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Focus on Bay of Plenty | Wetland Restoration | Awards | Y Post Fencing

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www.converge.org.nz/ntsth

For details of the QEII Trust Regions, see CONTACT US on www.openspace.org.nz

Helping you protect the special nature of your land



QE II National Trust
For open space in New Zealand

Nga Kairauhi Papa

QEII Trust helps landowners protect significant natural and cultural features on their land. Features include:

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

Landowners throughout New Zealand voluntarily protect nearly 85,000 hectares of land through QEII Trust registered covenants (or protection agreements). QEII Trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants.

QEII Trust also owns 28 properties, which collectively protect nearly 1,550 hectares of significant habitat. Most of these have been gifted to the Trust. Effective stewardship of these properties is greatly assisted by local communities and management committees.



COVER PHOTO

Bruce and Sue McKenzie with their primary forest covenant in the Wairarapa as a backdrop. See page 11 for more about this covenant.

Photo: Bill Wallace

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

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Sheps Park: An open space gift to the people of Blenheim



Above: Celebrating Joy Shepard's open space gift, Mayor Alistair Sowman and Yvonne Sharp, QEII Deputy Chairperson, in Sheps Park with Wither Hills beyond.

Right: Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive, with Mayor Alistair Sowman and Yvonne Sharp in front of the avenue of walnut trees in Sheps Park.



The generosity and foresight of the late **Joy Shepard** was celebrated in Blenheim on 22 June, with guests including the Mayor, Alistair Sowman. Joy first approached QEII in 1987 about gifting 2.5ha of open space to the people of Blenheim. 'It is a privilege to see her wishes come to fruition with this gift of Sheps Park,' said Yvonne Sharp, QEII Deputy Chairperson.

Protected by covenant, Sheps Park will remain in QEII ownership and will be managed by the Marlborough District Council. 'Green open spaces in residential areas are vital to our health and wellbeing and over time the appreciation of Sheps Park as protected open space will only increase,' Yvonne said.

Yvonne, Mayor of Far North District, also acknowledged the valuable working partnership between the Council and QEII. 'This is a perfect example of a council and QEII working together to protect land for future generations,' she said.



PHOTO: TONY GATES

Priorities for protecting biodiversity on private land

Issued in April by the Ministers of Conservation and Environment, *Protecting our places: Introducing the national priorities for protecting rare and threatened biodiversity on private land* gives a perspective on the ecosystems and habitats of native species on private land that are in most need of protection. It also highlights the role of QEII in protecting private land.

Left: Coastal dune lake wetland at the Willis covenant at Himatangi in Horowhenua.

National priorities for protection are:

1. Indigenous vegetation in regions that have 20% or less remaining in indigenous cover
2. Indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands
3. 'Originally rare' ecosystem types
4. Habitats of acutely or chronically threatened indigenous species.

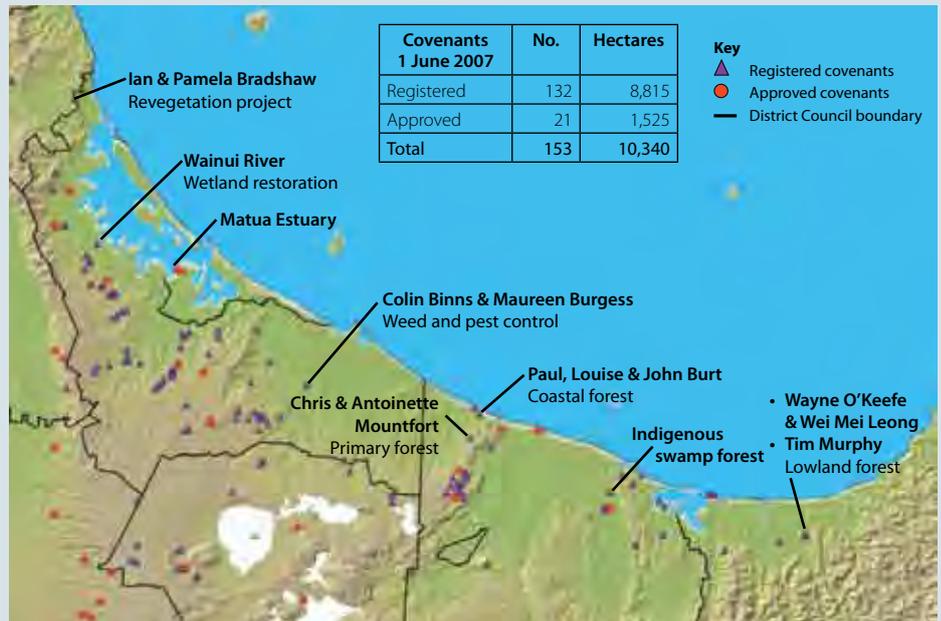
New covenant proposals that fall within these priorities will continue to take precedence for QEII.

To download the document visit *Related Links/ Central Government* under www.openspace.org.nz

The Bay of Plenty

The diverse landscape of the Bay of Plenty combined with a temperate climate provides an area rich in indigenous flora and fauna. Rivers and harbours are major features with Tauranga Harbour, one of New Zealand's largest natural harbours, being a tidal estuary of 218 square kilometres.

Prior to human settlement, the landscape was largely covered in forest, shrubland and wetlands. The major difference between pre-European vegetation cover and that of the present day is the change to wetlands. Only a very small proportion of freshwater wetlands remains and there is now very little swamp forest. Strips of indigenous forest survive, including in the Kaimai-Mamaku ranges.



Rare wetland protected

Many freshwater wetlands in the Tauranga Ecological District have been drained for subdivisions or commercial or farming use.

Near Katikati on the Wainui River, one landowner is protecting a 4ha wetland with a QEII covenant. Previously riddled with grey willow, blackberry, woolly nightshade and gorse, goats also crossed the river over the old railway bridge into the wetland.

'Weed control, poisoning of the willow and removing the goats have greatly improved this wetland. The understorey has really come away and the swamp coprosma looks great,' says Stephen Hall, QEII Bay of Plenty Rep.

Below right: The understorey emerging through poisoned willows in the rare wetland covenant.

Below left: The regionally threatened fernbird (matata) *Bowdleria punctata* is found in the wetland.



PHOTO: WINSTON COOPER, CROWN COPYRIGHT, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 1992

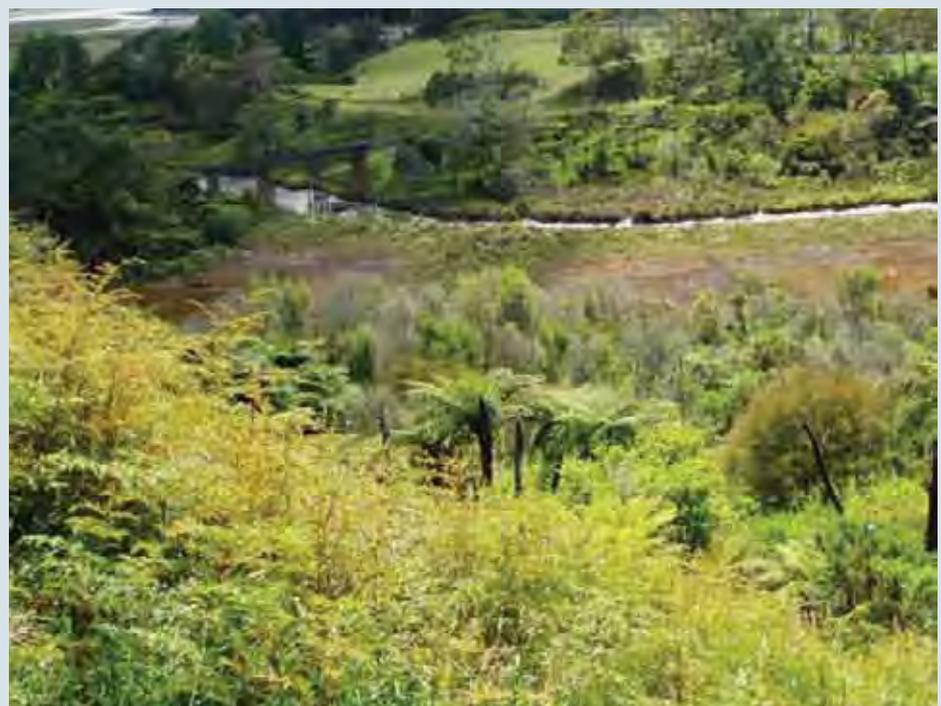


PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL

Community helps to restore Matua Estuary

Purchased by QEII, the Department of Conservation and the Tauranga District Council in 1989, a 21.5ha saltmarsh in the Matua Estuary is protected by an open space covenant. The **Matua saltmarsh** has strong ecological, cultural and landscape values. A remnant of the once extensive saltmarsh within Tauranga Harbour, it forms the upper reaches of the estuary.

The Council has since acquired more of the estuary to form a reserve. The estuary is an important wildlife habitat with rare, endangered and threatened birds including fernbird, banded

rail, spotless crane and marsh crane. Heavily modified in the past, the vegetation including searush, mangroves, oioi, manuka and raupo is now recovering.

Protecting estuarine areas is essential to help maintain and enrich the quality of water in harbours. Environment Bay of Plenty co-ordinates a Matua Estuary Care group within the local community to help manage and restore the estuary.

Below: Matua Estuary, Tauranga Harbour



PHOTO: MATUA ESTUARY CARE GROUP

Benefiting future generations

For the benefit of generations to come, **Chris and Antoinette Mountfort** protected 21 ha of primary tawa-rewarewa forest in Matata with a covenant. 'Protecting the bush enhances the farm and it's a special area for birds,' says Chris. Typical forest birds include tui, fantails, bellbirds and silvereyes.

Chris and Antoinette make the most of their covenant. 'We have already had a wedding there,' says Antoinette. 'Our son Paul was married in the bush and it was magic. Many of the guests had not been in bush before and marvelled at the tawa, pukatea, rewarewa, puriri, mangleo and nikau making the perfect backdrop.'

Bottom right: The Mountfort's covenant is part of an extensive gorge system running into the Mimiha Stream. This gully was washed out in the Matata floods of May 2005 and February 2006. 'Only the young or the very fit can venture down there now,' says Antoinette. Regrowth is well underway.

Left: A perfect setting for a perfect day – Paul Mountfort and Megan Edhouse's wedding in the covenant in January 2007.



PHOTO: CHRIS AND ANTOINETTE MOUNTFORT



PHOTO: CHRIS AND ANTOINETTE MOUNTFORT

Neighbours protect Opotiki forest

Two years ago, **Wayne O'Keefe** and **Wei Mei Leong** took over the care of a 14ha block of semi-coastal lowland forest in Opotiki under a QEII covenant.

'This block was only ever partially logged so it is a significant remnant in the Opotiki Ecological District,' says Wayne. 'Stock grazed through the forest until 17 years ago when it was fenced and we are now reaping the rewards.'

'We are working with the Department of Conservation to establish insurance populations of endangered plants including the native mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus*. We recently put thousands of berries in nooks and forks of the sunny sides of trees such as manuka and putaputaweta. They'll take about a year to germinate and at least four years to fruit.'

With a full possum, stoat and rat control programme in place, kereru, tui, fantails, bellbirds, weka and tomtits are returning to the forest. 'This is the best forest in the Eastern Bay of Plenty I have seen,' says Stephen Hall, QEII Rep.

Adjacent to Wayne O'Keefe and Wei Mei Leong's covenant, a 6ha primary forest remnant is also protected on Tim Murphy's property.

'This bush with beautiful puriri, rimu and tawa has never been grazed and it's wonderful to think it will be here forever,' says Tim. 'The support from QEII to look after this slice of paradise is a big help.'

Top: Primary lowland Opotiki forest is protected by two neighbouring covenants.

Middle left: Wayne O'Keefe and daughter Earina look over their covenanted forest.

Middle right (upper): Graeme Atkins from the Department of Conservation pointing out mistletoe seeds in the forks of manuka.

(Lower) Hemi Barsdell from the Department of Conservation placing a berry of the mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* on a putaputaweta branch.

Right: Native birds including weka and tomtits are returning to Tim Murphy's primary forest covenant.



PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL



PHOTOS: OPOTIKI NEWS



PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL

Native birds and plants flourishing

Seven months ago, **Colin Binns and Maureen Burgess** purchased their 7ha rewarewa-kamahi forest covenant running down to the Mangorewa River near Te Puke.

Maureen has been involved with Forest & Bird and other conservation organisations for many years. 'We never thought we'd live somewhere so absolutely beautiful,' says Maureen. 'However, it's a huge amount of work controlling the weeds.'

Previously, tree privet, Madeira vine and pampas were eradicated with Biodiversity Condition Funding. Tradescantia needs constant control. Maureen and Colin are also baiting possums and feral cats.

'It's beautiful walking through this bush,' adds Colin. 'Less and less of our land is being preserved and it's wonderful having a protected area with so many tui, fantails and kereru.'



PHOTO: MAUREEN BURGESS

Colin Binns checking a Timms trap for possums (along with his plastic rat!). Native plantings are flourishing following weed and pest control along the river.

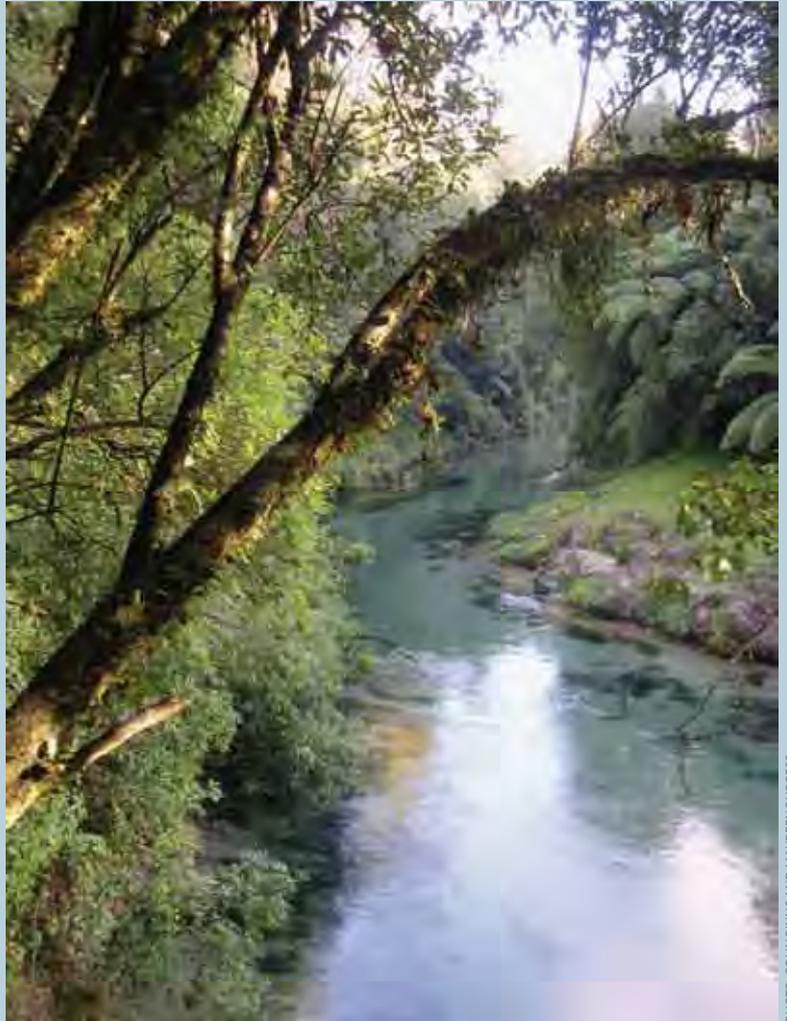


PHOTO: COLIN BINNS AND MAUREEN BURGESS

Looking up the Mangorewa River in the beautiful, bush-covered covenant.

A passion for revegetation

Five kilometres from the Kaimai Ranges, **Ian and Pamela Bradshaw's** covenant is an excellent example of a revegetation project.

'Seventeen years ago there was not a tree on the place,' recalls Ian. 'We did 10 years of solid planting from 1994 to 2004 and are now in-filling.'

The Bradshaws developed their own nursery, originally with seeds from neighbouring areas. Two years ago, they covenanted 2.3ha to protect it from future development.

30,000 trees later, there is good regeneration of many species including mahoe, rimu, totara, kanuka, puriri and five-finger. Out of 110 species on the covenant, wineberry (makomako) is one of Ian's favourites. 'Revegetation is my "hobby" and I love showing people around and talking about the plants,' he says.

Right: Local canopy species emerging on the Bradshaw's hill country covenant



PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL

Recovering from extreme weather

One of only two sites in the Otanewainuku Ecological District where hard beech *Nothofagus truncata* and pohutukawa occur together, **Paul, Louise and John Burt's** 53ha covenant near Matata is a significant remnant of a coastal forest ecosystem.

During the extreme 'weather bomb' in Matata in May 2005, steep gullies and fences in the covenant were damaged by slips. 'We were shocked by the damage,' says John. 'We've repaired the fencing with special assistance from QEII and the slips are now regenerating with vegetation.'

Damage to fences caused by slips resulting from extreme weather in Matata has been repaired. The slip scars are now regenerating.



PHOTOS: PAUL BURT



PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL

Swamp forest remnant

A 1.2ha covenant in Poroporo inland from Whakatane is a small remnant of the original swamp forest that used to be common on the plains. It is the only indigenous forest left in the Te Teko Ecological District.

Titoki, pukatea and kahikatea dominate the canopy. The landowners at the time of covenanting two years ago decided to protect the forest as otherwise it may have been cleared for horticulture or dairying.

Left: The remnant of indigenous swamp forest before fencing.

Below: Now that the covenant has been fenced, seedlings such as mahoe are starting to emerge in the understorey.



PHOTO: STEPHEN HALL

Ballance Farm Environment Awards: Celebrating environmental sustainability



Celebrating those who support and adopt sustainable farming practices, the 2007 Ballance Farm Environment Awards attracted 140 entries in eight regions. Ted Coates, national judging coordinator, says many seek to benchmark their properties using the expertise of the judging groups while others are comfortable having their farms compared with the best in the region. We congratulate these winning QEII covenants.

Bay of Plenty Supreme Award

Mataiwhetu Station, a 300ha beef and sheep farm run by **Jim, Robyn, Allen and Sue Coster** in the lower Kaimai area, won the Bay of Plenty Supreme Award and the PPCS Best Livestock Farm Award. The judges noted the Costers have loved and looked after their land well, altering stock policies for better profitability and to reduce the effect on the usually wet but drought-prone and puggable soils.

The family, who have farmed the land for 50 years, also helped to preserve the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park for future generations. 'In the '80s there was a threat of converting the surrounding forest into pines,' says Jim. 'The Kaimai settlers opposed this and helped save 40,000ha from clear felling. We then protected 8ha of our own forest under a QEII covenant.'

Right: The Costers' covenant protects tawa-rewarewa forest and mamaku



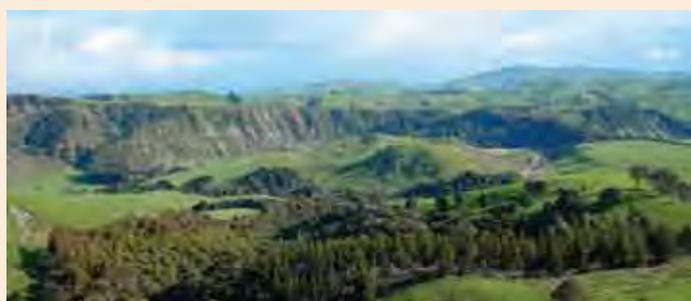
Allen, Sue, Robyn and Jim Coster.



Rotorua forest remnant protected

Passionate about protecting the environment, **Winston Fleming** won the Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Award. Managing his Kaharua farm with a tourist operation on the side, Winston is fencing off bush and waterways and planting steep areas. He has protected a 34ha regenerating forest remnant rich in bird life including kiwi and kokako under a QEII covenant.

Below left: Winston Fleming receiving his award. Below right: Winston Fleming's tourism business includes bush walks in protected tawa-kamahirewarewa forest.



Wellington Supreme Award

Wairarapa sheep and beef farmers, **Andrew and Anna Renton**, won the Wellington Supreme Award and the PPCS Livestock Farm Award for their management of Te Roto, their 936ha farm at Bideford near Masterton.

The judges said the farm production is excellent with good care being shown in the management of soils and pastures. Stock condition and performance is very high and strong planning is a feature, including a 10-year soil and water management programme drawn up with the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Rentons protect 23ha of lowland forest under two QEII covenants. 'When we looked at buying the farm in 2000, the existing covenant was an attraction,' says Andrew. 'We love the environment and get a lot of satisfaction from seeing the birds.'

Top left: Andrew and Anna Renton's forest covenant stands out in the north-eastern landscape of the Wairarapa. Left: Andrew and Anna Renton





Ancient totara saved

Mark and Susannah Guscott won the Wellington Markhams Business Planning Award for exemplary goal setting. Mark's family has farmed Glen Eden, an 800ha sheep and beef property in Carterton, for six generations.

The Guscotts, together with Mark's father, Philip, and Paul Joblin, have a 17ha lowland forest covenant. 'We protected the bush so we'll still be able to see and hear birds when we're older,' says Mark.

Top left: One of two spectacular totara in the covenant that escaped logging.

Left: Mark, Susannah and Olivia Guscott.



PHOTO: WELLINGTON BFE AWARDS

A paradise for birds

Glenys Hansen from Masterton won the Wellington Akura Conservation Centre Lifestyle Farm/Small Block Award for her property Tidsfordriv. Glenys and her late husband Ted created a wetland as a habitat for the birds they shared a passion for. In 2001, 4.2ha was protected under a QEII covenant. Now there are at least 43 different species of birds in the area. Glenys runs tours so others can also enjoy birdwatching.

Below: Glenys Hansen above her wetland.



PHOTO: WELLINGTON BFE AWARDS

A sustainable conservative approach

On their 12,000ha high country run at Omarama, **Richard and Annabelle Subtil** who won the Canterbury PPCS Livestock Farm Award, are successfully matching their livestock operation to the physical and climatic constraints of their environment.

Omarama Station has been in Annabelle's family since 1919. A 1,285ha QEII covenant on the station was initiated by Annabelle's parents in 1995 to protect and manage in perpetuity two contrasting areas of high altitude, tall tussock grassland representative of the region. One area is 865ha surrounding the well-drained summit of Mt St Cuthbert (1585m) and the other 420ha is near the poorly drained summit of the Ewe Range (1457m).

'Both areas are maintained under continued pastoral use and are in very good condition due to the conservative management practised by the family,' says Dr Brian Molloy, QEII High Country Rep.



Top: Richard and Annabelle Subtil at Omarama Station.

Bottom: Summit of Ewe Range - *Chionochloa macra* slim snow tussock and cushion bog on slow draining schistose terrain.



PHOTO: CANTERBURY BFE AWARDS

Home for yellow-eyed penguins

Establishing and managing Penguin Place on the Otago Peninsula won Howard, Elizabeth and Brian McGrouther and Liz King the Otago PGG Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award. **Howard and Elizabeth McGrouther** have a QEII covenant protecting a 29ha habitat with three distinct zones: a native bush remnant, a wetland, and a yellow-eyed penguin habitat and sand dune system.



Above: A juvenile yellow-eyed penguin (Hoiho) *Megadyptes antipodes*.

Below: The McGrouther family. Penguin Place has 50,000 visitors annually. For more information visit www.penguinplace.co.nz



PHOTOS: OTAGO BFE AWARDS

Taranaki Environmental Awards

Covenantors **Stephen and Helen Newton** were amongst the nine recipients of Taranaki Regional Council environmental awards. The Newtons have seven registered and approved primary forest remnant covenants on their Urenui property. They have made a significant commitment to permanently protect these valuable ecosystems which help retain a wildlife corridor between inland conservation areas and the coast.



PHOTO: TARANAKI NEWSPAPERS

Stephen Newton near a primary forest remnant. Stephen and Helen have carried out extensive planting in and around the covenants. King ferns and nikau are thriving.

The East Taranaki Environmental Trust was recognised for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. This Trust covers 3000ha of kiwi habitat including **Bob and Karen Schumacher's** 70ha covenant. With about 100 kiwi in the Purangi-Matau area, the Trust, with the support of 26 local landowners, has an extensive pest control programme with over 600 stoat boxes.



Karen Schumacher with Maru, a radio-tagged kiwi.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Kevin Milne, a QEII covenantor, was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to broadcasting and the community. Kevin began working in television in 1970, joined *Fair Go* in 1984, and has been presenting the show since 1993.

Kevin and Linda Milne have covenanted 1.1ha of lowland tawa-titoki forest in Waikanae. With the help of Biodiversity Condition Funding, weeds have been sprayed and revegetation is underway.



PHOTO: ROBYN SMITH

Wairarapa farm business of the year

As part of the development their farm, Patitapu Station in Alfredton, **Bruce and Sue McKenzie** are protecting blocks of regenerating bush with QEII covenants.

Winning the 2007 Wairarapa farm business of the year award, the judges praised the strong balance between environmental and production values, the successful development of the farm, careful detail to management, and a sound succession plan.

The McKenzies have four forest blocks under covenants, a total of 43ha. There is a spectacular gorge in one of the blocks, carved out by a spring-fed stream. They also have an approved 338ha covenant of regenerating forest and kanuka-manuka which is currently being fenced with the costs being shared between them, QEII and the Horizons Regional Council.

Bruce and Sue have been involved with QEII since 1988 when they bought a block of land with an existing covenant. They have since sold that and are now covenanting areas on their current farm so the bush will regenerate. 'From the distance, the regenerating block looks like manuka but when you get closer you can see the emerging totara and rewarewa,' says Bruce.

Below: A 29ha block of lowland forest and kanuka-manuka protected by Bruce and Sue McKenzie under a QEII covenant.



Below: Pines were logged from this area of lowland forest nearly 10 years ago. When the McKenzies bought the land in 2000, there was enough evidence of natural regeneration to decide not to do revegetation planting. 7ha of the forest is now protected under a covenant. 'We go in and cut any pine seedlings once they get to about 2m high,' says Bruce. 'The number of seedlings is reducing now.'



PHOTO: BILL WALLACE

Hurunui High Country Track

With landscapes ranging from farmland to beech forest to alpine terrain, eye-catching views and comfortable facilities, the Hurunui High Country track was developed especially for tourism.



PHOTOS: MILES AND GILLIAN GILLER, DAN AND MANDY SHAND

Dan and Mandy Shand run their remarkable private track on the high-country station of Island Hills. Dan says they developed the track as a tourism venture to help support the station, which is now productive after many years of work by his parents, Ed and Jan.

‘With our focus on sustainable farming practices, we plan to regenerate the marginal areas of the station into native bush and use the track to generate income from visitors.’

With over 800 visitors a year, accommodation is provided in three huts, one of which is a log cabin built in the 1930s. The huts are fully equipped with cooking facilities, fridges and hot showers. ‘For total relaxation, walkers can enjoy a bath under the stars at the Valley Camp on the second night,’ Dan adds.

The track passes through part of a 600ha area protected by a QEII open space covenant set up nearly 20 years ago by Ed and Jan Shand.

On a tributary of the Mandamus River, the covenant includes alpine ridges, rock outcrops, screes, basins, riparian strips and river terraces. High parts are dominated by alpine vegetation, mid-slopes by beech regenerating through manuka or by beech forest, and lower parts by beech or kanuka-broadleaf forest. Many regenerated forested areas have a near primary appearance.

Rare species identified include *Coprosma intertexta*, *Clematis marata* and *Carmichaelia crassicaule*. Species uncommon in North Canterbury include Southern rata *Metrosideros umbellata* and Adders tongue fern *Ophioglossum coriaceum*. Visitors may also see kea, kereru and karearea (New Zealand falcon).

‘This is covenanting at its best,’ says Miles Giller, QEII North Canterbury Rep.

Top left: Vegetable sheep *Raoulia sp.* with alpine tutu growing through.

Middle left: Leek orchid *Prasophyllum colensoi*.

Top right: Beech forest along Bush Creek.

Left: The eye-catching landscape of Gills Block.

Opposite left: Walkers explore the kanuka forest.

Opposite right: Southern rata *Metrosideros umbellata*.



Hurunui High Country Track

Location

Near Culverden, one and a half hours drive north of Christchurch.

Track

30km over three days. Open from mid-October to April. Limited to 10 people. Mainly easy terrain with some uneven ground over the ridges.

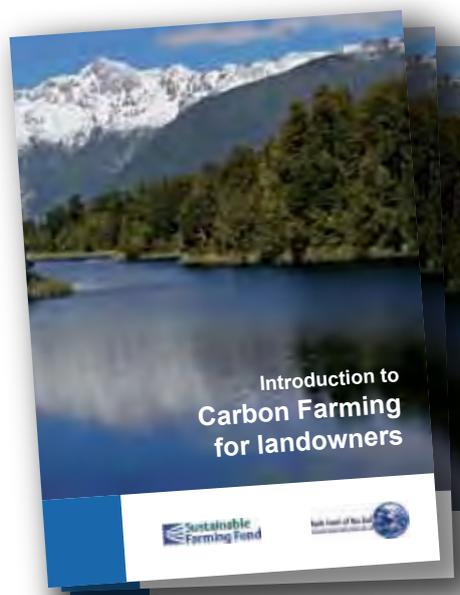
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Wetlands: Assessing the effectiveness of restoration

An update from the Landcare Research programme funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua



New Zealand wetlands have declined significantly since European settlement and those that remain support a disproportionately high number of our threatened plants and animals. The health or condition of these wetlands can easily decline. For example, changes in hydrology, water pollution, nutrient enrichment, and invasion by weeds and pests can lead to biodiversity loss and impaired wetland functioning.

Landcare Research aims to assist farmers and other landowners in protecting and restoring wetlands by providing guidelines to underpin management and restoration strategies. The research is under the maintaining and restoring wetlands project which has synergies with the sustaining and restoring biodiversity programme.

Bev Clarkson, Plant Ecologist, says the research will benefit New Zealand by helping prevent further loss and degradation of wetlands.

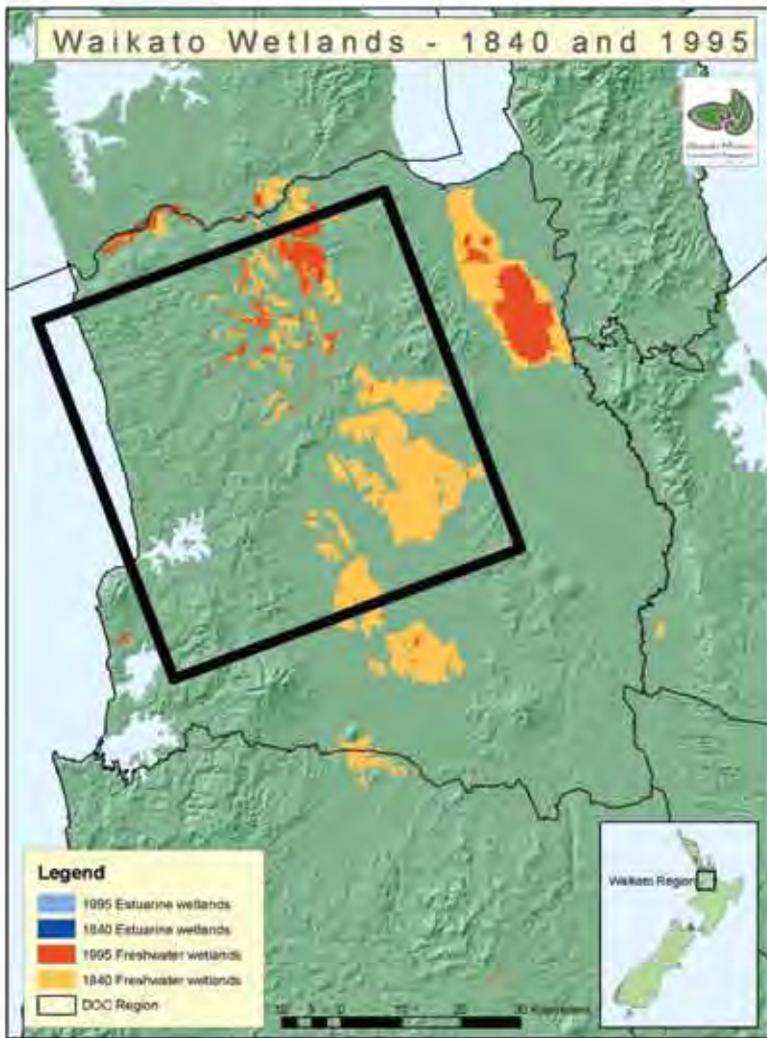
‘As an example, nearly 80% of wetlands in the Waikato District have been lost since 1840. The *Sporadanthus Restiad* vegetation class is completely destroyed and sedgeland is very poorly represented.

‘Our approach is to have a national wetland monitoring system including wetland classification and methods for monitoring wetland condition. By 2013, we are aiming for a 10% increase in the success rate of wetlands being restored as measured by the biodiversity condition index in the *Handbook for Monitoring Wetland Condition*.’

Left: Taupo Swamp, Plimmerton, Wellington

Below: Protecting wetlands on private land with QEII covenants improves their condition.





Above: The loss of Waikato wetlands from 1840 to 1995 is shown in this map. The box indicates the Waikato District Council area.

The handbook describes five ecological indicators based on threats that degrade wetlands. Compared against an assumed natural state, these provide a composite index of wetland condition.

Indicators are changes in:

- Hydrological integrity (*hydrology*)
- Physicochemical parameters (*soil*)
- Ecosystem intactness (*intactness*)
- Browsing, predation and harvesting (*pest-free*)
- Dominance of native plants (*weed-free*).

The handbook describes each indicator and how to assign a value and tally scores to analyse the results. The indicators can be used to answer a range of monitoring questions.

Bev says those monitoring wetlands can design their own techniques for interpreting data and analysing change. 'For example, to assess the effectiveness of fencing, use an indicator component "Damage by domestic or feral animals" or where willow is being controlled, use "Introduced plant canopy cover".'

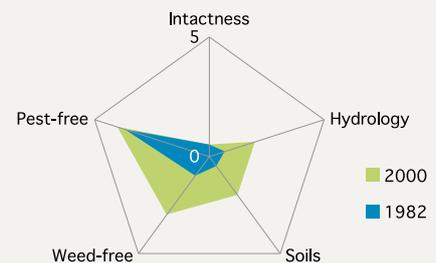
'Landcare Research has established a national wetland database to collect monitoring data which will be used to develop understanding of the essential properties of wetlands. We encourage those using the handbook monitoring methods to contribute to this database.'

Download the *Handbook for Monitoring Wetland Condition* on <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/restoration/docs/handbook2004.pdf>

Cockayne Wetland: Monitoring condition

Cockayne Reserve is an isolated wetland fragment within Christchurch City, located on the Avon River. By 1982 the wetland had been degraded by altered hydrology, repeated fires and the spread of weeds such as tall fescue and yellow flag iris.

Indicator	Score - 1982	Score - 2000
Intactness	0.50	0.50
Hydrology	0.67	2.00
Soils	0.50	2.00
Weed-free	1.00	3.00
Pest-free	3.67	4.00
Total /25	6.34	11.50



Interventions including planting of native species and restoration of a water supply led to considerable recovery of the wetland by 2000. However, weeds were still widespread and poor water exchange had allowed raupo to increase dramatically, leading to excessive sedimentation and in-filling. The score therefore reflects an overall improvement but identifies issues still causing problems.

Below: Sinclair Wetlands, a high-value wildlife habitat between Lakes Waipori and Waihola in Otago.



Improving wetland condition: A benefit of covenant protection

As at 1 June 2007, there were over 300 registered QEII covenants protecting 6,400ha of wetlands and nearly 200 approved covenants awaiting registration covering 3,200ha. We feature examples of successful restoration on QEII covenants.



PHOTO: CHRIS MORISON

The Day's wetland in 2007 with regenerating flax and emerging cabbage trees. The pond is well used by waterfowl and fernbirds populate the surrounding vegetation.

Strong regeneration in Southland

Since **Warrick Day** protected a 6ha gully wetland near Winton under a QEII covenant in 1994, a marked change in vegetation has occurred with a shift from red tussock to flax, coprosma and cabbage trees. With a natural progression for the regeneration, the end phase will most probably be podocarp forest.

'This shows quite graphically what can be recreated and what landowners can do with their gully systems with best management practices to remove sediment and nutrients out of the waterways,' says Gay Munro, QEII Southland Rep.



An aerial shot before the wetland (the area south of the pine forest) was protected under a QEII covenant in 1994. At that time the vegetation was dominated by red tussock.

Rare lizard protected in Taranaki

A restoration project on a 1.8ha wetland at Toko near Stratford has received an environmental award from the Taranaki Regional Council for sustainable farming and commitment to improving biodiversity.

In the surrounding dairy farmland, most wetlands have been cleared and drained. The restored wetland, protected under an open space covenant by the **Marleigh Farms Partnership**, is a habitat for the striped skink which has a Category A priority for conservation action under the Department of Conservation's species ranking system. Fewer than 120 have ever been found and the covenant may be the first confirmed protected site.



PHOTO: DEAN CASKEY, CROWN COPYRIGHT, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 2002

The striped skink *Oligosoma striatum* is one of New Zealand's least known and rarely seen lizards. It has pale stripes running down the length of its body and lightening quick movements.

Volunteers improve biodiversity at Pauatahanui

Community volunteers are a key to the rich biodiversity of the saltmarsh and associated swamp at Pauatahanui Inlet near Wellington. The Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Committee, operating under the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, manages the project to restore the wetland and improve the habitat for wading birds. In 1985, the Society purchased 1.8ha to give access to the reserve. This area is protected under a QEII covenant.

Wanda Tate who works on the extensive restoration planting programme says the aim is to put in 5,000 plants this year. All plants are eco-sourced with seeds collected from the wetland and germinated at the homes of volunteers. They're then taken to the group's nursery for potting and growing on.

The restored habitat together with pest control has encouraged birds such as royal spoonbills and pied stilts to return to the inlet. 'This is fantastic restoration work, all done by volunteers,' says Robyn Smith, QEII Wellington Rep.

Top: Robin Chesterfield, a volunteer with the Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Committee, plants saltmarsh ribbonwood *Plagianthus divaricatus*.

Middle left: *Leptinella dioica*, a creeping, fleshy perennial herb of usually wet coastal habitats.

Middle right: *Potamogeton suboblongus* (rerewai) is an endemic pondweed which is bottom rooted with its leaves floating on the surface. It is found throughout New Zealand in wet mud or shallow water of shady streams, in ponds within tree swamps or in the open in bogs or swamp pools.

Bottom: Royal spoonbills *Platalea regia* are returning to Pauatahanui.

Below: The Pauatahanui saltmarsh is benefiting from restoration planting and pest control.



PHOTO: DAVID CORNICK



PHOTOS: ROBYN SMITH



PHOTOS: ROBYN SMITH



PHOTOS: ROBYN SMITH



PHOTO: LORALEE HYDE

Winning the war on weeds on the Kapiti Coast

Eight years ago, **Adrienne and Peter Dale** purchased their Pateke Lagoons property which has an 11ha wetland covenant dominated by harakeke (swamp flax).

‘The wetland was almost completely covered by blackberry up to six metres high and rampant pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia australis*) was smothering young totara and wheki, the swamp tree fern,’ recalls Adrienne. Although pohuehue is a native, it may need controlling where it is overwhelming regenerating vegetation.

The Dales cleared much of the infestation by hand. Then with support from the Greater Wellington Regional Council and QEII they undertook an extensive spraying programme. ‘The help has been fabulous,’ says Adrienne. ‘Since the weeds have been cleared, the flax, wheki and cabbage trees have had a new lease of life and birdlife is proliferating.’

For more on the Dale’s weedbusting efforts visit www.pateke-lagoons.co.nz

Right: 2003 – Peter Dale amongst blackberry in the Pateke Lagoons wetland covenant.

Top: 2007 – the restored wetland at Pateke Lagoons.



Kamahi *Weinmannia racemosa*

Kamahi is the most abundant forest tree in New Zealand, found from sea level to 900m and occurring in lowland, montane, and subalpine forests and shrubland from Auckland southwards to Stewart Island.

Often kamahi are stunted and shorn by the wind and covered with mosses and ferns, fittingly called a 'goblin forest'. A closely related tree, towai or tawhero (*Weinmannia silvicola*), occurs north of about latitude 37°S.

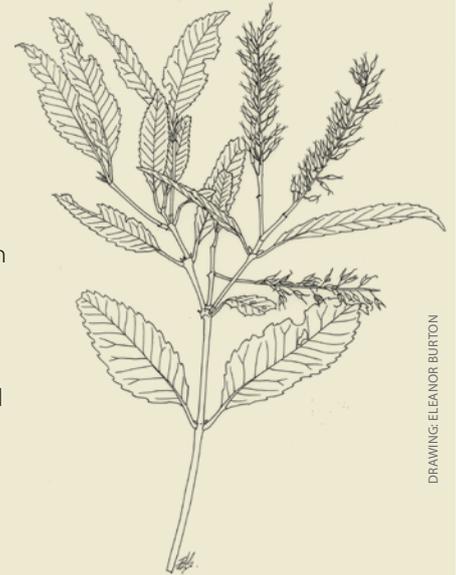
A medium-sized canopy tree, kamahi grows up to 25m. Trunks are irregular and there is usually more than one trunk to a tree.

Kamahi often germinates as an epiphyte on the trunks of silver ferns. The roots penetrate the fibrous covering of the tree fern trunk and establish a secure foothold. They grow without extracting any nutrients from the tree fern and can outlive their host.

Palatable to possums, deer, goats and stock, kamahi often succumbs to persistent browsing of leaves and buds.

Kamahi features

- Adult leaves are opposite each other (unlike beech), 3-10cm long, and have coarse and blunt teeth
- Juvenile leaves are three foliate
- Bark is greyish, blotched with white and is relatively smooth
- Flowers from late spring to early summer with almost white, fluffy Hebe-like flower spikes
- As flowering ceases and seed capsules form, the tree has a reddish appearance
- Bark is a rich source of tannin which was used in 19th century tanneries and exported
- As a timber, kamahi was used for piles, fence posts and sleepers
- Produces a strongly flavoured honey.



DRAWING: ELEANOR BURTON

Clockwise, from top left: Kamahi at the Anderson covenant in the Catlins in the south-east corner of the South Island. This remnant podocarp-broadleaf forest covenant has very high landscape values and is part of intact native vegetation running parallel to the estuary below the Papatowai settlement.

Close-up of kamahi flowers.

Kamahi and tree ferns in semi-coastal secondary forest near New Plymouth.

Kamahi flowers.

Possum browsed kamahi.



PHOTO: TONY GATES



PHOTO: CROWN COPYRIGHT, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, 1997



PHOTO: HAMISH DEAN

Feral pigs



PHOTO: B. MACFARLANE

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are classified as a potential pest problem in a number of regions and are monitored and controlled on a site-specific basis where necessary.



Pigs can reduce farm productivity by damaging pasture and young forestry plantings, preying on lambs, and spreading disease including Tb (bovine tuberculosis). In natural areas, they can damage native vegetation, bird life and invertebrate life.

Landcare Research ecologist, Ivor Yockney, says the impacts of feral pigs in New Zealand are not well understood and have yet to be quantified, but there have been anecdotal reports of increasing feral pig populations throughout much of New Zealand.

'It's unclear why pig numbers appear to have increased, but it may be in part due to farmers retiring pasture land for a range of reasons. Any increase in woody vegetation provides good habitat for feral pigs and

makes them more difficult to control by hunters.'

Where numbers do build to problem proportions, an intensive knockdown programme is recommended using a combination of aerial shooting, intensive trapping, spotlight shooting and targeted ground hunting.

This should be followed by long-term sustained control using traps and hunting. Currently, there is no poison registered as suitable for pig control.

Above: Extensive pig rooting at Conway Flat, North Canterbury in 2003. With Biodiversity Condition Fund assistance, 18 landowners have been implementing a feral pig control plan prepared by Landcare Research.

Pig Traps

If well managed, pig traps can be an effective supplement to hunting. **Miles Giller**, QEII North Canterbury Rep, says designs vary but the most effective can be dismantled and moved easily, are strong enough to require little maintenance and can catch several animals at once.

A suitable design

- Panels constructed with 6mm mesh reinforcing steel (or equivalent)
- Side and rear panels 3m long (max) by 1.5m high, front 0.75m wide
- Mesh off-cuts can be attached off-set to lower panels to prevent piglets escaping
- Door 0.75m wide by 0.8m high, hinged at top, opening inwards only
- Panels anchored down with waratahs
- Removable rods and gudgeons down each corner allow easy dismantling, transport and assembly.

Set the door by propping it slightly ajar with a short stick. As animals enter, the door

is lifted by their brushing back, the stick falls down, and the door will swing down and close. Once inside, pigs cannot push their way out, but other pigs can push their way in.

Trap management

- Locate on a well-ventilated open site near known pig areas, where it can be seen regularly from a distance when going about other business. Open saddles or paddocks near cover are ideal. Monitoring of pig traps is less efficient in isolated or heavily forested areas.
- For humane reasons, check traps regularly and provide shade and water.
- Bait with smelly materials attractive to pigs (combinations of decaying animal carcasses, molasses, beef fat and fermented barley are usually successful). You can suspend the bait in a bag just above the trap, to maximise dispersal of smell and to minimise consumption by trapped animals.

- Try to avoid passing close to the trap or disturbing the locality with hunting.
- Rebait the trap every few weeks. Otherwise be patient, as it may be several days before wary pigs are willing to investigate the trap locality.
- Shoot and remove captured animals (local hunters may be keen to do this for you).
- Do not enter the trap while any captured pig is still alive as they can be extremely aggressive. For safety reasons, never set traps in public places.

Top left: A weld-mesh-panel trap with an inwards swinging door. The lure can be placed in a bag hanging overhead. Assembly of this trap takes about 15 minutes.

Below right: The inwards swinging door is hinged at the top.

Below left: A family of pigs in a trap. With an inwards swinging door, multiple catches are common as one trapped pig lures another. Overnight catches of over 20 pigs in a single trap have been recorded.



PHOTO: MILES GILLER



PHOTO: IVOR YOCKNEY



PHOTO: MILES GILLER

Using Y Posts (waratahs)

Steel Y Posts are a cost-effective option for covenant fencing compared to a post and batten fence. **Philip Lissaman**, QEII Nelson-Tasman Rep, explains the various uses of Y Posts (a common brand is Waratah).

Y Posts can be placed between wooden posts that are used only at key points such as angles and humps. That is, the Y Posts replace battens and most wooden posts. This is usually done on hill country with good Y Post-holding soils.

Y Posts can also be used to replace battens by putting one to two between wooden posts which are at normal 4-5m spacing (this is a more expensive option).

Using Y Posts reduces the need to dig post holes in rocky or hard soils. In really hard country where post driving is not practical, all-steel fences may be necessary. That is, with no wooden posts at all.

Advantages of Y Posts

- Can be driven in rocky or stony ground or where a post driver cannot get access
- Easier to carry and lay out than battens which saves on labour
- Easy to electrify and act as a very good earth for electric fences
- Easy to use as tie-downs (can often use half-Y Posts for this)
- Will not burn in a grass fire
- Very suitable for use with netting
- A medium-cost option for covenant fencing compared to a traditional North Island post and batten fence.

Points to watch with Y Posts

- Wires have to be threaded when pulling them out, so strains need to be shorter
- Can strip galvanising from the wire, reducing its life if not done carefully
- When a wire breaks, it goes slack over the whole strain whereas battens tend to lock the wire tight over most of the strain
- Can pull or loosen easily in wet soils
- Tend to bend when cattle put pressure on the fence by leaning against or over it, or pushing through to get 'that extra green bite' – electric outriggers or barb wire discourage this.



PHOTO: PHILIP LISSAMAN



PHOTO: TONY GATES



Top: On Simon and Lynda Harvey's farm in Marlborough, Y Posts are used on the steep hill country.

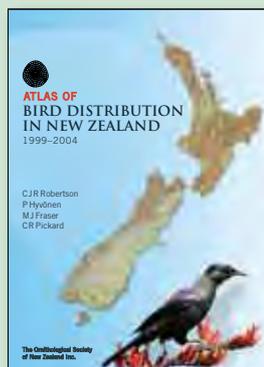
Left: Y Post fencing with wooden angle posts surrounds Felicity and Michael Jones's forest remnant in the Tararua foothills near Levin.

Inset: Electric outrigger

Above: Te Mata Peak – Y Posts and netting are used in a low visual impact fence on stony ground, with light summer grazing only.

Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004

SPECIAL OFFER



The Ornithological Society of NZ will launch the most comprehensive survey of New Zealand's avifauna on 13 August. With 540 pages and over 2,100 maps covering more than 200 of our endemic, native, migratory and introduced birds, this work is the result of five years of extensive surveying by more than 800 people throughout the country.

Seasonal and breeding data is provided for each of the birds and there is a section devoted to habitat use. This atlas will provide a major reference source for all those who interact with our natural environment.

Special discount exclusive to QEII Trust members!

\$85 per copy including GST and postage
RRP \$98. While stocks last. Delivery from late August 2007.

Please send your name, address and cheque made out to 'OSNZ' to:
OSNZ ATLAS, PO Box 12397, Wellington 6144.

Things to buy

QEII Swann dri® 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 Greeting cards

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

Price: \$30 including GST and postage

Properties for sale with covenants

KAPITI COAST - WAIKANAE



Secluded peace & privacy on 5.3ha. Includes a native forest QEII covenant full of birdlife. Elevated home, workshop & studio. Visit www.kapitiproperty.co.nz ID 515701. Ph Brettta 027 231 7310 First National Real Estate Ltd MREINZ.

HOKIANGA



38ha farm near Rawene including 9ha forest QEII covenant with resident kiwi. Farm grazes 35 cattle. Fruit & timber trees. 3 bedroom house. Large garden. Access to Hokianga Harbour via tidal creek. Ph 09 405 8110.

ORDER FORM

Prices include GST and postage

Name _____

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

Address (for courier delivery) _____

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

Donation (optional) _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Telephone _____

Method of payment Cheque MasterCard Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number:

Cardholder name _____ Expiry date _____

Please send a receipt

Signature _____

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

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 contact CEO Margaret McKee freephone 0508 732 878 or mmckee@qe2.org.nz

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February 2007 to 31 May 2007

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Blunden (x2)	1.4	F	Far North
Dehra Doon Farms Limited	5.5	F	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited	65.9	W	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited (x3)	59.1	F, S, W	Far North
Macpherson	3.2	F	Far North
Wairoa Park Limited	6.8	F, S, W	Far North
Deeming (x2)	0.6	F, W	Whangarei
Pullman	1.0	F, S, T	Whangarei
Wilson (x2)	2.7	F	Whangarei
Clements	0.9	F	Kaipara
Waipoua Forest Trust	59.9	A, F, Ge, L	Kaipara
Wilson	1.4	F	Papakura
Caldwell & Villacorte	1.2	T, W	Franklin
Kleyer	1.7	F	Franklin
Hall & Boone	1.1	F, T	Waipa
Hall	0.5	F, T	Waipa
NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust	90.2	F, S	Thames-Coromandel
Wharton & Muir	9.9	F, L	Thames-Coromandel
Moyle	4.9	F	Thames-Coromandel
Tapuaetahi Trustee Limited	2.7	F, L	Thames-Coromandel
McCann	21.2	F, S	Whakatane
Kawaunui Farm Limited	72.4	F, S	Opotiki
Clayton-Greene	63.9	F	Waitomo
Nicholson Livestock Limited	7.2	F	Waitomo
Purdie	7.5	F, W	Waitomo
de Haan	15.1	F	Otorohanga
Irvine	1.8	F	Otorohanga
Sherriff	31.2	S	Otorohanga
Brickell, Cutler, Corban & Jordi	74.4	F	Wairoa
Johnston & Thompson	4.2	F	Wairoa
Read, Bogaard & Osborne	20.3	F	Wairoa
Schick	1.8	F	Wairoa
Snelling	3.8	F, W	Wairoa
Byrne & De Lautour	16.7	F, S	Gisborne
Landcorp Farming Limited	478.9	F, S	Gisborne
Tauwhareparae Farms Limited	6.1	F	Gisborne

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Te Aroha Station Limited	41.2	F, W	Gisborne
Chambers, Gilbertson & Holder	5.1	Ge, S, T	Hastings
Kelly	24.5	W	Hastings
van Asch & Cozens	3.4	Ge, L, S	Hastings
Armistead & Butler	0.2	F	New Plymouth
Galloway & Steven	35.1	F	New Plymouth
Jones & Addenbrooke	2.9	F	New Plymouth
O'Sullivan & Lobb	1.5	L, S	New Plymouth
Swanson & Harrison	3.5	F	New Plymouth
Van Endhoven	5.0	F	New Plymouth
Martin	27.9	F	Manawatu
Perry & Hindmarsh	36.8	F	Tararua
Speedy (x2)	19.9	F	Tararua
Wright	3.7	F	Tararua
Campbell	10.5	F, W	Masterton
Guscott & Joblin	17.4	F	Carterton
Jacks Creek Farm Limited	16.0	F	Buller
Morfett & Backes	19.3	F, W	Westland
Carswell & Hamilton	2.1	F, S, T	Christchurch
John Stevens Pharmacy (Waimate) Limited	2.7	G, S	Waimate
Hagan	9.6	T, W	Dunedin
Fox	8.6	G, L, S	Central Otago
Awakiki Ridges Limited	1.0	F	Clutha
Landcorp Farming Limited	7.6	F	Clutha
McCrostie Estate Limited	29.6	F, S	Clutha
Taylor	76.8	G, S	Clutha
Vollweiler	12.7	W	Clutha
Copland & Page	51.1	F, G, S, W	Southland
MacKenzie, McCartney & Jasica	36.9	G, W	Southland
Pearce & Spencer	8.5	F	Southland

Key:

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

Farewells after nine years as QEII directors



Bill Garland

My time with QEII has been hugely rewarding. The growth in covenants to more than 2,500 demonstrates a huge and positive change from the time when farmers were encouraged and paid to clear their land.

Covenantors make a big sacrifice, forgoing income-earning opportunities and committing to ongoing maintenance. You are good stewards of the land and every covenant represents the special, long-term values you – the membership – hold.



Geoff Walls

It's been a fascinating nine years. Key developments have been increasing recognition of landscape and archaeological features, and their protection by QEII. These aspects of open space heritage might otherwise have been bypassed without an advocate.

Representing the grassroots membership, mostly rural covenantors but with strong urban support, is a special honour and carries important responsibilities. Best wishes in the continued fostering of 'the people's national park'.

Regional Representatives

Hawke's Bay



Andrew Lamason is the new QEII representative for Hawke's Bay. He has worked for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council as an Environmental Field Technician and previously was a Field Botanist for Wildland Consultants in Rotorua.

Andrew is a keen outdoorsman with interests in tramping, kayaking and fishing. He lives with his partner Kim on a small block in the hills near Napier.

Wairarapa



Nick Bevin, a partner in an architectural practice in Petone, is the new QEII representative for new covenants in the Wairarapa.

Nick and his wife Judith, in partnership with another family, have 10ha of retired farmland in Carterton which they are replanting with trees. Nick is a current member of NZFFA, Royal Forestry Society (UK), Tane's Tree Trust and Forest and Bird Society.



Trevor Thompson is the new QEII representative for monitoring covenants in the Wairarapa. He has a background in conservation including four years setting up and running the predator control system at Pukaha Mt Bruce which has given him an in-depth knowledge of managing and restoring native Wairarapa habitats. Managing native

mistletoes and orchids are some of Trevor's specialties.

South Canterbury



Joanne Taylor is the new QEII representative for South Canterbury. She has worked in the health sector in Australia, UK, USA and New Zealand and has taken papers in horticulture and landscape architecture through Massey University.

Joanne and husband Deane farm a mixed cropping and sheep property southeast of Ashburton and have a vested interest in balancing the needs of productive land with heritage values.

Deputy Chairperson



Yvonne Sharp has been appointed as Deputy Chairperson for the QEII National Trust. Yvonne, Mayor of Far North District, has been a most valuable director for QEII over the last four years.

Yvonne replaces Bill Garland as Deputy Chairperson whose maximum nine year term had been reached.

Welcome to four new QEII Directors

Two Directors were elected by QEII Trust members for three-year terms from 1 April 2007.



James Hunter, a sheep and beef farmer at Porangahau in Hawke's Bay, has a B.Com (Ag) Lincoln. He is a former Rural Bank appraiser and has had mixed farming experience and a 12 year spell as a councillor on the Central Hawke's Bay District Council.

James has a bush covenant of 42ha to which a 10ha wetland is being added. He is a strong believer in the QEII Trust ethos of voluntary protection, describing the Trust as 'a quiet achiever'.



Jo Ritchie from Helensville worked for DOC in the Auckland region for 12 years. She is now a self-employed environmental planner specialising in ecological restoration and animal pest eradication. Current projects include eradication planning for Kaikoura Island and Rotokare Sanctuary, a community pest control

project for Okahukura peninsula and a restoration project on a Kaipara farm.

Jo has a good understanding of issues and land management and a broadminded and practical approach to the environment and advocate community based conservation.

The Minister of Conservation appointed two Directors for three-year terms from 28 June 2007.



Bernard Card, an agriculturist and business manager for 36 years, had various roles from 1969-1987 at the Department of Lands and Survey. Involved in establishing Landcorp, Bernard was General Manager since incorporation in 1987 until his recent retirement.

He has had a lifetime of involvement in land management from farming to conservation with experience in landscape, native vegetation and wetland protection. Bernard is a member of the NZ Ornithological Society and a trustee of the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust.



Edward Ellison, a farmer from Otakou, Otago Peninsula, is of Ngāi Tahu, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Mutunga descent. He has had experience on a wide range of boards and trusts including Deputy Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu 1996-2004, New Zealand Conservation Authority 1996-2004 and

Otago Conservation Board 1992-1996.

Currently on the University of Otago Council and the Sustainable Water Programme of Action Ministerial Advisory Group, Edward also has RMA and environmental portfolios with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou.

PHOTO: PHIL TUJATAIROA

QEII Trust: Help us to protect our natural features

Protecting natural features helps New Zealand

- Many of our plants, animals and landscapes are unique to New Zealand. This 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.
- New Zealand has a network of publicly owned conservation areas. However, 70% of land is in private ownership. Many habitats and features are found only on privately owned land and can be protected only with the goodwill and action of landowners.

Practical land management and farm productivity

- Many farmers 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 allows regeneration of bush, helps protect stream banks and 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 becoming a QEII Trust member.

Your benefits as a QEII Trust member

- Three issues of *Open Space*™ magazine a year.
- Free or discounted entrance to properties owned or administered by 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 and 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 automatically become members.

To join QEII Trust: post the membership application to QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, email qe2@qe2.org.nz or phone free on 0800 4 OPENSACE (4 673 672) to join over the phone..

QEII National Trust Membership Application

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Membership Type (please tick)

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

Corporate – business (on application)

Corporate – non profit organisation \$50

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

Donation (optional)

Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible.

\$100 \$50 \$20 Other \$ _____

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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.

QEII Trust: 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 although there are variable term covenants. These include **Kawenata** on Māori land which recognises tino rangatiratanga, and **Life of the Trees** where individual trees occur in a situation where they may not be self-generating. **Landscape protection agreements** are used where the land does not have title such as roadside areas.

The average covenant size is 31 hectares, with the largest being over 6,500 hectares. There are over 3,270 registered and approved covenants from the Far North to Stewart Island, from sea level to above the bush line.

Managing a QEII 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 aspects such as species management, pest control and restoration methods.

Each covenant is visited regularly (usually every two 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

To protect a special area on your property, these steps are typically needed to gain a QEII open space covenant.

- **Enquiry** Ask your region's QEII representative (see page 2) 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 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 *QEII Recommended Best Practice to Local Government on Rates Relief* under *Publications/Policies* on www.openspace.org.nz

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

Below: Flowers and fruit of the subalpine to low-alpine shrub *Pentachondra pumila* on the Hurunui High Country track at the Shand covenant near Culverden, North Canterbury.



PHOTO: MILES AND GILLIAN GILLER



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

CELEBRATING
30
1977 2007
YEARS

www.openspace.org.nz

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Landowners now protect over 100,000 hectares

It's 30 years since the QEII National Trust was established in 1977 to protect natural and cultural features on private land with open space covenants in perpetuity.

In that time, we have helped visionary landowners protect a rich mosaic of New Zealand's unique heritage – the equivalent of another national park!

QEII Covenants 1 June 2007	Number	Hectares
Registered	2,611	83,095
Approved	659	19,123
Total	3,270	102,218
% increase over June 2006	10.0	5.5

Legend

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

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

Taranaki Award Winners
Newton
Schumacher
Toko wetland

Kapiti Coast
Dale wetland
Milne
Pauatahanui Inlet

Wairarapa Award Winners
Hansen
Guscott
McKenzie
Renton

Blenheim
Sheps Park

Hurunui High Country Track

Canterbury Award Winner
Omarama Station

Otago Award Winner
McGrouther

Southland
Day wetland

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	427	92	7,934	417	15.3
Auckland	500,000	185	42	3,660	841	16.1
Waikato	2,500,000	389	128	15,904	645	30.8
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	132	21	10,340	6,564	67.6
Gisborne	826,500	90	25	3,656	1,104	31.8
Taranaki	723,600	140	52	3,298	334	17.2
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	167	45	11,730	4,606	55.3
Horizons	2,221,500	237	48	6,804	276	23.9
Wellington	813,000	227	52	5,978	824	21.4
Tasman	978,600	92	22	1,939	641	17.0
Nelson	42,100	8	2	319	140	31.9
Marlborough	1,049,500	38	13	1,870	182	36.7
West Coast	2,300,000	31	7	1,659	619	43.7
Canterbury	4,220,000	177	37	12,289	1,679	57.4
Otago	3,200,000	119	31	10,025	2,735	66.8
Southland	3,035,000	152	42	4,813	214	24.8
Totals		2,611	659	102,218		31.3