in THIS iSSUE Focus on Southwest North Island • Geological Covenants • Awards

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 76,700 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.

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Cover photo: The Ira Menzies Duneland covenant at Awana Bay, Great Barrier Island: QEII Regional Reps, Lynda Fleming (left) and Robyn Smith (right) examine *Muehlenbeckia complexa*. Photo: Margaret McKee

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QEII Regional Reps pool their knowledge



Atop Te Mata Peak: Andrew Wilkie, Biosecurity Manager of Hawke's Bay Regional Council (standing at right) tells the Regional Reps about the council's extensive pest control programme. Facing the camera centre, are Hawke's Bay Rep Marie Taylor and Brian Chambers, Chairman of the Te Mata Peak Trust Board.

ur 25 QEII regional representatives meet annually for training and knowledge sharing. Coming from diverse backgrounds in the rural and environmental management sectors, it's always a great opportunity to exchange ideas and hear what's happening around the country.

This year's conference in Hawke's Bay included a visit to Te Mata Peak where the Te Mata Park Trust Board has a 94.5ha covenant on the western flanks of the iconic landform. The covenant protects the visual and recreational values of the area as well as unusual cliff-dwelling native plants.

Covenantor gathering

Alec Olsen (black cap, right foreground) hosted a gathering of Hawke's Bay covenantors in March this year at his covenant beside the Mangaone River (see p.12, Open SpaceTM Issue 66). It was an opportunity for covenantors to meet with QEII Board members and Regional Reps while touring Alec's protected riparian forest.



Focus on: Around Wellington

West of the Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges, a growing number of private landowners are protecting precious remnants of indigenous habitats under QEII open space covenants. As at 1 June, 86 landowners in the Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Upper Hutt and Kapiti Coast districts had registered covenants protecting 593ha and a further 36 approved covenants, which will protect a further 412ha when registered.

QEII Rep, Robyn Smith, was delighted to see a number of covenantors at a native fauna restoration training day in May, run by Greater Wellington Regional Council and DOC. "It was a great chance for covenantors and volunteer groups to meet, as well as learning heaps about local fauna."

Robyn says partnership programmes with Greater Wellington Regional Council are a huge help to covenantors. "The council actively supports the legal protection of special habitats and offers practical back-up. Under the Wetlands Incentives and the Streams Alive programmes, for instance, landowners can receive assistance with funding, weed and pest control, and monitoring."

Below: QEII covenantors at the Wellington Restoration Day, left to right: Charles Speight, Steve Rowe, John Fenaughty, Mari Housiaux, Geoff Glazebrook, Jill Fenaughty, Linda Mead, Derek Mead, Joy Anderton, Rachel Macfarlane, Wendy Rowe, Ross Macfarlane and Mike Jacobson.





Warren's Bush

Janet and Michael Warren have covenanted one of the few vestiges of the dense native forest that blanketed the Wellington district in pre-European times.

The Botanical Society has identified 160 indigenous vascular plant species at Warrens Bush, including several ancient rimu trees that somehow escaped logging. Such is the ecological value of the 16ha of semi-coastal hardwood forest that Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council, the Wellington branch of Forest & Bird Society, and the Wellington Botanical Society all contributed to the cost of fencing.

The area is also of historic interest. Sites of significance to tangata whenua have been identified and a former gold mine, dating back to 1869, is currently being explored. The Warrens are now developing a walking track, which will be open to the public. "It will be a round trip up to the top for views over Cook Strait," explains Janet, "then down past the mining site to Fern Gully where there is a Maori site."

Below: Mining engineer, Sam Sutherland, explores the Warren's historic gold mine, which has two shafts, still not fully explored.



The tall timber trees at Warren's Bush were logged long ago but a few specimens survived and are now important seed sources for regeneration.



Unusual urban wetland

Nestled at the base of a sand dune at Waikanae Beach is a 1ha wetland, which is remarkably well preserved despite nearby housing development.

Ron Osborne says it was part of a life style block the family owned for many years. "We simply used the land for horse grazing and the horses never encroached on the swampy area."

The flax - toetoe - *Coprosma propinqua* vegetation mix is now uncommon on the sand plains of the Foxton ecological district and its condition has improved as a result of Ronald's blackberry spraying and planting efforts. New planting will also buffer the area from the proposed Western Link Road, which fortunately, will bypass the wetland.

Ron Osborne in the wetland that has been in the family for over 50 years.



Unexpected benefit of a dry year

Linda and Paul Crafar have been controlling weeds around the margins of their covenanted wetland near Otaki for four years but have been unable to reach the islands that dot the open water areas. Last summer was so dry, however, that they walked across dry-shod.

It was the opportunity they and Greater Wellington Regional Council had been waiting for. Council contractors promptly tackled the island-based blackberry and pampass grass as part of a wider council-run eradication programme in remnants, like the Crafars, of the once-extensive Te Hapua Swamp. The Crafars' 10.9ha wetland is only 400 - 500 metres from the beach and provides valuable bird habitat. Remnants of the original vegetation have survived, including native shrubland on the dry margins as well as 'wet-feet' species such as flax, sedges and reeds.

With the coming of winter, water levels have risen and the islands - in improved condition – have become once again tantalisingly inaccessible.

The Crafar wetland includes areas of open water, small islands, wet margins and dry shrublands on the higher ground.



A gesture of thanks

Within two years of emigrating to New Zealand from the UK, **Jackie and Geoff Glazebrook** had bought and moved to a lifestyle block in Whitemans Valley and placed a QEII covenant over a 2.7ha area of wetland and native scrub.

"The covenant was a good way of saying 'thank you' to the people of New Zealand," Geoff explains.

"We heard about QEII through

the Greater Wellington Streams Alive programme and read up about covenants. We thought, 'There's nothing else to do with this bit of land, so why not?' We did wonder whether it would devalue the property, as it covers 60% of the area, but we think it will probably enhance it."

The Glazebrooks are certainly enhancing the wetland's biodiversity value. QEII has DOC's permission to plant an insurance population of the regionally rare sedge, *Gahnia rigida*, at the property. QEII Rep Robyn Smith, who has propagated threatened native plants for many years, is growing the sedge from locally-sourced seed at Otari-Wilton's Bush nursery in Wellington. Jackie and Geoff look forward to the day the seedlings arrive.



The Glazebrooks' covenant (centre photo) protects a wetland and buffer vegetation in the head waters of the Mangaroa Stream catchment, one of twelve in the Greater Wellington Streams Alive biodiversity improvement programme.



in their wetland.

Photo: Robyn Smith

"Nga Kereru"

The **Jacobson's** property in Moonshine Valley is aptly named, as its covenanted bush has been attracting kereru and other native birds for many years.

Known as Jacobson's Bush, the primary and secondary forest is a valuable remnant in the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment. In 1983, a botanical survey revealed that barely 200ha of any native forest remained in the once heavily forested catchment. Jacobson's Bush was notable at that time for its regenerating podocarps and its role in maintaining native bird life in the district.

The family fenced the bush in 1971 and covenanted 8.4ha in 1986. Thirtyfive years on, the canopy is in excellent condition and the forest continues to improve. Michael Jacobson says birdlife has noticeably increased thanks to possum control that, he suspects, has also had a beneficial rat by-catch.

Enthusiastic covenantors, the Jacobsons protected another 1.5ha of secondary forest in 1993 and 0.8ha of riparian land in 2004.



Jacobson's Bush is a valuable forest remnant in the catchment of the Pauatahanui Inlet seen in the distance.



Kereru are a common sight at the Jacobson's as well as tui, kingfisher, grey warbler, morepork, bellbird and white fronted heron, to name a few.

Jack's Bush

The Jack's Bush subdivision has significantly extended protection over the largest stand of the original coastal lowland swamp forest remaining on the Kapiti Coast.

Seven QEII covenants, totaling 10.9ha, as well as a new 8ha scenic reserve transferred to the Kapiti Coast District Council, now complement the 15ha of the adjoining protected forest at the Nga Manu Nature Reserve near Waikanae township.

John Bristed of joint developers Influx Holdings Limited and Bristed Brothers North Island Limited says the subdivision, named after his father Jack, was planned to integrate dwellings into the bush setting. "The idea was for people to live close to the bush without destroying it."

> Charles Speight, a co-owner, is dwarfed by a magnificent specimen of a kaikomako (Pennantia corymbosa) at Jack's Bush.



Focus on: Geological Covenants

For a small country, New Zealand has an amazing diversity of landscapes, shaped to a large degree by the underlying geology. Ours is a highly dynamic land, subject to volcanic activity, mountain building and erosive forces that occur where two sections of the Earth's crust, the Australian and Pacific plates, collide.

QEII covenants protect some fascinating geological features that reveal the origins of our land and the ways that it is being continually shaped and reshaped by geological processes. Some examples are featured on the following pages.

Rocky Hill Pulpit Rock

Pulpit Rock

A huge rock buttress 500 metres above Akaroa Harbour is an eye-catching feature in the ancient volcanic landscape, which **Rodney and Derek Weir** have safeguarded under a 5ha covenant.

Known as Pulpit Rock, the buttress derives from trachyte lava that oozed into the Akaroa Volcano eight million years ago and, being more resistant to weathering than the surrounding basalt rocks, has eroded more slowly. The rock faces appear bare but closer inspection reveals a notable wealth of lichens and mosses, while crevices support native herbs and shrubs.

Wilding pines had threatened the integrity of the geological form and the fragile bluff communities. However, in 1997, experienced rock climbers with abseiling gear were enlisted to remove the invaders.

Pulpit Rock: an outstanding volcanic feature.



Uplifted from beneath the sea

Limestone cliffs are a distinctive feature of the Tiniroto Ecological District, in Northern Hawke's Bay, which reveal the area's sedimentary origins.

Submarine sediments were uplifted in the late Pliocene and early Pleistocene geological periods to form a gently sloping plateau of mudstones, limestones and conglomerates. Erosion subsequently dissected the plateau by carving out river valleys and also exposed bands of limestone bluffs by wearing away softer rocks adjacent to the limestone.

One of the most intact examples of these bluffs is at Rex McIntyre's 12.3ha covenant near Nuhaka. The covenant protects the limestone formations and the shrub mosaic they support, as well as a beautiful adjacent remnant of semi-coastal tawa forest.

The limestone bluffs in Rex McIntyre's open space covenant are a characteristic feature of Northern Hawke's Bay.



The rare chenier plain at Miranda

The coastal plain at Miranda on the western side of the Firth of Thames is a unique landform in New Zealand and rare internationally.

Known as a 'chenier plain', the plain has formed by the build-up of shells and sand in a series of low ridges. Each



The Glen Isla Farms covenant: mudflats and pools are sheltered from wave action by the chenier shellbank along the shore.

ridge is formed when a sandbar develops along the foreshore on which shells wash up and accumulate. Muddy tidal waters ebb and flow in the low-lying area on the landward side of the shellbank, dropping sediments until the sediments reach a level where the tide is excluded. The mudflats then dry out and form new land behind the shellbank. The process is repeated over 1000s of years to form a low-lying plain.

The huge estuary in the Firth of Thames, with its vast shellbeds and gentle wave action, provides the perfect conditions for chenier formation. The estuary is also an internationally important wetland, teeming with wading and migratory birds, fish and unusual plants.

The Lane family of Glen Isla Farms Limited covenanted 17.7ha of this extraordinary landscape in 1988 to protect a 'classic' example of the chenier plain landform and the rich flora and fauna which it supports.



Photo: Keith Woodley

Mangroves begin to colonise the tidal mudflats at left, aiding the infill process that will eventually join the shellbank at right to dry land.

When glaciers advance...

Rocky Hill, at Glendhu Station beside Lake Wanaka, exemplifies the land-shaping power of glaciers.

Aptly named Rocky Hill is a 'roche moutonnée'; a huge knob of bedrock that has been sculpted by a large glacier. The upstream side of a roche moutonnée is gently sloping and rounded, having been smoothed by the grinding action of the glacier moving over it. In contrast, the downstream side



is characteristically steep and jagged, where the glacier wrenched out rock as it passed.

Today, Rocky Hill is a spectacular feature in the outstanding Wanaka landscape, which Pam and Bob McRae have protected under a 340ha open space covenant. Under the terms of the covenant, they will continue to graze much of the land while also restoring areas of indigenous vegetation.

Bob and Pam made the construction of a walking track to the summit possible which, through the Crown Pastoral Lease Tenure Review process, is now managed by the Crown.

Rocky Hill (centre photo): the rounded profile to the left and the steep jagged faces to the right are typical of roche moutonnée landforms.

When glaciers melt...

When glaciers retreat, they dump huge quantities of jumbled rock, called ablation moraine, over large areas. At Glenmore Station, near Lake Tekapo, the Murray family has protected one of the best examples in the country.

Along the sides of the huge glacial valley, are ridges of sand and gravel, called kame terraces, which were deposited by meltwater. Numerous 'kettlehole' tarns (or land-locked lakes) occupy depressions in the hummocky terrain of the 1,018ha covenant. It is thought these depressions were formed when the retreating glacier left behind large blocks of stagnant ice, which eventually melted to leave bowl-shaped hollows amongst the rock debris.

QEII high country Rep, Dr Brian

Molloy, says the tarns and associated wetlands are also biologically outstanding for the native aquatic fauna and flora they support, including several threatened species.

Jim Murray says that, as the family wanted, the QEII covenant ensures that "the long-term sustainability of the area is paramount - for continued land protection and for future generations."



Photo: Brian Molloy

Jim Murray in the extraordinary 'knob and kettle' glacial landscape of the Glenmore Station Covenant. Kettlehole tarns dot the hummocky morraine, supporting a rich flora of native wetland plants as well as waterfowl, including three globally threatened species.

Queen's Birthday Honour

QEII covenantor, Russell Langdon, was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Public Services, in recognition of his conservation work. Russell has dedicated years of effort to restoring natural habitats in the Ashburton River area, where he and his wife Velma have a beef farm. He has created and restored wetlands on his land, providing habitat for wildlife including rare species such as mudfish, and eastern weka, and is currently working on an education centre due to open in the spring. He has covenanted an 8.3ha restored wetland with QEII.

Russell Langdon beside his 'Riverbridge Wetland' open space covenant.



Know your natives

Tutukiwi, the greenhood orchid

Covenantors managing native forest remnants may recognise tutukiwi (*Pterostylis banksii*), the largest of the greenhood orchids, but be unaware of its clever pollination device.

When an insect lands on the lip of the flower, it is tossed into the flower by a trigger mechanism. It must then clamber out over the stigma, depositing pollen it has carried from another greenhood orchid, ensuring crosspollination. Then a gland secretes a sticky substance onto the insect's body so that pollen from this flower will adhere to the insect and be carried to another flower.

To see the trigger in action, set it off with a light finger touch and watch to see it reset itself (about 15 minutes).

Source: Which Native Forest Plant? A Simple Guide to the Identification of New Zealand Native Forest Shrubs, Climbers and Flowers, by Andrew Crowe.



A greenhood orchid at Murray and Juliet Vickers' forest covenant near Kaiwaka in Northland.

Ruru sighting rewards first day on the job

On his first day of field work for QEII, Manawatu Rep Tony Gates was lucky enough to sight - and photograph - one of our favourite native birds- the ruru, or morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).



A ruru, or morepork, anticipates nightfall in the shady interior of Carolyn and James Lockhart's covenant.

This usually secretive nocturnal hunter is more commonly heard than seen. It has a characteristic "ruru" call, and remarkably silent flight. Originally forest birds, ruru are widespread, living in modified habitats such as pine plantations and urban parks as well as native bush. In some eastern parts of the South Island, however, they appear to have been displaced by the introduced little owl and are less common.

James and Carolyn Lockhart were delighted to hear of the sighting on their 3.8ha covenant near Feilding. Tony says the short winter days make it much more likely to spot ruru, which obviously like the cool, dark podocarp forest that this and several similar covenants in the locality protect.

QEII covenantors continue to be winners in rural and environmental awards programmes, reflecting their commitment to sound land management.

Award for sustainable farm forestry

An obsession with tree planting earned **Pam and Neil Cullen** a national award at this year's New Zealand Farm Forestry Association conference.

The South Otago couple received the 2006 Transpower Landcare Trust Award for innovation in sustainable farm forestry. They were judged on their innovation, quality of work, communication and planning for sustainable farm forestry.

The award reflects Pam and Neil's commitment to integrating production forestry into their farming system. They run 4,000 stock units on their 650ha-hill country farm and manage 90ha of forest plantations, which they hope to increase to 150ha on land considered unsuitable for sustainable pastoral farming.

Their love of trees also led them to protect 75ha of secondary native forest under an open space covenant with QEII. The forest contains a mix of broadleaf and podocarp species and is a good example of the Catlins lowland forest type.



Neil Cullen overlooks part of his covenanted native forest (centre photo), bounded by his recent farm forestry planting (right) and a DOC reserve (left).

Taranaki Environmental Awards

Covenantors **Karyn and Daryl Johnson** were amongst the eleven 'environmental champions' recognised in the Taranaki Regional Council 2006 Environmental Awards. They were commended for advocating and implementing a whole of farm approach to environmental management at their Stratford dairy unit, where they have protected 1.6ha of lowland wetland under an open space covenant.

QEII Regional Rep, Neil Phillips and his wife Denise, were also awarded for their sustainable land management, environmental enhancement and environmental education. They have fenced off and planted previously unprotected rivers and gullies on their Stratford property to restore the natural habitat and enhance the water quality, and have hosted field days and environmental education programmes.

Tasman Environmental Awards

The Friends of Mangaraukau Swamp Society won the top award in the Tasman District Council's 2006 Environmental Awards. The Friends assist the owners, NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, with managing the Maungarakau Swamp, a rare and fragile wetland in northwest Nelson (featured in *Open Space™*, Issue 65). Sadly, the swamp has twice been damaged by fire in the last two years. Sponsor Fulton Hogan has gifted \$400-worth of plants towards restoration of the burnt areas.

Other winners were covenantors Maria and Deutsch who feature on page 28 of this issue.



Mangarakau Swamp, a nationally significant wetland.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards: reflecting the market value of sustainable farming



The Ballance Farm Environment Awards are now a well-known annual event in eight regions, when best practice in sustainable farming is on show. Ted Coates, National Judging Co-ordinator of the 2006 Awards, noted that many more farmers are seeing environmental protection less as a cost and more as an essential means of reinforcing New Zealand's international marketing position.

QEII members, who were again amongst the award winners, are profiled on the next three pages.

Northland Region

June and Ian Wilson won the Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award for their ongoing programme of fencing off waterways and forest remnants on their farm near Kerikeri. The programme has had economic benefits by reducing stock drowning losses, reducing liver fluke and improving water quality. The Wilsons have covenanted 26ha of podocarp and kauri forest.



Ian and June Wilson on their Kerikeri farm.

Wellington Region

Mike and Ric Ashby won the PPCS Livestock Farm Award and the Rabobank Land and Life Award for their adaptable and astute management of their sheep, beef and forestry operation in the Wairarapa. The Ashbys have an 8ha covenant protecting lowland secondary native forest.



Left to right, Mike, Maureen, Rick and Mary Ashby at their Wairarapa farm.

Canterbury

The **Handyside family** of Conway Flat won the Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award for managing a productive farm/ tourism operation in such a way that the property's natural features are protected. A 39ha QEII covenant protects a valuable remnant of semi-coastal podocarp-hardwood forest on their farm.



David, Sally and Peter Handyside.

Otago

Shona and John Chapman of Port Chalmers won the PGG Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award for their commitment and innovative approach to maintaining natural and heritage values on their 605ha property. The Chapmans have covenanted a 1.7ha coastal wetland, which is a valuable habitat for waterfowl and aquatic species.



Shona and John Chapman at their Port Chalmers property.

Supreme Award Winners, Bay of Plenty

Getting "maximum enjoyment from the farm" might be an unusual mission statement for a farm business but, for the Mackintosh family at Manawahe, it translates into a profitable, awardwinning farm.

Tim, Jo, Jean and John Mackintosh

won the Bay of Plenty Supreme Award, the Rabobank Land and Life Award, the Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award and the Environmental Bay of Plenty Environmental Award.

The family gains enormous satisfaction from running a well-



Tim, Jean and John Mackintosh at the field day they hosted on their award winning farm in May.

managed, sustainable property with a healthy, attractive farm environment that they make available for others to also enjoy.

The 500ha property has been built up over the years from the 390ha block that John and Jean bought in 1972. As part of their family succession plan, son Tim and his wife Jo began share farming in 2000 and now lease the farm. The property supports 1430 sheep, 110 beef and 120 dairy grazers, and the judges noted the relationship between the high quality of stock and the high priority given to animal welfare.

The farm has also been a Meat and Wool New Zealand Monitor Farm for the last four years and its productivity compared very well with other farms at the final field day held recently.

Tree planting, including 40ha of production forest, together with 189ha of native forest covenanted with QEII, is integrated across the farm for diversification, shelter, shade and environmental benefits.

"One of the best decisions we made was to put our bush with the QEII Trust," John says. "We wanted that protection in perpetuity and we have a very good relationship with the Trust."



The covenanted bush remnants on the Mackintosh farm are part of the extensive Manawahe Ecological Corridor which links Lake Rotoma with the coast.

Supreme Award Winners, Southland

Southerlies lash the Southland coast near Papatotara but that hasn't stopped **Dorothy and Graeme Dodd** from transforming a 240ha unit into a top producing sheep and cattle farm in just six years.

In awarding them the Southland Supreme Award and the Southland BFEA Water Quality Award, the judges noted the responsible manner in which they had developed the property and their obvious love and respect for their environment.

The Dodds recognised the need for stock shelter in such an exposed environment and the need to improve water quality, having observed one stream where leachate from a silage pit had destroyed all aquatic life. They have fenced off most of their waterways with 5km of riparian fencing, planted flax shelter belts and hundreds of trees, and fenced off four blocks of remnant bush, totalling 22ha, which are covenanted with QEII.

With the improved shelter, a modified gravity-fed stock water scheme, 10ha devoted to growing winter feed for the ewes and a sacrificial paddock for feeding baleage and sileage to the breeding cows, the Dodds have achieved good stock health and performance. They have topped the Tuatapere annual sale four years running with an average \$903 weaner calf average in 2003, a top \$745 weaner calf price in 2003; \$640 for a line of steers and \$515 for a line of top heifers in 2004; and \$690 for a line of steers in 2005.

Graeme acknowledges the expert advice of Mark Sutton, QEII Rep and field officer with the Waiau Fisheries and Habitat Enhancement Trust, who has advised them about improving the farm environment and pointed them towards sources of funding assistance for outlays such as fencing.



Graeme and Dorothy Dodd.





One of the waterways that have now been fenced.

Left: Covenanted bush on the Dodd farm provides valuable shelter for stock in adjacent paddocks.

Revegetation by seeding - an alternative approach to restoring native plant communities

In the previous issue of "Open Space TM" Mark Dean gave some guidance on revegetation planting. Now, Nick Ledgard, of Ensis, Scion (formerly Forest Research), asks the question, "Should we be trying to do more with the direct sowing of seeds?"

In 1993, a study on natural successions of native plants on gorse and broom-covered land concluded that, under many circumstances, human interference in the process is largely unnecessary. This natural regeneration process was termed Minimum Interference Management or MIM. Probably the best known proponent of MIM today is Hugh Wilson at Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula.

But success with MIM is only assured in certain environments – it is less likely where native seed sources are scarce, and where existing vegetation is dense and vigorous. Introduced grasses, particularly where rank, are a major problem, and probably prevent the natural reversion to native plants more than any other vegetation cover in this country. In such circumstances, more



Low Input Manipulation (LIM): Nick Ledgard alongside 2-year old manuka grown from seed sown into a small trial plot of sprayed pasture.



Minimal Interference Management (MIM) at Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula: with time and good animal control, native plants are growing from wind and bird-dispersed seed and emerging through the gorse.

active management is needed. This could be divided into two categories - Low Input Manipulation (LIM), and High Input Management (HIM).

With Low Input Manipulation, seed is introduced artificially, herbicides applied to eliminate grass competition and, possibly, soil disturbed mechanically or through grazing to assist seed make contact with bare soil.

Most of us are very familiar with High Input Management, as it involves the establishment of nursery-raised native seedlings by hand planting and tending. However, it is very expensive and time consuming. Hence, there is increasing interest in Low Input Manipulation, with its simple techniques that can be used extensively and are not reliant on considerable inputs of funds and labour. Such an approach to plant establishment is hardly novel – herbicide application, seed sowing and soil scarification is a frequently used combination in pastoral and arable agriculture to promote extensive production of desired plants. Surely these techniques could be modified to aid the establishment of native plants?



High Input Management (HIM) involving spraying, propagation, planting, mulching and maintenance is suited to smaller, high-profile areas but very costly for large sites in rural areas.

What do we know about seeding natives?

The direct seeding of natives into pasture-dominated land has received some attention over recent years - by both private landowners and government researchers.

A highly successful exponent is Stephen King of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, who has overseen the sowing of 10s-of-hectares of manuka close to Waipoua Kauri Forest in Northland. Stephen now has a site preparation and manuka seeding procedure that works well in his area, which involves ripping and weed control to ensure the manuka beats the grass.

Alan Totty, who has a 79-hectare covenant on his farm near Stavely in central Canterbury, has promoted vigorous regeneration of natives, notably black beech, just by controlling exotic grasses adjacent to beech forest.

Scientists at Forest Research sowed seed of native woody species soon after a fire had destroyed beech forest on Mt Thomas in north Canterbury. After 20 years, the resulting manuka is almost 2 metres high with mountain beech, also sown from seed, emerging above. The trials showed that the presence of exotic grasses significantly depressed the establishment of native plants.

Researchers at Landcare Research, Hamilton, and AgResearch, Whatawhata, looked at native seedling establishment in pastures after herbicide use and varying seedbed treatments. They found competitive plant cover to be the most important factor affecting seedling establishment.

This year, seeding-into-pasture trials are being established at sites on Banks Peninsula and in north Canterbury. Comparative treatments will involve grazed pasture (thin grass cover) and ungrazed pasture (thick grass cover), use of herbicides to eliminate grass competition, and soil disturbance. Kanuka will be the main species sown, but litter/duff collected from under adjacent native forest remnants will also be used.

Twenty-year-old manuka with emerging mountain beech, grown from seed sown after a forest fire at Mt Thomas, North Canterbury.



At the McGregor Reserve covenant, Northland, where Stephen King has successfully revegetated large areas such as the grassland pictured.



Beech seedlings self-regenerating close to parent trees, where covenantor Alan Totty has sprayed out circles to control grass competition.



Critical factors for seeding success

Creation of 'safe sites' is critical for the successful establishment of native plants from seed.

A 'safe site' will optimise the chances of seeds germinating and establishing as seedlings. Low Input Management aims to select and/or create such sites, which are as safe as possible for sown seeds. Safe site characteristics include:

Adequate light.

This should not be a problem where short (grazed) grasses are controlled with herbicides or other vegetation is sparse. Rank grass is a different proposition (see comment on opposite page).

Adequate moisture.

In most rural situations, one can only be reliant on natural precipitation. Its maximum availability is only guaranteed if all competing vegetation is controlled. Investigations indicate that an annual rainfall of at least 1200mm is best. Success with seeding will be restricted where rainfall is less, and very hard to achieve under 700 mm. Sloping southerly aspects, sheltered from direct sun and strong winds, assist moisture retention and seedling survival.

Contact with bare soil.

Artificial soil disturbance that exposes bare surfaces usually aids seedling survival. The surface should be rough to give the emerging seedlings some degree of shelter. But, beware of the fact that disturbed soil surfaces will attract some pests, such as rabbits.

Freedom from animal browse.

This is absolutely essential. A young seedling is very susceptible to browse damage and just one animal visit annually can make all the difference between success and failure.

Freedom from vegetation competition.

The critical importance of removing all vegetation competition

is well covered above. After seedling emergence, selective chemicals are available which can control grasses without harming young woody native species – but the correct application rate is vital and tolerances vary between species. More research is needed here. It should be noted that topping or mowing can be counter-productive, as it usually invigorates grass, thereby increasing competition.



These young kanuka have successfully germinated from seed but could well be smothered by the emerging grass.



Creation of 'safe sites' is critical for the successful establishment of native plants from seed, as at this seeding trial site being prepared in North Canterbury.

Other factors to consider

Species choice

In open situations light-demanding, pioneering species are the most likely to succeed. Two of the best known native pioneering species are manuka and kanuka and, fortunately, the seed of both is not difficult to collect in bulk. Their seed is very small, with low reserves for initial growth so the creation of safe sites for good seed germination and early seedling growth is critical for success.

Rank grass

On high fertility sites, which have not been recently grazed, grasses can become rank and a thick 'thatch' of dead grass can accumulate. This combination of live and dead material acts as a mulch, preventing the establishment from seed of most species. Plants with small seeds (which lack reserves) are especially affected. Thus it is beneficial to begin the LIM process immediately after heavy grazing or mowing, followed by herbicide spraying (or mechanically removing the thatch), thus exposing relatively bare soil to the light and enabling seeds to make direct contact with the soil.

Weed invasion

LIM involves creating 'safe sites' or 'windows of opportunity' for plants to establish from seed. Hopefully, we can utilise this opportunity (often of short duration) by supplying seed of the species we desire – but we must not forget that the chance to invade is available for any plant spreading seed locally. Therefore, before attempting LIM, one should be aware of the chance of invasion and dominance by unwanted plants. If the weed risk is high, then test seeding initially on a small area only.

Seasonal variation

The main disadvantage of using seeds is the variability of results. There will always be variations between seasons and extremes of climate, which will affect the success of seeding (otherwise we would not need nurseries to produce seedlings). This has to be accepted, along with the possibility that more than one seeding may be needed before success is attained.

For more information contact Nick Ledgard, ph 03 364 2949 or email nick.ledgard@ensisjv.com.

In a native plant establishment trial, this planted kohuhu (Pittosporum tenuifolium) seedling is struggling against weeds, while the same species is thriving in an adjacent weed-controlled area.



Young kanuka regenerating in the high-light conditions at this forest edge demonstrate kanuka's role as a pioneering plant.



Some say that competition from exotic grasses is the biggest single inhibitor of native plant regeneration in New Zealand.



Pests

Dealing to mustelids

If you are seeking easy-to-follow information on trapping mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels), an excellent reference is the *Mustelid Trapping Field Guide*, published by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust.

The guide states that, while mustelids are difficult to control due to their mobility and adaptability, trapping does make a difference to the survival of native fauna.

The guide is designed primarily to get beginners started. It outlines:

- Information about the three mustelid pest species with tips on how to detect their presence;
- How to plan a trap line or grid;



Ground-dwelling native species, such as the yellow-eyed penguin, are highly vulnerable to mustelid predation on eggs and chicks.

- Trap types and how to use and maintain them;
- How to record data for monitoring purposes.

The booklet also outlines requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and describes examples of new traps that are



being developed to better meet animal welfare criteria.

The updated second edition of the 28-page, A5-sized booklet was published in 2005. It costs \$7.50 + \$2.00 for postage and packaging (discounts negotiable for bulk orders). Send your order *with payment* to: Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, PO Box 5409, Dunedin.



Although the Fenn trap does not meet recommended humane guidelines, it is one of the most efficient mustelid traps and its continued use is permitted until the efficiency of new trap designs has been proven.

Weeds

Winning weedbusters

Regional Weedbusters Awards were launched this year to recognise the efforts of people who battle environmental weeds. Amongst the winners were several QEII covenantors. **Peter Morris** won the Waikato Overall Excellence award for transforming a weed-prone gully into a restored forest/wetland now protected under a QEII covenant. **Adrienne and Peter Dale** won the Wellington Private Land award for their work at their Pateke Lagoons wetland covenant near Otaki. The Governors Bay Landcare Group won the Canterbury Overall Excellence and Private Land awards (see opposite page).

Volunteers who donate their time and energies to weedbusting on QEII covenants also figured amongst the award winners. In Northland, the **Paparoa Lions** won the Organisational award for their work on a covenanted forest and archaeological site, and **Team Te One** won the Manawatu Private Land award for their efforts at a primary



lowland forest covenant. Highly commended covenant volunteers were Northland's George Wilson, Hawke's Bay's Friends of Te Mata Park and the Invercargill South Lions Club.

Weeds

Weed battles at Governors Bay

The Governors Bay Landcare Group was formed in 2003 to help restore and enhance bush on four QEII covenants owned by Sally and Dick Tripp, Evelyn and Bruce Hille, Simon and Sara Gurnsey and Steve Wooff. The small group of local community people is mainly blitzing Old Man's Beard but also skirmishes with hawthorne, cotoneaster and banana passionfruit.

QEII Rep Miles Giller says they very wisely enlisted professional help to begin with. Grants from QEII National Trust, Transpower Landcare Trust and the Biodiversity Condition Fund totaling \$21,000 funded Habitat Restoration Service contractors to undertake the first strike. The contractors also trained volunteers in weed control techniques for the inevitable and ongoing follow-up campaign.

The group has refined its tactics to deal with the steep area and difficult access as follows.

- Cut each vine at ground level.
- Apply herbicide to each cut surface. The herbicide is mixed according to the contractor's recipe, including gel to ease application and dye for easy identification.
- For trees such as hawthorne, drill the trunks and inject herbicide.
- Use specially-made belts with loops for carrying secateurs, loppers, saws and herbicide bottles. A WWF Habitat Protection Fund grant of \$1795 enabled the purchase of this equipment.



Photo: Sarah Mankelow, DO

Left to right: covenantors Sally and Dick Tripp, and volunteer Ray Vickers of the Governors Bay Landcare Group with their prizes - a wheelbarrow full of equipment as well as product vouchers.

Covenantor Sally Tripp says the size of the project is at times overwhelming but the visible regeneration keeps them going.

A recent morale boost was the discovery of a black orchid, *Gastrodia sesamoides*, which is rare in the Banks Peninsula ecological district.

To contact the group (and find their herbicide recipe) visit http://biodiversity. onlinegroups.net/groups/ titoki.

The Governors Bay volunteers need to be fit to negotiate the steep slopes and gullies in Zephyr Valley behind Governors Bay where the weeds lurk.



Recently registered covenants A summary of covenants registered from 1 February 2006 to 31 May 2006.

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council	Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Landcorp Farming Ltd (x 2)	24.8	F, S, W	Far North	Baigent, Goulter & Silver	11.6	F	South Wairarapa
Pohutukawa Coast	13.5	F, S, W	Far North	Baigent	0.5	F	Tasman
Development Number Three				Tait	1.7	W	Tasman
Bain	4.1	E S	Whangarei	Wooff	0.6	W	Tasman
Pukenui Farm (2002) Ltd	28.2	ES	Kaipara	Hope & King	181.7	F	Marlborough
Wheeler	137.2	F	Auckland	Rold	149.3	F	Marlborough
Slade Consulting Group	1.0	F	Franklin	Fawcet	1.7	F	Marlborough
Limited				Ross	2.0	F	Grey
Ballantyne	2.5	F	Hauraki	Morrow & Tavendale	11.4	G, S, T	Ashburton
Turner	7.1	F	Thames- Coromandel	Chapman	6.0	F, S	Waimate
McLeod	22	AFI	Thames-	Burn Cottage Holdings Ltd	100.9	G, S	Central Otago
		/ ., ., _	Coromandel	Matangi Station Ltd	28.0	L, S	Central Otago
Underwood	1.5	F, W	Waikato	Michael Peak Ltd	162.0	G, S	Central Otago
Morris	1.9	F, S, W	Waikato	Whittaker	1.0	S, W	Central Otago
Caird	26.4	F	Waikato	Joel	5.7	G, W	Clutha
Allen	1.4	F	Waipa	Dearco Ltd	21.0	G, S	Clutha
Robinson	5.2	F	Waitomo	Hewett Farm Ltd	1.4	G	Clutha
Busch & Blake	2.5	F	Otorohanga	Latta Holdings Ltd	6.1	G, T	Clutha
Preston	53.6	F	Central Hawke's	Little Fish on the Roof Ltd	39.7	F	Clutha
Turphull	30.0	FC	Ddy Contral Hawko's	Basquin	6.4	F, S	Clutha
Turribuli	50.0	Γ, Ο	Bay	Grant	40.3	F	Clutha
Gallen	3.6	F, T	Hastings	Bugo	77.0	F, W, L	Westland
Hartree	72.9	F	Hastings	Landcorp Farming Ltd (x 3)	58.3	F, S	Westland
Frankley School Board of	4.1	L	New Plymouth	Smith	47.0	W	Southland
Trustees		-		Asher	1.5	F	Southland
Rogers	4.4	F	South Taranaki	Dodd	22.8	F	Southland
Saxton	5.6	W	South Iaranaki	Pirie	42.8	F	Southland
Johnson	1.6	W	Stratford	Landcorp Farming Ltd (x 4)	108	G, S	Southland
Druce	49.3	F -	lararua	Riddle	4.6	F, S, W	Southland
Tapui Land Company Ltd	8.0	1	Tararua				
Moore & Deighton	25.8	F	Rangitikei				
Peters	4.3	F	Ruapehu				
Greenwood	0.2	F	Palmerston North	кеу:			
Awatea Farms Limited	3.3	F	Kapiti Coast	A Archaeological feature	F Fore	est	G Grassland
Influx Holding Ltd & Bristed Brothers North Island Ltd (x 7)	12.3	F, S, W	Kapiti Coast	Ga Garden / arboretum S Shrubland	Ge Geo T Tree	logical feature land	L Landscape W Wetland

	Pagional	Total land	No. of	No. of	Total area	Largost	Average
Covonante	Council	area in the	registered	approved	registered &	registered	covenant
Covenants	counten	region (ha)	covenants	covenants	approved (ha)	covenant in	size (ha)
update		,				region (ha)	(,
· •	Northland	1,250,000	365	98	7,315	417	15.8
As at 1 June 2006, there were	Auckland	500,000	172	40	3,567	841	16.8
2,348 registered open space	Waikato	2,500,000	361	102	15,203	645	32.8
covenants covering 76,774	Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	128	20	10,272	6,564	69.4
hectares. In addition. there	Gisborne	826,500	80	27	3,556	1,104	33.2
were a further 626 approved	Taranaki	723,600	123	38	2,998	334	18.6
coverants covering 20.157	Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	140	58	11,556	4,606	58.4
	Horizons	2,221,500	220	43	5,912	276	22.5
hectares, awaiting registration.	Wellington	813,000	206	60	5,664	824	21.3
The regional breakdown based	Tasman	978,600	86	21	1,908	642	17.8
on Regional Council boundaries	Nelson	42,100	7	1	294	140	36.8
is as follows.	Marlborough	1,049,500	31	12	1,536	182	35.7
	West Coast	2,300,000	28	11	1,730	619	44.4
	Canterbury	4,220,000	162	26	11,449	1,679	60.9
	Otago	3,200,000	101	33	10,168	2,735	75.9
	Southland	3,035,500	138	36	3803	214	21.9
	Totals		2348	626	96931		36.4

QEII Governance - The Board of Directors

QEII National Trust is a statutory organisation independent from Government and managed by a Board of Directors. Four directors, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Conservation, and two directors are elected by Trust members.

QEII is uniquely placed to make the greatest contribution to the public interest in protection of natural features on private land. With 70% of New Zealand in private ownership, and 16 million hectares in farmland, open space covenants can make a difference in managing multiple land use objectives including productivity, fresh water quality, biodiversity, climate change effects and landscape protection.

The role of the Board is to add value to QEII through best practice governance based upon a clear view of the Trust's purpose and strategy, effective management accountability and risk management. Previous governance experience is beneficial.

Notice from Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation

Appointments to the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust: a public invitation to interested parties and organisations.

The first terms of appointment of Sir Brian Lochore, chairperson, and Yvonne Sharp, director, of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board expire on 31 August 2006. They are eligible for reappointment and it is my intention to reappoint them for a second term from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2009.

If any interested agency or organisation wishes to nominate other persons they consider suitable for appointment instead of Sir Brian Lochore or Yvonne Sharp could they please advise me in writing no later than 11 August 2006 and I will give those nominations due consideration before making my final decision.

In making appointments to the Board I have to have due regard to environmental and conservation values, the interests of rural landowners and the interests of the Maori community.

The other directors of the Board and their terms of appointments are:

Sue Bennett (Ministerial appointee, term expires 31 May 2007);

Lorraine Stephenson (Ministerial appointee, term expires 31 May 2007);

Bill Garland (elected by Trust membership, term expires 31 March 2007);

Geoff Walls (elected by Trust membership, term expires 31 March 2007).

Hon Chris Carter MP, Minister of Conservation Dated this 17th day of June 2006

Forthcoming elections

Preliminary notice is given that Trust members have the opportunity to vote for two directors for a three-year term, effective 1 April 2007. **Nominations will be called in December**, voting papers distributed in February, and **voting will close in March**. Financial members intending to vote must ensure subscriptions are paid by 31 December 2006.

The two currently elected directors, Mr Bill Garland and Mr Geoff Walls, are not eligible for re-election as their directorships will reach the maximum permitted 9-year term at the end of March.



Director Yvonne Sharp supervises Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore's catering at Alec Olsen's covenantor gathering in March this year.

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.

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	Μ	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 in two designs with envelopes. Inside of card is blank.

Price: \$30 including GST and postage







- 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

Prices include GST and postage

	Ord	ler	Form
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Name	Vest size(s) x \$165.00 e	ach = \$			
	Greeting cards (packs of 10 only) x \$30/p	back = \$			
	Donation (optional)	\$			
Address (for courier delivery)		Total \$			
	Method of payment – 🗅 Cheque 🛛 M	lastercard 🛛 🖬 Visa			
	Credit card details –				
Talanhone	Number				
	Cardholder name	Expiry date			
□ Please send a receipt	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

Rangitikei - Manawatu - Horowhenua

Tony Gates is the new QEII Rep for the Rangitikei, Manawatu and Horowhenua districts. He knows the area very well, having worked for Horizons Regional Council for 15 years, monitoring and processing resource consents for effluent discharges and water takes, and responding to pollution incidents.

Tony is a keen amateur botanist and outdoor person, who has guided and instructed in a range of outdoor sports including mountaineering, hunting, skiing and rafting. He is also a published photographer and writer, specialising in such subjects as the New



Zealand wilderness and native flora.

He and his wife Yvonne live in Palmerston North.

Tararua

Bill Wallace, the new QEII Rep for the Tararua District, has farmed in the district with his wife Pauline for the past 29 years. Previous winners of the Tararua Farmer of the Year, they now lease out their farm and live on a small block near Pahiatua where Bill is involved with various farm monitor



groups as well as Federated Farmers.

Bill has always had a passion for our native flora and fauna and has planted many native plants on the two properties. He has also spent many hours in the bush pursuing other interests including hunting, photography and, more recently, mountain running training for multisport events.

South Auckland

Lynda Fleming is the new regional representative for South Auckland.

Lynda grew up on a family farm in the north Waikato. She has a BA degree in physical geography and is running her own business while studying for a post-graduate Diploma in Environmental Management through the University of Auckland.

Lynda lives on a lifestyle block near Pukekohe with



her husband and three children. She loves being outdoors, whether it's feeding farm animals, boating or walking and is very interested in preserving special places in New Zealand for future generations.

National Services Manager

Astrid van Meeuwen is our new National Services Manager. Astrid worked as a scientist for the Department of Conservation for eight years, starting in Wanganui as a forest ecologist and then advisory scientist, and, most recently, worked in the biosecurity section in Wellington.



Astrid studied the timber production potential of puriri

for her MSc and then completed a PhD on interactions between large-fruited native species, native pigeons and introduced mammals (rats and possum) in forest fragments. She is looking forward to working with QEII as an effective means of assisting landowners protect and manage the valuable natural heritage that exists on private land.

Former National Services Manager, Richard Allibone, has moved to Dunedin to work as a consultant freshwater scientist.

Biodiversity funding for landowners

The next round of applications for Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund funding will be open from mid-September 2006.

Projects can include such activities 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.

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 or discounted 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.

OEII	National	Trust	Memb	ership	Ap	olication
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Title Name	Method of payment – 🗅 Cheque 🕒 Mastercard 🕞 Visa
Address	Credit card details – Number
Postcode	Cardholder name Expiry date
Telephone Email	Signature
Membership Type – tick appropriate category	Total \$ Delta Please send a receipt
□ Individual \$30 □ Family \$45 □ Life \$550	For direct debit option please visit www.openspace.org.nz
□ Corporate – business (on application)	Please send me information on:
□ Corporate – non profit organisation \$50	□ Making a bequest to the Trust □ Open Space Covenants
(Subscriptions include GST)	Gift Membership
Donation – optional (tick box):	Gift to: name & address
Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible	
□ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$20 □ Other \$	Send next year's gift renewal to me \Box or to the recipient \Box
Membership runs from 1 July to 30 June. New memberships af	ter 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 36 hectares and the largest is over 6,500 hectares. There are currently over 2,900 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**.

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.



Bark of a matai (Prumnopitys taxifolia) at the Jounneaux covenant in Northland. Matai bark typically flakes off in thick chunks, leaving characteristic red patches.

A place to visit

Te Kaainga Tawhai

A beautiful stand of primary beech forest in Tasman District is proving to be an ideal setting for team building and environmental education.

Te Kaainga Tawhai is a 38ha whole title covenant bordering Kahurangi National Park, where owners Maria Deutsch and Scott Nicol offer a range of learning experiences. Wilderness workshops are geared for groups of all ages including school parties and community organisations, while families can learn about the forest during day or overnight adventures. Businesses and organisations also use the property for team development and strategic planning retreats.

Leading by example is an important part of Maria and Scott's approach to environmental education. They see themselves as 'kaitiaki' or guardians of their forest and have, over the years, implemented an extensive pest control programme to combat possums, stoats, rats and wasps, and protect native species.

"Last spring was a highlight," Scott recalls, "when we encountered 15 different species of native bird in one weekend."

Their partnership, which also provides training and development services to community organisations and small businesses, was runner up in the business category of the 2005 Tasman District Council Environmental Awards. The judges commended them for "the initiative and commitment shown to protecting and restoring a section of forest and using this land to educate people about the natural environment and healthy communities."



Scott teaching a young friend about catching stoats.



Maria and Scott in the forest at Te Kaainga Tawhai.

Maria says that from day one their business aimed at the triple bottom line; to be a productive and professional business, to contribute to the social wellbeing of the community and to operate in an environmentally beneficial manner. "It's fantastic that this has been rewarded."

For more information about the services and facilities at Te Kaainga Tawhai contact Maria and Scott at 03 541 9625 or kaainga. tawhai@paradise.net.nz.



Two teenage robins (Petroica australis) were frequent - and chatty - visitors at Te Kaainga Tawhai, to the delight of the human visitors. The Māori names, Pitoitoi or Toutouwai, reflect the rhythm and sound of the robin's call.