



QEII National Trust  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā Rauwhiri Rau

# Open Space<sup>TM</sup>

Magazine of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

Issue 83 – October 2012 \$7.50



**Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and  
35 years of open space covenanting in New Zealand**

**Focus on Marlborough | Forest remnant restoration | Annual Report  
Pull-out calendar | Weta research | Elections notice**





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## 3 News and events

## 6 Focus: Marlborough

## 12 Managing your covenant: Restoring the balance in forest remnants

## 14 BFEA winners

## 18 Excerpts from 2012 Annual Report

## 26 Weta research

## 28 Fragments

## 30 Covenants update



**QEII National Trust**  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

### COVER PHOTO

By Nathan Hall, winner of  
"My Favourite Covenant" photo  
competition.

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**Open Space™** is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust,  
PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Level 4, FX Networks House, 138 The Terrace, Wellington  
ISSN 1179-3880 (Print) ISSN 1179-3899 (Online)

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# From the Chair



QEII has experienced significant growth in covenant numbers the past five years. This shows us that the QEII open space covenanting model works for landowners and it is encouraging that so many more wish to join the network of covenantors around New Zealand

already protecting special features on their properties.

It has, however, meant we have had to take a good look at the Trust's systems and structure to address the administrative and financial challenges this growth has presented. The Board instigated a review during the year which has included considering its strategic direction and the level of resourcing it needs to be sure it can both continue meeting the objectives of the QEII National Trust Act and provide an appropriate level of service to QEII covenantors.

The Board is interested in receiving covenantors' views on this process and invites suggestions on where they think the Trust's priorities should lie and where improvements in its performance could be made.

You can send suggestions by email to [info@openspace.org.nz](mailto:info@openspace.org.nz) or by mail to Freepost 180272, QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140.

**James Guild**

QEII CHAIR

## Brian Molloy QEII National Trust scholarship fund announced

The establishment of the Brian Molloy QEII National Trust scholarship fund was announced at a high country event held in September.

Over 100 people gathered at Snowdon Station near Windwhistle in Canterbury for the occasion, which marked Dr Molloy's retirement from the Trust after 25 years of service, first as a Board Director and later as the Trust's representative for the high country.

The Brian Molloy QEII National Trust scholarship fund will be administered by the Trust. Its purpose is to support PhD research in New Zealand ecology.

"Brian is held in high esteem both in New Zealand and internationally for his in-depth knowledge of New Zealand's native flora and his unwavering generosity in sharing that knowledge with others," Trust Chair James Guild said.

"He is particularly passionate and knowledgeable about high country matters. The QEII covenants high country farmers have established with his support protect some of the country's most significant natural habitats, and geological and cultural features.

"The scholarship fund has been established in Brian's name to acknowledge his long and remarkable record in conservation and botanical research in New Zealand and will help progress study in these fields," he said.

Dr Molloy is a recognised authority on New Zealand orchids, conifers and some daisies. He has written over 100 scientific papers, most of them on botanical subjects. He has also been at the forefront of many conservation organisations, and instrumental in the acquisition of new protected areas and extensions to existing parks and reserves. Two native plants have been named after him; the Cook Strait kowhai (*Sophora molloyi*) and the leafless orchid (*Molloybas cryptanthus*).

## QEII covenantors receive regional awards

### John and Sue Upton – Hawke's Bay Farm Forester of the Year for 2012

Received for demonstrating excellence in soil condition, tree and shelterbelt plantings, amenity planting, conservation in wetland and indigenous forest areas, quality of planting, silviculture, and service to the community in planting projects. The Uptons have a 5 ha QEII covenant on their property.

### Warrick and Wendy Day – Environment Southland Farming Award

Environment Southland's environment awards acknowledge the huge amount of good work being done - often behind the scenes and voluntarily - to safeguard and enhance Southland's environment. The Days are the 2012 winners of the Farming Award for their enhanced landscaping and environmentally sustainable farming operation. The Days have four QEII covenants on their South Hillend property.

### Mark and Anne Bridges, Darrel and Amy Weston and Graham Mourie – Taranaki Regional Council Riparian Management and Sustainable Farming Award

BMW Farm partners Mark and Anne Bridges, Darrel and Amy Weston and Graham Mourie have achieved strong results in a short timeframe by programming their riparian work into farm budgets and engaging a contractor to do the work. All 8km of the farm's streambanks are fenced to exclude stock from waterways, and they have completed 83 percent of their Riparian Management Plan planting. They have also covenanted a 2.6 block of bush with QEII.



## Covenantors event at Double Tops

Earlier in the year the Trust held a covenantors event at Double Tops, near Hawarden in Canterbury. Visitors to the event were welcomed by current owners, Mandy and Dugald Rutherford, and former owners, Virginia and Harry Pawsey.

Dugald, Mandy and Andrew Rutherford farm sheep, cattle, deer, and run a safari park on their 3,809 ha hard hill country property, Melrose, in North Canterbury. They are also recognised as innovative practitioners of farm forestry. The Rutherfords recently purchased half (1,350 ha) of neighbouring Double Tops farm from the Pawseys and are leasing the other half, the 300 ha of flat paddocks on Double Tops complementing the steep hill country terrain of Melrose. At the time of the purchase Harry and Virginia were in the process of covenanting a 7.5 ha wetland area, which they completed after the sale. The Rutherfords have always balanced environmental care with their land management strategies and for years have fenced off areas of flax on their Melrose property so they were very happy to take over the covenanted flax wetland as an addition to their own conservation areas.

Worried about the damage cattle were causing in the flaxlands, the Pawseys had already fenced off the area around eight years ago, moving to covenant it when they put the property on the market.

"We needn't have worried so much about protection because we sold to Mandy and Dugald who think along the same lines as us, but even so, it is good to know that this area will be protected forever," Virginia said.

The Pawseys dedicated the wetlands to the memory of their son, Kit, who was killed when the Cave Creek viewing platform on the West Coast collapsed in 1995.

"Kit loved the outdoors and conservation and it is comforting knowing that there is a permanent memorial to him in this special place," Virginia said.



TOM BARBER

The Kit Pawsey wetland is dominated by swamp flax, cabbage trees, sedges, raupo and rushes, and hundreds more species have been identified by a team of botanists led by QEII Rep Miles Giller.

Once a TB hotspot, Dugald said possum and ferret control has meant the pests carrying the disease have virtually disappeared from the area.

"The dogs probably wouldn't know what to do if they came across a possum these days!" he told the gathering.

With the pests gone, birds are starting to return. The Rutherfords have noticed falcon nesting in the hills and were thrilled to see tui flying around recently, a clear sign that habitat recovery is now providing enough food to make a journey out to the farm worthwhile for the birds.

## Dedicated duo named patrons

*Excerpt from Waitomo News article written by Robbie Kay*

They say they are filling very big shoes. Sir Edmund Hillary was the first patron of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust from 1980 to 2009. He was followed by Sir Paul Reeves (former QEII director and chair) until his death in August last year. Now Arthur and Pat Cowan of Rewarewa, near Otorohanga, are the Trust's joint patrons. Ninety-six-year-old Mr Cowan is a founder of the Trust and was awarded an MBE for his conservation work in 1983. Mrs Cowan, at 82 years, has matched her husband's commitment every step of the way.

Working with the Restoration Trust and the Te Kuiti Tramping Club the Cowans have helped establish about 120 new bush areas, many of which are covenanted forever by the QEII National Trust.

"It's been very satisfying for Arthur and me to see bush blocks set aside and protected in perpetuity and to see people becoming more aware of the importance of saving native trees," Mrs Cowan said.



ROBBIE KAY

The name Arthur Cowan is synonymous with conservation in the North King Country and throughout New Zealand. His dedication to conservation spans decades and has included: founding member of New Zealand Native Forests Trust in 1980, committee member of the Otorohanga Zoological Society; long-time member of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society; and director of the QEII National Trust.

## Covenantors get together in Northland



Hosts Anne Stewart and John Craig.

Around 90 covenantors, friends and associates gathered at John Craig and Anne Stewart's coastal property at Pataua, near Whangarei. Visitors heard about John and Anne's management goals for their property before they explored its three covenanted areas, instigated 13 years ago by former owners, Noel and Margaret Currie. Since purchasing the farm in 2004 John and Anne and their daughter, Suzan, have changed its operation, converting it from a beef farm to a diverse business incorporating honey production, horses and eco-accommodation, all underpinned by a management philosophy based on a holistic (four-C) approach which balances community, commerce, culture

and conservation. They aim to preserve the land's ecological and cultural heritage and provide a sanctuary for people, native plants and animals. In the eight years since buying the property they have planted an impressive 220,000 native plants, transforming it into a self-sustaining native parkland which enhances biodiversity and provides carbon credits as well. Planting is ongoing, supplied from their own nursery. Their covenants protect forest, wetland and sand dune areas. The property is habitat for at least 67 bird species, 23 of which are listed as endangered. The New Zealand dotterel is among them, nesting in the sand dunes that are also habitat for the rare sand daphne, *Pimelea villosa*.

## Taranaki biodiversity accord signed



Taranaki Regional Council Chair David MacLeod, QEII Rep Neil Phillips and Minister of Conservation Hon Kate Wilkinson.

QEII is one of 19 signatories to the Taranaki Accord that aims to protect the region's biodiversity and enhance native habitats. Other agencies involved include Federated Farmers, DOC, regional councils, Forest and Bird, Fish and Game, Waikato University Research Institute and several trusts. Taranaki has around 170 native plant and animal species that are identified as threatened, at risk, or regionally distinctive including the Taranaki giant snail (*Powelliphanta "Egmont"*) and the Egmont red tussock. Some, like Maui's dolphin and kokako, are close to local extinction. Accord signatories bring a wealth of experience and different perspectives to the table. They have agreed to work together to set out strategic priorities and joint actions to strengthen existing programmes and develop new ones (like enhancing aversion dog training to help kiwi and blue penguin populations), giving Taranaki the best possible chance to protect and improve its valuable biodiversity.

### Pimelea facts

*Pimelea villosa* or sand daphne is a low-growing (approximately 30cm tall and 1.2 metre diameter) shrub that lives exclusively on sand dunes in the North Island and on the Chatham Islands. This threatened (*Gradual Decline*) plant has grey-green leaves arranged in four rows at right angles to each other. In spring and through summer it produces pulses of white flowers at the end of the branches, followed four to six weeks later by small dark purple-red or pink fleshy fruit. Likely pollinators are visiting insects such as the copper butterfly (*Lycaena sp.*), common blue butterfly (*Zizina labradus*) and the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). Nationally the species is regarded as threatened by competition with marram grass, browsing by stock and possums, predation by rodents, trampling by vehicles and stock, and by fire. There is concern about a possible gradual decline and general lack of new plants in existing sand daphne populations throughout the country (Merrett, 2007).



### New Board Director appointed



The Minister of Conservation has appointed Susan (Sue) Yerex from Turangi as a director on the QEII National Trust Board. Sue runs a beef and sheep farm in partnership with her husband,

James. She brings to the board governance skills, scientific knowledge and a pragmatic farming perspective. Sue has a strong academic background in agricultural commerce and horticulture and was a Lincoln Kellogg Scholar in 2008. She serves on a number of private and voluntary trusts, boards and charities, including two that advocate for the care of Lake Taupo and its water.



# Focus on Marlborough

Marlborough's ecosystems can be roughly divided into two parts separated by the long straight valley of the Wairau River. Areas lying south of the river are dominated by mountain ranges on three sides that create a rain shadow making this area one of the driest areas in the country, with some areas receiving less than 700mm of rain annually. The high mountains, proximity to the coast and drying winds create extremes of climate with hot and dry weather in the summer and cold and dry weather in the winter. This has led to an extraordinary level of endemism in plant life. Traditionally this area has been dominated by sheep, beef and arable farming although lately much of the flatter land has been converted to vineyards.

In contrast, those areas north of the Wairau are best known for the mountains, drowned valleys and islands of the Marlborough Sounds. This area is wetter and warmer and receives the sort of rainfall that you would expect in New Zealand (around 2,000mm/year). Many of the forests in this area are regenerating from former farmland with dairying, lifestyle blocks and holiday homes being the predominant land use. The Sounds are the southern geographical limit of many North Island species.

69 covenants (63 formerly registered and six approved for registration at 30 June 2012) are spread throughout the region, protecting around 3,960 ha of open space values on private land. The size, shape and values they protect are as diverse as the region's geography, covering everything from dry grey scrub, fault wetlands and rocky mountaintops in the south, to coastal kohekohe forests and predator-free islands in the north.



## Tom Stein

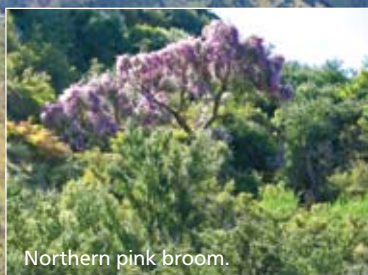
### QEII Regional Representative Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough



Brought up in the Waitakere Ranges in West Auckland, Tom moved to Marlborough in 1996. He lives with his wife, Liz, and the youngest of their three daughters, Tilly, on a small block near Linkwater in the Marlborough Sounds. In Auckland, Tom worked for the Auckland Regional Council Parks Service. In Marlborough, he has worked with the Department of Conservation, Marlborough District Council and

private landowners in various roles, particularly weed and pest management. He has a wide range of practical skills and knowledge of the local environment. Contact Tom with any queries you might have relating to your covenant or about covenanting in general in the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough region. Phone: 03 574 2978 Mobile: 0274 453 890 Email: [tstein@openspace.org.nz](mailto:tstein@openspace.org.nz)

# Spray Point



Northern pink broom.

Roland Mapp standing on Spray Point Station. Stronvar Station in the background is also in the process of covenanting 800 hectares, further increasing open space protection in the area.

Just over 1,200 ha of rugged Marlborough high country and a range of open space features including landscape and recreation values have been approved for covenanting at Spray Point Station in the upper Waihopai Valley. The covenant contains subalpine gravelfields, montane tussocklands, grey scrub and beech forest, tree fuchsia-dominated forest and wetlands. A wealth of biodiversity values are protected in this large covenant proposal as well as the interconnectivity between its diverse habitats.

Spray Point Station is an historic high country merino station in Marlborough and it took owners Jenny and Roland Mapp three years to feel confident all stock had been removed from the proposed area before initiating the covenanting process. The Mapps' management plan for the area includes pest control measures to reduce numbers of stoats and ferrets, wild cats, hedgehogs, feral goats, deer and possums. Efforts to date have been effective and many plant species are now recovering. Countless mistletoes (*Tupeia antarctica*) have reappeared from galls on trees in the forested areas of the property and a marked improvement of general vegetation health can be seen throughout the property. Funds received from DOC's Biodiversity Condition Fund have further enhanced the covenant by helping with fencing and weed-control costs.

The covenant supports great examples of Marlborough-endemic species like Waihopai daisy (*Celmisia insignis*), Northern pink broom (*Carmichaelia carmichaeliae*), dwarf kowhai (*Sophora prostrata*), leafless clematis (*Clematis afoliata*), Monro's daisy (*Brachyglottis monroi*) and coral shrub (*Helichrysum coralloides*). Kea have been sighted on the property and blue duck/whio have also been heard by the landowners. The property also supports a good breeding population of Eastern falcon and its alpine and subalpine areas are a typically suitable habitat for reptiles.

The Mapps run an ecotourism business alongside their farming activities. Visitors can stay in a restored cobb cottage and are encouraged to explore the property using walking, horse trekking and cycling tracks. If they wish they can get some hands-on conservation experience by volunteering to help with predator control on the property.

Future plans at Spray Point Station include the construction of special hides so visitors can view the New Zealand falcons without disturbing them. You can read more about Spray Point Station and the Mapps' conservation work on their website [www.offthemapp.co.nz](http://www.offthemapp.co.nz).

## Farming fresh air

*Farming fresh air* is the newest diversification in the Spray Point Station story, as traditional grazing country is allowed to return to native forest, providing a natural carbon sink and improving the biodiversity, erosion problems and water quality in the area. The project is being carried out under the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative, a scheme designed for long-term carbon storage in permanent forests. Unlike the Emissions Trading Scheme, there is no allowance for large-scale harvesting of the forest and forest registration includes a 99-year contract for carbon sequestration (storage).

To be eligible for credits, the land must be retired from farming and have, or be likely to have, at least 30 percent cover of forest species that will reach a height of five metres at maturity. Properties are evaluated and carbon sequestration rates are measured by scientific work. The carbon credits issued can then be traded on an international market for offsetting carbon emissions.

The new forests on Spray Point Station will take time to regenerate. Areas currently in tussock and matagouri will in time see species like kanuka and beech come through. These species grow at different rates and will provide a permanent carbon 'sink' that will be stable for centuries to come, benefiting not just the local area, but the global environment.

This information was sourced from [www.offthemapp.co.nz](http://www.offthemapp.co.nz). For more information on the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative go to [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz).





## Island restoration in the Marlborough Sounds

By Barry Dent

Puangiangi Island, with its open space covenant instigated by long-time owner Ross Webber, was sold in April to Fauna Recovery New Zealand, a Wellington-based charitable trust. Trustees Sue Freitag and Barry Dent, and restoration adviser Peter Gaze of Nelson, with some funding from Andy Lowe of the Cape Sanctuary project, plan to restore the island to the pre-human ecology of a Cook Strait seabird island, in the mould of Takapouwera/Stephens Island.



Puangiangi Island.

The 63 ha island is part of the Rangitoto group, off the northeast coast of D'Urville. The Rangitotos were rendered rat-free in 1998 through a brodifacoum drop organised by Peter Gaze, then at DOC. This required the co-operation of the Ngati Koata families who own the more southerly Tinui and its southern islet, DOC which administers the northerly Wakaterepapanui, and Ross Webber.

The mammalian-pest-free status of Puangiangi is "the crucial thing distinguishing it from a beautiful but useless piece of rock" in the words of trustee Sue Freitag, and reinvading rats and stoats will be "repelled at all costs".

On the agenda is a clean-up of weed species including wilding pine and macrocarpa, removal of a few sheep, and translocation of invading weka to the mainland. Weka are good swimmers and periodically make it to Puangiangi. They are not compatible with the burrow-nesting seabird colonies the island needs to get it back to the way it was. The seabirds will be brought back with solar-powered speaker systems, broadcasting seabird calls out into the Strait, a technique which is working around the country.

Restoration planting is planned using island-sourced stock to extend its three remnants of coastal broadleaf forest. Land birds such as kakariki and robin, common lizards and invertebrates are also slated for reintroduction once permits are received.

The new owners, their adviser and funders hope that work on Puangiangi will provide information for landowners, and complement restoration of other privately-owned land in the Sounds. Puangiangi is not currently intended to have visitors as the risk of rat reintroduction from boats and kayaks is too great.



## Tui Nature Reserve

The Plaisier family live on Tui Nature Reserve, an isolated headland in Pelorus Sound, accessible only by boat. Since moving there in 1994 they have been carrying out an extensive poison-free restoration project to restore 42 ha of native bush and wildlife. They covenanted about 38 ha of that area in 1998.

From the outset the Plaisiers' ultimate goal has been to create a "mainland island" wildlife sanctuary. With clear evidence of a struggling ecosystem devastated by introduced species like possums, rats, pigs and stoats they knew this would be a huge challenge. Their pest control work first targeted wild pigs, soon followed by an intensive possum control regime to ease the stress these pests were putting on the peninsula's regenerating flora. After reducing the numbers of possums and pigs, the Plaisiers started tackling the rodent problem.

Funds for their conservation work mostly come from their eco-accommodation business and boat tours they run. Over the years numerous projects on the reserve have been completed: facilities have been built to breed and release native lizards, kakariki and giant weta; and ponds have been built to ensure a year-round supply of water for native birds.

Other grants have helped along the way. In 2009 the Plaisiers were supreme winners of the Marlborough Environment Awards; they used their \$3,000 prize money to build sleeping chambers for a fragile population of little blue penguins. Council and Biodiversity Condition Fund grants have also helped them extend their rat control programme. The vision they share with their neighbours to create a "mainland island" wildlife sanctuary is well

underway. The final stage will be the construction of a predator-proof fence, which will isolate the peninsula from the mainland, keeping dogs, pigs and other pests at bay.

Another string to this family's bow is their specialist skill in handling and training dogs to detect rodents and wild cats. Plaisier-trained dogs are part of DOC's "Conservation Dogs NZ" team and play an important role in the surveillance of public conservation land as well as other privately-owned sanctuaries and pest control projects around New Zealand.

The Plaisiers have set up the Tui Nature Reserve Charitable Trust, which develops youth and volunteer programmes at the Reserve. More about the Trust and Tui Nature Reserve can be found at [www.tuinaturereserve.co.nz](http://www.tuinaturereserve.co.nz).







## Open Space values experienced on Awatere Tussock Track

Simon and Lynda Harvey farm cattle and merino sheep on their 1,218 ha hill country property. They also run an eco-tourism business offering accommodation and

a walking track that crosses the farm's rolling tussock-covered hills, follows bush clad creeks and climbs the rugged high country for spectacular mountain views.

Their integrated approach to farming, conservation and landscape protection is all part of the visitor experience. Walkers pass grey scrub and lowland forest QEII-covenanted blocks and can see how eco-sourced plantings are aiding regeneration.

The Harveys have put a lot of effort into protecting the mountain lacebark (*Hoheria lyalli*), which was once widespread in South Marlborough but is now reduced to patches. The beautifully delicate weeping tree broom (*Carmichaelia stevensonii*) is also getting special attention. Weeping broom is under serious threat from browsing animals such as wild goats and introduced grasses that out-compete seedlings. The plant is now mainly confined to subalpine refuges in the heads of a handful of catchments in the Seaward Kaikoura Range and a scattering of pockets downstream. With a goal of establishing populations in other safe wild sites, ecologist and ex-QEII director, Geoff Walls, has been working with the Harveys by supplying and supervising plantings in a number of their covenants. Their joint efforts will greatly enhance the survival rate of this nationally endangered plant.

## Forestry management benefits covenant

A covenant bang in the middle of a 630 ha commercial pine forest is protecting 155 ha of beech, podocarp and tawa forest at Strachan Peak, around 20 km from Blenheim.

Since establishing the covenant, owner Marlborough Regional Forestry\* (MRF) has run an annual programme to remove wilding pines from the covenanted area. Fire damage from some decades ago had opened up a space for pine seedlings to take root on a steep ridge in the forest. The Forestry's control work has involved poisoning the wilding pines, allowing natives to regenerate as the pines slowly disintegrate.

With that work due to be completed next year MRF's Murray Turbitt said the threat the pines pose to the native forest will also be removed.

"This particular pine needs open ground conditions and light for its seeds to germinate so once native shrub regeneration has taken off the pines won't be able to get established," he explained.

MRF also encourages commercial trappers to control possums across the pine and native forests and issues hunting permits for both areas which helps keep wild deer, goats and pigs under control.

The covenant is full of birdlife and above average numbers of native falcons live in the vicinity. The native carnivorous land snail, *Powelliphanta hochstetteri bicolor*, red mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*), neinei (*Dracophyllum urvilleanum*) and native daphne (*Pimelea gnidia*) are all present in healthy numbers – a good sign that pest control is keeping possum numbers low. Murray says he was particularly pleased at the recent discovery of a small number of nikau palm seedlings growing along a stream bank in the covenant – another indicator that the forest is in good shape.

Being so close to Blenheim, MRF hopes to eventually develop the covenant as a public walking area.

\*Kaikoura and Marlborough District Councils.



*Powelliphanta hochstetteri*.



Wilding pine control work in the covenant.





A section of the wetland in 2009, fenced off and ready for planting to begin.

TOM STEIN

## Wairau Valley wetland enhanced

A role of the QEII National Trust Act is to “promote the enhancement of open space”. Covenantors Wayn and Maxine Cowan are a fine example of this role in action. Wetlands in the Wairau Valley area where they farm have suffered greatly from stock damage, drainage and pasture development. While the Cowans’ wetland area had been partially modified, it was approved for covenanting in 2009 because it had retained a high enough level of natural value and showed promise that it would revert to a self-sustaining system once fencing and restoration plantings were in place. In addition, the area met three out of the four criteria on the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy’s national priorities list for protecting biodiversity values on private land: it is located within a highly modified environment; the wetland is a rare example of the spring-fed wetlands of the Wairau Valley, and a threatened species (the black-fronted tern) feeds in the area and nests nearby.

When Wayn and Maxine purchased the merino and beef farm property around 12 years ago they immediately excluded stock

from the wetland area and it wasn’t long before kanuka started to emerge. They started enhancement plantings in and around the wetland once the area had been covenanted and fenced off. To date they have put in around 1,700 locally sourced native plants. The region’s hot summers and harsh winters have thrown up some challenges, and adjustments had to be made to their management plan and planting programme because some areas are more susceptible to seasonal rising and falling water tables, making growing conditions difficult. With those problems sorted the plants have taken off and are now waist-height or higher.

“The plants have only been in a couple of years but we have already noticed a dramatic increase in birds flocking around, especially finches. Ducks and other water birds like pied stilts, pied oyster catchers, royal spoonbills, pukeko and shags are also voluntarily returning to the area.

“Another three to four years and the area will be impressive, although the effects of restoration are already rewarding enough,” the Cowans say.

## Endemic and rare plants protected in Marlborough covenant



A steep sided gorge is the dominant feature of the 22 ha Stirling Brook covenant. Tucked away in South Marlborough’s Haldon Hills, the covenant’s gully floor contains titoki, mapou and kawakawa, all rare in the region. The scrub community of the gully’s flanks is equally important, hosting *Coprosma virescens*, found in only one other location in the Haldon Hills, and the small mistletoe *Korthalsella lindsayi*. It is also one of only two sites (both covenanted with QEII) protecting Marlborough’s endemic red rock daisy (*Pachystegia rufa*).



Red rock daisy.  
Peter de Lange/NZCPN



# Restoring the balance in forest remnants



A key goal of any restoration effort is to re-establish appropriate self-sustaining plant species that will provide ongoing food, shelter, erosion control and soil fertility in your forest remnant. QEII representative, Trevor Thompson, provides an introduction on helping achieve this goal with purposeful plantings.

In my time as a QEII rep I have worked with many dedicated landowners who have covenanted forest remnants, often in remote parts of the farm. We used to think that all we had to do was keep stock out and nature would return everything to a healthy native ecosystem before too long. This can be true in some instances, but when a forest remnant has been subjected to stresses like fire, high possum numbers or long-term grazing by stock and wild animals, its makeup can change dramatically. Understories can disappear, suffer a drop in plant diversity or become dominated by species that stock and other browsers have avoided eating because of the plants' successful defence mechanisms.

A forest remnant containing a few dominant plant species in the understorey rather than a diverse mix means there will be periods when food for native animals is overly abundant and periods when there is none. Many native birds and other animals

struggle under these conditions and can be reduced to very low numbers or be forced to seek food elsewhere at certain times or even disappear altogether. Once numbers have dropped or disappeared it can be very difficult for these species to return. This has flow-on effects as our native plants and animals rely on each other for their survival. For example, unnaturally low bellbird numbers can affect the rate of pollination of certain plants and low kereru numbers can disrupt the dispersal of seeds like the tawa's that need a large bird to move them around. Wind dispersed seeds like olearia species, once lost, may also be unable to return to isolated pockets of forest if the prevailing wind is not blowing in the right direction.

Assuming you have the pests under control, a little judicious planting after fencing is complete will go a long way in helping to restore balance and biodiversity in your forest covenant.



## Survival of the unpalatables



**Kawakawa** (*Macropiper excelsum*/pepper tree) with its strong peppery taste can dominate well after grazing finishes. It is difficult for

a complex understorey to return when all the available space is taken up by dense kawakawa groves.



**Stinky karamu** (*Coprosma foetidissima*) as its name suggests, smells and tastes foul when its leaves are damaged.



New Zealand's two **horopito** species (*Pseudowintera colorata* and *axillaris*/also known as pepper tree) are strong tasting and generally

avoided by grazers. Higher altitudes can have this understorey type dominating.



**Ongaonga** (*Urtica ferox*/native stinging nettle) keeps itself safe from grazers by arming itself with stinging hairs that inflict a nerve

toxin that will make an affected area throb for days. Coastal karaka groves in particular can have a dense ongaonga understorey, as can lowland forests.

**Divaricates** are another group of plants that may dominate an understorey because they are the only species able to cope with mammal browse. New Zealand has a rich species list of divaricating plants. These plants have small leaves and often dense tangled branches that give up less energy than it takes to pick and eat them in the first place. This is thought by many scientists to be an evolved defence against moa browsing.

## Helping restore the balance

Many covenants are representative "touchstones" of the former vegetation of their particular locality. To maintain their integrity it is important that any new plantings are restricted to species known to occur in similar habitats nearby. A local remnant in good condition is a great indicator of what plant species belong in your region and can also be a source of seeds and plants for your restoration project (if this is allowed). Your local QEII rep or council ecologist should be able to provide further advice.

The following common species are browser favourites, and might be missing from your covenant:

The **larger leaved coprosmas** (*Coprosma grandifolia* kanono/raurekau)



*Coprosma robusta*/karamu and *Coprosma lucida*/shining karamu)

Coprosmas are dioecious, meaning they have male and female plants. Plants should be planted in groups of five or more to ensure a mix of sexes and successful seed setting because they are wind pollinated. Abundant fruiterers, coprosmas are great for our fructivorous (fruit-eating) birds and help restore a year-round food supply for them.



**Makomako** (*Aristotelia serrata*/wineberry)

This small, quick growing tree with cup-like pink flowers produces fruit relished by birds. Makomako are subcanopy trees that should be considered more for planting.



**Tree fuchsia** (*Fuchsia excorticata*/kotukutuku)

The New Zealand tree fuchsia is naturally found at stream edges. Its flowers are rich in nectar and its fruit is a great food source for birds. Fuschias can be grown from seeds and they take easily from cuttings. Fuschias cannot tolerate dry conditions.



**Kaikomako** (*Pennantia corymbosa*)

Another valuable food source which is seldom planted. Bellbirds and other nectar feeders love this small tree for its flowers and later for its sweet fruit. It has a very divaricated form when young. It is the hardest wood in the forest and takes time to mature and produce fruit. Its Maori name means food of the bellbird.



**Broadleaf** (*Griselinia littoralis*/kapuka /puka)

Kapuka is a relatively small family of evergreen shrubs indigenous to New Zealand and Chile. These plants are very palatable, especially to deer, and are often now only found in epiphyte form (growing perched on trees). They are hardy plants if not grazed.



**Ferns** trampled and eaten by stock can be reintroduced as needed. Ferns have very specific needs so matching the fern to the habitat is crucial for their survival.

# Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Warmest congratulations are extended to the QEII covenantors who were winners in the 2012 round of Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA). The BFEA awards are held annually in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Manawatu/Whanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. They were started by Gordon Stephenson, a key instigator in the establishment of the QEII National Trust and, with his wife Celia, the first person in New Zealand to covenant land with QEII. The BFEA awards celebrate sustainable farming practices.



**Alistair, Lyn and Christine Candy**

***Northland PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award***

The Candy family shows pride and passion for the farm, their animals, the environment and their community – so said the BFEA judges. The Candy's 205 ha effective dairy farm and run-off at Okaihau has been chosen as a DairyNZ Monitor Farm, with the intention of improving animal performance and to function as a community engagement tool. The judges praised the Candys' environmental work protecting over 70 ha of native bush and scrub with a QEII covenant and diligently controlling pests in the bush and adjoining areas. The judges were impressed with the time the Candys invest in sharing their passion for the native bush and encouraging others to do the same.

**James and Jane Hunter – Rangitoto**

***East Coast - Supreme Award winners, Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award, East Coast Farming for the Future Award, Massey University Discovery Award and Waterforce Integrated Management Award***

Last April's devastating deluge in the region graphically underscored the value of the long-term and ongoing environmental protection work on the Hunters' coastal hill country property, Rangitoto, near Porangahau. The judges described the farm as a high performing, well-run and planned unit and acknowledged James had been very proactive in protecting waterways, creating interconnected dams and filtration zones where possible and protecting all native scrub and tree vegetation. More than 10,000 poplar and willow poles have been planted on Rangitoto under the watch of three generations of Hunters. James, now a QEII Trust director, began QEII covenanting in the late 1990s. He points out that alone, the areas he was protecting were very ordinary bits of native scrub. But now native flora and fauna are thriving in the blocks. Rare bittern birds have been sighted on the property. "According to reports only 700 are left, and here we are the creators of a new



home for them," the Hunters said. After the April storms fertiliser and seed had to be applied to just three percent of the farm's effective areas, compared with some 15 percent on nearby farms. "A round of applause for the trees."





**Rangedale Station (Landcorp Farming Ltd) managed by Paul and Donna Edwards**

*Horizons – Supreme Award winners, Horizons Regional Council Award for the Integration of Trees, Dalrymple Habitat Improvement Award*

Rangedale, in the Makuraimo district east of Pahiatua, was described by the judges as an excellent example of how a large scale hill country farm can be run in conjunction with sustainable land management practices. This 1,578 ha sheep and beef property was purchased by Landcorp 10 years ago and has been managed for the past seven years by the Edwards. The process of retirement of difficult or unproductive land or unique areas is ongoing. This year 102 ha is to be retired from pasture. Suitable land will be planted in pines and the balance left to regenerate naturally. Fifty hectares of native bush on the property is already protected by a QEII covenant and 38 ha more are to be covenanted this year.

**Grant and Diana Baird**

*Horizons – Hill Laboratories Harvest Award, Massey University Discovery Award and Waterforce Integrated Management Award*

The Bairds farm 80 ha of flat fertile river terraces and 380 ha of steep hill country in a wide-ranging operation that includes sheep and beef and a specialist summer fruit orchard. Environmental care is an important consideration for the Bairds. Three native bush areas totalling 24 ha have been fenced off and protected with QEII covenants, cattle are all wintered on crops from July to October to protect the hills and bumble bee colonies have been introduced. A very deep wetland area, which has claimed cattle in the past (and a tractor almost on one occasion) has been fenced off and together with a new pump system further up the hills aids with the quality, supply and control of water on the farm.



**Rangitaiki Station**

*Bay of Plenty – Hill Laboratories Harvest Award, Beef and Lamb NZ Livestock Award*

This Landcorp-owned deer, sheep, beef, dairy grazing and forestry station covers 9,694 ha. Manager Ross Shepherd spearheaded the decision to enter the awards. He did so with the support of Landcorp plus the Rangitaiki farm team of 20 permanent staff. Their aim was to demonstrate sustainable farming practices within a large farming enterprise, to benchmark the team and property against others, and to improve awareness of sustainable issues. Ross has strong views about farming sustainably. "From a land point of view we have a responsibility to leave it better than we found it. A healthy planet is vital for life to prosper now and in the future. This land will still exist in some form long after we and future generations have departed." Rangitaiki has a close relationship with Massey University, AgResearch and Lincoln University, working on several trials that will have industry-wide benefits. Twelve blocks of land have been covenanted on the station.

**Thomas Hartree, and Greg and Rachael Hartree –  
Black Oak Ltd**

*Horizons – Hill Laboratories Harvest Award, PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award*

Father and son Thomas and Greg Hartree share a deep commitment to their 994 ha sheep and beef farm blocks in the Puketapu and Patoka districts, northwest of Taradale. The differing scale and scope of their three farm blocks are complementary and so are farmed together with the judges commenting that, “nothing has been spared in ensuring that the essential elements of soils and water have been nourished and protected.” The presence of lakes, dams and the Tutaekuri River on one boundary enhances the recreation and visual values of the Hartree land. Greg says he doesn’t have to travel off the farm to take his children fishing, hunting or camping. “The pleasure we get from this land warrants the attention we can lavish on it,” he says. Tracts of water and trees, native and exotic, are an integral part of the Hartree approach. They have a total of 123 ha in QEII covenants and 130 ha in forestry. Trees and other planting combine to provide stability, shelter and an undeniable aesthetic appeal on their land that the family have encouraged many people to enjoy through the years.



**Derek and Christine Daniell, and Simon Buckley (manager)  
– Wairere Station – Derek Daniell Trust**

*Greater Wellington – Supreme Award winners, Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award*

Wairere has an effective farming area of 1,070 ha. The farm carries approximately 12,500 sheep and beef and is the base for an internationally recognised Romney sheep stud. The judges noted that Wairere Station management has always given strong consideration to conservation practices alongside the ability to be a leading entrepreneur of sheep genetics in New Zealand. A number of QEII covenants totalling 60 ha protect bush, headlands and wetland areas and the farm boasts an increasing number of native birds and a resident native bat population.

**Guy Didsbury, Tony and Gaye Didsbury, and Duncan Didsbury – Pirinoa Station Ltd**

*Greater Wellington: Ballance Agri Nutrients: Nutrient Management Award, PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award*

Between 20-30,000 lambs and around 1,200 cattle are finished annually on Pirinoa Station. There are also 250 breeding cows. A variety of crops are grown, depending on season and demand and around 165 ha of forestry is spread across the station. Contour and soil types on Pirinoa are diverse with approximately 400 ha steep, 300 ha rolling, 150 ha gravelly riverbed and the balance flat alluvial. The judges noted that the Didsburys have identified all soil types and arranged their farming practices around these. The Didsburys have fenced off numerous native bush areas, including two significant areas that have been QEII covenanted.







### Dan and Mandy Shand – Island Hill Station

*Canterbury: Supreme Award Winners, Massey University Discovery Award, Environment Canterbury Habitat Award*

Dan and Mandy Shand have a diverse business on their 6,800 ha property west of Culverden, wintering 3,200 sheep and beef, owning a beekeeping business producing pure manuka honey, and operating a farm-based tourism venture. The judges praised the structure of the Shands' business saying the three components provide diversification that spreads the risk with each component supporting the other. In 1991 Dan's parents placed 600 ha of the most original bush into a QEII covenant. The covenant protects a good variety of trees including red, black and silver beech. Rata is also in this bush, one of the easternmost places it is known to grow in the South Island.

### Euan and Linda Templeton

*Southland: Beef and Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award, PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award*

The award judges described Euan and Linda's coastal 545 ha farm at Waimatuku, east of Riverton, as "a highly successful sheep and beef farming operation" and commended their careful custodianship of the land. Last year the Templetons wintered 2,500 Texel Coopworth ewes, 625 hoggets, 180 breeding cows, 89 weaner heifers and 75 weaner steers. They also grazed 200 dairy cows on crop and 150 dairy cows and 232 dairy heifers on sand country. In the 1930s a large lagoon in the area once supported a flax growing and milling industry. Euan and Linda have placed a QEII covenant over 5.2 ha of remaining wetland, which they are leaving to regenerate. "We are just keeping out the weeds and stock. It's an evolving thing happening there. At present it is mainly flax and rushes, but other species like mingi mingi and pittosporum are coming through." The area is the subject of scientific interest with DOC and Environment Southland involved so far. "We wanted to leave something that was natural and indicative of what a vast area around here was once like," they said.



## Otago farmers win Gordon Stephenson Trophy



Otago farmers Blair and Jane Smith are the new holders of the prestigious Gordon Stephenson Trophy after being named national winners of the 2012 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The Smiths were chosen from nine regional Supreme winners of the 2012 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. They run Newhaven Farms Ltd – a North Otago sheep, beef, forestry and dairy support operation that spans three family-owned properties totalling 1,528 ha.

New Zealand Farm Environment (NZFE) Trust chairman Jim Cotman said Blair and Jane Smith will be great ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture.

Named after the Putaruru farmer who started the Farm Environment Awards (and was also a key figure in the establishment of the QEII National Trust), the Gordon Stephenson Trophy confers the winning farmers with a sense of pride, achievement and inspiration.

Mr Cotman also praised last year's winners, QEII covenantors Grant and Bernie Weller. He said the Southland farmers did an exceptional job of taking the sustainability message around New Zealand and overseas. The Wellers recently returned from an industry-backed trip to Europe where they visited a number of key markets for New Zealand sheep, beef and dairy products to showcase New Zealand's stance on agricultural sustainability.

Thank you BFEA for words and images.

# Report from the Chair

2012 is a special year for the Trust as it marks HRH Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee and 35 years of open space covenanting in New Zealand.



Queen Elizabeth II National Trust was established at a time when the importance of natural and historic features on private land was not appreciated in the main. Private-land conservation has since become more mainstream, recognised as being fundamental in protecting our highly unique and valuable natural and cultural heritage and a core construct of responsible and sustainable land management practices.

Since the Trust was set up in 1977, covenant numbers have increased steadily, protecting on average an additional 3,000 ha per year. It is a pleasant coincidence that the 3,500th open space covenant was registered during the Trust's 35th anniversary year. At a time when environmental sustainability has become an increasingly important factor in consumer decisions, the QEII model demonstrates that production and protection can co-exist very comfortably on New Zealand farms, while the steady growth in covenant numbers clearly demonstrates that more landowners are opting for perpetual protection of sites of significance found on their land.

With over 3,600 covenants now registered and an accompanied increase in covenant administration, legal matters and field tasks, the Trust is dealing with a much larger work programme than it was even only a couple of years ago. A review was instigated during the year to identify changes to be implemented to the Trust's strategic direction and structure to ensure it has the capacity to continue achieving the objectives of its Act well into the future. The scope of the review is as wide as possible and the process will continue into the new financial year.

After 10 years at the helm Margaret McKee stepped down as Chief Executive of the Trust at the end of June this year. Margaret brought the Trust through a period of evolution and growth, establishing professional systems and business practices. Under her management government funding for open space covenanting was nearly doubled, and the volume of covenants increased significantly. Margaret leaves QEII with a good foundation and ready to embrace a new strategic direction. The Board acknowledges Margaret's considerable contribution to open space conservation during her tenure with the Trust.

The Trust also acknowledges Dr Brian Molloy who retired from his position as its high country regional representative at the end of the financial year. Brian became a director of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust in 1989 and held this position until 1998 when he became the Trust's South Island high country representative. As an esteemed botanist and taxonomist Brian has a unique ability to inspire landowners that they have something worth protecting and has been instrumental in helping establish a considerable number of QEII open space covenants in the high country.

After 35 years, QEII's successful history of conservation on private land through a unique partnership approach is becoming more widely recognised as a winning formula. Our challenge is to preserve those vital elements of trust, respect and stewardship as the organisation grows and assumes an increasingly important role in the protection of New Zealand's open space.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Guild'.

**James Guild**

*Chair*

30 June 2012



# Report from the Chief Executive



Standing down after a decade at the helm of the Trust, I write my final year-end report with both pride and humility.

During my time the Trust has evolved from a small agency into a medium-sized enterprise and private-land conservation and the strategic role of QEII is now recognized as mainstream.

The Trust now also operates in a more complex resource management environment and with the ever-increasing volume of registered covenants a different infrastructure and resource capability is needed to deliver effectively. The Trust is ready to renew and refresh its strategic direction and leadership for the next decade.

It has been an honour to work with three chairpersons; Sir Paul Reeves, Sir Brian Lochore and James Guild. I acknowledge and sincerely thank them for their personal guidance and wise counsel.

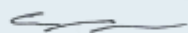
Sadly Sir Paul passed away during the year as did Richard (Tiny) White, a long-standing QEII representative and figurehead in the greater Gisborne district. I had the privilege of representing QEII at their funerals and it was very evident that the Trust had played a most important part in their lives.

Particular highlights for me over the past ten years include:

- Covenant numbers have almost doubled.
- An increased recognition and respect from government which has seen the Trust's funding boosted.
- The Trust's 25th anniversary function hosted by Governor General Dame Sylvia Cartwright with Professor David Bellamy as guest speaker.
- The field day and covenantors' function hosted by the Trust and attended by HRH Prince Andrew to mark the Act's 30th anniversary.
- Improved technology and the introduction of photopoint monitoring.
- The many regional field days hosted by covenantors all over the country.

I thank the hard working staff and in particular the dedicated regional representatives. In addition, QEII has an enormously wide range of stakeholders without whom the progress it has made over the years would not have been possible.

The covenanted areas protected by the QEII National Trust Act 1977 are as diverse as New Zealand's wonderful and most generous covenantors. I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to be part of the evolution of private-land conservation in New Zealand. Thank you.



**Margaret McKee**

*Chief Executive*

30 June 2012

# Protecting biodiversity on private land

As much of our rare and threatened native biodiversity is found on private land, private landowners are playing a crucial role in protecting New Zealand's at-risk ecosystems and the native species that live in them.

Landowners' commitment to protecting indigenous biodiversity is reflected in the continuing growth of covenant numbers. It took around 20 years to register 1,000 covenants, but the next 1,000 took half that time. At the end of the reporting period a total of 3,659 registered covenants are permanently protecting 99,782.67 ha of New Zealand's heritage.

During this financial year 149 QEII covenants were formally registered protecting 3,436 ha of private land. An additional 155 proposals covering around 8,475 ha have been approved for covenanting and are now going through the registration process.

The covenants registered during the year range from 0.17 ha to 802 ha in size. Natural features protected include landscapes, bush remnants, wetlands and waterways, shrublands, tussock grasslands and threatened species habitats.

## National Priorities

A Statement of National Priorities was developed in 2007 by the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment 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 precedence to covenant proposals that fall within the national priorities list.

### 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 (see map on page 10).

### National Priority 2

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

### National Priority 3

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

### National Priority 4

To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.



### Example priority 1

A block of land in South Canterbury classified as critically underprotected and acutely threatened was approved for covenanting during the year. The area is an excellent example of vegetation that varies with altitude, ranging from grey scrub at the lower altitudes through to broadleaf species and finally into tussockland at higher altitudes. The land sustains the special natural quality of the high country landscape and is an integral part of the upper Rakaia River scenic vista. The block is habitat for skinks and geckos and the Australasian harrier has also been sighted there.



### Example priority 2

The recently registered Kit Pawsey wetland covenant in Canterbury is dominated by swamp flax, cabbage trees, sedges, raupo and rushes, and hundreds more species identified by a team of botanists led by QEII regional representative, Miles Giller. Flaxland swamps were once a common feature in the region but land management trends in the 1970s and 80s promoted their drainage. Now wetlands values are better understood and their protection is encouraged. With just 5% of Canterbury's wetlands remaining, the Kit Pawsey wetland is a valuable addition to the region's precious collection of waterways protected in perpetuity by open space covenants.



### Example priority 3

A covenant proposal approved during the year occupies a unique position at the entrance to Tauranga Bay on the South Island's West Coast. Part of a regenerating area that was cleared for gold mining between 1860 and 1880, the covenant comprises semi-coastal modified primary forest, riparian margins and wetlands. In time the wetlands will recover to again become part of the forest edge, providing a migration corridor for marine birds nesting there. This coastal and forested area is home to many seabirds including the sooty shearwater and blue penguin. A creek area included in the proposal is a spawning area for giant kokopu, banded kokopu and inanga.



### Example priority 4

A newly approved covenant proposal in the Coromandel region is protecting around 190 ha of semi-coastal to lowland forest containing a number of rare and threatened species. Plant species in the forest include Kirk's daisy (*Brachyglottis kirkii*), king fern (*Marrattia salicina*), wood rose (*Dactylanthus taylorii*) and the giant-flowered broom (*Carmichaelia williamsii*). The forest is habitat for bellbird, North Island fantail, kereru and New Zealand's unique, prehistoric Hochstetter's frog, classified "at risk" and "declining". In Taranaki a dune system covenant was approved that is a breeding ground for the nationally vulnerable Northern New Zealand dotterel. The area is also the habitat of the *Notoreas 'Taranaki'*, an endemic moth that lives on the NZ Daphne (*Pimelea prostrata* Var. *Urvilleana*) only found in South Taranaki and northwest Nelson.



Clockwise from left: Hochstetter's frog (DOC), Kirk's daisy (Peter de Lange, NZPCN), Dactylanthus (DOC), NZ dotterel (DOC)

# Statistics

## Registered and approved covenants

as at 30 June 2012

### QEII covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments map

#### Summary – 30 June 2012

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	3,659	99,782.67
Approved covenants*	435	21,564.92
Formal agreements	33	928.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,127</b>	<b>122,275.89</b>

Largest covenant 6,564 ha

Average size 29.6 ha

Altitude range Sea level to 2,200 m

Region with most registered covenants Northland: 593

Region with largest area in covenants Canterbury: 16,689.09 ha

Organisation with most covenants Landcorp Farming Limited

QEII properties 29

\* Not yet registered

#### Threat category

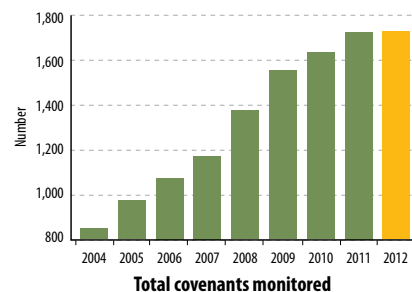
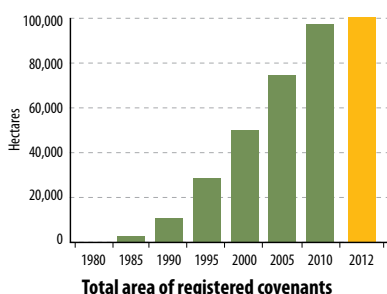
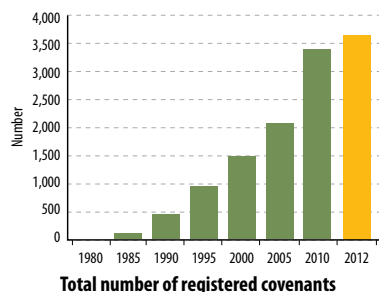
- Acutely threatened; < 10% left
  - Chronically threatened; 10-20% left
  - At risk; 20-30% left
  - Critically underprotected; > 30% left and <10% protected
  - Underprotected; > 30% left and 10-20% protected
  - Less reduced and better protected; > 30% left and > 20% protected
- Registered and approved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

Regional Council	Total land area of region (ha)	Total Approved covenants	No of Registered and Formalised covenants	Total number of covenants (Approved, Registered and Formalised)	Total area Approved, Registered and Formalised covenants (ha)	Largest covenant in region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)
NORTHLAND	1,250,000	49	593	642	9,953.79	417	15.50
AUCKLAND	500,000	22	254	276	4,152.99	841	15.05
WAIKATO	2,500,000	54	543	597	16,304.91	802	27.31
BAY OF PLENTY	1,223,100	8	167	175	9,526.24	6,564	54.44
GISBORNE	826,500	23	119	142	5,109.66	1,104	35.98
TARANAKI	723,600	70	260	330	9,524.27	334	28.86
HAWKE'S BAY	1,420,000	18	216	234	10,444.35	4,606	44.63
HORIZONS	2,221,500	26	308	334	8,041.59	306	24.08
WELLINGTON	813,000	30	292	322	6,056.00	824	18.81
TASMAN	978,600	14	136	150	2,466.12	641	16.44
NELSON	42,100	1	13	14	304.25	140	21.73
MARLBOROUGH	1,049,500	6	63	69	3,957.36	182	57.35
WEST COAST	2,300,000	20	54	74	2,749.19	619	37.15
CANTERBURY	4,220,000	50	247	297	16,689.09	1,679	56.19
OTAGO	3,200,000	21	166	187	11,120.26	2,735	59.47
SOUTHLAND	3,035,000	23	261	284	5,875.82	214	20.69
Grand Total		435	3,692	4,127	122,275.89		29.63

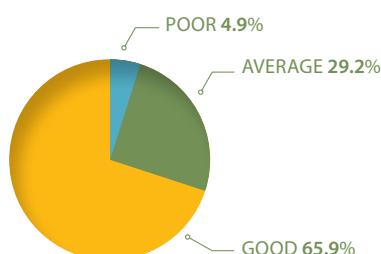


## Statistics continued

### Covenants



### Monitoring of covenants



### Adherence assessment

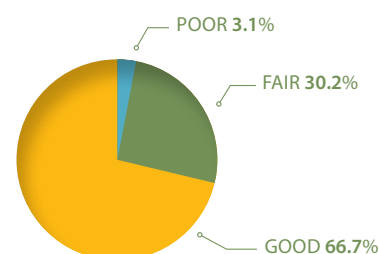
During the 2011/2012 financial year 1,723 covenants were monitored for adherence.

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.



### 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 affected by grazing or fire.

### Poor adherence report – 2011/2012

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 1,723 covenants monitored in the 2011/2012 financial year 95.1% were in compliance.

Poor Adherence type	Covenants in Poor Adherence for the first time	Percentage of total number of visits (1,723)	Total Number in Poor Adherence	Percentage of total number of registered and formalised covenants (3,692)
Encroachment	3	0.17%	7	0.19%
Feral animals	18	1.04%	23	0.62%
Fencing	23	1.34%	59	1.60%
Pest plants	19	1.10%	31	0.84%
Farm Stock	22	1.28%	36	0.98%
Total	85	4.93%	156	4.23%

Poor Adherence Level	Covenants in Poor Adherence for the first time	Percentage of total number of visits (1,723)	Total Number in Poor Adherence	Percentage of total number of registered and formalised covenants (3,692)
Level 1-minor, landowner given alert	75	4.35%	140	3.79%
Level 2-low, formal documentation	10	0.58%	15	0.41%
Level 3-medium, visit by management	0	0.00%	1	0.03%
Level 4-serious, legal action pending	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	85	4.93%	156	4.23%

# Statement of Service Performance

for the year ended 30 June 2012

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 July 2011.

## 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, 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	2010/2011 Actual		2011/2012 Target		2011/2012 Actual	
	No	Hectares	No	Hectares	No	Hectares
Approved covenants	159	6,917	160	3,200	155	8,475
Registered covenants	160	2,387	180	3,600	149	3,436
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$2,316,820</b>		<b>\$2,631,175</b>		<b>\$2,239,526*</b>	

\* See note page 9

## Statement of Service Performance continued

For the year ended 30 June 2012

## 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	2010/2011 Actual		2011/2012 Target		2011/2012 Actual	
	No	Hectares	No	Hectares	No	Hectares
QEII owned properties	29	1,600	29	1,600	29	1,600
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,700	35,968	1,785	35,700	1,723	38,789
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$1,658,943</b>		<b>\$1,673,080</b>		<b>\$1,617,442*</b>	

\* Note: Outputs 1 and 2 total \$3,856,968. 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 2012

2011 Actual \$		Note	2012 Actual \$	2012 Budget \$
	<b>Revenue</b>			
3,274,000	Government Grant		3,274,000	3,274,000
426,562	Contestable Funds	10	323,987	350,000
115,827	Donations and Other Grants		71,603	35,000
70,132	Other Revenue		84,811	70,255
<b>3,886,521</b>	<b>Operating Revenue</b>		<b>3,754,401</b>	<b>3,729,255</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>			
799,571	Field Operations		819,262	849,500
1,381,961	Covenant Expenditure	1	1,257,437	1,725,055
426,562	Contestable Funds	10	304,470	350,000
1,173,244	Administration	2	1,242,679	1,142,200
7,434	Property Operations		10,419	15,500
72,984	Public Relations		51,238	86,000
77,153	Depreciation	3	72,702	100,000
<b>3,938,909</b>	<b>Operating Expenses</b>		<b>3,758,207</b>	<b>4,268,255</b>
807,115	Investment Income		621,576	590,000
36,854	Investment Expenses		132,712	36,000
<b>770,261</b>	<b>Net Financial Revenue from Investments</b>	4	<b>488,864</b>	<b>554,000</b>
<b>717,873</b>	<b>Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/Disposals</b>		<b>485,058</b>	<b>15,000</b>
–	Property Gifted to the Trust		139,000	–
–	Gain on Sale of Property Gifted		41,000	–
–	Expenses Associated with Gifted Property		7,049	–
<b>–</b>	<b>Net Income from Gifted Property</b>	5	<b>172,951</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>717,873</b>	<b>Net Surplus</b>		<b>658,009</b>	<b>15,000</b>
–	Other Comprehensive Income		–	–
<b>717,873</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	1	<b>658,009</b>	<b>15,000</b>



A 7 ha area montane boulder field covenant was approved in March 2012. Located at the base of the Remarkables and beside Lake Wakatipu, close to SH6, the area has significant landscape values seen by hundreds of travellers each day. The owners encourage public access. The boulders are large; some the size of small buses, making the site a popular sightseeing and rock-climbing destination.

# Weta good indicators of forest health



Excerpt from research undertaken by Landcare Research scientists Corinne H. Watts, Doug P. Armstrong, John Innes and Danny Thornburrow.



New Zealand's native invertebrate fauna is typically large-bodied, long-lived, flightless and nocturnal. The weta is no exception. Unfortunately these large wingless insects have often suffered predation by introduced mammals, with rodents considered the main culprits. Research has found weta in 39 to 76 percent of ship rat (*Rattus rattus*) stomachs and the density and behaviour of some weta is apparently detrimentally affected by introduced predators.

The establishment of predator-proof sanctuaries as restoration areas has provided opportunities to investigate how weta respond to the eradication of introduced mammals.

The Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust completed a 47 km predator-proof fence around Maungatautari before attempting to eradicate pest mammals within the fenced areas. As a pilot for mammal eradication on the large mountain, two small enclosures were built (a 35 ha northern enclosure and a 65 ha southern enclosure) and the mammals were removed

from them. We examined the response of weta populations to mammal eradication in a before-after-control-impact experiment within the southern predator-proofed enclosure. A novel monitoring technique (footprint tracking tunnels) was used in combination with a conventional technique (pitfall traps) to monitor weta populations.

During September and October 2004, 13 mammal species (ship rat, mouse, cat, stoat, weasel, ferret, hedgehog, rabbit, hare, possum, red deer, goat and pig) were targeted for eradication using brodifacoum-laced bait spread aerially during two operations across the fenced enclosures. In the southern enclosure, four ship rats (all female) and five mice (*Mus musculus*) were detected using tracking tunnels and removed by trapping in the 20 months following the second bait application, although further mice were almost certainly poisoned by brodifacoum baits in bait stations deployed in March 2006 to specifically target increasing mouse detections. No other mammal species is known to have survived the two aerial bait

applications and the southern enclosure, the focus of our study, has been considered completely pest-free since July 2006. Aerial poisoning to eradicate mammals from the main Maungatautari reserve adjacent to the southern enclosure began on 1 November 2006.

The research determined that within two years after mammal eradication, there were dramatic increases in weta pitfall captures, weta tracking rates and the incidence of weta footprinting per tracking card. The mean number of weta per pitfall increased 12-fold after mammal eradication for adult *Hemideina thoracica* (Auckland tree weta) and 52-fold for other weta. Before and immediately after mammal eradication approximately equal proportions of juveniles, sub-adult and adult weta were caught in the pitfall traps. The age structure of weta caught in pitfall traps changed after mammal eradication, with the percentage of adult weta in the samples increasing markedly from 30 percent in summer 2004/05 to 66 percent in summer 2008/09. The sex ratio of weta caught also changed, the percentage of females in pitfall traps increasing from 25 percent in summer 2004/05 to 55 percent in summer 2008/09.

The dramatic increase in weta pitfall captures, weta tracking rates and incidence of weta footprints per tracking card may simply reflect increases in weta abundance following mammal eradication but they could also reflect behavioural changes. The latter follows because tree weta were reported to spend more time on the ground when mammalian predators were absent. These results could, of course, also be caused by a combination of these effects.

As weta form an important part of the diet of small introduced mammals, particularly rats, the more common *Hemideina* species can function as an indicator species for monitoring the "health" of native forests and the impact of poisoning programmes targeting introduced mammals.





Corinne Watts and Danny Thornburrow capturing weta for translocation.

In April 2012, 100 Mahoenui giant weta were translocated from the Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve in the King Country to the Maungatautari Ecological Island in Waikato after the research carried out by the Landcare Research scientists determined the response of weta populations to an intensive mammal eradication programme there.

## Weta facts

There are four New Zealand genera within the weta family *Anostomatidae*: *Deinacrida* are commonly known as giant weta; *Hemideina* are tree weta; *Hemiandrus* are ground weta; and *Anisoura* and *Motuweta* are the tussock weta. The cave weta belong to the family *Rhaphidophoridae* which is less well described. Weta were around at the time of the dinosaurs and giant weta are regarded as one of the most primitive links with New Zealand's biological past. Some giant weta species are among the world's heaviest insects. The wetapunga, the largest weta species on Little Barrier Island, weighs in at 71 grams, almost four times as heavy as some mice. As New Zealand had no land mammals (apart from native bats) before humans arrived, the ecological niches occupied by mammals in other parts of the world were taken by non-mammals. The weta's role in the ecosystem is similar to the mouse or rodent elsewhere. For example weta are hunted by morepork, New Zealand's only surviving native owl, and they pass seeds of some plant



Giant weta.

species through their digestive tracts unharmed, acting as effective seed dispersers.



## PROPERTIES FOR SALE

### Big Lagoon – Southland

This 55.9 ha property is located midway between Invercargill and Riverton.

It includes nine sheep paddocks, lockable utility shed and a furnished four-bedroom, two-bathroom house. Big Lagoon has a 31.16 QEII ha covenant over marsh, bog and open water where 70 bird species have been recorded.

More information at [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

Enquiries at: [wetlands@woosh.co.nz](mailto:wetlands@woosh.co.nz)

Flexible terms, asking \$995,000.



### Biennial Deer Industry Environmental Awards

QEII is a supporter of the Biennial Deer Industry Environmental Awards, which are part of the Deer Industry's Environmental Awareness Programme. The awards recognise excellence and innovation on sustainable, environmentally responsible deer farms. Entrants are asked to demonstrate best practice principles as displayed in the recently released Deer Farmers' Landcare Manual (May 2012). QEII sponsors the QEII National Trust Award for Demonstrating Outstanding Stewardship. Congratulations to this year's winners, Robert and Alex Peacock, Orari Gorge Station, South Canterbury. More about the awards and the Deer Farmers' Landcare manual can be found at [www.deernz.org](http://www.deernz.org) or by contacting Amy Wills, DINZ on 04 471 6110 or [amy.wills@deernz.org.nz](mailto:amy.wills@deernz.org.nz).

### Making a bequest or gift

QEII 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 QEII 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 QEII. Visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://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 by bequest or gift.

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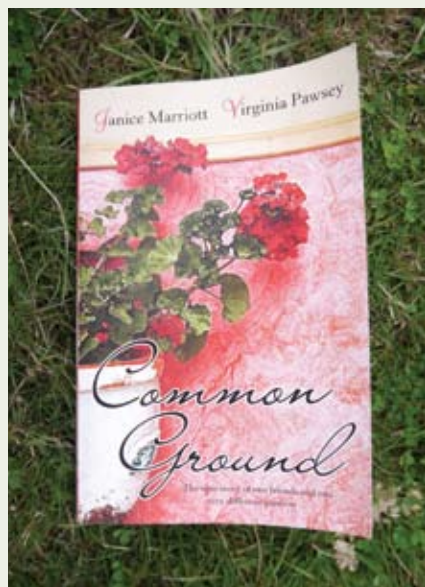
Formulated to achieve real results using the lowest toxicity levels possible means Cut'n'Paste is a more environmentally-conscious option and safe to use around other plants. Cut'n'Paste won't migrate through the soil to affect other plants. Brush it on to target broadleaf weeds, shrubs, trees and grass weeds, leaving the plants you want to keep.

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## Common Ground

by Janice Marriott and Virginia Pawsey

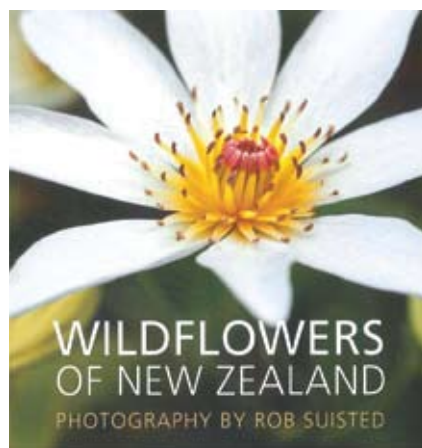


At a school reunion Janice Marriott and Virginia Pawsey rekindled their friendship and discovered a shared passion for gardening. Janice's garden surrounds her tiny house in central Wellington while Virginia's stretched all the way to the back boundary on her and husband Harry's South Island hill country farm (story on page 4 refers). They begin to tell each other about their loves and their losses, and, as the seasons unfold, the stories of their gardens become metaphors for life. Ultimately a celebration of female friendship, and a love of making things grow, *Common Ground* is the perfect book for women who love gardening, from two gardeners who love life. The book is available in most bookstores. RRP \$ 34.95.

**go wild** is a new style of native forest restoration manual, combining the "how to" with the stories of people who have done it, inspire it and live it. Infused with sound advice from the Nelson region – native plant nurserymen, lifestyle block owners, botanists, volunteer pest trappers, wetland restorers, school children... together establishing a template that has application nationwide. Available for \$ 29.00 from selected bookstores, Tasman District Council offices, libraries and online at [www.tasman.govt.nz/link/go-wild](http://www.tasman.govt.nz/link/go-wild).

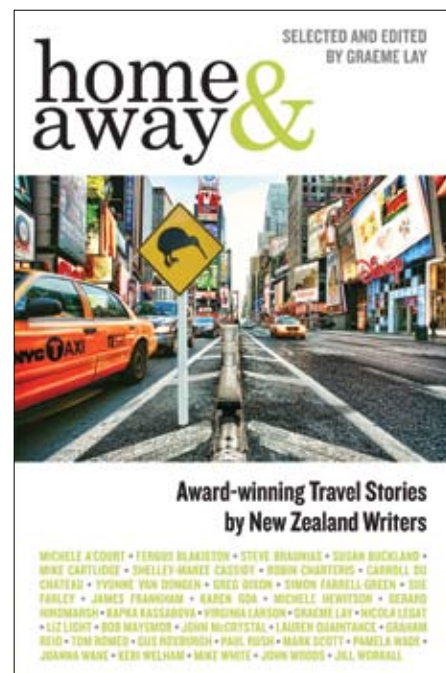


Early botanists were astonished at the wealth of new plants they discovered in New Zealand. Many of our flowering plants are found nowhere else in the world. Ranging through wetland, forest, grasslands and coastal habitats, our native flowering plants are described in this book, paying attention to endangered species. RRP \$19.99. At your bookstore from September onwards or contact Amanda Robinson at New Holland Publishers for a copy – [publicity@nhp.co.nz](mailto:publicity@nhp.co.nz) or phone 09 481 0444.



## Home and away

Award winning travel stories by New Zealand authors. The stories are the crème of our New Zealand travel journalism talent, excelling the "travel guide" perspective to draw the reader vicariously to another world. RRP \$ 34.99. Contact Amanda Robinson at New Holland Publishers for a copy – [publicity@nhp.co.nz](mailto:publicity@nhp.co.nz) or phone 09 481 0444.



## New-look membership card

From 1 July 2012 QEII has been issuing a new-look membership card. The new card will be issued to all new and renewed financial memberships from that date and to all landowners registering open space covenants after 1 July 2012. Covenantors and members with current old-style cards should contact QEII by email or phone us on 0800 467 367 to get a new card issued, particularly if intending to use the card overseas. (Both cards will be valid overseas for a restricted period of time only).



# Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February 2012 to 30 September 2012

District Council	Name	Area (Ha)	Main Open Space Type
Ashburton	McKenzie	1.6	W
Ashburton	Ashburton District Council (Swamp Road)	0.5	Fl
Ashburton	Ashburton District Council	0.3	T, G
Auckland	Broadhead	0.2	F
Auckland	Fisher, Lynch & Jespersen	2.9	F
Auckland	R & IM Norbis Ltd	14.9	F, W
Carterton	Bevin	1.4	F
Central Hawke's Bay	Public Trust-Smedley Station 2009	12.9	F
Clutha	TrustPower Ltd	59.2	Tu, W
Dunedin	Lawson	14.9	F
Far north	TGP Properties Ltd	28.7	F
Franklin	Aspin	1.0	F
Gisborne	Ballard & MacLean	12.7	F
Gisborne	Hoogerbrug, Williams & Evans	26.7	F
Gisborne	Ingleby NZ LP	51.3	F
Grey	Landcorp-Ahaura	38.2	F, S
Grey	Flaxton Properties Trust	1.0	F
Hastings	Matapuna Estate Ltd	33.3	F, W
Hastings	Upton	10.3	F, R
Hastings	Thomsen	12.4	F
Hauraki	Olsen	160.3	F
Hauraki	Bentham	47.1	F
Hauraki	Trembath	30.9	F, S
Kaipara	NARF	3.6	F, G
Manawatu	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Cheltenham Downs - Tawera	13.5	F
Marlborough	Harvey & Pattie	2.9	S
Marlborough	Waitaria Bay Estate LLC	132.3	F
Masterton	Wyeth & Gawith Trustees	6.2	F
Masterton	Wharrie & MRI Wairarapa Trustees Ltd	4.2	F
New Plymouth	Moki Road Ltd	40.5	F
New Plymouth	Proffit & Mangonui Farm Trustees Ltd	3.3	F, R
New Plymouth	Nesbit	1.0	F
New Plymouth	Faull Farms Ltd.	1.2	F
New Plymouth	Pearse Farms Ltd	3.9	F
Otorohanga	Byles & WFM Trustees Ltd	4.6	F
Otorohanga	Byles & Wiseley	2.9	F
Otorohanga	Ormsby	12.6	F
Otorohanga	Landcorp-Huirimu	150.3	F
Palmerston North	Moore	11.5	F
Palmerston North	Clarkson & Watson	1.3	F
Rangitikei	Cummings	11.2	F
Ruapehu	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Mangapapa	21.6	F
Ruapehu	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Bush Gully	20.7	F

District Council	Name	Area (Ha)	Main Open Space Type
Selwyn	Milliken	2.3	F
South Taranaki	Peat	6.2	R
South Taranaki	Trevor & Irene Taunt Trustees Ltd	0.4	Fl
South Taranaki	Menzies	4.3	F
South Taranaki	The Maori Trustee - Swampy Bush	10.0	F
South Wairarapa	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Wairo Station	9.4	W
Southland	Weller & Ryan	14.7	F
Southland	Landcorp- Mannings Duncraig Farm	10.7	R, S
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Duncraig - Big Bend	8.1	W, S
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd- Collar, Duncraig	7.0	S
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd- Rose's - Duncraig	7.6	W, S
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Duncraig - Office	1.5	W, S
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd - Mararoa - Templetons	19.1	W, Tu
Southland	Elder	4.0	W
Southland	Landcorp Farming Ltd- Four Mile, Eweburn	10.1	S
Stratford	Heao Road Ltd	72.2	F, W
Stratford	Needham	1.6	F
Stratford	Moore & King	6.5	F
Taranaki	Dowle Farming Co Ltd	4.8	F
Tasman	Guilford	24.6	F, T
Tasman	Crump	5.7	F
Tasman	Hamlin & Little	18.4	F
Thames-Coromandel	Hinds & Sons Ltd	3.6	F
Thames-Coromandel	Hinds and Sons Ltd	83.8	F, A
Timaru	Henriksen	5.4	F
Waikato	Ranworth Farm Ltd	9.7	F, R
Waitomo	Butler	1.9	F
Waitomo	Ingleby NZ LP	801.6	F, R, L
Waitomo	Waihanga Pastoral	25.7	F
Waitomo	Waihanga Pastoral	63.5	F
Whakatane	Gray	4.4	F
Whangarei	Granich & Kelly	16.5	F, S
Whangarei	Artia Farm Ltd	12.2	F
Whangarei	Martin	0.8	F
Whangarei	Perenphord Farms Ltd	2.3	F
Whangarei	Easterbrook	13.8	F
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>2306.4</b>	

**Key:** A Archaeological feature F Forest T Treeland  
 Fl Flaxland Ge Geological feature R Rushland, Reedland  
 Tu Tussockland G Grassland L Landscape  
 S Shrubland W Wetland

## QEII covenants help to understand the impacts of forest loss on native birds

Jay Ruffell, PhD candidate, the University of Western Australia

QEII covenants are playing an important role in my PhD research, which is investigating how we can predict and manage the impacts of forest loss on native birds.

The majority of New Zealand's landscapes have undergone extensive forest clearance. These landscapes contain a large proportion of our native species, and they are likely to come under increasing pressure as the human population grows. Understanding how to manage biodiversity in these landscapes will be a major challenge for conservation in future, but little is known about how this forest loss affects native species or the management we can undertake to reduce its effects.

My PhD research aims to improve our understanding of how to manage the effects of forest loss on New Zealand forest birds, by measuring how bird abundance and diversity changes with levels of forest cover in the landscape, examining whether this relationship depends on other factors, such as the spatial arrangement of forest (e.g. the presence of "corridors" connecting forest patches) or the type of replacement land use (e.g. agriculture versus urban development versus pine plantation), and by measuring the relative benefits of preventing forest loss versus controlling invasive mammals.

A large part of this research has involved searching for good-quality forest patches in my study area (Northland to Waikato) that meet specific criteria in terms of amount of forest cover in the surrounding landscape, levels of pest control, and surrounding land use. QEII covenants have been invaluable in this work; they often represent some of the best quality forest patches in the landscape – particularly in landscapes with low forest cover – and covenantors have invariably been kind enough to grant me access to their land to conduct surveys. Hopefully the results of the project will help to inform management of forest loss and play a part in maintaining biodiversity in covenanted forest patches in future.

Any questions or comments about the research please feel free to contact me at [ruffell.jay@gmail.com](mailto:ruffell.jay@gmail.com).

Fieldwork supervisor Maurice Roberts about to help with a bird survey at a Waikato QEII covenant.





## 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](http://www.openspace.org.nz) for more information about QEII open space covenanting.



QEII National Trust  
Open Space New Zealand  
Nga Kairauhi Papa



## **Notice to all QEII covenantors and Trust members**

### **QEII DIRECTOR ELECTIONS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**for Directors to serve on the QEII National Trust Board**

Members of the Trust have the opportunity to vote for two Directors for a three-year term effective 1 April 2013. Members are first invited to nominate other QEII members they think would be suitable for this role.

To be eligible to nominate and elect members onto the Board your membership must be current at 21 December 2012 and not expire before 31 March 2013.

#### **Timeline for nominations and elections**

- **Friday 21 December – nominations period closes at noon**
- Early February 2013 – ballot papers and voting forms are sent out to members inviting them to elect two members to the Board
- **Monday 11 March 2013 – voting closes at 12 noon**
- By end March – candidates confirmed.

#### **Candidate eligibility**

Only Trust members or an officer of a Corporate Member of the Trust may nominate or be nominated. Trust members may put themselves forward for consideration.

#### **Nomination form**

Nomination forms can be requested by emailing [elections@electionz.com](mailto:elections@electionz.com) or by calling The Returning Officer on 0508 666 566. A nomination form can also be downloaded from QEII's website [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz).

#### **Election rules**

The election rules will be sent out with nomination forms. A copy of the Trust's election rules is also available at [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz).

#### **Board Director duties**

Elected Directors represent the membership as a whole and not any organisation or interest group with which they may be connected.

The QEII National Trust Board is a governing board.

Details about the Trust Board's role and functions are found in the QEII National Trust Act. A copy of the Act can be found at [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz).

#### **Directors' fees**

Directors receive a daily fee of \$215.00 plus reimbursement of costs relating to Board business.

#### **For information about nominations and the elections process**

Email queries to [elections@electionz.com](mailto:elections@electionz.com) or phone 0508 666 566.

#### **Keep your contact details current**

Please keep us informed of any changes to your address and/or other contact details. Provide your email address if you would like to vote online.

To update your details click the "Update your contact details" link found on the Trust's website home page under Quick Links and fill in the online form. You can also email the Trust on [info@openspace.org.nz](mailto:info@openspace.org.nz) or call on 0800 467 367.

