



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

Open SpaceTM

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Ground covering weed tradescantia tackled – story inside

**Focus on Hawke's Bay | Ballance Farm Environment Awards | Weed control
Annual Report | Board Election notice | Photo competition**

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COVER PHOTO

Tradescantia leaf beetle release in
the Page covenant.
Story on page 16.
Photo: Malcolm Pullman.

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The Trust welcomes James Guild who was appointed Chair of QEII National Trust by the Minister of Conservation effective from 1 July 2011.

From the Chair

I am honoured to have been invited to chair the Trust and will do my best to build on the excellent work achieved in the past by an illustrious lineage of Trust chairs and directors, managers and executives and, most importantly, committed covenants. Over the past thirty-five years the QEII National Trust has worked very effectively using partnership, trust and integrity to create a 'brand' that any organisation would be proud of. I would, however, like to see greater appreciation, particularly from outside the rural community, of the benefits of the open space covenant

arrangement - a highly effective mechanism, which is probably unique in the world.

I have farmed High Peak Station in the Windwhistle area in west Canterbury since 1973. When we began, the property was largely undeveloped and during the 1970s and 1980s we embarked on an extensive cultivation, subdivision and shelter planting programme. At the same time, I had always admired the vision and the principles behind the concept of protected open space on private land. As early as 1981 we were having discussions with the Trust with regard to covenanting an area of river bed and glacial valley. The registration of a 94 ha covenant was completed in 1994. My family now enjoys the balance this undeveloped land in its original state brings to our farming system, and we get pleasure from the thought that, in a small way, we are contributing to maintaining diversity in this country's natural heritage.

In conservation and land protection, one size does not fit all and the pioneer individuals and groups who drove the creation of the QEII National Trust recognised that farmers would respond positively to an organization set up by farmers to cater to their particular circumstances. Furthermore, I believe the Crown gets a highly geared multiplier for its investment in the QEII Trust as landowners carry the greatest burden of costs of establishing a covenant, voluntarily restricting their land use, and then continuing as committed resident caretakers.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the future.

James Guild
QEII CHAIR



High Peak Station's classic open space covenant protects 94 ha of braided shingle riverbed, sedgeland, tussockland and shrubland alongside the Selwyn River.



LORALEE HYDE

Sir Brian Lochore retires from the Board

The end of Sir Brian Lochore's term with the Trust and the contribution he has made to the Trust's work during his eight years as Chair was acknowledged at a function held at Parliament in June.

Kevin Milne, covenantor from Otaki, Dr Brian Molloy, QEII High Country rep, Bill Garland, former QEII director and covenantor from Waikato, and the Minister of Conservation (who hosted the event) were the guest speakers. They acknowledged Sir Brian's great love of New Zealand, his affinity with rural New Zealanders and his iconic status that had allowed him to build a deeper appreciation and awareness of what the Trust and landowners are achieving together through covenanting.

Sir Brian told those present that he was humbled and inspired by the generosity and commitment of landowners who have set aside their land for protection and said he was "proud to have been able to support and promote the significant contribution private landowners are making to protect what makes New Zealand so special".

Sir Brian's term as Chair ended on 30 June 2011. During his time on the Board almost 1900 covenant proposals have been registered or approved.

QSM honour for covenantors

Grant and Marilyn Nelson were each awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for their philanthropy in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours. They are both trustees of The Gama Foundation, a Charitable Trust established in 1995 to carry out philanthropic work for the environment, conservation, education and training, research and health. The Gama Foundation purchased 642 ha of Canterbury lowland forest at four sites in order to open them to the public. They secured the future of the properties by placing QEII covenants over them. A wealth of open space values are protected in the covenants – from historic lime kilns, Maori rock art and fossil sites to lowland totara, kahikatea, kowhai, mahoe and broadleaf podocarp forest remnants and hills covered with dense silver tussock vegetation. When faced with retirement from active maintenance of their covenants, Grant and Marilyn carefully chose to divest three of their forest covenant areas to organisations that will keep up the weed and pest work and promote public access through the maintenance of walking tracks.



Hawke's Bay covenantors' event



The Beamish family with Sir Brian Lochore

Josi, Simon and Joy Beamish hosted a covenantors' event in May at "Awaipai" – their farm located at the southern end of the Kaweka Ranges and Ngaruroro River, 50 kms west of Napier.

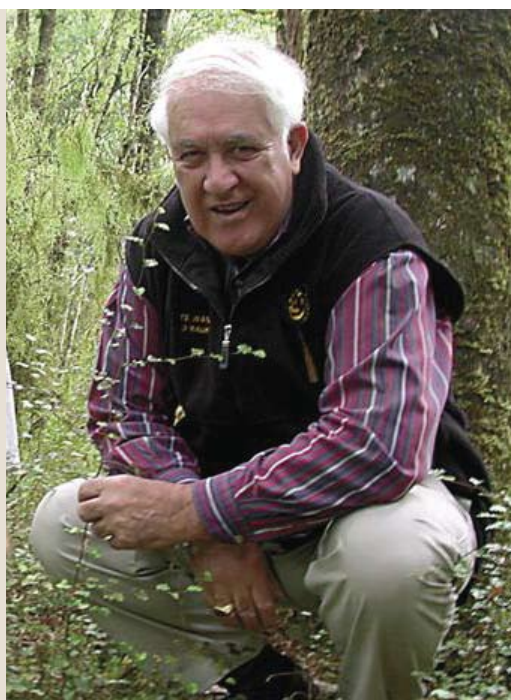
Simon Beamish is a fifth generation farmer on Beamish Farms. He and his wife Josi, who run the farms, are genetic breeding partners for Rissington Breedline. Finalists in the recent inaugural Ballance Farm Environment Awards for the East Coast Region, Beamish Farms is a progressive sheep and beef farm that incorporates sustainable land management approaches in its operations.

Over the past 15 years the Beamish family has established three QEII covenants to protect around 30 ha of forest remnants on their land. The covenants harbour a diverse range of trees including titoki, lacebark, kowhai, matai, kahikatea, rimu, whiteywood, kanuka and lemonwood and provide an insight of what the bush in the area was like before fire and deforestation stamped their mark on the landscape.

About 70 covenantors, friends and associates gathered at the Beamishes' – a good turn-out given the foul weather that had hit the region just prior to the event causing havoc in many farms and covenants. During his address, Sir Brian Lochore gave an undertaking to arrange appropriate assistance for covenanted areas that had been adversely affected.

Sir Paul Reeves

Wellington-born Sir Paul Reeves, the first Maori Governor-General and a former Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand, died on 14 August, aged 78. Sir Paul Reeves is remembered as a truly remarkable man who contributed so much to his country, the Commonwealth and the wider world. Amongst his many significant services to New Zealand, Sir Paul served as member of the QEII Trust Board from 1996 to 2003 and as Chair from 2000 to 2003. He made a huge contribution to QEII through his great mana and the strong connection he had with people throughout the country.



Focus on Hawke's Bay

Before humans arrived Hawke's Bay was heavily forested. Early Maori burned some of the lowland forest, and much was destroyed by natural fires. By the time Europeans arrived most of this forest, except in southern Hawke's Bay, had disappeared. In the mid to late nineteenth century forests in southern Hawke's Bay, and on the hill country and ranges, were later burned and felled by European settlers.

Statistics show that 71.6% of the land in Hawke's Bay is grassland, 14% exotic forest plantations, 6% mature or regenerating native bush and 2% horticultural land.

The Hawke's Bay (QEII) region runs from Mohaka river in the north to Whangaehu Beach in the south. There are 151 registered and 18 approved covenants in this area, protecting around 9,000 ha of diverse ecosystems and other open space values.



**Hawke's Bay
Regional Council's
possum control
programme
supports
covenantors**

Over the past seven years the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) has been implementing an extensive possum control programme. Possums carry TB, they kill native animals and trees and they eat grass so there are multiple benefits in controlling their populations. The Council's biodiversity and land management work controlling possums is complemented by the Animal Health Board's TB possum control work and the Department of Conservation's pest control work on public conservation land.

HBRC biodiversity manager, Campbell Leckie, says the programme is delivering excellent results.

"Ten years ago a trap line of 100 traps was catching 30 possums a night. Today that number is one.

"We are at a point where a simpler maintenance programme is now enough to keep numbers low," he said.

Covenantors carrying out their own pest control projects can rest assured knowing that their work is not compromised or piecemeal because it is being done within a broader programme of work.

Troy Duncan, QEII's local representative, said the Council provides tremendous support to covenantors. It installs bait stations within covenants at no cost to the landowner. It has also made contributions towards surveying costs and the cost to fence off covenants.

"The Council's programme has helped the covenantors enormously and a very visible recovery in birdlife and native vegetation is the reward," he said.

Perfect management solution

Forest remnants in meandering stream systems are rare in Eastern Hawke's Bay. Evan and Linda Potter's covenant is special because it protects a large share of the Hawea Stream catchment, providing a long forest corridor of kanuka, podocarp and shrubland and a wildlife sanctuary right through the middle of their farm near Otane.

Since buying the farm 14 years ago Evan has worked hard on improving its condition. Part of his plan was to fence off the farm's steep forested areas. Covenanting the area was a perfect management solution, both protecting the bush and preventing stock from disappearing into its steep gullies. Funding support from HBRC and QEII was used to repair and build some 40 km of fencing around the covenant's boundaries. A willow infestation in the catchment had to be tackled and trees were planted on the farm's hills to help with soil and water quality management.

These improvement efforts were initially thwarted by possums. Frustrated with the number of possums invading his and neighbouring properties from surrounding pine forestries, Evan was instrumental in setting up a Council-led possum control regime for the area.

"I can't speak highly enough of the Council's land care scheme. We caught thousands of possums with the initial knock-down. Now we don't see any possums around the place," he said.

Evan says keeping possum numbers down is crucial to protect his cattle and deer stock from the threat of bovine TB. The change in the covenant is also palpable. Healthy bush regeneration has replaced trees stripped bare by possums and birds are returning to the area.

The success of the programme has attracted other councils to visit the Potters' farm and see first-hand the positive impact it has made. The farm also has important landscape values, the significance of which has attracted visitors from Auckland University's Geology Department who come to study the unusual sharp rock inclinations.



A willow infestation had to be tackled in the Potters' covenant.

Evan Potter



Covenant provides an oasis for birds and bats



In 1998 Folker and Prue Liebenow covenanted 57 ha of land described as the largest, most intact area of forest in the Anaroa Valley and lowland Heretaunga Plains (near Hastings). Today the covenant is managed by the Liebenows' daughter Caroline and her husband Duncan Kirk, who own a neighbouring farm.

Bellbirds, tui, kereru, pukeko and fantails are easily spotted in the titoki dominated forest. The forest harbours less conspicuous species too, like the forest gecko *Hoplodactylus granulatus* and native bats which Caroline says have surprised them on occasion by venturing into their house when they have left windows open on warm nights.

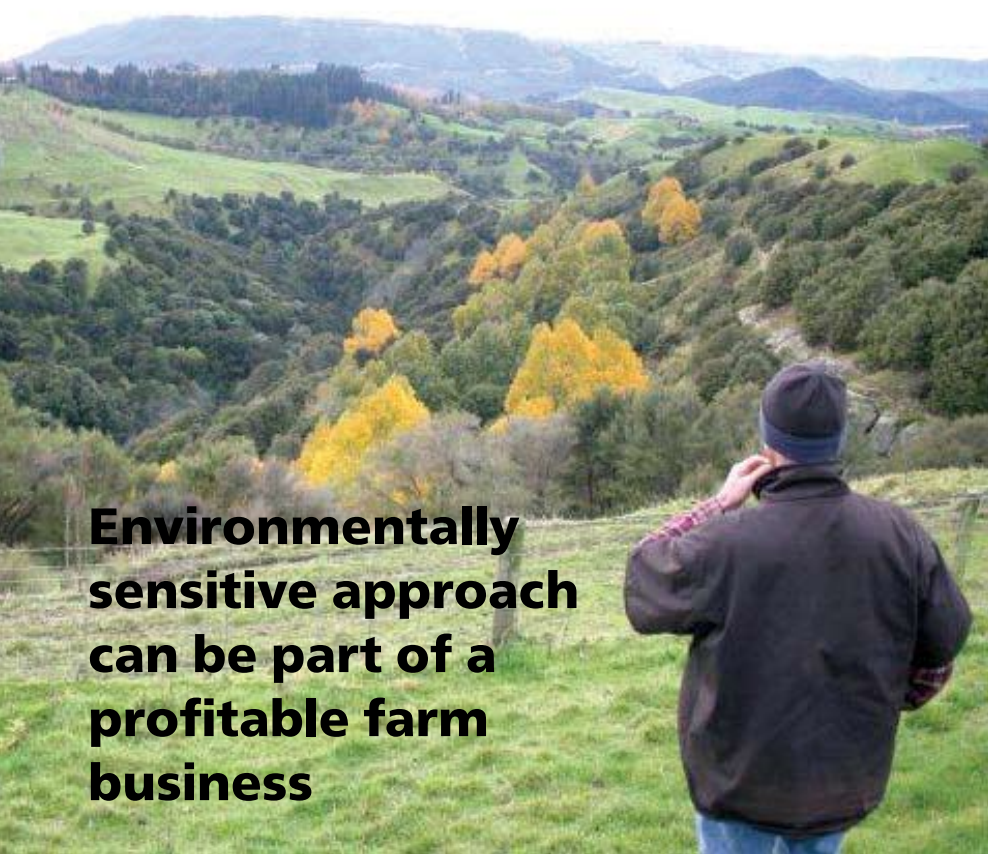
Above the Kirks' property a series of interconnected permanently flowing seeps and springs ooze from a limestone gully and flow down to form wetland areas on the farm. Caroline and Duncan have covenanted a large wetland area and have a full restoration plan in place for it.

"We have quite a significant area of wetland on our farm and we value it given that they are pretty scarce in the region and the Hawke's Bay can be prone to droughts.

"In protecting ours we can provide an oasis for wildlife as well as manage water quality and nutrient runoff issues," Caroline said.

These forest and wetland covenants, plus a nearby covenant, are part of a targeted feral cat and mustelid control programme supported by Farmlands and MWH as part of their Bringing Back Birds sponsorship programme. Since traps were put in place around mid-December (2010) 15 feral cats, one ferret and one stoat (and 30 plus hedgehogs) have been caught on their two properties.

The Kirks have future plans to open their covenants to the public. Duncan has already started developing walking tracks through the forest that they hope will one day provide suitable access for public visits.



Environmentally sensitive approach can be part of a profitable farm business

Trelinnoe farm, on the Napier-Taupo road near Te Pohue, was purchased by John and Fiona Wills in 1956. It is now managed by brothers Bruce and Scott who are passionate advocates for sustainable land management practices. They have a long-term plan to increase the farm's profitability while incorporating initiatives that improve the condition, aesthetics and biodiversity values of the land. More than 6,000 poplars and willows have been planted to check against erosion and provide all of their 100 paddocks with shade and shelter for stock. They also have 116 ha of native bush protected by QEII covenants. That is around 10% of their total farm area. Their goal is to get that up to 15%.

Bruce Wills is President of Federated Farmers, Chair of the East Coast Balance Farm Environment Awards, and interim Chair of the newly formed organisation, the NZ Poplar and Willow Research Trust, which is supported by HBRC and MAF. His involvement in all three organisations is underpinned by his belief that an environmentally sensitive approach can be part of a profitable farm business.

"But the bottom line is you have to farm black to farm green.

"By securing profitability across the farming industry we can then work at

encouraging farmers to protect and plant more trees on the farm. It is the best way to stabilise the land, and provide shade and shelter. And trees can add value to the farm's profitability through carbon sequestration earnings, not to mention their biodiversity and landscape-beautifying values," Bruce said.

He added that farming in New Zealand is coming under more scrutiny from home and export customers who want assurances that sustainable practices are being used. Investing in good environmental practices is a win/win because it also makes economic sense.

"I am a huge fan of QEII. Its model works perfectly alongside practical farming needs and it provides greatly appreciated support to get enduring benefits for the farm and natural environments within it," he said.

A love of trees runs deep in the Wills family. Trelinnoe also contains a well-known public woodlands garden containing many mature exotic and native trees, planted by John and Fiona Wills over a 50 year period.

The QEII National Trust extends its warmest congratulations to Bruce Wills on his recent appointment as President of Federated Farmers New Zealand.

Forest corridor covenants

Hamish and Janine McLean, along with several other neighbours farming along the Huatokitoki Stream, have put covenants in place to protect a forest corridor of significant ecological value. Huatokitoki Stream meanders through the alluvial flats of Hawke's Bay. It is the single remaining forested stream in the area, and an important tributary of the Porangahau River, the only river left in Hawke's Bay where shellfish (fresh water mussels) can be taken from the river mouth. The



Huatokitoki Stream

Pest control in Huatokitoki Stream covenants

Covenants offer a haven for native species, but pest control is needed because they can also be a good food supply for introduced animal predators.

The Hunter, Pharazyn, Allport, Russell and McLean families, whose farms contain sections of the Huatokitoki Stream, have made a joint effort to control pests in their covenants. The area is unique because of the plant species mix on its very fertile alluvial soils. The native flora is typically podocarp broadleaved lowland forest. Key bird species are the native wood



TREVOR THOMPSON

White mistletoe

stream is flanked by a mainly kahikatea, totara, matai and mixed broadleaf forest.

Covenanting the stream complemented HBRC-led initiatives to support sustainable land management practices and protect the region's water and bush remnants. However, an even deeper appreciation of the natural environment developed when the McLeans saw the difference protection was making to the forest.

"The Council's possum control has been extremely successful. I haven't seen a possum in 5 to 6 years. With possum control and fencing the bush regrowth and returning birdlife has been incredible. It made me realise the extent of the damage being done and how valuable the bush was.

"Keeping stock away from the stream has definitely improved the water quality as well," Hamish said.

Hamish and Janine have recently submitted a proposal to covenant another area of bush higher up on the farm. This covenant will protect a remnant of titoki, mahoe and tawa forest in which the rare white mistletoe, *Tupeia antarctica* has been found.

pigeon/kereru and tui. These species are rare in the Huatokitoki Stream area and are nationally listed as in gradual decline. The decline of these birds within this ecosystem is a serious problem as many native plant species rely on them for pollination and seed dispersal.



MALCOLM PULLMAN

Nature and history protected

The Chambers family has two very distinctive covenants on their property protecting threatened landscape values and critically under-protected archaeological features.

Only about 3% of the landscape in the Eastern Hawke's Bay remains in natural vegetation, and very little of that remains on limestone hill country. In 2007 Mason Chambers covenanted a 4.5 ha area of limestone bluff and karaka treeland on his property near Te Mata Peak. His covenant protects landforms and native vegetation similar to that found at Te Mata Peak itself but is in a much healthier state having avoided the vandalism that plagues the Peak. (Over the years burning car tyres rolled down the hill have caused damage to native vegetation there). The limestone cliffs in the covenant support a diverse range of plant species including the rare *Pimelea aridula* (Toroheke, NZ daphne) and a native *Chinonochloa* tussock grass species which is unique to the area.

Restoration plantings done by son Brian Chambers and his partner Anna Archibald have taken off despite being hit by three drought years in a row.

"It is amazing how hardy native plants are. We lost a few, but many have survived and have formed a good nursery to nurture seedlings from the more mature trees," Anna said.

In 2009 Mason covenanted a group of four Maori pits not 50 metres from his house. The site is thought to have been on a thoroughfare used by early Maori as they travelled from the Heretaunga Plains out to the coast, and has connections to the Kaiwaka pa which is located some 600 metres away.



Mason Chambers next to one of the Maori pits he has protected with a covenant.



A limestone bluff and karaka treeland covenanted area protects a range of rare plant species on the Chambers' property.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards celebrate role models who can motivate and inspire others by showing how an environmentally-sensitive approach can be part of a profitable farming business. The Awards are held annually in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Manawatu/Whanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, Southland and Otago.

Warmest congratulations are extended to QEII covenantors around the country who received Ballance Farm Environment Awards this year.



Margaret McKee (QEII CEO), Gordon and Celia Stephenson (the very first covenantors) and Sir Brian Lochore, at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards annual dinner, Hastings, June 2011. All photos in this section courtesy of NZFEAT.

Southland Supreme Regional Award Winners, Grant and Bernadette Weller – Crosshill Farm

The judges were impressed with the Wellers' strong family involvement and their "outstanding consideration" given to the protection of the natural environment of the Hokonui Hills while still operating a profitable and productive farm business. Crosshill Farm is an 890 ha sheep and beef farm on the north facing side of the Hokonuis between Balfour and Riversdale. 700 ha of the farm is in native and over-sown silver and red tussock with areas of native bush spread throughout. Maintaining and enhancing water quality is the driver behind existing vegetation protection and new plantings on the farm while grazing management on hills preserves native habitats and maintains tussocks for shelter. Crosshill has three QEII covenants protecting 20 ha of broadleaf-dominated forest. The covenant blocks are the only known site in Hokonui of the nationally vulnerable native miniature buttercup. The presence of miniature toetoe and mountain ribbonwood is also unusual for Southland covenants. The Wellers were also winners of the Waterforce Water Quality and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Habitat Improvement awards.

...and inaugural winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy

Grant and Bernadette Weller are the inaugural holders of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy after being named national winners of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Selected from nine Supreme regional finalists the judges said the Wellers would be excellent ambassadors for New Zealand farming. "They are successful business people and strong communicators who will be able to effectively convey their sustainable farming beliefs and actions to a wide audience within New Zealand and beyond."

Gordon Stephenson started the Farm Environment Awards. He was also a key instigator in the establishment of the QEII National Trust and was the first person in New Zealand to covenant land with QEII.



Gordon Stephenson with Bernadette and Grant Weller.

Wayne Webb and Karen McCrae and Landcorp – Lynmore Farm – Southland



Lynmore farm is an intensive sheep, beef and deer operation located approximately 20 km south-east of Lake Te Anau. It has been managed for the past nine years by Wayne Webb and his partner Karen McCrae who oversee seven permanent staff and two casual workers on the 2557 ha property. There are currently seven registered QEII open space covenants on the property totalling 85 ha of protected wetlands and bush, which add an extra dimension and diversity to the property's appearance and protect the habitat of many native species. Protection of streams is ongoing with Wayne currently fencing the property's main waterway. Wayne and Karen won the Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Award and the PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award for the region.

Richard and Rachel Steele – Retaruke Station – Manawatu/Whanganui

Richard and Rachel Steele farm Perendale/Romney sheep and Angus cattle on their 1441 ha hill country property located an hour south of Taumarunui. Alongside that they have 400 beehives and are venturing into eco-tourism. 150 ha of their land is in a forestry partnership, planted in redwood and they have retired 80 ha of regenerating native bush and placed 119 ha of mature native bush under a QEII covenant. The QEII block once contained magnificent but unfortunately illegally logged rimu, matai and kahikatea, some of which were still lying there when the Steeles bought the property. This bush does still have some large trees standing. Experts estimate some of the living kahikatea to be almost 900 years old. The bush also contains a variety of native orchids and an ancient native passion vine/kohia. "By covenanting this bush we've made sure felling is never going to happen again," says Rachel. The Steeles were awarded the PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award and the Massey University Discovery Award.



James and Jane Hunter – Rangitoto



James and Jane Hunter are the East Coast winners of the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Habitat Improvement Award and the East Coast Farming for the Future Award. Their primarily sheep farm, Rangitoto, is on 660 ha of coastal hill country near Porangahau. There are 10 QEII bush and scrub covenants on the farm covering 41 ha. A 6 ha wetland/dam area awaits survey for covenanting. Aerial photos of the farm taken in 1953, 1972, and 1994 reinforced with James that he was going in the right direction when he began the QEII process in the late 1990s. "I could see that the scrub areas were disappearing. It was either fence it or lose it," he said. He stresses that on their own, they were very ordinary areas of scrub. But what is now happening within all the fenced QEII areas is very healthy bush regeneration and an explosion of bird numbers. The Hunters have even sighted the extremely rare bittern bird on their property, of which there are reportedly only around 700 left. James says he wanted to have a farm with the whole package – productive farmland alongside regenerating bush and wetlands – in summary an attractive office! James is a director on the QEII National Trust Board.

Dave and Hayley Vaughan and Landcorp – Hindon Farm – Otago

Hindon Farm is a 1226 ha sheep-breeding and finishing and beef and deer finishing property up in the hinterland between Middlemarch and Mosgiel. Dave is overseeing the removal or change in production of a number of chunks of land on Hindon Farm. There are four areas totalling 30 ha that have been protected with QEII covenanting.

These areas are mostly native grassland and also take in the main stream through the deer unit, which is now double-fenced. The Vaughans and Landcorp are winners of the Hill Laboratories Harvest Award, Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Award and Ballance Agri-Nutrients Nutrient Management Award.



Otago Supreme Regional Award Winners – Peter and Helen Gilder and Landcorp – Waitepeka Farm

Situated southeast of Balclutha on the Owaka Scenic Highway, Waitepeka was originally a smaller sheep breeding property. The Gilders came to the farm having been asked first to convert it into a finishing block, then in 2002 to oversee the creation of two dairy units. Staff management and training is a huge part of the job and Telford students also benefit from learning farming skills under Peter's supervision. Peter and Helen are committed to biodiversity protection on the farm and have their own nursery and an annual budget for plantings. They encourage younger students to connect with the farm and understand the importance of biodiversity protection through an ongoing Arbor Day planting programme organised



with the local primary school. Waitepeka has seven areas of native bush and wetland in QEII and DOC covenants totalling 15.6 ha. The Gilders and Landcorp were also winners of the LIC Dairy Farm and PGG Wrightson Land and Life awards.



Jeff and Shirley Ravenwood – Fernglen – Wairarapa

Jeff and Shirley Ravenwood run a 1150 ha sheep and beef farm in the Homewood district on the Wairarapa coast. The judges considered Jeff a "top operator", demonstrating excellence in his production figures, sustainable land practices and the application of woodlot and conservation plantings on land susceptible to erosion. On the flats he is allowing for drainage, subdivision, pasture management and grazing practices. On the hill country he has retained native vegetation, waterway protection and on the hard hills he has seen the opportunity to apply both conservation and carbon forestry. There are QEII covenants on the Ravenwoods' property,

protecting 100 ha of regenerating native bush. Jeff and Shirley were winners of the Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Award for their region.



Ed and Melody Handyside – Te Hopai – Featherston

The Handyside family has been beef and sheep farming near Martinborough in the Wairarapa for over 100 years. Son Ed and his wife Melody are conscious of the family's long connection with the land and are inspired guardians of it. On Te Hopai they protect a 16 ha wetland area on the farm and another 2 ha wetland is currently being fenced off. Native planting is ongoing in these areas. They have a high value forest remnant, which was covenanted by Ed's parents Dennis and Andrée. The 11.9 ha covenanted area straddles the boundary of Blue Rock next door where Dennis and Andrée now live. Ed and Melody were winners of the Hill Laboratories Harvest Award.



The Cousins Family – "Hiamoe" – Feilding

The Cousins have been on their family farm near Feilding for 100 years and say they want to be there for the next 100. Ensuring the land is in good heart for generations to come is reflected in the priorities on the farm, like riparian strips, the protection of native bush by a QEII covenant, extensive tree planting for erosion control, stock shelter and commercial woodlots, and the trialling of biological farming applications on a portion of the farm. Surrounded by rolling deer/sheep and beef pasture, the Cousins' covenant protects a 3 ha tawa-totara-pukatea forest remnant which harbours a wealth of birdlife including bellbird, tui, kereru and the New Zealand kingfisher. The Cousins were winners of the Beef and Lamb Livestock Farm Award and the Horizons Regional Council Award for the integration of trees.



Winston Fleming – Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environment Award winner

When Winston Fleming's father bought land at Kahoroa near Rotorua in 1936 he cleared bush to develop an economic farm, but left many areas untouched because of the rich native wildlife they contained. His love of nature was passed on to Winston who owns the farm today. There are significant native bush remnants left in paddocks to provide shelter and shade for stock. Virtually all wetlands have been retired and fenced to prevent stock access and although the farm is rich in native trees Winston has also planted many more. There are around 40 ha of native forest reserves on the farm, much of which is formally protected with QEII covenants. This bush is particularly special because it is a habitat for the endangered kokako bird. "There are only a few places in the country where kokako are found on private land so I am very proud that my bush is one of them. I have seen them foraging for worms and bugs on the forest floor, and to hear them sing is magic," Winston said.



Murray and Marcelle Douglas – Douglas Farms – Northland

The Douglas farming business presently supports 10 families in addition to Murray and Marcelle, all working in a high-input dairying business. Strategic planning on the Douglas' farm is structured around four key areas – people, environment, animals and finance. Over the past four years they have invested in farm infrastructure, including effluent ponds, races, fencing and water supply. A small hydro-electric power scheme is also planned, using water from an 18 ha lake to generate about 20% of the farm's electricity requirements. Significant areas of native bush have been fenced off and a 15 ha block is under a QEII covenant. Murray and Marcelle are passing on the principles of environmental care to the next generation by involving the local primary school in a project to plant out an area around the lake with native trees. They were winners of the Northland region PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award.



Ross and Pamela Townshend – Ranworth Farm Ltd, Waikato with managers Podge and Trisha Hellings, David Beck and Laura Cole

Ranworth Farm is a 700 ha sheep and beef farm at Te Akau in Waikato owned by Ross and Pamela Townshend with managers on each of its two blocks. The judges noted after their visit the "very evident" passion of all the people involved in the farm, which they described as "beautiful." An extensive fencing and planting programme is ongoing as part of the farm's sustainability plan. The farm has a 12 ha QEII covenant protecting a semi-coastal forest remnant and wetlands habitat. Wetlands that retain forest around their margins are rare in the region. The Ranworth Farm Ltd team were winners of the Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Award.



Managing your covenant

Weed control

Weeds are one of the greatest threats to New Zealand's biodiversity so controlling them is essential if we are to limit their spread and damage. QEII rep and weed expert Trevor Thompson discusses four weed categories and how they impact on native vegetation. He provides tips on how to control a top offender in each category.

Exotic ground covers like *Tradescantia fluminensis* (common names tradescantia, wandering Willy or river spiderwort) and *Vinca major* (periwinkle) can carpet a forest's floor, preventing seeds from reaching the ground and germinating or making survival of native seedlings difficult because of smothering. A forest with extensive exotic ground cover suffers as it will have mature trees only and very little understorey. Eventual forest collapse and loss of biodiversity occurs when these mature trees die and there are no surviving seedlings to regenerate the forest.

Shrub weeds, *Solanum pseudocapsicum* (Jerusalem cherry) and *Erica lusitanica* (Spanish heath), for example, invade niches that should be filled by native plants. If they are abundant they can have a mono-species effect, reducing the available year-round supply of food that an intact understorey provides for native fauna. They can also modify ecosystems, like tussocklands or native grasslands, by converting them to exotic shrublands over time.

Climbers like *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard) and *Passiflora mollissima* (banana passionfruit) often start their invasion of a forest at the forest edge or in a clearing. Climbers travel along the ground till they find a tree. Trees can be swathed completely in weed foliage and, unable to photosynthesise, die. They can also become prone to wind throw because of top heaviness and the sail effect caused by the climber. Climbers are successful weeds as their ability to climb high into the canopy ensures their wind borne seeds travel far and wide.

Seeds from exotic trees can be deposited into the heart of a forest where they are able to grow to the canopy; often many times faster than a native tree. *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn) and *Acer pseudoplatinus* (sycamore) are examples of exotic trees that grow to crowd out most other species. The hawthorn spreads successfully because it produces many long-lived, well dispersed seeds, is extremely tough and versatile, tolerates hot to cold temperatures, damp to dry conditions, salt, wind, heavy damage, most soils, and semi-shade. The deciduous sycamore sheds its leaves to cover native ground covers, shutting out sunlight and likely altering pH levels. Once these trees are established they can form dense (occasionally pure) thickets, preventing the establishment of native plant seedlings.

WEEDBUSTING TIPS FOR FOUR

TRADESCANTIA

Interestingly, tradescantia does not produce seed in New Zealand because only male plants are present here. It is spread very easily by small sections of the stem moving to new locations and taking root. This can happen if garden waste has been dumped inappropriately or simply by a small section of stem being caught in an animal hoof or boot tread and then deposited elsewhere. Dogs are often allergic to tradescantia, breaking out in red, itchy pustules on their stomach, paws and chest if they have come into contact with it. It was introduced to New Zealand from Brazil as a ground cover, and a very successful one at that, being almost unstoppable.

Controlling it

Small quantities of tradescantia can be hand weeded and disposed of. (Take to the green waste area at the dump). Because it grows so easily extreme care is needed not to drop any segment of the plant when walking out of the forest and it should not be added to your compost heap.

Unfortunately there is currently no successful organic method for controlling this weed (however, there is hope for successful biological control in the future – see article on page 16). For large established colonies, spray using 6ml/litre of Grazon™. Be sure to wet the leaves only. If allowed to drip on the soil Grazon™ can affect surface rooted native trees and in dry conditions can kill them.

Repeat sprays two months apart are necessary during spring and summer. This plant will rapidly regain lost ground if given a break. Treatment over a three year period may be necessary to get tradescantia to low levels or eradicated.



WEEDBUSTERS

OUR TOP OFFENDERS



KERRI LUKS

OLD MAN'S BEARD

Old man's beard may look like our native clematis but it is a destructive weed. An easy way to tell the difference is to count leaflet numbers. Leaves on old man's beard are arranged in opposite pairs on the stems, and are made up of five (rarely three) widely spaced leaflets that fall in autumn. The native clematis leaf has three leaflets.

Controlling it

This hardy climber is difficult to keep under control. Spray it when its foliage can be accessed by using a knapsack sprayer with Grazon™ (6ml/litre). If it has climbed high into trees, cut through its vines at ground level. Wait for the stumps to sprout new growth and produce plenty of foliage and then spray.

At least two years of follow-up spraying at three-monthly intervals will be needed to treat new growth sprouting from unaffected root tips. This plant loses its leaves in the autumn so spray when new healthy foliage reappears.

JERUSALEM CHERRY

This plant grows to one metre and produces many small spherical red fruits. Birds spread the seed. It is originally from South America and is poisonous to children and livestock.

Controlling it

Small quantities can be controlled by uprooting. Spraying with Roundup™ (10ml/litre) will also control it, but care must be taken as the herbicide will kill any soft-leaved plants it contacts.

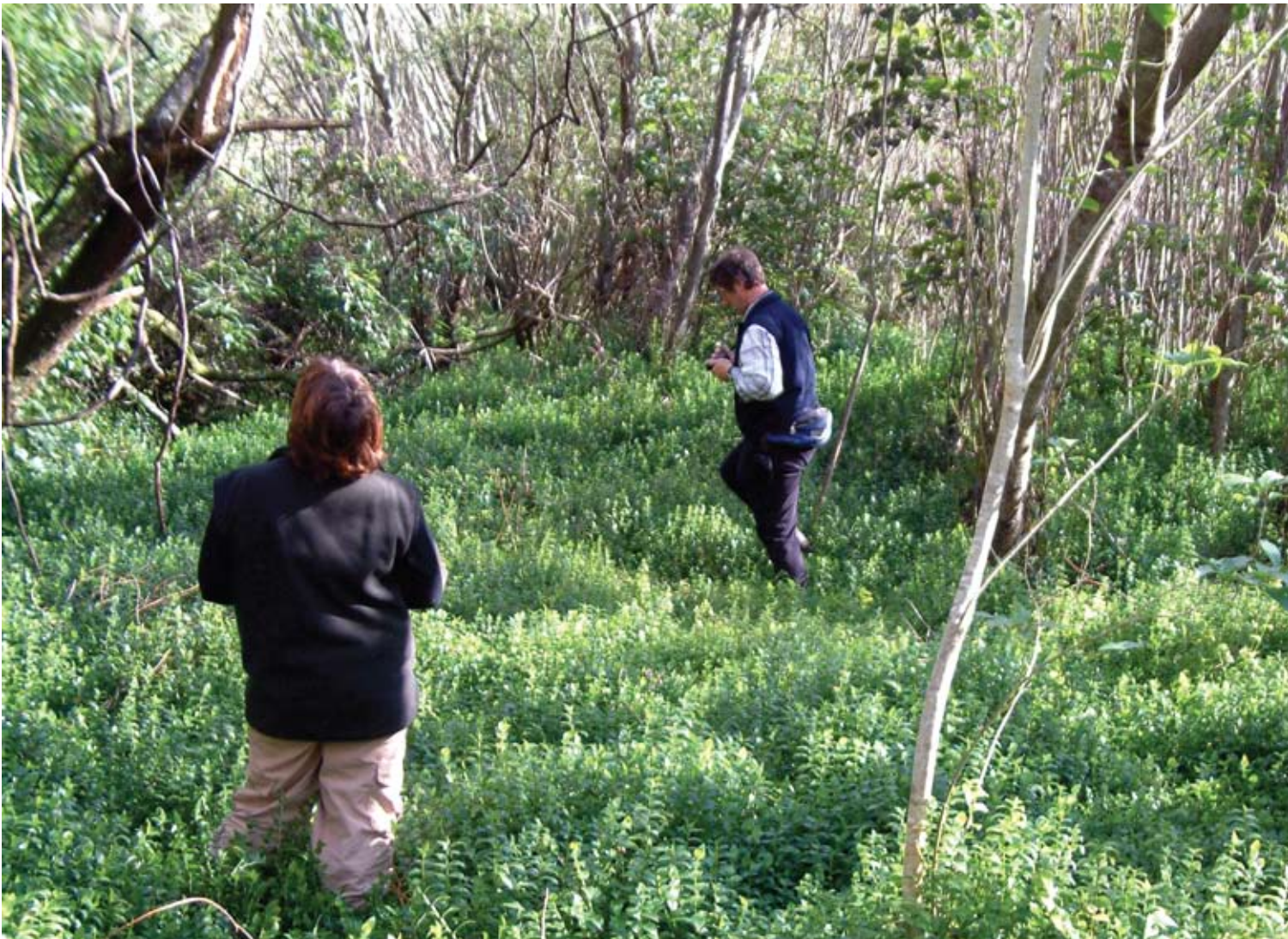


SYCAMORE

This quick-growing tree can suddenly appear in a forest after seed has travelled quite some distance in high winds. Its classic maple leaf shape makes it easy to identify. Its seeds have two wings slowing its descent to enhance seed dispersal. By comparison rewarewa has only one wing on its seed.

Controlling it

Seedlings can be uprooted by hand. If too big to pull they should be cut with loppers (the wood is quite soft) and the stump treated with Vigilant™ gel if small numbers are present. Otherwise use Grazon™, or Tordon xt™ brush killer or a similar recommended stump treatment at 150ml/litre of either water or diesel. If using diesel make sure the mixture is agitated frequently. Use a paint brush to apply. Larger trees should be felled and their stumps treated. Only the outer ring of the stump needs to be treated as this is where new growth sprouts.



Brazilian leaf beetle released for biocontrol of tradescantia

An update from the Landcare Research Beating Weeds programme funded by the Department of Conservation (including the Auckland Council) and the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

Photo: Tradescantia can dominate the understorey of a native forest, becoming a solid, dense knee-deep carpet that prevents normal regeneration.

The release of the tradescantia leaf beetle (*Neolema ogloblini*) might see the invasive weed that gives it its name finally under control in New Zealand. Native to south eastern Brazil and north eastern Argentina, the beetle was first imported in 2007 by Landcare Research into containment for testing its suitability as a biocontrol agent for tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*). Permission to release it in New Zealand was granted by ERMA (the Environmental Risk Management Authority) towards the end of 2008, but was delayed because the beetle was suffering from a gut parasite. After two years of intense effort the beetle was declared free of

the parasite and mass rearing of it was able to start at the end of 2010.

With the aim of establishing a nursery site to breed the beetles, Landcare Research and the Northland Regional Council provided 300 beetles for release within a QEII covenant near Whangarei earlier this year.

As its name suggests, the tradescantia leaf beetle and its larvae feed on the foliage of the weed, eventually weakening the plant by skeletonising the leaves. Landcare Research considers the beetle to be highly host-specific and say it is highly unlikely that any plant other than tradescantia will be attacked.



Nan Pullman (QEII) releasing the tradescantia leaf beetle with covenantors Ian and Sandy Page and their grandson, Nico.

The release of the beetle marks the end of an eight-year project by Landcare Research scientists to prepare the agent for use in New Zealand. Rigorous tests were undertaken to ensure that the



ervation, National Biocontrol

a solid, dense knee-deep carpet that prevents normal regeneration and, in the long-term, threaten the forest's survival.

The plant is also possibly the most widespread and troublesome garden weed throughout New Zealand. *Tradescantia* is very difficult to control as it breaks into many pieces when pulled, with almost every piece of stem capable of resprouting. The plant is also capable of causing canine allergic dermatitis, an itchy reaction in dogs.

Successful biological control of *tradescantia* would not only assist native forest regeneration, it would mean an end to the challenging task of removing the plant by hand, and less reliance on the use of herbicides.



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Auckland Council recently got ERMA's permission to release two further host-specific *tradescantia* agents that Landcare Research has been studying: the tip-feeding beetle (*Neolema abbreviata*) and the stem-boring beetle (*Lema basicostata*).

Meanwhile, work is continuing in Brazil on a fourth promising agent, the yellow leaf spot fungus (*Kordyana brasiliense*).

The results of the first release of the leaf beetle will be known later in the year when its ability to survive the winter elements and its impact on the host plant has been assessed by Northland Regional Council staff.



MALCOLM PULLMAN

beetle would not attack other plants, did not contain any unwanted parasites, or have any unwanted effects whatsoever on the flora and fauna of New Zealand.

The release of biological control agents in New Zealand is subject to stringent procedures imposed by ERMA. All prospective agents must be thoroughly tested to prove that they are "host-specific" – that is, cannot predate other plants; and will not impact on human health, the environment, conservation values, primary production or Maori values.

Tradescantia has become widespread in frost-free parts of the North Island and parts of the South Island. Thriving in shaded areas it can dominate the understorey of a native forest, becoming

Chair and Chief Executive's report

We are proud to report another milestone year for the Trust. Together with its covenantors the Trust is quietly growing the network of protected areas around the country, enhancing the resilience of natural places found across our productive landscapes. There are now 3,518 registered covenants protecting just under 100,000 ha of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage on private land. Most of this land is in lowland areas, the most developed of our land environments and where our biodiversity is now greatly under-represented.

The number of monitoring visits naturally increases with the growth in covenant numbers. Of the 1,700 covenants visited in the formal monitoring programme this past year we are pleased to report a 96% compliance rate both for covenantors who have initiated a covenant and for those who have inherited a covenant with the purchase of a property. This level of compliance remains constant each year and is testament to the dedication of covenantors in protecting their protected sites and the success of the covenantor/Trust partnership.

This year we introduced GPS photopoints for monitoring. This is an exciting project that will allow a simple qualitative analysis to record changes over time and enhance the ongoing management of covenants.

A review of the Trust's legal service requirements was undertaken to consider improvements in efficiencies and legal robustness. The business environment is changing and it is important that the Trust be geared for the future and able to take advantage of electronic data management and electronic registration facilities now available with LINZ. As a consequence of the review two positions were disestablished and in their place one new one, Legal Counsel, was created.

Regional Board meetings remain the highlight in the QEII calendar, giving the Trust the opportunity to meet with landowners on their patch and learn of regional issues first-hand. This year regional meetings were held in Opotiki, Te Anau and Hawke's Bay.

The ecosystem and aesthetic values of New Zealand's natural heritage and the health and wealth of the land are inextricably linked. We

know that conservation benefits all New Zealanders but also that there will always be competing demands for funding. The Trust is a cost effective and practical tool for Government to achieve enduring and financially sustainable conservation outcomes. The success of the model is inherent in the focus on partnerships and the connection between nature and people.

The Trust acknowledges the generous and visionary contribution covenantors across the country are making to sustainably manage and conserve natural and cultural values on their land. A number of covenantors were award recipients of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme which aims to support and promote sustainable farming practices. We congratulate in particular Bernadette and Grant Weller, covenantors from Southland, who won the inaugural Gordon Stephenson Trophy as the Supreme national winners of the Awards.

At the end of the financial year Sir Brian Lochore stood down as Chairperson after eight years in the role. Sir Brian brought great mana to the Trust and he will be missed. His straight forward approach and genuine passion for people and farming personifies QEII. The Hon Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, hosted a special parliamentary function in June to thank him for his unique and priceless contribution to private land conservation in New Zealand.

This 2011 Annual Report covers the last financial year of Sir Brian's leadership, but because of the timing of its release, is signed off by the new chair, James Guild, who was appointed by the Minister of Conservation, effective from 1 July 2011.



Margaret McKee
Chief Executive

13 September 2011



James Guild
Chairperson

13 September 2011



2011 Highlights

- Photopoint recording for standard monitoring of all covenants introduced.
- 160 covenants registered and 159 proposals approved during the year.
- 71 new approvals (or an estimated 1,815 ha) are in Acutely or Chronically Threatened environments as defined by Land Environments of New Zealand (Level IV).
- 41 new approved covenants will protect indigenous vegetation associated with wetland ecosystems.
- New approved covenants will further protect many threatened species – notable inclusions this year are kiwi, long-tailed bats, native orchids, native mistletoe, jewelled geckos, NZ falcon, fernbirds, freshwater koura and kakahi/mussels, Hochstetter's frog and blue duck/whio.
- 70 new approved covenants protect primary forest in coastal, semi-coastal, lowland, montane and sub-montane environments.
- QEII covenants recognised this year with Ballance Farm Environment Awards included Supreme regional wins for Southland and Otago, and the Supreme national award (the Gordon Stephenson Trophy).
- The two largest covenants approved this year will protect around 2,450 ha of diverse natural features, threatened species and recreation and landscape values in the South Island.

Registered and approved covenants

AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

QEI covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments map

Summary – 30 June 2011

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	3518	96,414.42
Approved covenants	432	16,761.50
Formal agreements	30	849
Total	3980	114,024.92

Largest covenant 6,564 ha

Average size 28.6 ha

Altitude range Sea level to 2,200 m

Region with most registered covenants Northland: 578

Region with largest area in covenants Waikato: 16,094.29 ha

Organisation with most covenants Landcorp Farming Limited

QEI properties 29

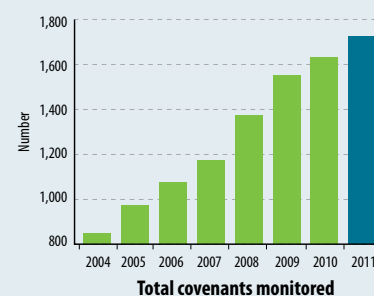
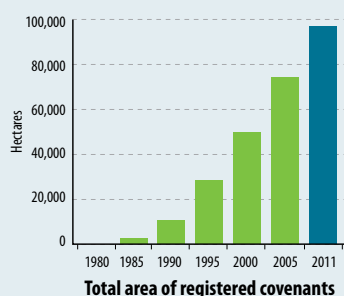
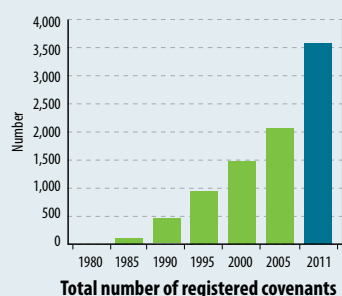
Threat category

- 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 QEI covenants: symbol represents location only and not actual area of covenanted land.

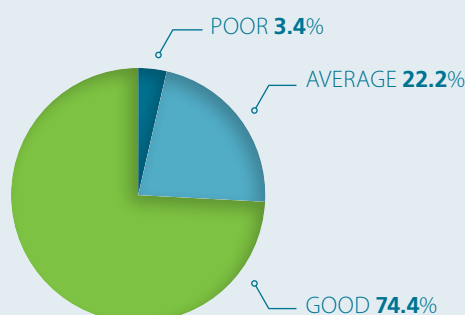
Regional Council	Total land area in the region (ha)	No of Approved covenants	No of Registered and Formalised covenants	Total number of covenants (Approved, Registered & Formalised)	Total area registered, approved and formalised covenants (ha)	Largest registered covenant in the region	Average covenant size (ha)
Northland	1,250,000	51	578	629	9,569.54	417	15.2
Auckland	500,000	30	245	275	4,168.02	841	15.2
Waikato	2,500,000	64	522	586	16,094.29	645	27.5
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	9	166	175	9,536.08	6,564	54.5
Gisborne	826,500	18	116	134	4,967.70	1,104	37.1
Taranaki	723,600	54	244	298	5,364.01	334	18.0
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	21	209	230	10,311.02	4,606	44.8
Horizons	2,221,500	28	297	325	7,464.72	306	23.0
Wellington	813,000	32	281	313	6,030.18	824	19.3
Tasman	978,600	14	130	144	2,210.74	641	15.4
Nelson	42,100	0	13	13	300.75	140	23.1
Marlborough	1,049,500	6	59	65	2,965.18	182	45.6
West Coast	2,300,000	18	50	68	2,491.41	619	36.6
Canterbury	4,220,000	42	235	277	16,320.25	1,679	58.9
Otago	3,200,000	23	157	180	10,637.03	2,735	59.1
Southland	3,035,000	22	246	268	5,594.00	214	20.9
Totals		432	3,548	3,980	114,024.92		28.6

Statistics

Covenants



Monitoring and management of covenants

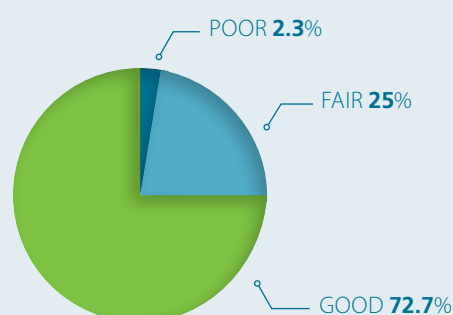


Adherence assessment

During the 2010/2011 financial year 1700 covenants were monitored. Covenants are assessed to check standards of adherence to the covenant agreement's terms and conditions. 96% of covenants were compliant.

Good adherence exceeds the terms and conditions, *average adherence* satisfies the terms and conditions, and *poor adherence* is where terms and conditions have been breached.

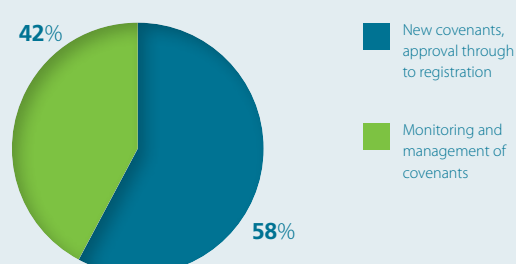
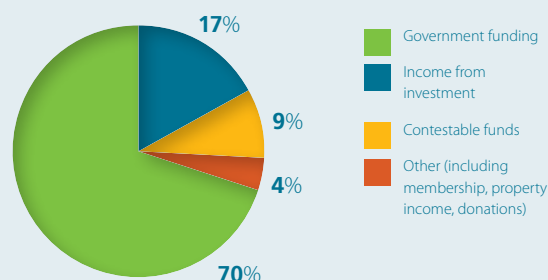
Appropriate remedial action is taken quickly if poor adherence is identified.



Canopy condition

Where applicable, *canopy condition* assesses the state of the dominant vegetation layer, which will vary according to the type of protected habitat. For instance, a forest canopy is formed by the taller trees and may be affected by possum browse. A tussock grassland canopy is formed by the tussocks and may be impacted upon by grazing or fire.

Financial Statistics



Protecting biodiversity on private land

National Priorities

A Statement of National Priorities was developed in 2007 to guide decision-making around biodiversity protection on private land. The four national priorities in the statement identify the types of ecosystems and habitats most in need of protection.

The Trust gives priority to covenant proposals that fall within the national priorities list.

During this financial year 160 QEII covenants were formally registered protecting 2,387 ha of private land. An additional 159 proposals covering around 6,917 ha have been approved for covenanting and are now going through the registration process.

The covenants registered during the year range from 0.01 ha to 246 ha in size. Natural and cultural features protected include landscapes, bush remnants, wetlands and waterways, shrublands, tussock grasslands, threatened species habitats and cultural and archaeological sites.



National Priority 1

To protect indigenous vegetation associated with land environments (defined by Land Environments of New Zealand at Level IV) that have 20% or less remaining in indigenous cover.

The Noones have covenanted five blocks of land protecting around 54 ha of natural heritage on their property near Waikouaiti, north of Dunedin. The covenants feature significant biodiversity and landscape values provided in particular by the steep rocky landforms of "Falcon Point" rising above the Waikouaiti River. The threatened Eastern falcon (Nationally Vulnerable) shares the covenanted kowhai woodlands, kanuka shrublands and snow tussock grasslands with many other native species.



National Priority 2

To protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands; ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity.

Around 100 ha of freshwater wetland habitat bordering Wainono Lagoon near Waimate in South Canterbury was formally registered as a QEII covenant this year. The lagoon is highly representative of the original wetland ecosystems that were once extensive throughout the region and represents approximately a quarter of all saline/estuarine wetland areas remaining in South Canterbury. The area has high conservation, fisheries and wildlife values due to its size and the diversity of habitats it contains. For takaka whenua Wainono Lagoon has practical and spiritual importance with its wahi tapu, wai toanga and mahinga kai values.



National Priority 3

To protect indigenous vegetation associated with "originally rare" terrestrial ecosystem types not already covered by priorities 1 and 2.

An estimated 2,800 regionally rare matagouri (*Discaria toumatou* or wild Irishman) plants are being protected on the Doyles' property in the Wairarapa. The property holds the largest concentration of matagouri in the Greater Wellington region. Most of the matagouri shrublands that were in existence around 1853 have been eliminated from the Greater Wellington ecological district (Beadel *et al*, 2004). Matagouri is very uncommon and under threat throughout the North Island.



National Priority 4

To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.

Dactylanthus taylorii (also called wae wae atua, putiputi o te pouti and wood rose) is New Zealand's only completely parasitic flowering plant and is endemic to our country. It is listed as Chronically Threatened – Serious Decline. *Dactylanthus* has a close relationship with the short-tailed bat, which is an excellent pollinator of the plant. Both are protected in a central North Island covenant which also protects around 20 ha of a continuous forest tract providing valuable biodiversity, soil and water conservation values.

Partnerships and collaborations

QEI works closely with the Department of Conservation, regional and district councils, the Historic Places Trust and other organisations and individuals committed to protecting and enhancing New Zealand's diverse open spaces.

QEI is one of the project partners in the Landcare Research programme *Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity* with representation by the Chief Executive on the Governance Board. The research is publicly funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Science and Innovation.

The partnership continues between QEI and the New Zealand Farm Environment Awards Trust which operates the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This robust, peer reviewed process has an overall objective of promoting sustainable land management on farms.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Southland farmers and QEI covenantors Grant and Bernadette Weller are the first holders of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy after being named national winners of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The Wellers were chosen from the nine regional Supreme winners of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The QEI Trust was one of the sponsors of the inaugural Gordon Stephenson Trophy award package and is a partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Awards Trust which operates the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



Sir Brian Lochore with Grant and Bernadette Weller. Photo: NZFEAT

MWH sponsorships help bring back birds

As part of its *Bringing Back Birds* project, MWH New Zealand sponsors initiatives that protect native birds and plants. This year MWH committed \$15,000 to QEI to support six projects in QEI covenanted areas around the country. Projects included predator control work, revegetation projects and the production of interpretative signs to help increase awareness of protected habitats. At a revegetation project in the Hawke's Bay, MWH Hastings staff, families and friends, together with the landowners and representatives from the Maraetotara Tree Trust, volunteered their time at the Kirk Wetland where they planted 700 native trees in one morning.



MWH planting day. Photo: Adam Forbes.

QEI Athol Patterson Bursary

The 2011 QEI Athol Patterson Bursary was awarded to Alexander Meban at a ceremony held at Massey University in May. The award is a result of a bequest to QEI from the estate of Professor Athol Patterson, which set up a bursary to support students at Massey University interested in studying sustainable farming practices.



Alexander Meban and QEI director James Hunter. Photo: QEI

Statement of Service performance

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 two years.

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

The area, size and shape of covenants vary enormously, 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	2009/2010 Actual		2010/2011 Target		2010/2011 Actual	
	No	Hectares	No	Hectares	No	Hectares
Approved covenants	177	3,929	160	3,200	159	6,917
Registered covenants	169	3,322	200	4,000	160*	2,387
Cost	\$2,423,577		\$2,392,277		\$2,316,820	

* Note: The number of registrations for the year is below target. Contributing factors were: a general slowing up of work related to the Surveyor General's change to the Rules for Cadastre in May 2010; the impact of the Christchurch earthquakes on South Island survey work and internal changes within QEII.

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

QEII maintains the perpetual trustee role for covenants. Registered covenants are monitored not less than once every 24 months to ensure the agreed covenant objectives are being met by the landowner. This year, 96% of covenants visited met covenant conditions and 4% of covenants visited had poor adherence where there had been a breach of covenant terms and conditions. Appropriate remedial action is taken quickly for each occurrence.

Property ownership, either permanent or transitory, is sometimes appropriate to secure protection. QEII Trust currently owns 29 properties with natural, cultural, scientific and aesthetic values. They are managed in accordance with approved management plans.

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

Management services	2009/2010 Actual		2010/2011 Target		2010/2011 Actual	
	No	Hectares	No	Hectares	No	Hectares
QEII owned properties	29	1,600	29	1,686*	29	1,600
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,651	37,153	1,645	41,125	1,700	35,968
Cost	\$1,526,407		\$1,586,727		\$1,658,943	

* Actual figure is 1600 ha. This figure is based on the original total estimated hectareage which was overstated by 86 ha on the Hartree Forest property.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

2010 Actual \$		Note	2011 Actual \$	2011 Budget \$
	Revenue			
3,274,000	Government Grant		3,274,000	3,274,000
354,979	Contestable Funds	9	426,562	348,700
46,203	Donations and Other Grants		115,827	55,000
60,877	Other Revenue		70,132	70,691
3,736,059	Operating Revenue		3,886,521	3,748,391
	Expenditure			
750,761	Field Operations		799,571	833,250
1,463,933	Covenant Expenditure	1	1,381,961	1,363,000
354,979	Contestable Funds	9	426,562	348,700
1,122,990	Administration	2	1,173,244	1,174,003
25,445	Property Operations		7,434	22,551
119,906	Public Relations		72,984	102,500
74,414	Depreciation	3	77,153	85,000
3,912,428	Operating Expenses		3,938,909	3,929,004
618,203	Investment Income		807,115	550,000
37,556	Investment Expenses		36,854	50,000
580,647	Net Investment Income	4	770,261	500,000
404,278	Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/Disposals		717,873	319,387
404,278	Net Surplus		717,873	319,387
–	Other Comprehensive Income		–	–
404,278	Total Comprehensive Income		717,873	319,387



BILL WALLACE

Diverse open space features protected in newly approved Marlborough proposal

A large covenant proposal was approved by the Trust this year, covering over 1100 ha of rugged Marlborough high country and a range of open space features including landscape values and recreation. Habitats within the proposal range from subalpine gravelfields, montane tussock, grey scrub and beech forest to tree fuchsia dominated forest and wetlands. This proposal will maintain and safeguard connectivity between these varied habitats. It is of note that kea (Nationally Uncommon) have been seen and blue duck (Nationally Vulnerable) have been heard on this property.

New Zealand Bird Calls

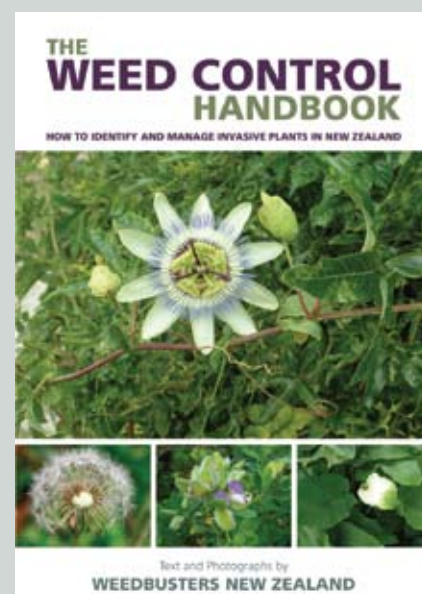
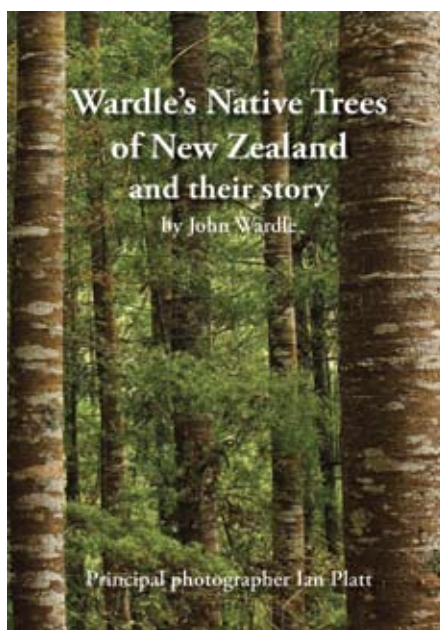


New Zealand is known for its birds and the melodic quality of their song. But how many of us can actually tell the difference between the song or call of one bird from another, without catching a glimpse of the bird first? Here in one book and CD package is a selection of 60 of the most popular, important or interesting birds in New Zealand. By Lynnette Moon, Geoff Moon, John Kendrick and Karen Baird. Available in bookstores. RRP \$29.00

Wardle's Native Trees of New Zealand and their story contains a wealth of information about all of New Zealand's trees, from the commonplace to the quirky.

Every species is described – how they are related, where they grow, traditional uses, other plants they grow with, and the means by which they reproduce.

On sale in all bookstores from October for \$95. All proceeds go to the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association.



From small, unwanted invaders of flower-beds and lawns, to irritating creeping vines and climbers, and the bigger shrubs and trees that may seem benign – Weedbusters New Zealand has collected information on 100 of the most invasive weedy plants in one volume. This book will help you identify weed species, and tell you how to control them and dispose of them safely.

Available in bookstores. RRP \$29.99

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Conservation Shareholding, Brynderwyns, Mangawhai



Rare chance to buy a share in 420ha QEII covenanted Brynderwyns bush property, Northland. Includes delightful eco-friendly cottage. Active conservationists sought. Enjoy birdlife, forest, streams and tracks while helping care for the land. 10 mins from Mangawhai Heads beach.

Details & POA: Marunui Conservation, Ph. 09 376 4069

Abundance in nature, Tairua, Coromandel Peninsula

Just 10 minutes north of Tairua, a scenic driveway leads up through this 3.1ha property's established native bush to a spacious area for a house and garden/orchard. 2.49 ha of the property's land is under QEII covenant.

Enjoy stunning views, pedestrian access to the kauri dam, waterfall, swimming hole, streams and picnic areas at Silverstream Falls. The property also overlooks the neighbouring native bush reserve with its excellent kauri, native bush and coastal walks.

RV: \$470,000

SPECIAL PRICE: \$276,000 (valued at 70% above asking price)

Contact Peter: 021 942 146

www.silverstreamfalls.co.nz



<http://pestdss.landcareresearch.co.nz/>
A decision support system for
vertebrate pest control

Landcare Research have developed a tool to help pest control managers choose the best control methods for a given situation. Using yes/no responses it helps determine the decision path, focussing on the key issues of operational aims, land tenure, farming practice, public and environmental safety, community views and involvement, and landowner views. It will help with prioritising pest control operations alongside other biodiversity actions such as fencing or revegetation, and provides for a consistent approach nationwide and best practice information for pest managers considering all the key constraints when selecting pest control methods.

More information: morgand@landcareresearch.co.nz



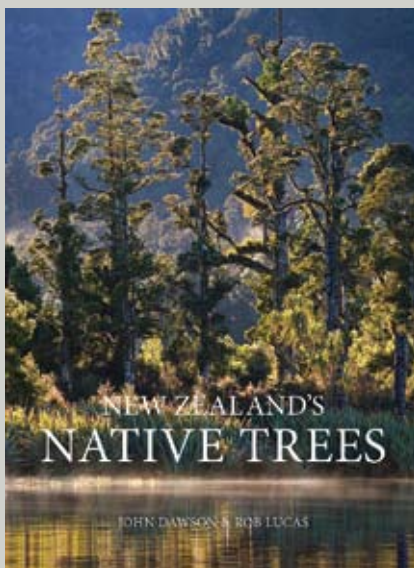
Governor's Bay lifestyle block and cottage

A small cottage with five acres of land nestling in a secluded valley on land sloping towards the Lyttelton Harbour. Half zoned residential half rural. Two acres covenanted in conjunction with neighbouring properties providing a corridor of regenerating bush adjoining the Zephyr Stream. The other three acres have copses of native trees surrounded by a variety of nut trees including hazel, walnuts, sweet chestnut, almond and pine nuts.

Email: ebhille@xtra.co.nz



Special offer for QEII covenants and members



New Zealand's Native Trees by John Dawson and Rob Lucas has information on more than 320 tree species, subspecies and varieties. It contains over 2300 photographs from close details to habitats and landscapes and 54 break-out features that tell fascinating stories about our native trees. This 576 page book is a great reference for identification purposes and a celebration of the incredible diversity of our native trees and forests. Craig Potton Publishing is offering a special 10% discount to QEII covenants and members placing an order before 31 December 2011. Place your order using the form below.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR QEII COVENANTORS AND MEMBERS

A discount of 10% off the RRP for the standard edition and free delivery in New Zealand

New Zealand's Native Trees	QTY	RSNZ	Price TOTAL
Standard Edition (10% discount)		\$108.00	
Deluxe Edition (not discounted)		\$180.00	
		TOTAL PRICE	

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

I wish to pay by Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

Member/Covenant no (required for discount) _____

All prices are inclusive of GST. Please use this order form to ensure you receive the special price.
Offer ends 31 December 2011. Please return your order form and payment to:

98 Vickerman Street, PO Box 555, Nelson 7040. Ph: 03 548 9009 Fax: 03 548 9456
www.craigpotton.co.nz info@cpp.co.nz

QEII's new website –

Tell us what you think!

QEII's website has a new look and fresh content for its users. Visit www.openspace.org.nz and tell us what you think.

Is there some specific information relating to covenants that you would like to see there? Was it easy to find what you were looking for? We welcome your feedback to further improve the service and information we can offer you through the website. Email any comments to us using the enquiry form on the Contact Us page on the site.



2011 is the International Year of Forests, celebrating people's actions to raise awareness of the sustainable management and conservation of all types of forests. During the current reporting year (ending 30 June 2011) 70 new QEII proposals were approved that protect primary forest in coastal, semi-coastal, lowland, montane and sub-montane environments. They will bring the number of QEII covenants protecting forested areas as the main open space type to just over 3000.

Trust People

Malcolm Piper retires after 16 years as Gisborne rep

After 16 years as QEII's Gisborne rep, Malcolm Piper has passed on the baton. A former Farmer of the Year, Malcolm was the second Trust representative in the district, taking the job from Tiny White who held the position for a decade. The position has taken Malcolm to all corners of the district. He says it is hard to pinpoint any particular covenant as a highlight although one memorable covenant he was involved in was the Easthams' at Whatatutu where the only way to go and see it was on horseback. A well-respected local, Malcolm has worked with many landowners over the years to support them in leaving a lasting legacy to the Gisborne region, and New Zealand, through open space covenants.



QEII CEO Margaret McKee, Meg Gaddum, Malcolm Piper and Tiny White.

Introducing...

Lynette Benson
Regional Representative –
South Auckland-Waikato



Before joining QEII Lynette held positions as a pest control contractor in the Kokako Management Area in the Hunua Ranges, a part time lecturer in applied field studies in ecology at EcoQuest Education Foundation based near Kaiaua, and as a surveyor in the Hauraki Plains and Coromandel Peninsular areas.

Genevieve Bannister –
Ecologist, Contestable Funding



Genevieve administers funding applications and manages the grants received for special biodiversity projects on covenanted properties. She has an Honours degree from Massey University in Environmental Studies and Geography.

Murray Williams
Regional Representative –
Wellington



Murray has had a rich career researching, writing about and teaching conservation, wildlife management and restoration in the Wildlife Service, Department of Conservation and most recently at Victoria University in Wellington.

Paul Kirby
Legal Counsel



Paul has been appointed to the newly-created Legal Counsel position. He comes from working in private practice law firms in the Wellington region, with experience in conveyancing and property law.

Meg Gaddum
Regional Representative –
Gisborne



Meg partners her husband Bob Wishart in running sheep, beef, deer and forestry on their hill country farm in the Gisborne ranges. Meg created the NZ Plant Finder database and holds degrees in agricultural science and landscape architecture.

Wayne O'Keefe
Regional Representative –
Bay of Plenty



Wayne lives in Opotiki with his partner and two children on their rural property which is predominantly a QEII covenant and well known in the district for its giant puriri trees. He is involved as a Coast Care contractor in the Bay of Plenty and works on restoration and revegetation programmes in the region with DOC and the Regional Council.

Robbie Bennett
Regional Representative –
Waikato East-Taupo



Robbie developed an affinity with New Zealand's natural environment through outdoor activity and working on restoration projects over the years including on the lifestyle block where he lives with his family near Ngaruawahia. Robbie is currently employed in the building industry and has a broad background in commercial and public service roles.

Chris Floyd
Regional Representative -
Northwest Auckland



Chris specialises in botany but also has a keen interest in aquatic ecology and indigenous fauna. In his spare time Chris relishes his time outdoors and especially enjoys tramping and kayaking.



Message for Covenantors and QEII Members

TRUST BOARD PRE-ELECTION NOTICE

Dear covenantors and QEII members

Towards the end of 2012 we will be sending out information about the QEII Trust Board Member elections in 2013.

We would like make the elections process as easy and as economic as possible for you and for the Trust. To that end we are looking to move towards an electronic voting system for the 2013 elections.

As part of that process we want to be sure your contact details are current. In particular we would like to ask if you have an email address that can be entered into our

database and be used to send out voting information to you. Providing your email address will give you the option of voting online.

Please detach and return this freepost form to advise us of your email address and/or any recent changes to your other contact details. (There is no need to send back this form if you have already provided us with a current email address and your other contact details are unchanged).

You can also update your contact details online at www.openspace.org.nz

Note: You are not obliged to provide an email address. In providing your email address you are giving QEII permission to contact you by email regarding the Board elections process. Your contact details will not be given to any third parties. Covenantors and members who have not provided an email address will be sent the relevant information by post.



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

Freepost 180272
QEII National Trust
PO Box 3341
Wellington 6140





QEII Trust: helping you to protect the special nature of your 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 open space covenanting.

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 3500 covenants to voluntarily protect nearly 100,000 ha of special features on their land.

The trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants.

QEII Trust owns 29 properties which collectively protect 1,600 ha of significant habitat. Most of these have been gifted to the Trust. Effective stewardship of these properties is greatly assisted by local communities and management committees.

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 QEII. Each covenant agreement is unique. It can apply to the whole property or 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

QEII 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 your special area

- **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 QEII 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 QEII Trust Board 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. QEII will lodge all the necessary documentation. When registration is completed, QEII 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

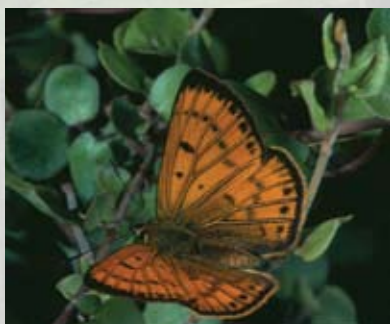
Your QEII open space covenant may be non-rateable. You may also be eligible for assistance with funding for items such as fencing, weed and pest control, and restoration planting. Your QEII representative will be able to advise you about possible funding sources.

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



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

My Favourite Covenant: Photo Competition



The 60th Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, and the 35th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II National Trust will be celebrated in 2012. The QEII Trust is holding a photo competition to mark these two special events.

Enter your favourite QEII covenant photo and be in to win \$ and a copy of the beautifully illustrated book *New Zealand's Native Trees* by John Dawson and Rob Lucas.

"My favourite covenant"

QEII covenants celebrate landowners' passion for their land, connecting stewardship with conservation to leave a lasting legacy for New Zealand.

We invite you to capture what you think is special about your or someone else's QEII open space covenant and share it with us. It could be a beautiful spot or landscape, interesting geology or landforms, people enjoying places, waterways, majestic trees – or the details - native plants and animals, fungi, mosses, lichen patterns...

How to enter

1. Send your photo in digital form to amclean@openspace.org.nz
2. Only one entry per person will be accepted.
3. Important! Identify the QEII covenant where your photo was taken and the time and date.
4. Provide a short description (max. 30 words) to identify the subject matter and tell us about the special feature you wanted to capture in your picture.
5. Include your name, address, email address and phone number.

Terms and conditions

1. The competition is open to anyone owning or visiting a QEII covenant. The only stipulation is that the photo entered in the competition is taken in a QEII covenanted area
2. QEII staff and regional representatives and their direct family members may not enter the competition.
3. By entering the competition you give permission for your photo to be used in QEII related publications. Any photos used will be credited to the photographer.
4. Photos will be judged by a professional photographer and the winning entries will be contacted directly by QEII. The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
5. The competition closes on 29 February 2012. The winning photographs will be published on our website www.openspace.org.nz and in Open Space magazine.

Prizes: 1st prize - \$400 and a copy of the book *New Zealand's Native Trees* by John Dawson and Rob Lucas; 2nd prize – \$ 100 and a copy of the book *New Zealand's Native Trees* by John Dawson and Rob Lucas; highly recommended – mystery book prizes.

With many thanks to Craig Potton Publishing for gifting the book prizes.



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

www.openspace.org.nz