



Snapshot: Wairarapa I Helping bees I Groundcovering weeds I Fencing tips Kakapo research I An interview with the new Chief Executive

Contents MARCH 2013

- 3 News and events
- 6 Snapshot: Wairarapa
- 12 Managing your covenant:
- 12 Helping bees
- 14 Weeds the groundcovers
- 16 Fencing tips
- 18 Kakapo dung holds the key
- 20 An interview with Mike Jebson
- 21 Fragments
- 23 Join the Trust
- 21 Place to visit: Aroha Island







COVER PHOTO By Alastair Sutherland. Volunteer planting day at the Hugh Prickett covenant. Story page 8.

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

Email editor@openspace.org.nz www.openspace.org.nz

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII Trust) is a statutory organisation independent from government and managed by a Board of Directors. QEII Trust is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Registration number: CC28488.

Board of Directors Chairperson: James Guild Megan Balks Bernard Card Edward Ellison James Hunter Sue Yerex

Chief Executive: Mike Jebson Phone 04 472 6626 Email mjebson@openspace.org.nz

Regional Representatives

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

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

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

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

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

COROMANDEL – WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY Hamish Kendal Tel: 07 576 0770

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

mmackenzie@openspace.org.nz TARANAKI Neil Phillips

Tel: 06 753 6433 nphillips@openspace.org.nz

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

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

EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY Wayne O'Keefe Tel: 07 315 7556

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

mgaddum@openspace.org.nz HAWKE'S BAY Troy Duncan

Tel: 06 844 3838 tduncan@openspace.org.nz

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

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

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

NELSON-TASMAN-MARLBOROUGH Tom Stein Tel: 03 574 2978

tstein@openspace.org.nz
WEST COAST Daniel Lowe

Tel: 03 768 7384 dlowe@openspace.org.nz

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

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

SOUTH CANTERBURY Rob Smith Tel: 03 689 7735

info@openspace.org.nz COASTAL OTAGO Rob Campbell

Tel: 03 439 4333 rcampbell@openspace.org.nz

SOUTH ISLAND HIGH COUNTRY Tel: 04 472 6626 info@openspace.org.nz

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

SOUTHLAND Graeme Watson Tel: 03 230 4843 gwatson@openspace.org.nz

From the Chair



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Jebson as Chief Executive of the QEII National Trust. Mike took up the position at the beginning of March.

Mike comes to the Trust with a wealth of experience in the primary sector and conservation. His last position was as Director (Resources

Policy) for the Ministry of Primary Industries and has been in senior positions in that ministry and its predecessor, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, since 1997. Prior to that he had seven years with the Department of Conservation where he managed the resource use team and was the Minister's representative on the NZ Fish and Game Council. (More on Mike on page 20).

With Mike's appointment we farewell interim Chief Executive, Pat Waite. Over the past eight months Pat has driven the review of the Trust's strategic direction and has set the scene for a fresh and exciting future for the organisation. The Board extends its sincere thanks to Pat for this significant piece of work and looks forward to working with Mike to grow the Trust as a recognised and ever more important contributor to the protection and enhancement of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage on private land.

I am also pleased to announce James Hunter and Megan Balks as the two successful candidates in the 2013 members' election. The Trust appointed Warwick Lampp, an independent returning officer from Electionz, to oversee the election. In total around 30 percent of Trust members (1,964 members) cast votes. Electionz advise that this is a good return, indicating an active interest amongst members in the governance of the Trust. Both Megan and James are sitting board members and have been reappointed for a further three-year term effective from 1 April 2013.

With members endorsing the Board's governance and a new CEO to drive an innovative strategic direction, I am confident the Trust is on the cusp of an exciting new era.

James Guild

TRUST CHAIR

Guest Editorial

Lifting our game

Bruce Wills – President of Federated Farmers

Much of the North Island is now officially in drought. A really tough time for many and worryingly these very dry conditions seem an increasingly common occurrence. A recent question from a city reporter got me thinking. I was asked "Why is it that every couple of years a rural community somewhere in New Zealand is in drought and often a few years later those same farmers are putting their hands up again? Are things being done so that we don't face this problem so often? Are farmers learning from these situations?"

A perfectly reasonable question and, yes, there are things we farmers can and are doing, things like more water storage, more trees, a more flexible mix of stock and importantly how we manage our pastures. Nature will always have the final say but we certainly can do things to mitigate the impact of these weather events. Farmers know that if we don't learn from these events, if we don't adapt, then ultimately our businesses will be at risk. We need resilient and sustainable farming to achieve long term profitability. Many farmers plan well for drought but some get caught off guard. Weather events will continue to test us so we need to be better prepared.

Another area where farmers are being encouraged to lift their game is around biodiversity. Thirty years ago we had a government and a society that supported incentives to clear our steep hill sides of bush and replace with pasture and sheep. We cleared a lot of fragile land and with the benefit of hindsight



now know that the pendulum went too far.

The QEII Trust is one organisation that is working to right that large scale destruction of vast areas of biodiversity. Today some 120,000 hectares of private land have been protected and covenanted in a voluntary winning deal for the landowner, councils and the QEII National Trust. This is an entirely sensible approach and deserves more support.

New Zealand farmers are very aware of the concerns from our markets and others about how sensitively and responsibly we treat our water and landscape. Most farmers do a great job. Like our need to better prepare for droughts we also need to do better with our biodiversity protection. Farmers are an adaptable bunch, we all strive to leave our land in better shape than we found it, but if we are to farm successfully for generations to come then we do need to learn to manage drought better, as we must also further lighten our footprint on the environment.

To farm successfully we must continue to lift our game.

Northland covenantor on 2013 NZ honours list



Dr John Craig was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to conservation in the 2013 New Year honours list. He and his partner Dr Anne Stewart have planted over 200,000 native trees across their family farm at Pataua North, 35km north-east of Whangarei, transforming

the landscape and extending and enhancing biodiversity on the property that also includes three QEII open space covenanted areas protecting bush, wetlands and coastal ecosystems. (See Open Space issue 83, page 5 for more on their property and management goals or visit www.tahinz. com).

John has a long research history in ecology and biodiversity conservation, serving on a number of Boards and Trusts. He retired recently as Professor of Environmental Management after 36 years at the University of Auckland but continues to do consultancy work in areas of research including conservation management, industry attitudes to sustainability, and urban ecosystem management.



Court case proves "indefeasibility" of covenant agreement

Being a trustee of that special piece of New Zealand you have entrusted to us to protect in perpetuity is a big job. This involves visiting landowners and checking on covenant fence lines, to working with councils on weed and pest control, to checking compliance with covenant agreements. The Trust recently went to the High Court for the first time on that last matter. It requested the Judge interpret a covenant agreement because a landowner who had bought land with a covenant believed the covenant agreement was void and should be removed from the title. We did not agree of course! The important outcome was that the Judge said the covenant cannot be removed from the title as requested by the landowner. The judge confirmed that a QEII covenant has the protection of "indefeasibility", a legal term which means when we register a covenant on the title it cannot be challenged with the exception of actual fraud. It was a difficult decision for the Trust to take this matter to court as we would always aim to resolve any issues with covenantors directly and amicably. However, as a trustee it is our obligation and duty to ensure the terms and conditions that initiating covenantors set out in their covenant agreement are honoured. While some further issues around interpretation remain to be fully resolved, this decision sets a precedent. It is now much harder to challenge a covenant; the legal protection of an open space covenant has been formally examined and is now confirmed as "indefeasible" in a decision of the High Court of New Zealand.

Dr Craig's conservation and restoration work is recognised here and abroad and he has won national and international awards for his conservation achievements. He played a significant role in the establishment of the Tiritiri Matangi Island wildlife sanctuary in the Hauraki Gulf.

John and Anne, in partnership with their daughter, run horses, operate a honey business and offer farmstay accommodation which enables others to enjoy the special environment they have created.

Is the damselfly in distress?



We will soon find out. The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is supporting a short-term research project looking at the present conservation status of kauri redcoat damselfly (*Xanthocnemis sobrina*). This species is endemic to the North Island and is the only New Zealand representative of its group that is assessed as "Data Deficient" after the most recent IUCN Red List evaluation completed last year. QEII National Trust covenantors throughout the North Island have supported the study, which is being conducted by Milen Marinov from the University of Canterbury.

This research involved field sampling to establish the distribution, biology and ecology of the species in the North Island as well as its evolutionary relationships to other species. The results will estimate the total potential area of occupancy of the species and project trends in species distribution.

Milen's search for damselflies was very successful in several of the wetland covenants he visited. He found large sized populations within Purangi, Paparoa, Opotiki and Wairoa covenanted areas. Meg Gaddum, Gisborne's QEII representative, commented about the Wairoa site: "This particular covenant has top predator control in place and a zero tolerance approach to deer and goat incursions. The covenant is teeming with weta and every native bird you could wish for. There were lots of damselflies too, and Milen got all the specimens he needed in 10 minutes. He also saw three types of endemic dragonfly while he was there."

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund is a philanthropic endowment, established by His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. It is open to applications for funding for species conservation initiatives based in all parts of the world.



Rocky outcrops were the focus of a joint field trip attended by members and associates of QEII National Trust and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. The two groups joined forces to learn about this rare ecosystem and distinctive feature of Akaroa's surrounding landscape.

Rare ecosystems often have disproportionately high biodiversity values and rocky outcrops are no exception. Their skeletal soils and exposed conditions have made them an important refuge for native plants and animals. Research undertaken by Landcare Research's Dr Susan Wiser has revealed that half of the Peninsula's native plants are found on rocky outcrops, including four of eight plants endemic to the region (*Festuca actae*/blue tussock, *Heliohebe lavaudiana*/ Akaroa sun hebe, *Hebe strictissima*/Banks Peninsula hebe and the Lyttelton forget-me-not *Myosotis lytteltonensis*). During her study, Susan also rediscovered populations of three species – the grasses *Poa kirkii* and *Stenostachys gracilis*, and the herb, yellow snow marguerite/*Dolichoglottis lyallii*, which had been presumed extinct on the Peninsula.

Akaroa's rocky outcrops are also a special habitat for New Zealand moths. Fifteen species of indigenous moth live exclusively at this address, two of which are endemic to Banks Peninsula (*Dichromodes*

cynica and Asterivora new species). Another, Gadira petraula, has a restricted distribution in the northeast South Island and has perhaps its best and most secure population on the Peninsula. This species has a flightless female that makes the species effectively immobile, although the moth's long legs make her a very fast runner! Given its flightless state, questions about the origins and distribution of the species abound, and are as yet unanswered.





The field day included a visit to Cloud Farm where the landscape and biodiversity features of rocky outcrops are protected with an open space covenant. Local QEII Trust representatives Miles Giller and Alice Shanks pose with Cloud Farm covenantors Jane Chetwyn (original covenantor) and Christo Trought (new owner).



Wairarapa means "glistening waters", possibly named by the early Maori explorer, Huanui, who saw the rivers and lake (Lake Wairarapa) from the mountains to the west of the region.

Rangitane and Ngati Kahungunu iwi lived in the area when European explorers arrived in the 1770s. European settlement began in the early 1840s, establishing the first New Zealand sheep station on the plains south of Martinborough. The townships of Greytown and Masterton were the country's first planned inland towns. In more recent years land has been converted for wine and dairy production.

The Wairarapa plains that greeted the early settlers once contained some of the most lush and dense lowland forest in New Zealand. Settlers from Scandinavia, who were experienced in clearing this sort of environment, were actively recruited to fell the bush and break in new farmland. The Christensens (story on page 9) are descended from these hardworking pioneers.

Parts of the plains used to be covered in sweeping tracts of flaxlands that supported a thriving flax industry. You can read about the Landcorp covenant on page 10 that protects one of the last remaining flaxland wetlands in the area.

In the eastern hill country many good examples of original vegetation still exist and significant areas are now protected by QEII covenantors. On the coast vegetation has been highly modified and stock browsing and marram grass have caused much damage to dune systems. A QEII covenantor (featured on page 8) is protecting a 2.4 km strip of this fragile ecosystem.



Covenanting significant natural areas on farmland is seen by many Wairarapa landowners as a practical way to protect valued remnants of original vegetation, while protecting water guality, erosion control and keeping stock out of difficult areas is of direct benefit to a farm's bottom line.

There are currently 174 registered open space covenants, and a further 13 approved proposals going through the covenanting process, together protecting just over 5,000 ha of Wairarapa's special natural and cultural features on private land.

Trevor Thompson QEII representative for Wairarapa and Wellington



Trevor Thompson has a background of many years in conservation including four years setting up and running the predator control system at Pukaha Mt Bruce, giving him an in-depth knowledge of managing

and restoring native habitats in the Wairarapa. Managing and enhancing native mistletoe and orchid populations are two of Trevor's specialties. He has worked with a number of covenantors and schools in the region propagating and then introducing these threatened plants to covenants where they can be protected. Trevor acknowledges the support of other organisations in protecting biodiversity values on private land, among them Greater Wellington Regional Council, which allocates funds to help with fencing and pest and weed control in covenants. Greater Wellington, Masterton and Carterton district councils and Wairarapa Forest and Bird also run a joint annual conservation week project, providing covenant owners with locally sourced plants to enhance their covenanted areas. Contact Trevor with any queries about your covenant or about covenanting in general in the Wairarapa and Wellington regions. Phone: 027 333 3243 Email: tthompson@openspace.org.nz

Forest restoration to mark Solway College's centenary

Solway College wants to restore its covenanted forest block in time for its centennial celebrations in 2016. The college has had a challenge on its hands. A suite of weeds including periwinkle, sycamore, barberry, stinking iris and tradescantia had jumped the fence from surrounding urban gardens to carpet the covenant's floor in a layer too dense for seedlings to penetrate. Funds from the Biodiversity Condition Fund and Greater Wellington Regional Council have helped tackle the problem, enabling the college to pay a local contractor to spray the weeds at regular intervals over a three-year period. Before that work started students collected seeds and moved hardy seedlings into the safety of the school's nursery.



John Pansters with school principal Elizabeth Rogerson and some of the school's restoration team.

With weeds now under control QEII representative Trevor Thompson has been working with students doing further manual weeding, teaching seed propagation and helping plant out seedlings in amongst the remnant's towering kahikatea, pukatea, totara, matai, small-leaved milk and black maire trees. These efforts have been boosted by the school's community of parents, staff, neighbours and old girls, who have spent many a Saturday working in the covenant.

The restoration project is part of the school's Horizons programme that aims to mentor and engage students in a range of different interests such as sport, the arts, and the environment. School principal, Elizabeth Rogerson, says the restoration team, led by John Pansters, has made huge in-roads in bringing the remnant block back to good health.

"The environmental programme is a fixed component of the school's special character activities, so keen recruits come on board each year ensuring ongoing restoration and maintenance of the block, and leave school with a greater understanding of the natural environment and ecological processes," she said.

The Solway College covenant is located on the school grounds. It protects a piece of original forest right in the middle of Masterton, providing a unique feature for the town, and gives locals and visitors to the school a glimpse of what forests in the area once looked like.





Only around 11 percent, or about 20,000 ha, of New Zealand duneland areas are left in their original state. Coastal foredunes are vulnerable to multiple modifying forces such as urban development, forestry, farming, pests, off-road vehicles and exotic plants. For these reasons dunelands are identified as a national priority ecosystem for protection under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Four years ago a 16.6 ha coastal strip running alongside Whangaimoana Beach at Palliser Bay was covenanted with the Trust. The strip contains duneland, steepland (precipitous slopes), and a small wetland stream area above Whangaimoana Beach. Many coastal flora species that have been grazed out elsewhere exist here, including spinifex, toetoe, NZ spinach, tauhinu (cottonwood), and natural areas of native pingao. The area is a typical habitat for sea birds, moths, katipo spiders and reptiles, and forms part of a larger coastal habitat for banded dotterel and the Caspian tern.

Covenanting the area was the dying wish of its former owner, Hugh Prickett. Although in very poor health he wanted to do something to permanently protect the duneland from future development. He was concerned about the dunes' drift across his paddocks and had put in considerable effort to help stabilize them. The Trust worked closely with Mr Prickett to fast-track the registration process and he was able to see his wish fulfilled shortly before he passed away.

Local residents, Alastair Sutherland and Sarah Barton, were given permission by Mr Prickett to establish a care group with Greater Wellington Regional Council to carry out restoration work at the site. The group continues to work with the new owners, the Warren family.

Alastair and Sarah call on willing volunteers, including school children from the local Pirinoa School, for planting days and ongoing control of marram grass. Already thousands of native sand-binding plants have been put in, enhancing and stabilizing this special strip of coastal habitat. The local Rotary club has also contributed funds and many volunteer hours to the project.



Volunteers have built a protective barrier around the covenant and planted thousands of native sand-binding plants.



Conservation top priority on dairy farm

Several years ago Jason Christensen left his long-time job with the Department of Conservation, returning home to help out his parents, Henry and Dorothy, who farm dairy and beef at Mt Bruce, about 20 km north of Masterton.

Conserving natural areas on the farm, and most importantly the farm's water supply, have always been part of the family's farm management plan, but an even greater emphasis was placed on these factors as the Christensens developed and expanded the dairying side of their business.

"Water is key to everything," Jason says. "Mum and Dad had already fenced off the farm's main streams and we are now working to get all permanent waterways fenced off and providing a clean flow of water for the farm. For us it's nature conservation and water conservation. Full stop."

Building on this principle, the Christensens have installed a state-of-the-art dairy shed to collect effluent, processing and returning it as "green gold" to fertilize the land at specific times of the year. The shed includes a sophisticated milk cooling system that heats water as it cools the milk, generating enough free hot water to wash out the milking plant and vats twice a day. Four QEII open space covenants complement this high-tech investment. Two of those protect a swamp forest, one protects a riparian forest remnant containing kahikatea, red beech, kanuka, "Water is key to everything... For us it's nature conservation and water conservation. Full stop." dorothy, henry and Jason christensen



northern rata, pukatea, swamp maire and sedges, and the fourth protects a wetland area. More covenants are in the planning.

Brown mudfish (*Neochana apoda*), endemic to New Zealand and classified as vulnerable and declining, inhabit the swamp forest blocks, along with fork-leaved sundew (*Drosera binata*), a regionally rare insectivorous wetland plant. QEII representative, Trevor Thompson, has worked alongside the Christensens to introduce this plant to the wetland covenant and *lleostylus micranthus*, a green mistletoe, in one of the swamp forest blocks.

"The covenants are small pockets across the farm, but every single one helps with the bigger picture," Jason says.

"Our farm sits near the boundary of the Tararua State Forest Park and is not too far away from Pukaha Mt Bruce Reserve. The covenants act as a pit stop and extended habitat for kaka and other birds moving across the farm to and from these places."

Drosera binata (fork-leaved or stag horned sundew)

D. binata is a carnivorous perennial plant native to New Zealand and Australia. It is New Zealand's largest sundew and is unique among sundews for being the only species to have forked leaves, hence its name (binata meaning "having pairs"). Being a carnivorous plant presents a problem when it comes to reproduction, as *D. binata* are pollinated by the very animals they like to eat. To overcome this dilemma flowers are produced at the end of a long stem that keeps the pollination process well away from the tentacles used to trap their food source. D. binata's tentacles produce a sticky digestive enzyme that attracts insects just as nectar would. Once an insect has been ensnared the tentacles and leaf structure fold over the insect and the digestion process begins.



Flaxlands area allowed to flourish



"Covenantors are supporting sustainable land management practices. This is something our markets are paying more and more attention to and we need to promote the role they play in shaping a positive perception of New Zealand abroad." JAMES GUILD, QEII NATIONAL TRUST CHAIR

Covenantors, friends and associates gathered at Wairio Station at Kahutara on the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa to celebrate the formal registration of the Buddle Findlay Wetland, the first Landcorp open space covenant in the Wairarapa region.

At the gathering, Trust chair James Guild said Landcorp was a leading international example of large-scale farming with largescale conservation on private land. The Buddle Findlay Wetland is Landcorp's 150th covenant and the organisation has some 30 more covenant proposals in the pipeline.

"The enormous contribution Landcorp and all covenantors make in putting land aside in perpetuity is going largely unrecognised, and is something we want to raise the profile on," James Guild said.

"Covenantors are supporting sustainable land management practices. This is something our markets are paying more and more attention to and we need to promote the role they play in shaping a positive perception of New Zealand abroad."

Wetlands in the Wairarapa were once widespread but most were drained and cleared in the 1960s and 70s. The Buddle Findlay Wetland protects one of the last and most extensive flaxland wetland areas remaining in the district.

Large-scale earthworks have been carried out to create stop banks around the covenant. Over time flood waters will swamp the area behind the stop banks, providing the right conditions for flax to regenerate and spread. Property managers, Grant and Karina McGhie, have already planted some 3,000 flaxes and 500 cabbage trees in the wetland to help kick-start the process.

Local QEII representative, Trevor Thompson, says the work has been done in the nick of time.

"It's a significant habitat type, almost all gone, but there was still enough value there to justify restoration. We have used plants propagated from seed from the flaxland to keep it authentic. It's early days yet, but give it a couple of years and it will soon start to flourish," he said. The wetland is habitat for tui, bellbirds and pukeko, and brown teal have also been sighted there. The rare swamp nettle (*Urtica linearifolia*) grows in the covenant.

Visitors will be able to see the transformation for themselves as public access has been allowed as part of the covenant agreement.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION RECOGNISED

Landcorp's retiring national property manager, Gerry Soanes, was presented with Honorary Life Membership of the Trust at the Buddle Findlay Wetland registration launch. "During his years with Landcorp Gerry has been instrumental in bringing two or three covenant proposals to every Board meeting. He has made a huge contribution to Landcorp and to New Zealand's inventory of protected land." JAMES GUILD, QEII NATIONAL TRUST CHAIR

Pat Waite (to the right) presents Gerry Soanes with Honorary Life Membership of the QEII National Trust.

Returned land revitalised

In 1993 the New Zealand Government returned a 20 ha block of land at Matakataki-a-Kupe/Cape Palliser to Ngati Hinewaka. The land, located in the centre of a 1250 ha block owned by whanau of Ngati Hinewaka, had been taken by the Crown in 1897 to use as a site for the Cape Palliser lighthouse. Its return provided the incentive for Ngati Hinewaka to develop a plan to manage this remaining piece of their ancestral lands. Shortly after the return of the land, Ngati Hinewaka covenanted three blocks that together protect 800 ha of wild, rocky coastal habitat, regenerating bush and the remains of pa sites and middens that provide evidence of some of the earliest human habitation in New Zealand.

High steep coastal hills behind the covenant make passage to its interior difficult, and the wild southerly storms that batter the coastline and the region's dry summers make this a hostile place for plants and animals. Yet numerous rare species have made this place their home. Fur seals laze on the rocks, geckos and skinks dart about the bush, and at certain times of the year koaro (climbing galaxias/ *Galaxias brevipinnis*) can be seen climbing steep waterfalls while giant kokapu (*Galaxias argenteus*) swim in lower lying pools. The Trust, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the local branch of Forest and Bird, Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre and the Norfolk Road Native Nursery have joined forces to support the owners' restoration efforts. An historic karaka grove and rengarenga lily site have been enhanced with plantings of rare coastal plants, protected with a specially constructed rabbit-proof fence. A lizard habitat has been created, and pests and weeds are being tackled. As regeneration progresses a new version of the original coastal forest, lost for the most part on Wairarapa's east coast, is beginning to emerge.



Haami Te Whaiti and helpers at a planting day.

Natural memorial to 1855 earthquake

The Bell and Lawrence families have a 25 ha covenant near Mauriceville that protects a forested area and two "hidden" lakes, formed when Wairarapa's magnitude 8.1 earthquake hit in 1855. The earthquake caused devastation in the Wellington and Wairarapa region. In the Wairarapa some settlers and many Maori lost their lives. Inhabitants of the Tirohanga pa were badly hit. Their pa site was located on top of a hill that split apart at



the impact of the earthquake, forming the lakes. Flanked by regenerating forest that dates from that day 158 years ago, the covenant is a natural memorial to that tragic event.

Seasonal rat and possum control keeps pest numbers down in the covenant and for some years now Forest and Bird's Conservation Kids trek to the site twice a year to help out with maintenance and restoration work around the lakes. Over the years they have cleared barberry and elderberry, planting natives in their place. At the end of the day their hard work is often rewarded with time to kayak on the lakes.



Magazine of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Issue 84 March 2013 11



This is the moment when real men learn to love flowers. Bees need flowers, lots of them. The nectar in the flowers contains sugars for energy, and the pollen provides protein, vitamins, fats, minerals and other goodies. The nectar and pollen combined provide the bees with virtually all their nutritional needs. This article discusses ways to attract more bees into your environment by incorporating bee-friendly thinking into your property management and into all of your plantings whether for shelter and erosion control, or for environmental or amenity purposes.

Native and honey bees under threat

Native and exotic bees are the good guys. The long-term future for New Zealand's native plant communities, and our agricultural and horticultural production, depends on them for pollination. About \$3 billion of GDP is directly attributable to bee pollination, and indirectly bees provide additional value with the pollination of clover in pastures and subsequent nitrogen fixation.

Native and exotic bees are under threat from disease, environmental degradation and corresponding loss of beneficial plants and plant diversity, the unwise use of certain agricultural chemicals such as nicotinoids and other man-made pollutants. Native bee species play an essential ecological role in the pollination of native plants. Specific plants have evolved to be pollinated by a small number of these bee species. If we lose the bees we might ultimately lose the plants. Planting native species is essential for bee habitats, as is leaving some areas bare to provide habitats for ground-nesting bee species.

Native and exotic tree and shrub flowers are a significant component of the bee's food source. Equally important, however,

are the flowers of crop or pasture plants and those of other herbs in non-production areas such as along fence lines and roadsides.

Native parasitic wasps also deserve a mention as they are in the same situation as the native bees. The native wasp lays its eggs inside other insects such as aphids, so reducing the number of aphids. The more nectar-bearing plants there are available, the longer the adult wasps live and the more aphids bite the dust. Nature at your service.

BEE-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Landowners can use bee-friendly management practices such as not using herbicides, or being extra careful when using herbicides on fence lines, drains, field edges, roadsides and waste areas. Bees like warmth and shelter, so it helps to have more sheltered areas with flowering plants. The best planting sites are ones that get plenty of sunlight, are warmed first thing in the morning and face north. These bee-friendly practices are an easy and enjoyable way to embrace biodiversity.

HELPFUL EXOTIC SPECIES

Exotic multi-use trees for the autumn to spring flowering window include:

- Eucalypt and related species including *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, E. cordata, E. globoidea, E. globulus, E. grandis, E. leucoxylon, E. maidenii, E. melliodora, E. pauciflora, E. rodwayi, and Corymbia maculata
- Willows such as matsudana willow, weeping willow and pussy willow
- Tree lucerne or tagasaste, robinia as well as all apple and pear species
- Ornamental exotic trees including bottle-brush, horse chestnut and sweet chestnut.

Remember that many of these trees also have practical uses as timber, shelter, firewood and erosion control.

HELPFUL NATIVE SPECIES

The bee needs access to pollen and nectar sources all year round but the critical time is from late autumn through to late spring. This is when the hive needs supplies to get through winter and then to build up numbers after low winter levels.

When choosing any plants on the lists below, consider what natives are local to your area. For example, will the native plant actually grow on your site, and will it suit the purpose of the planting? The species listed below can be incorporated into shelterbelts or riparian, wetland, erosion control, screening and amenity plantings.

Plants that flower over the key period include:

lacebark, five-finger, lancewood, kowhai, cabbage trees, ngaio, native brooms, coprosmas, kanuka, manuka, matagouri, wineberry, karaka, tree fuchsia kotukutuku, rewarewa, pittosporum species such as kohuhu, lemonwood, karo, tawhero and kamahi, and koromiko and flaxes.

SUMMER FLOWERING PLANTS

Summertime is when most hives accumulate their food reserves in the form of honey. There are many species that bees will visit for this purpose. Some of these species have already been mentioned as they start flowering in spring. The main summer flowering species are clover, manuka, rata, pohutukawa, southern beech for the honeydew, viper's bugloss, borage, lime, various eucalypt species and tawari.

A number of noxious weeds and unwelcome plants are excellent for bee fodder. You would not want to plant these, but even the bad guys serve a purpose. They include gorse, sycamore, crack and grey willow, barberry, buddleia, hawthorn, thyme, flowering currant, blackberry, Spanish heath, lantana, Scottish heather and broom, to name a few.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Information has been sourced from many areas over the years, and from my own observations. The two main sources are:

Smart Farming for Healthy Bees, which can be found at www. treesforbees.org.nz. There are specific plant lists for 10 areas of the country. Trees for Bees is a collaboration between Federated Farmers, Landcare Research, NZ Honey Industry Charitable Trust, Oceania Pollinator Initiative, NZ Plantfinder, and various nurseries spread throughout the country including Southern Woods Nursery.

Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand by Andrew Matheson.

Murray Mannall of Southern Woods Plant Nursery is an ex-amateur beekeeper and Canterbury nurseryman. Story published in Open Space with permission from NZFFA.

Is your covenant up to supporting native bees?

It is if it has these species:

lacebark, five-finger, lancewood, kowhai, cabbage trees, ngaio, native brooms, coprosmas, kanuka, manuka, matagouri, wineberry, karaka, tree fuchsia kotukutuku, rewarewa, pittosporum species such as kohuhu, lemonwood, karo, tawhero and kamahi, and koromiko and flaxes.

Goats and deer love these species too. If goats and deer are left uncontrolled they will graze them out.

There are 28 native and 13 introduced species of bee in New Zealand. Three common native bees:



Lasioglossum sordidum



Leioproctus huakiwi



Leioproctus fulvescens

PHOTOS: BRAD HOWLETT

MANAGING YOUR COVENANT | Weeds

Weeds – common groundcovers

by Carolyn Lewis, Weedbusters National Coordinator

Healthy native ecosystems are amazing. They are balanced systems where each species has its own place and part to play. Natural changes within ecosystems are gradual so the system and its components can adapt without upsetting the balance – until an invasive species is introduced into the mix. That's when things start going wrong.

Invasive plant species – weeds – interrupt the succession of native species and regeneration of natural areas. They often lurk on the margins of natural areas and take advantage of entry points – such as tracks, fallen trees, and clearances due to fire or erosion – to start their incursions. Shade tolerant weeds are particularly destructive because they can move quickly into healthy bush areas.

Ornamental groundcovers gone wild are one of the most serious threats to our bush, coastal areas and wetlands, as the areas they smother are usually where new native seedlings would establish and grow to eventually replace older plants.

Of the true groundcovers, the top offender is tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), also known as wandering willie or wandering jew. Others include aluminium plant (*Galeobdolon luteum*), also known as artillery plant, and periwinkle (*Vinca major*). Lesser known problem plants are fairy crassula (*Crassula multicava*) and plectranthus (*Plectranthus ciliatus*). Even the tiny African club moss (*Selaginella kraussiana*) is a major problem in some natural areas, and is extremely difficult to eradicate once it is established.

Although not groundcovers in the true sense of the word, a number of other weedy types also behave in a similar way when the conditions for them are right. Those with dense bulbous or rhizomatous (a horizontal, usually underground stem that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes) root systems are some of the worst offenders, forming impenetrable mats of root material that can go very deep and exclude all other species. The bulkier ones, such as wild ginger (*Hedychium* species) and arums (*Zantedescia* species), as well as smaller species such as montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*), stinking iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and aristea (*Aristea ecklonii*), can all be major problems for native ecosystems.

Some of the smaller weedy grasses, such as Himalayan fairy grass (*Miscanthus nepalensis*) and palm grass (*Setaria palmifolia*), can act as groundcovers through their dense growth habits. Even some climbers and vines will grow horizontally if there is nothing to climb, forming thick mats of vegetation across the ground. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*) and convolvulus/bindweeds are good examples of this.

While some of these species are spread by wind or by birds, others do not set seed in New Zealand and only get into bush areas by spreading from sites where garden waste has been dumped. This is still a major source of weed infestations on bush margins, especially near roads.

Herbicide bycatch

By Alice Shanks, QEII regional representative

A QEII representative is usually pleased to see that a landowners have dealt to the weeds in their covenants. After all, the covenant document requires landowners to control biosecurity weeds such as gorse and broom. Most go beyond this and control other biodiversity weed threats as well.

However, certain weed control, if not carefully executed, can go against the whole purpose of the covenant by killing off the very indigenous vegetation the covenant is set up to protect.

Recently I visited a covenant where a patch of gorse had been killed with herbicide. The herbicide had been applied by air and the surrounding vegetation had also been covered. Sometimes this may not matter, but at this site, on a high, rocky ridgeline, with harsh weather and thin soils, the loss of the shrubland and emerging mahoe and kowhai trees that had been killed with the gorse had simply created an ideal habitat for the next gorse crop, because competition for space, light and water had been eliminated. In two years' time the yellow flowers will again attract attention, again be sprayed and any young shrubs and trees emerging will once again be burnt by herbicide.

Controlling weeds

There is a range of control options for weedy groundcovers, from physical control to herbicide application. Groundcovers are difficult to eradicate and repeat control efforts are needed. Check out the weed search at www.weedbusters. org.nz for specific control options for each weed species.

You can get help with weed identification from your local QEII representative, regional council biosecurity officers, or Department of Conservation area staff. If you want to try identification online, check out Landcare Research's plain language weed key at http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/ resources/identification/plants/weeds-key.

COMMON OFFENDERS

Massive roots and rhizomes

Aristea	Aristea ecklonii
Tuber ladder fern	Nephrolepis cordifolia
Arum and 'green goddess	Zantedescia ethiopica
Elephant ear	Alocasia brisbanensis
Wild ginger	Hedychium gardnerianum, H.
	flavescens
Montbretia	Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora
Stinking iris	Iris foetidissima
Yellow flag iris	Iris pseudacorus
Agapanthus	Agapanthus praecox, A. orientalis
Other space hogs	

Himalayan honeysuckle Italian jasmine Bears breeches Gunnera Leycesteria formosa Jasminum humile Acanthus mollis Gunnera tinctoria Gorse can act as a nursery crop and provide shelter for future trees, and, as the above case illustrates, in some circumstances killing it off can push back the regeneration process. The seed bank of gorse and broom is large and far longer-lived than the landowner, so in following the approach above you could be setting yourself up for a long war.

There are techniques to reduce overspray, spray drift and offtarget damage of broadcast herbicide. They can cost more up-front in time and money than aerial application but if you factor in the cost of planting nursery-grown replacement trees and shrubs, the time and money of a careful control programme can be seen as a cheaper investment in the long run. Alternative control options include:

- cut and paste individual bushes
- knapsack application on calm days
- prills placed at the base of bushes
- drill and poison tree weeds
- · basal bark spraying of tree weeds.

Covenantors have long timeframes when it comes to weed elimination and the recovery of indigenous vegetation in their covenant. Covenants are, after all, in perpetuity.





Fencing tips for covenants

By John Williamson, QEII regional representative

When I'm out monitoring covenants I sometimes come across fences that are in need of repair and stock are getting in as a result. Fencing off a covenant to exclude stock is a standard requirement in most QEII open space covenant agreements, but it doesn't end there. There is also an ongoing obligation for covenantors to maintain the fences.

Covenant fences often run close to a forest edge or right through patches of bush, so they can be easily damaged by branch or tree fall. These events can slacken wires or even knock down sections of the fence. No fence will last forever, but without maintenance the life of a fence is certainly shortened. Carrying out fence maintenance in a timely manner will help protect the initial investment put into constructing it, extend its life, keep the browsers out, and save a lot of work and expense further down the track.

Nothing beats a well-built conventional fence - 8 wires, 4 battens, posts 4 m apart. That design was particularly effective when two barbs to hold the battens in place were commonly used, but that method isn't used much anymore. Cattle are destroyers, and they will destroy a fence too, whether it is 8 or 9 wire, unless the fence



2005 browsing damage

is protected by barb or electricity. Many of the fences I see have no barbs, and the battens have been pushed along to the posts. They are still keeping cattle out at this point, but the wires have become separated and loose and are allowing sheep through.

Most sheep and goats tend to burrow rather than jump, and it is the loose wires they find while stretching underneath that will generally let them through. Keeping wires tight and running a barbed wire along the bottom of the fence are the best ways to discourage this behaviour.

My preference for a fence now is 9 wires with 3 m post spacings without battens. As long as the wires are tight, the sheep won't get through, and cattle don't like sticking their heads through either. I have also seen 5 wire fences at thigh height (700 mm) that sheep have never broached, with a higher electric wire for cattle. The absence of battens makes repair jobs easier after branch or tree-fall and the wires are also easier to keep tight. It's a good idea to think about where you put your tensioners when you build the fence, as handy access makes the job of tightening wires quick and easy.



2009 showing regrowth after fencing



Totata fence built around 1920-30. The ancient 8 wire 2 barbed totara fence is still functioning well.



Goat fence with barbs at the top and bottom, built by fencing contractor Scott Cavenay.



So too is this 1950-60 constructed 8 wire 2 barbed concrete and batten fence. If cattle haven't broken the concrete poles this style of fence holds its condition well.



9 wires, 3 m post spacing and no battens.



Batten displacement on an un-barbed fence. Notice how the battens have slid off to the sides. This fence is only about seven years old.



An all-excluder fence, including deer, built by fencing contractor Richard Grace.

Kakapo dung holds the key A fossilized sample of parrot dung has revealed a previously unknown ecological relationship that could help save a threatened plant from extinction.

The plant in question is the *Dactylanthus taylorii* (also known as the wood rose, pua o te reinga, or Hades flower). A parasitic plant that only grows on the roots of about 30 types of trees in New Zealand, *Dacthylanthus* is now endangered due to habitat loss, consumption by invasive species such as possums and pigs, and a limited number of pollination options. The species, which exists today in just four percent of its historic range, is only pollinated by the New Zealand lesser short-tailed bat (*Mystacina tuberculata*), a ground-foraging species which itself has lost 70 percent of its former range.

But here's the thing - according to new research published in October 2012 in Conservation Biology, the habitat for the wood rose once overlapped with that of another species, the now-critically endangered flightless kakapo parrot (*Strigops habroptila*). The kakapo, which today numbers just 125 birds, was once

common in the North and South Island before humans arrived, but now only exists in tightly monitored populations on a few remote islands. Researchers from the Australian Center for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide, Landcare Research and the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) examined some fossilized kakapo dung (known as coprolites) found in the South Island, where both species once existed. The coprolites contained 8.9 percent Dactylanthus pollen and spores, suggesting the two species not only coexisted but that the kakapo once served as a primary pollinator for the wood rose.

This new knowledge may help inform conservation efforts in the future. Jamie Wood, lead author and a researcher at Landcare says, "Coprolites are one of the only ways to reconstruct important prehuman ecological relationships, such as pollination and seed dispersal, which must be restored to conserve these species over the long term."

Re-establishing this ancient relationship is being put to the test. Early in 2012

eight kakapo were moved to Little Barrier Island, which also happens to be one of the few remaining habitats for the wood rose. According to the researchers, this could be the first time these two species have shared the same habitat for over 100 years. DOC will now use camera traps to see if any of the kakapo on Little Barrier Island are pollinating the wood rose, attracted to the flower by its abundant, sweet-smelling nectar. This nectar - released during the plant's brief above-ground flowering phase, which occurs between February and April – also attracts possums, rats and other invasive species that eat the plants without serving as pollinators.

By the way, the term "wood rose" is a misnomer. The parasitic plant sucks nutrients from surrounding roots, causing the roots to deform into shapes that resemble flowers carved from wood. These "roses" are often dug up and sold to collectors, which is another reason the plant is endangered today.

Article written by John Platt, originally published by Scientific American and reprinted with permission.



Help Dactylanthus

Dactylanthus holds a special place in New Zealand's indigenous flora as the only fully parasitic flowering plant. It is regarded as being in serious decline, with browsing, habitat loss, collectors and loss of pollinators its main threats. To help protect this highly unusual plant, report any sightings or the collection and sale of these plants to your nearest Department of Conservation office.

An interview with Mike Jebson

Mike Jebson has been appointed Chief Executive of QEII National Trust. He took up the position in March 2013.

Where did you grow up Mike?

I'm a Canterbury lad born and bred. I was raised on Flockton farm in Sheffield, the youngest of five, with the Torlesse Range of the Southern Alps to the west, the Malvern Hills just to the south, and the Waimakariri River to the north. A very beautiful part of New Zealand to grow up in.

How long have you been involved in the world of conservation?

My interest in conservation and sustainability goes back a long way. My parents were of the old school, passionate about the land they farmed. I learnt a love of the land from them. My first degree

at university involved a lot of ecology and zoology and between degrees I did some work for a small environmental NGO. This piqued my interest in environmental and sustainability issues and led to my decision to do a Masters in Resource Management.

Since then my whole career has involved some element of natural resource management. I started in government working for DOC looking after the fish and game issues for Taupo and Rotorua and working alongside Fish & Game New Zealand.

Since those days, I have variously looked after, and worked on some knotty policy and operational issues in the Ministry for Primary Industries and its forerunners including: indigenous and exotic forestry; freshwater management reform; international climate change negotiations and domestic policy; and sustainable land management policy, amongst others. I have also had responsibility at various times for the Sustainable Farming Fund, Afforestation Grant Scheme, East Coast Forestry Project, the Indigenous Forest Unit, and several research funds.

Why did you choose this field of work?

These issues are of core importance to the future of New Zealand and how we develop as a nation. This work involved growing the economy while looking after the environment. It's fascinating, challenging, complex and never dull.

What has been the most rewarding or most enjoyable thing about your career so far?

I have had the opportunity to work with some wonderful and talented people and my career had taken me to some very interesting places – everywhere from Marrakesh in Morrocco to Tuatapere in Southland. I particularly enjoyed my time looking after the Sustainable Farming Fund as it worked with dedicated community groups to help find grass roots solutions to some significant economic and environmental challenges.

What attracted you to QEII?

It was a perfect fit with my core values and skills. I like what it stands for and I believe I can help its continued success.



What keeps you busy in your spare time?

Spare time? – who has spare time! I currently have a landscaping job on the go at home but it's not getting the attention it deserves.

What was the highlight of 2012 for you?

• There were three: a two-week campervan ski adventure with my wife and three adult sons and a future daughter-in-law. We toured around some ski fields we hadn't skied before along the Southern Alps;

 $\ensuremath{\bullet}$ attending the graduation of my eldest

son in December; and

• landing the job as Chief Executive of QEII National Trust just before Christmas.

What is the one goal you are hoping to achieve in 2013? Helping to raise the profile of the QEII National Trust.

What is the best thing about summer for you?

Relaxing with the family and friends, camping, biking, fishing, snorkelling and kayaking.

What book have you most enjoyed reading?

I have read lots of very enjoyable books over the years so it's hard to pick one. At home we have a small library of our own. As a kid I loved the *The Lord of the Rings*. Recent books I have greatly enjoyed have included *The Book Thief*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *Life of Pi*.

What type of music do you like?

Again I have an eclectic taste in music. Everything from reggae, punk, rock classical, folk and even some pop.

What gives you the biggest 'buzz' in life?

Skiing and scuba diving are probably my two biggest buzzes but for different reasons. Skiing is about adrenalin and being in the mountains. Scuba diving can be a surreal experience, especially if it's diving the fiord in Doubtful Sounds, the underwater arches in the Poor Knights or Three Kings Islands.

Is there a favourite place in New Zealand or the world for you?

Sorry, this one's too hard so I'm going to give you two overseas and three in New Zealand: Roma (need I say more?); Antalya in Turkey (you need to visit to understand); Flockton farm where I grew up as it's a beautiful spot and the family roots go back four generations; Pukerua Bay, the lovely coastal village on the Kapiti coast where we have raised our three sons; and my very own taonga – 12 ha of tussock and beech forest in a mountain valley in the midst of the Korowai-Torlesse Tussocklands Park. It's a long story how I acquired it. (Is it a conflict of interest if I put it up to be considered for a covenant?).

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Silverstream, Wellington

Open2view ID#282643. House (built 2002) plus cottage on 6ha. Feels remote but is less than an hour from Wellington CBD, 10 minutes to Silverstream. Sheltered and secluded. Architects 'three words' – serenity, simplicity, drama. Extensive tracks, vegetable gardens. Around 4ha protected with a QEII covenant with mature beech/podocarp forest, 300–400 year old rimu, and tomtits, white head and bellbirds. Botanical checklist available. Agent alexp@gilliesandmark.co.nz.



Funding support for QEII covenantors

QEII National Trust helps landowners protect significant natural and cultural features on their land by helping them with the establishment of open space covenants. It is also able to seek funds on behalf of covenantors from agencies like regional and district councils, the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds (BCF/ BAF), WWF and the Lottery Grants Board, to support specific projects that will protect and enhance biodiversity values in covenants.

Since 2000, QEII has applied to BCF/BAF for funding on a range of projects that specifically cover maintenance, restoration or improvement projects designed to protect and enhance indigenous vegetation, species and habitats located on private land. At the moment QEII covenantors around the country are receiving financial support from five BCF funding rounds with a collective grant allocation of just over \$1 million. Kokako monitoring, threatened plant surveys, wetland restoration, old man's beard control, and fencing of significant ecological areas, are just a few examples of projects receiving support.

BCF's current funding round closes on 30 April 2013. The Trust has submitted 18 applications on behalf of its covenantors for this round. If you think your covenant project might be eligible for funding support, please contact your regional representative to discuss or contact BCF directly on biofunds@doc.govt.nz ph 0800 86 20 20 or 04 471 3142. A further BCF funding round will be announced later in the year.

The Trust sincerely thanks all funding agencies for their ongoing support of QEII covenantors and biodiversity protection in New Zealand.



Crack willow threatened the ecological values of a covenanted wetland in the Manawatu. Horizons Regional Council and BCF funding was granted to eradicate the willow and restore the wetland with good results.

New website one-stop-shop for restoration groups

Nature Space is a website for groups, individuals and landowners undertaking ecological restoration in New Zealand. There are hundreds of community restoration groups and individual landowners in New Zealand dedicating time and effort to restore native ecosystems. The Nature Space website supports these people. The website provides information about some of the community restoration groups and individuals working throughout New Zealand, maybe in your own neighbourhood. A resource centre section has information and guidelines that will help you or your group plan your project and get the best conservation results. Register yourself or your restoration group and add information about your project. You can use the site to connect with groups near you, or enlist support for your own project. Visit Nature Space at www.naturespace.org.nz.

Monitoring Toolbox Project

QEII National Trust has recently become a partner in the development of the Community Monitoring Toolbox project. This project is headed up by World Wildlife Fund as part of their Community Conservation Innovation Project, funded by the Tindall Foundation. This project will enable community groups and landowners to share monitoring techniques and tips, and to standardise the sort of data they collect so they can compare results across New Zealand. By having a shared monitoring toolkit, groups can showcase their progress in everything from pest management to the return of native birds, and also highlight areas where perhaps they are struggling and need support from more experienced groups or individuals.

Stay tuned for further updates on the project.

Field Guide to New Zealand's Native Trees

John Dawson and Rob Lucas

Reviewed by E.R. Heeg, QEII National Trust



If only all field guides were as beautiful and useful as Dawson and Lucas' *Field Guide to New Zealand's Native Trees*. As a companion to the acclaimed *New Zealand's*

Native Trees, it certainly lives up to the reputation of its predecessor but in its own delightfully practical way (and at a fraction of the weight). The guide includes species endemic to Stewart Island and the Chathams, thereby covering off much of the depth and breadth of New Zealand's biodiversity. The authors state in the introduction that they have taken an inclusive approach to the definition of a tree, which means that some of the species included may raise the eyebrows of some pickier botanists. However, in a field guide a broader range is probably best for identification.

This artfully crafted guide includes very informative photographs and a great many tips for differentiating between many of the trickier species. Species are organized by genus although also indexed by common name. There are photos of male and female (or bi-sexual) inflorescences, the bark of trees, and shots of full trees both near and far. If a naturalist in possession of this book is still struggling to identify a specimen, it certainly won't be for lack of trying. The summary guides at the beginning of two of the sections include simple and compound leaves for flowering trees and foliage for the conifers, which could prove quite handy for those of us who have left our guide at home and tend to take a little sample along for identification later.

Although intended as a field guide, the delightful introductions to each section also make this an engaging read for the armchair botanist. Such a well-presented book would be at home in any enthusiast's collection.

Available at bookstores nationwide or at www.craigpotton.co.nz.

Exclusive Offer for QEII Covenantors and Members

10% discount off the RRP and free delivery in New Zealand

John Dawson & Rob Lucas RRP \$49.99, flexibind, 210 mm x 148 mm, 424 pp



Craig Potton New Zealand

Deluxe edition: RRP \$120.00, cloth bound in presentation slipcase Standard edition: RRP \$79.99 280 x 330 mm, 160 pp

Field Guide to New Zealand's Native TreesAbove the TreelineJohn Dawson & Rob LucasAlan Mark



RRP \$49.99, flexibind, 210 mm x 148 mm, 472 pp

New Zealand's Native Trees John Dawson & Rob Lucas



RRP \$120.00, hardback with jacket, 310 mm x 229 mm, 576 pp

To receive 10% discount, complete the order form below or order via our website at http://www.craigpotton.co.nz/ and use the discount code OS2013

ORDER FORM – 10% discount off the RRP and free delivery in New Zealand

TITLE	QTY	DISCOUNT PRICE	TOTAL
Field Guide to New Zealand Native's Trees		\$44.99	
Above the Treeline		\$44.99	
Craig Potton New Zealand deluxe		\$108.00	
Craig Potton New Zealand standard		\$71.99	
New Zealand's Native Trees		\$108.00	
		TOTAL PRICE	

ADDRESS

DATE ORDER NO

Member/Covenant No. (required for discount)

All prices are inclusive of GST. Offer expires 30/06/13. Please return your order form and payment to:

POSTCODE

PHONE

98 Vickerman Street, PO Box 555, Nelson 7010, New Zealand **PHONE** +64 3 548 9009 **FAX** +64 3 548 9456 **EMAIL** info@cpp.co.nz **WEB** www.craigpotton.co.nz

craig potton publishing

QEII Trust: Help us to protect our natural features

Protecting natural features helps New Zealand

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

Practical land management and farm productivity

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

Remuremu Selliera radicans.

Join QEII National Trust Membership – an ideal gift

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

Your benefits as a QEII Trust member

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

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

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

QEII National Trust Membership Application

TitleName
Address
Postcode Phone (0) Email
 Membership Type (please tick) Individual \$30 G Family \$45 G Life \$550 Corporate – business \$75 Corporate – non profit organisation \$50 Subscriptions include GST. Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand.
Donation (optional) Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible. Image: Ima
Method of payment O Cheque O MasterCard O Visa
CREDIT CARD DETAILS Number:
Cardholder name Expiry dateSignature
Total \$ O Please send a receipt
For direct debit option, please email info@openspace.org.nz
Please send me more information on: O Making a bequest to QEII O Open Space Covenants
Gift Membership Gift to: Name & address
Send next year's gift renewal to me ${\mathbf O}$ or to the recipient ${\mathbf O}$

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

Aroha Island

Aroha Island is a 12 ha sanctuary in the Kerikeri Inlet. It is rich in cultural and natural history and hosts a large cross section of rare New Zealand plants and animals, including the North Island brown kiwi. The island's biodiversity, history and natural beauty make it an inspirational place to visit.

Aroha Island is an important archaeological site. Middens, stone alignments and heaps, terraces and two burial grounds have been discovered. A wahi tapu was registered on the title in 2005.

When Dr Colin Little purchased the island in 1971 he set about restoring it, removing sheep and goats, replanting many varieties of native and exotic ornamental trees and slowly removing exotic weeds. In 1984 a QEII open space covenant was registered on the title, ensuring the natural and historic values were protected in perpetuity and in 1991 the island was sold to QEII. It was Dr Little's intention that the Trust would preserve Aroha and maintain it as "open space" available for public use and education. The latter is provided through information and education programmes run at Aroha's Ecological and Education Centre.

Visiting the island is free for day trippers. Visitors can swim, walk across beaches, explore the bush or hire a kayak to trace the island's coastline.

Camping sites, cottages and a lodge offer a range of accommodation options for those wanting to stay on. Aroha Island is perfect for retreats, conferences, meetings and weddings, but is equally suited to smaller groups and individuals who simply want to get away from it all and enjoy the peace and tranquillity the island offers.

Aroha Island is managed by Aroha Island Charitable Trust and a group of volunteers.



Discount for Trust members!

QEII National Trust members currently receive Open Space magazine and can enjoy free or discounted entry to a number of properties owned or administered by affiliated organisations overseas. The Trust wants to grow benefits for members here in New Zealand. The Aroha Charitable Trust is supporting this initiative by offering QEII National Trust members and members of our affiliated overseas trusts a 10% discount on venue hire and accommodation.

More information about Aroha Island can be found at www.arohaisland.co.nz.

