



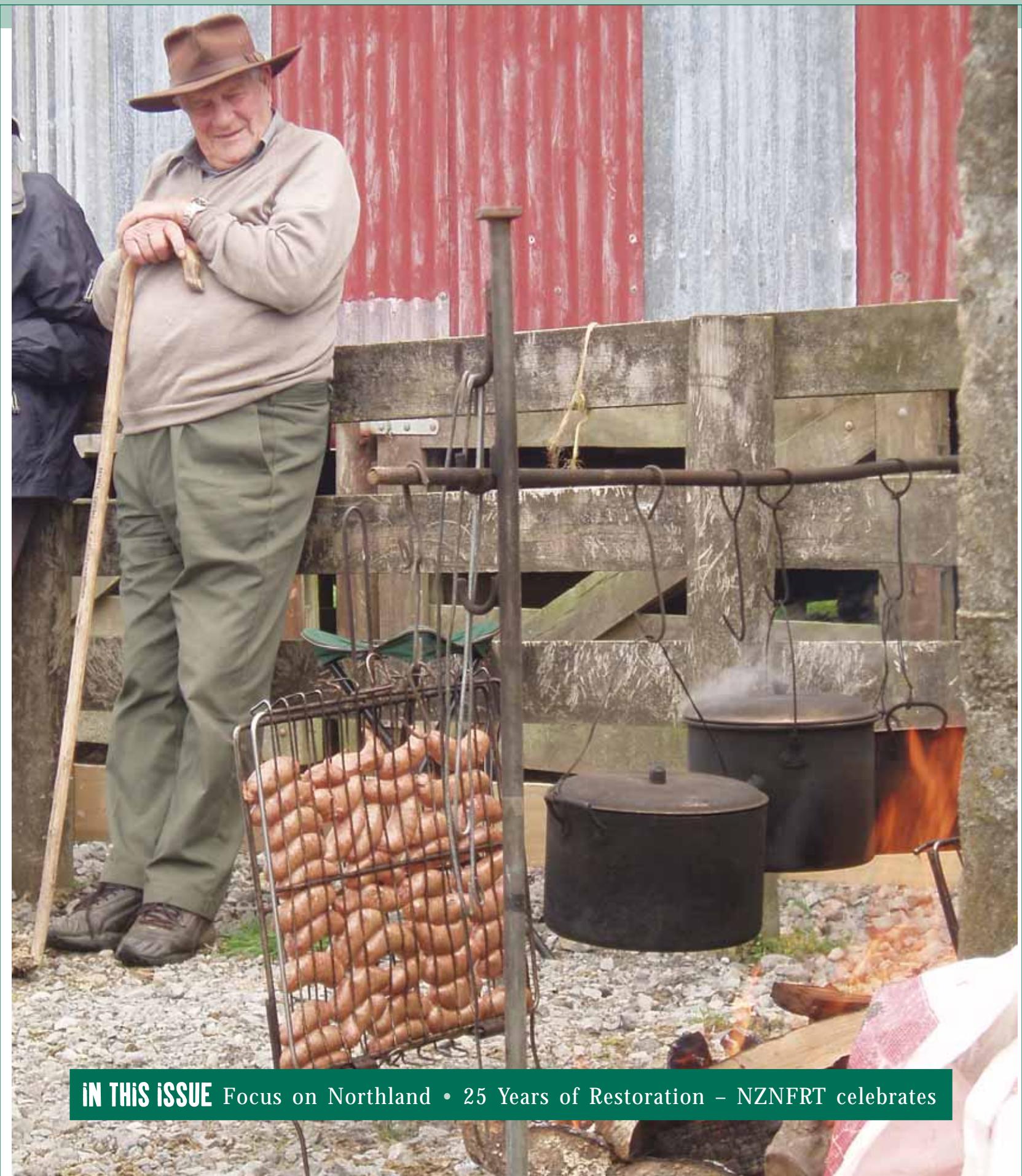
QE II National Trust  
For open space in New Zealand

Nga Kairauhi Papa

# Open Space<sup>TM</sup>

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

No. 65, November 2005



**IN THIS ISSUE** Focus on Northland • 25 Years of Restoration – NZNFRT celebrates

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# 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 73,300 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 27 properties which collectively protect over 1,800 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.

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

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Arthur Cowan, founding trustee of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, and former QEII director, keeps an eye on the billy tea and venison sausages that have become a tradition at NZNFR events. The Restoration Trust celebrates its first 25 years this year (see page 14).

Photo: Margaret McKee

# **Gift to all New Zealanders**

In an extraordinary gesture of generosity, Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat have gifted their 843ha farm to the Auckland Regional Council to become a regional farm park.

The Chatelanats have owned Atiu Creek Farm, which is located on the Tapora Peninsula in the Kaipara Harbour, since 1952. They have a strong desire to see the Kaipara Harbour area protected from development and accessible for public enjoyment.

With this in mind, they placed a QEII open space covenant over the farm last year to protect its landscape, archaeological features and natural character, including native flora and fauna. Subdivision is precluded but farming and public recreation is allowed.

The gifting was facilitated by QEII following the covenanting.

*The farm park will offer open space and wonderful views of the Kaipara Harbour.*



Photo: Auckland Regional Council.

*Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat at Atiu Creek Farm, which is currently run as a sheep and forestry unit, and includes remnant native bush.*



## **Fish habitats better connected at Taupo Swamp**

Native fish that need to migrate between the sea and fresh water for spawning can now do so much more easily at QEII's Taupo Swamp, thanks to a new fish 'ladder'.

A weir previously excluded inanga and giant kokopu from the swamp. It is hoped the ladder will see these species re-inhabit the swamp while also making migration easier for the other fish species already present.

The ladder was opened during Conservation Week to mark this year's theme "everything is connected." Greater Wellington Regional Council managed the project in co-operation with Porirua City Council, Ngati Toa, DOC and QEII, with \$10,000 funding from Transit New Zealand as part of its mitigation for SH1 upgrade works adjacent to the swamp.

*Greater Wellington engineer, Graeme Campbell, checks the new fish ladder. Ramped rocks, placed to form small pools and rivulets, enable fish to 'climb' over the weir.*



Photo: Greater Wellington

# Focus on: Northland

The Northland isthmus evokes iconic images of New Zealand:- the mighty kauri, boating holidays, pohutukawa-lined shores. It's an idyllic picture that has seen demand for property in the region escalate dramatically. Yet, high land costs have not dampened the desire of landowners to formally protect and manage their land for posterity.

As at 1 October 2005, 328 landowners had protected more than 5,800ha under registered covenants and a further 83 had approved covenants which will protect an additional 1,800ha when registered. As QELL rep for the Far North District Dr Greg Blunden says, "People are motivated to protect because undeveloped landscapes are becoming rare."

Significant areas of secondary forest are regenerating on previously cleared land but little primary forest remains, especially round Northland's coasts. Mammalian pests and exotic weeds have invaded, threatening the health and survival of the remaining native species and their habitats.

The following pages show some examples of Northland's coastal covenants and introduce some of the pest and weed management work being carried out.



## Kiwi country

Anthea Goodwin's 46ha covenant at Berghans Point, Mangonui, is ideal kiwi country. Manuka-dominated forest has regenerated since the land was briefly farmed in the 1970s and 1980s, when supplementary minimum prices made productive use temporarily viable. The forest, together with large patches of rank kikuyu grass and hakea, provides plenty of hiding places and abundant food for kiwi. The native wildlife is protected by integrated pest management, which also ensures the forest is healthy.

Fine examples of the much-loved pohutukawa, typical of Northland's coastlines, grace Anthea Goodwin's covenant at Takerau Beach. (Access is with prior permission only.)

Photo: Greg Blunden

## Botanic textbook

A wide range of temperate plant species are native to the Far North and the Lawler family covenant is a good case in point. Some interesting botanical associations - such as toru, kauri and tanekaha - occur in the 85 hectares of coastal modified primary and secondary forest at Taupiri Bay.

North Island brown kiwi are present in low numbers, and an integrated predator control system is being installed by QEII and the NZ Kiwi Foundation with financial assistance from the Biodiversity Condition Fund.



Photo: Greg Blunden

Toru (*Toronia toru*), the only endemic species of the *Toronia* genus, has fragrant flowers, leaves that can be red-tinged, and corky spots on the bark.

## McLean Bush

In his youth, Des McLean fenced it, later he milled kauri from it; - these days he prefers to walk in the bush and enjoy its tranquil beauty.

McLean Bush lies in the steep hill backdrop to the coastal settlement of Waipu, south of Whangarei. Although partially logged in 1976, the steep ridges are still dominated by kauri, rimu and rewarewa, while pockets of taraire, puriri, miro, totara and tawa nestle in the gullies alongside regenerating kanuka forest.

Threatened species identified include kukupa, tomtit, kauri snail and Hochstetter's frog. There have also been unconfirmed reports of North Island Brown Kiwi.

Des descends from one of the first European farming families in the area. Now retired, he wants to make sure this remaining bush is protected and retained in one piece.



Photo: Nan Pullman

Des Mclean at a favourite spot in his 38ha bush covenant.

## Coastal access

A designated coastal path across the Waitata Bay covenant in Russell gives beach access to the public. Antonio Pasquale of RPNZ Properties Ltd., which owns the land, says the company is very happy for people to enjoy the beach but, to protect the area and kiwi in it, no fires, camping or pets are allowed.

Regenerating coastal forest and shrubland on the 4ha covenant is returning to good health. Integrated pest management, which has been in place for five years through the Russell Kiwi Project, has benefited both native wildlife and the pohutukawa canopy (a favourite possum delicacy). Weed competition is also being targeted through a control programme and revegetation planting.



Photo: Greg Blunden

Remnant pohutukawa forest at Waitata Bay.

## Weeds can be a terrible tangle in Northland

Northland, with its mild winters, sub-tropical summers and history of inappropriate plant introductions by early European settlers, faces an ongoing battle against environmental weeds.

Nan Pullman, QEII Rep for Whangarei, says Biodiversity Condition Funding has made a huge difference to tackling the weed problem on covenants in her area.

Starting with 13 covenants in 2002, there are now 25 central Northland covenants receiving Biodiversity Condition Fund assistance. Often landowners have worked alongside

contractors or contributed by supplying materials or matching the funding.

Weeds tackled include – elaeagnus, ginger, privet, moth plant, wandering willie, climbing asparagus, Japanese honeysuckle, pampas, ladder fern, jasmine and hawthorn. Below, Nan comments on just a few examples of the work being done.



Japanese honeysuckle runs rampant amongst native trees (left). The landowner had tried a number of different control techniques with little success and the problem had become too big. Climbing vines were cut or pulled off clumps of ferns and shrubs before being sprayed with a mix of herbicides, with noticeable results (right).



Unfortunately, a small climbing asparagus seedling was not removed from the left-hand site when pointed out to a previous landowner three years before this photo was taken. Climbing asparagus quickly spreads and smothers. At right, much of the ground was covered with it. The light brown patches are the dead plants after spraying with glyphosphate. If you pull out vines or seedlings make sure you get all the roots, otherwise they can re-grow.



Photo: J. Boow, ARC

Monkey apples (above) are prolific so extra hands for hand pulling seedlings (left) are welcome.



Photo: Greater Wellington



Once a moth plant vine begins to flower it is easy to spot. At this site, the main stem was cut and swabbed with glyphosphate. Later in the season just as much effort went into collecting the seed pods, too, (top) because they each produce up to a thousand viable, wind-borne seeds.



Sometimes you need to look twice to see all the weeds. Competing around the forest edges here were hawthorn and privet (above left). At first the elaeagnus in the middle was not noticed – then it was seen climbing up out of the top of the totara, as shown in the after-treatment die-back (above right). While the smaller privets were cut and swabbed with glyphosphate some of the larger trees were ringbarked and left standing (left).



An open area at the top of this covenant (left) had previously been planted but was struggling against kikuyu, Chinese and tree privet, elaeagnus, and tobacco weed. The weed contractor began by targeting the larger seed sources which were closest to the more mature bush edge, then cutting and swabbing with glyphosphate, then hacking his way around the younger thickets of privet and elaeagnus before finally spraying the kikuyu (right).

Contact your regional council for information about pest plants in your area or visit the 'Related Links' section on the QEII website, [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz), for links to websites with pest plant fact sheets.

## Tomtits, Tui and Taraire Fruit

Increasing numbers of tomtits and tui, plus reports of improved kohekohe and taraire fruiting, are all positive signs that Marunui Forest is beginning to respond to an intensive pest control operation that began in early 2004.

Nestled on the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn Range, south of Whangarei, the 417ha forest was covenanted in 1990 by Marunui Conservation Ltd to "protect, conserve and enhance its flora and fauna".

With funds from the first three rounds of the Biodiversity Condition Fund, the company has set up an annual pest control programme based on management and monitoring recommendations by Wildlands Consultant scientist Dr. Ray Pierce.

So far pest contractor Sean Gardiner has completed the project's main aim of reducing possum and rat numbers, followed with a second operation late last year. Neighbours Carter Holt Harvey and the Department of Conservation have also supported the project by funding more possum control on their adjoining land.

Marunui shareholders have helped clear some nine kilometres of access



A PhD student looks out for karaka fruit during monitoring.

Photo: Nan Pullman

tracks for contractors, managed mustelid and magpie control and regularly set Timms traps. Now they are busy monitoring the health of the forest using ten-minute bird counts, photopoints of selected trees, and vegetation transects

to record the growth and recovery of selected areas over time.

The company is currently proceeding with the latest round of possum and rat control, this time funding the work itself.



Photo: Greg Blunden

Michael Winch checks and re-fills a bait station at his covenant near Keao. Note the puka and rata vines draping the kahikatea.

## Mammal pests in Northland

Possoms have devoured Northland's coastal forest in the last 30 years, targeting pohutukawa, kohekohe and other palatable and rare species. Shooting, trapping or poisoning can control possums but re-invasion is a major problem.

Rats are another big problem, devouring fruit and seeds in the forest, and robbing bird nests. They, along with mustelids (weasels, stoats and ferrets) and cats, are the major reason that indigenous birds such as North Island weka, kokako and hihi have disappeared from the region. They are also the reason why many other species such as kiwi and pateke (brown teal) are in decline. They are difficult to deal with and generally must be trapped, although secondary poisoning is very useful and cost effective.

# Dealing to pests – a combined approach works best

Far North QEII rep, Dr Greg Blunden, introduces the concept of Integrated Pest Management

**I**ntegrated pest management is an ideal way to approach pest control on your covenant. It means targeting all mammal pests: rats and possums, cats and mustelids, and the more opportunistic pests such as goats, pigs and dogs. You reduce the risk of one pest increasing to fill the place of another if you target them all and, above all, it optimizes the conditions for indigenous plant and animal species (and for your orchard and roses) to thrive.

It is best to set-up a circular track for bait stations and traps, aligned to give best coverage through and around your covenant. Pests like to use trails, so base your design on their routes when possible. Skirt open spaces, include ridges and use existing paths and trails where suitable. Simply tag the route with tape if you don't wish to form a track.

Some people don't like using bait but control by trapping is very expensive, time consuming and sometimes ineffective. Usually bait stations are set about 100 metres apart with traps placed strategically and relocated as required by results and observation. Bait bags or Feracol® baits can be stapled to trees between the bait stations to get better coverage and to kill mice. In kiwi country all toxins should be placed at least 700mm off the ground. Norway rats *Rattus norvegicus* are often caught as a by-catch in Fenn traps used for trapping mustelids, or can be poisoned using tunnels stapled to the ground with No.8 wire.

## Getting started

Seek advice and/or assistance from your QEII rep, or from DOC, regional council staff, pest control contractors, Forest & Bird members, Landcare groups, or someone you know who is doing successful pest management at their place.

How do you fund pest management? Possible sources include regional councils, most of which have environment funds to assist private landowners, and the DOC-run Biodiversity Condition Fund which makes money available for projects that improve indigenous biodiversity. Generally you are expected to contribute half the costs.



Photo: Greg Blunden

Tammy Daniels sets a SA cat trap to protect wildlife on Aroha Island, the 12ha QEII-owned coastal covenant at Kerikeri where kiwi habitat and mangrove forest are protected.

# Narrow-leaved maire makes a come-back on the Waimea Plains

Until recently, only five specimens of the once widespread narrow-leaved maire were known to remain on Nelson's Waimea Plains. Now, several hundred seedlings are putting down roots thanks to some timely intervention.

Intervention began in 2001 when Tony and Barbara Cameron noticed the old maire on their QEII covenant near Brightwater was in heavy bloom. This was noteworthy as the district's five surviving trees (three of which are on QEII covenants) had rarely flowered in the preceding 20 years and no seeds or seedlings had been recorded.

They alerted Lawrie Metcalf, well-known local author of books on native plants. He found the tree to be male. As luck would have it, the only known female tree in the area was also in full bloom, but it was too far away to be pollinated by wind.

Tony and Barbara called in Martin Conway, former QEII rep and dedicated plant conservationist, who with Laurie's help, cut flowering branches from the male tree and tied them high up in the female tree. As they hoped, pollen fell onto the female flowers and seed was set. The ripe seeds were collected in a net around the base of the tree in 2002 and germinated at Martin and Jo Conway's Titoki Native Plant Nursery.

Three years later several hundred seedlings were ready for planting out. Last winter the Tasman Environmental Trust distributed the plants to volunteer landowners with suitable sites around the Tasman District as part of its programme to restore rare plants in the district.



Photo: Philip Lissaman

That's not the end of the story though. As Martin Conway says, "Rare plants can only survive or increase if their habitats are well managed. These seedlings will require nurturing and active protection from animal damage and weed competition."

Source: Martin Conway, 03 542 3712



Photo: Martin Conway

(Top) Father of the new generation of seedlings. The old narrow-leaved maire at the Cameron's covenant has withstood stock damage, a lowered water table, and road encroachment.

(Left) Kerry Marshall, Chair of the Tasman Environmental Trust, at the inaugural planting of narrow-leaved maire seedlings.

# Acutely threatened plants in QEII covenants

QEII covenantors are protecting some of New Zealand's most vulnerable and threatened plant species.

Of the 129 native plant species currently listed as Acutely Threatened (those with a total national population of fewer than 5000 individuals), nearly a quarter are present in registered QEII covenants, and of the 91 Acutely Threatened species that are not confined to Crown conservation lands, one third are represented in QEII covenants.

"That's an incredible achievement but it's also a huge responsibility," says well-known botanist and QEII rep Brian Molloy. "The legal protection is an important first step but on its own it's not enough to guarantee survival. These plants need good ongoing management as well - management of the plants themselves and management of their habitats."

With this in mind, QEII and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network have embarked on a joint pilot project to provide QEII reps and landowners with advice on managing and monitoring populations of threatened plant species. The project began in September with funding assistance of \$36,000 from the Biodiversity Advice Fund.

An experienced ecologist, together with the landowner and local QEII rep, will inspect selected covenants where Acutely Threatened plant species occur. A management and monitoring plan will then be prepared to guide both the landowner and the QEII rep in managing each threatened plant population to enhance its survival and recovery.

QEII Technical Officer (Biodiversity) Kathryn Whaley says the project will help to build an invaluable body of knowledge and practical management recommendations. "We're aiming to develop a package of advice and information to give to our covenantors and reps that, when applied, will help to ensure these unique species persist."

Acutely threatened plants protected by QEII covenants as at August 2005				
Threat classification	Nationally Critical	Nationally Endangered	Nationally Vulnerable	Total
Number of classified species	54	54	21	129
Number of species protected in QEII covenants	12	11	8	31
% of species protected in QEII covenants	22%	20%	38%	24%

Source: "Protecting Threatened Plants on Private Land", conference paper presented to the NZPCN 2005 conference by Brian Molloy.



QEII Board members inspect specimens of the Nationally Critical *Poa spania* at the Awahokomo covenant in North Otago where weathered limestone formations provide specialised habitat.



Photo: G. M. Crowcroft, courtesy NZ Plant Conservation Network

Swamp musk (*Mazus novaezealandiae* subsp. *impolitus f. hirtus*) was once widespread through northern New Zealand but is now known at only two locations. One of these is at Foley's Bush, a QEII covenant near Kaitaia, where special management is needed to maintain the open, damp ground the musk requires.

# Waikato research – how successful is tui nesting?

Tui are iconic songsters, and are welcome visitors to rural and urban gardens in many parts of New Zealand. They are important pollinators of native tree flowers and dispersers of native fruits, and so play a key functional role in native forest ecosystems.

In the central Waikato, tui are uncommon, and factors limiting their populations are poorly understood. So Landcare Research scientists colour banded and attached radio transmitters to tui caught in urban and rural Waikato during October 2004, and attempted to follow the birds back to their nest sites in the breeding season (November to February). Results confirmed that tui were winter visitors to towns, flying 7 – 16km from urban areas back to nesting places, mostly in or near to the closest native forest remnants.

Eleven nests were located and monitored. Of these only three fledged



Photo: David Mudge

Time lapse video footage shows ship rats to be particularly adept at reaching birds' nests.

young successfully. Time-lapse video cameras, and the sign left at nests, showed possums and ship rats were major predators of tui, taking eggs, chicks or the sitting female at four nests in this study. Australasian harriers took eggs or chicks or the sitting female from two nests, one chick fell from a nest, and one nest failed for unknown reasons.

The predators identified in the Waikato tui study were exactly those revealed by previous studies of kokako and kererū in North Island podocarp-broadleaved forest.

Of note was one tui nesting in a park environment on the edge of Hamilton, and another in a planted

lemonwood hedgerow on a farm near Whatawhata, showing that tui will nest in exotic trees and landscapes. Both these nests failed because ship rats ate the eggs before the female had finished laying!

Tui numbers have frequently increased greatly when pest animals have been controlled in 'mainland islands'. This suggests that locating and protecting tui nesting attempts in other localities is likely to increase abundance, especially as young tui are known to nest near to where they themselves were fledged.

Source: abridged from *Kararehe Kino, Vertebrate Pest Research, Issue 6*, Landcare Research New Zealand Limited.



Photo: Courtesy Waikato Times

Landcare Research scientist John Innes releases a tui at Cambridge after attaching a transmitter and coloured leg bands.

# Bringing back the tui

Tui are mainly forest birds and are much less numerous in areas of intensive pastoral farming where little native forest remains. However, as many of us have seen, they will venture out of the forest into farmland and urban areas in search of food. Landowners can encourage their wider distribution by providing 'stepping stone' food sources and cover outside forest areas.

## Bird feeding at Maungatautari

A new birdfeeder in Jean and Duncan Macky's Waikato garden has been a tui magnet.

The feeder is one of a standard design developed by the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust to 'train' local nectar-eating native birds to visit feeding stations at Maungatautari for improved monitoring and visitor viewing.

The Trust plans to enclose Maungatautari, a forested volcanic cone near Cambridge, with a pest-proof fence. The proposed fence will enclose over 3300ha of Maori and privately owned land, as well as a Waipa District Council scenic reserve, and is likely to eventually incorporate some 30 new QEII covenants.

The Mackys live in the buffer area around the mountain where small native forest remnants and gardens, like those on their own farm, provide 'stepping stones' of



Photo: Phil Brown Photography

A tui enjoys the 3-cups-sugar-to-3-litres-water solution in the Macky's birdfeeder. To avoid attracting bees and wasps and perhaps spreading bee disease, honey should not be used.

food and habitat for birds. They are one of a number of landowners who installed the training feeders because tui were already on hand, feasting in their winter-flowering garden.

"We had success within about three weeks," Duncan recalls. "There's one dominant male who only lets his mate feed, but we've also seen several younger ones drinking when he's away."

Chris Smuts-Kennedy who is running the bird feeding project, says the bright colours were used to attract birds and help them recognise the feeding stations at Maungatautari. Once sufficient birds have learned to visit the feeding stations, sturdy permanent feeders of a less gaudy design will be gradually introduced.

For more information contact: Chris Smuts-Kennedy 07 823 1331 or visit [www.maungatrust.org](http://www.maungatrust.org)



The dominant male tui fluffs up to repel intruders.



# Twenty-five years of restoration

## The New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust celebrates

A leading example in private conservation, NZNFRT is going strong after 25 years, and proud of its achievements. The Trust was formed in 1980 by individuals distressed by decades of native forest destruction who wanted to put back some of what had been lost. Its volunteer members have worked faithfully to this end and today the Trust is actively engaged in restoring some 5500ha in its 25 reserves from the Far North to north-west Nelson.

Chairperson Brian Davis says it's also rewarding to see similar projects underway all over the country. "We see increasing numbers of local people working together to rescue important bush areas. There was little of that when we got started and we like to feel we led the way."

All the 25 NZNFRT properties are protected in perpetuity under QEII National Trust covenants and QEII has been delighted to support the Trust's vision and dedication.

*Threatened species protected in NZNFRT covenants include the greenhood orchid, Pterostylis paludosa (centre right) at Mangarakau Swamp.*

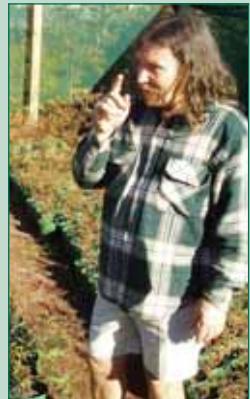
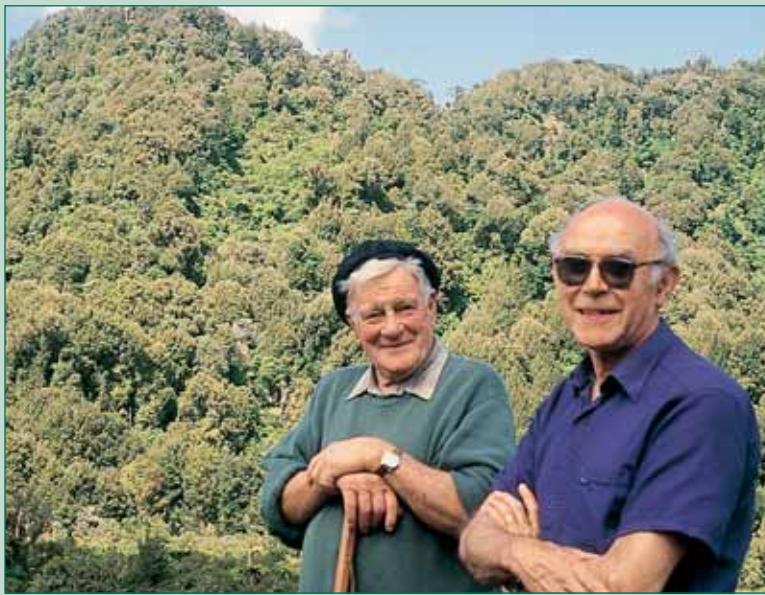


Photo: NZNPCN

*Notable leadership has come from Stephen King (right) in the Waipoua area, Arthur Cowan (below left) in the King Country and Brian Davis (below right) in acquiring new reserves.*



### NZNFRT answers some frequently asked questions

#### What is your main objective?

To encourage and undertake restoration of degraded or destroyed indigenous habitats and plant communities.

#### Where do you get the money to buy land?

Basically from our supporters. We are always impressed by the generous response to our land purchase appeals and have also been greatly helped by some substantial bequests. Recently we have been looking more for funding from bodies such as the Nature Heritage Fund or the Lottery Grants Board.

#### How do you select land for purchase?

We consider whether the land is close to a major block of bush as larger forest areas are more sustainable; the threat from weed or animal pests and our ability to manage the site; the ecological importance of the block; and whether it is under threat.

#### How do you restore a reserve?

Some reserves need little restoration as they are well covered with mature bush. Others need weed and pest control, and others may need active seeding. We don't do as much actual planting now as we once did, preferring to rely on natural regrowth which we encourage



by creating the right conditions. In this way we aim to achieve ecological restoration by encouraging the species that are biologically suited to local conditions rather than introducing species from other ecological systems.

### **Are your reserves open to the public?**

Yes, they are open for all to use. Some may need the permission of an adjacent farmer for access and some may not have usable tracks.

### **How can I join the Trust?**

We don't have a membership but if you make a donation we add your name to our supporters' data base. Some people prefer to make a donation when there is an appeal for a new purchase; others prefer to make a regular automatic payment each month.

### **How do you keep in touch with your supporters?**

All supporters receive our newsletter, CANOPY, three times year. It contains news about activities, new reserves, our honorary rangers, and the ongoing war on pests and weeds. CANOPY can also be read on our website.

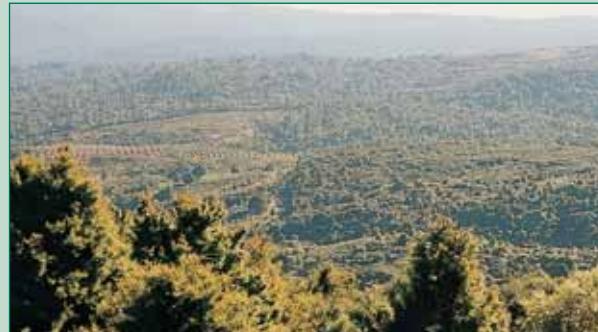
### **And the Future?**

Readers will know that there is no end to the opportunities for rescuing important blocks of bush from further degradation. The need to control the many weeds and animals that threaten the health of the bush and the survival of the birds is never-ending. There is plenty to keep us all busy for a long time to come.

**To contact the Trust** write to PO Box 80-007, Green Bay, Auckland 1230, or visit [www.nznfrt.org.nz](http://www.nznfrt.org.nz)

## **Healing Waipoua**

The Trust's first land purchase comprised 248ha of regenerating forest, scrub and pasture at the edge of the nationally significant Waipoua kauri forest in Northland. Te Iwi O Te Roroa has acquired a number of other nearby properties and formed the Waipoua Forest Trust in partnership with NZNFRT.



*Restoration work continues: at left manuka has been planted in rows on previously cleared land, while at right twenty years' of growth shows what can be achieved.*



*Kaumatua Davy Daniora and Jerry Birch plant a kauri in a restoration area at Waipoua.*

### **Waiwawa - the latest acquisition**

The Restoration Trust celebrated its 25th anniversary in October and opened its latest acquisition, Waiwawa Bush, a 61ha property on the Coromandel Peninsula.



*Photo: Margaret McKee*

*Geoff Davidson (left), founding NZNFRT trustee, with Bill Garland (centre), Deputy Chair of QEII National Trust. Geoff was instrumental in the acquisition of Waiwawa Bush and in helping bring Kaikoura Island into public ownership.*

<b>NZNFRT Covenanted Properties</b>		
Region	Name	Area (ha)
Northland	Puhoi Far North - Honeymoon Valley	241
	Puketi Mokau Reserve	318
	Prof. McGregor Memorial Reserve (3 covenants)	338
	Elvie McGregor Reserve	140
	Cynthia Hewett Reserve	153
Bay of Plenty	William Upton Hewett Reserve	242
	Palmer Reserve	8
	Waiwawa Bush	61
	Owen Lewis Reserve	244
	Rangitoto Station	427
Waikato	Pehitawa Kahikatea Forest	19
	Ross Bishop Memorial Reserve	6
	Basil Hewett Reserve	360
	Rauroa Bush	288
	Awakau Kiwi Reserve	91
Manawatu/ Wanganui	Steuart Russell Awakino Beech Reserve	645
	Retaruke Bush	199
	Kurua Bush	15
	Opoutama Wetland	68
	Omoana Bush	334
Taranaki	Pigeon Bush (2 covenants)	1157
	Mangarakau Swamp	145
<b>Total</b>		<b>5499</b>

## Historic sites

### Mangarakau swamp – another NZNFR Trust treasure

History is coming full circle as today's owners (the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust) set about restoring 160ha of Nelson's largest remaining freshwater wetland, now protected under a QEII covenant.

Given the 150-year history of gold mining, coal mining, logging and flax harvesting in the area, Mangarakau Swamp's survival is a miracle.

For starters, the 400ha swamp impeded access from as early as the 1860s, when gold and coal first brought miners into the remote area of northwest Nelson. Roads skirting the swamp were frequently boggy so, in 1907, the Collingwood County Council dug a

large central drain. The drain remains today but failed to defeat the swamp – as did subsequent attempts to drain and farm it.

The swamp's original vegetation – kahikatea / pukatea swamp forest and flaxland – were also valuable resources to early settlers. Flax harvesting began in the area in 1905 and a flaxmill operated at Mangarakau from 1911 until 1914 when many

workers left to join WWI.

A sawmill, established in 1909, also processed timber from the swamp and wider hinterland until 1920, and then again from 1932 to 1968. Vestiges of old wooden tram lines can still be seen along the old logging road beside the swamp, along with sawmill relics, and a huge chunk of a matai trunk which testifies to the grandeur of the former forest.



Photo: Tyree Studio Collection, 1776613, Tasman Bays Heritage Trust/Nelson Provincial Museum

*Loading bales of dressed flax at the former mill for shipping from West Whanganui Inlet. The flax was dressed by scrubbing under running water to separate out the plant fibres used for making rope and cloth.*



*Mangarakau Swamp: a nationally significant wetland and habitat for rare plant and animal species that has survived against the odds. The visitors' centre is centre photo.*

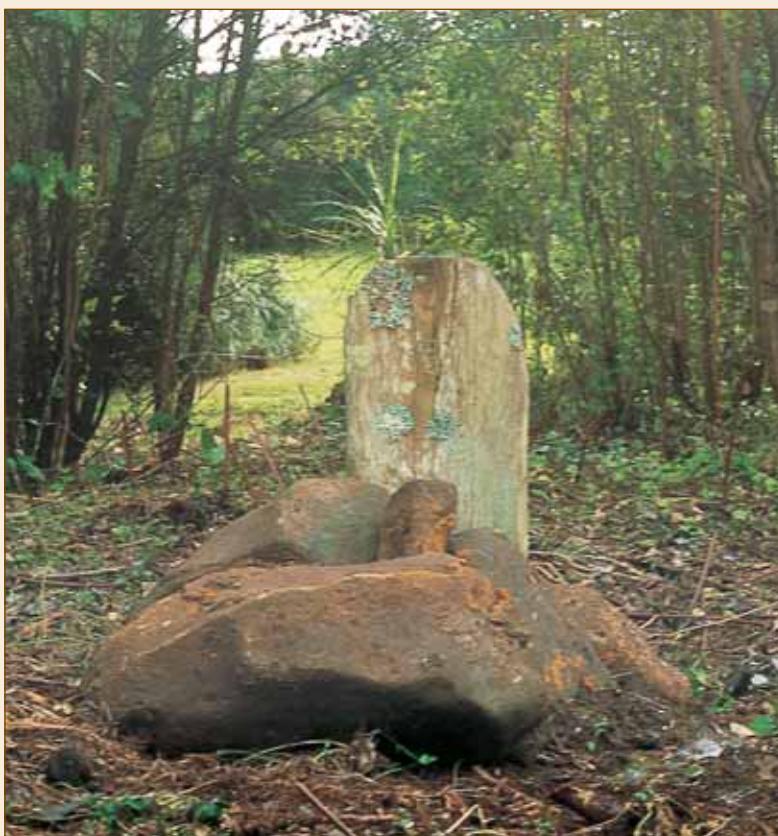
Photo: Margaret McKee

Today the houses, shops and post office of the once thriving Mangarakau settlement have gone, along with the extractive industries. Linking past with present, however, the Community Hall remains. Managed by Friends of Mangarakau Swamp on behalf of NZNFR Trust, it is now a visitors' centre and museum, housing historic photo and natural history displays.

A walkway enables visitors to explore the historic sites and see the next phase in Mangarakau's history - the restoration of its wetland ecology.

## Archaeological sites

### Sacred area recognised at Aroha Island



The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) has registered a two-hectare area at QEII's Aroha Island as the Aroha Wahi Tapu Area in recognition of its cultural and heritage significance.

The registered area includes a urupa of the Ngati Mau hapu and the nearby land where associated rituals were conducted. Although registration on the NZHPT Pouhere Taonga Register of wahi tapu sites does not give statutory protection, it is a means of advising property owners about heritage values on their land.

Aroha Island manager, Dr. Greg Blunden, welcomes the registration. "The wahi tapu area is already protected through the QEII National Trust open space covenant on the island but it's valuable to have the spiritual and archaeological values formally recognised in this way."

*A single wooden headstone at the centre of the Aroha urupa is one of a number of Christian burials included in the wahi tapu area.*

### Field guide to New Zealand archaeology planned – can you help?

Archaeologist Kevin Jones would like to hear from any QEII covenantors who might be willing to have their protected archaeological sites listed in a new field guide he is writing on New Zealand archaeology.

The guide will be for tourists, students and people interested in seeing New Zealand's early history on the ground. It will give a regional round-up of easily accessible sites with illustrated notes on each. Kevin is particularly interested in sites close to major tourist routes.

Access restrictions to any privately owned sites would be made clear and contact details for prior permission given. Owners would also be able to list complementary facilities such as homestay accommodation or walking tracks.

Contact: Kevin Jones, 04 388 8453 or write to 8 Burnham Street, Seatoun, Wellington.

*A shell midden uncovered beneath traces of whaling settlement at the Te Hoe whaling station covenant.*



Photo: Malcolm Piper

# Possum disease

Disease appears to have decimated possums in the Makarora area near Lake Wanaka.

As recently as November 2004, 50% trap line catch rates indicated a very high possum population. Then, after reports of dead and sick animals in the area, DOC conducted an intensive possum hunt in August this year and found very few possums or recent possum sign, according to Bruce Kyle, DOC Otago Conservancy animal pest ranger.

Postmortem results have been inconclusive but an outbreak of 'wobbly possum' disease is suspected. Scientist



Photo: Paul Hordelink

*Missing tail fur on a diseased possum, Makarora Valley, August 2005. Wasting and fur loss can be symptomatic of 'wobbly possum' disease.*

Bernie McLeod of AgResearch Invermay says the virus, which is transmitted by possum-to-possum contact (fighting, mating, mutual grooming and by blood-sucking mites), seems to break out when possum numbers are high, presumably due to increased contact through nest sharing.

DOC will check the Makarora possum population again in December to compare numbers with those recorded in November 2004.

The disease has been reported in various places around the country and informative reports of sick possum sightings could add to knowledge about the disease.

### What to look for

- Dead possums that do not appear to have died from shooting or poisoning, and which show signs of wasting, scouring or missing fur around the tail or rear end. As with all wild animals, alive or dead, do **not** handle with bare hands.
- Sightings of live possums that are obviously sick and/or out feeding during the day: - note when and where they were seen and how many.
- Unexplained reduction in possum numbers in your area: - note reasons for suspecting reduced numbers.

Please contact your QEII rep with any information to pass on to DOC.

## Taranaki possum blitz

A serious possum knockdown is hoped following a 1080 drop over an area of 1500ha in east Taranaki involving 29 landowners.

At the heart of the area is Bob and Karen Schumacher's covenant. The Schumachers have combined forces with their neighbours to protect kiwi on their land. They have set up the East Taranaki Environmental Trust, which has received \$70,000 from the Biodiversity Condition Fund for a control programme that will target mustelids, rats and feral cats as well as ongoing possum control to back up the 1080 kill.

The \$60,000 1080 drop was funded by the Taranaki Regional Council and overseen by Pest Animal Manager George Gallop. George says monitoring lines are now being put in place. "It's important to gauge how effective the drop has been as we want the landowners to get a good start on their follow-on work."



*A helicopter at work during the 1080 drop in East Taranaki.*

Photo: Taranaki Regional Council

## Bulldozing fencelines

Bulldozing fencelines is becoming more common. However, a number of factors need to be considered.

A bulldozed fenceline is more accessible for construction and future maintenance, as materials and post-driving machinery can be brought in by tractor. Uneven ground can be smoothed out, reducing the problem of spanning humps and hollows, and enabling regular post spacing. Soil creep gradually burying mid-slope fences can be avoided by forming a clear bench for the fence. The overall cost is generally less than a hand-built fence, as the machine costs are usually more than offset by savings in time and labour.

However, the disturbed ground along a newly bulldozed fenceline can be ripe for weed invasion (right next to your new covenant) and can be prone to erosion if it slopes steeply. Sometimes, stock movement along the cleared line prevents pasture from re-establishing and contributes further to erosion.



*(Top right) Fencing at the top of the slope requires less preparation, is more accessible and less costly.*

*(Right) This mid-slope fence at the bush edge is vulnerable from soil creep and slippage on the slope above.*

### Tips

- Avoid bulldozing fencelines down steep slopes, especially in areas of unstable soil type.
- Consider extending the area of your covenant beyond the existing edge of the bush or feature you want to protect, so you can run your fence along the top of the slope and avoid mid-slope boundaries. Site disturbance is likely to be less and access easier.
- Follow contours where possible, using more angles.
- Select a good operator with a suitable machine for adequate finishing of uphill cuts, compacting fill, forming water cut-offs on slopes and forming culverts. Mini diggers may disturb less ground though be less efficient than a dozer.
- Restrain the operator - you do not need a highway!
- Ensure your fence is on hard ground, not fill.
- Beat the weeds by reinstating disturbed ground as soon as possible by fertilising and resowing with pasture grass.



*Bare ground along bulldozed fencelines can be erosion-prone on steep slopes and invites weeds.*

**Extracts from**

## **QEII National Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2005**

The report was audited by Ernst and Young on behalf of the Auditor General. The full annual report can be viewed on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz) or phone Freephone 0508 732 878 to request a copy by post.

### **Chairman's and Chief Executive's Report**

Another great year of extraordinary achievement for private land conservation by QEII has given an excellent return on a Government investment of 3 million dollars.

During the year we had sufficient funding to approve 332 new covenant proposals (9,963 hectares) and commit to survey costs and fencing contributions. The variety of covenants is stunning; coastal paradises, rare endangered wetlands, wildlife habitats, forested stream catchments, historic sites and iconic landscapes; - and there is no shortage of willing landowners.

The monitoring and stewardship programme, where we visit each covenant every second year, continues to grow as the number of covenants steadily increases. The contestable condition funds for pest control have also enabled more input to covenant management. The monitoring results again showed less than 3% poor adherence to agreed covenant conditions. This admirable record in land management is a reflection of the landowners' commitment and passion towards their covenants.

Our nation-wide advice and assessment service continued to expand with the appointment of four additional regional representatives, bringing the total to 25.

Board meetings were held in Seddon, Geraldine, Lake Brunner and Whitianga, enabling the Directors to meet with covenantors in their rural communities. Covenantors' pride in their protected areas and humility in their achievements is truly inspirational.

Our science and technology capability continues to develop, including significantly improved information through the development of GIS mapping. We have worked increasingly with Landcare Research. Their threatened environment work using LENZ (Land Environments of New Zealand) enables the Trust to be more strategic in focussing on priority areas. Councils are vital partners in our work and our relationships with them have continued to grow.

We continue to review the QEII-owned property portfolio and the management options. During the year, we transferred the ownership of "Three Streams" to the North Shore City Council. The property will be managed with an adjoining reserve as a valuable recreational open space for the people of Albany.



'Open Space' magazine, which highlights QEII covenantor stories and land management techniques, continues to improve. Extended distribution has enabled us to advocate private land protection to a wider rural community.

Award-winning farms in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (that showcase profitability and sustainability) commonly have QEII covenants with the land area they protect ranging from 3-15% of the property. Extrapolated out across rural New Zealand, these best practice examples of profitable and sustainable farming show the potential for safeguarding our rural landscapes. QEII is currently trustee of 92,000 hectares, or approximately 0.5% of the 16 million hectares under farmland in New Zealand. There is plenty to aspire to!

QEII open space covenants are a uniquely kiwi and altruistic model for nature protection on private land, making conservation realistically affordable. It is our privilege to work in partnership with landowners and share in their generosity and passion for their land.

*Sir Brian Lochore*

Sir Brian Lochore  
Chairperson  
20 September 2005

*Margaret McKee*

Margaret McKee  
Chief Executive  
20 September 2005



QEII National Trust Board meeting at Whitianga. Left to right: Deputy Chairperson Bill Garland, Dr Sue Bennett, CEO Margaret McKee, Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore, Dr Geoff Walls, Lorraine Stephenson, and Yvonne Sharp.

**Statement of Financial Performance** for the Year Ended 30 June 2005

2004 Actual \$		2005 Actual \$	2005 Budget \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
1,318,222	Government Grant - Base Funding	1,318,222	1,318,000
1,333,334	Government Grant - Biodiversity	1,555,556	1,555,000
336,717	Contestable Funds	312,226	571,620
145,962	Donations and Other Grants	177,902	188,000
320,254	Interest from Investments	436,330	360,000
134,797	Other Revenue	95,093	74,700
<b>3,589,286</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,895,329</b>	<b>4,067,320</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
941,718	Field Operations	974,134	1,020,000
696,270	Covenant Expenditure (Note 2)	883,935	1,020,475
135,972	Contestable Funds	312,226	571,620
636,780	Administration (Note 1)	784,789	733,847
128,403	Property Operations	102,901	138,043
98,707	Public Relations	144,568	152,647
76,996	Depreciation (Note 8)	76,009	74,676
<b>2,714,846</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,278,562</b>	<b>3,711,308</b>
<b>874,440</b>	<b>Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/ Disposals</b> (See Note Below)	<b>616,767*</b>	<b>356,012</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) on Property Acquisitions/ Disposals</b>			
-	Property Gifted out by Trust	-530,265	-
250,000	Property Gifted to Trust	-	-
<b>1,124,440</b>	<b>Net Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>86,502</b>	<b>356,012</b>

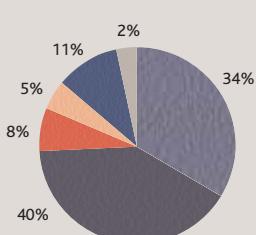
\* There is a commitment against this figure of \$760,040 which is allocated to fencing and survey costs for specific covenants approved during 2004/05 and is currently work in progress.

**Highlights from 2004/2005**

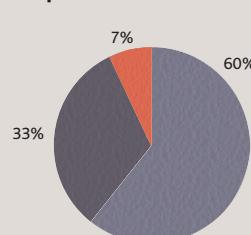
- Record number of new covenants approved: 332 protecting 9,963 hectares
- Record number of covenant registrations: 194 protecting 4,766 hectares
- Record number of covenants monitored: 971
- 233 new covenants contain threatened species or threatened environments

**Summary @ 30 June 2005**

Protected areas	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	2113	71,648
Approved covenants	609	20,492
<b>Total covenanted land</b>	<b>92,140</b>	
Formal agreements	22	752
Properties owned by the Trust	27	1,839
<b>Total protected area</b>	<b>94,731</b>	

**Financial statistics****\$ Income**

- Government-base funding
- Government-biodiversity funding
- Contestable funds
- Donations
- Interest from investments
- Other (including membership, property income)

**\$ Expenditure**

- New Covenants, approval through to registration
- Monitoring and management of covenants
- Property management

# Our native frogs

The recent DOC-run Frog Week in October highlighted the vulnerability of New Zealand's native frogs.

**A**lthough the seven endemic species were once widespread, three are now extinct and two are confined to offshore islands, leaving only two species on the mainland. The Hochstetter's frog is now found only in the upper half of the North Island and Archey's frog only on the Coromandel and at one site near Te Kuiti.

Frog populations are declining worldwide and it's not simply due to habitat loss. Frogs absorb substances through their semi-permeable skins and this makes them vulnerable to pollution and disease. The chytrid fungus, for instance, has caused the extinction of frog species in Australia and there is concern about its possible, but as yet unknown, affect in New Zealand. Our native frogs also are at the mercy of introduced predators.

Being small, nocturnal and voiceless, our frogs can be elusive and difficult to monitor, so the DOC Native Frog Recovery Group is keen to receive reports of sightings, especially in areas where native frogs are not known.

You're most likely to see them moving around if you watch quietly by torchlight. Contact your local DOC office with details of the location, the type of habitat (stream edge, forest floor etc), the time and the date of your sighting. Photographs are an added bonus! Avoid touching frogs as their skins are sensitive to damage and possible disease transmission.

For more information visit: [www.doc.govt.nz/Conservation](http://www.doc.govt.nz/Conservation)



Hochstetter's frog grows up to 48mm long, is dark brown, has slightly webbed feet and lives on stream edges.

Photo: G. Shirley, Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation



Archey's frog grows up to 37mm long, is brown with orange, red and black markings, and lives in misty, moist forest areas around 400m in altitude.

Photo: D. Garrick, Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

## Covenants update

As at 1 October 2005, there were 2173 registered open space covenants covering 73,377 hectares. In addition, there were a further 642 approved covenants covering 20,758 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	328	83	7,627	417	18.6
Auckland	500,000	167	39	3,502	841	17.0
Waikato	2,500,000	343	101	13,816	645	31.1
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	121	20	10,217	6,564	72.5
Gisborne	826,500	76	25	3,411	1,104	33.8
Taranaki	723,600	116	39	3,053	334	19.7
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	130	59	10,953	4,606	58.0
Horizons	2,221,500	207	46	5,504	276	21.8
Wellington	813,000	185	70	5,536	824	21.7
Tasman	978,600	75	24	1,761	642	17.8
Nelson	42,100	10	2	448	145	37.3
Marlborough	1,049,500	26	13	1,524	172	39.1
West Coast	2,300,000	20	17	1,702	619	46.0
Canterbury	4,220,000	151	33	11,362	1,679	61.8
Otago	3,200,000	90	33	10,032	2,735	92.4
Southland	3,035,500	128	38	3,687	214	22.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,303,400</b>	<b>2173</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>94,135</b>		<b>38.2</b>

## Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 June 2005 to 30 September 2005.

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council	Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
B K Matheson Limited	2.8	F, W	Whangarei	Macdonald & Parkes	2.0	F	Central Hawke's Bay
Johnston	1.7	F, Ge	Whangarei	Potter	107.1	F	Central Hawke's Bay
Palmer	1.0	F, T	Whangarei	McLean	1.4	F	Central Hawke's Bay
Mitchell Management Services Limited (x 3)	11.7	F, S	Whangarei	Spurway	2.6	F	New Plymouth
Hewlett	1.9	F	Whangarei	Door	28.5	F	New Plymouth
Kaipara District Council	1.6	F	Kaipara	Pearce	6.7	F	Rangitikei
Straka	3.7	F	Rodney	Accounting & Planning Services Limited	3.0	F	Manawatu
Cowley	3.0	F, S	Rodney	Thomson	2.4	F	Manawatu
Thompson	2.0	F	Rodney	Oxenham	27.2	F, Ga	Palmerston North
Cole	2.0	F, S, G	North Shore	Hilson	5.5	F	Tararua
Golden Heights Estate Limited	1.8	F	Auckland	McKenzie	6.8	F	Tararua
Grant & Galbreath	1.7	F	Franklin	Tapui Land Company Limited	16.0	F, T	Tararua
Driving Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Trust	1.6	W	Thames-Coromandel	Thorpe	2.8	F	Kapiti Coast
McNiell (x 4)	82.6	F, W, L	Thames-Coromandel	McKie & Hoch	1.0	F	Tasman
Tapuaetahi Trustees Limited & Tapuaetahi Bay Trustee Limited	9.1	F, G	Thames-Coromandel	Mather	11.2	F	Tasman
Cunningham	4.1	W, T	Waikato	Clausen and Rewcastle	2.8	F	Tasman
Lakeland Downs Limited (x 2)	1.9	F, T	Waipa	Harvey	3.3	F	Marlborough
Hoyle	19.8	F	Waipa	Harvey	8.2	F, S, W	Marlborough
Bradshaw	2.3	S	Western Bay of Plenty	Alpine Discovery Limited	863.1	F, S, G	Kaikoura
Grainger	53.0	F, W	Otorohanga	Hazlett	23.9	F, S	Hurunui
Oliver	22.1	F	Otorohanga	Bosselman	4.0	F	Grey
Easton	15.6	F	Waitomo	Hille	0.7	F	Banks Peninsula
Fisher & Seymour	17.2	F	Gisborne	Brailsford & Cook	9.4	F, S, G	Banks Peninsula
Prokont Aktiebolag	12.0	F	Gisborne	Tripp	24.2	W, G	Selwyn
Thomas	2.3	F	Gisborne	Avery, Taylor & Springford	0.3	F	Westland
Horizon Trust Management Limited	32.7	F, S	Wairoa	The Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Charitable Trust	18.7	F, G	Timaru
Dickie	36.3	F	Ruapehu	Waianakarua Coast Farm Limited	6.9	G	Waitaki
Olsen	54.3	F	Hastings	Hewett Farm Limited	21.1	F, S	Clutha
Anderson	3.0	L	Hastings	Charteris	29.5	F, S, G	Queenstown-Lakes
Oingo Holdings Limited	2.4	W	Hastings	Emmerson	65.4	G	Queenstown-Lakes
Allen	34.7	F	Hastings				
Hartree	10.5	F	Hastings				
Russell	1.6	T	Central Hawke's Bay				

### Key:

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

## Do you have a favourite native plant?

If so, visit [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz) to vote for it. You can vote up to five times on the plant voting system running on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website. Voting will be open until 30 November with the results published on the website during December.



# 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.



## Take a break

*in a peaceful coastal setting at QEII's own Aroha Island*



- Camping and accommodation
- Venue hire
- Outdoor activities
- Kiwi and nature study
- Ecological centre



12 km from Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands.

Contact managers  
Greg and Gay Blunden.

Ph: 09 407 5243

[www.aroha.nz](http://www.aroha.nz)

## 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



From an original painting by Janet Batherson

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

**Price: \$30**  
including GST and postage

### Order Form

Name  
.....

Address (for courier delivery)  
.....

Telephone  
.....

Please send a receipt

Prices include GST and postage

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

# Trust People

## Kaipara

Nick Matich has been appointed QEII rep for the Kaipara area, taking over part of Nan Pullman's former territory. Nan will continue as rep for the Whangarei area.

Nick already knows QEII well, having worked on a number of Northland covenants carrying out weed control and monitoring assessments during the last 18 months. He has a background in civil engineering, surveying and petrochemical testing. More recently, he was based at Whakapapa, working at the skifield and carrying out seasonal weed control and kiwi recovery programme work for DOC.

A snow-skiing and surfing enthusiast, Nick describes himself as a 'practical, outdoor type' and has developed a strong affinity with the New Zealand bush over many years of outdoor activities.

## Award winners

**F**ar North farmers **Doug and Sally Lane** received this year's Neil Barr Foundation Award for Young Farm Foresters. The Lanes have successfully integrated exotic and native production forest with cattle farming at their 240ha property and have been responsible for covenanting 70ha of regenerating native forest.

In Taranaki, long-serving Egmont National Park volunteers **Karen and Bob Schumacher** earned a DOC Conservation Award. They helped set up the Friends of Egmont National Park group, and have been involved in the BNZ Operation Nest Egg project to conserve Taranaki kiwi. They have protected kiwi habitat at their 70ha QEII covenant (see *Open Space*™ #63, p.17).



Photo courtesy Stratford Press

**Karen and Bob Schumacher with their DOC Conservation Award.**

*Nick Matich checking a kiwi for the DOC kiwi recovery programme.*



## Green Ribbon Award winners

David and Ngaire Bryant received a Green Ribbon Award from the Ministry for the Environment for their sustainable approach to farming and their efforts to encourage other farmers to do the same.

The Bryants have come full circle from originally clearing the scrub and bush off their 450ha Hawke's Bay farm to now fencing the gullies and riparian land, retiring unproductive steep land and planting 1,000s of trees for shelter, shade and aesthetics. In 1987 they protected 37ha of remnant native riparian forest under one of the earliest QEII covenants in Hawke's Bay.



Photo: Courtesy Country-Wide

**Green Ribbon Award winners, David and Ngaire Bryant.**

# 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.

## Ideal Gift

### QEII National Trust Membership

**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 and the largest is over 6,500 hectares. There are currently over 2,800 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

Your QEII open space covenant may be non-rateable. See the "QEII Recommended Best Practice to Local Government on Rates Relief" under the publications/policies section of the QEII website: [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz).

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



Photo: Marie Taylor

A red-berrried *Nertera depressa*, or bead plant, nestles into a bank at the Robertson covenant in Hawke's Bay.

# A place to visit

## 'Tarbert Glen'

It could be a Lord of the Rings location - a small forest-filled valley complete with splashing waterfall, limpid pools, bird song and, sometimes, human song.

Elves and hobbits have yet to visit but **Lorrimer and Ian McAlister's** 2.5ha covenant near Tauranga attracts all sorts of other visitors.

"We get lots of kids," says Lori. "School groups and the Forest and Bird Kiwi Conservation Club, walking groups and clubs. We had 40 vintage car club members here for a picnic and the Masonic Lodge had their Christmas do down in the bush. The sing-along sounded fantastic under the trees."

Sharing their covenant with others is a continuing reward for the McAlisters, who bought their 18ha farmlet back in 1987.

"We were looking for something much smaller," recalls Ian, "but we fell for the bush and the waterfall. The bush was in such a sorry state, we just had to rescue it. We bought ourselves a heap of work too, as the place had been a dump for 40 years. We hired a giant digger to haul out ten dumped car bodies. We planted hundreds of seedlings, took on the weeds and built walking tracks."

The McAlisters sold their grazing land in 1994 and focussed on their restoration work. Their garden is full of nectar and berry-bearing plants, where visitors are welcome to picnic and watch feasting tuis and wood pigeons. One of the tuis is a great mimic and has had visitors unwittingly reaching for their cell phones!

Ian and Lori insist on guiding visitors through the covenant for safety and to ensure nothing is missed - perhaps orange-flowered rata, luscious fuchsia berries or a glimpse of kaka.

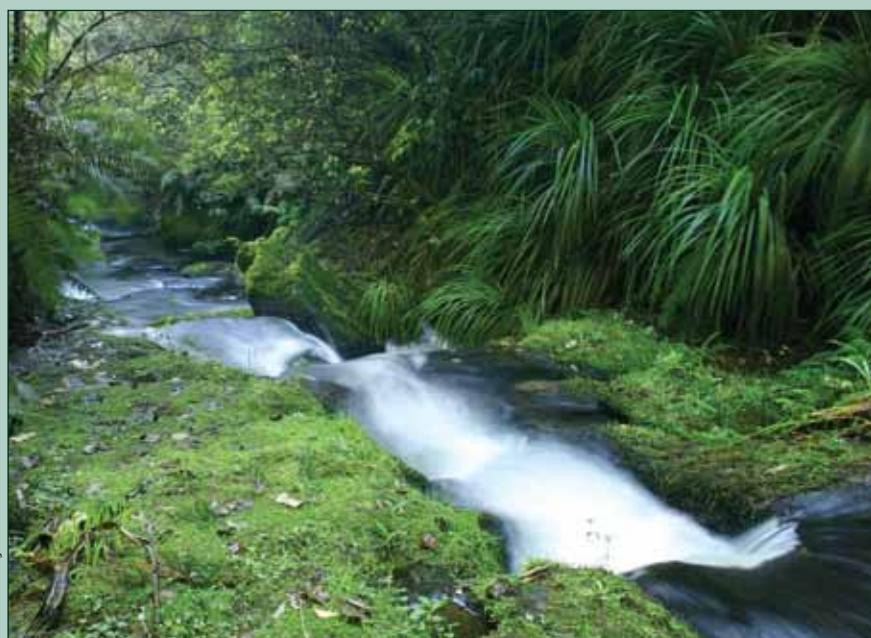


The 13 metre waterfall at Tarbet Glen.

Photo: Gary Stone, Kaimalkid@xtra.co.nz

For years a tame eel known as 'the Caveman' was a special attraction. "The kids loved him," recalls Ian. "They could touch him when he came out for food. He was lost in a flood but I've got another one who's getting pretty friendly. People can't believe we've done so much. We've had a lot of fun."

Visits are with permission only. Contact Lori and Ian at (07) 544 3083



Luxuriant ferns and kiekie overhang the moss-lined stream.



Lori and Ian McAlister in Tarbet Glen.

Photo: Gary Stone, Kaimalkid@xtra.co.nz