$5.00

QE II National Trust
For open space in New Zealand
Nga Kairauhi Papa

Open Space™

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

No.64, July 2005

IN THIS ISSUE Kaikoura – Central Canterbury covenants • Freshwater springs

Helping you protect the special nature of your land

QEII helps landowners protect significant natural and cultural features on their land.

Features protected include:

- Landscapes
- Wetlands
- Cultural sites
- Coastlines
- Archaeological sites
- Forests and/or bush remnants
- Tussock grasslands
- Streams
- Geological features
- Wildlife habitats

Landowners throughout the country have voluntarily protected some 70,900 hectares of their land through QEII covenants (or protection agreements). The Trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants. *For more information see page 27.*

QEII also owns 29 properties which collectively protect over 1,500 hectares of significant habitat. These have mostly been gifted to the Trust. Effective stewardship of these properties is greatly assisted by local communities and management committees.

Contents

'Open Space™' is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, P O Box 3341, Wellington, New Zealand
St. Laurence House, Level 4, 138 The Terrace, Wellington.
Telephone: 04 472 6626 Fax: 04 472 5578
Freephone: 0508 (QE2TRUST) 732 878
E-mail: qe2@qe2.org.nz
www.qe2.org.nz

Cover Photo: Young cabbage trees at the 0.06ha historic Ti kouka (cabbage tree) covenant at the Elworthy family's South Canterbury farm, Craigmore. In the background, botanist Philip Simpson tells guests about the trees at the commemoration of Sir Peter Elworthy in March (see page 3).
Photo: Roland Dale.

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII) is a statutory organisation independent from Government and managed by a Board of Directors.

Regional Representatives

Far North
Greg Blunden Tel: 09 407 5243
Whangarei
Nan Pullman Tel/Fax: 09 434 3457
Northwest Auckland
Rodney Straka Tel: 09 420 4082
Auckland
Rex Smith Tel: 09 622 2303
Coromandel/Hauraki
Hamish Kendal Tel: 07 866 0770
Waikato
Hamish Dean Tel: 021 741 222
Waitomo/Otorohanga
Malcolm Mackenzie Tel: 07 873 7728
Bay of Plenty/Taupo
Stephen Hall Tel: 07 544 1227
Gisborne
Malcolm Piper Tel/Fax: 06 867 0255
Hawke's Bay
Marie Taylor Tel: 06 836 7018
Taranaki
Neil Phillips Tel: 06 762 2773
Wanganui/Ruapehu
Rachel Stewart Tel: 06 345 0730
Manawatu/Horowhenua/Rangitikei/Tararua
Peter van Essen Tel: 06 355 9076
Wairarapa
David Marsh Tel: 06 372 7750
Wellington
Robyn Smith Tel: 04 236 6086
Nelson/Marlborough
Philip Lissaman Tel: 03 540 3442
North Canterbury
Miles Giller Tel/Fax: 03 313 5315
South Canterbury
Kathryn Hill Tel: 03 688 2325
West Coast (Buller)
Richard Nichol Tel: 03 789 4132
West Coast (Westland, Grey)
Ian James Tel/Fax: 03 753 4017
Coastal Otago
Rebecca Reid Tel: 03 482 2304
South Island High Country
Dr Brian Molloy Tel: 03 348 1077
Waiau Catchment
Mark Sutton Tel: 027 436 7469
Southland
Gay Munro Tel: 03 239 5827
www.converge.org.nz/ntsth

Aroha Island Ecological Centre
Tel: 09 407 5243

Commemoration at Craigmore

Sir Peter Elworthy's contribution to private land conservation in New Zealand was commemorated with the unveiling of a plaque at the Elworthy farm Craigmore, near Maungati, in March.

Photo: Roland Dale

The plaque unveiled beneath an Olearia hectorii *tree. Lady Fiona Elworthy holds granddaughter Olympia, accompanied by (left - right) QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore, daughter Josephine Elworthy-Jones, Minister of Conservation Chris Carter and QEII CEO Margaret McKee.*

Lady Fiona Elworthy, together with Minister of Conservation Chris Carter and QEII National Trust Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore, performed the ceremony. Chris Carter recognised Sir Peter's many achievements as an influential leader in the rural sector and "his love of this land."

The plaque stands within the most recent of the four QEII covenants that Sir Peter initiated at Craigmore, which protects Canterbury's only known stand of the nationally endangered tree daisy ***Olearia hectorii***. DOC manages the covenant and is working on ways to enable the 50 - 100 year old trees to regenerate.

Sir Brian said, "This three-way partnership of the Department of Conservation, the QEII Trust and the landowners, is a great example of how New Zealanders work together to preserve something very special."

Photo: Roland Dale

Nearly 150 invited guests gathered in the grounds of the historic Elworthy homestead, before the unveiling and a tour of the Craigmore covenants.

Photo: Roland Dale

Guests on their way to view the ancient rock drawings of the now extinct New Zealand Harpagornis moorei *eagle. Located in a limestone cave, the drawings are protected under a 1.6ha covenant.*

New Zealand's threatened environments

Private conservation has an important role to play in protecting our most threatened ecosystems.

Recent analysis by Landcare Research, using LENZ (Land Environments of New Zealand), national land cover data and legal protection coverages showed that:

- indigenous ecosystems in New Zealand's lowland environments are highly depleted,
- little of what remains is protected, and
- high rates of loss of indigenous cover continue.

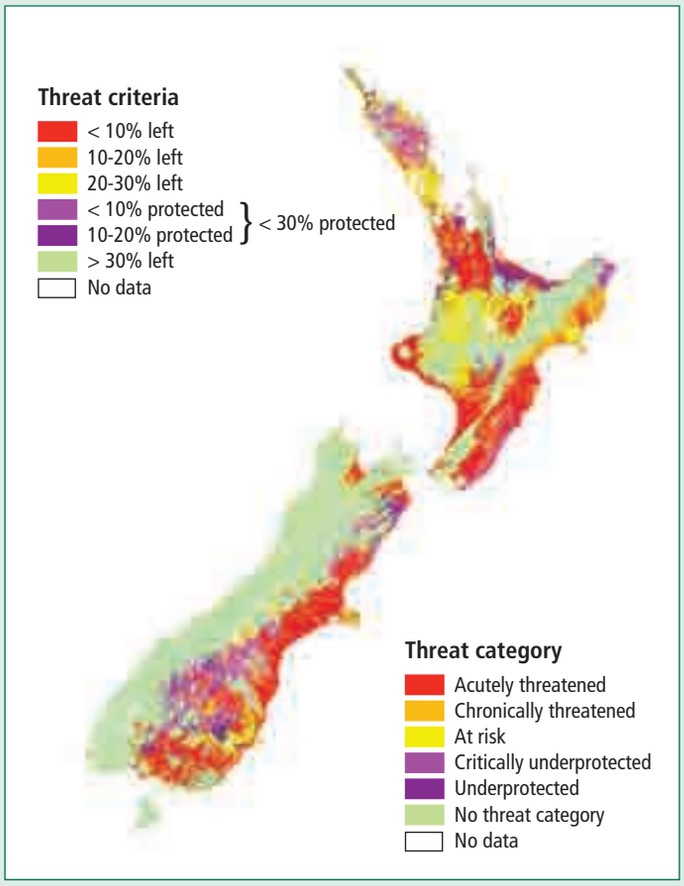
Threat classification	No. of QEII covenants as at 30/06/04	% of total QEII covenants at 30/06/04
Acutely threatened	722	29%
Chronically threatened	410	16%
At risk	481	19%
Critically underprotected	144	5.7%
Underprotected	190	7.5%
Total in threatened environments	1,947	77.2%

Table 1. The majority of QEII covenants are protecting biodiversity values in threatened environments.

Remaining indigenous habitats and ecosystems in 'threatened environments' (those that are much reduced or have low levels of public or private legal protection) are at risk of losing significant biodiversity from clearance, pests, weeds and other pressures. They are a distinctive part of New Zealand's full range of biodiversity, and are priorities for protection because opportunities for protecting, maintaining and restoring them are rapidly retreating.

These threatened remaining lowland indigenous habitats are mostly found on private land, so private land conservation can help significantly in their survival and restoration. As Table 1 shows, QEII covenants are concentrated in vulnerable areas, where the need is greatest. However, there is a pressing need to increase the area of protected lowlands, and to ensure that such areas are managed to achieve gains in biodiversity.

Source: Susan Walker, Robbie Price, Daniel Rutledge and Bill Lee, Landcare Research, Dunedin and Hamilton (http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/databases/lenz/downloads/New%20Zealand_indigenous_cover.pdf)



The most threatened environments occur in lowland New Zealand, especially on the east coast.

Source: Landcare Research

QEII covenants are concentrated in vulnerable areas of New Zealand where the need is greatest.

Focus on:
Kaikoura - Central Canterbury

Farming has been a cornerstone in Canterbury from early on. The wide alluvial plains, inland basins and hill country support the country's largest area of mixed arable farming. As with much of the rural sector, farming patterns are changing, with Canterbury seeing recent decreases in beef cattle and sheep and increases in dairying, deer farming and forestry.

Centuries of natural and human-induced fires, followed by land development have resulted in substantial loss and modification of the region's former indigenous land cover. As the map of New Zealand's threatened environments opposite shows, New Zealand's east coast dryland environments are particularly threatened. Canterbury QEII rep Miles Giller says, "Even quite small or modified remnants can be important, given just how much has been lost. Changing land management can further threaten these remnants but it can also present opportunities to protect them."

As at 1 June 2005, 107 landowners from Kaikoura to Banks Peninsula had protected 3,858ha under registered and approved QEII covenants.

Kaikoura's first covenant

Kaikoura's first covenant, registered in June last year, lies in the remote Puhu Puhi Valley at the foot of the Kaikoura Mountains, where **Robyn and Don Cameron** run 2000 stock units on their rugged 1200ha high country property.

The 3-hectare covenant covers river terraces and bluffs and is significant for its biodiversity. It contains one of the few remaining inland riparian stands of matai in the district and an unusual mix of forest and shrubland species, including many plants of the threatened shrub *Teucridium parvifolium*. The bluffs support various regionally endemic plants (occurring only in Nelson, Marlborough and northern Canterbury), including *Heliohebe hulkeana*, *Carmichaelia glabrescens*, *Pachystegia minor* and *Brachyglottis monroi*.

Photo: Brian Molloy

Remnant forest and bluff shrubland of the Puhi Peaks covenant nestles below Mt Alexander.

Hands-on education

Pupils of Hapuku School north of Kaikoura need only cross the road to reach their new outdoor classroom, Homewood Hill covenant. There, they are helping owners **Bob Bell** and **Karen James** to restore remnant semi-coastal forest.

The local children joined with city children at Homewood last September on a camp organised by Lincoln University outdoor leadership students. They learnt about native bush and helped with planting, and are now helping with ongoing care.

Landcare Trust donated $2,000 for the project and has promised a further $1,000 for the next stage - converting an old farm dam into a wetland. Kaikoura District Council has donated clay to line the dam.

Photo: copyright & courtesy of The Marlborough Express

Hapuku School children take a break from planting, together with (left to right) Hapuku School principal Diane St Clare, Kaikoura District Council biodiversity officer Jodie Denton, QEII rep Miles Giller and covenantor Bob Bell.

Freshwater spring

A clear spring bubbles up within lush lowland forest at Cindy Boyd's Mā Wai Puna covenant near Kaikoura. It provides a pure farm water supply and she wishes to protect both its quality and year-round reliability.

The 1.2ha area was fenced off twenty years ago to protect the spring and the forest has regenerated vigorously. Young totara and matai are now coming up through the kanuka, kowhai and mahoe. Ferns flourish, enjoying the high rainfall released over nearby Mt Fyffe.

QEII rep Miles Giller says the abundant growth also reflects Environment Canterbury's district-wide possum control programme.

Cindy Boyd checks her farm water supply intake. The spring emerges just upstream.

Investing in conservation

Graham Horne bought 8ha of primary black and red beech forest for one purpose - protecting it under a QEII covenant.

The block, at the foot of Mt Grey in North Canterbury, escaped logging and is botanically noteworthy. Although very uncommon in Canterbury, kamahi is prolific, while the red beech, rimu and miro are all uncommon in the ecological district.

It's Graham's second covenant - he has also protected another 8ha of forest and sub-alpine vegetation further up on Mt Grey (see p.11, #58).

The covenant is adjacent to the popular Lake Janet picnic area and Graham has formed a walking track for visitors. "I love this bush. I tramped and hunted here as a young fellow and hope others will enjoy it too."

Graham Horne enjoys the beech forest in his latest covenant.

Collective action at Governors Bay

Four neighbouring covenantors have led the way in a community land care project.

Regenerating podocarp - hardwood forest on the four Governors Bay covenants adds to the natural character of the stunning Lyttelton Harbour landscape.

The four adjoining covenants at Governors Bay rise from 80 - 410 metres altitude on the steep inner slopes of the drowned volcanic crater that now forms Lyttelton Harbour. At the top, **Steve Wooff"s** 16ha covenant, originally covenanted by **Val and David Barnett**, takes in the distinctive rocky outcrops and bluffs typical of the crater rim. Further down, **Simon and Sara Gurnsey** have covenanted 8ha of the steep mid-slopes. On the lower slopes **Evelyn and Bruce Hille** and **Sally and Dick Tripp** have covenanted another 1ha and 0.5ha respectively.

Podocarp / hardwood forest, largely cleared by early settlers, is now regenerating on much of the covenanted land and native fish are common in the stream that flows through the lower covenants.

QEII rep Miles Giller says the cool south-facing slopes are ideal for regeneration, aided by ample seed sources in other nearby covenants and reserves. Unfortunately Old Man's Beard, broom and various garden escapes are also jostling for place.

At his suggestion, the neighbours contacted NZ Landcare Trust and, in April 2003, the Governors Bay Landcare Group was formed. With funding help, a contractor was employed to do the initial weed work but volunteers from the landcare group, the community and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust also pitched in to help.

"We realised collective action was needed if we were going to avoid re-infestation," says Sally Tripp. "We need to look after the whole area together."

Rock outcrops are a feature of the popular Crater Rim walkway, first constructed in 1917, which crosses Steve Wooff's covenant.

High up on Banks Peninsula

Judy Bugo bought and covenanted her 55ha property high up on Mt Pearce to protect the vegetation.

Wind-sculpted and often wreathed in cloud at an altitude of 400 - 680m, the vegetation is a botanically rich mix of five finger / fuchsia forest, horopito scrub and coprosma shrubland. Although it is secondary growth on former pastureland, it is very representative of the original high-altitude vegetation on Banks Peninsula. A small stand of Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii* or mountain totara) has also survived.

Judy welcomes visits from people who share her interest in natural history. She was delighted to host the Canterbury Botanical Society last November, who recorded 106 native plant species on the covenant, including 35 ferns.

Photo: Miles Giller

Judy Bugo amongst her sub-alpine scrub. The totara stump (left) testifies to former land clearance but one of the survivors stands tall in the background.

Sawpit Creek

Photo: Shona McCahon

Despite its name, Sawpit Creek is an excellent example of the pre-human vegetation of the Conway Flat locality, according to QEII rep Miles Giller. Species are surprisingly diverse in the deeply-cut gully due to the contrasting dry, sunny north-facing slopes and cool, shaded south-facing slopes.

Owners **Tom and Sue MacFarlane** have just covenanted 18ha of the remnant podocarp / hardwood forest and, together with son **Andrew**, aim to eventually protect the catchment from sea level to 600m altitude.

It's an integral part of ongoing improvement and diversification on their 479ha farm, where they run 2,000 stock units, grow winter lettuces, export cut flowers, and plan productive woodlots. Andrew is also labeling plants and developing a track for guided bush walks.

The MacFarlanes received an environmental grant in 2003 from Hurunui District Council in recognition of their work in conserving the bush.

Andrew MacFarlane with one of the large matai that escaped logging at Sawpit Creek.

Te Hoe Whaling Station

An archaeological dig took place last summer at **Len Symes'** and **Jan Lincoln-Symes'** covenant at Te Hoe on the Mahia Peninsula.

The site contains evidence of early whaling settlement and technology - in exceptionally good condition - together with evidence of earlier Maori occupation. The dig was carried out jointly by Auckland Museum and the Anthropology Department at University of Otago to accurately record and map the site's archaeological features.

Of particular interest were two tryworks, or whale processing areas, where whale blubber would have been rendered down into oil in large trypots. The foundations of fireplaces built to support the trypots were uncovered and the remains of iron tanks sunk into the ground, where the whale oil would have been poured to cool. An old grindstone and the remains of barrels used to ship the oil away were also found. Other features from the whaling station included the stone fireplaces and 'footprints' of a number of huts and a midden (or rubbish dump).

Photo: Malcolm Piper

Archaeology students at work on one of the house sites, where the fireplace (left foreground) and the remains of timber walls around the edges of the excavated area were found. In the background, children from nearby Nuhaka School visit the tryworks area.

Photo: Malcolm Piper

Len Symes (green shirt) and his aunt, Kui (in black), inspect the larger of the two tryworks (centre) with archaeologists. Whale bones at left of the tryworks were probably intended to fuel the fire.

Shell middens, kumara pits and house sites are all evidence of earlier Maori occupation.

Len is keen to protect features of local history, having family roots on his 720ha sheep and cattle farm that go back to the early 1900s. " We had an open day during the dig and we got letters afterwards thanking us for protecting the site."

Whaling was important in Hawke's Bay until around 1852 and was an important early social contact between European and Maori. Little is known about the history of the Te Hoe whaling station except that it was established in 1840 by a Mr Ellis. The names of several of the whalers are known, including Mr Daniel O'Keefe who was buried at the site and whose descendants recently marked his grave with a headstone.

Landcorp Farming's Westland programme

Covenants and dairy conversion go hand-in-hand as Landcorp Farming Limited implements its dairy conversion programme in Westland. The Deep Creek open space covenant near Lake Brunner, launched in May 2005, is the prototype for future covenants that will follow.

The five-year programme will see 10 dairy units developed, estimated to support a herd of 8,250 dairy cows and their replacements. The development involves 4,200ha of intensive soil reconstruction and is subject to resource consent conditions regarding water runoff and nutrient movements, including on-going monitoring as part of the environmental management.

Landcorp agreed to fence all riparian margins adjoining water courses that contained flowing water and to fence all wetlands of significance so that the ungrazed margins would act as filters and help maintain water quality. All areas of remaining bush will be fenced and managed to control noxious weeds. Some of the riparian lands will also be planted with native species to assist the rate of natural recovery.

Photo courtesy of Greymouth Evening Star

Landcorp's General Manager Bernard Card (left), QEII West Coast rep Ian James and QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore at Deep Creek covenant.

The Deep Creek covenant before redevelopment; poor, waterlogged pasture prone to rush and gorse reversion.

Turning over the pakihi soils

Development began in 2001 on the Weka block, which is programmed to eventually yield five dairy units from what was previously a sheep, beef and deer operation. This block was originally cleared from cut-over bush and developed by root raking, windrowing logs and stumps, and grassing. However, pasture was difficult to maintain on the pakihi soils typical of the West Coast

Pakihi soils are organic but always waterlogged due to one or more ironstone pans which prevent subsoil drainage and create a perched water table. These soils are capable of producing up to only 8 stock units per hectare and are subject to severe gorse and rush reversion. Mechanically breaking the ironstone pan(s) releases the water, making drainage possible and enabling far greater productivity.

Two soil reconstruction processes are used to break and mix the pans and bring the sub-pan materials up to form the new top soil structure. Where sand is the dominant sub-pan material, it is 'flipped' to bring it to the surface but where the pan sits on alluvial stones and boulders, 'humping and hollowing'

Photo: Landcorp Farming Limited

Humping and hollowing, October 2003; breaking up the ironstone pans and bringing subsoil material to the surface.

is used to create the new soil profile. Fertilisers are applied to improve the new soil medium for plant production. On consolidation this development will result in 2 to 2 ½ dairy cows or 20 – 22 stock units per hectare and a topography that will enable mechanical control of any rush or gorse reversion.

The Deep Creek covenant

The 618.9ha Deep Creek covenant covers part of two dairy units developed so far, which are managed by Shane Kelly and Peter Crouchley. The covenant covers the whole title including both redeveloped farmland and 45 separate fenced parcels of protected areas.

"Due to cost, we didn't even consider the normal approach of surveying each separate area," says Gerry Soanes, Landcorp's National Property Manager. "This way, Landcorp retains the right to farm, as a condition of the covenant, and the whole farm landscape is protected too. One example is the individual trees that survived development – they're protected as well as the bush, and add to the immense landscape values of this area."

Westland QEII rep, Ian James, says the fenced remnants of lowland red beech and podocarp/hardwood forest are under-represented in the local Hochstetter Ecological District and well worth protecting.

In August 2004, DOC's Westland Conservator presented Landcorp with an award which stated, "DOC acknowledges the valuable contribution Landcorp has made to conservation through its riparian protection work and replanting on its development blocks." Landcorp was proud to receive the award and wishes to continue to protect suitable areas with QEII.

QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, addresses guests beside one of the stands of remnant podocarp forest at the Deep Creek covenant opening.

Photo: Landcorp Farming Limited

Deep Creek covenant where 76.6ha of protected areas interweave with the farming operation. Distinctive surface patterns reveal the humping and hollowing used to reconstruct the pasture soil, while streams and bush remnants are fenced-off to protect natural and landscape values.

Freshwater springs
– their protection gives rise to multiple benefits

Written by NIWA research scientists, Mike Scarsbrook and Pepe Barquin

Research by NIWA scientists shows that protecting springhead habitats can benefit biodiversity, water quality and downstream water users.

Springs are points of concentrated groundwater discharge. They occur throughout New Zealand, ranging in size from small hillside seepages producing less than 1 litre per second through to the spectacular Waikoropupu Springs near Takaka with an average flow of c. 15,000 litres per second.

Springs are often considered to be biodiversity 'hotspots' because they are a point of overlap between groundwater, surface water and terrestrial ecosystems. The overlap brings a diverse mix of animal species into spring habitats.

Understanding how we might protect and manage these valuable habitats has been limited by a lack of research until recently. Over the last three years, NIWA scientists have been studying biodiversity patterns in springs around the country, supported by funding from the Department of Conservation, the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and the New Zealand Dairy Industry. The study aimed to assess how human land use practices may be impacting on these habitats.

Spring flows

The most significant impact is the loss of spring flow resulting from changes in groundwater level. Obviously, the drying of a spring - even if it is seasonal - will have major consequences for springhead biodiversity and water users further downstream. Intermittent flows in previously permanent springs signal unsustainable groundwater use, and highlights the need to maintain spring flows through appropriate resource use and management.

Photo: Steph Parkyn

Photo: Graham Fenwick

Photo: Brian Smith

Undisturbed springs often contain a diverse range of invertebrate life, including common stream species such as koura (top), along with little-known groundwater species such as the well shrimp Paraleptamphopus *(centre) and species that are restricted to springs and seepages such as the mayfly* Zephlebia nodularis *(bottom).*

Waikoropupu Springs near Takaka, renowned for its spectacular flow rate and water clarity.

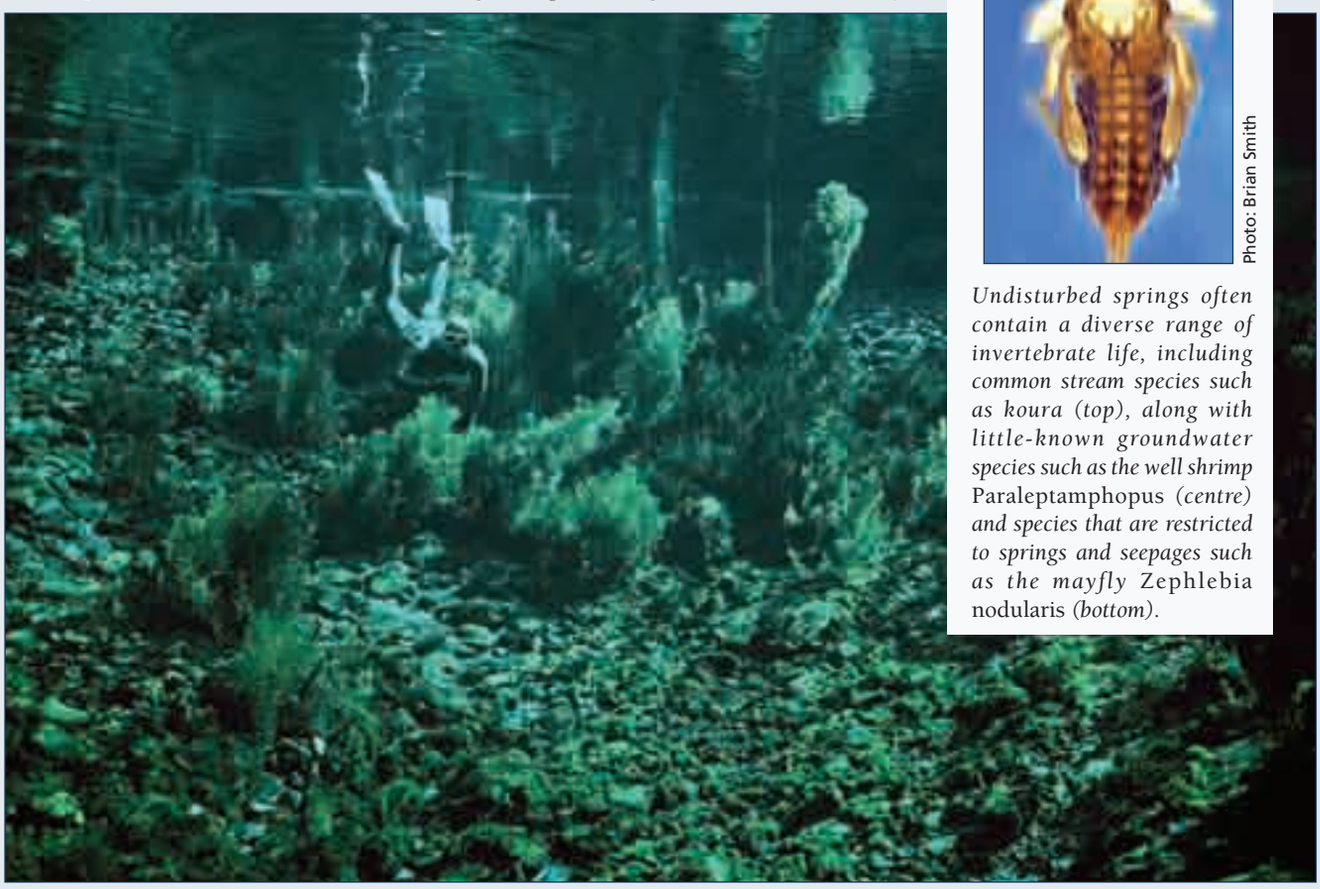


Photo: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

Water quality

Reduced quality of spring water is another major threat. Land clearance and stock access in and around springheads have significant impacts. For example, when levels of the faecal indicator bacteria *Escherischia coli*, were measured in 33 small springheads around New Zealand, levels were particularly high where springs had no riparian protection, where stock had access, and where waterfowl were present. Notably, only 7 of the sampled springs would pass the guidelines for domestic water supply (i.e., *E. coli* were absent).

Results from a study of springs along the Kaimai Ranges also indicate that spring-fed brooks can play a significant role in reducing levels of nitrate that enter surface waters via enriched groundwater. Across five pairs of springheads and their brooks, nitrate concentrations were reduced on average by 36% within the first 100m downstream of the springhead.

Photo: Pepe Barquin

Many springs are threatened by stock access. Slip Spring near Cass, Canterbury.

Water temperature

Studies on springs along the base of the Kaimai Ranges showed springheads have daily temperature ranges of less than 1 °C. However, temperature ranges in spring-fed brooks within the first 100m downstream increased markedly, except where there was an intact native riparian zone.

The results indicate that the condition of riparian vegetation around springs and their brooks may play an important role in maintaining cool water temperatures. This, in turn, can provide a refuge from stressful summertime temperatures for fish and invertebrates and play an important role in the protection and conservation of indigenous biodiversity.

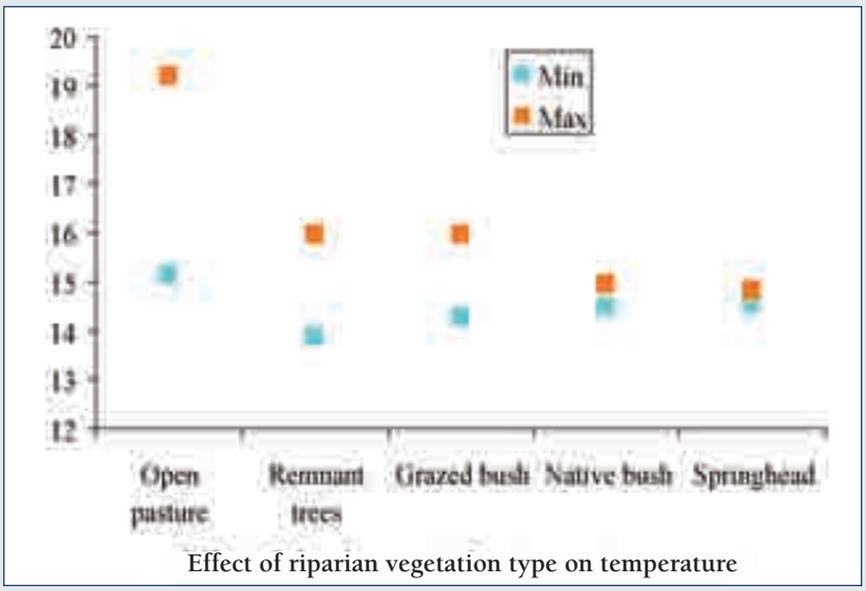
Spring management

Throughout human history, springs have been highly valued as sources of potable water. More recently, we have become aware of their other significant habitat values. Although human activities can have major impacts on these values, it appears the solution may be relatively straightforward:

- exclude stock from springheads,
- provide riparian shade beside springs and their brooks to keep waters cool, and
- manage groundwater use so spring flows are sustained.

Photo: Pepe Barquin

A small spring-fed brook at the base of the Kaimai Ranges.



Changes in brook temperature within the first 100m downstream of a springhead at four paired sites along the base of the Kaimai Ranges.

Freshwater springs face a range of threats from human activity:

Reduction of water quantity

- Groundwater abstraction
- Afforestation (increased evapotranspiration)
- Land drainage
- Urbanisation

Changes in water quality

- Fertilisers
- Agrochemicals
- Septic tanks
- Landfill leachate
- Animal waste

Changes in habitat

- Land drainage
- Stock trampling/grazing
- Clearance of riparian vegetation
- Capture of springs for water supply

Balance Farm Environment Awards: show-casing

The Balance Farm Environment Awards encourage sustainable agricultural practice by recognising and publicising examples of best practice. The judges review the whole farming system and look at how entrants are meeting their production targets while also maintaining or improving the long-term health of their farm environments.

Once again, QEII members are amongst the award winners.

Bay of Plenty

Antoinette and Chris Mountfort won an environmental award for their commitment to conservation in integrating livestock farming, exotic forestry and bush remnants on their 280ha farm near Whakatane, which includes 22ha of native forest protected by QEII covenants.

Photo: Courtesy Eastern Bay News

Antoinette and Chris Mountfort at work on their Bay of Plenty farm.

Winston Fleming won a merit award for excellence in conservation of native areas on his Rotorua property where he has 33ha of covenanted forest remnants.

Canterbury

Shireen and Francis Helps won the heritage restoration award for their integration of agriculture, conservation and tourism on their 500ha hill country property at Flea Bay, Banks Peninsula. When improving the farm, they protected 50ha of regenerating native bush, archaeological sites and a white flippered penguin colony under QEII covenants. The combined income from their 1,650 Peredale-Romney cross ewes and 40 breeding cattle, penguin tours and Banks Peninsula Track walkers makes the property financially sustainable.

Flea Bay on Banks Peninsula, where Shireen and Francis Helps protect a white flippered penguin colony within a QEII covenant.

Grace and Hamish Roxburgh won a merit award for their efforts in controlling wilding pines on their home farm Bacaldine, plus a neighbouring property which they lease from Karaha Holdings Limited. Karaha includes an 83ha beech forest / scrub QEII covenant.

Tony and Becky Marett, and David and Rosemary Morrow won a best livestock award for Okawa Farm, Mount Somers. The Morrow family was instrumental in getting a QEII Landscape Protection Agreement for roadside tussock-grassland alongside their farm.

Photo: Greater Wellington

Howard Egan at his Canada Flats property: the wetland has become an important bird habitat and a valuable recreation and education resource.

Wellington

Howard Egan won the lifestyle / small farm award for his 'Canada Flats' property near Carterton. Over 14 years he has transformed the formerly uneconomic, swampy and gorse-ridden 20ha block into a small but productive stock unit combined with a 10ha covenanted wetland wildlife refuge.

Marilyn and Ed Beetham won an innovation award for development and implementation of a staff management programme at Highcliffs, their 854ha sheep and cattle farm near Masterton, where 6ha of kowhai forest/shrubland is covenanted.

g best practice in sustainable farming

Otago

Gail and Trevor Meikle won the heritage restoration award for their balanced approach to conservation and farming practice at their 340ha farm near Oamaru. With help from community groups, they have created a significant and publicly-accessible wetland bird habitat. QEII covenants protect 11.4ha of wetland, archaeological sites and remnant native forest.

Denise, Cara and Bruce McGill won innovation awards for converting their 660ha sheep and beef Owaka farm to a certified organic enterprise and for their water recycling system. To avoid stock pugging and pollution, pristine spring water is fed into troughs and the overflow recycled into the aquifer or downstream waterway via underground pipes, thereby maintaining water quality. The McGills have a 10.8ha forest remnant covenant.

The McGills' 10ha forest covenant on their organic farm near Owaka.

Southland

Jeanine and Frans Venekamp won an innovation award for their cost-effective complete bailage system that produces high quality winter feed on a sustainable basis. They have a 15ha covenant protecting remnant kahikatea-totara forest at their property near Tuatapere.

Susan and John Rowley received a merit award for strong financial planning at their Tuatapere farm, above average community involvement, and protection of their 33ha podocarp and beech forest QEII covenant.

Susan and Ross Ibbotson received a merit award for the protection and enhancement of water courses, wetlands and areas of significant indigenous value at Landcorp's Freestone Farm near Manapouri, which they manage.

Jeanine and Frans Venekamp on their Tuatapere farm. The Venekamps' creative thinking earned them another innovation award in 2003 for their riparian strip management.

2006 Awards

The awards run in seven regions – Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu/Wanganui, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. Entries will open from October 2005. For more information please contact the National Co-ordinator Chris Keeping at 021 425 791 or **bfea@bfea.org.nz** .

Other farm award winners

- **Lynley and Matt Wyeth** received the 2005 Richmond/PPCS Wairarapa Farmer of the Year title. They have a 3ha of wetland/riparian QEII covenant at their Kaituna farm.
- **Biddy and Mark Shadbolt** won the 2005 Mountain River Canterbury Deer Farmer of the Year title. They have an 11ha forest remnant covenant on their Banks Peninsula property.

Photo: Courtesy Country-Wide

Kaituna covenantors, Lynley and Matt Wyeth, are the youngest farmers to receive the Wairarapa Sheep and Beef Farmers of the Year title.

Rural Fencing Association in the making

A new rural industry organisation is being formed - the New Zealand Fencing Contractors Association. Its objective is to lift the profile of fencing services in New Zealand to that of a recognised trade.

The association plans to provide guidance to farmers and fencers on standards and a forum for fencers. A website is also planned which will eventually allow farmers to identify "quality assessed" contractors in their region. A steering committee, comprising fencing contractors, a representative of the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation and Pacific Wire is responsible for establishing a structure, objectives and a standard. It's hoped the fledging association will be up and running by the end of the year.

For further information or to obtain the committee's quarterly newsletter, *Wired*, please contact Donna Mackay, Freephone 0800 722 947 or **donnama@fcsp.co.nz** .

Photo: Margaret McKee

Bill Beamish inspects an original fence post, dating back to circa 1860s - 1870s, on his Hawke's Bay farm, Whana Whana.

Trit Trot, Trit Trot – who's that crossing my fence?

Goats are sufficiently nimble to use fence stays as a ready-made highway over fences, where the stays jut out from the fence. They simply walk up the sloping surface of the stay, which brings them high enough to take a hop and jump onto the post and over.

If you're finding goats unexpectedly sampling the sumptuous goodies in your well-fenced covenant, this could be why. Fortunately, there's a simple solution. Run a wire from the base of the stay to near the top of the post, to put any would-be climber off balance.

Practical guide to building farm fences

"Hand-made Farm Fence …#852" gives detailed instructions on building farm fences, from planning and costing, to digging post holes and straining fence wires. Hand-written by Fencer Fred (otherwise known as Stephen Aspden) it is full of practical tips, based on many years' experience, and well illustrated with pencil drawings and diagrams.

Available from Touchwood Books at **http://touchwoodbooks.co.nz/New%2005/handmade.html** or phone (06) 874-2872.

Weeds under attack

Biodiversity Condition Funding and regional council programmes have been enabling more QEII covenantors to tackle weed control problems, including:

- single covenant weed infestations;
- clusters of connected or close-together covenants with similar weed problems; and
- integrated pest management where both plant and animal pests are blitzed to improve overall habitat health.

Many covenantors have first-hand, practical experience of controlling problem weeds, so we intend to run a regular series of case studies to share their acquired knowledge, successes and experience. Please get in touch if you'd like to share your weed tangle:
Open Space editor Shona McCahon
FREEPHONE 0508 732 878
or email **smccahon@qe2.org.nz**.

Dealing to willows

Following purchase in 2001, **Ruth and Clive Aim** needed to do something about the willows that were infesting their 8ha covenanted Matatara Wetland inland from Wanganui. They found poisoning by drilling unsatisfactory due to the large diameters of the multiple trunks – up to 500mm. After much research, they hit upon a method from Ohio State University (**http://ohioline.osu.edu/for-fact/pdf/0045.html**) that sounded promising and conducted a preliminary trial.

The results were good, so with help from QEII, they successfully applied for Biodiversity Condition Funding to continue the project.

Photo: Peter van Essen

One of the trial willow trees, left standing until fully dead to avoid resprouting from fellings. The double cut was applied to both main stems (left and right in photo).

Photo: Peter van Essen

A double chainsaw cut is applied right round the trunk and 50% glyphosphate sprayed into the cuts within an hour.

The method:

- Double-cut round the trunk with your chainsaw. Make sure you go all the way around and cut right through the bark to a depth of about 25mm to reach the outer cambium cells. These cells will carry the herbicide to the roots. Care should be taken to check for hollow or rotten trunks that could be destabilised.
- Spray, inject or paint 50% glyphosphate into the cuts as soon as possible, before the plant cells dry out (no longer than 1 hour after cutting). Thorough application into the *lower* cut is critical to ensure transport down to the roots.

Ruth and Clive say it's better to leave willows standing until they're completely dead (i.e. no green leaves or stems) as they resprout so readily from freshly cut material. After that, it may be advisable to bring them down for safety reasons. Contact: 06 3443 097 or **email aim@xtra.co.nz**.

New licensing for handling vertebrate poisons

QEII covenantors who use poisons that are licensed for controlling vertebrate pests should know about new licensing requirements.

The new Controlled Substances Licence is required if you deal with any of the substances listed below. If you currently hold a Vertebrate Poison Control Licence (old licensing system), you will need to obtain the new type of licence within the time periods shown below.

Timeframe for new licensing

Surname starts with	New licence required by
A, B	28 February 2006
C	30 April 2006
D, E, F	30 June 2006
G, H	31 August 2006
I, J, K, L, M	31 October 2006
N, O, P	30 November 2006
Q, R, S	31 January 2007
T, U, V	31 March 2007
W, X, Y, Z	30 April 2007

To obtain a Controlled Substances Licence

Licence holders must:

- be 17 years of age or over
- require the VTA (vertebrate toxic agent) product for their work
- have a full Approved Handler Certificate, and
- be a fit and proper person.

To obtain a licence, contact a Test Certifier, listed on **www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/er-ug-csl-02.pdf**. A *Guide to Applying for a Controlled Substance Licence* is also available at **www.ermanz.govt.nz/redir/?d=164**. Alternatively, call toll free on 0800 376 234 for these items to be sent to you.

Vertebrate Toxic Agents which require a Controlled Substances Licence

Note: 1080 is being reassessed and some of its controls may change. Tell ERMA if your contact details change so ERMA can notify you of any changes.

Sodium cyanide

Cyanide Paste For Possum Destruction

Trappers Cyanide Paste

Potassium cyanide

Feratox

Cyanara Ferapaste

Yellow phosphorus

Phosphorised Possum Paste Double Strength

Phosphorised Rabbit Paste

3-Chloro-p-touidine hydrochloride

DRC 1339

Sodium fluoroacetate

No Possums 1080 Gel Bait

0.1% 1080 Feral Cat Bait

5% and 10% 1080 Gel

Pestoff Professional 1080 Possum and Rabbit Paste 0.06%

Pestoff Professional 1080 Possum Paste 0.08% and).15%

Pestoff Exterminator Paste

1.0% 1080 Wasp Paste

0.04% - 0.2% 1080 Pellets

0.08% 1080 Rodent Pellets

1080 Solution

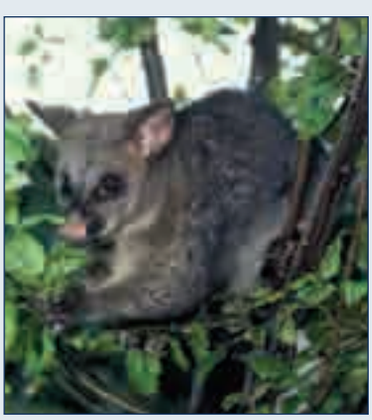
Pindone
(note: where a Pindone product label specifies that it can be applied only in bait stations, a licence is not required)

Pindone Liquid Concentrate

Pindone Possum Pellets

Pindone Rabbit Pellets

Pindone RS5 Rabbit Pellets

Photos: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation, Grant Harper (cat) and Dick Veitch (rat)

How do you know mustelids are in your area?

Mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels) prey on native fauna with brutal efficiency. They also carry diseases that can affect farm animals and humans - parasites, toxoplasmosis and, in the case of ferrets, Bovine Tb.

Being nocturnal and notoriously furtive they're hard to spot, so look for the evidence. Fresh droppings (scats) are deposited in noticeable places, such as the middle of tracks, to mark territory and are typically long and thin, with a tapering twist at each end. A powerful-smelling, thick, oily-yellow fluid called musk is often secreted onto them. Another sign might be dead animals chewed around the neck and head, although mustelids usually only leave their kill in the open if they've been disturbed.

Contact your regional council biodiversity officer for advice on control if you're concerned about mustelids on your property.

Source: Greater Wellington website

Stoats like to follow edges of features where they can find cover, such as fences, streams, drains, hedgerows, forest margins and road verges.

Photo: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation, Rod Morris

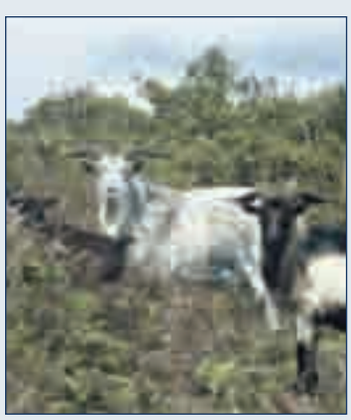
Pest control - it can be a balancing act

If you're thinking about blitzing a pest on your covenant, make sure you monitor the results. Another pest might move into the gap!

More research is needed about the dynamics between pest species but DOC personnel suspect that single-species pest control may create opportunities for other pest species. For instance, there may be a correlation between stoat control and increased rat numbers observed in some kiwi management zones.

So, monitor for signs of other pests, as well as the targeted species, and be prepared to expand control programmes to other species if necessary. Your QEII rep can advise you what to look for. Alternatively, you can find out more from:

- Factsheets about controlling common animal pests on the Environment Waikato website, **http://www.ew.govt.nz/enviroinfo/pests/animals/index.htm**
- *Native Forest Monitoring, A guide for forest managers* by Peter Handford, available from FRONZ Publications, Ph 04 904 0876 or visit **http://www.fronz.com/pubs.html** for a downloadable copy.
- *Bush Vitality, A Visual Assessment Kit* by Helmut Janssen, available for sale from your regional council and Manaki Whenua Press (03 325 6700).



Photos: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation, D. Hunt (goats) and D. Merton (hedgehog)

Photo: Peter Reese

Contribution to biodiversity recognised

Former QEII rep Martin Conway and his wife, Jo, received a merit award in the 'Most Improved Primary Producer' category of the 2004 Tasman District Council Environmental Awards. The Conways have covenanted 1.5ha of remnant totara forest which they have also revegetated with a wide range of locally sourced native species sourced from the native plant nursery they owned until recently. Their advocacy for natural habitat restoration and improved riparian management was recognised as being a "significant contribution to the biodiversity of the district".

Photo: Courtesy of Nelson Mail

Threatened species

New Zealand's Mistletoes

New Zealand's mistletoes are in decline – so much so that DOC launched a mistletoe recovery programme in 2001. Why are mistletoes in trouble? What can we do to help?

Photo: Ian Platt

Buds on a red-flowered mistletoe: a nectar-hungry bird or bee must tweak each bud before the petals will open.

Mistletoes are semi-parasitic. They photosynthesise through their leaves and stems but take water and nutrients from a host tree through specially adapted roots. While the green mistletoes grow on a wide range of hosts, the more showy beech mistletoes grow primarily on the native beeches. The dwarf mistletoes also choose a range of hosts although ***Korthalsella salicornioides*** favours mainly kanuka and manuka. While not threatened, the dwarf mistletoes are hard to find due to their brownish colour and small size (about 10cm long).

Red and scarlet mistletoes have 'explosive' flowers. This means birds seeking the nectar must grasp and twist the buds with their beaks before the petals will spring open. Native bees have also been observed opening the smaller flowers of the red mistletoe by biting the top off the buds. Both these mistletoes are pollinated by a range of birds and insects and can also be self-pollinated. The small greenish yellow flowers of the green mistletoes open independently and are insect-pollinated.

Trilepetala adamsii - unseen since 1954 - is presumed extinct. The three beech mistletoes and ***Tupeia antarctica*** are all in gradual decline nationally. While ***Ileostylus micranthus*** can be locally abundant it, too, is declining in some parts of New Zealand.

Photo: D. Kelly, University of Canterbury

The yellow mistletoe, Alepis flavida*, in bloom. The species is in gradual decline.*

Three Streams gifted to local community

QEII gifted its Three Streams property to the North Shore City Council in April.

The 3.7ha property in Albany is the life work of original owner and veteran tree planter John Hogan who gifted it to QEII in 1991. QEII director Yvonne Sharp acknowledged John's tireless restoration work, spread over 30 years. "John's passion and vision has resulted in a wonderful legacy - a very special natural area within a rapidly expanding urban environment."

Three Streams remains protected under a QEII covenant and will be managed by the local council and community as a valuable addition to the neighbouring 15ha Kauri Grove reserve.

North Shore City Council Mayor George Wood, QEII director Yvonne Sharp, Minister of Conservation Chris Carter and former landowner John Hogan at Three Streams. John planted more than 4,000 native trees there including 500 kauri.

Threatened species continued

A specimen of Tupeia antarctica, *a species in gradual decline, at Bruce and Heather Macfarlane's Conway Flat covenat (see page 28).*

Photo: Shona McCahon

A kowhai hosts two green mistletoe, Ileostylus micranthus, *(centre left and lower right of host tree) at Sawpit Creek (see page 8). Abundant mistletoe in the six covenants on Conway Flat farms is an indicator of effective local possum control.*

How to help

Factors influencing mistletoe decline include possum browse, loss of habitat, and reduced numbers and distribution of native bird pollinators and seed dispersers. To help:

- Reduce browsing damage by controlling possum populations;
- Boost bird pollination and seed dispersal by controlling possums, mustelids and rats;
- Place aluminum bands around the trunks of host trees to foil possums;
- Resist picking mistletoes - they're slow growers.

Sources: School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury; Department of Conservation

Types of mistletoes

Beech	*Alepis flavida*	Yellow mistletoe
	Peraxilla colensoi	Scarlet mistletoe
	Peraxilla tetrapetala	Red mistletoe
Extinct	*Trilepetala adamsii*	Adams' mistletoe
Green	*Ileostylus micranthus*	Small flowered mistletoe
	Tupeia antarctica	White mistletoe
Dwarf	*Korthalsella clavata*	Leafless mistletoe
	Korthalsella lindsayi	Leafless mistletoe
	Korthalsella salicornioides	Leafless mistletoe

All are endemic to New Zealand except for *Ileostylus micranthus*, which also occurs on Norfolk Island.

Trust People

West Coast - Buller

Two QEII reps will now be looking after the West Coast. Ian James will continue to cover the Westland/ Grey districts while newly appointed Richard Nichol will cover the Buller district.

Richard comes from a Southland farming family but moved to the Coast 11 years ago. He has a BSc(Hons) in botany and zoology, and has considerable experience in vegetation survey and monitoring as well as wild animal control. He worked for DOC's West Coast conservancy for some years and, more recently, combined Conservation Corps tutoring with eco-survey and landcover mapping work.

Whenever possible Richard gets out into the hills, tramping, or goes sea kayaking.

Tribute

Legendary covenantor Arthur Borrell was farewelled in May after he went missing in the high country he loved. He farmed Branches Station in the headwaters of the Shotover River for 30 years where he protected 1400 hectares of mountain shrublands and forest under QEII covenants, including populations of the threatened *Hebe cupressoides*. The new owners are now covenanting another 1500ha of alpine and subalpine habitat in his memory, which Arthur had also planned.

Arthur Borrell in the Otago high country he loved.

New challenges for Tim Park

Former Wellington rep, Tim Park, is to take up a new post in Tanzania through Volunteer Service Abroad. He will be an environmental education advisor to Ostawa, a community-based conservation organisation, and will be helping tribespeople living next to Tanzania's national parks to achieve sustainable land uses.

Robyn Smith

Robyn Smith, the new QEII representative for the Wellington area, is a specialist in New Zealand native plants.

She was the curator manager of Otari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington, a 100ha native forest reserve and botanic garden dedicated only to native plants. Before that, she managed Percy Scenic Reserve in Petone, curating the 'Tony Druce Collection' of New Zealand alpine plants and rare species and growing threatened species for DOC.

Robyn learnt first-hand about managing weeds and pests when restoring a bush block on a previous property in Northland. She and partner Brian now live in Titahi Bay, north of Wellington. She is a Board member for Whitireia Park, an important local headland, and helps with various restoration projects in the area.

South Canterbury

Kathryn Hill is the new South Canterbury QEII rep. Miles Giller will continue to look after North Canterbury (north of the Rakaia River).

Kathryn grew up near Albury, inland of Timaru, where her family has been farming for four generations. She is qualified in horticulture and landscape architecture, and has worked in the horticulture, agriculture and conservation sectors, including managing the Elworthy family's export cut peony business at Craigmore (see p.3) for ten years.

Kathryn now works seasonally for an export company that sources onions from several major vegetable growers in mid and south Canterbury. She and her husband Davie grow some commercial peonies and breed sporthorses at their lifestyle block near Timaru as well as raising their three boys.

Local government rates

Council policies vary enormously around the country on whether QEII covenants receive rates relief or not.

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA) states, "***land owned or used by and for the purposes of the Queen Elizabeth II Second National Trust is non-rateable.***"

Interpretations of this clause differ. Some councils treat land under QEII covenants as non-rateable. Some councils, acting on legal advice that the clause does not apply to QEII covenanted land, offer no rates relief. Other councils regard such land as rateable but offer rates remission as a way of promoting protection of special values. Public law specialists, Chen Palmer & Partners, advise that QEII covenanted land could be immune from rates.

Photo: Marie Taylor

QEII increasingly works in partnership with local authorities to achieve sustainable land and resource management. Here, Hawke's Bay Regional Council biosecurity advisory officer Darion Embling talks to field day visitors about one of James Hunter's covenants.

The role of QEII covenants

Local authorities, as described in Section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991, must recognise and provide for matters of national importance including:

- the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment,
- the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, and
- the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

A QEII open space covenant is a highly effective mechanism for addressing these matters through the goodwill and initiative of private landowners who voluntarily protect (or covenant) their land in perpetuity.

Councils stand to benefit from QEII's expertise in legal protection and monitoring programmes, and the Trust's 'independent' relationship with landowners. As an environmental and resource management tool QEII's open space covenants are robust, simple and highly cost effective.

Recommended best practice guidelines

QEII recommends the following best practice guidelines to councils.

- That QEII covenanted land is non-rateable as provided for in the Act (LGRA).
- That the land is assessed by calculating the covenanted area as a percentage of the total area of the property, and the rates for the whole property reduced by this percentage.
- That covenanted land which includes a dwelling(s), may be liable for certain targeted rates where services apply e.g. water, sewage, refuse disposal.
- That partial rates may apply where there is an economic use of covenanted land e.g. grazing on a large landscape covenant or commercial ecotourism.
- That once granted, rate relief should be rolled over each year with no requirement for an annual application by the landowner.

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February 2005 to 31 May 2005.

Covenantor	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Waipoua Forest Trust	48.9	G S	Far North
Downing	14.1	F	Whangarei
NL Russell Limited	1.7	F W	Whangarei
NL Russell Limited	2.5	F W	Whangarei
North Shore City Council	3.7	F S	North Shore
Burns	6.4	F W	Franklin
Fraser	2.0	F S	Thames-Coromandel
Groffen & Heisterkamp	65.1	F	Thames-Coromandel
Bridgens	2.1	F	Waipa
Dean	0.4	W G F	Waipa
Darke	26.2	F	Waitomo
Kloeten	8.1	F	Waitomo
Deegan & Rennie	1.2	F	Whakatane
Mountfort & BK Trustees Limited	20.6	F	Whakatane
McIntyre & Rockel	12.3	F Ge	Wairoa
Ben Alpin Limited	52.0	F	Hastings
Dicks & Grant: Epae Bush	52.7	F	Central Hawkes Bay
Ireland & Armstrong: Bruce Ireland Bush	9.5	F	Central Hawkes Bay
Gulliver	5.6	F	New Plymouth
Whitehead & Denham	11.7	F W	New Plymouth
Puketiro Station Limited	1.1	F	South Taranaki
Davison & Co Limited	20.9	F A	Wanganui
Aeolian Property Company Limited	19.3	F	Palmerston North
Menzies	0.4	F	Tararua
Fairbrother	4.0	F	Masterton
Ravenwood & Le Grove	15.3	F S	Masterton
Housiaux	2.0	W	Kapiti Coast
Kapiti Coast District Council	9.3	F	Kapiti Coast
Druce	0.6	F S	Upper Hutt
Monk	2.1	F	South Wairarapa
Sutherland	219.3	W G	Waitaki
Chapman & O'Donnell	1.8	W	Dunedin
Gibb	0.5	F	Dunedin
HJ Jenks & Sons Limited	44.1	F	Clutha
Reeves	17.0	W G F	Clutha
Pennycook	33.9	F S G	Queenstown-Lakes
Dodds & Fairfield Trustees Limited	5.0	W	Gore
Hargest, Thompson & Fairfield Trustees Limited	1.9	W	Gore
Landcorp Farming Limited (Lynmore Farm)	8.9	W	Southland
McLean	8.3	G S	Southland
Rowley	32.7	F	Southland
Thomas	3.6	F W	Southland

Oversight: Mr and Mrs Grierson's Otorohanga covenant was registered in May 2002 but not listed. Grierson Memorial Bush, now under new ownership, protects 8.3ha of primary lowland forest.

Key:

W Wetland
S Shrubland
Ge Geological feature
Ga Garden / arboretum
G Grassland
F Forest
A Archaeological feature

Covenants update

As at 1 June 2005, there were 2,085 registered open space covenants covering 70,952 hectares. In addition, there were a further 641 approved covenants covering 21,845 hectares, awaiting registration. The regional breakdown based on Regional Council boundaries is as follows.

Regional Council	Total land area in the region (ha)	No. of registered covenants	No. of approved covenants	Total area registered & approved (ha)	Largest registered covenant in region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)
Northland	1,250,000	318	76	7,613	417	19.3
Auckland	500,000	157	39	3,363	841	17.2
Waikato	2,500,000	328	102	13,540	645	31.5
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	120	21	10,159	6,564	72.0
Gisborne	826,500	73	26	3,440	1,104	34.7
Taranaki	723,600	113	32	2,983	334	20.6
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	119	63	10,786	4,606	59.2
Horizons	2,221,500	199	45	5,296	276	21.7
Wellington	813,000	176	80	5,557	824	21.7
Tasman	978,600	72	22	1,695	642	18.0
Nelson	42,100	10	2	448	145	37.3
Marlborough	1,049,500	24	12	1,381	172	38.4
West Coast	2,300,000	18	13	1,639	619	52.9
Canterbury	4,220,000	145	38	11,374	1,679	62.2
Otago	3,200,000	85	38	10,056	2,735	81.8
Southland	3,035,500	128	32	3,467	214	21.7
Totals	**26,303,400**	**2085**	**641**	**92,797**		

Fragments

Gifts and bequests

QEII is helped greatly by money or assets gifted in people's wills or in their lifetimes.

You may wish to support the Trust's work in general or help the Trust protect a special place or species in particular.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of contributing to QEII by gift or bequest, please phone CEO Margaret McKee at Freephone 0508 732 878.

Biodiversity funding for landowners

Applications for the next round of Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund funding will be closing around September 2005. Projects can include activities such as fencing or pest control.

Individuals or groups can apply independently or through the local council or through QEII Trust. For further information, application forms and project criteria visit: **www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html**.

Permanent forest sinks

Landowners may be interested in 'growing' carbon in permanent forests, which can be claimed as tradeable 'emission units' under the Kyoto Protocol. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI), including drafting of new legislation, to manage the process. For information, or to subscribe to the PFSI newsletter, contact: **Clayton.Wallwork@maf.govt.nz** or visit **http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/pfsi/** or Ph: (03) 379 1941.

Things to buy

QEII Swanndri® Vest

A high-quality merino wool vest, embroidered with the QEII logo.

Price: $165 including GST and postage (Navy only)

Sizes available:	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Chest (cm)	94	99	104	114	124	134
Waist (cm)	80	85	90	100	110	120

QEII Greetings Card

Pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Inside of card is blank.

Price: $30 including GST and postage

Order Form

Prices include GST and postage

Name

.....

Address (for courier delivery)

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

.....

❑ Please send a receipt

Vest size(s)..... x $165.00 each = $.....

Greeting cards (packs of 10 only)..... x $30/pack = $.....

Donation (optional) $.....

Total $.....

Method of payment – ❑ Cheque ❑ Mastercard ❑ Visa

Credit card details –

Number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

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

Signature.....

Please post your order form to QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington or Fax to 04 472 5578 or Phone 04 472 6626

About QEII open space covenants

How your covenant helps New Zealand

Many plants, animals and landscapes found in New Zealand are unique to this country. Their uniqueness 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.

While there is a network of publicly owned conservation areas, the vast majority (70%) of New Zealand's land remains in private ownership. Many habitats and features are found only in these areas. They can only be protected with the goodwill and action of landowners.

Practical land management and farm productivity

Many farmers are motivated to protect natural features because it makes good land management sense. Bush and wetlands help filter rain and runoff ensuring 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 areas not only allows the regeneration of the bush, but also helps protect stream banks, water quality and keeps stock out of hard to manage areas. Healthy bush and natural landscapes beautify and add economic value to farm properties.

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

Members receive:

- A year's subscription to our magazine *Open Space* – three issues a year.
- Free entrance to properties owned or administered by the following organisations: 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, National Trust for Zimbabwe.
- Entitlement to nominate and vote two members onto the QEII National Trust Board of Directors.

QEII covenantors become members automatically.

Please fill out this membership application form and send it to: **QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington or Free-phone 0508 732 878.**

QEII National Trust Membership Application

Name……

Address……

……

……

Telephone……..…… Email……

Membership Type – tick appropriate category

❑ Individual $30 ❑ Family $45 ❑ Life $550

❑ Corporate – business (on application)

❑ Corporate – non profit organisation $50

(Subscriptions include GST)

Donation – optional (tick box):

Donations over $5.00 are tax deductible

❑ $100 ❑ $50 ❑ $20 ❑ Other $……..

Method of payment – ❑ Cheque ❑ Mastercard ❑ Visa

Credit card details – Number

Cardholder name……..…… Expiry date……..

Signature……..……..……..……

Total $…….. ❑ Please send a receipt

Please send me information on:

❑ Making a bequest to the Trust ❑ Open Space Covenants

Gift Membership

Gift to: name & address……..……

……..……..

Send next year's renewal to me ❑ to the recipient ❑

Membership runs from 1 July to 30 June. New memberships after 31 March will come due for renewal 30 June the following year.

Helping you protect the special nature of your land

What is a QEII open space covenant?

A covenant is a legally binding protection agreement which is registered on the title of the land. It is voluntary but once in place binds the current and all subsequent landowners. Private property rights are not jeopardised - the landowner retains ownership and management of the land. Visitor access is available only with the landowner's prior permission.

Each covenant is unique. It can apply to the whole property or just part of the property. There can be different management areas within a covenant with varying applicable conditions. Conditions can be stringent where rare or vulnerable natural features or habitats are being protected.

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

The average covenant size is around 38 hectares, the largest is over 6,500 hectares. There are currently over 2,700 registered and approved covenants extending from the Far North to Stewart Island from sea level to above the bush line.

Managing an open space covenant

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

Each covenant is visited regularly, usually every 2 years, to monitor its condition and trends, identify and address any threats, and advise the owner about how to meet the covenant objectives.

How to covenant your special area

If you wish to protect a special area on your property, the following steps are typically needed to gain a QEII open space covenant.

- **Enquiry.** Ask your region's QEII representative (see inside front cover) to visit your property.
- **Evaluation.** The QEII representative will evaluate your special area against a wide range of criteria including: ecological and biodiversity value, naturalness, sustainability, existing or potential value as an ecological corridor, wildlife, geological features, landscape values, cultural and heritage values. There will also be practical considerations including: management needs, threats to site values, your motivation and potential sources of funding.
- **Approval**. The QEII Trust Board will consider the evaluation, and approve the covenant if it meets the criteria. You will then be asked to sign a covenant agreement.
- **Fencing**. If required, the covenant area will have to be fenced next.
- **Survey**. An accurate survey plan or aerial photodiagram of the covenant area will be prepared, which you will need to check and sign.
- **Registration**. The covenant will then be formally registered on the title of your land with Land Information New Zealand. QEII will lodge all the necessary documentation.

Funding assistance

You may be eligible for assistance in funding your QEII open space covenant in a number of ways:

- Fencing costs
- Weed and pest control
- Rates relief
- Restoration planting.

Your QEII representative will be able to advise you about possible sources of funding.

Photo: Robyn Smith

Winter-flowering climbing rata, Metrosideros fulgens*, in full bloom at the Streeter covenant at Otaki Gorge.*

A place to visit

The Kaikoura Coast Track

A three-day private walk gives visitors the chance to experience spectacular scenery, natural features and farm environments on three North Canterbury farms.

Taking a well-earned break on Skull Peak (488m). The Seaward Kaikoura mountains are visible in the distance beyond the Hundalee Hills.

The track takes in JD Macfarlane's historic 1,800ha Hawkswood station, **Heather and Bruce Macfarlane's** 1,200ha 'Ngaroma' property, and **Sally, David and Pete Handyside's** 580ha 'Medina' property. The circular route takes walkers (or mountain bikers) from SH1 in the Conway River valley over the Hawkswood Range to coastal Conway Flat and back again. En-route features include panoramic views of the Kaikoura coast and mountains, seaside geological formations, varied wildlife and remnant native forest protected under QEII covenants.

Heather and Bruce have protected 104ha of remnant black beech forest and secondary podocarp/hardwood forest in their Buntings Gully covenant. The Handysides have covenanted 39ha of regenerating semi-coastal podocarp-hardwood forest in a small gorge cut by the Medina River. Both areas are listed as Significant Natural Areas (SNA) in the Hurunui District Plan. As Pete Handyside says, "We've got something special here and it's up to us to look after it."

Eco-tourism is one way the three landowners are diversifying and improving the sustainability of their properties. It ties in with improvements to raise grazing productivity on the easier terraces and flats while retiring or converting the steep, marginal hill country to commercial forest. Heather says a grant from ECan's Environmental Enhancement Fund has helped with fencing their covenant while the Coastal Conway Landcare Group has inspired locals to be innovative, covenant natural areas and take on collective pest control aided by a biodiversity condition fund grant. (See also 'Sawpit Creek', p.8.)

Visitors, numbering 1,000 annually, can learn about the farms and local natural history, while the track's Green Globe international tourism standard assures them it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Remnant black beech forest in Buntings Gully.

The Medina covenant protects remnant podocarp forest, including a 700 year-old kahikatea, varied bird life and a fern gully described as an "ecological gem" in the SNA report.

To visit

The track is open from October to April and caters for groups of up to 10. For bookings:
Phone: 03 319 2715
Email: **sally@kaikouratrack.co.nz**
Website: **www.kaikouratrack.co.nz**

Location

Start and finish at the Staging Post on SH1, 1½ hours' drive north of Christchurch or ¾ hours' drive south of Kaikoura.