

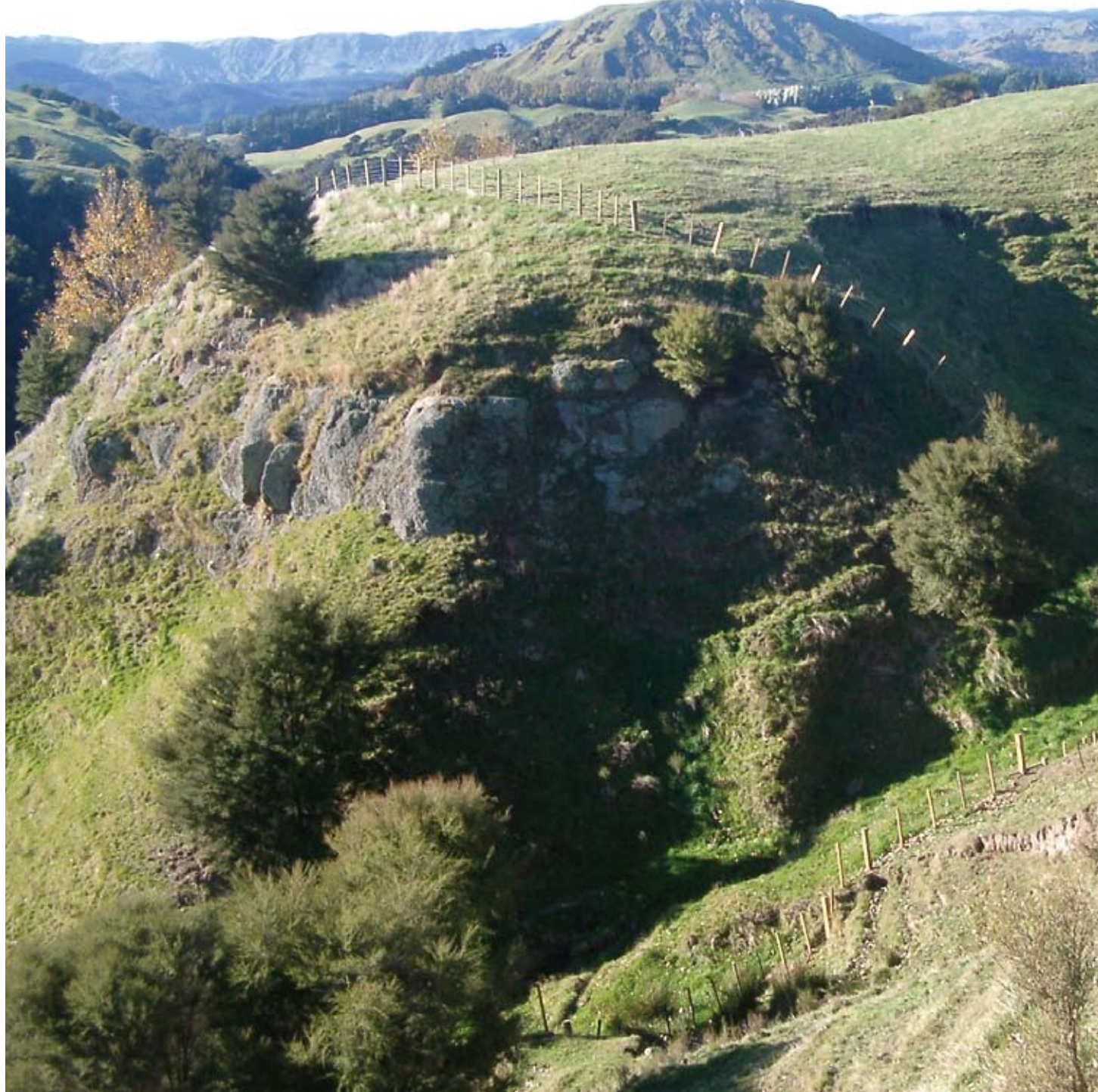


QE II National Trust
For open space in New Zealand
Nga Kairauhi Papa

Open SpaceTM

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CELEBRATING
30
YEARS
1977 2007

Focus on Rangitikei – Manawatu and Tararua | Annual Report | Covenant Fencing

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see CONTACT US on
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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
- Forests and bush remnants
- Wetlands
- Tussock grasslands
- Cultural sites
- Streams
- Coastlines
- Geological features
- Archaeological sites
- Wildlife habitats

Landowners throughout New Zealand voluntarily protect nearly 85,000 hectares of land through QEII 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 27 properties, which collectively protect nearly 1,300 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

A 7-wire post & batten fence built in 2005 with contributions from QEII, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the landowners, protects John and Fiona Wills' 41ha kanuka-clad gorge covenant on their 1134ha farm in Te Pohue, Hawke's Bay.
Photo: Marie Taylor

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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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Waitata Bay: Coastal open space protected in perpetuity

Near Russell in Northland, Antonio Pasquale and Stefania Muraro are protecting the catchment of entire Waitata Bay in perpetuity with QEII open space covenants. The regenerating coastal forest and shrubland is habitat for North Island brown kiwi and weka.



Above: Antonio Pasquale explained the significant biodiversity and conservation values of the Waitata Bay covenants to QEII directors in July.

Left: From left – Antonio Pasquale with Edward Ellison, QEII director, Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation Northland Conservator, James Hunter, QEII director, Yvonne Sharp, QEII Deputy Chairperson, and Peter Byers.



Photo: Margaret McKee

Guide to relative costs of covenant fencing

Fencing a covenant is a high capital investment for both the covenantor and QEII. As well as ensuring a fence is carefully planned and placed, it is essential the fencing is cost-effective.

There is a wide range of fence styles around the country, with some using substantially more materials and labour than others. Compared to a traditional North Island post and batten fence, there are cost-effective options that are practical for covenant fencing.

In the centre of this *Open Space* magazine, you'll find a guide to the relative costs of effective fence designs that provide QEII covenant protection around the country. It is designed as a poster for use as a resource.

For more detailed articles on using the fencing designs or to download a copy of the guide, visit www.openspace.org.nz

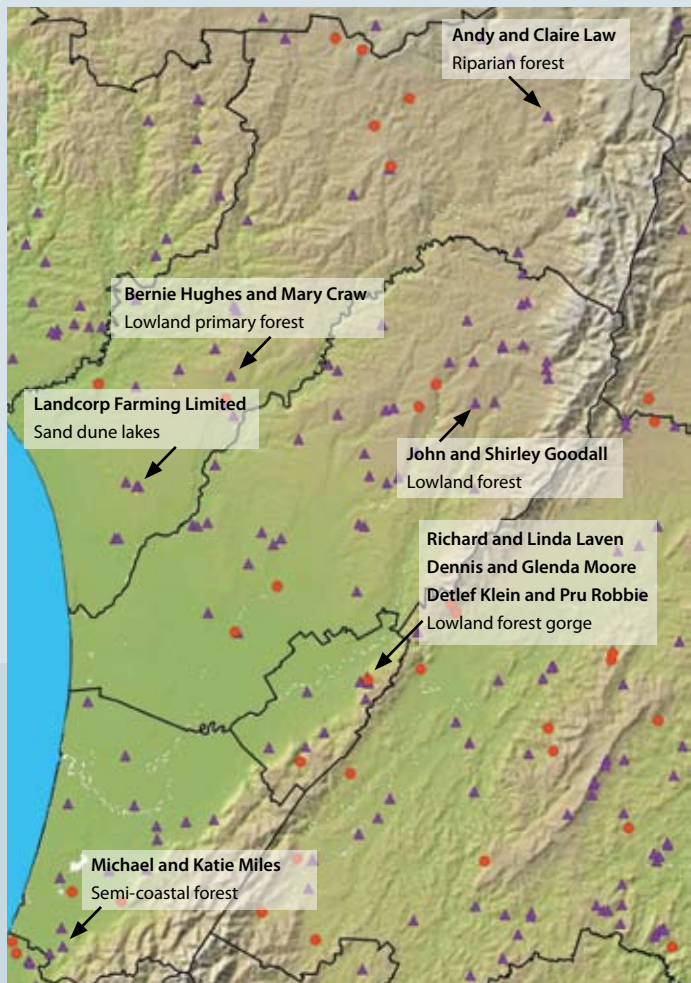
Right: A 7-wire (3 electric) fence protects a wetland in Central Hawke's Bay.



Rangitikei–Manawatu

With a backdrop of the Tararua, Ruahine and Kaimanawa Ranges, this region extends from the podocarp forests of Taihape to the dunelands of the Horowhenua Plains. The climate range has a major effect on the biodiversity, with high rainfall in the ranges and regular summer drought conditions on the usually moist plains.

Only 23% of the original forest and 2% of wetland habitat remains in this region. The majority of forest is found in hill-country and the ranges. There is pressure on the remaining natural features and landscapes from development including subdivision, forestry and infrastructure.



Covenants 1 October 2007	No.	Hectares
Registered	124	1,391
Approved	14	331
Total	138	1,722

Key

- Registered covenants
- Approved covenants
- District Council boundary

Manawatu hill country link

John and Shirley Goodall's 292ha deer, sheep and beef farm is five kilometres south of Apiti. A block of lowland podocarp-broadleaved forest was not included in the farm development and was fenced off in 1982. It is regenerating with a wide diversity of species including hinau, rewarewa, tawa, rimu and totara.

The Goodalls protected a 5ha block with an open space covenant in July. 'The number of birds is phenomenal now and it's lovely to see the kereru and tui back,' says John. 'We have called the covenant McIntyre-Goodall Bush as a tribute to Jack and Hugh McIntyre, Shirley's forebears who were early settlers of the bush in 1892.'

Below: Shirley and John Goodall in front of the deer fence protecting their podocarp-broadleaved forest covenant.

Right: Together with other QEII covenants and scenic reserves in the area, the Goodall's covenant helps to form a link between the Ruahine Forest Park and the Rangitikei-Manawatu lowlands.



Rangitikei primary forest remnants

Bernie Hughes and Mary Crow have been on their 100ha dairy farm 13km from Martin for five years. In June, they purchased a nearby 111ha beef farm which has a 7ha lowland primary forest remnant protected by a covenant. A remnant of the once magnificent stands of podocarps in the catchment, about thirty large emergent kahikatea dominate the canopy which includes northern rata and rimu. 'This is magnificent virgin bush,' says Bernie.

On their dairy farm, Bernie and Mary recently had a further covenant approved on another primary forest remnant. Located in a gully on an old river terrace, the vegetation has been degraded by stock in contrast to the protected vegetation in the long-standing covenant. 'It's quite exciting to be able to protect this bush at the back of the farm,' says Bernie.



Photo: Tony Gates

Above: Mary Crow and Bernie Hughes pointing out features of their forest gully. The groundcover and understorey will regenerate once stock are excluded by fencing.

Right: This beautiful primary forest remnant has been protected for over 15 years by a QEII covenant.

Far right: The forest gully on Bernie Hughes and Mary Crow's dairy farm stands out at the top of this Rangitikei landscape.



Photo: Tony Gates



Photo: Tony Gates

Family enjoy Taihape forest

On their 231ha sheep, beef and deer farm at Pukeokahu, **Andy and Claire Law** have protected a 24ha remnant of riparian podocarp-broadleaved forest with a QEII covenant. Andy says it was great to get help from QEII and the Horizons Regional Council to fence the bush. The remnant is in a river gorge at an altitude of 625m and is named Peter John Law Bush after Andy's father who helped with some of the fencing.

The Laws have discovered earth star fungi on the forest floor. 'We find them at quite a high altitude after snow,' says Andy. 'We are quite proud of them.'



Photo: Andy and Claire Law



Photo: Tony Gates

Left: 'We enjoy the covenant and often go for a wander with our four children to identify the trees and make sure no deer have got in,' says Andy.

Above right: Earth star fungi *Geastrum saccatum* are similar to puffballs but have a layered coat which splits and peels back around the spore-containing inner ball. The force of raindrops hitting the ball causes the spores to puff out.

Left: The Law's covenant with a canopy of totara, kahikatea, miro, rimu, matai, mountain beech, tawa and titoki is an outstanding natural feature 25km east of Taihape.



Three neighbours safeguard gorge

Just east of Palmerston North, three neighbours are protecting lowland broadleaved forest in a steep-sided gorge on a tributary of the Manawatu River. Cut and grazed in the past, the gorge is regenerating with a good diversity of species including nikau and black beech *Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*. The covenants now form a biodiversity corridor from the Tararua Range to the Manawatu Plains.



Photo: Tony Gates



Photo: Tony Gates

In August, **Richard and Linda Laven** covenanted 6ha of their property including a spectacular cataract. 'We moved here three years ago and are getting many more birds now including tui, bellbirds, harriers and shining cuckoos,' says Linda. 'We are looking forward to working with QEII to protect the gorge from the steadily encroaching Palmerston North suburbs.'

Next to the Lavens, **Dennis and Glenda Moore** have had a covenant approved on a block in the gorge which contains a fine stand of mature black beech trees. 'We've been here for 20 years and it's a worthwhile area to protect,' says Dennis.

Detlef Klein and Pru Robbie covenanted a 15ha block on their property in July. 'The

covenant symbolises the appreciation we feel for the way New Zealanders treasure their wild spaces,' says Detlef. 'Protection of wilderness from development is ever more important in a rapidly changing world and we both feel privileged to contribute to that.'

The covenant is named Rathwic in honour of Detlef's grandfather, Heinrich Pungs. 'My grandfather sowed the seeds for my love of the outdoors and rural life through the songs he sang for me and the places he took me to,' says Detlef. 'Rathwic is an inversion of Wickrath, a small place in Germany where the Pungs family lived in the 1920s and 30s. To this day it continues to have strong emotional connotations for our family.'



Photo: Richard & Linda Laven

Above left: Nikau are abundant in the Laven's covenant.

Above right: The spectacular cataract in Eliock Bush, named after a place in Scotland special to the Lavens where they lived before moving to New Zealand.

Bottom: Linda and Richard Laven with Naomi, Elizabeth and Robin.

Threatened sand dune lakes saved

Coastal Manawatu, Rangitikei, and Wanganui once had extensive dune lake systems but many smaller lakes and wetlands have been drained or filled. South of Marton at Lake Alice, **Landcorp Farming Limited** recently protected 16ha of lakes, wetland and treeland with QEII covenants.

Lakes Alice, William and Hickson are part of a sequence of dune lakes and ephemeral wetlands scattered between farmland and forestry. Although modified and degraded from stock grazing and wind erosion, Lakes Hickson and William are excellent examples of dune lakes and the Lake Alice treeland is a memory of the vegetation that once surrounded the lakes.



Photo: Tony Gates

The Lake Alice treeland with cabbage trees, kahikatea, pukatea and titoki. The threatened ecosystem can be restored now that it is protected.



Photo: Tony Gates

Lake Hickson, one of the dune lakes. The covenant protection including new fencing built with contributions from Landcorp, QEII and Horizons Regional Council will help to improve this wildlife habitat.



Photo: Tony Gates

Left: East of Palmerston North, the gorge carves through the covenants down to the Manawatu Plains.

Below left and middle: Regenerating tawa, rewarewa, mahoe, black beech and nikau.

Below right: Pru Robbie and Detlef Klein with their covenant Rathwic Bush in the gorge.



Photo: Tony Gates

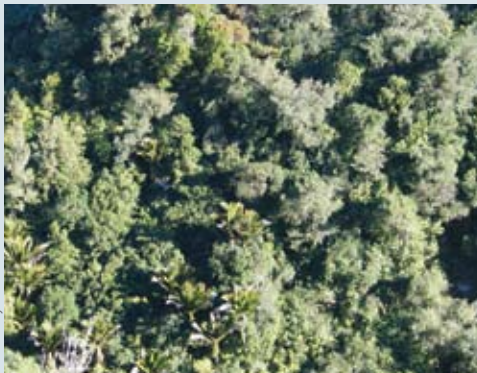


Photo: Tony Gates



Restoring a semi-coastal forest remnant

Miles Bush, a 0.4ha remnant of semi-coastal tawa-kohekohe forest, is visible from SH1 near Manakau, south of Levin. Very few forest remnants remain in this part of Horowhenua. Bill Miles, who has been on the farm since 1952, fenced off the block in

2000 and has been steadily replanting the remnant. Protected by Michael and Katie Miles with a covenant in 2004, the species reflect the nature of the semi-coastal forests that once dominated the area.

Bill grows most of the plants he uses for revegetation himself, sourcing seedlings such as nikau, tarata, kohekohe and kahikatea from the remnant and from local nurseries. Now that the cover has improved, he is planting hinau and rimu. 'The things that belong to the area are really growing well,' says Bill. 'After I've done some planting, I feel as though I've done something positive.'

'Our grandchildren help with the revegetation including carrying the plants. Toby tells me when he grows up he'll be able to point to the trees and say that he planted them with Poppa.'

Far left (above): Bill Miles and revegetation plantings under kohekohe in 2003.

Far left (below): Miles Bush, off SH1 near Manakau, lies under a pine plantation on Hanawera Ridge.

Left: In 2006, Bill shows Robyn Smith, QEII Wellington Rep, the significant regeneration since the bush was fenced off. 'My youngest son's partner lost her two girls in a car accident recently and they've put a memorial and planted two kauri in the bush for them,' says Bill. 'It's a special area for the family.'



Photo: Astrid van Meeuwen

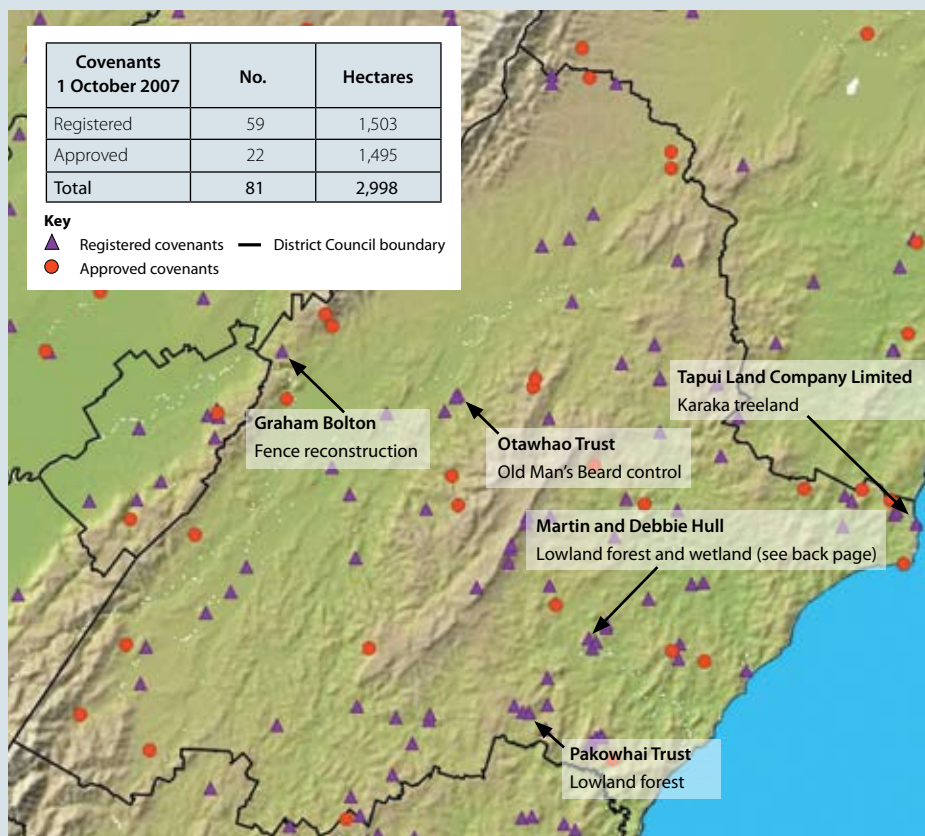


Photo: Astrid van Meeuwen

Tararua

Stretching from the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges to the shores of the Pacific, Tararua is known for its wide open spaces and bush walks. Factors affecting the indigenous vegetation include exposure to wind, the depth and drainage of the soil and changes in altitude.

There is now very little forest left below 350m as most was cleared long ago for farming. Although mountain ecosystems occur in forest parks, the extent of loss of original lowland ecosystems is dramatic. There is less than 10% of hill-country forest ecosystems remaining, and less than 5% of lowland, coastal and wetland ecosystems.



Photos: Bill Wallace



Photos: Bill Wallace



Photos: Bill Wallace

Old fence reconstructed

Seven kilometres from Ashhurst, **Graham Bolton's** 7ha lowland forest QEII covenant lies nestled under a wind farm. A belt of pines shelters the indigenous species from the wind, improving the survival chances of the canopy, the majority of which is tawa.

'The fence on the western boundary of the covenant needed urgent repairs,' says Bill Wallace, QEII Tararua Rep. 'Graham has done an excellent job of the reconstruction.' Not only did Graham rewire and batten the fence but he used a system of levers to lift the heavy concrete posts that were leaning over and partially sunk into the ground.

'We fenced the bush off in 1959 so it was time to resuscitate the fence,' says Graham. 'I'm 75 years young and am now busy on another fence. These remnants are well worth keeping as they make such a difference to the farm.'

Above left: Graham Bolton's lowland forest covenant beneath the Te Apiti wind farm. Beyond is the Manawatu Gorge.

Far left: The old fence in disrepair.

Left: Graham Bolton with his 'resuscitated' 7-wire concrete post and batten fence.

Twenty years of regeneration

In Waihoki Valley east of Pahiatua, the **Pakowhai Trust** has 30ha of lowland secondary forest protected by two covenants. Robert Liverton's great-grandfather, William Alfred Liverton, settled a block of land in 1868 and a monument in the covenant outlines the family history.

Robert has noticed the difference in the bush with young trees including totara, kahikatea, matai, tawa and hinau regenerating since the covenants were fenced nearly twenty years ago. 'We were also fortunate that the area was in a buffer zone for Tb so there was a possum poisoning programme in place. There are so many bellbirds and kereru around now.'

Wilding pines are becoming a problem, seeding from the stands of pines around the covenant edges. QEII has applied for funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund to eradicate these.

Right: 'There are some lovely groves of tawa and kahikatea in the bush,' says Robert. 'They look wonderful in the dappled light.'

Below: Robert Liverton with the family monument in the covenant.



Tackling Old Man's Beard

Near Kumeroa, 103ha of lowland podocarp forest remnants are protected by the **Otawhao Trust** under two open space covenants. Kenneth and Jacqueline Perry initiated the first covenant in 1988. Nick and Carron Perry now lease the 875ha sheep and beef farm and the second covenant was registered in February.

Old Man's Beard *Clematis vitalba* is a major problem in the nearby Manawatu River system and outbreaks of the vine have occurred in the covenants. A two-year control project jointly funded by the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Horizons Regional Council and the landowners is tackling the infestations. In May, Kay Griffiths and Craig Single of the Conservation Company took on the job of eradicating the vines and seedlings. Further work is planned next year.

'The Old Man's Beard will still need more work after that,' says Carron. 'We'll carry on using Vigilant to keep on top of it.'

Right: Carron and Nick Perry with the lowland forest covenant along Otawhao Stream.

Below (left and right): Craig Single cutting and spraying Old Man's Beard vines with glyphosate herbicide.



Threatened karaka landscape saved

Poroporo covenant, one of three covenants on Tautane Station owned by **Tapui Land Company Limited**, is perched above sea cliffs five kilometres north of Cape Turnagain. Protected by a QEII covenant in 2006, the 8ha of coastal karaka treeland is a rare and important landscape and cultural feature. With mature trees that are fruiting well, the

treeland should regenerate strongly.

'We enjoy protecting bush and seeing the new karaka shoots coming up as we want to conserve the little that is left,' says Edward Elworthy. 'It's essential to look after this treeland as otherwise it will be lost forever.'

Robert Herrick says initially the bluffs were

not fenced and they had trouble with goats coming into the covenant. 'Now there's fencing across the cliff, the regrowth of this unique karaka stand will thicken up.'

The covenant was fenced with contributions from the landowner, QEII and Horizons Regional Council.



Top left: Edward Elworthy and Robert Herrick in the karaka treeland.

Top right: Farm Manager John Linton with the 8-wire post and batten fence constructed this year to stop goats entering the covenant from the coastal bluffs.

Above: A midden at the top of the Poroporo bluffs.

Left: The karaka covenant stands out on top of the cliffs at Poroporo.

Auckland Environment Award

Covenantor **Jack Harper** won the Auckland Regional Council Sustainable Environment Supreme Award for a lifetime of environmental work. Described by the judges as a catalyst for environmental enhancement on the Awhitu Peninsula, Jack is now working on a wetland protection project. 'As well as being committed to protecting forest remnants on his farm, Jack also encourages others to protect their bush,' says Lynda Fleming, QEII South Auckland Rep.

Jack Harper has protected semi-coastal podocarp-hardwood forest remnants on his Awhitu farm under an 8ha QEII covenant. 'I grow all my own plants from seeds and seedlings sourced from the bush and give away many plants,' says Jack.



Photo: Waikuku & Districts Post



Photo: Lynda Fleming

Old Blue Award

Long-time covenantor, **Arthur Cowan** from Otorohanga, has been awarded a Forest & Bird Old Blue Award for his outstanding contribution to conservation over many decades. Philip Hart, Forest & Bird Waikato Branch Chairman, says Arthur and his wife Pat continue to look out for more land to protect and enhance with planting. Environment Waikato has also recognised them for their exceptional contribution to conservation.

Arthur and Pat Cowan protect primary forest remnants south-east of Otorohanga with QEII covenants. Each winter, Arthur and a band of helpers plant about 4,000 flax and native trees in covenants and reserves.

Right: A post and batten fence with netting and barbed wire protects plantings on one of the Cowans' covenants.



Photo: Forest & Bird



Montana New Zealand Book Award

Ghosts of Gondwana: The History of Life in New Zealand by covenantor **George Gibbs** won the Montana New Zealand Book Environment Award 2007. This award rewards excellence in books which enhance understanding and enjoyment of the physical environment and of natural history.

George and his wife Keena have a 12ha coastal primary forest covenant in Eastbourne on Wellington Harbour. 'George actively controls weeds and predators on his covenant and his passion for the biodiversity is infectious,' says Robyn Smith, QEII Wellington Rep.

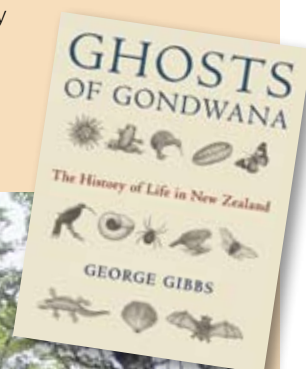


Photo: Robyn Smith

George Gibbs with a weasel caught in a trap in the Gibbs' beech forest covenant.

QEII oral history project

The motivation for the formation of the QEII National Trust in 1977 came from farmers and conservationists who recognised the significance of open space values on private land. They wanted an independent and long-lasting mechanism that would enable protection of those values.

To record the story of the Trust's unique establishment and development over the last 30 years, the Trust commissioned an oral history project this year. The aim was to hear a representative range of first-hand experiences covering the Trust's inception up to the present day through interviews with twelve covenantors, board members and employees.

Two of the interviewees, Charlotte Wallace and Gordon Stephenson, played key roles in the Trust's formation. The covenanting concept came from Charlotte through the South Auckland Conservation Association as early as 1972, and Gordon led Federated Farmers in lobbying the government to enable farmers to protect features on private land.

The early years, under the chairmanship of Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, were marked by great enthusiasm and innovation. In those days, QEII appeared to have a very wide mandate and was involved in wider conservation policy advisory work as well as covenanting. Following the formation of the Department of Conservation in 1987, however, QEII focused on its core business of covenanting.

The QEII model of protection has been well-demonstrated as being cost-effective and rigorous. Inherent in the Trust's success are landowner involvement and the respect of private property rights.

Key aspects of the Trust's success, described by interviewees, included consistently strong Board leadership, the importance of Regional Representatives as the Trust's public face, the spirit of partnership between QEII and landowners, and – most important of all – the enthusiasm, generosity and extraordinary commitment of QEII covenantors.

The project will add to the existing information about New Zealand's land management and conservation history. The Alexander Turnbull Library will hold the interviews which will be available to researchers and interested people.

QEII thanks the interviewees who gave up their time, Shona McCahon who conducted the research, and the NZ Lottery Grants Board for the funding that made this oral history project possible.

QEII thanks the interviewees
for their recollections
and contributions to the
Trust's success



**Celia and Gordon Stephenson,
Putaruru**

- Gordon was a founding QEII Director and Deputy Chairperson (1978–1988)
- Covenantors and QEII Life Members
- First QEII covenant ever registered – in 1979.



**Ben Thorpe,
Paraparaumu**

- QEII Executive Officer 1979–1985
- QEII Regional Representative 1985–1993
- QEII Life Member.



**Charlotte Wallace,
Whitianga**

- QEII Director 1980–1986
- Covenantor and QEII Life Member.

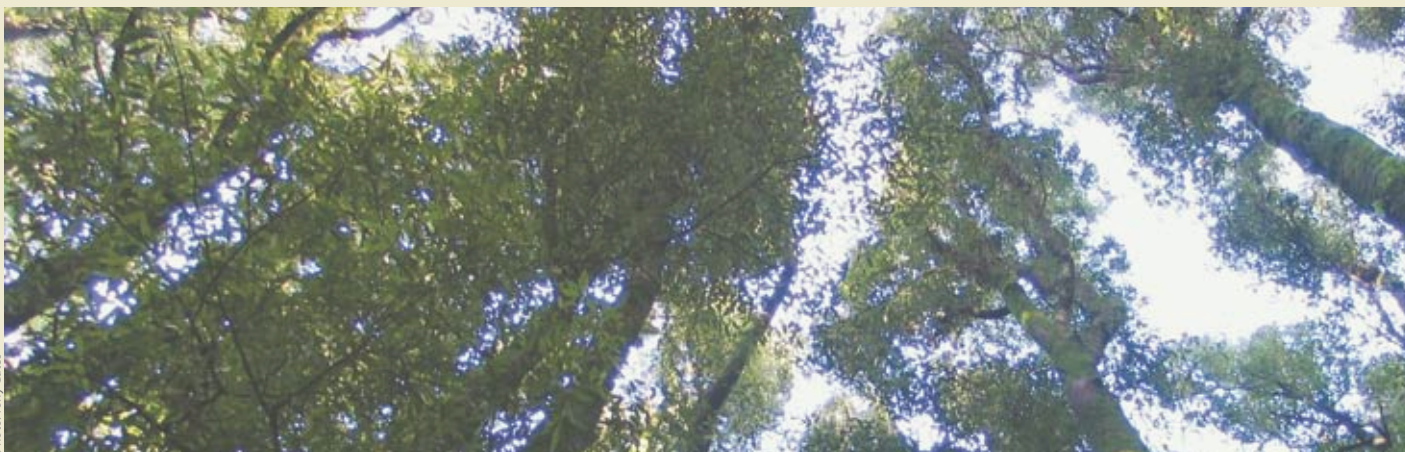
Above:
The Wallace family covenants are on the east coast of the Coromandel.



**Boyden Evans,
Wellington**

- QEII Landscape Architect 1980–1986
- QEII Member.

Photo: Tony Gates



**Tim Porteous,
Wellington**

- QEII Landscape Architect and Project Manager 1987–1992
- QEII Trust Manager 1992–1999
- QEII Member.



**Fiona, Lady Elworthy,
Timaru**

- Covenantor and QEII Life Member
- Wife of the late Sir Peter Elworthy, former QEII Director and Chairperson (1987–1993).



**Pat and Arthur Cowan,
Otorohanga**

- Arthur was a QEII Director 1989–1998
- Covenantors and QEII Life Members.



**Fay and Jim Pollok,
Palmerston North**

- Jim was a Reader in Soil Science at Massey University until he retired
- Covenantors and QEII Life Members.



**The Most Reverend
Sir Paul Reeves,
Auckland**

- Governor-General 1985–1990
- QEII Director 1995–2000 and Chairperson 2000–2003
- Honorary QEII Life Member.



**Bill and Sue Garland,
Cambridge**

- Bill was QEII Director and Deputy Chairperson 1998–2007
- Covenantors and QEII Life Members.

Above:
Tawa forest on the Garlands' covenant.



**Geoff Walls,
Christchurch**

- QEII Director 1998–2007
- QEII Member
- Helps manage family covenant.



**Philip Lissaman,
Upper Moutere**

- QEII Field Officer and Field Manager 1983–2002
- QEII Regional Representative 2002–present
- QEII Member.

Kaki: Reducing the risk of genetic loss

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



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

The kaki (black stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*) is one of the rarest wading birds in the world. Previously widespread in braided rivers and wetlands throughout New Zealand, breeding is now confined to the Upper Waitaki Basin.

An intensive recovery programme managed by the Department of Conservation in Twizel has increased the population size from approximately 23 adults in 1981 to 102 adults (87 wild and 15 captive) in 2007. However, kaki are at risk of extinction due to introduced predators, widespread habitat loss, and hybridisation with poaka (pied stilt *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*).

A research team including scientists from Landcare Research and Canterbury and Otago universities aims to develop a framework for identifying and conserving genetic diversity in threatened species to reduce the risk of further genetic loss and species extinction.

Neil Gemmell from Canterbury University says the team chose kaki as one species to study as there is considerable data available from the Kaki Recovery Group led by the Department of Conservation.

'Kaki evolved in isolation in New Zealand for about one million years and are different from poaka which arrived from Australia in the early 1800s. Kaki and poaka have different plumage and behavioural differences. For example, kaki are non-migratory,' says Neil.

Kaki-poaka hybrids were first recorded in the late 1800s and are described by plumage variation. Kaki are pure black whereas hybrids have some white.

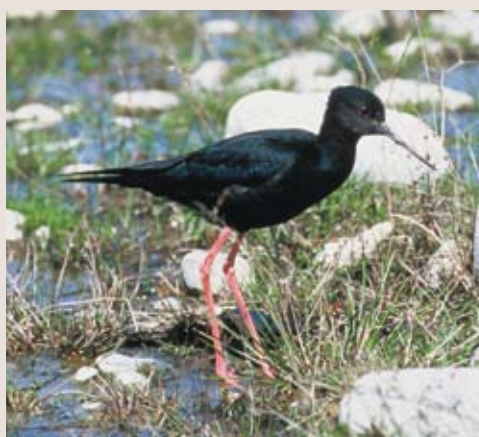
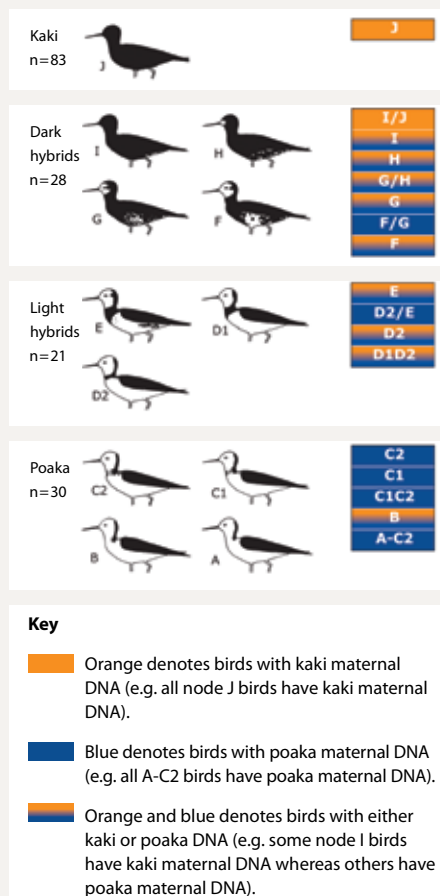


Photo: Dick Welch, Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

Above: Adult kaki have black plumage and long red legs.

Maternal DNA types found in kaki, hybrids and poaka



What is hybridisation?

A species is a group of interbreeding populations reproductively isolated from such other groups.

Hybridisation occurs when individuals from different species inbreed. It is particularly common in some of New Zealand's endangered bird species.

Hybridisation is an important evolutionary mechanism. It can either be natural or human-induced.

Tammy Steeves, also from Canterbury University, says the study is developing genetic tests to determine if there are any genetically pure kaki remaining and to establish the genetic status of hybrids. 'We can then look at conservation implications for managing kaki and hybrids.'

The team uses DNA collected from feather samples. 'There are two types of DNA – one from the mother and father, and the other from the mother only,' says Tammy. 'We are looking at both types of DNA markers to determine how many genetic groups there are. The key result so far is that there are two. It's very clear pure kaki are in one group. The other group has poaka DNA.'

Tammy says the research is lending support to Kaki Recovery Group management decisions. 'In the early '90s, dark hybrids were managed as kaki. In 1998, genetic work showed some of these birds had poaka DNA and it was decided to no longer manage them as kaki. With the DNA results so far we know this management decision was valid and it's best to concentrate conservation efforts on pure kaki.'

Neil adds that the kaki is a good model for the drivers of hybridisation and how it influences survival rates and population dynamics. 'This is an iconic species for conservation in New Zealand.'



Left: Young kākī have black and white plumage until 18 months old. They then become all black.



Covenants protect kākī breeding habitat

With a network of tarns and lagoons, the Upper Waitaki is an ideal habitat for wading birds. Three outstanding areas protected under QEII covenants include kākī breeding habitat.

'We are so fortunate landowners are preserving these areas,' says Brian Molloy, QEII High Country Rep. 'As well as protecting visual values, covenanting helps reduce the risk of extinction for threatened species such as the kākī.'



Above right: Jim and Anne Murray have protected 1,018ha of montane tarn wetland and dryland under a QEII covenant on Glenmore Station.

Middle right: A 1,185ha covenant protects lowland tarn wetland and grassland at Ohau Downs Station. Now owned by Five Rivers Limited, it was originally covenanted by John Blue.

Bottom right: Montane sedgeland, herbfield and tarns are protected by Andrew and Bill Sutherland's 219ha Benmore Station Tarns covenant.



Covenant fencing: Relative costs

Electric

Lower cost



Rangitikei forest remnant: 4-wire (all electric) fence.

Uses

- Dairy/cattle stocking regime
- Flat country
- Forest in good condition
- Wetland
- Easily monitored areas.

Points

- Maintenance programme needed to keep wires, posts and connections in good condition.

- Voltage along the fence needs to be checked regularly.
- To limit short-outs, spray or slash vegetation off wires. Fewer wires (2–3) allow stock to trim vegetation through fence.
- Use only where common on rest of farm (as stock are trained to them).



Whangarei riparian margin: 2-wire (all electric) fence.

Photo: Nan Pullman

Netting

Medium cost



Masterton lowland forest: netting with 1 electric wire.

Multiple uses

- Especially sheep stocking regime.

Points

- Discourages pests such as pigs, goats or deer.
- Suitable to use with Y posts in drier areas.
- Barbed or electric wire reduces stock pressure.

- Can corrode in coastal situations.
- Less suitable for strongly undulating terrain.



Banks Peninsula penguin habitat: netting fence.

Photo: Miles Giller

Y Post

Medium cost



Horowhenua podocarp remnant: Y posts with electric outriggers.

Uses

- High country
- Rocky soils
- Drier areas
- Sheep stocking regime.

Points

- Reduces the need to dig post holes.
- Easy to electrify.

- Suitable to use with netting.
- Easy to use as tie-downs.
- Will not burn in a grass fire.
- Electric outriggers or barbed wires discourage cattle pressure.
- Can pull or loosen in wet soils.
- Can corrode in coastal situations.



Central Hawke's Bay totara-beech remnant: 6-wire Y post fence.

Photo: Marie Taylor

Post and Batten

Highest Cost



Hastings forest: 8-wire (1 barbed) post and batten fence.

Uses

- Sheep stocking regime
- High stock pressure
- Vulnerable rare/threatened plants.
- Remote locations.

Points

- Wires must be on the outside of the posts (the animal side).

- Electric or barbed wires can deter stock pressure.
- Around bush it is easier to repair a fence without battens, especially when damaged by a treefall.
- May not be suitable for unstable ground.
- Having more wires e.g. 8-9 is cheaper than using battens.



Franklin kauri-broadleaved forest: 8-wire (1 electric) post and batten fence.

Photo: Lynda Fleming

This guide shows relative costs for effective fence designs that provide QEII covenant protection. As well as materials and labour, factors that affect costs include stocking regime, terrain, climate, soils and location. The less complicated the fence, the lower the labour costs. Post digging, battens, electric outriggers and electric wires all add to labour costs.



Photo: Malcolm Mackenzie

Waitomo kahikatea-pukatea forest: 5-wire (1 electric) fence.



Buller lowland primary rimu-kahikatea forest: 4-wire (3 electric) fence.



Otago Peninsula kanuka-broadleaf forest: netting with 1 barbed wire and Y posts.



Southland tussock and shrubland: netting fence.



Photo: Miles Giller

Hurunui shrubland and forest: 6-wire electric Y post fence with fibreglass droppers.



Photo: Miles Giller

Banks Peninsula podocarp forest: 7-wire (1 barbed) Y posts & wooden angle posts.



Kapiti Coast harakeke wetland: 7-wire post and batten fence.



Photo: Marie Taylor

Central Hawke's Bay forest: 9-wire fence (no battens).

For more detailed articles on using the fence designs or to download a copy of this guide, visit www.openspace.org.nz

Privet

Privet is a highly invasive pest plant, threatening our native forests by forming a dense carpet of seedlings and growing through the understorey to dominate and replace canopy trees. Two types were introduced to New Zealand as ornamental and hedging plants: tree privet *Ligustrum lucidum* and Chinese privet *Ligustrum sinense*. Both are now pests and are banned from being sold, propagated or distributed.

Privet flowers are strongly scented and the pollen can cause respiratory problems for some people. The leaves and berries are poisonous to people and animals.

Privet is spread by birds eating the berries and distributing the seeds in their droppings or by being planted causing new infestations. It also spreads through contaminated topsoil, water flow or dumped garden refuse.

Above: Chinese privet – a small evergreen tree up to 5m tall with small, dull green leaves. Flowers from September to December with small white flowers.

Below: Tree privet – an evergreen tree up to 10m tall with dark green, glossy leaves. Flowers from January to March with small cream flowers.



Photo: Environment Bay of Plenty

Photo: Environment Bay of Plenty

Manual control

Pull or dig out seedlings. Dispose by composting or mulching, provided the plants are removed before seeds ripen.

Herbicide control

There are three main methods:

Stump treatment

Cut down the tree about 5cm above the ground. Immediately apply a suitable herbicide over the entire stump surface including the sides.

Cut and inject for larger trees

Use a machete or axe to make shallow downward cuts around the trunk of the tree to ringbark it. Fill each cut with Glyphosate or Metsulfuron-methyl herbicide.

Spray application for smaller trees

Total coverage of leaf surfaces is required. Use a penetrant such as Pulse® to improve effectiveness. Apply Glyphosate or Metsulfuron-methyl herbicide in fine weather during spring or autumn (privet's active growing season). Spraying is effective but can leave soil residues that affect the germination and growth of desirable plants.

Privet control in a forest covenant

Right: In a semi-coastal primary forest covenant in Maungaturoto, Nick Matich, QEII Kaipara Rep, tackled these privet trees.

Below : The privet dying after the successful treatment. The control work was funded by the Biodiversity Condition Fund.

Far right: Larger trees were ringbarked and the cuts lightly rubbed with Vigilant® gel. Smaller plants were cut down, the stumps gelled and sprayed with Glyphosate herbicide.

For more information on privet control and suitable herbicides, contact the Biosecurity Officer at your Regional Council or visit their website. Or visit *Related Links/Pest plants and animals* on www.openspace.org.nz for pest plant control information.



Photo: Nick Matich

Photo: Nick Matich

Photo: Nick Matich

Property for sale with covenant



CATLINS – COASTAL PAPATOWAI ESTUARY

Sublime outlook of estuary and sea from 1.9ha bush block (in five lots). Riparian rights and privacy via 0.3ha QEII covenant waterfront sections. Telephone/power to site with formed drive. Ph 09 534 8735.

Open Space: environmentally sound paper

Open Space magazine is now printed on premium uncoated paper produced using farmed eucalyptus trees. It's an environmentally sound paper option because the trees are farmed; there's no land clearing involved. The paper mill, Double A, is committed to sound environmental practices. Tree waste is used to generate power to run the mill and water consumption is 90% less than the industry average.

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 Greeting cards

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

Price: \$30 including GST and postage

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

Swamp fever

– a Golden Bay memoir

Gerard Hindmarsh

Review by Martin Conway



Swamp Fever by Gerard Hindmarsh is a highly entertaining account of Gerard's swamp and life in Golden Bay. There were plans to drain the land but these were rejected at the eleventh hour and a growing love affair with the swamp began. Gerard protected 1.4ha of the wetland with a QEII covenant in 1988. His story reinforces the many advantages of covenanting and good management of land. For the full review visit www.openspace.org.nz

Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI)

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the Afforestation Grants Scheme (AGS) were announced on 20 September. The PFSI legislation is complementary to the ETS. PFSI Bulletin Issue No. 5 details the latest PFSI updates. Download on <http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/pfsi/>

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 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 3672) or mmckee@openspace.org.nz

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2007 was audited by Ernst & Young on behalf of the Auditor General. Visit www.openspace.org.nz for the full report or phone 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 3672) to request a copy by post.

Chairperson's and Chief Executive's Report

This year marked a significant milestone for QEII – the 30th anniversary of private landowners voluntarily protecting open space for the benefit and enjoyment of New Zealanders.

The enactment of the visionary Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act in 1977 came from the foresight of New Zealand's farming community, in particular Federated Farmers. Thirty years on, over 100,000 hectares on private land is now protected in perpetuity by over 3,200 dedicated and committed covenants. With the Trust's help, these landowners protect a rich mosaic of our unique natural and cultural heritage, including landscapes, forest remnants, wetlands, tussocklands and threatened species habitats – now the equivalent to another national park.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary at the stunning Lake Pounui covenant in south Wairarapa. Covenantors from all around the country attended and we had the privilege of sharing the occasion with His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York who represented the Queen. It was a marvellous celebration of 30 years of outstanding achievement from a small but highly focused organisation that delivers an excellent return on an annual Government investment of approximately \$3 million.

This year, the Trust continued to perform well in scientific, technical and financial outcomes, achieving a legacy of biodiversity, landscape protection and public access to open space.

The governance of the Trust has had some changes. We farewelled Geoff Walls and Bill Garland, the two elected Directors of the Board who had both served the maximum term of nine years. Lorraine Stephenson resigned during the year and Sue Bennett completed her second term.

The two new elected Directors, from a competitive election with 22 nominations, are Jo Ritchie, an environmental planner from Helensville, and James Hunter, a sheep and beef farmer and covenantor from Porangahau. The two new Ministerial appointments are Edward Ellison, a farmer of Ngāi Tahu descent from Otago Peninsula and Bernard Card who recently retired from his longstanding role as General Manager of Landcorp Farming. We look forward to the contribution and energy the new Directors will bring to the Trust.

To appreciate local issues and recognise the contribution of rural covenantors, the Trust continued our policy of having Board meetings throughout the country. We had wonderful covenantors functions in Kaikoura, Matakōhe and Awhitu Peninsula.

Good science is essential to the quality of our environmental decision making and we continue to work and liaise closely with Landcare Research.

The biodiversity protected by QEII covenants provides important resources such as clean air, clean water, fertile soils and flood control. Biodiversity helps provide stability and resilience against disturbances and fluctuations of climate change. The release of *Protecting our places: Introducing the national priorities for protecting rare and threatened biodiversity on private land* gives guidance to the Trust for identifying potential areas for protection and assessing new covenant proposals.

The Trust provides the most wonderful opportunity to work with so many inspired and passionate people who are creating a legacy for future generations by covenanting their special areas in perpetuity. Added to that are our valuable working partnerships with the Department of Conservation, Regional and District Councils, and other organisations. Our thanks also go to our staff and regional representatives who cost-effectively manage the field, legal, administrative and public relations aspects of the Trust.

Healthy environments are the foundation of sustainability and it is pleasing to see attitudes changing towards our natural capital – land, water, atmosphere and biodiversity. Our rural and provincial communities are our heartland...emotionally and economically. We must all be creative and cooperative to meet the challenges in protecting open space.

Sir Brian Lochore

Chairperson

18 September 2007

Margaret McKee

Chief Executive

18 September 2007

Margaret McKee, Chief Executive, and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, at Taupo Swamp, a QEII property north of Wellington.



Photo: The Dominion Post

QEII highlights

- 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust 1977.
- Covenantor gatherings in Matakoho in Kaipara, Kaikoura, Conway Flat in Hurunui and Awhitu Peninsula in South Auckland.
- Number of covenants registered this year: 224 protecting 6,063 hectares.
- Record number of covenants monitored: 1,162
- Over 100,000 hectares of New Zealand's unique natural and cultural heritage protected in perpetuity by the wonderful vision and commitment of over 3,200 private landowners.



Photo: Nick Bevin



Photo: Nick Bevin



Photo: Durrant Photography

Biodiversity highlights

- 31 new approved covenants (1,022 hectares) will protect threatened ecosystems including wetlands, dunelands, cliffs, rock outcrops and limestone country.
- 64 new approved covenants (1,405 hectares) will protect primary lowland forest, coastal forest and semi-coastal forest.
- 169 new approved covenants (2,432 hectares) are in acutely or chronically threatened areas as defined by Land Environments of New Zealand.
- 15 new approved covenants (1,268 hectares) are in the six districts where significant loss of indigenous cover in threatened environments is ongoing: Far North, Gisborne, Hastings, Marlborough, Central Otago and Southland.
- Acutely or chronically threatened indigenous species known to be present in new approved covenants include 20 bird species, four fish species, two freshwater invertebrate species and one frog species.



At the Trust's 30th anniversary celebration in March 2007 at the stunning Lake Pounui covenant in the Wairarapa, 300 guests were privileged to share the occasion with His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Above: Prince Andrew prepares to cut the QEII 30th birthday cake with Evelyn and Don Cameron, original Lake Pounui covenantors, and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson.

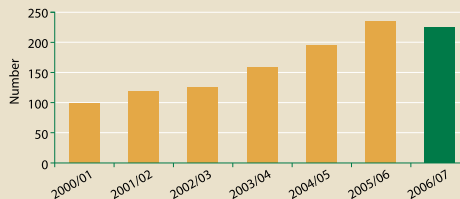
Left: Charlie Pedersen, Federated Farmers President, with Prince Andrew.

QEII thanks the generous sponsors that helped make this event possible: Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment and Pounui Homestead.

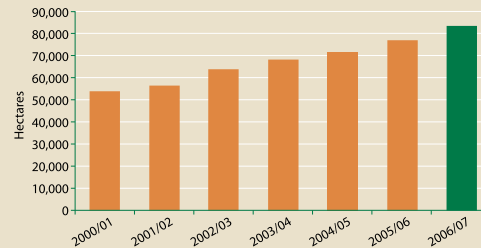
Statistics

Covenants

Number covenants registered annually



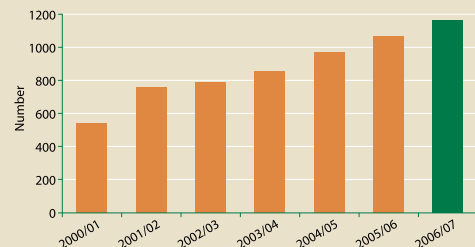
Area of registered covenants



Monitoring

During the 2006/07 financial year, 1,162 covenants were monitored. Some key results are summarised as shown.

Number of covenants monitored



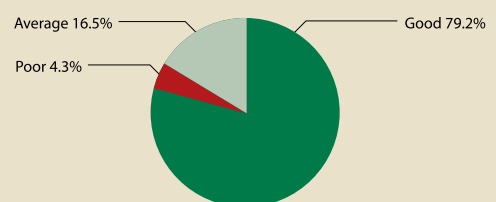
Adherence is an assessment of how well the agreed covenant terms and conditions are being met.

Good: Exceeds the terms and conditions

Average: Satisfies the terms and conditions

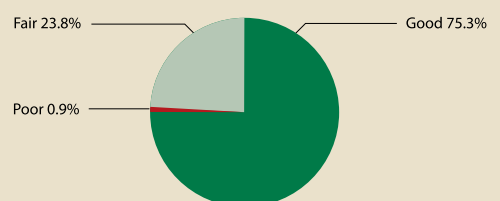
Poor: Remedial action required to ensure terms and conditions are being met.

Adherence 2006-2007



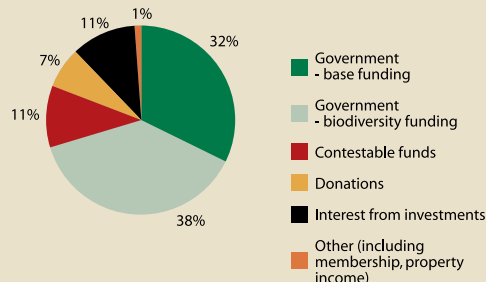
Canopy condition assesses the state of the dominant vegetation layer, which will vary according to the type of protected habitat. For instance, a forest canopy is formed by the taller trees and may be affected by possum browse. A tussock grassland canopy is formed by the tussocks and may be impacted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

Canopy condition

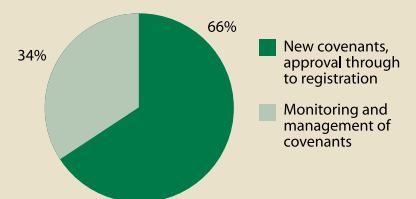


Financial statistics

\$ Income



\$ Expenditure



Registered and approved covenants as at 30 June 2007

QEII covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments Map

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

Summary – 30 June 2007

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	2,608	82,933
Approved covenants	623	19,169
Formal agreements	22	677
Total	3,253	102,779

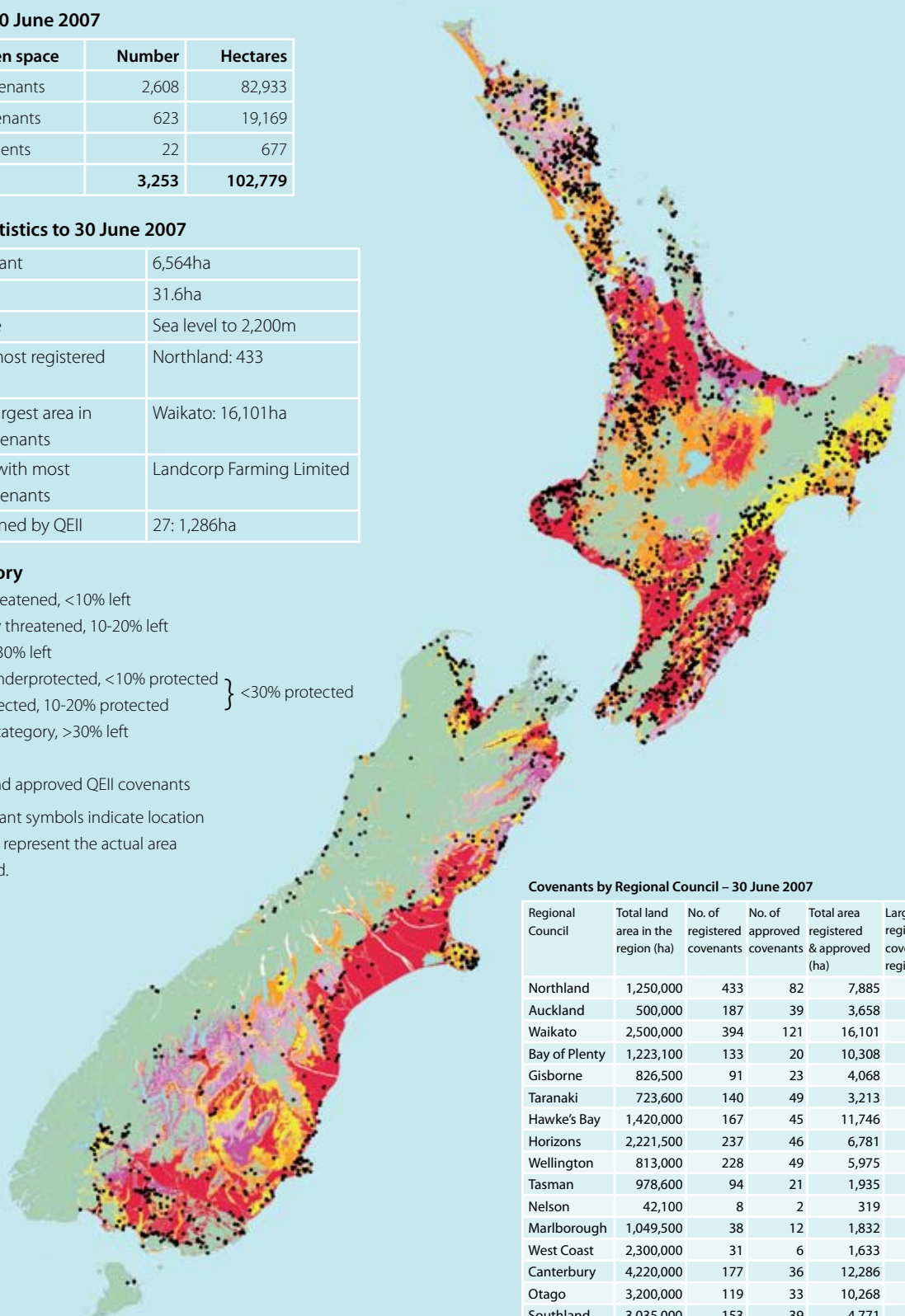
Covenant statistics to 30 June 2007

Largest covenant	6,564ha
Average size	31.6ha
Altitude range	Sea level to 2,200m
Region with most registered covenants	Northland: 433
Region with largest area in registered covenants	Waikato: 16,101ha
Organisation with most registered covenants	Landcorp Farming Limited
Properties owned by QEII	27: 1,286ha

Threat category

- Acutely threatened, <10% left
 - Chronically threatened, 10-20% left
 - At risk, 20-30% left
 - Critically underprotected, <10% protected
 - Underprotected, 10-20% protected
 - No threat category, >30% left
 - No data
 - Registered and approved QEII covenants
- } <30% protected

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



Covenants by Regional Council – 30 June 2007

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	433	82	7,885	417	15.3
Auckland	500,000	187	39	3,658	841	16.2
Waikato	2,500,000	394	121	16,101	645	31.3
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	133	20	10,308	6,564	67.4
Gisborne	826,500	91	23	4,068	1,104	35.7
Taranaki	723,600	140	49	3,213	334	17.0
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	167	45	11,746	4,606	55.4
Horizons	2,221,500	237	46	6,781	276	24.0
Wellington	813,000	228	49	5,975	824	21.6
Tasman	978,600	94	21	1,935	641	16.8
Nelson	42,100	8	2	319	140	31.9
Marlborough	1,049,500	38	12	1,832	182	36.6
West Coast	2,300,000	31	6	1,633	619	44.1
Canterbury	4,220,000	177	36	12,286	1,679	57.7
Otago	3,200,000	119	33	10,268	2,735	67.6
Southland	3,035,000	153	39	4,771	214	24.9
Totals		2,630	623	102,779		31.6

Protecting biodiversity on private land

The Trust continues to give precedence to covenant proposals that fall within the national priorities for protecting rare and threatened biodiversity covenants on private land. These covenants are representative of the 224 registered during the year.



Photo: Greg Blunden

National Priority 1: To protect indigenous vegetation in regions that have 20% or less remaining in indigenous cover.

Far North indigenous forest remnants

Six broadleaf-podocarp forest remnants highly representative of the original vegetation of the Maungataniwha Ecological District have been protected under a 5.5ha covenant by Cherrie and Jack Holder (pictured) on their farm near Kaitaia. There are few such remnants of kahikatea, puriri and taraire left in the area and the protection has saved them from degrading and disappearing over time. Now fenced with contributions from the Northland Regional Council and Biodiversity Condition Fund, regeneration of the understorey and groundcover will now occur.



Photo: Mark Sutton

National Priority 2: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands.

Te Anau wetlands form a mosaic

Landcorp Farming Limited has continued to protect wetlands in the Te Anau Basin this year and now has 18 registered wetland covenants (471ha) and six approved wetland covenants (395ha) throughout the basin. Vegetation protected includes sphagnum fields, bog pine *Halocarpus bidwillii*, *Dracophyllum* sp., red tussock *Chionochloa rubra*, *Aciphylla simplex* and manuka *Leptospermum scoparium*. As farm intensification occurs, the protected wetlands will become a mosaic of open space features in a green pasture landscape.



Photo: Brian Molloy

National Priority 3: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with 'originally rare' ecosystem types.

Tor-studded Central Otago landforms

In an area of high dryland biodiversity near Alexandra, Michael and Wendy Trumic have protected 4.3ha of shrubland, herbfield, rockland and saline pan. The land is part of the driest landscape in New Zealand with unique saline patches and their endemic halophytes, spring annuals and invertebrates. Important too, are the semi-arid dryland habitats and associated seed plants, and an abundance of lichens, mosses, and fungi. Threatened species include the banded dotterel (GD), the karearea (GD), the spring annual *Ceratocephala pungens* (NC), and an unnamed native buttercup and bittercress, both only known from this covenant.



Photo: Malcolm Piper

National Priority 4: To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.

Threatened species habitat in Gisborne

On Te Aroha Station in the Waikura River valley near Gisborne, David and Maureen Steele initiated the protection of 41ha of primary forest, wetland and oxbow lakes. The forest remnant on Phillip and Melinda Steele's farm contains podocarps over 400 years old and forms a link to other podocarp-rich remnants. Highly representative of the valley's original alluvial terrace and hillslope vegetation, the covenant protects habitats of heart-leaved kohuhu *Pittosporum obcordatum* (NE) (pictured), *Coprosma pedicellata* (GD), *Teucrium parvifolium* (GD) and *Mazus novae zeelandiae* subsp *novae zeelandiae* (SD).

Key: NE = nationally endangered, NC = nationally critical, SD = serious decline, GD = gradual decline.

Collaborations and partnerships

The Trust continues to work in valuable partnerships with the Department of Conservation, Regional and District Councils, and other organisations and individuals committed to protecting our unique biodiversity.



Photo: Margaret McKee

Open space for the people of Blenheim

Mayor Alistair Sowman and Yvonne Sharp, QEII Deputy Chairperson, in Sheps Park celebrating the gift of 2.5ha of open space to the people of Blenheim by the late Joy Shepard. With generosity and foresight, Joy first approached QEII in 1987 about gifting her land. Protected by covenant in perpetuity, Sheps Park will remain in QEII ownership and will be managed by the Marlborough District Council as green open space with public access.



Photo: Greg Blunden

Far North partners protecting threatened species

Lyall (Chappie) Foley's 7ha covenant is one of very few forest remnants on the Kaitaia/Awanui flats and the only one containing the association of kahikatea, puriri, matai, and tall kowhai. It contains three threatened plants: *Mazus novaezeelandiae* subsp. *impolitus* f. *hirtus* (NC), *Christella dentata* (NC), and *Pittosporum obcordatum* (NE). A CPCA (community pest control area) was recently formed by the Northland Regional Council (NRC) specifically for this small protected area of private land. Partners with QEII are the Department of Conservation, NRC, Bushlands Trust, NZ Kiwi Foundation and Biodiversity Advice Fund.

Pictured: Dr Brian Molloy, Research Associate with Landcare Research and a QEII Regional Representative, with Chappie Foley.



Photo: Robyn Smith

Joint protection of Wellington biodiversity

Ewan Kelsall from the Greater Wellington Regional Council laying possum bait stations in John and Mary Carter's 57ha forest covenant adjacent to the Tararua Forest Park. With spectacular rimu, northern rata, miro, hinau and totara, the covenant is the largest in the Wellington region. Funding for the pest control was obtained from the Biodiversity Condition Fund through a joint application by QEII and the Council.



Photo: Margaret McKee

Sharing knowledge

Stephen Aspden, otherwise known as Fencer Fred and author of *Hand-made Farm Fence... #852*, shared his fencing knowledge at the QEII Regional Representatives' 2007 training conference in Nelson. From left: North Canterbury Rep Miles Giller, Fencer Fred, Nelson-Tasman Rep Philip Lissaman and Marlborough Rep Anna Polson.

Other partnerships

- QEII is one of the project partners in the Landcare Research programme *Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity*. The research is publicly funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and the Trust is delighted to be one of the partners on the Governance Board with representation by the Chief Executive.
- A joint project between QEII and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network and funded by the Biodiversity Advice Fund, enabled management reports to be completed by Wildland Consultants for a range of threatened plant species on various QEII covenants.

Statement of Service Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

This statement measures performance against goals set at the commencement of the Purchase Agreement signed with the Minister of Conservation in July 2006.

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

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

Open space covenants can protect a range of diverse values: ecological, visual, geological, archaeological, scientific, cultural, recreational, soil and water, and social interest. Covenant proposals are evaluated against set criteria. When a proposal is approved, registration with Land Information New Zealand is targeted to be complete within two years.

Tasks include: responding to landowner enquiries, evaluation and documentation of proposals, Board assessment, processing of documents, fencing, survey, preparation of covenant plans and registration with Land Information New Zealand.

The area, size and shape of covenants vary enormously, as do the associated costs, so annual fluctuations in total covenant numbers and hectares can be expected. At 30 June 2007, there were 623 covenants with approved status progressing towards registration.

	2005/06 Actual		2006/07 Estimate		2006/07 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
Approved covenants	266	5,319	250	6,250	309*	6,102
Registered covenants	235	5,041	200	5,000	224	6,063
Cost	\$2,179,755		\$2,469,010		\$ 2,265,008	

* This year, the number of approved covenants appears high as the figure is distorted due to two blocks of land being split into multiple covenants by subdivision.

Generally, fencing costs per covenant have increased due to:

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

2 Management Services: Natural and Historic Places:

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

QEII maintains the perpetual trustee role for covenants. Registered covenants are monitored not less than once every 24 months to ensure the agreed covenant objectives are being met by the landowner. This year, 95.7% of covenants visited met covenant conditions and 4.3% of covenants visited had poor adherence where remedial action was required.

Property ownership, either permanent or transitory, is sometimes appropriate to secure protection. QEII Trust currently owns 27 properties with natural, cultural, scientific and aesthetic values. They are managed in accordance with approved management plans.

Service Performance

	2005/06 Actual		2006/07 Estimate		2006/07 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
QEII owned properties	26	1,502	27	1,582	27	1,286
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,066	38,965	1,160	29,000	1,162	31,213
Cost	\$1,117,473		\$1,142,333		\$1,181,729	

Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

2006 Actual \$		2007 Actual \$	2007 Budget \$
Revenue			
1,319,000	Government Grant - Base Funding	1,319,000	1,318,777
1,555,000	Government Grant - Biodiversity	1,555,000	1,555,000
78,567	Contestable Funds	432,156	345,000
54,370	Donations and Other Grants	282,109	263,000
444,726	Interest, Dividends from Investments	451,003	400,000
62,373	Other Revenue	49,713	46,450
3,514,036	Total Revenue	4,088,981	3,928,227
Expenditure			
931,121	Field Operations	1,033,402	941,500
1,024,737	Covenant Expenditure (Note 2)	1,112,969	1,340,828
275,291	Contestable Funds	286,909	200,000
789,510	Administration (Note 1)	681,517	785,815
80,381	Property Operations	63,423	81,700
131,988	Public Relations	155,382	141,500
64,200	Depreciation (Note 8)	113,135	120,000
3,297,228	Total Expenditure	3,446,737	3,611,343
216,808	Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/Disposals (See Note Below)	642,244*	316,884
Surplus/ (Deficit) on Property Acquisitions/ Disposals			
(314,339)	Property Gifted out by Trust	(85,000)	-
-	Property Gifted to Trust	23,751	-
(97,531)	Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	580,995	316,884

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

Assessing a proposed covenant

Along with local covenantors and representatives of the Kaikoura District Council, the QEII Board assessed a proposed covenant on Woodgrove Farm in November. The site is highly representative of native alluvial forest of which little remains in the Kowhai Ecological District. With exceptional kowhai treeland and native mistletoes such as *Tupeia antarctica*, it is also habitat for kereru and karearea. Part of owner Doug Eaton's motivation for protecting this special area is to support the constructive initiatives of the Kaikoura District Council and its biodiversity programme.



Photo: Margaret McKee

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 June 2007 to 30 September 2007

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Baigent-Mercer	24.3	F	Far North
Killen	3.1	F	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited	11.5	F,W	Far North
Lourie	41.5	F	Far North
Evans & Lamb	5.1	F	Whangarei
Finlayson	3.6	F	Whangarei
Litchfield	0.4	F	Whangarei
Lynch & Edwards	1.0	F	Whangarei
McKegg	2.0	F	Whangarei
Ross	3.9	F,W	Whangarei
Amesbury	7.8	F,S	Kaipara
Northin	2.4	F,S	Kaipara
MacNicol & Hewitt	10.0	F	Rodney
Awhitu Heights Limited	4.0	F	Franklin
Burns	1.0	W	Franklin
Coast Road Farms (Waiuku) Limited	0.7	F	Franklin
Thornton	1.1	F,W	Franklin
Barker	0.4	F,W	Waikato
Charleston & Keyte	1.8	F	Waipa
Curry	5.9	F	Waipa
N Evans & Company Limited	382.9	F	Thames-Coromandel
Lawler	12.1	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Casey	7.8	F	Waitomo
Denize	0.3	W	Waitomo
Baldwin & Tangaere	2.7	F	Gisborne
Dodgshun	9.1	F	Gisborne
Ordway Holdings Limited	6.1	F,W	Gisborne
Savage & Quinn	7.1	F	Gisborne
Bayly, Thomas & Delautour	29.8	F	Wairoa
Carpenter, Riach, Brasell & Noell	2.9	S, T	Central Hawke's Bay
Tait-Jamieson	4.0	F	Central Hawke's Bay
Goodwin	7.4	W	Hastings

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Holt & Fisher	184.4	F,G,L	Hastings
Kelly	24.5	W	Hastings
Thomsen	10.8	F	Hastings
Cook	0.2	F	New Plymouth
Galley	1.5	W	New Plymouth
Grieg & Johnson	1.1	F	New Plymouth
Hartley	4.2	F	New Plymouth
Hooper	2.8	F	New Plymouth
Phillips	1.2	F	New Plymouth
Longview Limited	5.9	W	South Taranaki
Murphy's Family Farm Limited	2.1	F,W	South Taranaki
John Paul Murphy Co Limited	0.6	F	South Taranaki
Landcorp Farming Limited (x3)	15.9	T,W	Rangitikei
Goodall	5.1	F	Manawatu
Klein & Robbie	14.8	F	Palmerston North
Laven	6.3	F	Palmerston North
Rowe	3.8	F	Kapiti Coast
Tyler Prentis Properties Limited	0.5	W	Kapiti Coast
Money & Tyson	0.3	F	Upper Hutt
Hammond	2.4	F,L,W	Marlborough
Eniscote Farm Limited	12.5	S	Hurunui
Landcorp Farming Limited	30.4	F,S	Grey
Dalem Hills Limited (x3)	1.5	S,W	Tasman
Hannen & Newman	10.6	F	Tasman
Olykan	14.4	F,S	Tasman
Landcorp Farming Limited	9.4	G,W	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited	4.1	S,W	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited	29.9	F,G	Southland

Key:

A Archaeological feature

F Forest

G Grassland

Ga Garden / arboretum

Ge Geological feature

L Landscape

S Shrubland

T Treeland

W Wetland



Photo: Neil Hayes

Trapped in July at Gretel Lagoons, Sylvia and Neil Hayes' 7.6ha wetland covenant near Carterton, this 1.53kg male is the largest ferret ever caught in their predator control programme that has eliminated over 2,500 predators since 1990.

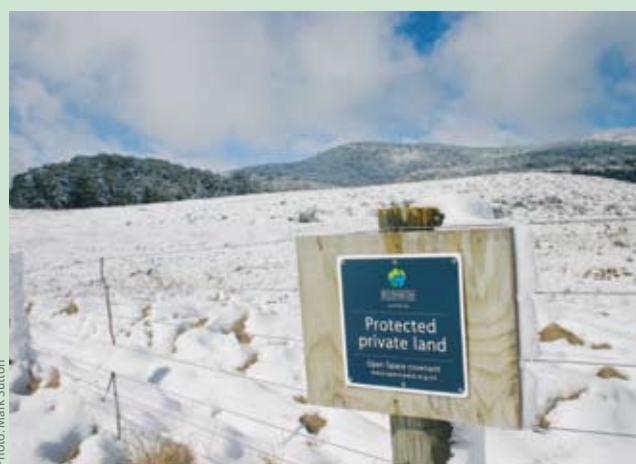


Photo: Mark Sutton

Late winter snow at Landcorp Farming Limited's Gap Wetland-Hikuraki covenant near Te Anau.

Mark Sutton, QEII Waiau Catchment Rep, recorded the conditions he encountered on a visit to the 23ha covenant in October.

Regional representatives

Northwest Auckland



Dan Godoy is the new QEII representative for Northwest Auckland. In 2002, Dan completed a MSc. at Auckland University focusing on feral goat abundance and control in forests. He has worked as a contract ecologist and environmental advisor in both marine and terrestrial sectors.

Dan is currently involved with a number of community and research projects focusing on threatened species in New Zealand waters.

Coastal Otago



Rob Campbell, the new QEII representative for Coastal Otago, was brought up in Central Otago. He has a background in forestry, having worked for the NZ Forest Service for 20 years, mostly managing indigenous forests in Westland, Southland and the Catlins.

Rob and his wife Lesley live on a lifestyle block at Moeraki where they are re-establishing native trees and developing a small wetland.

Award winners



Brian Molloy, QEII High Country Rep and former QEII director, has been a key figure in the plant conservation movement. He was one of the first to see the need for threatened plant management and has been a mentor to many people. Brian was honoured with the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.



Gay Munro, QEII Southland Rep, won the Environment Southland Rural Award for her commitment to conservation, particularly of wetlands. Aside from her work with QEII, Gay spends around 20 hours a week volunteering on environmental projects including the Waituna Landcare Group and supporting schools. She and her husband Ron have covenanted two significant wetlands in Southland.

Photo: Environment Southland

Wetland revegetation

To mark Conservation Week in August, QEII Wellington staff took part in the revegetation programme at Te Harakeke Swamp, a 7ha coastal wetland QEII property in Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast.



Photo: Robyn Smith

John Bishop, Astrid van Meeuwen, Lorelee Hyde and Mel Hodgkinson planting harakeke (swamp flax).



Photo: Lorelee Hyde

Karlene Hill and Alistair Webb planting karamu *Coprosma robusta*.



Photo: Robyn Smith

Robyn Smith, QEII Wellington Rep, spotted this dragonfly on *Baumea articulata* (jointed twig rush) at **Paul and Linda Crafar's** 11ha wetland covenant at Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast.

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.

Join QEII National Trust Membership – an ideal gift

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 info@openspace.org.nz or phone free on 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 3672) to join over the phone.

QEII National Trust Membership Application

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone (0) _____ Email _____

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 \$ _____

Method of payment ☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number:

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Cardholder name _____ Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Total \$ _____ ☐ Please send a receipt

For direct debit option, please email info@openspace.org.nz

Please send me more information on:

☐ Making a bequest to QEII ☐ 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.

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 3,350 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: Five-finger *Pseudopanax arboreus* on Richard and Linda Laven's covenant near Palmerston North. One of our most common native trees, five-finger is found from sea level to 760m from North Cape to Southland with flowers smothering the foliage from June to August.



Photo: Tony Gates

Mangatiti Falls in scenic Tararua

On their 330ha sheep and beef farm in Pongaroa, **Martin and Debbie Hull** have three covenants protecting 20ha of lowland hardwood-podocarp forest remnants and *Olearia virgata* wetland. Within the highly developed rural landscape, the covenants form isolated stands of indigenous species including kowhai, rimu and kahikatea.

'When we bought the farm in 2005, it was great to see the blocks protected with the covenants that Carne and Ann Berry put in place,' says Martin. 'It's wonderful what is going on throughout the country with QEII.'

One block, a steep slope above a horseshoe bend, contains the spectacular 25m Mangatiti Falls. The Hulls welcome visits from the public except during lambing season from August to September.

'It's about 40 minutes walk from the Akitio Coast Road to the falls on the Owahanga River,' says Martin. 'There's also a walk down to the bottom of the falls.'

The best time to visit the falls is before Christmas, before the water flow dries up. For access, phone the Hulls on 06 376 2822.

Right: The magnificent Mangatiti Falls, shown here with a high water flow in August, are an outstanding feature in one of the Hulls' forest covenants.



Photo: Bill Wallace

Martin Hull at the 1.8ha *Olearia virgata* wetland covenant. Also known as twiggy tree daisy, this is a rare vegetation type in the Eastern Wairarapa Ecological District. The 7-wire post and batten fence protecting the wetland was built in 2002 with contributions from the original covenantors, Carne and Ann Berry, QEII and Horizons Regional Council.

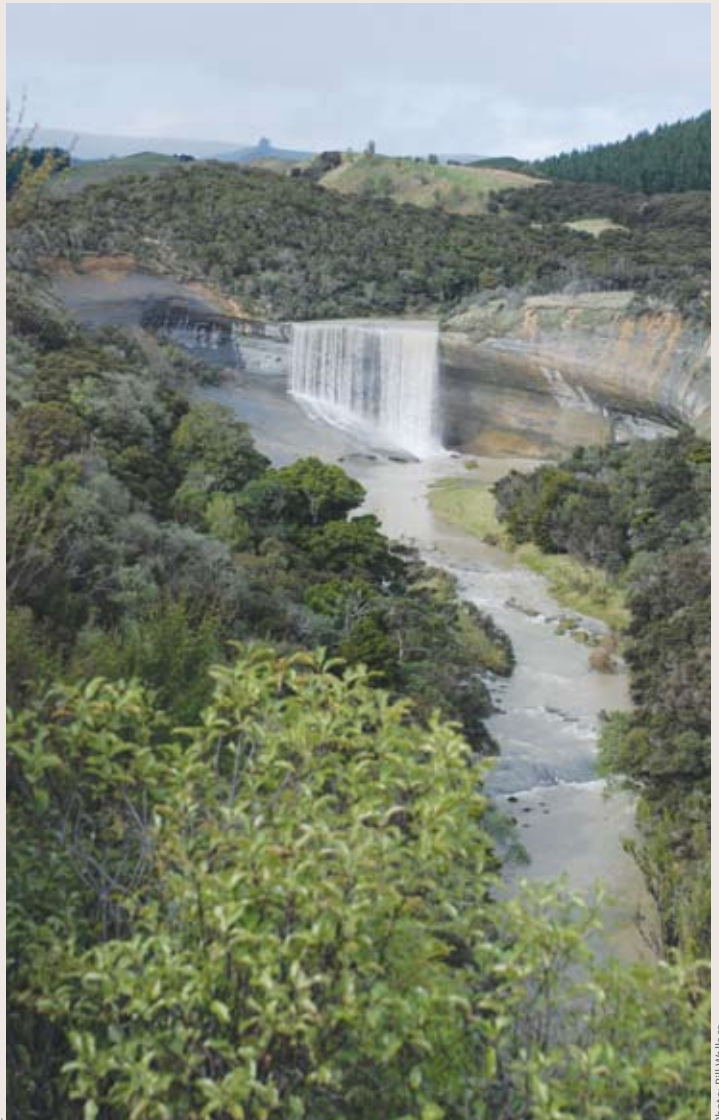


Photo: Bill Wallace



Photo: Bill Wallace