



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Katrauhi Papa

Open Space

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Celebrating covenantors: 4000th registration and award winners | Weed myths busted
Lifestyle: Glamping | Science, research, and discovery in covenants | Annual Report excerpts
Call for nominations for Board Directors



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COVER PHOTO

Kākāriki are part of a breeding-for-release programme being run by the Plaisiers in their covenanted sanctuary, Tui Nature Reserve, in the Marlborough Sounds. Story on page 18. Photo by Jule Wenzel.

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A word from the Chair



The National Trust was set up to encourage, promote, and support the protection of special natural and cultural places on private land. We achieve this mainly through our covenanting partnership with landowners. When we can we also support research that meets

this objective. This issue of Open Space showcases some of the research projects being run in covenants with the support of the National Trust and its covenantors.

Excerpts of our latest Annual Report are also included in this issue. You can read a summary of the year's activities in the Chair and Chief Executive's report on page 20. A full copy of the Annual Report can be downloaded from our website – openspace.org.nz.

James Guild

CHAIR

Kaipara covenantors gathering

Kauri, kiwis, and habitat protection were discussed at the July gathering of QEII National Trust covenantors at Kaipara. Over 60 covenantors, friends, and associates gathered at Paparoa Village to share lunch and listen to talks about kauri dieback disease and ways to keep kiwis safe.

The event included a walk around the nearby Paparoa Pa Site Walkway. The track is a popular visitor attraction for the village, passing over private land before entering a covenanted block protecting a kauri forest remnant and the remains of a pa site.

The Paparoa Lions group have adopted the Paparoa Pa Site Walkway and have raised funds and carried out numerous projects over the years to improve and extend the track. The National Trust applauded them and their band of volunteers and the walkway's neighbouring farmers who allow access to the covenant across their land. Together they have made sure the public has been able to enjoy this special site, and have developed an attraction that benefits the community and the environment.



Congratulations to covenantors and special associates recently recognised with environmental awards

2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List

Covenantors Brian and Chris Rance from Otatara, Invercargill *QSM for services to conservation*

Brian and Chris Rance have worked together for more than 20 years as volunteers on conservation and education projects in Southland. Brian works as an ecologist with the Department of Conservation and Chris runs the Southland Community Nursery and Education Centre, which they established at their property at Otatara near Invercargill. They grow plants there for local restoration projects and more than 1500 school children have visited the education centre since it opened at the end of 2013. The Rances established the Otatara Landcare Group together and won the Loder Cup in 2002 for plant conservation. They have covenanted a 3ha podocarp forest remnant on their property as well.

Former Board Director Edward Ellison from Dunedin *ONZM – for services to Māori and conservation*

Former National Trust Board Director, Edward Ellison, became involved in the earliest stages of Ngāi Tahu's Treaty of Waitangi settlement and ended up being a driving force in a process that has changed and empowered both his own marae, and Ngāi Tahu as a whole. He has also championed conservation issues for many years, working with the Otago Conservation Board in the early 1990s, the New Zealand Conservation Authority from 1996 to 2004, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust from 2006 to 2011, as a Resource Management Act (RMA) adviser since 1991 and, more recently, as an RMA commissioner.

Environment Southland award

Malcolm and Margaret MacKenzie were awarded Environment Southland's 2015 Councillors' Special Award. The MacKenzies' property boasts good riparian fencing and plantings, top stock management, and they use environmentally friendly fertilisers where possible. The property also features a large peat bog protected with a National Trust covenant. Malcolm has recently constructed a large wetland along the eastern side of it to increase biodiversity values. The award recognises Malcolm and Margaret's commitment to running a productive farm where the environmental outcome is taken into account with every decision they make.

Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund celebrates 25 years

This year, the Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund celebrates 25 years of protecting private Māori land through the use of kawenata (covenants).

During that time it has protected around 170,000ha of Māori land for conservation purposes, which is around 25% of Māori land estimated to have significant biodiversity values. It also has a Mātauranga Kura Taio Fund which has invested in over 200 projects to capture the stories around the land and the rivers before the old kaumatua pass away.

'Success for me is that more iwi now understand and are aware about what is happening on their land, and are now making use of that knowledge.

'I have thought about it and it isn't the amount of hectares. If we were able to get everyone thinking about protecting the land, even if it wasn't covenanted, to me that is far more successful. Of course I can understand about the government saying it's about how many hectares have been protected but to me, it is the identity, of being part of the whenua, the moana, the restoration of the mauri of the forest,' says foundation committee member Kevin Prime.

Four thousand covenants!

The National Trust has registered its 4000th covenant. Almost two per week for 40 years. Where will it end? It could mean that by 2100, most farms in the country will have a covenant. What a success story!

I lay much of the success at the feet of our first Chair, that wise and wily gentleman, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy. I recall him stressing at the beginning the almost sacred responsibility we had as trustees for ensuring that those patches of bush, those wetlands, sand dunes, archaeological treasures, those taonga, were guarded forever on behalf of the initial covenantors. That was what being a trustee meant.

There were a few other over-riding principles to be developed. There was the critical concept of 'in perpetuity'. It was not an easy one to accept among many in the landowning community.

The legal and legislative security a covenant provides was another critical factor. It has a protective status probably higher than that provided by a National Park. I like to say we have a National Park in private hands. Recently, I heard for the first time that wonderful legal term, 'indefeasible', in a judgement that virtually means the covenant cannot be revoked. I cannot think of another legal status as secure as that.

Perhaps the most critical concept of all was that the land remain in private ownership, not owned by the National Trust (unlike the National Trust in the UK which actually owns the property). Frankly, it annoys me when it is reported that someone has 'gifted' land, a covenant, to the QEII National Trust. People take great pride in looking after 'their covenant'. Not only that, but it means that every covenant has its own personal caring ranger.

It is counter-intuitive, but the fact that no compensation is paid for entering a covenant is actually an encouragement. The National Trust 'assists' by helping with various costs, and undertakes periodic inspections, but that is all. If compensation were paid, it would imply a certain degree

of ownership by the National Trust, which is not the idea. In addition, if experience overseas is any guide, compensation leads to people doing nothing without a grant, rather than doing something because they believe it is the right thing to do.

All this would be of no avail were it not for those inspiring folk who act because of that belief in 'the right thing to do'. In the early days, after 1978, many said 'it (the National Trust) will go off with a hiss and a roar, then fizzle'. There were the lawyers and accountants who warned against damaging one's asset values. They were wrong. The National Trust tapped into a latent conservation attitude. It helped reassure those wanting to care for their personal taonga but who were held back for fear of the actions of future owners. The existence of the National Trust's provisions released a veritable flood

just to play the numbers game. It will have enough on its hands with factors around climate change, to retain the values in existing covenants in the face of new plant diseases and pests and the insidious impacts of temperature changes on what can live where.

I suspect there will be the need to protect new areas where regeneration is taking place on a significant scale, or where new wetlands are being created. Who can tell? The Trust will have to adapt to circumstances, while at the same time ensuring the new covenants truly are taonga and the existing covenants grow ever taller trees and hold ever more biodiversity, and the wetlands become wetter, the sand dunes are protected against rising sea levels, archaeological sites retain their precious evidence of the past, and the landscapes continue to inspire.

'All this would be of no avail were it not for those inspiring folk who act because of that belief in "the right thing to do".'

of pent-up frustrations. There were the pioneer covenantors, the Cowans, the Garlands, the Stubbs to mention some of the great Waikato families. Another great conservation organisation that originated in the Waikato, the Native Forest Restoration Trust, covenants all the property it owns. That original flood has now become a river nourishing the entire landscape, enhancing both beauty and biodiversity.

Four thousand now in 2015, but what of the future? It is unlikely, in fact mathematically impossible, for the rate of covenanting to continue at the current rate indefinitely. I suspect that maybe around 2030 the rate will decline, just as the rate of creating National Parks declined in the late twentieth century. How should the Trust react? Above all else, a QEII covenant must retain its status as somewhere of great value, somewhere special. It must not be tempted to deviate from its standards

I think we can be justifiably proud of what those 4000 existing covenants add to the national scene. From the tiniest 0.02ha covenant protecting some special trees in North Canterbury, to the vast Mahu Whenua covenants south of Wanaka, all have their special intrinsic values. They all, individually and collectively, add something of special value to the character of New Zealand.

Those who covenant always seem a very happy family — covenantors all seem to be people one instinctively likes, maybe because they all have an ethic of caring. We congratulate and thank Keith and Margaret Ormsby on registering the 4000th. Let us also say 'thank you' to the other 3999.

Gordon Stephenson is a former Board Director and was one of the key founders of the National Trust. Gordon and Celia Stephenson were the first to establish a covenant with the National Trust in 1979.



Over 120 people turned up to celebrate the registration of the National Trust's 4000th covenant at an event hosted by former Board Director, Bill Garland, and his wife Sue on their farm at Kairangi, south-east of Cambridge. The covenant was registered by Keith and Margaret Ormsby, their second on their Te Awamutu dairy farm. The 4000th covenant is close to where the first covenant was registered by Gordon and Celia Stephenson in 1979.

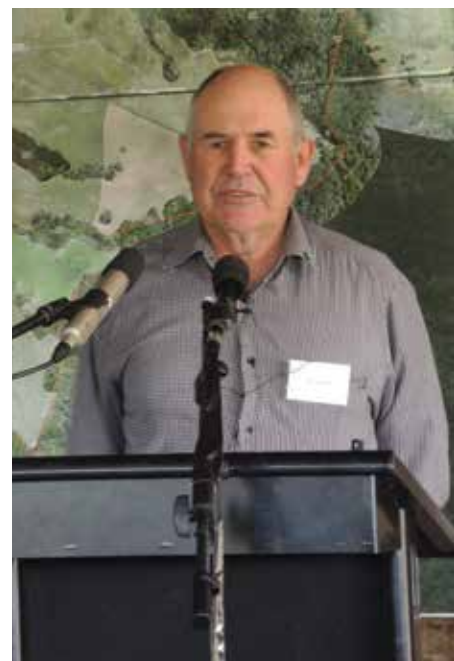
Keith and Margaret said they were both proud and embarrassed by the acknowledgement. 'We have only done what 3999 have already done before us. All have made the same decision to set land aside for protection. Hopefully the celebration inspires more people to do the same!' they said.

The event was sponsored by the DOC/Fonterra Living Water Programme.



Radio NZ journalist, Susan Murray, interviewing Celia and Gordon Stephenson

Gordon and Celia Stephenson with Margaret and Keith Ormsby



Former Board Director and event host Bill Garland

Kawau's first covenant registered



Regional representative, Chris Floyd (left), congratulates John Duder on establishing Kawau's first open space covenant

John Duder has had a long connection with Kawau Island ever since his father bought a block of land there back in 1951 for family holidays. John built a house for himself on the site 8 years ago and daughter Georgia and her husband Simon now also live permanently on the site, in a yurt dwelling run by solar power.

Kawau Island lies 40km north of Auckland in the Hauraki Gulf and is perhaps best known for its stately Mansion House, the former residence of governor and later prime minister Sir George Grey between 1862 and 1888. Much of the island is highly modified and has many exotic species including wallabies and pine trees introduced by Governor Grey.

The Duders' 5.5ha property lies across the harbour from Mansion House. Its steep slopes have escaped development and a remnant patch of kākūka forest with old puriri and pōhutukawa trees gives an insight to what the island's original vegetation once would have looked like.

John says it has always been the family's aim to preserve the native trees on their property as a contrast to the pinus monoculture that surrounds Mansion House.

'It was the Trust's former Chair Sir Paul Reeves who first suggested covenanting with me,' John says.

This has now been achieved and the Duders are proud to be the first to establish a National Trust covenant on the island. There are actually five covenants, as about half of the property has recently been subdivided giving each new section its own piece of covenanted bush.

'Our vision is that the new owners of these blocks will form a community that helps care for this pretty special bit of Kawau and that other islanders will be inspired to covenant land as well,' John says.

The first section has been sold, and the Gilpin family are looking forward to their first summer on Kawau.

Getting the land to a covenant-worthy state hasn't been all plain sailing. The possums, rats and wallabies are under control now, but weeds have been pretty challenging and controlling Californian and other thistles, pampas grass, and gorse is an ongoing battle.

'It's just something we will have to continually keep an eye on. Our National Trust representative, Chris Floyd, has developed a control plan with us, so that will keep us focused,' John says.

With pests knocked back the covenants' North Island weka and kereru populations are doing better and John believes they have even heard kiwi in the bush.

2015 Ballance Farm Environment Award winners

Northland

Ian and Sandy Page — Tahere Farm

Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award — Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award — PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award

Quick facts

Farm 162ha sheep, beef, forestry, and conservation areas
Covenant A small portion of the farm has been subdivided into residential lots and 95% has been placed in a whole-of-title National Trust covenant that allows part of the land to be used for sustainable productive purposes. Tahere Farm is like a privately owned regional park being farmed in the public interest, the owners say.

Judges' comments

- Sandy and Ian show great dedication to the enhancement and preservation of the natural environment
- Transformed a dry, uneconomic farm into a model of sustainable land use with large bush reserves, production forest, and farmland
- By entering into a QEII National Trust covenant, Sandy and Ian have invited the world to share their dream
- Fenced and planted wide riparian strips to trap runoff from surrounding farmland
- Influential in establishing Taheke Landcare Group that has Kiwi Coast funding to trap predator species on approximately 2000ha of surrounding land for safe biodiversity corridors and habitat areas (particularly for kiwi).



Bay of Plenty

John and Catherine Ford — Highlands Station

National winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy

Supreme Award Winners for Bay of Plenty — Ballance Agri-Nutrients Soil Management Award — Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award

Quick facts

Farm 1240ha sheep and beef
Covenants 320ha National Trust, regional council, and private covenants

Judges' comments

- Strong family history of commitment to agriculture
- Excellent understanding of water dynamics above and below the ground
- Outstanding staff management programme
- Appropriate use and management of land, based on its capabilities and catchment
- A standout farm in terms of environmental sustainability and impressive production and performance figures. Highlands Station's meat and wool production puts it among the top 5% of New Zealand drystock farms.



Hon Nathan Guy with Catherine and John Ford

Geoff and Gerda Bradly — Nga Rakau Farm

WaterForce Integrated Management Award



Quick facts

Farm 380ha dairy, dairy support, beef
Covenant 22ha mangero trees stands (endemic to North Island of New Zealand)

Judges' comments

- Once-a-day dairying system with industry-leading stock management and production
- Strong focus on management and control of surface water
- Riparian retirement, voluntary fencing, and enhancement of native biodiversity.

BALLANCE AWARD WINNERS

East Coast

Philip and Robyn Holt and Philip Holt

Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award — Meridian Energy Excellence

Quick facts

Farm 1133ha sheep, beef, and forestry

Covenants 184ha — two National Trust covenants



Judges' comments

- Intergenerational programme of strategic tree planting resulting in many mature, picturesque stands. Strong interaction with Department of Conservation and Hawke's Bay Regional Council
- The family's philosophy is to love their land, be respectful of it, responsible for it, and be aware of their future on it
- Philip (Snr) has a great sense for water sources and usage and has innovative methods of spring tapping and water harvesting
- A strong social contribution making their property available to many people and organisations to enjoy.

Taranaki

Scott and Julayne Thompson — Ngamatapouri Land Company

Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award — Taranaki Regional Council Sustainability Award

Quick facts

Farm 1556ha sheep and beef

Covenant 750ha bush and riparian areas

Judges' comments

- Strong vision for future of property, very well-presented farm, high level of quality fencing and infrastructure
- Large investment in retirement fencing to protect native areas and waterways
- Partnership and collaborations with key partners: QEII National Trust; Taranaki Regional Council; Forest and Bird; and tramping clubs
- The Thompsons have started something special using their farm as a hill country sustainability showcase.



Horizons

George and Ellen Bartlett — Gemel Trust

LIC Farm Award — Waterforce Integrated Management Award — PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award



Quick facts

Farm 526ha dairy

Covenant 2ha covenant

Judges' comments

- Shelter and riparian planting is a long-term commitment including on land many farmers might choose to graze
- Low stocking rate of Jersey and crossbred cows suits the heavy soils
- All on-farm water carefully managed and maintained to a high standard; further water storage options are being researched
- Strong industry and community involvement evident
- Significant commitment to on-farm health and safety, staff training and succession planning.

Marsh Kibby and Tony Groome — for Levi Forestry Ltd

Horizons Regional Council Award for the integration of trees

Quick facts

Farm 880ha pine and redwood forestry

Covenant 6.6ha bush and stream

Judges' comments

- Excellent matching of trees to land type and ability to harvest sustainably in the future
- Redwoods planted on lower slopes for amenity and suitability for the environment
- Natural regenerating areas along with remnant bush now protected
- All decisions made with long-term sustainability of fragile land in mind.



Canterbury

Richard and Annabelle Subtil — Omarama Station

2015 Supreme Award Winners for Canterbury — Ballance Agri-Nutrients Soil Management Award — Massey University Innovation Award — WaterForce Integrated Management Award — Environment Canterbury Water Quality Award

Quick facts

Farm 12,000ha sheep, beef, crop, homestay, electricity production

Covenant 2500ha high country bog wetland area

Judges' comments

- The QEII National Trust covenant protects unique high country bog wetland with rare native species. It allows for managed grazing ensuring invasive weeds like hieracium (hawkweed) are controlled
- A proven farm business demonstrating excellence in financial, environmental, and social sustainability
- Outstanding relationships through excellent staff management, personal development, community involvement, and industry leadership
- Top industry performers growing industry in a sensitive and challenging environment while considering community and environmental bottom lines
- Genuine interest and excellent understanding of biodiversity and species on farm, extensive habitat improvement efforts
- Early adopters of electronic identification and working with industry to refine the technology
- Wise use and excellent understanding of soil and water quality testing and nutrient budgeting information.



Otago

Wilson (Wick) and Angela Wylie — Glenelgin

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

Quick facts

Farm 270ha sheep and beef

Covenant 16ha bush remnant in process of being covenanted with the National Trust

Judges' comments

- Sheep and beef operation in the top 5% for its class
- Strong focus and passion to produce a quality product that consistently meets market demands
- Focus on efficient pasture and crop systems with minimal supplements
- Committed to enhancing water quality, fencing of almost all Owaka River and some tributaries. Extensive riparian planting
- Excellent understanding of soil and nutrient management
- Emphasis on financial strength and diversity
- Inherent understanding of environment, wise use and consideration of natural resources, early adoption of exemplary riparian management.



Southland

Luke Wright and Nicola Esler — Stuart Farm, Landcorp Farming Ltd

Massey University Innovation Award — Alliance Quality Livestock Award — Hill Laboratories Harvest Award

Quick facts

Farm 3057ha deer, sheep, beef

Covenant 140ha wetland and creek areas covenanted, another 10ha planned

Judges' comments

- Excellent stock health
- Excellent focus on managing staff to create an efficient, motivated, capable team
- Experimental crop rotation to maximise feed grown and minimise tillage and use of chemicals
- Electronic ID tags to monitor individual animal performance
- Participant in FarmIQ programme for full traceability of product for consumers
- Impressive infrastructure and range of biodiversity on farm.



Graeme and Jan Appleby — Otautau

Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

Quick facts

Farm 260ha dairy

Covenant 4.4ha native vegetation/peat area

Judges' comments

- Lifelong dedication and progression through dairy industry
- Strong focus on cow health by integrating commercial best farming practices with homeopathic remedies
- Dedicated to improving and protecting natural features on the farm
- Developed a beautiful wetland from a gravel pit, active pest and weed control, and planted 1200 native plants to increase bird and aquatic life habitat on farm.



Weed myths busted!



1

Myth # 1 — Birds need weeds to feed them

Weeds such as privet, cotoneaster, and strawberry dogwood are spread by seeds inside tasty berries. Birds love to eat these bad berries, but they won't starve if they are removed from the menu. There are plenty of non-weedy plants that produce lots of berries that are a good food source for birds. Check out your options in the Plant Me Instead booklet series available on the Weedbusters website <http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/resources/plant-me-instead-booklets/> or source plants for your garden/covenant at this website — www.naturallynative.co.nz.



Kereru gorging on the fruit of weedy African olive trees



How weeds spread: bird poop full of weed seeds

2

Myth # 2 — Monarchs need moth plant

The monarch's caterpillars will happily chomp on the weedy moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*) but things get sticky once they emerge as butterflies and start feeding on the plant's flower nectar. The gummy nectar plasters up the butterflies' feeding parts, causing them to slowly starve to death. It's not for nothing that the moth plant is also known as cruel vine! Look for other plants to feed the voracious caterpillars that won't end in a death sentence for the monarch butterflies. Check out www.monarch.org.nz for some ideas.



The moth plant is also known as cruel vine!

3

Myth # 3 — Pretty plants aren't a problem

Most of our environmental weeds are garden plants that have jumped the fence and spread into natural areas, causing damage by crowding out native species. They were brought into New Zealand originally as ornamentals prized for their beautiful flowers and foliage. But as the saying goes 'beauty is as beauty does'. These invasive plants need to be judged by their weedy behaviour, not their good looks.



The pretty Mexican daisy is now a troublesome weed

4 Myth # 4 — If it doesn't seed, it can't be weedy

Many weedy plants produce seeds that are spread by birds, wind, water, or humans. It is easy to think that those that don't produce seeds are problem-free. Think again — seedless weeds include tradescantia, Manchurian wild rice, alligator weed, and blue morning glory. They are spread by fragments taking root, or stems layering when they touch the ground, forming new plants. Climbers and groundcovers are particularly bad for spreading this way. Fragments can be spread by water, soil movement, and by people moving them around, either inadvertently, or by dumping them where they shouldn't.



Blue morning glory and tradescantia are spread without seeds

5 Myth # 5 — Variegated plants aren't weedy

Just because you don't see variegated foliage in natural areas, it doesn't mean they don't spread. They just escape from cultivated areas in disguise. Japanese spindle tree (*Euonymus japonicus*) and 'gold stripe' pampas (a variegated form of *Cortaderia*) are a case in point — both are spread from the seeds of variegated parent plants, but the offspring grow plain old green.



Variegated plants (like the Japanese spindle tree pictured) can change colour in the wild

6 Myth # 6 — Weedwaste is greenwaste and can be composted

Leaves and branches of weedy plants are often safe to compost or mulch, but many weeds can grow easily from stems and root fragments. Unless your compost heap gets extremely hot, you are taking a big risk trying to dispose of weed waste this way. As far as seeds, berries, roots, bulbs, or tubers go — it is not even worth trying. And whatever you do, don't just cut down or dig up weeds and throw them over the fence to rot down in gullies, reserves, or waste areas. Doing this is a sure-fire way of creating a new infestation of weeds that someone else will have to deal with. It also creates another seed source for weeds to spread from.

Dumped weeds have contaminated a natural planting



Happy glampers



Camping holidays are a great way to experience nature and the outdoors but camping isn't always everyone's cup of tea. Noisy neighbours, or cold, rainy holidays can ruin the experience. Sometimes the sleeping arrangements aren't that comfortable. And the toilets can often be very far away. Some harsh critics (possibly those suffering from stiff joints and crook backs) have even been overheard calling the experience cramping, or damping.

A new camping experience is gaining in popularity that is bound to impress even the most ardent anti-camper. Canopy camping, or glamping (glamour camping) offers all the benefits of camping without sacrificing comfort and privacy.

Bay of Plenty farmers and covenantors, Tim and Joanne Mackintosh, recently set up a glamping venture, which they run alongside their farming business. Their romantic campsite is located right next to the covenant they established 35 years ago to protect a special patch of bush on the farm.

The Mackintoshs have been booked out since launching their glampsite last year. We asked them about their glamping business and why they think people are so attracted to the idea.

What made you think about getting into glamping?

Glamping provides another income stream for us that is completely unrelated to farming. The way we have set it up means other people can get access to our covenant and enjoy it. The business also helps to make the covenant self-sustaining so we don't have to rely on farm income to do things like pest control and building walking tracks in the covenant.

Is your covenant part of the attraction of camping on your property?

Absolutely. The fact that the campsite is on a working farm with these areas of protected bush seems to be the main appeal for people.

What is special about your covenant?

We have walking tracks through it which people really enjoy. It has a lot of bird species so the dawn chorus is amazing. The most special thing about our covenant is that it protects a population of kōkako. The kōkako call is beautiful to hear.

Does this venture help to safeguard the kōkako population?

The venture will help. Unfortunately safeguarding the population seems to need more than just a case of money. At the moment we are reliant on thousands of hours of voluntary labour as well as funding from the regional council and other organisations. We can't assume this will always be the case.

Do you feel that the work you have put into the covenant and your glamping venture has been worthwhile?

It has been definitely worthwhile. But so much more could be done in terms of providing facilities for others to enjoy the covenant which will in turn ensure its survival. I don't think that just fencing it off and leaving it is an option.

Any advice to other covenantors who think their special place is worthy of sharing with others?

Don't underestimate just how much desire there is from the public to be able to access farms and areas of natural beauty for their recreation. We have found that the people who want to access these areas come with a fantastic attitude and are just so grateful being given the chance to share and experience what we often take for granted.

More about this site and canopy camping at canopycamping.co.nz



Kōkako research

Kōkako in the Macintosh's covenant are part of a 3-year research project funded by the Lotteries Grants Board. The project aims to find out why the kōkako population is stagnating despite favourable habitat conditions and good pest control. The project is a true community effort, with the National Trust, Department of Conservation, local volunteers, Manawahe Kōkako Trust members, and landowners all on board to help. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is also providing support. During the research period factors influencing kōkako breeding rates should come to light. The information gathered will guide future management and restoration plans to help this beautiful bird flourish.



Snail tales

Did you know there are at least 1300 small (micro) snail species in New Zealand, of which fewer than half have been named?

The number of snails found in surveys around the country has scientists excited. Back in 1981, New Zealand and American malacologists (snail researchers) published an article about the incredible diversity found in a bush remnant in farmland on Awhitu Peninsula (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03014223.1981.10427971#abstract>) sparking a bit of a competition amongst like-minded scientists around the world. Turns out we are in the top league when it comes to snail diversity, along with Borneo, Madagascar, and Costa Rica. It is thought that we have 3–5 times the snail diversity of most other countries.

The most diverse populations have been found in fenced-off bush areas, like covenants, where the leaf litter is rich, moist, and stock free. As the snails are miniscule, you can imagine just how fragile their shells are, and how susceptible they are to death by trampling.

Snail diversity study

A comparison of snail diversity in 3 reserves and 11 fenced and 10 unfenced forest remnants in the Waipa district (Waikato) showed:

- the reserves had on average 40% more species
- the fenced bush patches had 30% more species than unfenced forest remnants
- the unfenced forest remnants had up to 75% fewer snail individuals than the reserves.

Sample of snail species recorded in the Whanganui region

Scale bar = 1 mm

1. *Allodiscus kakano*
2. *Cavellia anguicula*
3. *Cavellia irregularis*
4. *Cavellia roseveari*
5. *Cavellioropa microrhina*
6. *Cavellioropa vortex*
7. *Charopa parva*
8. *Charopa pilsbryi*
9. *Charopidae n. sp.*
10. *Delos coresia*
11. *Fectola trilamellata*
12. *Flammocharopa accelerata*
13. *Flammulina feredayi*
14. *Georissa purchasi*
15. *Laoma nerissa*
16. *Laoma pirongiaensis*
17. *Obanella rimutaka*
18. *Otoconcha n. sp.*
19. *Paralaoma allochroida*
20. *Paralaoma lateumbilicata*
21. *Paralaoma serratocostata*
22. *Phenacohelix pilula*
23. *Phrixgnathus ariel*
24. *Phrixgnathus erigone*
25. *Pseudallodiscus ponderi*
26. Unnamed
27. Unnamed
28. Unnamed
29. Unnamed
30. *Serpho kivi*
31. *Suteria ide*



SOS (Save Our Snails) – would you like to help?

The breakdown of forest leaf litter is a vital ecosystem process that is carried out by invertebrates, fungi, and bacteria. It is fundamental to soil formation and cycling of nutrients. Micro-snails are part of this key functional group, called detritivores.

Many of our snail species occur only locally and are often restricted to a few patches of bush. Currently over 600 species are listed by the Department of Conservation as being of some conservation concern.

You might have a lavish selection of snails living in your own covenant — perhaps some rare ones, perhaps some yet to be discovered! You can help a group of dedicated snail enthusiasts (mainly volunteers) put together New Zealand's first comprehensive atlas of terrestrial molluscs by collecting leaf litter samples from your bush remnant and sending them in for analysis.

Contact and information

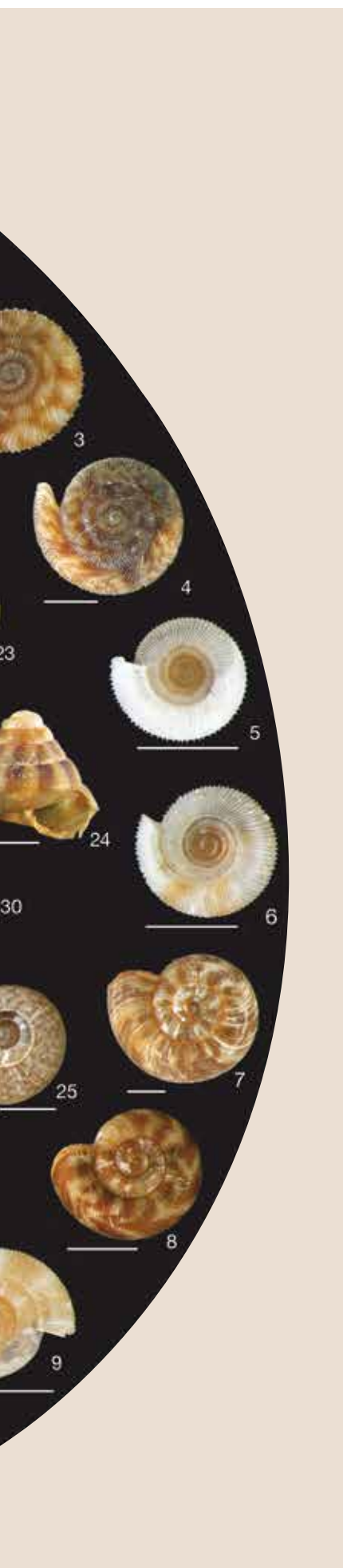
Contact Dr Karin Mahlfeld at kmahlfeld@gmail.com for instructions on how to collect a good leaf litter sample and where to send it. A list of species discovered in your sample will be sent back to you.

Happy snail hunting!

ilovesoil.kiwi – new website launched

Where would we be without soil? According to one soil scientist, we'd be 'hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless and breathless'. Soil is responsible for what we eat and drink. Our food comes from the soil – even fish and other aquatic life depend on nutrients from the soil. Soil filters and stores the water we drink. It helps to keep us warm and dry as much of our clothing and many of our buildings are made of materials grown or taken from the soil. Even the air we breathe has a soil connection — plants that make oxygen grow in soil.

The New Zealand Society of Soil Science is proud to launch its new website www.ilovesoil.kiwi. This uniquely New Zealand resource promotes public understanding and appreciation of soils. Check it out for short, informal articles and simple hands-on and online activities.





Science matters

The National Trust was set up to encourage and promote the protection, understanding, and appreciation of natural and cultural features on private land. We do this mainly through our covenanting partnership with landowners. When possible we also support research programmes that promote an understanding of the features and values protected in covenants and how we can better maintain and enhance native biodiversity on private land. Here are some examples of studies currently being run with the support of the National Trust and its covenants.





QEII National Trust Dr Brian Molloy PhD scholarship

Marine Aubert is QEII National Trust's first recipient of the Dr Brian Molloy Doctoral Scholarship. She is in the second year of her 3-year PhD studies looking at the impact of bird population size on native forest remnant sustainability. Part of her time is spent in the field collecting bird data. For instance, how many and which species of birds are found in small remnant tree stands, and if the birds are eating any flowering fruit from those trees, which would categorize them as pollinators of those types of trees. Field-work also includes collecting seeds from the fragmented tree stands for growth studies (measuring resilience) and genetic analysis (assessing self-pollination rates). Marine has noted that National Trust covenants where mammalian pests are actively controlled have particularly high populations of native birds and therefore have higher pollination and regeneration rates of female trees. We look forward to her final write-up next year and will report back on her findings.

Spiders

The National Trust hosted 26 Study Abroad students from Lewis and Clark University (United States). The students collected arachnids (spiders and pseudoscorpions) for future genetics studies. The students started at the top of the North Island and gathered specimens from various covenants down through to Wellington. A smaller group carried on down to Dunedin. The specimens they collected are being held at Te Papa Museum where they will be identified and their DNA sequenced. Many of the pseudoscorpions collected have never been identified or documented in literature. Thank you to all of the welcoming and accommodating landowners who allowed access to their land!

Native biodiversity in farming landscapes



Canterbury University's School of Forestry has secured 3 years' funding from the Tindall Foundation and a South Island farming family to study native biodiversity in sheep and beef farming systems in New Zealand. The study aims to provide a scientific basis for achieving win-win outcomes for native plants (and animals) and farming. The benefits that native biodiversity can provide to farming, what biodiversity is present, what is affecting its sustainability, and integrating biodiversity into farm management planning will be examined. A range of farms in Northland, Gisborne and Canterbury will be involved, three of which have National Trust covenants on them. The research is still in its early phases.

Male fern invasion

In a study of the introduced male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), a University of Canterbury Masters student collected data in several covenants in North and Central Canterbury. As well as determining where in the landscape the male fern is most likely to establish, the findings indicate that habitats with a disturbance history (eg, grazing and fire) are more likely to be invaded by male fern, while undisturbed native forest shows resistance to invasion. At-risk habitats include riparian, grey scrub, kānuka and mānuka, successional broadleaf communities, and when there is a grazing history, beech forest. Indigenous vegetation is particularly vulnerable when degraded areas are first protected from grazing, such as in a new covenant, and where groundcover is still establishing.

University of Canterbury seed dispersal study

Bush covenants in North Canterbury will be studied to see what seed dispersing birds live there and what risk introduced mammalian predators are posing to them and to the supply of seeds that they like to eat.

Deforestation and the resulting fragmentation of forests have affected seed dispersal processes. In New Zealand this is a particular problem because there is an unusually high number of forest plant species that rely on birds to disperse seeds. And when birds and seeds are under attack by introduced animals, the problem is compounded. If the seeds are destroyed then they cannot grow to replace older, fallen trees and the regeneration cycle of the forest is broken. What's more, if the seeds are not destroyed but are not sufficiently dispersed, the mortality rate of seedlings is generally considerably higher due to the effects of the Janzen-Connell hypothesis, which states that seedlings that germinate under or near the parent tree have a greatly reduced rate of survival. This hypothesis was previously thought to be relevant only in the tropics but recent research has provided evidence of its occurrence in New Zealand as well.

The study will look at these factors to help identify the mechanisms behind seed dispersal failure in the forest fragments. Results will be useful for the conservation of native birds and the protection of the precious remaining forest fragments in the Canterbury region.

'Research by management' breeding programme

Early in 2014 the Plaisiers received a Lotteries Commission grant to support a native breeding-for-release programme they are managing in their covenanted sanctuary, Tui Nature Reserve, in the Marlborough Sounds.

Their programme focuses on kākāriki and Cook Strait giant weta, which will be later released into Department of Conservation-approved lands. It is a 'research by management' initiative, which means they are working with new technology and using observation and trials to find better ways of doing things.

An example of this approach is their trapping and data collection programme for predator control. The Plaisiers have installed the innovative re-setting multi-kill Good Nature traps and set new trap lines that are mixed with monitoring tracking tunnels to record predator activity around the traps. After 3 months of record-keeping the results are looking promising; the tracking tunnels alongside the first new trap line they installed are recording less than 1% rat evidence around the traps. The Plaisiers will next trial mouse traps, as their numbers are going up now the rats' are coming down. Once all the new lines have reached the desired tracking record for rats and mice they will change the bait in a number of the traps to target stoats.

'That way we are getting optimal use out of the traps,' Brian Plasier says.

The Plaisiers also have an innovative solution to reduce any stress kākāriki may experience by being restricted to one aviary or moved about for mating. Interlinking tunnels have been built between aviaries so the birds can move around freely, making it easier to find a breeding partner. Come breeding season the tunnels are closed off so the pairs can be kept together and their behaviour and nests more easily monitored. Updates on observations are provided to other breeding facilities so best practice and learning is shared.



Kākāriki

Weta breeding success



Giant weta can be easily observed from their glass tank enclosures. Ellen Plasier says the captive breeding programme is 'very much research by management' as there are not many similar programmes around that they can take guidance from. Breeding has been successful and 27 giant weta have already been released in the Marlborough Sounds with the help of the Department of Conservation.

A weta nymph



Rare moth and mushroom discovered in Banks Peninsula covenant

by Penny Wardle

A moth found nowhere else in New Zealand and a rare fungus are protected in a recently covenanted bush block at Little River on Banks Peninsula.

Two years ago, Wayne Beggs and Anna Paltridge bought a patchwork of pasture and hardwood forest overlooking Little River and Lake Wairewa/Forsyth. Straightaway they started covenanting two blocks on the 31ha property, Tirowaikare, with the QEII National Trust and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT).

Ecologists have made some exciting discoveries while surveying Tirowaikare. Wildlands invertebrate specialist Brian Patrick re-discovered a moth not seen on Banks Peninsula for over 80 years. The small, yellow tortricid moth *Epichorista lindsayi* was last recorded by its discoverer, entomologist Stuart Lindsay, in the late 1920s. The day-flying species was seen around its larval host-plant, the uncommon native bamboo grass *Microlaena polynoda*.

Another discovery was of the fungus Noddy's flycap, by Wildlands senior ecologist Melissa Hutchison. Resembling Gandalf's wizard hat, the mushroom has been found twice in the South Island, eight times in the North Island and nowhere else in the world.

Wayne and Anna are covenanting 6ha of mostly regenerating forest with the National Trust, attracted by its contribution towards fencing costs, payment of surveying costs, and its ongoing vegetation monitoring regime. Their second covenant is with BPCT, extending to 7ha an existing 0.5ha covenant fenced off 10 years ago by the previous owner. The BPCT sourced funding for surveying, project management, and fencing.

The covenants protect ancient matai, tōtara, and kahikatea that have survived a history of milling and cattle grazing. Also of interest are the nationally at-risk lacy miki miki, fierce lancewood, a locally uncommon dwarf mistletoe, and species at their southern limit including titoki, kawakawa, and kohia.

Unfortunately, red and fallow deer have begun to spread across Banks Peninsula, posing a new threat to native regeneration. Wayne and Anna are grateful for a \$65,000 grant from Environment Canterbury's Biodiversity Fund and \$14,900 from QEII National Trust to help them build deer-exclusion fences.

Like all lowland sites close to townships, Tirowaikare suffers from woody weeds spread by birds. Environment Canterbury has contributed \$500 towards controlling barberry, hawthorn, boxthorn, sycamore, spindleberry, and elderberry.

The funding support has been of immense help for Wayne and Anna, who, like all covenantors, have also contributed towards the establishment costs of their covenants and will fund the ongoing maintenance of them.

More information

<http://sporesmouldsandfungi.wordpress.com/2012/04/29/a-strange-amanita-noddys-flycap-in-new-zealand/>

<http://mycokeymycelium.blogspot.co.nz/2012/04/mushroom-mystery-down-under.html#comment-form>



The day-flying moth, *Epichorista lindsayi*, whose larvae eat the leaves of bamboo grass and roll them into silk-lined homes. Photo: Brian Patrick



Wizard's cap-like Noddy's flycap may be a rare native or an introduced species that's gone unnoticed overseas. Photo: Melissa Hutchison



Wayne Beggs stands with one of six large matai in a grove at Tirowaikare. Photo: Penny Wardle

Joint report from the Chair and the Chief Executive

We are proud to report that the year just gone has been one of the most successful in the National Trust's 38-year history of working to protect special areas of land for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

This year the National Trust broke all previous records for the area of land registered under covenant protection in a single year. We also celebrated our 4000th covenant registration.

Record area protected

A major achievement this year was the registration of the Mahu Whenua covenants in Central Otago. Comprising four adjoining covenants, the Mahu Whenua covenants protect 51,554ha of high country landscape and associated natural and cultural features and values. The covenants are the largest area ever protected by private covenanting in New Zealand, and the first whole landscape to be protected by the National Trust.

The registration of the Mahu Whenua covenants was a complex process and we are grateful for the support of the Department of Conservation, Heritage New Zealand, the Commissioner for Crown Lands, Land Information New Zealand, the New Zealand Walking Access Commission, and the Queenstown Lakes District Council. We would especially like to acknowledge the input of Russell Hamilton and Willy Sussman on behalf of the property owner, Robert (Mutt) Lange. We were delighted to work with Mutt's team to support his vision of securing the permanent protection of this special area for the benefit of present and future generations.

We would also like to acknowledge the Central Lakes Trust, whose financial support helped meet a significant portion of our surveying costs, and Steel and Tube, who have agreed a sponsorship deal to help with fencing costs.

4000th covenant registered

In May, we celebrated the registration of our 4000th covenant at an event hosted by former Board Director, Bill Garland, and his wife Sue on their Waikato farm. The covenant was established by Keith and Margaret Ormsby, the second on their Te Awamutu dairy farm. Waikato is sometimes termed the birthplace of the National Trust and it is a happy coincidence that the Ormsbys' covenant is not far from the site of the National Trust's very first covenant, registered almost 40 years ago by its key founder, Gordon Stephenson, and his wife Celia.

We thank Fonterra and the Department of Conservation for sponsoring the event through their joint Living Water Programme.

This year's targets

The National Trust met its targets set out in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Conservation. A total of 113 covenants were registered this year, protecting 54,354ha. Given that the National Trust usually covenants around 3600ha a year, this year's total is equivalent to 15 years of annual targets, and has

well and truly broken the previous record of 9507ha registered during the 1995 – 1996 financial year. A further 111 covenants were approved, bringing the National Trust's total area of land protected to 181,346ha.

Resourcing covenanting

The National Trust's direct financial support from the Crown through Vote Conservation is \$4.274 million a year (GST excluded). With that Crown investment, we leverage a huge investment from private landowners through income forgone, commitment to fencing maintenance and replacement, and weed and pest control in their covenants.

It costs around \$22,000 to progress the average covenant (around 40ha in size) to the point of registration. About 40% of this cost is the National Trust's contribution to fencing (which generally matches the landowner's contribution) and 16% is for surveying to define the area to be protected. The balance includes field work, ecological assessments, and the legal and processing costs required to approve and register the covenant.

While we have made strenuous efforts to improve efficiencies in how we operate, there are limits to what can be achieved from an already tight budget. Unfortunately, we are having to turn down good covenant proposals every year because we do not have the funds to resource all the covenant proposals we are being offered.

We are trying to secure additional third-party funds to meet the demand but are finding this difficult in the current financial climate. We will continue our efforts in this area. We need to increase our funding to administer the growing network of covenants and to continue partnering with landowners to protect more natural and cultural heritage sites on private land.

Indefeasibility of the covenant agreement

The National Trust has an ongoing relationship with landowners as the perpetual trustee in the covenant agreement. We monitor covenants on a regular basis as part of this function, and work with landowners to find the best practical solution to improve a covenant's condition if issues are identified during monitoring visits. On very rare occasions, deliberate or attempted serious breaches of the covenant agreement have been taken to court after lengthy negotiations with the landowner have failed to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

This year, the legal status of the covenant agreement was tested in the High Court for the second time in 12 months. A landowner challenged the legality of the covenant protecting an area of indigenous forest he had purchased because it prevented him from developing it. He lost the case, and the High Court reconfirmed the 'indefeasibility' ruling. The Court made that ruling in the original case brought to it by the same landowner, declaring that National Trust covenants are permanent and cannot be annulled.



Our Board of Directors

From left to right:

Megan Balks is a lecturer and researcher of soil and environmental sciences at Waikato University. Megan and her husband have a sheep farm on Mt Pirongia near Te Awamutu with 24ha of lowland forest protected with National Trust covenants. Megan was elected to the Board by National Trust members.

Gina Solomon is of Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Kuri descent, and lives in Peketa, south of Kaikōura. She sits on a number of boards and trusts concerned with water management and conservation. Gina was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation after consultation with the Minister of Māori Development.

James Guild (Chair) is a high country farmer with extensive experience in agribusiness, game animal management, and conservation. The Guild family has a National Trust covenant on their property near Darfield in Canterbury, protecting 94ha of braided shingle riverbed, sedgeland, tussockland and shrubland. James was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation.

Sue Yerex lives in Turangi and runs a beef and sheep farm in partnership with her husband. She has a background in agricultural commerce and horticulture. Sue 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. Sue was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation.

Bruce Wills is a former president of Federated Farmers and serves on a number of boards and trusts including the NZ Poplar & Willow Research Trust and the East Coast Region Ballance Farm Environmental Awards. Around 164ha of the Wills' family farm near Napier is protected with National Trust covenants. Bruce was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation.

James Hunter is a sheep and beef farmer at Porangahau in coastal Hawke's Bay. He is a former Rural Bank appraiser and Central Hawke's Bay District councillor. Fifty hectares of bush and wetland areas on the Hunters' farm are protected with National Trust covenants. James was elected to the Board by National Trust members.

New Board Director

In June, Bruce Wills was appointed to the Board by the Minister of Conservation. Bruce sits on numerous boards and trusts including chairing the NZ Poplar & Willow Research Trust and the East Coast Ballance Farm Environmental Awards. He is also on the Board of Motu Research and is a trustee of the Todd Foundation. He recently stepped down from 6 years on the Board of Federated Farmers New Zealand, the last 3 years of which he served as its National President. Suffice it to say, Bruce has hit the ground running as a new Board member, and his wealth of experience has already been of great benefit to our Board deliberations and business decisions.

Raising our profile

Good media coverage of the milestone celebrations mentioned above and the indefeasibility ruling has helped raised awareness of our organisation. So too have other events, such as the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) programme that recognises landowners who demonstrate excellent sustainable land management practices on their farms. Covenantors are regularly amongst those recognised with awards from this programme.

National Trust covenantors make a huge voluntary contribution towards protecting our rural landscapes and threatened natural heritage in the lowland modified areas of New Zealand where it is least protected and most at risk. This is something we want New Zealanders to better understand, appreciate, and support.

Looking to the future, the National Trust has a considerable challenge to raise this awareness at all levels — from political decision makers, through to landowner partners, possible commercial alliances, and potential urban supporters — and to harness this support in new ways that can safeguard the National Trust's future. We need to tap into New Zealanders' passion to preserve their natural and cultural heritage and provide the mechanisms to allow them to contribute to our work on a national scale. Over the next year the National Trust will be refining its strategic direction and planning how it can be resourced to continue playing its vital role of safeguarding this country's special places.

James Guild
Chair



Mike Jebson
Chief Executive



Statistics

Registered and approved covenants as at 30 June 2015

National Trust covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments map

Summary — 30 June 2015

Regional Council	Total land area in region (ha)	Total approved covenants	Total registered and formalised* covenants	Total number of covenants approved, registered and formalised	Total area approved, registered and formalised covenants (ha)**	Total area registered and formalised covenants (ha)	Largest registered covenant in the region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)** includes all approved, registered and formalised	Median covenant size (ha)** includes all approved, registered and formalised
Auckland	500,000	17	276	293	4,538.36	4,160.16	840.78	15.49	3.0
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	8	170	178	9,539.14	9,314.58	6,563.53	53.59	4.4
Canterbury	4,220,000	58	287	345	18,923.08	12,414.04	1,679.45	54.85	8.1
Gisborne	826,500	13	133	146	5,047.75	4,342.20	1,103.78	34.57	9.1
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	10	237	247	10,695.54	10,511.74	4,606.00	43.30	10.1
Horizons	2,221,500	41	334	375	8,942.99	7,479.89	352.25	23.85	8.1
Marlborough	1,049,500	3	74	77	3,983.23	3,115.03	1,055.68	51.73	6.1
Nelson	42,100	1	14	15	305.80	302.30	139.50	20.39	5.9
Northland	1,250,000	42	638	680	10,368.71	9,460.84	417.36	15.25	3.9
Otago	3,200,000	23	182	205	63,186.25	62,497.50	21,909.62	308.23	8.0
Southland	3,035,000	29	306	335	7,812.11	6,646.71	808.67	23.32	9.3
Taranaki	723,600	47	337	384	9,085.71	7,715.93	753.90	23.66	3.0
Tasman	978,600	14	150	164	2,696.82	2,446.01	515.62	16.44	4.0
Waikato	2,500,000	43	594	637	17,222.22	15,554.60	801.63	27.04	6.9
Wellington	813,000	25	317	342	6,207.16	5,843.59	824.35	18.15	4.4
West Coast	2,300,000	16	66	82	2,791.73	2,433.59	619.11	34.05	12.0
Totals		390	4115	4505	181,346.60	164,238.71		40.25	5.9

*Formalised = a landscape protection agreement with a territorial authority (eg, district council) over land that has no legal title.

**Areas are approximate as not all approved covenants have been formally surveyed.

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	4082	163,310.42
Approved covenants	390	17,107.89
Formal agreements	33	928.29
Total	4505	181,346.60

Largest registered covenant – 21,910ha

Largest covenant approved this year – 2350ha

Average size of registered and approved covenants – 40.2ha

Altitude range – sea level to 2200m

Region with most registered covenants Northland – 638

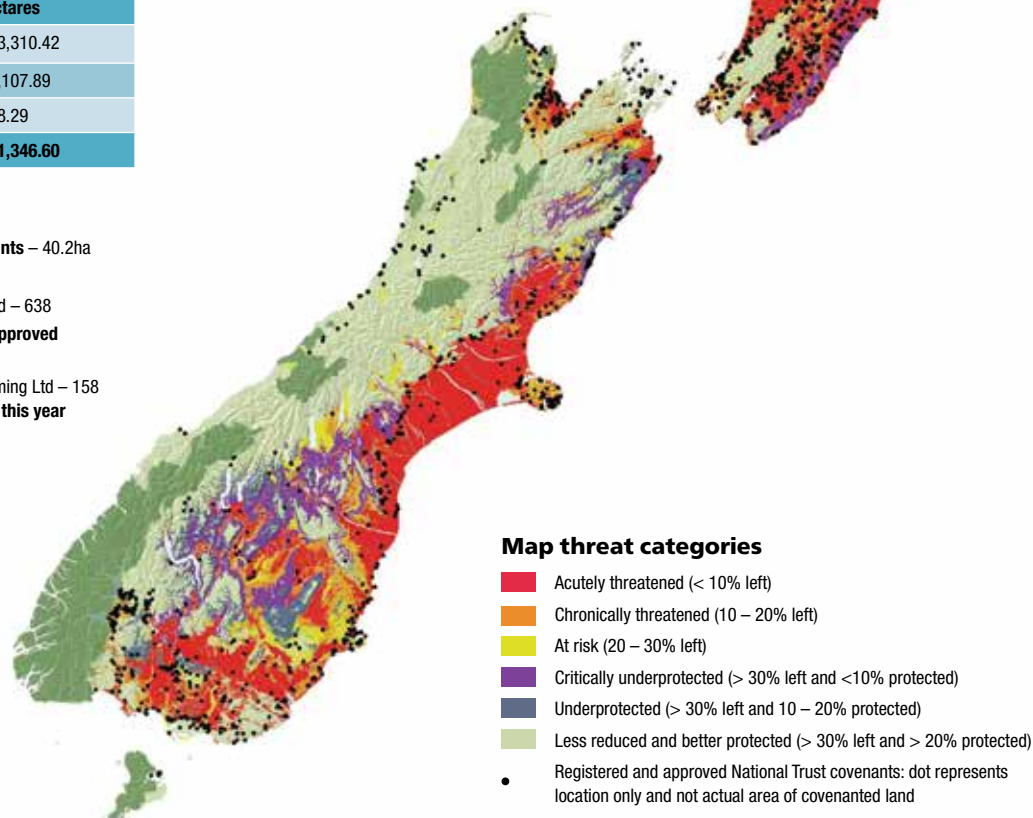
Region with the largest area in registered and approved covenants Otago – 63,186.3ha

Organisation with most covenants Landcorp Farming Ltd – 158

Regional Council with most covenant approvals this year

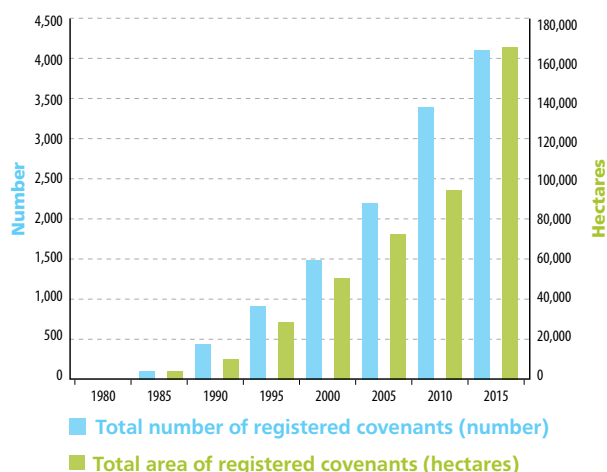
Horizons – 19

National Trust-owned properties – 27

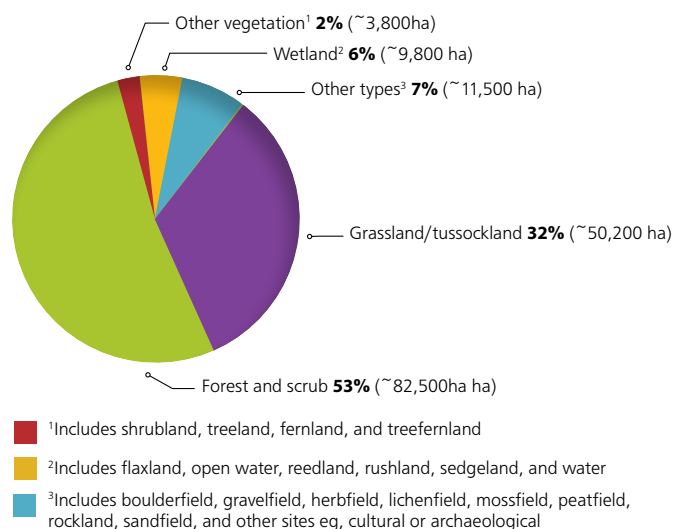


Statistics continued

Registered covenants



Land cover type



Monitoring

National Trust monitoring visits are focused on meeting with landowners or land managers to discuss covenant management, check compliance with the covenant agreement, and make an assessment of the covenant's condition.

A covenant may be recorded as 'requires attention' if the terms and conditions of the covenant agreement are not being met (legal compliance issue) or if the covenant's values are deteriorating (condition issue) despite the landowner complying with those terms and conditions.

Where a covenant is recorded as 'requires attention', the National Trust will discuss options with the landowner to improve the covenant's condition or address a non-compliance issue. In some cases the National Trust may seek assistance from other stakeholders on behalf of the landowner.

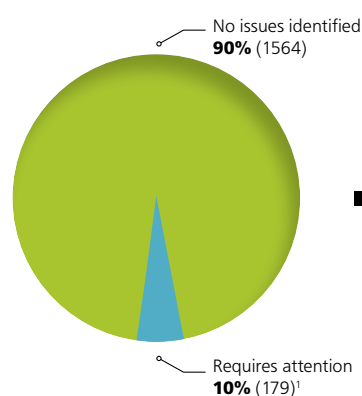
If the issue is a result of a serious breach of the covenant agreement (a significant legal compliance issue) and discussions with the landowner have been unproductive, the National Trust may take legal action as a last resort.

Monitoring results

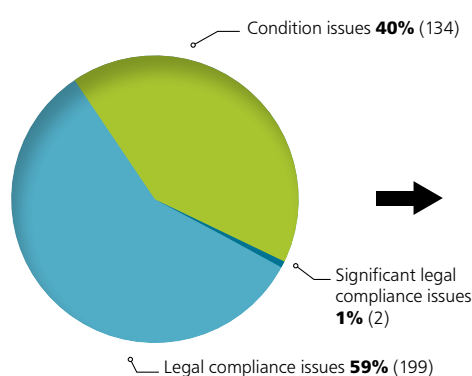
National Trust regional representatives monitored 1743 registered covenants during the 2014 – 2015 financial year. Of those, 179 were deemed to require attention because of condition issues or legal compliance issues.

Two covenants on the same property had serious legal compliance issues (also reported in the previous financial year). The National Trust was compelled to refer this case to the High Court after extensive negotiations with the landowner failed to achieve a satisfactory outcome. The Court ruled in favour of the National Trust and has ordered the landowner to pay for the complete restoration of the severely damaged covenants.

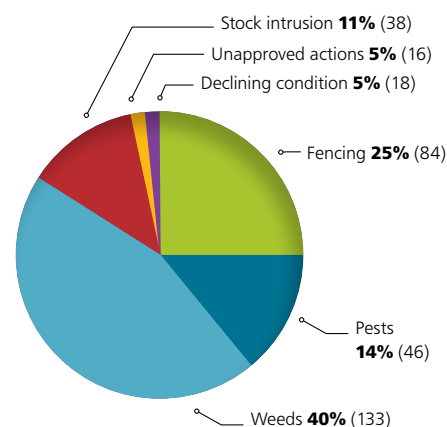
Monitoring results — summary



Requires attention category²



Nature of issues requiring attention²



¹An additional 71 covenants were identified as requiring attention. They are not included in the monitoring statistics, however, as the issues are related to a landscape-wide problem (eg, old man's beard or feral goats) that is beyond the control and ability of landowners to reasonably manage. A coordinated regional approach involving all stakeholder organisations and landowners is needed to effectively manage such issues. The National Trust is committed to supporting or coordinating this approach whenever it can.

²Some covenants have more than one issue requiring attention. The number of issues raised (335) is therefore higher than the number of covenants reported as requiring attention (179).

Statement of service performance

for the year ended 30 June 2015

The National Trust's operating expenditure for the reporting period was just over \$5 million. Most of this amount (\$4.274 million excluding GST) is funded by government grant with the balance received from donations, funding bids, and other raised funds.

This statement measures the National Trust's performance against goals set in its 2014 – 2015 Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Minister of Conservation.

Covenanted process

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

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

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

Service performance report

Table 1 — The implementation of legal protection of natural and historic resources on private or leasehold land (and associated cost)

Legal protection	2013/2014 Actual		2014/2015 Target		2014/2015 Actual	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
Approved covenants	117	55,199	110	3600	111	2386
Registered covenants	122	3355	115	no target ¹	113	54,354
Cost	2,453,921		2,671,720		2,451,852	

Table 2 — Monitoring numbers and hectares for registered covenants and National Trust-owned properties (and associated cost)

Management services	2013/2014 Actual		2014/2015 Target		2014/2015 Actual	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
National Trust-owned properties	27	1396	27	no target	27	1436
Monitored registered covenants	1723	39,972	1800	no target	1743	42,477
Cost	2,124,720		2,485,839		2,610,630	

Table 3 — Other activities

Activity	Target 2014/2015 ²	Actual 2014/2015
New covenants approved that secure protection of one or more of the four national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land and/or add to a protected corridor or protected landscape	90%	90%
Number of regional covenantor events	4	4
Number of existing covenants identified each year and put forward as a high priority for third-party support for management	100	107

¹No target was set for the area for covenant registrations, however, the final area registered (54,354ha) was a record for the National Trust. The previous highest registration total in one year was 9507ha registered in the 1995 – 1996 financial year.

² These are new goals set in the 2014 – 2015 Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Conservation so no comparative information is available from 2013 – 2014.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

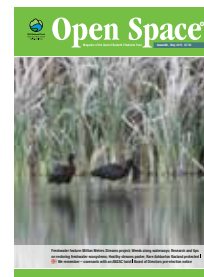


A 'magnificent' QEII covenant of mature and regenerating native forest that supports a large diverse population of native birds and vegetation. A private, peaceful 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with extensive gardens nestles up to native bush melodious with birdsong. Situated in scenic Aniseed Valley only 15 – 25 mins from Richmond/Nelson.

More details and photos on **TradeMe ID EGZ733** and openspace.org.nz

Vendor details: marsufisher@xtra.co.nz — tel 03 544 3924

Letters



Excellent Weedbusters article in the Open Space issue 88 magazine. I will be sending it out to the many StreamCare clients we are starting to deal with.
Chris

I have 15 people to whom I wish to circulate my current copy of Open Space, so a couple of extra copies of this particular issue would make it all much faster - particularly because volunteers only meet weekly. **L Frazer (financial member)**

Our latest copy of Open Space featured on the cover a photo of 'Ibis and Raupo' by Will Parsons. There was no further comment. Why feature an exotic bird on the cover? What was the relevance to NZ freshwater conservation and our covenants? Considering the number of lovely QEII wetland covenants, it seems a strange choice. **A Graeme**

You are quite right – we should have given more information. Glossy ibis is one of a number of vagrant species that visit New Zealand naturally but sporadically, in a transitory manner. These two were spotted near Picton. The owners were quite thrilled to see them take a fleeting break in their wetland covenant. QEII National Trust

Pest detective

Not sure what pest animal is causing damage in your covenant? Pest Detective is an online tool that helps you identify the culprit and the best control options. Check it out — pestdetective.org.nz.



The National Trust and Steel & Tube are working together to help covenantors protect nature and heritage on their land.

Steel & Tube has made special prices available to National Trust covenantors and members for fencing materials.

Call 0800 800 9473 to talk to one of Steel & Tube's sales consultants today.

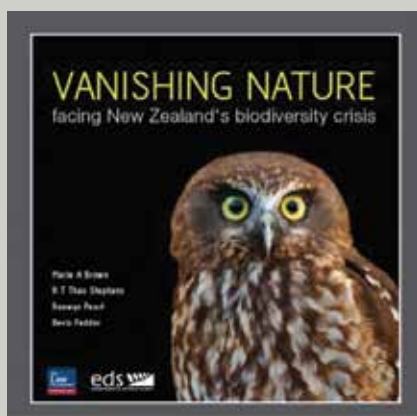


Vanishing Nature: Facing New Zealand's Biodiversity Crisis (Marie A Brown; R T Theo Stephens; Raewyn Peart and Bevis Fedder) reviewed by Rosalynn Lederer-Anderson

The authors of *Vanishing Nature* acknowledge efforts being made by New Zealand conservation scientists and community-based conservation groups, but point out that it is not enough to curtail the continuing decline of New Zealand's natural heritage. They give an across-the-board condemnation of the imbalance

between public (government) and private (landowners) interests, pointing to 'perverse economic drivers' such as unsustainable production and consumption systems, as well as lack of funding and ineffective laws as part of the reason for the unremitting loss of biodiversity. They also point out that stronger environmental regulations aren't able to align business and government interests.

The book has fewer than 200 pages (including references), so it only scratches the surface of issues that could fill a library, but addresses terrestrial, marine, freshwater, public and private land protection, and community groups. The authors offer solutions that include a broad-based environmental consumption tax that impact the wealth gap and property price inflation. They suggest that business as usual will continue to degrade the environment and that private consumption taxes are the best way to get private and public interests in balance.



Tribute

Ben (Alec) Thorpe

Ben Thorpe joined the National Trust in 1979 shortly after it was established, coming from the Department of Lands and Survey where he worked in National Park management. Being an employee of the National Trust in its early days, Ben made an important contribution to the development of operating systems and priorities for the new organisation. In 1981 he was appointed as the National Trust's representative for Horowhenua and Wairarapa and worked with landowners there to establish some of the Trust's earliest covenants. Ben passed away at Paraparaumu on 7 August 2015 aged 86. The National Trust acknowledges the significant contribution Ben has made to the protection of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage. We extend sincere condolences to Airdre Thorpe and family and friends.

New mobile App for identifying Coprosma

Landcare Research has developed a new interactive plant identification App for mobile phones that helps identify the 53 species of Coprosma currently recognised in New Zealand. Some experience in plant identification and the ability to recognise members of the Coprosma genus is required to work the App. The App is supported by a factsheet for each species and images of flowers, fruit, leaves and other characteristics. Once downloaded onto a smart phone or tablet the App can be used in the field where there is no internet access. The App is free to download on the Android Google Play Store and Apple's iTunes. Other plant identification Apps under development include native and naturalised grasses, native orchids, flowering plant genera and weeds of New Zealand.

Leaving a lasting legacy



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

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

If you would like to talk about leaving a legacy, phone 0800 467 367 and ask to speak with the Chief Executive, Mike Jebson, or any member of the National Trust's legal team.

Special acknowledgement

The National Trust wishes to acknowledge Helen Margaret Swinburn who passed away on 2 August 2015. Miss Swinburn was a Life member of the National Trust ever since covenanting land with it in 1984. Her covenant was the 7th to be established in Hawke's Bay. Miss Swinburn's death notice included a request that donations be given to the QEII National Trust in lieu of flowers. This gesture is very much appreciated by the National Trust. Our sincere condolences are extended to the Swinburn family.

Recently registered covenants

Summary of covenant registrations from 21 April 2015 to 31 August 2015

District Council	Name	Covenant name	Area (ha)	Main open space type
Auckland	Matingarahi Station Ltd (Knudsen)		7.30	Semi-coastal forest
Auckland	Pollok Farms Ltd		11.54	Semi-coastal puriri-pohutukawa forest
Canterbury	Martin	Martins Bush	0.66	Sub-montane stream
Canterbury	Limestone Hills Waimate Ltd (Studholme)	Parkers Bush	14.22	Lowland modified primary treeland and riparian reedland
Canterbury	Martin Bush	Martin Bush	4.87	Sub-montane beech forest and hardwood shrubland
Canterbury	E.B. Millton Charitable Trust	Birch Hill Wetland	4.14	Lowland flaxland, forest, treeland, and rushland
Manawatu-Wanganui	Abel		5.81	Montane modified primary forest
Marlborough	Hope and King		1.38	Lowland forest, boulderfield and cliffs
Marlborough	CDS West Coast Ltd	Rob Roy Covenant	1.54	Lowland forest, grassland, and sedgeland
Otago	Harrison	Olivia's Wood	1.09	Coastal wetland
Southland	Smith		13.21	Coastal modified primary forest
Southland	Kamahi Farms Limited Partnership (Marquart)	Kamahi Farms Ltd	11.00	Lowland forest
Southland	Kynlallan Farming Company Ltd (Cairns)	Kynlallan	23.31	Lowland forest
Taranaki	Dettling & Hurley	Greenwell-Wicksteed Bush	1.39	Lowland forest
Taranaki	Matthews	Matemate	506.84	Lowland forest, scrub, and rushland
Taranaki	Hamma Farms Ltd		99.71	Lowland forest
Taranaki	Hosking	R & H Hosking Piko Bush	32.52	Lowland forest
Taranaki	Newton	Newton Tuahui Partnership	144.11	Lowland modified primary forest
Taranaki	Horner	Puketarata	1.76	Semicoastal modified primary forest
Taranaki	Rumball	Forest Edge	3.71	Semi coastal modified primary forest, secondary wetland, and Pa site
Taranaki	Whitehead	Mangahewa	15.01	Lowland forest
Taranaki	Twaddle	Twaddle Bush	1.45	Lowland forest
Tasman	Turner	Song of the Tui	6.63	Scrubland
Tasman	O'Connor	Pearl Creek	0.47	Coastal revegetated riparian forest and sedgeland
Tasman	Armstrong	Hundred Acre Wood	39.61	Lowland forest
Waikato	Rolley		0.93	Lowland secondary forest
Waikato	Cochrane	Waitekauri Kukuwai	1.35	Semi-coastal scrub and wetland
Wellington	Te Awaawa Ltd	Intake Swamp	1.46	Lowland wetland
Wellington	Watson and Cardno		4.00	Coastal forest
	Total area		961.04	

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TRUST

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

We celebrate a continuing growth in the number of special places protected by covenantors. Currently some 4000 covenants are protecting around 180,000ha of valuable environments and threatened species habitat. That is an area equivalent in size to Rakiura/Stewart Island.

It costs the National Trust, on average, \$22,000 to establish a covenant (excluding the significant contribution made by the landowner). Costs for the National Trust include survey work, fencing contributions, field work, administration, and legal processing fees. There is also the ongoing cost of monitoring covenants once they are operative.

We can afford to establish 110 covenants a year but there are many more requests from landowners to covenant land every year.

The Government supports the protection of biodiversity on private land and provides funds to help meet some of the costs of covenanting. However, this funding source is limited and it is clear that we will have to generate more of our own income if we want to continue growing the network of covenants in New Zealand. We do this already by seeking grants from a range of sources such as

the Lotteries Grants Board and the Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Partnership Fund. We have also started to explore commercial partnership opportunities to support our work. Our recent agreement with fencing producers, Steel & Tube, is one such partnership that will help us significantly reduce fencing costs.

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

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

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

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

For every \$22,000 we raise we can help another landowner protect a special place on their land with a covenant. We are aiming to raise \$1 million and every dollar will be spent on covenants.

Go to www.openspace.org.nz to find out about donating or joining as a member. If you would like to talk more about supporting the National Trust, call us on 0800 467 367 and ask to speak with the Chief Executive.

VISIT www.openspace.org.nz for QEII National Trust places to visit with public access or by prior arrangement. Go to the National Trust's Facebook page www.facebook.com/QEIINationalTrust for news and events updates.

INNOVATIVE TOURISM VENTURE SEEKS CONSERVATION-MINDED LANDOWNERS

Imagine being tucked in bed in a five star hotel, completely surrounded by stars. That is the effect produced by the PurePod, which sits above Little River on Banks Peninsula.

A PurePod is a hotel suite within a futuristic glass box, beside a covenanted stand of native bush. Its transparent floor, ceiling and walls immerse guests in the landscape by day, and the Milky Way by night. It operates entirely off the grid, with minimal environmental impact. Now multiply that to imagine a virtual hotel, spread right across the country, built one room at a time, to understand what the company behind the PurePod intends to create.

Paul Sapsford is PurePods Ltd CEO. He is looking for custodians of the right pieces of land to fulfil this vision.

'Landowners we work with stand to gain significant revenue from lease income and providing services to PurePod guests. In Little River the land owners for the first PurePod used this to help fund two eight hectare covenants, incorporating the half-hectare they had previously. That works well for all parties,' he says.

He wants to hear from owners of secluded land with spectacular views.

'This offers a non-intrusive, sustainable revenue stream, with no initial outlay. We are looking for people who share our



sustainability values and who are committed to conservation through a covenant or area set aside for regeneration,' he says.

QEII covenant holders who visit www.purepods.com/QEII can register to be in the draw for a free night at either the Little River PurePod, or PurePod #2, which will open in Kaikoura later in spring 2015.



MEMBER DIRECTOR ELECTIONS — CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND VOTING INFORMATION

Members of the QEII National Trust have the opportunity to nominate and vote for two Directors to serve on the National Trust's Board of Directors for a 3-year term effective 1 April 2016.

Eligibility to nominate, be nominated and vote

Only National Trust members (ie, current and Life covenantors, Life members, and financial members) or an officer of a Corporate Member of the National Trust may nominate, be nominated, and vote in the elections. Eligible National Trust members may put themselves forward for consideration.

Financial members

Financial memberships must be current at 18 December 2015 and not expire before 31 March 2016 to be eligible to nominate, be nominated, and vote in the elections. Renewal notices for most financial memberships will be sent out in October 2015. **Please be sure to renew your membership in time if you wish to take part in the elections.**

Timeline for nominations and elections

- Monday 2 November 2015 — nominations period opens
- Friday 18 December 2015 — nominations period closes at noon
- Early February 2016 — ballot papers and voting forms are sent out to members inviting them to consider candidates and elect two members to the Board
- Friday 11 March 2016 — voting closes at 12 noon
- By end March 2016 — voting results confirmed

Election rules

The election rules will be sent out with nomination forms. A copy of the National Trust's election rules can also be downloaded at www.openspace.org.nz.

Board Director duties and fees

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

The QEII National Trust Board is a governing board.

Details about the National 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.

Directors receive a daily fee of \$215 plus reimbursement of costs relating to Board business.

For information about nominations and the elections process email elections@electionz.com or phone 0800 666 031.

Nomination form

Nomination forms can be requested by emailing elections@electionz.com or by calling the Returning Officer on 0800 666 031. A nomination form can also be downloaded from the National Trust's website **www.openspace.org.nz** (look for the link on the home page).

Keep your contact details current

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

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



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