)
Level 1-minor, landowner given alert	75	4.37%	180	4.69%
Level 2-low, formal documentation	0	0.00%	13	0.34%
Level 3-medium, visit by management	1	0.06%	1	0.03%
Level 4-serious, legal action pending	1	0.06%	2	0.05%
Total	77	4.48%	196	5.11%

Statement of Service Performance

for the year ended 30 June 2013

The core work of the Trust is the protection and management of open space and natural values for the benefit of New Zealand. This statement measures performance against goals set at the commencement of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Minister of Conservation in June 2012.

1. Identification and Implementation of Protection for Natural and Historic Places:

Implementation of legal protection of natural and historic resources on private or leasehold land.

Open space covenants can protect a range of diverse values: ecological, visual, geological, archaeological, scientific, cultural, recreational, soil and water, and social interest. Covenant proposals are evaluated against set criteria, considering ecological, landscape and other inherent values. When a proposal is approved, registration with Land Information New Zealand is targeted to be complete within 2 years.

Tasks include: responding to landowner enquiries, evaluation and documentation of proposals, Board assessment, processing of documents, fencing, surveys, preparation of covenant plans and registration with Land Information New Zealand.

The area, size and shape of covenants vary, as do the associated costs, so annual fluctuations in total covenant numbers and hectares can be expected.

Table 1: Numbers and hectares approved for protection and formally protected by registered open space covenants in New Zealand.

Legal protection	2011/2012 Actual		2012/2013 Target		2012/2013 Actual	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
Approved covenants	155	8,475	160	3,600	112	3,575
Registered covenants	149	3,436	180	3,600	108	4,090
Cost	**$2,239,526**		**$2,635,482**		**$2,593,733***	

Note: The number of registrations and approvals is below target. Totals are lower this year because the Trust has been undertaking an organisational review and has invested considerable time in implementing changes to its business structure, systems and processes. The totals also reflect a challenging year for landowners, with widespread drought delaying surveying and fencing commitments.

2. Management Services: Natural and Historic Places:

Management Services for properties with historical or natural significance, including maintenance work, public access, management advice on covenanted land and maintaining the perpetual trustee role for registered covenants.

Table 2: Numbers and hectares for QEII owned properties and registered covenants monitored in New Zealand.

Management Services	2011/2012 Actual		2012/2013 Target		2012/2013 Actual	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
QEII owned properties	29	1,600	29	1,600	28	1,524
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,723	38,789	1,850	46,000	1,718	37,347
Cost	**$1,617,442**		**$2,082,915**		**$1,842,140***	

* Note: Outputs 1 and 2 total $4,435,873. Most of this expenditure is covered by the Trust's government grant totalling $3,274,000.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

2012 Actual $		Note	2013 Actual $	2013 Budget $
	Revenue			
3,274,000	Government Grant		3,274,000	3,274,000
323,987	Contestable Funds	10	156,669	300,000
71,603	Donations and Other Grants		37,295	37,000
84,811	Other Revenue		77,106	82,600
3,754,401	**Operating Revenue**		**3,545,070**	**3,693,600**
	Expenditure			
819,262	Field Operations		1,082,735	1,148,218
1,257,437	Covenant Expenditure	1	1,384,423	1,412,000
304,470	Contestable Funds	10	175,881	300,000
1,242,679	Administration	2	1,536,195	1,636,679
10,419	Property Operations		12,159	47,500
51,238	Public Relations		56,937	56,000
72,702	Depreciation	3	62,660	80,000
3,758,207	**Operating Expenses**		**4,310,990**	**4,680,397**
621,576	Investment Income		1,177,782	600,000
132,712	Investment Expenses		86,698	38,000
488,864	**Net Financial Revenue from Investments**	4	**1,091,084**	**562,000**
485,058	**Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Property Acquisitions/ Disposals**		**325,164**	**(424,797)**
139,000	Property Gifted to the Trust		–	–
41,000	Gain on Sale of Property Gifted		180,302	–
7,049	Expenses Associated with Gifted Property		38,185	–
172,951	**Net Income from Gifted Property**	5	**142,117**	–
658,009	**Net Surplus/(Deficit)**		**467,281**	**(424,797)**
–	Other Comprehensive Income		–	–
658,009	**Total Comprehensive Income/(Expense)**	1	**467,281**	**(424,797)**

Peat bogs are an ecosystem type gradually disappearing from Southland and elsewhere throughout the country. This ecosystem type provides habitat for specialised plants that have adapted to the highly acidic, low-nutrient, saturated soils of the bogs. These conditions derive from the remains of plants that used to live in the bog and have build up over many thousands of years. In Southland, peat bogs form some of the most extensive habitats for skinks and fernbirds. An application to covenant two blocks of this unique and threatened ecosystem type was approved during the year. Some 53 native plant species and diverse birdlife have been recorded in the 49 ha area being protected.

Find us on Facebook

QEII now has its own Facebook page to share news, promote events and link to anything else of relevance to covenantors, members and friends of QEII.

Like us on Facebook and receive regular posts from the Trust. We also want to promote Trust members and share covenant photos, stories, tips, offers, news and events with others linked in to the Facebook site. You can post your news directly onto the site or contact us on info@openspace.org.nz to upload it for you. All posts will be approved by the Facebook administrator before they are visible to the public. Find us at www.openspace.org.nz (click on the Facebook icon) or www.facebook.com/QEIINationalTrust.

NZ Birds Online is a digital encyclopaedia of New Zealand birds. Follow step by step guidelines to identify birds and find out their conservation status.

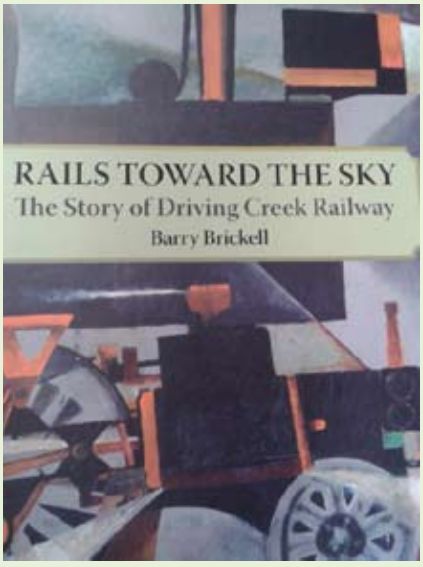
BOOKS TO READ

Rails Toward the Sky – The Story of Driving Creek Railway

By Barry Brickell

David Ling publishing, 2010.

This is the story of what one person can achieve with vision and an inexhaustible determination to succeed against all odds. When Barry Brickell became New Zealand's first full-time craft potter, he combined his passion for railways with a family tradition in engineering to build a short line for bringing clay and firewood down from the hills to his kilns. Over the next 30 years, he kept extending the line, always taking it just a little higher- to haul thousands of native trees for restoring hillsides ravaged by mining logging and farming. With Barry, the transitions between art, engineering and conservation are seamless. In this book he tells us how he made it happen.



Available at all good bookstores or enquire at railway@drivingcreek.co.nz.

Also available, "**Barry Brickell – His Own Steam**", Auckland University Press, 2013.

Protected with QEII National Trust open space covenants and located 3km north of Coromandel Town, Barry Brickell's Driving Creek Railway and Potteries and adjoining wildlife sanctuary are models of mechanical ingenuity and restoration success, and a beautiful and inspiring place to visit.
Find out more at www.drivingcreekrailway.co.nz.

Wetland Restoration Symposium

12-14 Feb 2014

Water and Wetlands: from Droughts to Storms

To find out how to register or submit a paper go to: http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz

Covenant stories in *Open Space*

Our new Lifestyle section in the *Open Space* magazine (see page 20 of this issue) is a chance for you to tell your covenant story in your own words. Let others know what you are up to by contacting editor@openspace.org.nz with your story and photos. Covenant management tips also welcome. All material accepted for publication may be subject to editing at the discretion of the editor.

Making a bequest or gift

The Trust is helped greatly by money or assets gifted in people's wills or in their lifetime. Bequests and donations form a vital component of QEII funding. Gifted funds go into the Trust's investment portfolio, the dividends from which provide an important contribution towards its work – for example evaluating new covenant proposals, fencing approved covenants and maintaining properties owned by the Trust. As a charitable trust, all donations over $5 are tax deductible. Visit www.openspace.org.nz for more information or contact the CEO on 04 474 1683 (or 0800 467 367) to discuss any aspect of contributing to the work of QEII National Trust by bequest or gift.

Selling your property? Contact details changed?

Covenantors are required to provide the Trust with change of ownership details if their property has been sold. This is so it can fulfil its role as perpetual trustee efficiently, and get change of ownership of the covenant registered as quickly as possible. The Trust also wants to establish a supportive partnership with the new owners early on, so information is shared and ongoing care for the covenant is on track. You can use the online form to update the Trust about the sale of your property, or any changes to your contact details generally (www.openspace.org.nz/About us/Contact), or call your local QEII representative, or the Trust's Wellington office on 0800 467 367.

QEII Trust: Help us to protect our natural features

Protecting natural features helps New Zealand

- Many of our plants, animals and landscapes are unique to New Zealand. This helps set us apart and define us as a nation.
- Unfortunately, many of these species and features are under threat. The decreasing diversity of our indigenous flora and fauna is regarded as one of our biggest environmental problems.
- New Zealand has a network of publicly owned conservation areas. However, 70% of land is in private ownership. Many habitats and features are found only on privately owned land and can be protected only with the goodwill and action of landowners.

Practical land management and farm productivity

- Many farmers protect natural features because it makes good land management sense.
- Bush and wetlands help to filter rain and runoff ensuring improved water quality. They encourage recycling of nutrients and reduce soil erosion.
- Forest remnants reduce wind and provide shelter and shade, enhancing stock management and production.
- Fencing allows regeneration of bush, helps to protect stream banks and water quality, and keeps stock out of hard to manage areas.
- Healthy bush and natural landscapes beautify and add economic value to farm properties.

QEII is always in need of greater financial and moral support for its work. You can help by becoming a QEII Trust member.

Your benefits as a QEII Trust member

- Two issues of *Open Space*™ magazine a year.
- Free or discounted entrance to properties owned or administered by the National Trust (UK), National Trust for Scotland, National Trust of Australia (all States), Barbados National Trust, Bermuda National Trust, National Trust for Fiji, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Gibraltar Heritage Trust, Japan National Trust and National Trust for Zimbabwe.
- Entitlement to nominate and vote two members onto the QEII National Trust Board of Directors.*

Financial members should normally have a residential address in New Zealand. QEII covenantors automatically become members.

To join QEII Trust: post the membership application to QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, email info@openspace.org.nz or phone 04 472 6626, or from outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSPACE (0800 467 367).

QEII National Trust Membership Application

Title ..... Name .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Phone (0) ..... Email .....

Membership Type (please tick)

❍ Individual $30 ❍ Family $45 ❍ Life $550

❍ Corporate – business $75

❍ Corporate – non profit organisation $50

Subscriptions include GST. Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand.

Donation (optional)

Donations over $5.00 are tax deductible.

❍ $100 ❍ $50 ❍ $20 ❍ Other $.....

Method of payment ❍ Cheque ❍ MasterCard ❍ Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Cardholder name ..... Expiry date..... Signature .....

Total $..... ❍ Please send a receipt

For direct debit option, please email info@openspace.org.nz

Please send me more information on:

❍ Making a bequest to QEII ❍ Open Space Covenants

Gift Membership

Gift to: Name & address.....

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Send next year's gift renewal to me ❍ or to the recipient ❍

* To be eligible to nominate and vote members onto the QEII National Trust Board of Directors, membership must be current at 31 December of the year preceding elections (voting papers are sent out in December) and not expire before 31 March of the election year itself. Elections are held every three years. Next elections will be held in 2016.

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 October 2012 to 20 August 2013

District Council	Name	Area (Ha)	Main Open Space Type
BULLER	Landcorp-Mawheraiti	55.89	Lowland modified primary forest
BULLER	Legge and Browne	48.78	Coastal modified primary forest and secondary shrubland
BULLER	Landcorp-Burkes Creek	42.59	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
DUNEDIN	Chapman	2.28	Coastal modified secondary forest
FAR NORTH	Moore and Colquhoun	1.79	Lowland secondary forest
FAR NORTH	NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust	12.52	Lowland secondary podocarp/broadleaf forest
FRANKLIN	Barwick	0.33	Lowland modified secondary forest
GISBORNE	Charteris	0.65	Lowland modified secondary sedgeland and revegetated forest
GISBORNE	Landcorp-Wharekopae Station	92.59	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and scrub
GREY	Grant	19.14	Semi coastal modified primary forest
HASTINGS	Couper	8.80	Lowland secondary hardwood forest remnants
HASTINGS	Te Konini Farm Ltd	6.75	Lowland secondary kanuka forest and treeland
HURUNUI	Prentice and Tothill	7.33	Semicoastal podocarp/beech forest remnant
KAPITI COAST	Kumototo Nominees Ltd	6.35	Semi coastal modified primary forest
MANAWATU	North Grove Dairy Ltd and Pohangina Land Ltd Co (No. 1)	2.27	Lowland modified primary forest and treeland
MARLBOROUGH	Spraypoint Station Ltd	1,055.68	Montane modified primary forest and grey scrub, alpine herb field, subalpine tussock and wetland
MARLBOROUGH	Mirza Downs Ltd	58.11	Coastal secondary and modified secondary forest and scrubland
MASTERTON	Christensen and Birch	1.58	Lowland primary wetland and sedgeland, modified secondary shrubland
MASTERTON	Palmer	0.81	Lowland modified primary forest
MASTERTON	McGrail	1.02	Lowland modified primary forest
MASTERTON	Holmes, Beech and Marr	14.41	Lowland modified primary swamp forest, wetland and secondary forest
NEW PLYMOUTH	Rerekino Farm Ltd	296.78	Lowland modified primary forest
NEW PLYMOUTH	Michel	6.64	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and secondary treefernland
NEW PLYMOUTH	Lobb and O'Sullivan	98.09	Semi coastal modified primary and secondary forest
NEW PLYMOUTH	Dravitski-Simpson	1.34	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
NEW PLYMOUTH	Baumann	0.87	Semi coastal secondary wetland forest
QUEENSTOWN	Jardine and HGW Trustees Ltd	9.26	Landscape; Montane boulder field
RODNEY	Wong and Phillips	2.62	Coastal secondary forest
RODNEY	Duder and Stafford	1.99	Coastal modified secondary forest
SELWYN	Mares Properties (NZ) Ltd	5.63	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
SOUTH TARANAKI	Waiwira Holdings Ltd	6.26	Coastal modified primary wetland and lake
SOUTH TARANAKI	Dwyer	9.50	Coastal modified primary wetland and forest
SOUTH TARANAKI	Stevenson	9.16	Coastal modified primary wetland and lake
SOUTH TARANAKI	Dwyer	6.71	Semicoastal modified primary wetland
SOUTH TARANAKI	Peat	6.20	Lowland modified primary wetland
SOUTH TARANAKI	McClunie and Greene	389.61	Lowland modified primary forest
SOUTH TARANAKI	Mount Mattie Lands Ltd	55.28	Lowland secondary forest and treefernland
SOUTH WAIKATO	Hollyman and Harris	12.55	Semi-coastal modified primary and secondary forest
SOUTH WAIKATO	Lakeland Downs Ltd-Lake Mangahia	8.23	Lowland secondary wetland
SOUTHLAND	Saunders and Radford	11.74	Montane modified secondary scrubland and tussockland
SOUTHLAND	South Coast Dairy Ltd	28.79	Coastal secondary and modified secondary forest and dunelands
SOUTHLAND	Drumderg Farm Ltd	12.00	Lowland modified primary forest
SOUTHLAND	Pearce and Spencer	32.72	Lowland secondary shrubland and modified primary wetland
SOUTHLAND	Waymouth and Paterson	10.19	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Ibbotsons, Riverslea	6.52	Lowland modified primary shrubland /wetland
SOUTHLAND	Stirling	17.48	Lowland modified primary forest and scrubland
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Eweburn Face	1.35	Lowland modified primary shrubland and rushland
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Toni's Wetland	38.42	Lowland modified primary wetland and shrubland
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Bartletts, Mararoa Station	63.08	Lowland modified primary wetland and riparian shrubland and tussockland
SOUTHLAND	McDonald	24.14	Lowland modified secondary forest
SOUTHLAND	Porpoise Bay Farm Ltd	0.79	Coastal modified primary forest
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Aarons, Dale Farm	5.35	Lowland tussockland /shrubland stream system
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Gerry's, Dale Farm	11.80	Lowland modified primary shrubland, treeland and open water wetland habitat
SOUTHLAND	Singing Hills Limited	33.89	Lowland secondary forest, scrub and tussockland
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Podocarp, Eweburn Station	2.38	Lowland modified primary shrubland and treeland
SOUTHLAND	Addenbrooke and Harris	9.83	Lowland primary forest
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Bens, Duncraigen	4.51	Lowland modified primary shrubland and rushland (wetland)
SOUTHLAND	Landcorp-Tim's Wetland, Duncraigen	4.54	Lowland modified primary shrubland and rushland wetland with open water
SOUTHLAND	Mackay and Bannerman	3.43	Lowland tussock wetland
STRATFORD	Lawrence	0.51	Lowland secondary forest
STRATFORD	Needham, Mahdeen Trustee Ltd and Daker Ridge Trustee Ltd	53.17	Lowland secondary forest
TARARUA	Horizon Farming Ltd	17.52	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and treeland
TARARUA	Bowie	26.51	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
TARARUA	McKenzie	352.25	Lowland modified primary podocarp forest with areas of well advanced secondary kanuka forest
TARARUA	Waayer and Curran	1.69	Lowland modified primary swamp forest and sedgeland
TARARUA	Kahungunu Asset Holding Company Ltd	111.15	Coastal modified primary flaxland, treeland and sandfield
TARARUA	Kahungunu Asset Holding Company Ltd	34.72	Coastal modified primary flaxland, shrubland, rockland
TASMAN	Donovan and New Zealand Trustee Services Ltd	10.37	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
TASMAN	Saloranta and Tran	0.97	Coastal modified secondary forest, rushland and scrub
TASMAN	Le Gros	3.49	Lowland secondary forest
TASMAN	Le Gros, Whalley and Emanuel	3.94	Lowland modified primary
WAIKATO	Soroka (Pakau Trust)	190.84	Lowland secondary podocarp-broadleaf and kanuka forest; and regenerating kanuka shrubland
WAIMATE	Cawood	0.43	Lowland modified primary sedgelands and revegetated treeland
WAIMATE	Davis	0.69	Semicoastal modified secondary scrub
WAIMATE	Dennison	11.05	Lowland modified primary treeland and secondary forest
WAIMATE	Belvue Downs Ltd	0.37	Lowland secondary scrubland
WAIMATE	Fairway Enterprises Ltd	7.94	Lowland modified primary scrubland
WAIMATE	Meares	22.26	Lowland modified primary treeland and subalpine modified primary grassland
WAIPA	Miller and Hogan	32.40	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest
WAIPA	Wesley Farm Company Ltd	4.36	Lowland secondary forest
WAIPA	Van der Valk	6.40	Lowland modified primary forest
WAIPA	Gaddes	2.20	Lowland secondary wetland
WAIROA	Middle Mount Ltd	17.54	Lowland modified primary and secondary forest and rushland
WAIROA	Campbell-Snelling	16.46	Lowland secondary forest
WAITOMO	Rata Ridge	11.51	Lowland primary forest and wetland
WAITOMO	Rata Ridge	92.17	Lowland primary podocarp-broadleaved forest
WAITOMO	Rata Ridge	3.07	Lowland modified primary broadleaved forest
WHANGAREI	Webby	1.52	Coastal modified primary saltmarsh reedland
WHANGAREI	Ngahuru Mara Ltd	1.57	Lowland secondary forest
Total Area		**3,728.40**	

QEII National Trust: partnering to protect special places on private land

QEII National Trust helps private landowners in New Zealand protect significant natural and cultural features on their land usually through the legal mechanism of an open space covenant. It acts as perpetual trustee to ensure the covenant is protected forever.

The Trust also contributes funds for covenant projects and advises landowners on the management of their covenants.

Open space covenants help safeguard forever special features such as landscapes, forest remnants, wetlands, coastlines, threatened species habitats, archaeological and geological features and cultural sites. Landowners throughout New Zealand have established over 3,800 covenants and together are protecting around 125,000 ha of special features on their land.

What is a QEII open space covenant?

A QEII open space covenant is a legal agreement between a landowner and the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. The agreement is entered into voluntarily and binds current and all subsequent landowners in perpetuity. The covenant is registered on the title to the land.

Private property rights are not jeopardised by a covenant – the landowner retains ownership and management of the land. Visitor access is available only with the landowner's permission.

The details of terms and conditions for a covenant are agreed between the landowner and the Trust. Each covenant agreement is unique. It can apply to the whole property of just part of it. There can be different management areas within a covenant with varying conditions in place depending on the landowner's aspirations and the nature of the features to be protected.

Open space covenants are generally in perpetuity although there can be a case for a variable term covenant. These include Kawenata on Māori land, which recognises tino rangatiratanga, Life of the Trees where individual trees occur in a situation where they may not be self-regenerating, and Landscape Protection Agreements where the land does not have title, such as roadside areas.

Managing a QEII open space covenant

The Trust helps landowners with ongoing management advice and support. A management plan may be prepared with the landowner when a covenant is established, setting out ongoing management objectives and providing guidance on aspects such as species management, pest control and restoration methods.

Each covenant is visited regularly (usually every two years) to monitor its condition and trends, identify and address any concerns, and, if required, provide help and advice for the owner about how to meet the covenant objectives.

How to covenant

- **Enquiry** The first step is to ask your local QEII representative to visit, discuss your proposal and explain the covenant process to you.
- **Evaluation** The representative will evaluate your area against criteria including ecological and biodiversity values, naturalness, sustainability, wildlife, geological features, landscape values, and cultural and heritage values. Practical considerations include management needs, threats to the site, your motivation and potential sources of funding.
- **Approval** The Trust will consider the evaluation and approve the covenant if it meets the criteria. You will then be asked to sign the covenant agreement document. It may take up to two years from this approval stage to final registration.
- **Fencing** If required the covenant area will have to be fenced next.
- **Registration** The covenant will then be formally registered on the title to your land with Land Information New Zealand. The Trust will lodge all the necessary documentation. When registration is completed, the Trust will notify Quotable Value (QV) and your local and regional councils.
- **Privacy** Your privacy will be respected and additional information about your covenant will not be given without your permission.

Funding assistance

Your open space covenant may be non-rateable. You may also be eligible for assistance with funding for items such as fencing, weed and pest control, and restoration planting. Your QEII representative will be able to advise you about possible funding sources.

Visit www.openspace.org.nz for more information about open space covenanting.

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Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhī Papa

Visit our website