

# 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 78,200 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 30*.

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: A hilltop covenant owned by Southland Plantation Forest Co. protects 214ha of lowland forest near Dipton, Southland

Photo: Roger Sutton, 1991

'Open Space<sup>™</sup>' is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, P O Box 3341, ABB House, Level 4, 138 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand Editor: Shona McCahon Telephone: 04 472 6626 Fax: 04 472 5578 Freephone: 0508 (QE2TRUST) 732 878 E-mail: qe2@qe2.org.nz www.openspace.org.nz 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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## Grant for managing open space covenants



Environment Minster David Benson-Pope and Conservation Minister Chris Carter present QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore with an outsize cheque for biodiversity protection projects.

QEII was delighted to receive a grant of \$224,217 from the Biodiversity Condition Fund to assist 28 landowners manage their covenants.

The grant will assist the landowners, who have already invested considerable energy and resources in their protected areas, to carry out a range of protection and enhancement work including fencing, weed and pest control, and revegetation planting. The covenants are located in a range of environments throughout New Zealand from as far north as Dargaville and as far south as Wanaka.



QEII CEO Margaret McKee and QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore at Taupo Swamp where weed control and revegetation projects are ongoing.

#### Wetland enhancement

Wetland enhancement projects are amongst those receiving funding, including the Trust's own Taupo Swamp – the Wellington region's largest remaining flax swamp and home to rare plants. The grant of \$20,000 will enable the battle against invasive weeds to continue.

QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, says the Trust is keenly aware of the role wetlands play in maintaining biodiversity and environmental health.

"As well as being important habitats, wetlands purify water and act as sponges – absorbing water during floods and releasing it in dry times. Yet 90% of New Zealand's wetlands have disappeared and much of the remainder is under threat. It is inspiring to see increasing numbers of landowners helping to reverse the trend by protecting these precious environments on their land."

# Reminder of Board elections 2007

Members should have received a call for nominations by post.

- Nominations close 26 January 2007.
- Voting closes 5 March 2007.

Visit **www.openspace.org.nz** for more information.

## Focus on:

# The Southland lowlands

Southland's lowlands are synonymous with fertile farmland. The productive landscape owes much to the fine loess soils that formed when vegetation trapped wind-blown dust during the last glacial period. Very little of the original vegetation cover now remains and the surviving remnants of natural ecosystems are threatened by fragmentation and changes to hydrology – especially on the floodplains.

More and more of Southland's landowners are recognising the rarity of the remnants on their land and are seeking to protect and enhance them under QEII open space covenants. Landcorp farming, for instance, has committed more than 600ha to 23 registered and approved covenants in the region.

As at 1 October 2006, 142 landowners had registered covenants over 2995ha, and 37 more had approved covenants that will protect a further 818ha when registered.

### Turakawaewae covenant, Stewart Island

**Sheila Natusch** (nee Traill) recalls many holidays staying on her family's bush block in Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island. "We pottered about in dinghies, had boil-the-billy day outings and just enjoyed the bush." Sheila covenanted the whole 87ha property with QEII to protect its forest and historic values. The Traill family continues its long tradition of back-to-basics holidays in the hut that her father built in the 1950s.



The hut and clearing where the Natusch family still holiday.



### A dream realised

For several years **James Pirie** sought to buy an area of native forest, as his original farm had been cleared of such areas. He is delighted that he and son **Stephen** have been able to safeguard a piece of Southland's natural history by purchasing and covenanting a 43ha remnant of lowland primary rimu / kamahi forest.



The Pirie's hill-top forest covenant is an eye catching feature for travelers on the Southern Scenic Route between Waikawa and Tokanui.

## **Protection with development**

**Jan and Dave Riddell** were keen to protect biodiversity values when they rationalised their new sheep farm layout as part of an intensification programme.

DOC botanist Brian Rance said the covenant contains the only area of shrubland dominated by rohutu (*Lophomyrtus obcordata*) known in Southland. He also identified several specimens of the threatened Olearia hectorii.

The 14ha covenant on Winton Hill also includes a lowland totara-kahikatea forest remnant and a small open water wetland.

> A fine specimen of Olearia hectorii on the Riddell covenant provides some welcome shade from the Southland heat.



Gay Munro

:otor

### **Braxton Downs Bog**

Peatbogs are a distinctive feature in the Taringatura ecological district but stock damage, fire and drainage are causing their gradual disappearance.

One landowner is helping reverse the trend by protecting the 47ha portion on his farm of the 185ha Braxton Downs Bog near Mossburn. Other than a small scattering of gorse which is being controlled, there are few weeds, and the bog supports 43 native plant species including wire rush, sphagnum moss, dracophyllum and orchids, and the regionally significant native fish *Galaxias gollumoides*.



## Restoration – a work of love

Thirty-five years ago **Malcolm MacKenzie** took pity on a small stand of kahikatea marooned in a sea of grass on the family farm. A keen conservationist, he fenced off the trees and began revegetating the site with shelter, canopy and understorey species.

QEII Rep Gay Munro says the 0.5ha covenanted remnant, though small, is one of the few of its type to have been preserved and restored on the Southland Plains. "Malcolm's dedication is being rewarded with improved sustainability as natural regeneration takes over."



The kahikatea stand, an in-progress restoration project, is close to several other covenants clustered on Winton Hill pictured behind.

## **Overlooking Foveaux Strait**

A 1.5ha remnant of podocarp forest nestles into the rolling downland behind Riverton, in good health thanks to **Dave and Mavis Asher**.

As a hunter Dave finds great pleasure in tramping amongst Southland's forests; however, his small patch brings him equal enjoyment. "We fenced it off years ago and saw a real improvement in the undergrowth," Dave recalls. "We've seen further improvement from doing animal and plant pest control and protecting it with a covenant was the obvious next step."

### Multi-value covenant

When **Geoff and Dawn Reeves** realised the ecological importance of a wetland on their hill country farm north of Gore, they abandoned their earlier plans to drain and develop it.

Instead, with financial help from the Otago Regional Council, they infilled the existing drain so that the swamp's diverse range of wetland species would continue to enjoy wet feet! They then secured permanent protection through a 17ha QEII covenant over not only the swamp but also separate blocks of tussockland and remnant podocarp/beech forest.



Dave Asher beside his forest covenant.

Geoff Reeves examines a carex sedge in the protected swamp.

## **Protection for Oban treasures**

Anyone who has visited Stewart Island knows of the abundance of birdlife that greets you as you wander around Oban, largely due to the presence of the podocarp forest down to the water's edge in Halfmoon Bay.

Covenantor **Ann Pullen**, lives right amongst the podocarp / kamahi forest, enjoying the verdant outlook

and plentiful birdlife, including native pigeon, tui, bellbirds, fantails, tomtits, grey warblers, brown creeper, red crowned parakeet and kaka.

**Bob and Judy Bartlett** also enjoy the bush-covered section around their holiday home, 'Watercress', at the Golden Bay end of Oban and have been pleased to secure its covenant protection.



Anne Pullen's home is nestled amongst bird-filled, covenanted forest on Stewart Island.

### **Tussock grassland in the landscape**

Farm redevelopment has seen 8.3ha of tussock and shrubland protected under a QEII covenant on **John and Jacqueline McLean's** Lumsden property.

"We enjoy seeing the tussocks in the landscape," says John "and wanted to keep this area the way it is."

Red and silver tussock dominate the covenanted gully floor which feeds into the Waimea Stream where John (a keen fisherman) enjoys seeing trout spawning.



## Recovering from the big chill of '96

Southlanders vividly remember the big freeze of 1996, which saw the region iced-up for about two weeks. **Paul, Alison and Brendan Duffy** noticed a setback to the regeneration that had been developing after they fenced stock out of their forest remnants but, fortunately, good regrowth has been healing the wounds.

As a Southland District Councillor, Paul was aware that covenant protection was good practice and would ensure the retention of biodiversity values on their farm into the future.



Frost-damage from the big chill was still evident in 2002 but good regrowth was also evident.

# Focus on: Great Barrier Island

Great Barrier Island is rich in natural heritage. Separated from the Coromandel Peninsula long ago, its geology is similarly volcanic in origin and gives rise to a spectacular, rugged landscape and complex coastline. In addition to remnants of once-extensive podocarp / hardwood forest, the island is refuge to some rare and threatened native species, including the Great Barrier Island kanuka, *Leptospermum sinclairii*, which is confined to the island.

Great Barrier landowners are helping to protect the island's natural character with QEII open space covenants. As at 1 October 2006, 7 landowners had registered covenants over 359ha, and 3 more had approved covenants that will protect a further 60ha when registered.

#### **Todd Wheeler covenant**

A few huge kahikatea stand sentinel in Bubbles Wheeler's newly registered 137ha covenant behind Tryphena Bay. With trunk diameters of up to 1.5 metres, these forest giants would have witnessed – but somehow escaped – the surrounding forest clearance that supplied Auckland firewood in the 1920s and 30s.

Today, Bubbles guards the manuka/kanuka scrub that has regrown on the cleared land, together with the forest remnants that include taraire and puriri and one of the larger kauris in the southern third of the island.



QEII Rep for South Auckland, Lynda Fleming, and Bubbles Wheeler admire the lush undergrowth in Bubble's covenant.



## Rare lizard habitat

Helga and Peter Speck's 14ha puriri-taire forest covenant is home to a diverse range of indigenous species including the threatened black petrel, and the nationally endangered brown teal and chevron skink.

Peter says they haven't sighted a chevron skink for a couple of years but, according to the Department of Conservation, that's hardly surprising as it is a very shy and extremely well camouflaged species.

The skink is one of New Zealand's rarest, having survived only on Great Barrier Island and possibly on Little Barrier Island. Their survival on the islands is probably due, in part, to the absence of predators such as stoats, ferrets, weasels and Norway rats (the latter preferring the same damp, streamside habitats as the chevron skink.)

Helga and Peter are committed to protecting the biodiversity on their land; they participate in the Windy Hill – Rosalie Bay pest control programme and are propagating the mistletoe, *Ileostylus micranthus*, to increase the local population.



The chevron skink, Oligosoma homalonotum, is New Zealand's largest lizard, measuring up to 30cm long, and is distinguished by the V-shaped markings on its back.

Photo: Dick Veitch, Crown Copyrig Department of Conservation 1984

## Harrison family – safeguarding the coast

The **Harrison family** has protected two parts of Great Barrier's beautiful southern coast.

Graeme Harrison and his father, the late Bob Harrison, gifted to QEII a 6.35ha headland, called Mara Point. Located at the entrance to Tryphena Harbour, it is a well-known landmark to yachties.



Mara Point.

#### Safe haven

In June 1989, four castaways struggled onto a rocky shoreline on Great Barrier's southeast coast after 119 days adrift in their upturned yacht, the *Rose Noelle*. They clambered up a steep bush-clad valley to an unoccupied cottage where they gorged on grapefruit before finding help further uphill.

Still a safe haven, the rugged valley is now refuge to native plants and animals thanks to the efforts of the Little Windy Hill Company.

The company protected 116ha under an open space covenant in 1998 and began an ambitious conservation programme the following year. In 2002 the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust was formed to coordinate the 14 neighbouring landowners who joined the programme, bringing the total area to 450ha.

The Catchment Trust Manager, Judy Gilbert, says, "Pest control, both plant and animal, is the focus of the ecological restoration alongside monitoring of birds, lizards, wetas, rat densities and seedlings. But reintroducing the North Island robin to Barrier after an absence of 140 years has been our crowning achievement." Bob Harrison had earlier covenanted another 15.8ha block of virgin coastal forest on the south coast. Accessible only by sea, this block, now owned by Graeme's brother John, contains large puriri and pohutukawa growing right to the water's edge.



Graeme Harrison approaches the pohutukawa-lined shore on the south coast covenant.



The Rose Noelle crew found their way up from the coast through pohutukawa, podocarp and broadleaf forest to the Little Windy Hill cottage.



Dean Medland and Judy Gilbert carry in rat traps and covers to the Little Windy Hill covenant.

## **Glenfern Sanctuary – bringing back the birds**

"When we moved to Great Barrier fifteen years ago, we couldn't get over the absence of bird life on the island and decided to do something about it," recalls **Tony Bouzaid** of Glenfern Sanctuary in Rarohara Bay, Port Fitztroy.

As soon as they'd established their tourist accommodation business, Tony and wife Mal started planting trees and trapping pests on their 80ha property.

Since 2001, with funding from the Auckland City Heritage Fund, they have progressively set up a grid of cat traps and rat bait stations over their own property, the adjacent Orama Christian Community land and the Kotuku Scenic Reserve. Together, the properties cover a small peninsula between Port Fitzroy and Port Abercrombie.

"We now manage this 230ha peninsula with 543 bait stations," Tony says.

Dedication has paid off. The Bouzaid's remnant coastal forest and revegetation planting is flourishing and providing habitat to threatened species including brown teal, black petrel, kaka, North Island robin and chevron skink. Birdsong is increasing and 5 pairs of North Island robin, translocated with 17 others from Tiritiri Matangi Island in April 2005, successfully fledged 21 juveniles last summer.

"We covenanted 61ha of our land with QEII because it's the only way to protect this beyond us," Tony explains. "Next, we want to build a predator-proof fence across the whole peninsula. It'll make pest eradication possible and sustainable, using less funding than we currently receive from the Biodiversity Condition Fund. It will also enable other threatened species like kiwi, kokako and saddleback to be introduced.

"What a great example it would be in the effort to eradicate rats and feral cats from the whole island!"

To find out more about the sanctuary visit **www.glenfern.org.nz**.



An aerial walkway offers visitors to Glenfern Sanctuary a different perspective on the forest.



Glenfern Sanctuary manager, Steve Maurice, and QEII Reps Lynda Fleming and Robyn Smith admire coastal views from Sunset Rock in Glenfern Sanctuary.

# Early covenants

# For future generations

Former MP for Papakura and current Mayor of Papakura District Council, John Robertson tells his family's covenant story.

After World War II my parents, Maurice and the late Rosemary Robertson, moved from Auckland to a 1,000-acre returned serviceman's settlement farm near Piopio in the King Country. They became dedicated plants people, developing a garden around the homestead and planting exotic trees on the hill country farm. Like others in the district they also did a lot of community planting at such places as the Piopio College, Piopio golf course and Piopio Reserve.

As the years went on they became increasingly interested in the two native bush blocks on the farm. One of these had not been logged and included an impressive stand of kahikatea.

So, when Maurice and Rosemary heard about the new QEII National Trust, they decided an open space covenant would be an ideal way to protect the bush for future generations. The two blocks totalling 2.4ha were approved for covenanting in 1979 and registered in 1982 after they were fenced and surveyed.

Maurice then began planting more native plants alongside, hand weeding around them until the trees were established. The fences kept getting extended and more grassland absorbed!

When Maurice eventually sold the farm, he kept a 25ha block that, of course, included the covenanted bush. Now aged 87, he is still planting though these days my son Daniel often travels down from Papakura to assist.

Like Maurice, my wife Karen and I love the land and the bush he has protected. We'll take it over in due course and hopefully pass it on to Daniel and daughter Sarah. I can see the blocks eventually joining up to include a number of waterways.

I have learnt the value of QEII covenants and promote them in the Papakura district.



Maurice Robertson (right) with his grandson Daniel. Maurice - at 87 - still rides his old farm bike up to his bush blocks and traps possums and magpies.



Regenerating podocarp forest in the covenanted bush blocks is in good health.

# QEII involved in new research partnership...

## ...looking for biodiversity gains on the ground

by Bill Lee, Landcare Research

QEII is one of the project partners in a research programme run by Landcare Research called 'Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity'.

The programme aims to reverse the ongoing decline in indigenous biodiversity by undertaking research with and for the Department of Conservation, QEII Trust, a range of iwi, and regional government. Funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, it is an example of a new model for overseeing and implementing Crown-funded research into terrestrial ecosystems, termed 'Outcome Based Investments'. As the name suggests, the new model challenges researchers to work with key biodiversity protection agencies to achieve defined biodiversity outcomes on the ground.

QEII, through representation by CEO Margaret McKee on the Governance Board, has a key role to ensure that the research projects deliver appropriate results that can be accessed and used by the different biodiversity protection agencies.



South Island kaka in Chilean flametree: research will examine ways to enhance native birds' contribution to ecosystem functioning.

The eight-year programme will run through to 2013 and involves the following five major strands covering key areas for biodiversity protection:

- Reducing extinction risk by sustaining genetic diversity in indigenous plants and animals;
- Enhancing critical interactions (e.g. pollination, seed dispersal, grazing, nutrient transfer) involving native birds;
- Increasing the effectiveness of conservation flagships (e.g., biodiversity sanctuaries, iconic species such as kiwi);



A rare ecosystem: the sparsely vegetated volcanic inland dunes of the Rangipo Desert, central North Island.



Maintaining threatened ecosystems, such as this dune wetland in the Willis covenant near Foxton, is a major focus of the research.

- 4. Maintaining threatened rare ecosystems (e.g., wetlands, geothermal sites, sand dunes); and
- 5. Restoring dryland biodiversity through facilitating the return of woody communities.

We are working in partnership with QEII and others to achieve a defined biodiversity outcome for each strand over the duration of the research. For example, in the dryland ecosystem area we are aiming to increase woody vegetation cover and the populations of selected threatened species by 10%. This target outcome will be a major challenge but we believe our new partnership with QEII will maximise opportunity for these gains to occur due to QEII's positive working relationship with landowners.

We will regularly report findings of interest to landowners in Open *Space*<sup>™</sup>. For an outline of our research, associated publications and project contacts visit:

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/ research/collaboration.asp.



Diverse native vegetation in north Otago is protected from fire and extending into grassland.

# Ecotourism enables conservation at Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve

Every spring, the New Zealand endemic Hutton's shearwaters return from fish-rich feeding grounds off Australia to nest in burrows on precipitous alpine slopes in the Seaward Kaikoura Mountains. One of the two remaining breeding colonies has been protected under an 862ha QEII covenant at Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve, inland of Kaikoura.

Although the remote colony is all but inaccessible, walkers on the Kaikoura Wilderness Walkway can view it from a distance. The walkway is part of the ecotourism experience offered at Puhi Peaks by Alpine Discovery Limited.

Managing Director Don Cameron says he and wife Robyn realised the potential for ecotourism at their 1262ha property. "When we bought Puhi Peaks Station in 1981 we knew it was a special area. With changes in farming we realised we had to adapt to stay economic. This part of the property is hard land to farm and we decided it was best to dedicate much of it to conservation."

They began with a 3ha covenant protecting an unusual mix of matai forest and *Teucridium* shrubland, then covenanted the 862ha Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve, to which another 120ha is being added.

QEII High Country Rep, Brian Molloy, says the range of biodiversity within the covenants is notable. "The range in altitude from 600 to 2,200 metres spans a sequence of habitats from kanuka forest, through montane beech and totara forest, subalpine scrub and alpine grassland as well as significant areas of scree and rock. The resulting flora and fauna is rich."



Walkers on the Kaikoura Wilderness Walkway explore the Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve.



Snowgrass, Chionochloa pallens, habitat of the Hutton's shearwater colony on Puhi Peaks.

Visitors to the Shearwater Lodge and the 17-kilometre guided walk are likely to see the nationally endangered kea (*Nestor notabilis*) and New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) as well as species endemic to Marlborough (found nowhere else) including a number of plants, the Kaikoura giant weta (*Deinacrida parva*) and New Zealand's rarest lizard, the black-eyed gecko (*Hoplodactylus kahutarae*).



Photo: Gregory H. Sherley Crown Copyrigh Department of Conservatio

The endangered black-eyed gecko (Hoplodactylus kauhutarae) is endemic to the Kaikoura region.

#### **Shearwater protection**

The Camerons are committed to protecting the shearwater colony. They are members of the DOCled Hutton Recovery Group and have begun pest control with help from the Kaikoura District Council, Environment Canterbury, the Biodiversity Condition Fund and Landcare Trust Fund. They have also been instrumental in setting up the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust to raise funds for research and predator control.

They were delighted when DOC recently agreed to assist with installing a heli-pad near the colony when the spring snows recede.

"It's slow and risky getting up there on foot," explains Robyn. "This will enable us to establish a more regular pest control and monitoring programme."

For bookings: Freephone: **0800 945 337** Email: **info@kaikourawilderness.co.nz**, Website: **www. kaikourawilderness.co.nz**.

# Hutton's shearwater (*Puffinus huttonii*): Some facts

The world's two remaining breeding colonies of Hutton's shearwaters are remote and inaccessible, at altitudes of 1200 – 1800 metres in the Seaward Kaikoura Ranges. The Puhi Peaks and the larger DOC-administered Uerau colonies support an estimated 190,000 breeding pairs.

The birds winter in Australian waters but return every August. After the snows recede the female of each pair lays a single egg in a nesting burrow. The chicks hatch in December and fledge in March. The shearwaters are known to have bred elsewhere in the Kaikoura Mountains and North Canterbury and the reasons for their decline are not fully understood. However, predation and habitat loss are likely causes.

Protecting the two remaining colonies is a priority but DOC and Ngati Kuri Runanga are also working jointly to improve the survival stakes by establishing a third colony on the Kaikoura Peninsula. It is hoped that translocated chicks, hand-raised in artificial burrows, will return to breed when they reach maturity. The first batch is expected to return in the summer of 2008–09.



Hutton's shearwaters feed on small fish and surface crustacean. They grow to 36cm long, with dark brown plumage on their backs and wings, and have distinctive dark brown markings at the base of their underwings.



A Hutton's shearwater chick at the Uerau colony.

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** or phone **Freephone 0508 732 878** to request a copy by post.

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

# Protecting open space for the benefit and enjoyment of New Zealand's future generations has never been more important.

As a country, we face serious issues relating to changing land use, multiple land use objectives, farm productivity, climate change effects, fresh water quality, high value landscapes and threatened habitats and species. Getting the balance right is a challenge for us all.

QEII plays a vital role in achieving that balance – especially within productive working landscapes. Our model of open space protection on private land is well demonstrated as being highly cost effective and rigorous. Inherent in the model's success is landowner involvement and commitment and the respect for private property rights.

Many of New Zealand's most threatened environments occur on private land and the Trust is uniquely placed to make the greatest contribution to protecting these areas. The mosaic of covenants spread throughout the country provide a reservoir of biodiversity and some insurance against climate change and biosecurity risks that we may face in the future.

The value of QEII's contribution towards protecting treasured environments and implementing national environmental policies, including the Biodiversity Strategy, far outweighs the modest \$2.87million annual Government funding.

QEII has had another year of outstanding achievement. The key outcomes of new covenant approvals, registrations and covenant monitoring have progressed smoothly within a measured and accountable environment. Of the monitored covenants, 98.4% met the agreed covenant terms and conditions and poor adherence, at 1.6%, was at its lowest recorded level. We continue to see a steady stream of new proposals from all over the country and the diversity is impressive. We sincerely thank all those organisations and individuals around the country who support our work and the work of our covenantors. Local government plays an increasing part and we have a number of formal funding partnerships in place for fencing assistance and pest control. Most councils now offer some form of rates relief for landowners with QEII covenants.

In the year ahead we look forward to further improving our efficiency by embracing more science and technology. This will include progressing our partnership with Landcare Research and implementing a new database. Managing fencing and survey costs, which accounts for over fifty percent of expenditure, is an ongoing challenge. Fence materials and fence styles appropriate for covenant protection, as well as labour costs, are all issues. We are also seeing more irregularly shaped covenants, which result in longer fence lines per covenant and hence a greater cost per covenant.

This coming year we farewell two Directors elected by the membership, Bill Garland and Geoff Walls, who will have served their maximum nine-year terms of office in March 2007. Both have made an outstanding contribution to QEII. Bill has brought an in-depth understanding of the farming psyche and pragmatism, and Geoff has persistently encouraged a greater appreciation and recognition of our ecological and cultural heritage. Two new directors will be elected in February. The role of the Directors is to



Sir Brian Lochore, Chairperson



Margaret McKee, Chief Executive

provide best practice governance by having a clear view of the Trust's purpose and strategy, and ensuring effective management accountability and risk management. The nomination and voting process is important and we encourage those of you eligible to partake purposefully.

Taking the Directors' meetings into the regions has great merit in seeing issues first-hand. The covenantors'

functions held at Whitianga, Moeraki, Hawke's Bay and Apiti have been a delight and the highlight of our year. Covenants connect people and places, reflecting the deep ties that many people feel for the land. The stories are intimate with an underlying understanding that healthy functioning ecosystems provide the best hope for our wellbeing now and in the future. It is a privilege to be involved and we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Bytochare

Sir Brian Lochore Chairperson 19th September 2006

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Margaret McKee Chief Executive 19th September 2006

#### Highlights

- Covenantors' gatherings in: Whitianga-Coromandel, Moeraki-North Otago, Apiti-Northern Manawatu and Havelock North.
- Record number of covenant registrations: 235 protecting 5,041 hectares.
- Record number of covenants monitored: 1,066.
- Poor adherence to covenant terms and conditions at lowest recorded level: 1.6%.

#### **Biodiversity highlights**

- 155 new approved covenants, 3,588 hectares, are known to have threatened species present.
- 145 new approved covenants, 3,581 hectares, will protect threatened ecosystems including wetlands, dunelands, coastal and semi coastal forest, limestone country and primary lowland forest.
- 103 new approved covenants, 1,420 hectares, are in acutely or chronically threatened areas as defined by Land Environments of New Zealand.
- 54 new covenant approvals, 1,525 hectares, are in the six districts where significant loss of indigenous cover in threatened environments is ongoing; Gisborne, Central Otago, Far North, Hastings, Marlborough and Southland.

#### **Statistics**

#### **Covenants**



#### Monitoring

During the 2005/06 financial year, 1066 covenants were monitored. Some key results are summarised as follows.

#### Adherence is an assessment of how well the agreed covenant terms and conditions are being met.

Exceeds the terms and conditions. Good: Average: Satisfies the terms and conditions. Remedial action required to ensure Poor:

terms and conditions are being met.

Canopy condition assesses the state of the dominant vegetation layer, which will vary according to the type of protected habitat. For instance, a forest canopy is formed by the taller trees and may be affected by possum browse. A tussock grassland canopy is formed by the tussocks and may be impacted upon by grazing or fire.



Poor 1.6%

Good 85%

#### **Financial statistics**





Number of covenants monitored



Average 13.4%

#### Adherence 2005-2006

## **Protecting Biodiversity**

QEII National Trust plays a key role in the New Zealand Biodiveristy Strategy as it is uniquely placed to advance the protection in perpetuity of the threatened environments that occur on private land.

The majority of New Zealand is privately owned and most of that land is in the lowland areas, which have high economic value and have been intensively developed. Much of the threatened indigenous flora and fauna, and their habitats, occur on the lowlands and can only be protected through the goodwill and action of private landowners. Small remnants of natural habitat often sit nestled in farmland and these remnants are vital for maintaining biodiversity. With covenant protection, they provide the opportunity to restore ecological corridors and protect catchments.

This year QEII received \$1.55m of Government funding targeted specifically for biodiversity protection.

#### **Protecting threatened environments**

Landcare Research has used Land Environments of New Zealand (LENZ) and Land Cover Database (LCDB) vegetation mapping to identify the threatened environments within New Zealand. Over 75% of QEII covenants occur in threatened environments.



QEII covenants in the lower North Island shown on Landcare Research threatened environments map.

#### Statement of Service Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

This statement measures performance against goals set at the commencement of the Purchase Agreement signed with the Minister of Conservation in July 2005.

# 1. Identification and Implementation of Protection for Natural and Historic Places:

Implementation of legal protection of natural and historic resources on private or leasehold land.

	2004	/05 Actual	2005/06 Estimate		2005/06 Actual		
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	
Approved covenants	332	9,963	300	7,500	266*	5,319	
Registered covenants	194	4,766	190	4,750	235	5,041	
Cost	\$1,981,135		\$2,178,651		\$2,179,755		

 $\ast$  Funds available could only support 266 new proposals this year. Fencing costs per covenant have increased due to :

- Increase in fencing costs materials, labour and transport.
- More irregular shaped covenants with longer boundaries due to
  - Increase in riparian covenants
  - A trend for multiple block covenants
  - More sophisticated farming practices with more paddock subdivision
  - Fewer large covenants.
  - Focus on high biodiversity areas and rare ecosystems which tend to be smaller and more expensive to establish.

#### 2. Management Services: Natural and Historic Places:

Management Services for properties with historical or natural significance, including maintenance work, access for public, management advice on covenanted land and maintaining the perpetual trustee role for registered covenants.

#### Service Performance

	2004	/05 Actual	2005/06 Estimate		2005/06 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
QEII owned properties	27	1,582	27	1,582	26	1,502
Monitoring of registered covenants	971	-	1,060	26,500	1,066	38,965
Cost	\$1,297,427		\$1,049,277		\$1,117,473	

#### Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005 Actual \$		2006 Actual \$	2006 Budget \$
	Revenue		
1,318,222	Government Grant - Base Funding	1,319,000	1,318,777
1,555,556	Government Grant - Biodiversity	1,555,000	1,555,000
312,226	Contestable Funds	78,567	200,340
177,902	Donations and Other Grants	54,370	68,520
436,330	Interest from Investments	444,726	440,000
95,093	Other Revenue	62,373	55,700
3,895,329	Total Revenue	3,514,036	3,638,337
	Expenditure		
974,134	Field Operations	931,121	922,000
883,935	Covenant Expenditure (Note 2)	1,024,737	1,090,000
312,226	Contestable Funds	275,291	200,000
784,789	Administration (Note 1)	789,510	731,228
102,901	Property Operations	80,381	76,200
144,568	Public Relations	131,988	133,500
76,009	Depreciation (Note 8)	64,200	75,000
3,278,562	Total Expenditure	3,297,228	3,227,928
616,767	Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/ Disposals (See Note Below)	216,808 *	410,409
	Surplus/ (Deficit) on Property Acquisitions/ Disposals		
(530,265)	Property Gifted out by Trust	(314,339)	(314,339)
-	Property Gifted to Trust	-	-
86,502	Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	(97,531)	96,070

\* This sum is committed within the new covenant commitments but is not spent at the time of reporting.



Covenantors get together: Alec Olsen, farmer and regional councillor, hosted a QEII field day in his 52ha riparian forest covenant beside the Mangaone River in Hawke's Bay.

# Pests

# Update on traps – humane guideline

Anyone who manufactures or uses traps should be aware of the guideline produced by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) on assessing the welfare performance of traps.

"Compliance with the guideline is not a legal requirement but does provide some assurance that the impacts of the trap on animal welfare can be considered acceptable," says Kate Littin, Technical Adviser Animal Welfare with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

It is, however, a legal requirement under the Animal Welfare Act, to check a restraining trap within 12 hours of sunrise every day that the trap remains set. Restraining traps are those that capture animals alive, such as leghold or cage traps, and need to be checked to minimise potential suffering of trapped animals. Animals caught in these traps must then be released, cared for appropriately or killed quickly and humanely.

Many trappers prefer kill traps to restraining traps because daily checking is not required. As the name implies, kill traps are designed to kill the target animal, and the NAWAC guideline requires that, to be acceptable, the trap should render the target animal irreversibly unconscious within three minutes.

Bruce Warburton, scientist with Landcare Research, Lincoln, has been testing a range of kill traps in pen trials where it is possible to closely observe and monitor each animal, when caught, to assess how quickly it loses consciousness.

"It's important that traps perform consistently, so the NAWAC guideline has a requirement that 10-out-of-10

animals tested must be rendered irreversibly unconscious within the required three minutes," Bruce says.

Bruce also says it is the trapping system that is tested – the trap and how it is set – and not just the trap. "Some traps will strike the animal correctly when set and baited in a certain way but will fail to do so if set differently. The Steve Allan trap, for example, passed for feral cats when set above the ground but this does not mean it will kill feral cats effectively when set on the ground."

Bruce says that while various traps have met the performance standard, others that are commonly used as kill traps have failed. The test results are summarised in Figure 1.

Darren Peters, National Predator Control Officer with DOC, says that DOC and other organisations are continuing to research and develop pest traps to better meet a range of requirements.

"Meeting the humane standard is obviously one objective but traps also need to have good catch rates and durability, and be designed to avoid catching non-target native species or humanely trap non-target pest species. And then there's the level of skill required. These days more and more community volunteers and private landowners are doing pest control, and they need traps that are safe, easy to use, and easy to set to best practice standards with little training."

He says it's not easy to meet all the requirements in a single trap but new designs and refinements to existing designs are under continuing development.

# Track checking requirements

#### **Restraining traps**

- Designed to capture animals alive, such as leghold and cage traps.
- Must be checked by law within 12 hours after sunrise on the day after setting and every day that the trap remains set.

#### Kill traps

• Do not legally have to be checked, but must render the trapped animal irreversibly unconscious within three minutes to meet the NAWAC guideline.



QEII covenantors, June and Ian Wilson, with a DOC 200 trap that they use to control mustelids

on their Northland farm.



	Target species						
	Possum	Ferret	Stoat	Feral cat	Hedgehog	Norway rat	Ship rat
Trap models that have <i>failed</i> kill trap performance standard tests prior to October 2006	Conibear 160 Timms*	Conibear 120 Belisle Super x 120 SAF Timms Timms tunnel Tunnel Warrior	Fenn Mk IV Fenn Mk VI Victor Snapback	BMI 160 Conibear 220			
Trap models that have <i>passed</i> kill trap performance standard tests prior to October 2006	BMI 160 LDL101 Timms* Warrior	DOC 250	DOC 150 DOC 200 DOC 250	Allan Belisle Super X 220 Timms	DOC 150 DOC 200 DOC 250	DOC 150 DOC 200 DOC 250 Victor Professional Snapback	DOC 250

Figure 1: Humane performance testing results prior to October 2006. Note: not all available trap types have been tested. \*Note: The Timms trap only just failed the kill test but, if baited correctly, should be effective for possums.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 allows for the prohibition or restriction of particular traps. The government is currently assessing NAWAC's recommendation that the following traps be prohibited:

- Lanes-Ace (gin) and all similar no. 11/2 longspring traps
- Victor no. 11/2 unpadded and all similar double-coil spring traps
- Victor no. 3 and all similar double-coil spring traps.



## **DOC series traps**

The DOC series traps, developed by DOC's Research Development and Improvement Division and Phil Waddington, have met the humane guideline standard and proved effective in the field. Designed to primarily target stoats, all models have proved effective against rats and hedgehogs as well.

"The Fenns were DOC's most widely used trap for mustelid control but they require skill to set properly and they don't meet the humane standard," explains Darren. " So we decided to develop an alternative that would meet the humane standard, be easier to use and have a high catch rate."

Bruce Warburton tested the trap's performance against the recommended humane standard.

"We found it not only met but exceeded the standard. The animals were unconscious in less than 30 seconds. It's a huge advance in terms of animal welfare compared to the Fenn traps."

## Pests continued

The catch rates of the DOC 200 and Fenn Mark VI traps were also compared in field trials conducted during mainland island stoat control programmes between September 2004 and May 2006. The two types of traps were alternated along the trap lines and the Fenn traps were set according to DOC's best practice for their use. The trial involved a total of 173 of each type of trap. The results are shown in Figure 2.

Craig Gillies, DOC Predator Ecologist, responsible for the technical coordination of the mainland island programme, says the results are significant. "Even allowing for repeat catches the results show a significantly better performance with the DOC 200."

	Fenn Trap	DOC 200 Trap
Number of stoats caught	54	103
Number of ship rats caught	142	211
Total	196	314
Adjusted totals where repeat catches not counted	40	71

Figure 2: The results of the 18-month field trial. The adjusted totals were also analysed to avoid possible distortion from traps that happened to be located in an area more frequented by the target animals, such as near a breeding den.

Craig says the DOC series still have to pass the test of time in comparison to other traps that have been in use for many years. However, some DOC 200s have been in use for four years and he's not heard of any drop-off in functioning yet.

 About the NAWAC humane guideline, visit http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/ nawac/policies/guideline09.htm

For more information:

 About the DOC series traps and tunnels visit: http://www.predatortraps.com/ or contact Darren Peters at dpeters@doc.govt.nz.



Photo: Darren Peters

A double set DOC 200: a stoat has been killed in the left-hand trap, which is in the triggered position, while the right-hand trap is still in the set position. The DOC series are to be used in tunnels that conform to DOC's 'current best practice', as shown; designed to exclude non-target species, guide target species into the trap and provide for public safety.



The DOC 200 trap is designed so that the target animal will be directed through a hole in the baffle (mesh at rear) to step straight onto the treadle, immediately triggering the crusher plate (at left) to release onto the animal.

# Pests continued

## New pest trap guideline booklets



The National Possum Control Agencies have recently published three booklets to guide trap users about correct trap use and animal welfare.

A Guideline for Using Leghold Traps to Trap Small Animals

A Guideline for Improving the Welfare of Trapped Vertebrate Pests in New Zealand

A Guideline for Using Kill Traps to Trap Small Animals

Cost: \$10/set of three, or \$3.50 each, including GST but not postage or packaging.

To order: visit http://www.npca.org.nz/ publications.html or phone (04) 499-7559.

#### **Recently registered covenants**

A summary of covenants registered from 1 June 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council	Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Hunt	6.8	F	Far North	Carter	57.1	F	Kapiti
Ross	3.3	W, F	Whangarei	McKenzie, McKinstry, Gold &	16.2	W	Carterton
Wright	0.2	F	Rodney	Langridge	22.2	-	Castantas
Jones	1.1	F	Rodney	Butterick	22.2	F	Carterton
Chatelanat	2.4	F	Rodney	Farmview Limited x 6	0.8	5	Porirua
Harrison & Pratt	2.6	F	Rodney	Fenaughty	5.5	F	Wellington
Miller & Hager	0.3	F	Waitakere	Warren	40.0	5	vveilington
Platts	2.8	S, W	Franklin	D'Aoust	51.1	F	Tasman
Russell	3.8	F	Franklin	Rackley, Aspinall Joel Radford	2.2	F, L	lasman
Grey	6.6	F, W, Ge	Franklin	Limited, Poole, Stock, Wall,			
Pauanui Lakes Properties Ltd	16.7	W	Thames- Coromandel	Haliday Potter, Kennedy & Ass, Pullar,	0.6	F, T	Tasman
Hanlanke & Quattlender	4.5	F, W, L	Thames- Coromandel	O'Regan, Freyberg, Beagle, Garland & WF Trustees Ltd			
Tapuaetahi Bay Trustee Limited	0.9	F, W, L	Thames- Coromandel	Cape Campbell Farm Limited x 2	6.7	S, G, A, F	Marlborough
Moss x 2	18.3	F, W	Waikato	Marlborough District Council	3.4	T	Marlborough
N.Z. Forest Products Limited	84.3	F	South Waikato	Hirst	16.9	F, W	Westland
Wise	27.3	F	Otorohanga	Tiromoana Station Limited	407.4	F, S, G, W	Hurunui
Wills	40.9	F	Hastings	Matthews	10.2	W, G	Waimakariri
Yule & Startup	22.9	F	Hastings	Christchurch City Council	1.0	L	Christchurch City
McLean	13.2	F	Central	Craw	3.6	F, S	Christchurch City
			Hawke's Bay	Нодд	11.1	G, W	Clutha
Grant, Dicks, Mabin & Wilson	11.4	F	Central	Duffy	13.5	F	Southland
Public Truct	76.1	S F	Contral	Buckingham	6.8	F, W	Southland
	/0.1	5,1	Hawke's Bay	Gardner	26.6	F, S	Southland
Bake & Phillips	9.7	F, S	Central Hawke's Bay	Кеу:			
Halcombe	2.0	F, W	New Plymouth	A Archaeological feature	Fore	est	G Grassland
Jack	2.9	F	Manawatu	Ga Garden / arboretum	Ge Geo	logical feature	L Landscape
Speedy & Bennett	1.8	F	Tararua	S Shrubland	Tree	eland	W Wetland

# Fencing

### Variations around the country

Fencing varies around the country. There is a huge range of styles, individual farmer preferences, regional variations ... and costs. Some fence types use substantially more materials – and dollars – than others.

Covenant fencing requirements differ from other farm fencing, where stock is generally grazing on both sides. Typically, when planning a covenant or retirement fence, the following factors need to be considered:

- grazing stock to be excluded;
- pressure from stock on one side wanting to reach lush covenant vegetation on the other;
- potential tree-fall on the fenceline with associated maintenance and repair issues.

Regional variations in soils, climate and topography; practical implications of remote locations; and potential feral pig and goat damage in remote locations all need to be considered.

Some common fencing variations are shown.



North Island standard 7-wire post and batten fence. Wires need to be on the stock side of the post and battens on the stock side of the wire to minimise stock pressure issues.



Southern Wairarapa: 7-wire, 3 electric, sheep-proof fence.



Marlborough: netting fence.

# Fencing continued



Hurunui: iron-T snow fence, built c.1930s to keep stock from snowprone high land.



Great Barrier Island: 4 wire, 2 electric cattle exclusion fence.



Te Mata Peak: low visual impact fence in public recreation setting, light summer grazing only.



Oh dear!

## **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.



# Collector's item for botanists

A new two-volume edition of *Eagle's Complete Trees* and Shrubs of New Zealand has just been published. A total of 806 native plants are depicted with Audrey Eagle's beautiful botanical artworks and described in detail.

Includes over 170 new paintings in addition to those published in previous editions.

Published by Te Papa Press. Recommended retail price: \$200 (incl GST).



# Fragments

## **Properties for sale with covenants**



#### **South Canterbury**

Geraldine area, 98ha bare grazing property, including 7.5ha wetland covenant. Ph Simon 03-442-5747 or visit www.geraldinerealestate.com



#### Hokianga

Opononi area, 4ha covenanted property including bush and dwelling. Ph: Garry Clarke 09-405-7688 or email clarkegroup@ihug.co.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	М	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



#### 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

Prices include GST and postage

	Vest size(s) x \$165.00 ea	ach = \$			
Name	Greeting cards (packs of 10 only) x \$30/p	ack = \$			
Address (for courier delivery)	Donation (optional)	\$			
		Total \$			
	Method of payment – 🗅 Cheque 🛛 Mastercar				
	Credit card details –				
Talanhana	Number				
	Cardholder name	Expiry date			
D 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**

#### North Waikato



**Buller-Grey** 

Mike Copeland is the new regional representative for the Buller-Grey districts.

A keen advocate of environmental sustainability, he has a bent for practical, field-based solutions which he brings to his business of supplying and installing flushable compost systems for sewage treatment.

He is trained in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management and previously worked as a 'Conservation with Communities' Ranger for DoC's Buller Kawatiri area office. In this role, he greatly enjoyed working with landowners and communities to establish conservation partnerships.

He and his wife Julie live with their two dogs on a bush block near Westport.

#### Johlene Kelly is the new QEII representative for North Waikato. Hamish Dean will continue to look after the South Waikato area while Hamish Kendal will cover Hauraki as well as Coromandel.

Johlene has a BSc in ecology and has worked for Environment Waikato during the last six years in a monitoring and advisory role, dealing mainly with freshwater environments in lakes, rivers and riparian areas throughout the region. She looks forward to working further with landowners in her new role.

An outdoor enthusiast, Johlene enjoys tramping and kayaking and has also done volunteer work for DOC on a number of offshore islands. She and her partner live in Hamilton.



#### Roger Sutton, 1922–2006



Former QEII Rep and renowned conservationist Roger Sutton died in September.

Roger was a through-and-through Southlander who devoted much of his life to protecting and enhancing the natural environment and wildlife habitats of the Deep South.

He grew up in rural Southland, trained as a cabinetmaker, but found his real niche in his long career with the Southland Acclimatisation Society. He was also a long-serving member of the National Council of the Ornithological Society, a regional councillor for 15 years and served on the Southland Conservation Board for three terms during the 1990s.

In 1979, he and his wife Christine received the prestigious Loder Cup for

protection and cultivation of New Zealand native trees and plants. His services to conservation were further recognised with an MBE in 1984 and, in 2000, Environment Southland recognised his "dedication and commitment to environmental sustainability in Southland" with a Special Environmental Award.

Many southern covenantors will remember Roger as their QEII regional representative, a role he held from 1979 to 1997. They will remember his direct, practical and always well-reasoned conservation advice as well as the beautifully crafted timber covenant signs he produced in his home workshop.

Roger's son, Mark, is now QEII Rep for the Waiau catchment.

# **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.

Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand. 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	Membe	ership	Appl	ication
-						

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 \$ Please send a receipt
□ Individual \$30 □ Family \$45 □ Life \$550	For direct debit option please visit <b>www.openspace.org.nz</b>
$\Box$ Corporate – business (on application)	Please send me information on:
□ Corporate – non profit organisation \$50	$\square$ Making a bequest to the Trust $\square$ Open Space Covenants
Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand.	a making a bequest to the must a open space covenants
(Subscriptions include GST)	Gift Membership
<b>Donation</b> – optional (tick box):	Gift to: name & address
Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible	
□ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$20 □ Other \$	Send next years 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 3,000 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.



Berries of Maire tawake or swamp maire (Syzgium maire) at Te Oranga Whenua covenant in Silverstream.

# Distribution of QEII covenants

As at 1 October 2006, there were 2,412 registered open space covenants covering 78,266 hectares. In addition, there were a further 616 approved covenants covering 19,951 hectares, awaiting registration. The regional breakdown based on Regional Council boundaries is as follows.

Note: the symbols on the map indicate location only and do not represent the actual area of covenanted land.



Public conservation land

Regional	Total land	No. of	No. of	Total area	Largest	Average
Council	area in the	registered	approved	registered &	registered	covenant
	region (na)	covenants	covenants	approved (ha)	covenant in	size (na)
					region (na)	
Northland	1,250,000	369	111	7,454	417	15.5
Auckland	500,000	176	33	3,561	841	17.0
Waikato	2,500,000	369	101	15,524	645	33.0
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	130	21	10,398	6,564	68.9
Gisborne	826,500	83	27	3,597	1,104	32.7
Taranaki	723,600	126	39	3,096	334	18.8
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	144	56	11,566	4,606	57.8
Horizons	2,221,500	221	45	5,922	276	22.3
Wellington	813,000	217	52	5,770	824	21.4
Tasman	978,600	89	18	1,918	641	17.9
Nelson	42,100	8	1	295	140	32.8
Marlborough	1,049,500	35	9	1,708	1,552	38.8
West Coast	2,300,000	28	11	1,731	619	44.3
Canterbury	4,220,000	171	25	11,701	1,679	59.7
Otago	3,200,000	104	30	10,163	2,735	75.8
Southland	3,035,500	142	37	3,813	214	21.3
Totals		2412	616	98,217		