



QE II National Trust

For open space in New Zealand

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MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

No.69, April 2007



IN THIS ISSUE 30th anniversary celebration • Focus on East Coast/Gisborne

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 81,300 hectares of their land through QEII covenants (or protection agreements). The Trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants. *For more information see page 27.*

QEII also owns 27 properties which collectively protect over 1,800 hectares of significant habitat. These have mostly been gifted to the Trust. Effective stewardship of these properties is greatly assisted by local communities and management committees.

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Cover photo: His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York, admires a young rimu tree he planted with help from Kahutara School children at the QEII National Trust 30th Birthday celebration. Photo: Mel Hodgkinson

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CELEBRATING
30
 1977 2007
 YEARS

QEII National Trust 30th anniversary celebration

Lake Pounui, 16th March 2007

Guests at the QEII National Trust's 30-year birthday celebration in March were greatly privileged to share the occasion with His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Some 300 guests from around the country attended the special occasion at Lake Pounui in south Wairarapa, enjoying walks around the stunning open space covenant before a formal cake cutting ceremony.

The cake showed a map of New Zealand on which every QEII covenant was located. As QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, said, "Our cake ensures every single one of our covenants and covenantors are represented and celebrated here today."



Left to right: Prince Andrew, Dr George Gibbs and Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, discuss tree care with Kahutara School children.



Photo: Durrant Photography

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, prepares to cut the birthday cake with Evelyn and Don Cameron, original Lake Pounui covenantors, watched by QEII National Trust chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore.

Enjoying a covenant walk from left to right: Yvonne Sharp, Mayor of Far North District and QEII National Trust director; Adrienne Staples, Mayor of South Wairarapa District; Prince Andrew, Duke of York; and Ian Buchanan, Chairperson Greater Wellington Regional Council.





Photo: Shona McCahon

Hay bales, awnings and blue skies were the order of the day for covenantors to meet and mingle.

Anniversary celebration (cont)

Sir Brian said the Trust's anniversary is an occasion to pay tribute to:

- 30 years since the enactment of the Queen Elizabeth National Trust Act 1977;
- the foresight of New Zealand's farming community and Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc) in initiating this legislation;
- 30 years of voluntary protection by private landowners;
- the wonderful vision and commitment of over 3,000 covenantors throughout the country;
- over 100,000 hectares of New Zealand's unique natural and cultural heritage protected in perpetuity;
- a rich legacy for future generations of New Zealanders.



Photo: Nick Bevin

Charlie Pedersen, President of Federated Farmers, chats with His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew.



Master of Ceremonies, Gordon Stephenson, addresses the gathering. In 1979, Gordon and his wife, Celia, were the first landowners to register a QEII Trust covenant.



Photo: Catherine Tudhope

Lake Pounui: an idyllic setting for the birthday celebration!

Anniversary celebration (cont)

On arrival, guests drove through the beautiful **Pounui Homestead Covenant** belonging to Juliana and Nick Allen, who run an accommodation business at their 13ha property. The 2ha stand of secondary forest comprises a karaka, kahikatea and titoki canopy with a kawakawa understorey.

Beyond the homestead, on Annette and Bill Shaw's 739ha Lake Pounui Farm, the **Lake Pounui Covenant** is nestled at the base of the Rimutaka Range. The 284ha covenant protects the only deep-water lake in the lower North Island as well as wetland areas and secondary beech / podocarp forest. Dr George Gibbs, Senior Research Associate at Victoria University of Wellington, told guests that the area is of great interest to researchers in such fields as eel migration, forest ecology and entomology. Former owners, Evelyn and Don Cameron, originated the covenant in 1990.

Both covenants are classified as key natural ecosystems by the Greater Wellington Regional Council, which carries out an ongoing programme of pest control and invertebrate monitoring in the area.



Photo: Catherine Tudhope

Sir Brian Lochore, QEII National Trust Chairperson, and Johnny Shaw, Lake Pounui farm manager, talk to Prince Andrew, Duke of York.



Photo: Mel Hodgkinson

Lake Pounui framed by black beech on the lakeside walk.



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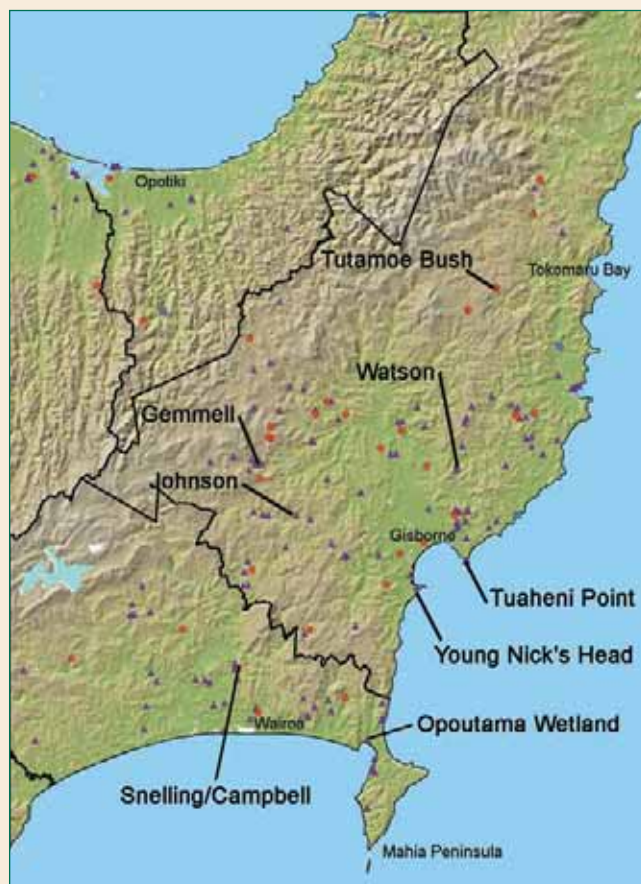
Focus on:

East Coast/Gisborne

The East Coast / Gisborne area is rich in early history. It was first settled by Maori some 700 years ago and was the first area visited by the *Endeavour* in 1769 during Captain Cook's famous first voyage to New Zealand.

Since then the landscape has changed hugely, with much of the forest cover cleared, most of the wetlands drained and large areas of geologically young, unstable hill country subjected to erosion. Efforts to better sustain productive land uses through reforestation and improved soil conservation practices are now being promoted by such initiatives as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's East Coast Forestry Project.

Within this complex landscape, private landowners are protecting precious fragments of the former indigenous ecosystems. As at 1 February 2007, 125 landowners in the Gisborne and Wairoa districts had registered covenants protecting 3,973ha and 36 landowners had approved covenants that will protect a further 2,380ha when registered.



Opoutama wetland

The New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust (NZNFRT) has purchased and covenanted a 68ha wetland on the Mahia isthmus with money generously bequeathed for the specific purpose of preserving an East Coast wetland by the late Rosemary Middleton.



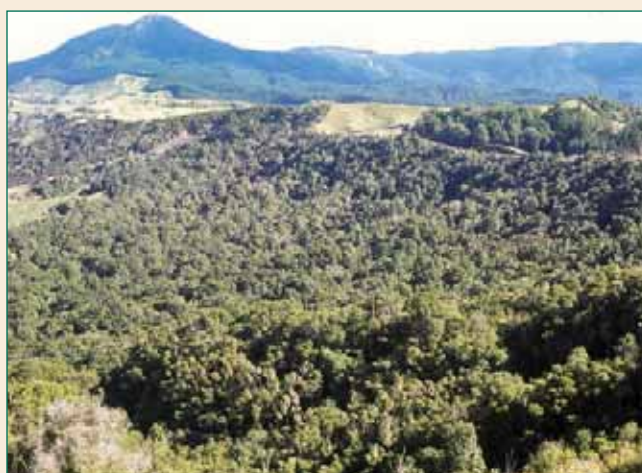
Raupo (*Typha orientalis*) rushland at Opoutama wetland.

The freshwater wetland contains a variety of plant communities and prolific birdlife and is remarkably weed-free, according to Geoff Davidson of NZNFRT. However, Geoff says the Trust is concerned about the potential effects of nearby land development on water quality and is monitoring the situation.

Tutamoe Bush

Inland of Tolaga Bay, Landcorp Farming Limited has retired and covenanted 434ha of remnant bush for permanent protection. Comprising three blocks, Tutamoe Bush qualified for a fencing grant from MAF's East Coast Forestry Project which aims to promote forestation of erosion-prone land.

This is the latest of 33 covenants, covering 1,302ha throughout the country, that Landcorp has registered with QEII.



Tutamoe Bush protects modified primary pukatea/tawa forest and secondary kanuka / manuka forest and scrub.

Twin headlands

Facing each other across Poverty Bay, Tuaheni Point and Young Nick's Head are landmark features on the East Coast. Ambitious restoration projects are underway in QEII covenants on both headlands to enhance their natural character.

Tuaheni Point community project

At Tuaheni Point, 24.9ha of former grazing land was covenanted in 2003 and dedicated to former owners, the late Les and Rose Bell, who had dreamed of restoring native vegetation cover to the headland.

Since then, the community-based Tuaheni Point Charitable Trust has begun implementing the Bells' dream. With help from QEII, Project Crimson, Forest and Bird, MAF, Gisborne District Council and keen volunteers more than 7,500 seedlings have been planted and weed and pest control initiated.

Sandy Bull, who has been involved from the start, says the project is challenging. "It's steep, dry, salty and eroding. You have your wins and your losses but our prime target is to get trees in the ground and make steady progress every year."



Photo: District Council

Volunteers gather for shrub planting on the Tuaheni Point covenant above Wainui Beach.



The pest-proof fence soon after installation and before planting began transforming the sanctuary area beyond.

Calling in the birds at Young Nick's Head

Meanwhile, a wildlife sanctuary is being created by Jagre Holdings, owners of Young Nick's Station, at the tip of Young Nick's Head. A 35ha area within the station's 147ha QEII covenant has been fenced off with pest-proof fencing, intensive pest eradication implemented and more than 40,000 native trees planted.

Ecologist Steve Sawyer of Ecoworks NZ Ltd. has been overseeing the project and says site restoration progressed so



Photo: Ecoworks

Speakers (left and right) broadcast bird calls out to sea from a CD unit located with the solar panels (centre).

well that acoustic calling was trialed last year to try enticing grey-faced petrels or North Island muttonbirds, *Pterodroma macroptera gouldie* back to the site.

"Muttonbirds have been virtually extinct around this coastline since 1930 because of predators. But they're still out at sea. We rigged up huge speakers and broadcast their calls from dawn to dusk.

"Between May and August 2006 we had about 10 birds visiting regularly, landing in the long grass and carrying nesting material into artificial burrows we'd installed. It's a world first."

Steve says fluttering shearwaters also visited regularly last October, landing in the grass near the speakers and replying to the speaker calls around midnight on stormy nights.

Ultimately, it's hoped that other ground-nesting seabirds as well as tuatara will be reintroduced.

"It's ambitious but do-able," Steve says. "DOC and Nga Tamanuhiri Iwi are assisting and the owners of Nick's Head Station are totally committed."

All in the family

Excitement bubbles up when in-laws Gillian Campbell-Snelling and Douglas Snelling, and Mary and Ian Campbell talk about their neighbouring covenants.

"This summer we saw whiteheads for the first time – two of them feeding a young one and then, a few days later, nine flew by."

"It's pumping – trees three metres high where there was nothing."

"We have dabchicks breeding – mum and dad swimming along with babies riding on Mum's back."

All this is happening inland of Wairoa on the Snellings' seven-block 74ha covenant and the Campbells' 33ha covenant. Some forty-eight bird

species (twenty-nine native) have made their home in the mosaic of protected wetlands, remnant secondary hardwood forest and regenerating manuka and kanuka.

Gillian and Ian grew up on a large farm down the road. Both moved away but eventually came back to their roots. The Snellings took over a 181ha property from Gillian's mother while the Campbells negotiated with a neighbouring forestry company to subdivide off an area that was unsuitable for forestry but ideal for their dream of creating a conservation covenant.

"The dream's come true, too," Mary says. "Here I am in paradise!"

Paradise it may be but not without

a lot of hard work. The Campbells have extended the existing wetlands, raising water levels and spending long hours waist-deep cutting out the floating rush *Isolepis prolifera* to create more of the open water favoured by water fowl. They've also planted thousands of native seedlings and control pests over both properties.

The Snellings are still farming the balance of their property. "We've given over a substantial area to regeneration but what we're farming is the easier country," Gillian says. "Help with fencing from QEII and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has been wonderful. Now we're hoping carbon credits will be a bit of a bonus."



Abundant birdlife includes the reclusive fernbird and crake as well as (pictured left to right): young dabchick chick with parent, a shy bittern watching ducks and geese, shags roosting.

A different smell

Something Mark Gemmell really notices in his bush covenants is the scent of the forest.

"We had some nice stands of native bush but no understorey at all with stock in there. The regeneration has been amazing and it smells different now because of the natural processes."

Since 2001, Mark has covenanted 85.2ha of remnant native forest and shrubland in three blocks at Mokonui Station, his 720ha-effective cattle and sheep farm inland of Gisborne.

Mark says the council had recommended the largest area for protection and he decided the only way to

do that properly was to covenant.

"You've got to take responsibility. It's not productive land and it's better to look after it. Besides, it makes stock movement and mustering easier."



Lowland beech and kahikatea forest merges into putaputaweta forest and then montane shrubland on the slopes of Mokonuiarangi.

Waikura River rarity

A rare plant, *Coprosma pedicellata*, is nationally in decline but is doing well in Maria and Lee Johnson's 27.7ha covenant bordering the Waikura River. This coprosma tolerates water logging and is thoroughly at home in the remnant podocarp forest, where periodic flooding keeps swampy areas damp.

The forest is remarkable for the diversity of small-leaved understorey species, like *C. pedicellata*, as well as the age range of its podocarps - up to 400 years old.

The Johnsons estimate that 80% of the waterways on their 730ha farm flow through the covenant to the river.

"It was the trees we wanted to protect," Lee says, "and then we realised the covenant's hidden benefit as a run-off buffer as well."



Remnant forest and swampy areas along the Waikura River form a corridor of biodiversity on the Johnson farm.

Kanuka forest protected

Tiritiri bluff is a well-known skyline feature in the Waimata Valley northeast of Gisborne.

It is now protected under a 50.6ha open space covenant – together with a beautiful block of kanuka forest.

Owners Karyn and Mark Watson,

who farm sheep and cattle on the 650ha hill country property, had wanted to fence off the block for a long time but been held back by lack of money.

"One day, a guy approached us about cutting firewood up there," Mark says. "We consulted DOC and it turned

out this is one of the last stands of mature kanuka left in the district and quite rare. So, it was great to be able to protect it with help for the fencing from the Biodiversity Condition Fund."

The newly covenanted kanuka forest on the mid and upper flanks of Tiritiri bluff.



Visual landscape values in covenants

Landowners increasingly want to protect visual landscape values within open space covenants. QEII has been developing guidelines to assist in assessing and managing these values.

Reasons landowners give for wanting to protect visual values include concern about development that is out of keeping with rural character, intrusive skyline structures and losing the distinctive flavour of a locality.

“Visual values can be challenging to evaluate but are important because New Zealanders are proud of our national

landscapes and we frequently think of them as a visual resource,” says QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore.

Assessment criteria

The Trust’s five simple assessment criteria below draw upon studies that show people respond quite consistently to *types* of landscapes or scenes that they like/dislike, notice/don’t notice,

consider beautiful/unattractive, interesting/boring. Within a single covenant, visual values might relate to one or all of the criteria.

Visual values also frequently overlap with other open space values. A landmark limestone bluff, for instance, might be covenanted and managed to protect its inter-related visual, geological and ecological significance.

1. Naturalness

Many people value landscapes they perceive as being natural. Naturalness can be usefully evaluated through a spectrum that ranges from a pristine, unmodified environment at one extreme to a predominantly built and modified environment at the other.

Pristine

Modified

Highly modified



High naturalness e.g. wilderness



Medium naturalness e.g. many rural landscapes



Low naturalness e.g. urban environment

2. Landscape patterns

People often prefer landscapes where the elements appear to fit together in a complementary way. In a pristine natural environment, this is seen in the way that vegetation cover changes according to micro-climate and soil characteristics, producing patterns that visibly reflect the aspect, altitude and slope of the underlying topography. Similarly, rural landscapes are often considered attractive where land-use patterns tend to be clearly responsive to the underlying landform, drainage and climatic conditions.



Covenanted bush gullies are integrated with productive land use to ‘fit’ the underlying landform, producing an attractive rural landscape.



A land use pattern at odds with the contours: many people consider features like this to be eyesores.

3. Landmark

A landmark is a noticeable or eye-catching feature that stands out in the surrounding landscape. Landmarks often contribute to people's sense of place in a landscape and are often named e.g. One Tree Hill.



A landmark might be known locally as a reference point.



QEII's Mokatahi Hill property: frequently photographed and a distinguishing feature of Mahia.

4. Visibility

Highly visible features contribute to the overall visual character of a landscape and can influence people's perception and appreciation of that landscape. Visibility is not the same thing as being a landmark, though; for instance, a line of foothills might be highly visible from a floodplain below and help define the local landscape without being a distinctive, eye-catching feature.



Skyline hills here are visible from much of the surrounding landscape and contribute to the overall character of the landscape.



A skyline bush covenant is a highly visible scenic feature from this regional road.

5. Local identity

New Zealand is a relatively small country but has an extraordinary variety of landscapes. As a nation, we promote our varied scenery to visitors from overseas and, locally, we celebrate the differences between our provincial landscapes.

We often value the way certain features or landscape patterns characterise a local landscape, distinguish it from other landscapes and reinforce local identity.



Kahikatea remnants within productive farmland typify the Waikato landscape.



Limestone outcrops typify parts of South Canterbury & North Otago.

Visual landscape values (cont)

A Central Otago example

Protecting a typical feature of the Central Otago landscape was the prime reason that Donald and Sally Young covenanted 100.9ha of their Lowburn sheep farm. Set below the Pisa Range, the covenant extends around the steep

prominent face of a river terrace beside Lake Dunstan.

“Terraces like this are very typical of the distinctive glacial landscape here,” Sally says. “It’s a much-traveled and looked-at landscape and this whole

terrace face is highly visible from the Bendigo side of Lake Dunstan and when approaching Cromwell from the Cromwell Gorge.

“We wanted to protect its natural character from development.”



Photo: Brian Molloy

The steep terrace edge (middle photo) in Sally and Donald Young's covenant is a landform typical of Central Otago landscapes and is also the immediate visual backdrop to Lake Dunstan.

Cultural site and coastal landscape protected at Okains Bay



Photo: Jim Marron

Murray Thacker signs the covenant agreements with QEII Trust Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore, watched by (left to right) Rakiihia Tau, Mark Solomon and Graeme Grennell.

Birds in the bush

– recent sightings in covenants

Karearea - young falcon



A young Karearea or New Zealand falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae*, roosts in a kahikatea at Viola and Philip Palmer's covenant on the Kapiti Coast. QEII Rep, Robyn Smith, recorded the moment while on a follow-up visit at the 2ha wetland / treeland covenant.

Kaka on Stewart Island



Hanna Tripp feeds a friendly kaka, *Nestor meridionalis*, with native fuchsia berries at her grandparents' covenant in Oban on Stewart Island. Grandparents Judy and Bob Bartlett say the bird is quite inquisitive and very willing to sample hand-fed offerings on its periodic visits.

At a Waitanagi day signing ceremony, Banks Peninsula landowner Murray Thacker and QEII National Trust Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore signed the agreements to protect 50ha of coastal land under two QEII open space covenants.

The area includes coastal headlands, gullies containing remnant native forest and a site of great significance to Ngai Tahu. It was at Kawatea Bay that a young Ngai Tahu warrior

landed his waka some 350 years ago, bringing the first Ngai Tuhaitara people to Banks Peninsula.

Murray, who also runs the Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum, says he wanted to protect the land from development. "I think it belongs to the people."



A stunning coastal landscape: the covenanted headland (centre) lies between Okains Bay (foreground) and Kawatea Bay beyond.



New Zealand's freshwater lake plants

The best way to discover the native plants living in your lake is to take a swim with your mask and snorkel.

Sprawling emergent plants

Grow out from the lake edge across the water surface.
Four native species.

Short submerged turf plants

Low-growing plants in the shallow zone of a lake that form a grass-like community. More than thirty native species.

Floating leaved plants

Anchored to the lake bottom with leaves that float on the water surface. Two native species.

Charophytes

Form dense meadows across the bed of a lake. Sixteen native species that importantly provide shelter for aquatic life and help improve water quality.



Tall emergent plants

Plants that poke up above the water surface, such as tall sedges, rushes and grasses. Seventeen native species.

Free floating plants

Float freely on the water surface. Two common species are water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) and duck weed (*Lemna minor*).

Tall submerged plants

Mostly tall-growing flowering plants normally found in the mid-depth zone of lakes. Invasive introduced plants like oxygen weed (*Egeria densa*) have replaced the native species in many lakes.

Deep water bryophytes

Quite rare world-wide, these mosses and liverworts are found only in a small number of clear-water lakes in the South Island, found growing to 70 m depths.

Native aquatic plants play many important roles in maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Fish, insects, snails and water birds all use aquatic plants as a source of food and shelter. Aquatic plants help maintain good water quality by providing an important buffer strip around the edge of a lake and by absorbing many of the harmful nutrients and pollutants that run into the water from the surrounding land.

Native aquatic plants are also valuable for traditional uses such as for food (the pollen from raupo was used instead of flour) and weaving (e.g. the tall spike rush, *Eleocharis sphacelata*).

Unfortunately our native freshwater plants are under attack. Introduced plant species are quickly establishing in our lakes and can form solid bands of weed around the lake margins that can grow taller than a house. These invasive beds smother the native species shown in this poster. These invasive plants are mainly spread by people, so take extra care with cleaning your boats, trailers and other equipment before moving to another lake or river.

Artwork and text is an abridged version of a poster prepared for the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society courtesy of Environment Waikato and NIWA. For more information on aquatic plants see <http://www.niwasience.co.nz/ncabb/aquaticplants> and <http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/>.

Research into sustaining and restoring biodiversity

– Updates from the ongoing Landcare Research programme
funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology



Dryland biodiversity – overcoming an image problem

Dryland ecosystems contain some of the least protected and most threatened native ecosystems and species. They contain 50% of New Zealand's most threatened plant species, yet only 2% of dryland is legally protected.

Grant Norbury and Susan Walker, of Landcare Research, say low public awareness and appreciation are significant barriers to achieving dryland conservation.

“Almost all woody dryland vegetation types have an image problem,” Grant says. “They’re often described as ‘grey shrublands’ or ‘scrub’ - not exactly inspiring! People perceive them as being of low ecological and conservation value and are less likely to protect them than, say, forest or wetlands.”

Consequently, many dryland ecosystems are depleted, fragmented and at risk from further damage.

Grant and Susan have been looking at the ways a number of agencies with biodiversity responsibilities and interests have approached the issue, including district and regional councils, Department of Conservation, QEII National Trust, Landcare Trust, private consultants and non-government organisations. They found a range of responses from little or no activity, to very successful and dynamic biodiversity programmes.

Grant says some agencies are really struggling with the issue in their areas and local authorities face a particular challenge in finding a balance between enforcing often controversial district plan regulations and engendering trust with landholders to adopt voluntary measures.

“It appears that the most successful approaches are those that are one-on-one with willing landholders, and low key,” Grant says. “There are good examples of communities and landholders who are actively involved in a range of different ways.”

New Zealand's drylands



Our drylands occur in the rain shadow area east of the mountains that run from East Cape to Fiordland, and cover approximately 19% of New Zealand's land area. The climate is semi-arid, with a median annual rainfall of 981mm and frequent drought conditions. The two maps show the correlation between dryland areas and threatened environments.

Left map: Rogers et al 2005; Right map: Landcare Research

New Zealand's threatened environments

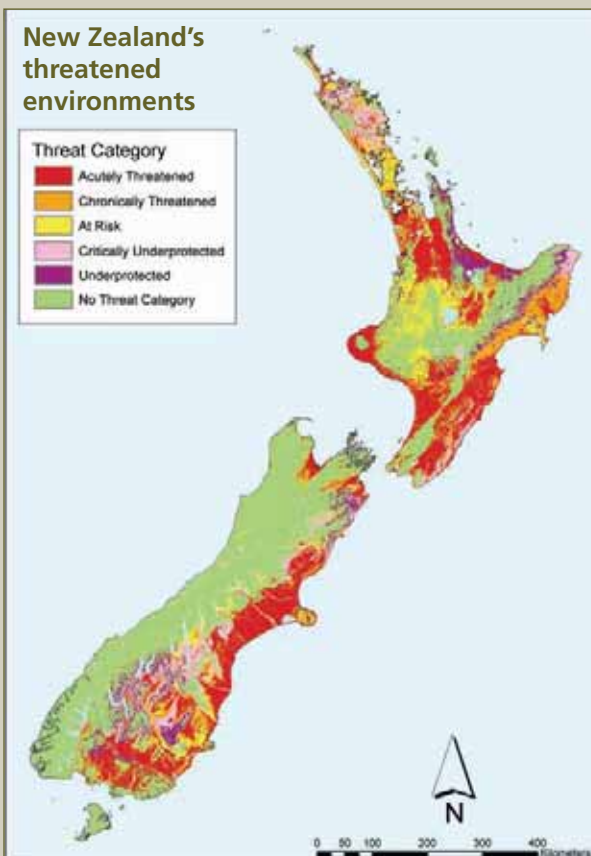




Photo: Mark Avis, Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

The critically endangered Otago skink *Oligosoma ottagense*.

Community action in Central Otago

One example is the community-based Central Otago Ecological Trust, set up in 2005 to restore threatened dryland lizard populations and their habitats in the area.

Grant, who is also chairperson of the trust, says there is a lot of local community interest in conservation but little opportunity to act.

"People want to help, especially when they hear that a local creature like the Otago skink is critically endangered. Our aim is to help people get actively involved and, in so doing, better understand the dryland environments here."

The Trust plans to establish the Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary at a site near Alexandra, as well as a lizard breeding, education and plant propagation centre, linked in with local ecotourism ventures. The long-term objective is to reintroduce the Otago skink to the Alexandra basin, where it hasn't been seen since the 1970s, as well as improving the survival stakes for other local lizards.

Covenant protection for rare plant

Further north, in Hawke's Bay, Paul Dearden has protected a population of the nationally endangered tauhinu, *Pomaderris phyllicifolia*, within a 63ha open space covenant on his farm.

Paul was unaware of the plant's existence until QEII regional



Photo: Karina Holmes

Grant Norbury showing the proposed site of the Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary to local people.

representative, Marie Taylor, visited to assess kanuka forest and scrub Paul was thinking of covenanting. Marie found the fluffy little shrub growing amongst dry rock outcrops on a ridge and explained its significance.

Paul fenced off the native vegetation, including the rock outcrops, with funding assistance from QEII and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

"I was a bit apprehensive about affecting the farm operation but the argillite/shale up there on the ridge just doesn't hold the moisture in summer. I'm getting more effective grazing now from the better land that's left out of that one big paddock.

"You see things a bit differently as you get older too. I do have a bit of interest to see how it's regenerating."



Photo: Marie Taylor

The endangered *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* var *ericoides* at Paul Dearden's farm is a coloniser of open, nutrient-poor sites and able to withstand parched Hawke's Bay summers.



Photo: Marie Taylor

Kanuka, also an efficient dryland coloniser, dominates the dry slopes above remnant riparian forest in Paul Dearden's covenant.

Landowner co-operative

Also interested in observing vegetation changes is the Whitcombe Landcare Group of high country dryland farmers in mid-Canterbury.

With help from Landcare Research, the group began monitoring the effects of grazing regimes in 1997. Donna Field of Cleardale Station has been running the monitoring and says it's been useful for farm management while also raising the group's awareness of ecosystem diversity in their area. Another project

is a survey and control programme of invasive woody weeds such as broom, cotoneasters, sycamore, tree lupin and sweet briar.

"It has made us aware of our home gardening practices and we are very pleased that weed spread is not yet so extensive," Donna says. "It's been hard to keep going when there are other pressing priorities but the group approach is worthwhile. It's better to be coordinated than doing our own thing in isolation."

Voluntary SNA programmes

In eastern Marlborough, other farmers have become more aware of the dryland biodiversity on their properties through the Marlborough District Council's significant natural areas (SNA) programme. The council wrote to landowners in 2001 to seek permission for ecological surveys to be conducted by independent consultants. The surveys were carried out only with willing landowners and the results remained confidential to the owners.

Sally and Rob Peter, whose Cape Campbell farm averages a meagre 550mm rainfall per annum, were willing to participate, as they'd wanted to do something for a long time but hadn't had the money.

"The SNA programme was a trigger, really," Sally says. "The ecologists and council people were very approachable and explained the various avenues available. There's lots of things we don't have control over these days but this is something we can control and we like to do it responsibly. We chose QEII covenants and got help with the fencing costs."

Inland, up the remote Awatere valley, Lynda and Simon Harvey also



Monitoring vegetation at Glenfalloch Station, Rakaia Gorge: left to right, Charles Hurford, Donna Field and Roger Gibson.

decided to covenant identified SNA areas on their farm, Glen Orkney. “We didn’t feel bulldozed and, of course, funding from the council, QEII and the Biodiversity Condition Fund all helped,” Lynda recalls. “We also became good friends with Geoff Walls, the ecologist, and will be asking him back for advice about where to route a farm walk with least impact.”

Both the Harveys and Peters have prepared farm plans with council-assisted advice on whole farm management from an independent consultant. Simon Harvey says it has helped get started on things he’d been thinking of for years.

“We’re looking to the future and trying to combine commercial farming with protecting the important natural areas. Ecotourism, for instance, helps to justify retiring areas.

“For a lot of us, our thinking has changed in the last five years and could change more. If new ideas are suggested in a sensitive way we’re more prepared to think about it.”

Nicky Eade at the Marlborough District Council says if landowners choose not to participate and change their minds later, they can approach the council again, as both programmes are ongoing.



The view from Cape Campbell lighthouse: Sally and Rob Peter are protecting pockets of native dryland vegetation on their semiarid coastal farm.



Charred plants at the Harvey’s farm (left) are a reminder of the ever-present fire threat in dryland areas. However, remnant native vegetation has escaped fire and stock in the covenanted all-but-inaccessible gullies and on bluffs (right).

Photos: Philip Lissaman

Pests

Pest trap guideline booklets

This item generated many reader enquiries in the last issue, including requests for a postal order mailing address, which is now included below.

Published by the National Possum Control Agencies, the three booklets contain practical information for trap users about trap use and animal welfare:

A Guideline for Using Leghold Traps to Trap Small Animals

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

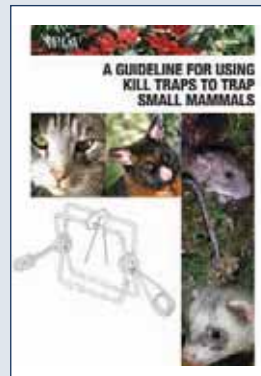
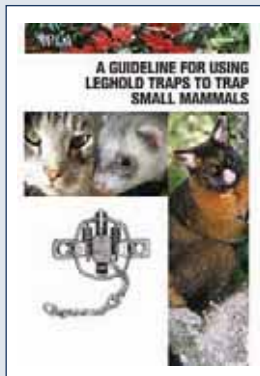
A Guideline for Using Kill Traps to Trap Small Animals

Cost: \$11.50/set of three, or \$3.50 each + \$1.50 postage and packaging (GST inclusive).

To order: visit <http://www.npca.org.nz/publications.html> or phone (04) 499-7559 or post orders to PO Box 11461, Manners Street, Wellington 6142.



Photo: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation



Fencing

Fencer Fred shares his knowledge



Stephen Aspden, otherwise known as Fencer Fred and author of "Hand-made Farm Fence...#852", was on hand to share his hands-on knowledge at the QEII regional representatives' training conference in March. Pictured, left-right: North Canterbury rep Miles Giller, Fencer Fred, Nelson/Tasman rep Philip Lissaman and Marlborough rep Anna Polson.

Rare snail

A rare species of native land snail has been found at a QEII covenant near Mt Oxford in North Canterbury.

QEII Rep Miles Giller noticed empty shells while on a routine visit in Robert Johnston's forest covenant and contacted Lincoln University research student Nathan Curtis who was studying native snails in the area.

After examining numerous empty shells as well as four live specimens at the Johnston covenant, Nathan confirmed that a population of *Wainuia* "Mt Oxford" was present, a species classified as being in slow decline found only in the Mt Oxford area. It has been shown by DNA analysis to be distinct from *Wainuia edwardi*, a native snail that occurs from North Canterbury to Marlborough.

According to Nathan, large numbers of empty shells is a good indicator that live snails are present. The dark brown shells can be hard to spot as they are often found under rocks or deep in leaf litter under ground-hugging plants such as ferns and sedges but with practice, can be distinguished by their rounded shapes and white inside colouring. Live specimens are also distinguished by the blue-purple colour of the animal's foot and mucus secretions. Like several genera of native snails, *Wainuia* "Mt Oxford" is carnivorous and probably feeds on small worms.

Miles says invertebrates such as snails represent an important part of New Zealand's biodiversity but often go unnoticed. "Take the land snails – I'm told there are 1400 species in New Zealand and all but five of them are endemic. It's worth looking at that small scale."

For Robert Johnston, the snail discovery was an unexpected thrill. "It's exciting to think that while we took out the covenant to protect a range of tree species, here we have such a rare find. It underlines the value of covenanting for preserving some of our indigenous biodiversity."



Photo: Nathan Curtis

Wainuia "Mt Oxford" has a dark brown shell and a distinctive blue-purple coloured foot.



Photo: Alison Evans, Department of Conservation

QEII Rep Miles Giller (left) and Lincoln University research student Nathan Curtis (right) examine snail shells at the Johnston covenant.



Photo: Ian Platt

Empty *Wainuia* "Mt Oxford" shells can be distinguished from leaf litter by their rounded shapes and white colour of the inner surfaces.

Know your natives

The fierce lancewood

Pseudopanax ferox

By Martin Conway

The fierce lancewood, *Pseudopanax ferox*, is a small but very distinctive tree and not to be confused with its close relative the common lancewood, *Pseudopanax crassifolius*. In its youth the deeply toothed leaves, shaped like daggers, point downwards but, with age, they become shorter, have smooth edges and point upwards. At maturity the trees are round-headed and the trunks deeply furrowed.

Nationally, the species is described as being 'fairly rare' and this is certainly true in Tasman, Nelson and the Marlborough Sounds where only a few trees and small populations occur. These few remaining populations are all confined to inaccessible and remote sites, which suggests that it was once more common and likely to have been reduced by farming, animal pests and habitat loss.

Ironically, the fierce lancewood is better known in cultivation than in nature. It is a tree that is increasingly popular in parks and gardens for its character and its ability to thrive in poor soils and exposed situations.



Photo: Philip Lissaman

Ecologist Geoff Walls collecting seed from a mature *Pseudopanax ferox* - note the rounded adult form compared to the juvenile form.

In 1997, I noted mature fierce lancewood trees and many young seedlings on Puangiangi Island in the Marlborough Sounds when I visited in my former role as QEII National Trust representative to negotiate a covenant with the then owner, Ross Webber. Subsequently, QEII representative Philip Lissaman visited the 24ha covenant and collected seeds which were raised by Titoki Nursery in Nelson.

Last winter more than 100 of the seedlings were distributed to farmers and covenantors in the Marlborough Sounds where it is hoped they will form the nucleus of new populations.

The fierce lancewood restoration project is the third to be adopted by the Tasman Environmental Trust as part of its programme to restore regionally rare plants. The trust plans to restore more rare plants to the Marlborough Sounds including titirangi *Hebe speciosa*, large-leaved milk tree *Streblus banksii*, Cook Strait kowhai, *Sophora molloyii*, and swamp maire, *Syzygium maire*.

Martin Conway at Puangiangi Island.

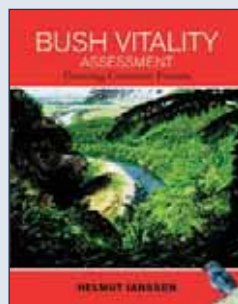


Fragments

Bush Vitality Assessment - revised edition

A revised edition of Helmut Janssen's practical guide to managing native forest remnants is now available. Written specifically for private landowners, the book describes easy-to-use and robust techniques for:

- assessing and diagnosing bush remnants' ecological health;
- managing and restoring native bush for long-term resilience;
- developing protective and productive sustainable enterprises, and
- integrating native bush into the wider landscape for sustainable environments.



Price: \$42.00 (incl GST & postage)

To order, visit www.bushvitality.org.nz or phone 021 137 7709.

Property for sale with QEII covenant



Far North

Almost 50 acres covenanted pristine bush with 100 year old kauri trees - protected kiwi habitat. Includes 5 bedroom house. Breathtaking views. Ph Beverley 021 406 108 or email beverleym@glenbarry.co.nz

Things to buy



QEII Swannndri® Vest

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

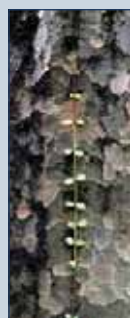
Price: \$165 including GST and postage (Navy only)

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

QEII Greetings Card

Pack of 10 cards in two designs with envelopes. Inside of card is blank.

Price: \$30 including GST and postage



Aroha Island

This Trust property is temporarily closed while undergoing a review of future management options.



Order Form

Prices include GST and postage

Name

.....

Address (for courier delivery)

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

.....

☐ Please send a receipt

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

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

Donation (optional) \$.....

Total \$.....

Method of payment – ☐ Cheque ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Credit card details –

Number

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

Signature.....

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

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 October 2006 to 31 January 2007.

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council	Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Landcorp Farming Limited	3.3	W	Far North	Pearse	9.0	F	Hastings
Langs Beach Estate Limited (x 30)	170	F, S	Whangarei	Scouts Association of New Zealand	10.6	F	Central Hawke's Bay
McMillan	3.4	F	Whangarei	Rutherford	22.8	F	Manawatu
Bruni (x3)	11.1	F, W	Whangarei	Lynadale Farm Limited (x 2)	3.5	F	Palmerston North
Blackbourn	10.3	F, W	Kaipara	Ellingham	3.2	F	Taranua
Hern	3.4	F, S	Rodney	Bartlett	35.3	F	Masterton
Brennan & Wren	12.1	F	Waipa	Birch	9.1	F	Masterton
Crook	5.3	F	Waipa	Joblin	11.5	F	Masterton
Mitchell	2.0	F	Waipa	Waimapu Land Developments Limited	0.8	F	Masterton
Silvester	3.5	F	Waipa	Wellington Natural Heritage Trust Inc.	8.2	F	Wellington
Bond	7.9	F	Otorohanga	Hamlin & Little	0.3	F	Tasman
Clark	2.5	F	Otorohanga	McLay	0.9	F, S	Tasman
Corkill, Shearer & Mehaney	94.1	F	New Plymouth	Rowse & Schneider-Rowse	5.9	F	Tasman
Hocken	0.28	A, T	New Plymouth	McClatchy	4.7	F	Marlborough
Jones	2.9	F	New Plymouth	Wilson & Nesbit	2.5	F	Marlborough
Swanson & Harrison	3.5	F	New Plymouth	Hamilton	6.8	F	Kaikoura
Van Endhoven	5.0	F	New Plymouth	Wilding	21.4	F, S, T	Hurunui
McNie	4.3	F	Ruapehu	Armstrong	24.9	F	Christchurch
Landcorp Farming Limited	26.0	F	Wairoa	Suttie	5.5	F	Dunedin
McRae Trust (x 2)	9.2	A, F	Wairoa	Trumic	4.3	G, S	Central Otago
Packer	1.0	F	Wairoa	Landcorp Farming Limited	36.8	G, W	Clutha
Read & Den Bogaard	20.3	F	Wairoa	Little Fish on the Roof Limited	54.2	F	Clutha
Richardson	8.6	F, W	Waitomo	Branches Station Limited (x 2)	1,250.0	F, G, S	Queenstown-Lakes
Cooper	20.0	F, S	Gisborne	Butler	49.4	F	Southland
Mokonui Station Limited	78.8	F, S	Gisborne	Castle Hill Station Limited	51.4	F, G, S	Southland
Watson	50.6	F	Gisborne	Landcorp Farming Limited (x 3)	98.1	F, G, S, W	Southland
Caskey	1.8	W	Stratford	Niagara Downs Limited	56.5	F	Southland
Ardern	0.6	W	South Taranaki				
Rouse	0.7	F	South Taranaki				
Giblin, Collinge, Trent & Thomsen	1.3	A, G, T	Napier				
Macklow	10.2	F	Hastings				
Maraetara Land Company Limited	25.5	F	Hastings				
McLaren	8.3	F	Hastings				
Nessvale Farm Limited	20.0	F, W	Hastings				
O'Rourke	34.2	F	Hastings				

Key:

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

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.





Marlborough

Anna Polson is the new QEII representative for Marlborough. Philip Lissaman will continue to look after the Nelson/Tasman area.

Anna has a background in agriculture and horticulture. She grew up on a farm inland of Wanganui, later managing the farm's kiwifruit orchard. She moved to Marlborough six years ago where she has worked variously as a guide in the Queen Charlotte Sound, a biosecurity officer in South Marlborough and a facilitator of the Marlborough Environment Awards.

She and her husband established a vineyard at Blind River before moving to their 23ha Linkwater farm where they combine grazing and vegetable production with managing retired land they hope to eventually covenant when the regeneration has progressed.

New Year Honours

Two QEII covenantors were made Members of the New Zealand order of Merit in the New Year Honours.

Sheila Natusch, OBE, was recognised for her services as a writer and illustrator. Sheila has written and illustrated a number of her own books as well illustrating other publications on New Zealand's geology, flora, fauna and history. She lives in Wellington but frequently visits the 87ha family bush covenant on Stewart Island.

Malcolm Mackenzie was recognised for his services to conservation. Malcolm is a member of both Federated Farmers Inc. and the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, is chair of the Weedbusters Trust in Southland and served on the Southland Conservation Board from 1996 to 2006. He is restoring a small stand of covenanted remnant kahikatea on his Winton farm and has another 39ha of wetland and tussock grassland awaiting covenant registration.

Waitangi Day Honour

On Waitangi Day 2007, QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, KNZM, OBE, was appointed to the Order of New Zealand. This is New Zealand's highest honour and is awarded to recognise outstanding service to the Crown and people of New Zealand.

Sir Brian was recognized for his outstanding contribution to rugby as leading player, coach and administrator. He has also contributed widely to sport in New Zealand and been an active leader in a number of farming organizations. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to sport in 1970 and a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to rugby in 1999.

Sir Paul Reeves, GCMG, GCVO, QSO, who was the QEII National Trust Chairperson from 2000 to 2002 was also appointed to the Order.



Photo: Nick Bevin

Tribute

Well-known Southland QEII covenantor, Derek Turnbull, QSM, died last November. In 1991, he and his wife Pat covenanted Sherwood Forest, a rare matai-dominant forest remnant on the Southland plains, and opened it to the public for enjoyment and education. Derek was well known as a veteran athlete, claiming twenty-five world records in cross-country and marathon events since 1975. Sherwood Forest remains in Pat's care.



Photo: Margaret McKee

The late Derek Turnbull (right) with QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, at Sherwood Forest in 2004.

Board of Directors election result

The election result was not available at time of press. The results will be posted on our website www.openspace.org.nz and the successful candidates profiled in the next issue of *Open Space*.

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 Membership Application

Title..... Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Membership Type – tick appropriate category

☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Family \$45 ☐ Life \$550

☐ Corporate – business (on application)

☐ Corporate – non profit organisation \$50

Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand.
(Subscriptions include GST)

Donation – optional (tick box):

Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$20 ☐ Other \$.....

Method of payment – ☐ Cheque ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Credit card details – Number

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

Signature.....

Total \$..... ☐ Please send a receipt

For direct debit option please visit www.openspace.org.nz

Please send me information on:

☐ Making a bequest to the Trust ☐ Open Space Covenants

Gift Membership

Gift to: name & address.....

.....

Send next year's gift renewal to me ☐ or to the recipient ☐

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

Helping you protect the special nature of your land

What is a QEII open space covenant?

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

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

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

The average covenant size is around 35 hectares and the largest is over 6,500 hectares. There are currently over 3,100 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.



Earth star fungi, *Geastrum saccatum*, at Claire and Andy Law's forest covenant near Taihape. Earth stars are similar to puffballs but have an outer layer that splits and peels back to reveal the spore-containing centrepiece.

Photo: Tony Gates

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Thirty years of QEII open space covenants

It's thirty years since the QEII National Trust was established. In that time, we have helped visionary landowners protect a rich mosaic of New Zealand's unique heritage - the equivalent of another national park!

As at 1 February 2007, there were 2,532 registered open space covenants covering 81,354 hectares. In addition, there were a further 607 approved covenants covering 18,423 hectares, awaiting registration. The regional breakdown based on Regional Council boundaries is set out below.

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

Legend

- Registered and approved open space covenants
- Mostly private land
- Public conservation land

Regional Council	Total land area in the region (ha)	No. of registered covenants	No. of approved covenants	Total area registered & approved (ha)	Largest registered covenant in region (ha)	Average covenant size (ha)
Northland	1,250,000	408	89	7,801	417	15.7
Auckland	500,000	179	38	3,597	841	16.6
Waikato	2,500,000	378	102	15,670	645	32.6
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	133	21	10,461	6,564	67.9
Gisborne	826,500	86	28	3,584	1,104	31.4
Taranaki	723,600	137	38	3,204	334	18.3
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	159	46	11,634	4,606	56.8
Horizons	2,221,500	227	53	6,398	276	22.9
Wellington	813,000	225	49	5,801	824	21.2
Tasman	978,600	92	19	1,922	641	17.3
Nelson	42,100	8	2	319	140	31.9
Marlborough	1,049,500	37	13	1,837	182	36.7
West Coast	2,300,000	29	10	1,732	619	44.4
Canterbury	4,220,000	175	33	11,970	1,679	57.5
Otago	3,200,000	111	29	9,937	2,735	70.9
Southland	3,035,500	148	37	3,906	214	21.1
Totals		2,532	607	99,773		