



**QEII National Trust**  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

# Open Space<sup>TM</sup>

\$7.50

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST | ISSUE 73 | JULY 2008



Focus on Waikato and Nelson-Tasman | Awards | Pest-proof fences

# Contents

- 3** News and Events
- 4** Nicks Head Station
- 6** Focus: Waikato
- 11** Connected covenants provide public amenity
- 12** Focus: Nelson-Tasman
- 16** Research: Stemming the decline in beech mistletoes
- 17** Beech and mistletoe covenants
- 18** Fencing: Pest-proof fences
- 20** Award winners
- 24** Fragments
- 25** Covenants update
- 29** Trust people
- 30** About QEII Trust
- 32** Place to visit: Nikau Cave



10



18



25



32

## Regional Representatives

- Far North** Greg Blunden  
Ph 09 407 1119 gblunden@openspace.org.nz
- Kaipara** Nick Matich  
Ph 09 439 8932 nmatich@openspace.org.nz
- Whangarei** Nan Pullman  
Ph/Fax 09 434 3457 npullman@openspace.org.nz
- Northwest Auckland** Dan Godoy  
Ph 09 529 2474 dgodoy@openspace.org.nz
- South Auckland** Lynda Fleming  
Ph 09 238 5739 lfleming@openspace.org.nz
- Coromandel – Hauraki** Hamish Kendal  
Ph 07 866 0770 hkendal@openspace.org.nz
- Waikato** Rex Webby  
Ph 07 853 2504 rwebby@openspace.org.nz
- East Waikato** Hamish Dean  
Ph 021 741 222 hdean@openspace.org.nz
- Waitomo – Otorohanga** Malcolm Mackenzie  
Ph 07 873 7728 mmackenzie@openspace.org.nz
- Bay of Plenty** Stephen Hall  
Ph 021 711 907 shall@openspace.org.nz
- Gisborne** Malcolm Piper  
Ph/Fax 06 867 0255 mpiper@openspace.org.nz
- Hawke's Bay** Vin Merwood  
Ph/Fax 06 845 4212 vmerwood@openspace.org.nz
- Taranaki** Neil Phillips  
Ph 06 753 6433 nphillips@openspace.org.nz
- Taupo-Ruapehu**  
Stephen Hall Ph 021 711 907 shall@openspace.org.nz  
Hamish Dean Ph 021 741 222 hdean@openspace.org.nz
- Rangitikei – Manawatu – Wanganui**  
John Williamson Ph 06 328 6851 jwilliamson@openspace.org.nz
- Tararua** Bill Wallace  
Ph 06 376 7796 bwallace@openspace.org.nz
- Wairarapa** Trevor Thompson  
Ph 06 372 5870 tthompson@openspace.org.nz
- Wellington** Lisa Clapcott  
Ph 06 364 2207 lclapcott@openspace.org.nz
- Nelson – Tasman** Philip Lissaman  
Ph 03 526 6114 plissaman@openspace.org.nz
- Marlborough**  
Ph 0800 467 367 arebergen@openspace.org.nz
- North Canterbury** Miles Giller  
Ph/Fax 03 313 5315 mgiller@openspace.org.nz
- South Canterbury** Rob Smith  
Ph 03 689 7735 rsmith@openspace.org.nz
- West Coast** Mike Copeland  
Ph 021 654 931 mcopeland@openspace.org.nz
- Coastal Otago** Rob Campbell  
Ph 03 439 4333 rcampbell@openspace.org.nz
- High Country** Dr Brian Molloy  
Ph 03 348 1077 bmolloy@openspace.org.nz
- Waiau Catchment** Mark Sutton  
Ph 021 540 814 msutton@openspace.org.nz
- Southland** Gay Munro  
Ph/Fax 03 239 5827 gmunro@openspace.org.nz
- For details of the QEII Trust Regions, see CONTACT US on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)**

## Helping you protect the special nature of your land



**QEII National Trust**  
Open Space New Zealand  
Nga Kairauhi Papa

QEII Trust helps landowners to 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 87,000 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 28 properties, which collectively protect 1,582 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 kahikatea-podocarp remnant at Matangi east of Hamilton, protected with a 2.9ha QEII covenant by Gerrit and Frances Nugteren.  
Photo: Rex Webby

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

### Board of Directors

**Chairperson:** Sir Brian Lochore, Masterton  
**Deputy Chairperson:** Yvonne Sharp, Kerikeri  
Bernard Card, Porirua  
Edward Ellison, Otakou  
James Hunter, Porangahau  
Jo Ritchie, Helensville

**Chief Executive:** Margaret McKee  
Phone 04 472 6626  
Email mmckee@openspace.org.nz

**Open Space™** is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
Level 4, FX Networks House, 138 The Terrace, Wellington  
**Phone** 04 472 6626 **Fax** 04 472 5578  
From outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367)  
**Design** Toolbox Creative **Editor** Loralee Hyde  
**Email** editor@openspace.org.nz [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

# Birdsong returns to South Taranaki farm

Two sand dune lakes form an outstanding natural feature amidst farmland at Manutahi in South Taranaki.

**Ross and Raewyn Symes** protected the lake system and a flax gully on their 600 hectare sheep and beef farm with a 4.3 hectare QEII covenant in December 2007.

In March, the QEII directors visited the covenant along with covenantors from throughout the region.

‘The big lake was fenced off by my great-grandfather in 1867 so has never had stock in it,’ says Ross. ‘We have gradually planted native trees around the lake and our son Andrew who leases the farm is continuing to plant around the smaller lake.’

A fifth generation farmer, Andrew says the QEII covenant was a simple way to protect the area for future generations.

‘We want to beautify the little lake now and increase the birdlife.’

**Top: Andrew and Ross Symes discussed the replanting in their South Taranaki covenant with QEII Trust chairperson Sir Brian Lochore.**

**Middle: Taranaki and Wanganui covenantors enjoyed the opportunity to visit the protected coastal dune lakes and flaxland, an acutely threatened and critically underprotected land environment.**

**Bottom: Andrew Symes explained to other QEII covenantors how funding from the Taranaki Tree Trust has enabled him to plant flaxes, taupata, cabbage trees, toetoe and akeake in the covenant.**

‘We also got funding assistance from QEII and the South Taranaki District Council to fence off the lake to protect the vegetation from stock,’ he said.



Photo: South Taranaki Star



Photo: Margaret McKee



Photo: Lonalee Hyde

# Sir Brian Lochore acknowledges generosity of Gisborne and Wairoa farmers

The forethought of over 100 Gisborne and Wairoa landowners who have protected native vegetation on their land with QEII covenants was acknowledged by Sir Brian Lochore at **Nicks Head Station** on 14 May.

The landowners along with Mayor Meng Foon, council staff and others involved with the Trust were invited to the station for a tour of the conservation area and wetland development at the iconic property. Sir Brian, chairperson of the Trust, thanked the landowners for their generosity in protecting special areas on their land with open space covenants. 'A QEII covenant is a legally binding protection agreement which is registered on the title of the land,' explained Sir Brian.

'It is voluntary, but once in place it protects the area forever. Private property rights are not jeopardised by a covenant as the landowner retains ownership of the land and continues to control access.

'It is wonderful to work with the many inspired landowners in Gisborne and Wairoa who are protecting special areas for future generations.'

Malcolm Piper, Gisborne QEII Regional Representative, said the Trust fills an important role for landowners who care about their environment.

'To be able to protect the areas they take pride in is a huge bonus,' he said. 'Bush remnants, wetlands, lagoons, sea cliffs, arboretums and an historic whaling station are just some of the areas protected locally with QEII covenants. The Gisborne District Council also has an 1,100 hectare covenant protecting the water reservoir catchment at Waingake.

'I am looking forward to the marvellous work of Gisborne and Wairoa covenantors continuing as we can see at Nicks Head Station.'

Nicks Head Station, owned by John Griffin, takes in the hills of the nationally significant landscape feature of Young Nicks Head and includes archaeological sites, bird habitat and rare bush remnants. A 147 hectare QEII covenant covers the hill country which forms the headland.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

At a gathering in the woolshed on Nicks Head Station, Sir Brian Lochore acknowledged the generosity of Gisborne and Wairoa landowners who are protecting special areas with QEII covenants.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

Kim Dodgshun, estate manager at Nicks Head Station, explained the revegetation programme to QEII covenantors. The restored coastal wetland is in the background.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

**Above:** The team at Nicks Head Station has planted 250,000 native trees around bush remnants, on eroded hills and in the coastal wetland.

**Below:** The intensive restoration plantings in the wetland have been fenced off to exclude stock.

Forming an integral part of the plan to become a model farming operation, a major private conservation project is transforming Nicks Head and Mapiri Stations. Estate manager Kim Dodgshun is managing the restoration.

‘The vision is to return the conservation area from eroded hills and degraded coastal wetlands to how it was in 600 to 700 years ago,’ Kim said. ‘Over 250,000 eco-sourced native trees and shrubs have been planted to date, remnants of bush and gullies are being fenced and planted, and over 40 hectares of wetlands are being restored.

‘On the headland, we have fenced off 35 hectares with a predator-proof fence and reintroduced geckos and weta into the predator free area. Our aim is to eventually bring back tuatara.’



Photo: Loralee Hyde

## Te Wherowhero Lagoon

Prior to visiting Nicks Head Station, QEII directors and staff toured **Ian and Sally Foxley’s** 69ha QEII covenant at Te Wherowhero Lagoon, a significant wildlife area. Once an abundant food source, the lagoon has since been degraded with sediment from the surrounding eroded hills, removal of vegetation, and the influx of chemicals, sewerage and rubbish.

With support from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri and other members of the community are planting coastal plant varieties such as ngaio, karo, cabbage trees, akeake and pingao to restore the lagoon to a self-sustaining ecosystem.



Photo: Margaret McKee

**Left:** QEII directors, Sir Brian Lochore, Edward Ellison and Bernard Card admire the new fence protecting the lagoon and the Foxleys’ covenant that was constructed this year with funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund. Young Nicks Head is beyond.

**Right:** QEII director, James Hunter discusses the restoration of the wetland with Ian Foxley.



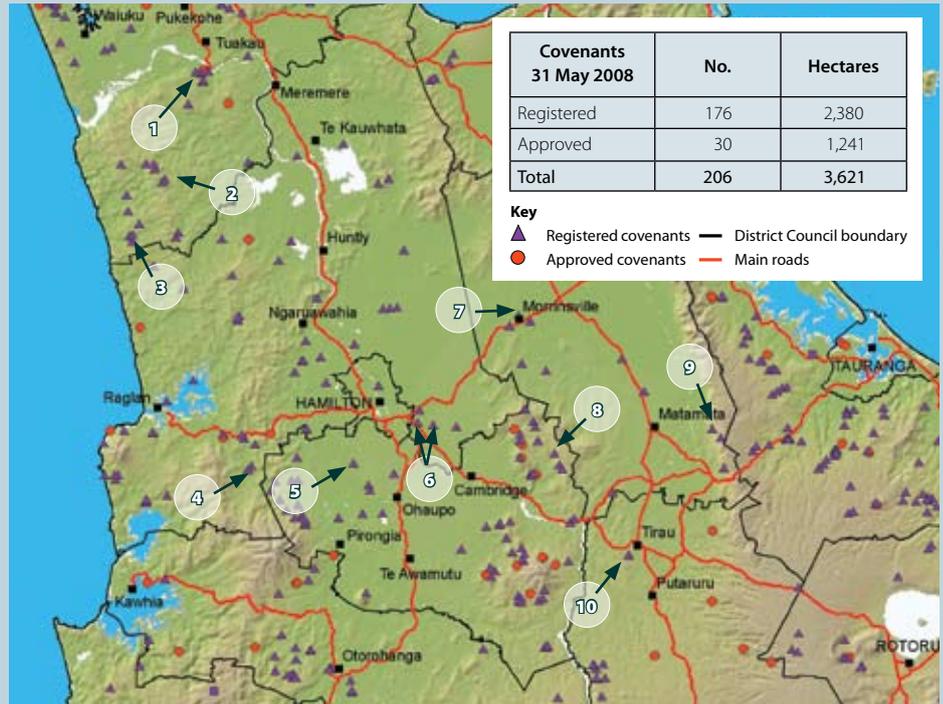
Photo: Loralee Hyde

# Waikato

On the floodplains, rolling hills, mountain ranges and steep volcanoes of the Waikato, only 26% remains in native vegetation. Pastoral ecosystems and pine plantations now dominate the region.

About 90% of indigenous forest remnants are smaller than 25 hectares with tawa, broadleaved species, kahikatea and totara being the most common forest types. Kanuka, manuka, kauri and beech forest make up the balance.

After 150 years of drainage, the large wetlands once present have been lost or split into small fragments. Only 1% of the Waikato is now in wetland vegetation, 25% of the amount in 1840.



- 1. John and Gail Mitchell  
Rowan and Elaine Harker  
Aidan and Debbie Nelson  
Ross and Sue Galbreath**  
Lowland forest
- 2. Kitemoana Station Limited**  
Podocarp forest
- 3. Philip and Anne Woodward  
Nikau Bros Limited**  
Lowland forest and limestone cave (see back page)
- 4. Mike Moss**  
Podocarp forest and wetland
- 5. Lakeland Downs Limited**  
Oak stand and kahikatea
- 6. Reg and Laurreta Barker  
Peter and Margaret Morris**  
Gully restoration
- 7. Lockerbie Farm Limited**  
Historic trees
- 8. Hamish McMullin and Selina Rutherford**  
Lowland forest
- 9. Ian and Joy Diprose  
Hiona Heights Limited**  
Lowland forest and submontane vegetation
- 10. Peter and Mary Gray**  
Podocarp-hardwood forest

## Rare remnants saved

On **Peter and Mary Gray's** farm south-west of Tirau, a 6ha lowland primary podocarp and hardwood forest remnant was protected with an open space covenant in 1986.

An additional 2ha covenant now protects small blocks adjacent to the remnant. One block includes a population of terrestrial *Griselinia lucida* (puka) which is normally epiphytic but here is growing on the ground.

Peter has been planting native species for more than 10 years on the hillsides. 'It's the best use for the steeper areas as grass didn't grow well there,' says Peter. 'It's good to have QEII covenants standing out in the local farming landscape.'

Above: *Carex secta* with mahoe and regenerating pukatea in Peter and Mary Gray's lowland forest covenant near Tirau.

Below: The protected remnants are in the Central Hill Country Land Environment where remaining indigenous vegetation is considered critically underprotected, acutely threatened, and continuing to decrease in extent.



All photos: Hamish Dean

## Degraded gullies restored

The Hamilton Ecological District is one of the most modified districts in New Zealand with only 1.6% of indigenous vegetation remaining. The main natural areas remaining in Hamilton City and the surrounding landscape are in an extensive network of distinctive gullies. Private landowners are contributing to efforts to restore these degraded and weed infested ecosystems.

At Matangi, east of Hamilton, **Peter and Margaret Morris** have been restoring a gully adjoining the Mangaharakeke Stream for 25 years using only locally sourced native plants. In 2006, they protected 2ha of the gully with a QEII covenant.

'It was a wilderness of weeds, covered with willow, blackberry, gorse and honeysuckle,' says Peter. 'The only way to clear it was to do small areas at a time and plant it bit by bit.' With experimentation Peter found the best way to clear the dense three metre high blackberry was by spraying with Roundup®.

'To identify what species to plant, we visited local bush remnants with Peter de Lange, a botanist,' he says. 'Most species weren't available commercially so we collected seeds and started our own nursery.'

Pioneer species such as manuka, wineberry, mahoe and flax were planted and then successional trees including totara, kahikatea, swamp maire and matai. 'It's important to

plant species that replicate,' Peter explains. 'The restored area is now self-managing with seedlings coming up everywhere.'

Peter is very willing to pass on advice and knowledge to others who are restoring gullies. Many visit his property to learn about weed removal and what to plant.

**For more about the gully restoration and nursery, visit [Covenants/Covenant Stories](http://Covenants/Covenant%20Stories) on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz) or phone Peter on 07 829 5763.**



Below: Peter Morris says gully restoration from weeds to native bush is rapid, provided intensive weed control is done at the start (Jan '86) and eco-sourced species are densely planted in the right sites (Jan '91).

Native birds are now eating seeds from native species such as coprosma, kahikatea, putaputaweta and *Astelia grandis* in the gully rather than from blackberry, inkweed, honeysuckle and Arum lily (Jan '96).



All Photos: Peter Morris

For nearly 35 years, **Reg and Lauretta Barker** have been revegetating a steep gully on the outskirts of Hamilton along the Mangaone Stream by planting one hundred kauri and other native trees including kowhai, rimu, miro, kahikatea and totara. With stock now excluded from the gully and weeds including

convolvulus controlled, many trees are regenerating naturally.

The Barkers protected 0.4ha of the gully with a QEII covenant in September 2007. 'I hated the thought of someone chopping the trees down and wanted it kept for posterity,' says Reg.



**Left: Before the revegetation, only one native tree remained in the gully; the kahikatea to the right. All the pine trees have since been chopped down by Reg.**

**Right: Reg Barker in the kauri grove now protected in perpetuity by an open space covenant.**

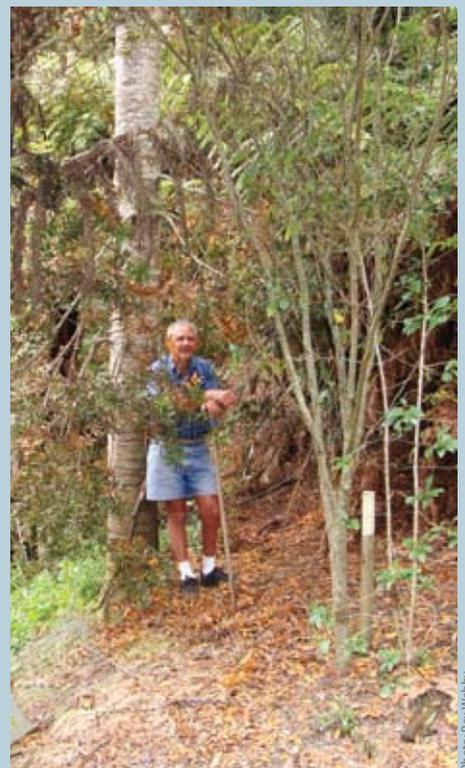


Photo: Rex Webby

Photo: Supplied by Reg Barker

## Tui enticed by protected bush

Hamish McMullin and Selina Rutherford protected two tawamangeao remnants on their 202ha farm at Whitehall near Cambridge with a 20ha open space covenant in December 2007. 'We were previously soil conservators and have always been keen on natives,' says Hamish. 'It was an easy process to protect the bush with QEII.'

With stock grazing in the bush for years, there was virtually no understorey or groundcover. Hamish says regeneration is occurring quickly now that it is fenced, with ponga one metre high. The covenant is attracting kereru and tui from the nearby Te Tapui Scenic Reserve. 'We belong to the Whitehall possum control programme so have no possums in the covenant,' adds Hamish. 'There are also no rats and now we have tui nesting in the bush.'

## Bush remnants form 'stepping stones'

South-east of Raglan at Waitetuna on his 252ha dry stock and organic dairy farm, Mike Moss protected 18ha of lowland primary podocarp forest and a wetland with QEII covenants in 2006. 'We love our trees and the two patches of bush are worth looking after,' says Mike. 'QEII seemed the obvious choice to protect the bush in perpetuity and the assistance with fencing costs made it achievable.'

Mike takes a biodynamic approach to fertility and weed control. He has also fenced and planted the majority of the streams and drains on the farm. 'It's great seeing the healthy regeneration,' he says. 'There's also a pair of breeding falcons here now.'



Above: Kahikatea, rimu and tawa surround the *Carex-Dicksonia squarrosa* (wheki tree fern) wetland protected by Mike Moss with a QEII covenant.

Left above and below: The protected bush is part of a mosaic of similar remnants which provide a food source for birds as well as 'stepping stones' between Mt Pirongia (in the distance), Mt Karioi, and the hills between Karakariki and Raglan Harbour.

Top: Hamish McMullin and Selina Rutherford's lowland forest remnant forms an attractive natural feature in the pastoral landscape.

Bottom: A 9-wire (2 electric) fence constructed with contributions from the landowners, QEII and Environment Waikato protects the regenerating bush from stock.

All Photos: Juhlene Kelly

All photos: Hamish Dean

## Joint project protects kahikatea

South-west of Glen Murray, one of the largest primary podocarp forest remnants in the Raglan Ecological District was protected with a 12ha QEII covenant in January by **Kitemoana Station Limited**. This is the second covenant on the station; an 11ha covenant has protected two other forest remnants since 1990.

Shane Fleming, who manages the sheep and beef farm, organised the construction of the new covenant fence which was funded jointly by QEII, Environment Waikato and the Biodiversity Condition Fund. 'The fence has been a big plus for farm management,' says Shane. 'It has made a better paddock for the stock and increased the calving percentage as calves no longer fall over the cliffs.'

Shane is also controlling feral goats which are common in the area. 'The goats get underneath the fences so I'm putting netting on them,' he adds.



Photo: Hamish Dean

Above: The understory under the dense canopy of kahikatea-matai-rimu includes *Melicytus micranthus* and kaikomako.



Photo: Hamish Dean

Before the kahikatea remnant on Kitemoana Station was fenced, stock grazing and trampling had a huge impact on the forest regeneration.



Photo: Johlene Kelly

A 7-wire (1 barbed) fence now protects the kahikatea covenant from stock. The fencing work included levelling areas around the remnant and constructing floodgates to reduce the risk of flooding from the Taringapeka Stream.

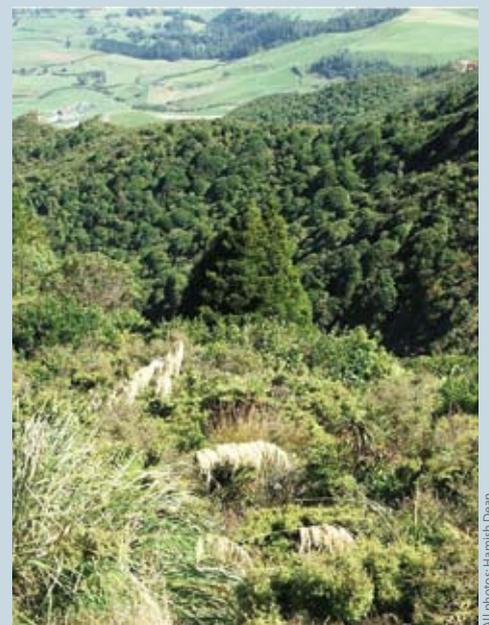
## Outstanding landscape safeguarded

Two areas covering lowland forest, shrubland and submontane grassland on a 450ha farm near Matamata were protected with open space covenants in October 2007; 40ha by **Ian and Joy Diprose** and 111ha by **Hiona Heights Limited**.

The land had been cleared for farming but is now regenerating with a diverse range of species. Fenced with contributions from Environment Waikato, QEII and the landowners, the covenants provide linkages and buffers between the Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Park and the rest of the Kaimai Range.

**Right top:** Visible from Matamata below, the Hiona Heights covenant with high aesthetic, landscape and biodiversity values has been named a Kaitiaki (Conservation) Zone by the Matamata-Piako District Council.

**Right bottom:** A 9-wire fence protects the tawa-pukatea-rewarewa canopy.



All photos: Hamish Dean

Above: The conical tree in the centre is kawaka *Libocedrus plumosa* (native 'cedar'), a submontane species not often seen in this area.

# Historic stands of trees are worth protecting

## Life of the Trees

QEII covenants are generally in perpetuity. However, a variable term covenant called *Life of the Trees* can be put in place where individual trees occur in a situation where they may not be self-generating.

Oak trees were favourite trees of early English settlers as with their beauty and autumn colour they were a nostalgic reminder of home. London planes are popular as street trees in many parts of the world as they tolerate a cold or mild climate. Exotic tree stands are characteristic of Waikato towns and landscapes and have intrinsic values worth protecting.

On the 273ha dairy farm owned by **Lakeland Downs Limited** at Rukuhia south-west of Hamilton, Pieter and Joy Van Dongen and their sons Neil and Peter protected an oak stand with a *Life of the Trees* covenant in 2005. The oak stand is adjacent to their house on the top of a low hill and is highly visible from the surrounding countryside.

'Until we took over the farm five years ago, stock were allowed in under the trees,' says Pieter. 'Now that we've excluded the stock there are oak seedlings about 30cm high.' The Van Dongens have also protected a 1.2ha kahikatea remnant with an open space covenant in perpetuity on the farm. 'We want to do the best by the land and protect what's left for the future,' explains Pieter.



Photo: Rex Webby

Top right: The oak stand protected with a *Life of the Trees* covenant by Lakeland Downs Limited adds to the character of the rural Waikato landscape.

Right: Pieter Van Dongen on the drive that goes through the oak stand with daffodils alongside.

Far right: The location of this kahikatea remnant in an intensive farming area makes it well worth protecting with a QEII covenant in perpetuity.



Photo: Hamish Dean



Photo: Hamish Dean



Photo: Stephen Hall

In March, an historic stand of 35 trees on the outskirts of Morrinsville was protected with a *Life of the Trees* covenant by **Lockerbie Farm Limited**.

Thomas and Samuel Morrin acquired 30,000 acres of land from Māori in 1874 and subsequently named this property 'Lockerbie'. A housing settlement for the station employees was established and called Morrinsville after the partners. The trees were planted approximately 100 years ago.

Above: A *Life of the Trees* covenant protects this avenue of thirty London planes and five oaks on the edge of Morrinsville.

## Connecting covenants provide a valuable public amenity

Connecting natural remnants can be a key to their long-term viability and bring benefits to the community. South of Tuakau, **John and Gail Mitchell** protected 7ha of semi-coastal forest, regenerating kanuka and manuka, wetland and the 20m high limestone Vivian Falls with an open space covenant in October 2007.

The Mitchells' covenant connects to the 21ha Harker Reserve protected with a QEII covenant in 1985 by **Rowan and Elaine Harker**. Along with the Harker family, John's father was involved in forming the Harker Reserve in 1982 when he was on the Raglan County Council. **Aidan and Debbie Nelson's** 3ha covenant also connects to Harker Reserve and **Ross and Sue Galbreath's** 1.7ha covenant is nearby. The protected remnants form a valuable corridor and habitat for birds such as kereru.



Above: A canopy of mahoe, taraire, puriri, tawa, rewarewa, nikau and tree ferns covers the steep, incised gullies in the connected covenants.



Above: Vivian Falls in the Mitchells' covenant is accessible via public walking tracks.

Above right: The view down the protected gully from Vivian Falls. The native species planted by the Harker Reserve committee in 2005 are in the foreground.



In the 1970s, the bush was cleared around Vivian Falls. The Harker Reserve committee, a local community group, planted native species including kanuka, coprosma and cabbage trees on the cleared areas in 2005. Ross Galbreath from the committee says they have had \$15,000 approved from the Biodiversity Condition Fund for more planting. Environment Waikato has contributed to possum control and upkeep of the walking tracks.

This project is an excellent example of a joint partnership between landowners, the local community and the regional council improving biodiversity in a key ecological site protected by QEII covenants.

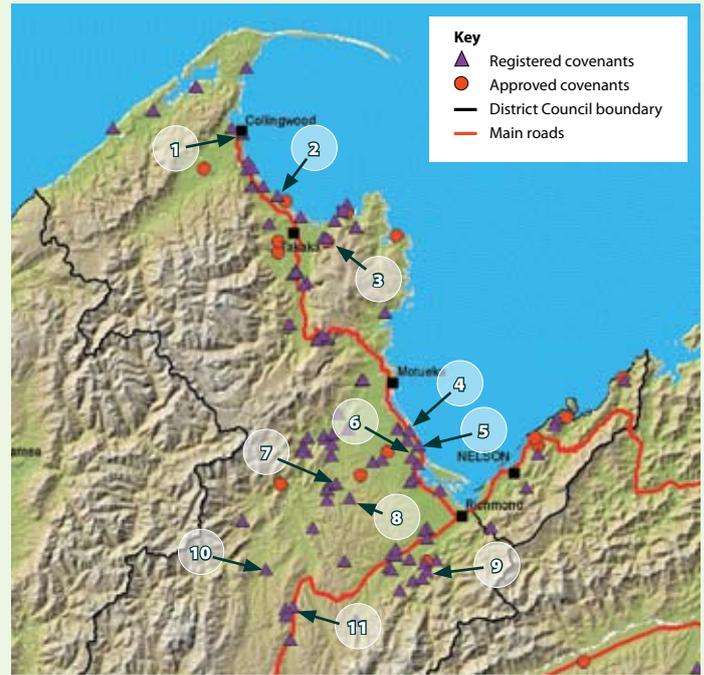
With public walking tracks, a picnic area and the waterfall, the connected covenants are well worth a visit.

# Nelson-Tasman

Geologically diverse, this region ranges from mountainous areas to valleys and plains sliced by major rivers. With varying landforms, altitude and climate, and location at the 'centre of New Zealand', there is a disproportionate number of native species which are endemic, rare, threatened, or at the extreme of their distribution.

Outside the public conservation estate, much of the remaining native flora and fauna is modified by clearing for exotic forestry and farming, or by introduced animals and weeds. The lowlands have suffered the greatest losses, particularly in Moutere and Golden Bay, with a trend towards lifestyle and small farm or horticultural holdings. Remaining native remnants tend to be small and in multiple ownership.

Covenants 31 May 2008	No.	Hectares
Registered	110	2,081
Approved	24	437
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2,518</b>



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>1. Bruce Hamlin and Rosie Little</b><br>Coastal broadleaved forest | <b>5. D'Urville Vineyard</b><br>Coastal titoki forest                | <b>9. Tony Chivers Don Morrisey and Nicola Harwood</b><br>Lowland forest |
| <b>2. Keith Marshall Bush</b><br>Coastal forest                       | <b>6. Hilton Doherty and Margaret Urlich</b><br>Semi-coastal wetland | <b>10. Harry and Joan Hancock</b><br>Beech and mistletoes                |
| <b>3. Chris Rowse and Silvia</b>                                      | <b>7. Peter Clausen and Sue Rewcastle</b><br>Beech and mistletoes    | <b>11. Hyatt &amp; Sons Limited</b><br>Beech and mistletoes              |
| <b>David Wilkie</b>   | <b>8. Ian Hannen and Elaine Newman</b><br>Beech and mistletoes       |  |
| <b>4. Potters Bush</b><br>Lowland forest                              |  |  |

See pages 17 and 31 for beech and mistletoe covenants.

## Emerging dawn chorus on the coast

At the southern end of Moutere Inlet, the 0.6ha **Potters Bush** covenant protects regenerating lowland forest. Typical of the secondary regrowth after past orcharding, farming and forestry, there is now very little of this type of regeneration left in this coastal district.

Chris Potter, one of the landowners, says that until 1998 the area was primarily in pines. These were removed carefully by digger, leaving native species including three different coprosma species and silver, mamaku and wheki tree ferns.

'Since then we have worked on controlling weeds and planting canopy trees such as kahikatea, beeches, matai and miro,' says Chris.

'The key thing was putting in paths and bridges so we could get to the weeds. We trap rats, stoats and ferrets and the covenant is fenced with netting which keeps hares and rabbits out. Now we have a lot of birds nesting and an emerging dawn chorus.

'It is a privilege doing this to leave a legacy of wonderful trees.'

**Above right: Chris Potter at Potters Bush covenant, where intensive plantings are growing well with natural seedling growth improving.**

**Below right: A permanent-flow spring in the covenant feeds a stream which is a habitat for banded kokopu *Galaxias fasciatus*.**



All Photos: Chris Potter

# Visual landscape values protected from development

Connected covenants on neighbouring properties contribute to the ecological viability of native species and impact on the visual character of the landscape.

East of Takaha on a steep marble face, two neighbours have protected regenerating lowland forest with QEII covenants. The distinctive landscape, which can be seen from roads and dwellings on the flats, is now saved from houses or exotic forestry creeping further up the hill slopes which would detract from their visual values.

Above Kite Te Tahu Creek, **Chris Rowse and Silvia Schneider-Rowse's** 6ha covenant was registered in December 2006. 'Ten years ago there was only twenty per cent regrowth,' says Chris. 'Now ninety percent has regenerated with kanuka and totara seedlings are coming through. Getting stock off the area and shooting the goats has helped with the regeneration.

'It's an area of natural beauty and significance and we wanted to set aside this land for protection and to encourage other people to conserve.'

Over twenty years ago, **David Wilkie** moved to a secluded valley dominated by marble ridges and limestone bluffs. In 2005, he protected 9.2ha of lowland forest with an open space covenant. 'The area is very steep at up to 45 degrees and is ideal to protect with QEII as this fits in with my philosophy of keeping natural features free of development,' says Dave.

The land was covered with weeds including yellow jasmine and banana passionfruit. Dave has a systematic approach to weed control, concentrating on keeping cleared areas clean before attacking new areas. 'Making the area accessible by foot was a key to controlling the weeds,' he explains. 'Now the native regeneration has got to the canopy stage.'

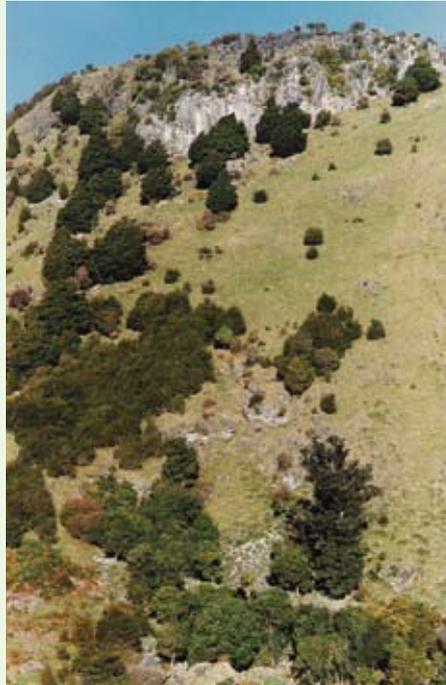


Photo: Dave Wilkie

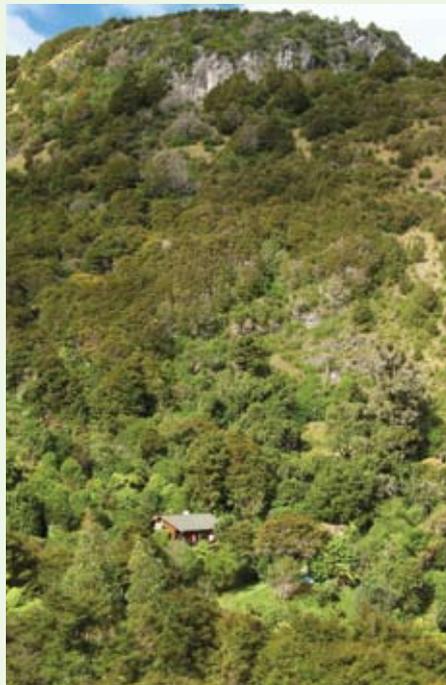


Photo: Philip Lissaman

The forest has old trees and vines which are representative of the area, notably rata, matai and totara and local species including *Sophora longicarinata* (limestone kowhai), *Melicytus obovata*, and the localised snail *Rhytida greenwoodi webbi*.

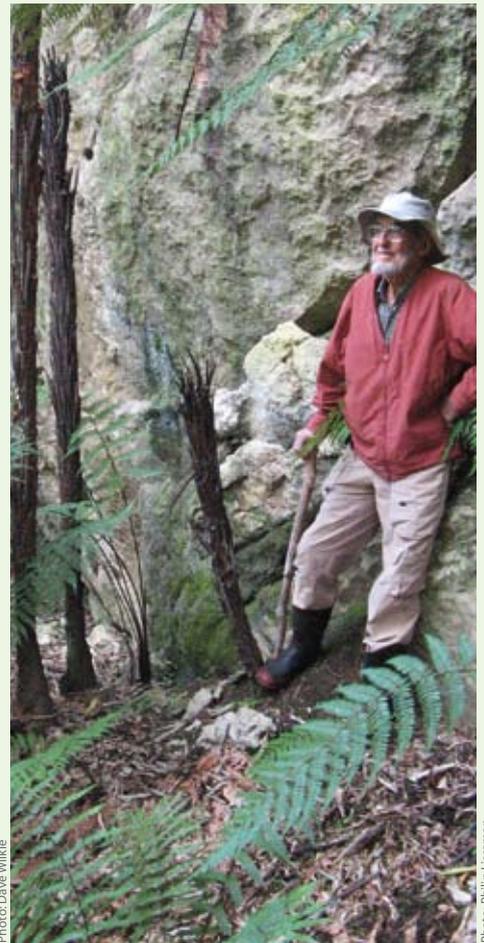


Photo: Philip Lissaman



Photo: Philip Lissaman

Top left: The denuded marble bluffs in David Wilkie's covenant in 1985. Near the bottom right is a huge old rata.

Below left: In 2008, regeneration covers the landscape. The old rata remains, above right of the house.

Top right: Dave Wilkie by a 30 million year old limestone reef. A unique feature of Dave's covenant is a juxtaposition of limestone and marble totally separated by a shear fault.

Below right: The landscape values of this scarp that is visible from Takaka is now protected with QEII covenants by two neighbours.

## Adjoining covenants assist with species viability

In the semi-coastal area of Mapua, there is little native vegetation left. An estimated 93% of wetlands have been lost in the Moutere Ecological District with a 97% loss on private land.

Two adjoining properties have QEII covenants protecting small semi-coastal palustrine flaxland wetland areas that are representative of the district. As well as contributing to the visual character of the landscape, these wetlands provide a useful filter between the relatively erodible hills and the Waimea Inlet, a large tidal estuary of national importance.

Now owned by **Hilton Doherty and Margaret Urlich**, the first wetland area was protected in 2004 with an 0.4ha open space covenant. 'We have cleaned up a lot of the weeds including gorse and blackberry,' says Hilton. 'There is a pine tree in the middle of the wetland that we still need to get to.'

**Ross and Jillian McLay** protected 0.85ha of semi-coastal forest and flaxland with a QEII covenant in 2006. 'It's nice to know it's always going to be there,' says Jillian.



Photo: Philip Lissaman

## Wairoa Gorge biodiversity corridor

In the Wairoa Gorge south-east of Brightwater, two adjoining lowland forest QEII covenants were recently registered, forming a protected biodiversity corridor. This helps to assist with the viability of the species in the forest.

There is an unusually large number of regionally rare species in the Wairoa Gorge. One of these species, black maire, is found in 1.2ha covenanted by **Tony Chivers** on terraces above the Wairoa River. This covenant also protects inland examples of coastal species including akeake, kawakawa and ngaio.

Higher up the steep hill face, **Don Morrisey and Nicola Harwood** have a 5.7ha covenant protecting totara, mahoe and titoki.



Photo: Philip Lissaman

Above: The Mapua wetland has a dense cover of flax, raupo and *Carex* species fringed by swamp coprosma *Coprosmma tenuicaulis* and manuka shrubland, edged by dryland communities of five-finger, *Coprosmma* species, mahoe and putaputaweta.

Inset: Swamp coprosma *Coprosmma tenuicaulis*.



Photo: Robyn Smith

Black maire *Nestegis cunninghamii* grows up to 20m high in the canopy. In the Nelson region, this species occurs only in the Wairoa Gorge area.

# Stunning coastal landscapes saved

**Bruce Hamlin and Rosie Little** protected broadleaved forest on steep coastal cliffs above Collingwood with the 0.35ha Streaky Head covenant in October 2006. Typical of regeneration in the Golden Bay Ecological District, rata gives the vegetation a distinctive character. 'We live in a precious environment and these coastal places need protecting,' says Bruce. 'Covenanting with QEII was an excellent way of doing this.'

At Patons Rock north-west of Takaka, an open space covenant protects 0.9ha of coastal forest. Named **Keith Marshall Bush**, the covenant is representative of the diminished coastal vegetation in the Golden Bay Ecological District.

Mature kanuka dominates the canopy with healthy seedlings of rimu, kahikatea and totara emerging. Banana passionfruit was a prevalent pest but this has now been controlled. With a sea cave that was used for food gathering, the covenant is also an archaeological site.



**Above left:** Rata on the upper slopes of Bruce Hamlin and Rosie Little's covenant. Rata was probably a major constituent of the vegetation before the cliffs were cleared.



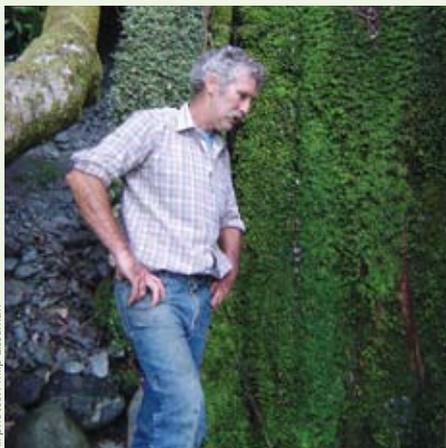
**Above right:** Little blue penguins come up the tidal creek beside the Keith Marshall Bush covenant to nest. White-faced herons, shags and kingfishers roost in the trees.

At Ruby Bay above the Coastal Highway, the 2.2ha **D'Urville Vineyard** QEII covenant protects coastal titoki forest and a steep cliff and talus slope landscape.

Prior to covenanting, the landowners invested heavily in removing pine trees from the land. They are all now contributing to the cost of weed control, with assistance from QEII and the Biodiversity Condition Fund. 'It is a very warm area with growth hardly stopping all year,' says Russell Poole,

one of the owners. 'Invasive weeds such as Himalayan honeysuckle, Old Man's Beard and banana passionfruit were in the crowns of the titoki.'

The weed control has been very successful and a restoration planting programme is now well underway. 'As well as Philip Lissaman, the QEII Nelson-Tasman Regional Representative, Martin Conway is a key advisor to our management plan,' adds Russell.



**Top left:** Near Takaka the public can make a round trip from Patons Rock on a walking track through Keith Marshall Bush. This coastal landscape is now safeguarded from any future subdivision by a QEII covenant in perpetuity.

**Left:** Bruce Hamlin examines the protected vegetation at a waterfall on the coastal cliffs in his covenant.

**Above:** Above the Coastal Highway, between McKee Domain in the distance with the campground entrance below and Pinehill Reserve to the south (both administered by the Tasman District Council), the D'Urville Vineyard covenant protects a rare remnant of titoki forest.

All photos: Philip Lissaman

# Stemming the decline in beech mistletoes

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



**Landcare Research**  
**Manaaki Whenua**

## *Sustaining Critical Interactions*

*between Functional Species* is an 8-year collaborative research project involving ecologists at the University of Canterbury, Massey University and Landcare Research.

Jenny Ladley from Canterbury University has been researching the reproduction of mistletoes on beech trees near Wakefield in the Nelson region. Together with Philip Lissaman, QEII Nelson-Tasman Regional Representative, Shannel Courtney from the Department of Conservation, and the Tasman District Council, Jenny has also run community field days in Dovedale and Wakefield to establish mistletoes by hand on host beech trees and to encourage the planting of beech seedlings.

The name *mistletoe* is given to plants that are stem hemi-parasites. These plants can produce their own food through photosynthesis, but they also use specially adapted roots called haustoria to extract water and nutrients from their host plant.

New Zealand is home to eight endemic mistletoe species. Three species, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*, *Peraxilla colensoi* and *Alepis flavida* are known as beech mistletoes because their primary host trees are southern beech (*Nothofagus* species). *Peraxilla colensoi* (scarlet mistletoe) is the largest mistletoe species in New Zealand, sometimes reaching up to 3m in diameter. It has been recorded growing on 16 different host species, but its most common host is silver beech *Nothofagus menziesii*.

The beech mistletoes have all declined in abundance in recent decades. Reasons for this include loss of habitat, decline in the number of bird-pollinators such as tui and bellbirds, and the detrimental effect of introduced pests, especially possums.

Mistletoe decline is exacerbated by the serious loss of potential host beech trees in settled areas.



Left: A scarlet mistletoe *Peraxilla colensoi* seedling.

Below left: Jenny Ladley explains how to collect mistletoe seeds and plant them on host beech trees at a community field day in Wakefield.

Photo: Matt Walters



Photo: Philip Lissaman

‘There are mature silver beech trees with mistletoes up to one hundred years old in core areas such as Dovedale,’ says Jenny. ‘However, because of stock browsing around the beech trees and/or drought, there are few beech seedlings.

‘Old beech trees are dying and there is a gap before the next ones are ready for mistletoe establishment. A beech needs to be a couple of metres high and about seven to ten years old before mistletoes will establish. So it’s no use waiting until the old trees die. We need an overlap now of young ones growing with the old.’

Philip Lissaman has been involved with the field days through his association with the Tasman Environmental Trust. ‘My personal driver was a wind storm in 2004,’ Philip says. ‘I had been monitoring scarlet and yellow mistletoes in about twelve beech trees along a Dovedale roadside and in one night half of the trees were toppled in the storm. When we lost those beech trees, we also lost the mistletoes.’

## Community field days

‘Our research on mistletoe-host relations shows that beech mistletoes establish best on the same host species they were collected from, and from the same geographic region,’ Jenny explains.

‘At the field days in Dovedale and Wakefield, we pick fruit from the local mistletoes and then plant the seeds on living, healthy branches of beech tree hosts.

‘A mistletoe has thousands of fruits but only a small percentage fall on to a branch and germinate. However, most of the seeds fail to make a successful connection with the water cells in the host beech and die.

‘Then for those that succeed, there’s a long wait as red and scarlet mistletoes can take about seven years to start flowering.’

Over 160 people have attended the field days, at which seeds from up to four species of mistletoes were distributed. Participants were also given beech seedlings to plant to help overcome the gap left by old beech dying.

Jenny adds that all the different agencies working together is a key to the successful field days. ‘The input from community members will help to sustain our mistletoes and beech trees.’

**Download a fact sheet with tips on collecting and planting mistletoe seeds, identifying beech trees, and common host trees for each mistletoe species on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)**

## Covenants benefit both mistletoes and their host trees

Mistletoes are an iconic feature of the Nelson area but have now declined to tiny fragments (except for *Ileostylus* which is still common in some areas). They are an indicator of the natural environment's condition. Protecting forest with QEII covenants helps to improve the environment for mistletoes by excluding stock, controlling possums and providing healthy surroundings for new host tree seedlings to flourish.



Above: Scarlet mistletoe *Peraxilla colensoi* on silver beech in the 2.8ha beech-podocarp forest open space covenant of Peter Clausen and Sue Rewcastle at Dovedale, inland Nelson.



The **Hyatt & Sons Limited** forest covenant was a source of silver beech seedlings for a 'start' of a mistletoe project; 400 seedlings from this covenant have been planted in areas where beech is not regenerating and these may be seeded with mistletoe in 5–8 years time. The seedlings shown below are the ideal size for collection to be grown on in a nursery.

**Left: Old silver beech trees and scarlet mistletoes are features of the Hyatt & Sons Limited 640ha Life of the Trees covenant in Korere.**

**Below: If beech regeneration is poor for any reason, for example, lack of parent trees or drought, then the start to regeneration is planting seedlings of the appropriate species for the area. Nurseries may have eco-sourced plants or it may be possible to collect seedlings from strongly regenerating places.**

**Bottom: Scarlet mistletoe is a recent find in the 3.5ha beech forest remnant in Tadmor protected by Harry and Joan Hancock.**



Above: A 2-3 year old scarlet mistletoe *Peraxilla colensoi* seedling on silver beech *Nothofagus menziesii*.

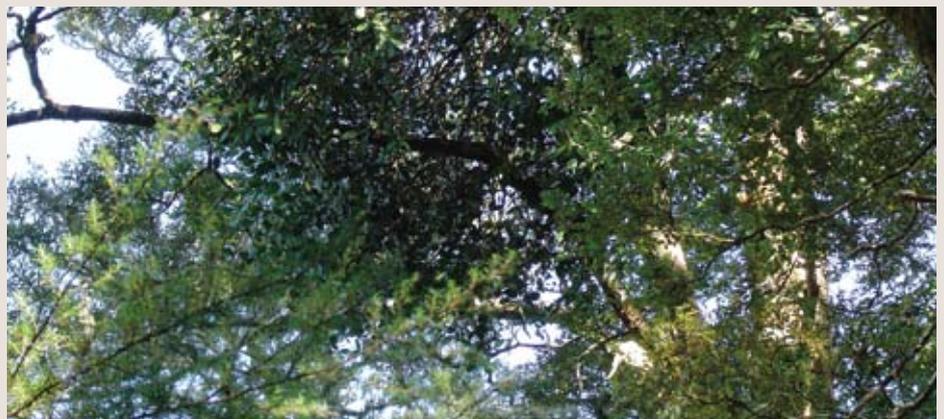


Photo: Jenny Ladley

## Awahokomo Karstland: Rabbit-proof fence

Located 10 kilometres from Kurow in the Waitaki Valley in South Canterbury, this 43ha limestone covenant owned by **Noel and Rosina Russell** has high biodiversity, geological and visual values.

Nationally critical species present include *Cardamine* aff. *bilobata*, *Carmichaelia hollowayi*, *Convolvulus* "glabrous", *Festuca* aff. *novae-zelandiae*, *Gentianella calcis* subsp. *calcis*, *Koeleria* aff. *novozelandica*, *Pachycladon exilis*, *Poa spania* and *Trisetum* aff. *lepidum*.

The nationally endangered *Oreomyrrhis basicola* is known only from this site where it is relatively common and two others in Southland where it is rare.

Right: Looking across the Awahokomo Karstland tower and its summit plateaux.



## Wellington kohekohe bush: Goat-proof fence

Adjoining Long Gully Bush Reserve which is protected with QEII covenants by the **Wellington Natural Heritage Trust**, 22ha of kohekohe and rewarewa forest in South Karori has recently been fenced with contributions from the Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and QEII. The Wellington Natural Heritage Trust managed the fencing project.

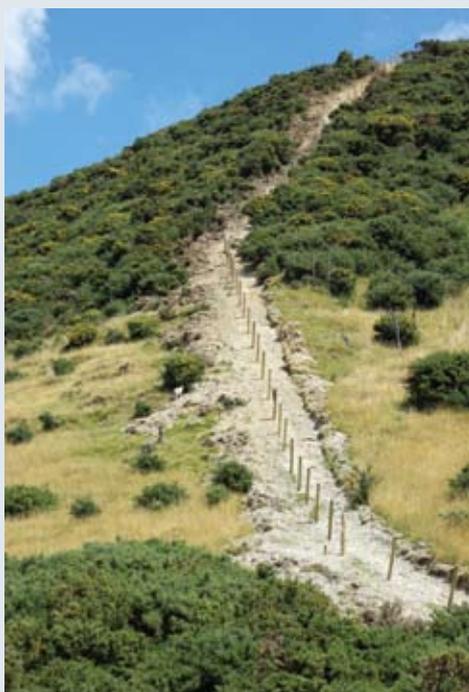


Photo: Karlene Hill



Photo: Margaret McKee

With goats, feral pigs and possums having access to the bush, the health of the native vegetation was in steep decline. The new fence (3 top wires, netting and 1 barbed wire at the bottom) will secure the bush from pigs and goats.

The kohekohe remnant is highly representative of this forest type formerly widespread in Wellington and adds significantly to the forest protected in Long Gully Bush which links to the Karori Sanctuary.



Photo: Margaret McKee



The limestone tower was readily accessed by rabbits which bred there and caused extensive damage to woody and herbaceous plants.

With funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation at Twizel, a rabbit proof fence has recently been constructed to protect the covenant. Brian Molloy, QEII High Country Regional Representative, managed the project.

The line for the fence was established in consultation with the Russell family and Department of Conservation staff, bearing in mind the need to avoid the close proximity of the limestone basement.

Alf Rapsey, a fencing contractor from Kurow, constructed the fence with wooden posts, waratahs, barbed wires and rabbit netting. It was lap-covered with local soil and limestone boulders.

The main outcome, Brian says, will be a rabbit-free site which will allow the recovery and uninhibited growth of indigenous plants, especially the threatened species.

**This outstanding covenant also featured in *Open Space* Issue 53 (biodiversity) and Issue 65 (eradication of invasive African boxthorn).**



**Top:** The south fence line showing the internal netting lap-sealed with soil and limestone boulders.

**Middle:** An example of a rabbit breach along the north fence line below loose limestone talus; a section difficult to seal and in need of strengthening and regular monitoring.

**Bottom:** A section of the north fence line on more stable talus, with netting lapped to the outside and sealed more effectively.



# Ballance Farm Environment Awards: Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

With key objectives of encouraging sustainable land management and displaying that profitability need not be compromised, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards provide role models for other farmers and practical ideas for resource management. The best examples show that environmental values can be restored and enhanced. We congratulate these winning QEII covenantors.



## Passionate about trees

Kaero cattle farmers, **Doug and Sally Lane**, winners of the Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement and the PGG Wrightson Habitat Improvement Awards, are passionate about trees for their value for protecting waterways, erosion control and for weed suppression. There are kiwi in the forest remnants protected with QEII covenants by the Lanes who contribute to pest control and management, particularly of possums and stoats, undertaken by the NZ Kiwi Foundation.



Doug and Sally Lane have initiated five QEII covenants protecting 67ha of lowland forest remnants near Kaero.

Photos: Northland BFE Awards

## A home for wetland birds

Above the headwaters of the Pataua River, **Murray and Lois Tapp**, winners of the Northland Merit Award for conservation values in pastoral farming, have protected 31ha of lowland forest and wetlands with QEII covenants. Bittern, grey teal, brown teal, New Zealand scaup and fernbirds now frequent the wetlands. 'We have always believed we need to look after the environment,' says Murray, a former QEII Regional Representative.



Photo: Northland BFE Awards

Right: Lois and Murray Tapp have created three wetland areas, undertaken significant plantings of trees and flaxes and controlled predators including possums and stoats.



Photo: Waikato BFE Awards

## Waikato Supreme Award

Piopio dairy farmers, **Derek and Marian Kloeten**, won the Waikato Supreme Award and the LIC Dairy Farm and Gallagher Innovation Awards for an excellent all-round approach to sustainability on their 243ha farm. The judges said there is a real achievement in sustainability on the farm, with a balanced perspective between lifestyle and production goals and with land practices well suited to the challenging contours.

Located in a part of the Waitomo Ecological District that has few protected areas, the Kloetens protect two remnants of rewarewa-tawa-mangeao forest with an 8ha QEII covenant.

They have a simple farming philosophy, believing three things go hand in hand – looking after the livestock, the people and the land.

Left above: Derek and Marian Kloeten

Left below: With an intensive planting programme in place, the Kloetens enjoy seeing the bush regenerating.



Photo: Malcolm MacKenzie

## Volunteers assist with bush restoration

On the south-eastern slopes of Mt Pirongia, **Barry and Pam Wise** won the PPCS Livestock, the PGG Wrightson Habitat Improvement and the Waikato Forest and Bird Native Forest Restoration Awards. A 27ha QEII covenant protects primary tawa forest remnants on their 167ha dairy grazing and organic kiwifruit farm. 'Covenanting is the right thing to do as it protects the bush and streams from stock,' says Barry. 'There are now more birds such as tui and kereru in the corridors.'



Photo: Waikato BFE Awards



Photo: Malcolm Mackenzie

**Top: Pam and Barry Wise discuss bush restoration with BFE judges, Andrea Hanna and Alan Bullick. The Native Forests Restoration Trust planting team has assisted with an extensive revegetation programme.**

**Above: Following the Manawaru Stream draining down from Mt Pirongia into the Waipa River, the covenant was fenced with contributions from the landowners, QEII and Environment Waikato.**



Photo: Tony Gates

## Bay of Plenty Supreme Award



Photo: Bay of Plenty BFE Awards



Photo: Peter McLaren

On Puriri Farm, their 272ha sheep and beef farm in Matata, **Chris and Antoinette Mountfort** won the Bay of Plenty Supreme Award and the PPCS Livestock and the Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Awards. They have an ongoing commitment to a programme of planting and environment protection in conjunction with Environment Bay of Plenty.

'We have fenced off and retired the areas around springs and streams that feed the Mimiha Stream,' says Antoinette. 'The plantings include native trees and flaxes and we have another area ready to plant.'

While the plantings have reduced grazing land, benefits include erosion control, additional shelter for stock, improved appearance of the farm and increased birdlife.

**Top left: Chris and Antoinette Mountfort with a large puriri tree behind them.**

**Left: The Mountforts have protected 21ha of primary tawa-rewarewa forest with a QEII covenant and have a further approved covenant.**

## Horizons Supreme Award

At Hihitahi northwest of Taihape, **Ian Cummings** won the Horizons Supreme Award and the PPCS Livestock and Horizons Regional Council Awards for his commitment to improving his farm for future owners, stock condition, forestry, and wetland preservation. Ian has an approved covenant on 153ha of montane podocarp-hardwood forest on his farm.

Once partially logged, the forest contains magnificent hinau, totara, rimu and miro and is surrounded by a manuka buffer that is regenerating with totara and other seedlings.

Ian's brother, Larry, has tackled the possum problem in the area including setting up a monitoring system with bait stations. The low possum numbers and stock exclusion for several years has allowed the canopy to flourish.



Photo: Tony Gates

**Above: Ian Cummings with a giant totara behind.**

**Left: The significant block of forest that is an approved open space covenant is visible from SH1 north of Taihape.**

## Award winners

### Diversification recognised

In Kawhatau Valley, 20 minutes east of Mangaweka, **Grant and Diana Baird** won the Ballance Nutrient Management and Hill Laboratories Harvest Awards for running a farming operation that is an excellent example of successful diversification. They took over the 460ha farm two years ago after working with Grant's parents, Colin and Margaret, for many years. A QEII covenant has protected a 7.8ha forest remnant since 1984.



Left: The Baird family on their farm in the Kawhatau Valley. 'We live in the most glorious place,' says Diana.

Right: With the snow-clad Ruahine Range as a backdrop, regenerating lowland forest in the Baird covenant is protected by an 8-wire (2 barbed) post and batten fence.



### Significant wetland habitat

On Mt Nicholas Station on the western shore of Lake Wakatipu southwest of Queenstown, **Robert, Linda, David and Kate Butson** won the Otago Regional Council Sustainable Resource Management Award for a successful development programme and a good understanding of matching environmental objectives with production. Mt Nicholas Lagoon, a 90ha montane lacustrine wetland, was protected by the Butson family with an open space covenant in 1992.



Top: Robert, David and Kate Butson

Bottom: Mt Nicholas Lagoon is a significant wetland habitat for a large variety of birdlife including two breeding pairs of Southern crested grebes *Podiceps cristatus*.

### Developing wetlands

**Norman and Helen McLeish** won the Southland PGG Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award for a strong focus on developing wetlands at Otautau, west of Invercargill. Norman's parents, Peter and Rosalie, have two QEII covenants protecting 59ha at Long White Lagoon; providing an excellent habitat for wildlife and supporting a wide variety of resident and migratory birds.



Above: Peter and Norman McLeish have undertaken extensive plantings in their wetlands.

For more on the winners of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, visit [www.nzfeatrust.org.nz](http://www.nzfeatrust.org.nz)

# Taranaki Environmental Awards

Covenantors **Cam and Sarah Collier** received a Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Award for sustainable land management on their sheep and beef farm near Lake Rotorangi, east of Eltham. Cam's parents protected 223ha of tawa-dominated forest in 1981 with a QEII covenant. Possum and goat control is undertaken in the covenant in conjunction with Forest and Bird.

**Below: On Lake Rotorangi, the Colliers' covenant connects to the 136ha covenant initiated by Peter Lintott and now owned by Graeme Dickson. The two covenants were registered as Taranaki's first covenants in 1981.**



Photo: Neil Phillips

On their 64ha dairy farm near Stratford, the **Morrison family** were recognised for riparian management and sustainable farming. In 1985, Bob Morrison and his late wife Norah protected a lowland primary hardwood forest remnant with a 1.6ha QEII covenant. Their son David is carrying on with environmental enhancement by fencing and planting riparian areas on the tributaries of Te Ngaere Stream and creating wetlands.

**Below: A further covenant has been approved on the Morrissions' farm for a wetland formed by a major spring. There are *Carex* species, flaxes and toetoe around the wetland, and an area of pukatea, five-finger, kamahi and mahoe.**



Photo: Neil Phillips

**Murray and Zoe Barrett** received an award for effectively managing the environmental aspects of their 220ha dairy farm south of New Plymouth. In December 2007, they protected a 2ha semi-coastal primary forest remnant with an open space covenant. With the majority of this type of forest cleared for intensive farming, the protected remnant is in an acutely threatened land environment with less than 5% of indigenous vegetation cover remaining.



Photo: Neil Phillips



Photo: Taranaki Regional Council

**Above: Murray Barrett with riparian plantings on the farm.**

**Left: Species in the dense canopy of the Barretts' covenant include kohekohe, pukatea and puriri.**

*For more on the Taranaki Environmental Awards, visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)*



# Southland QEII wetland covenants recognised for international importance

In early May, Conservation Minister Steve Chadwick congratulated local communities in Southland for their commitment to maintaining the Awarua Wetland. Now extended to 19,500ha, Awarua Wetland is recognised as being internationally important by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It is frequented by migrating and wading bird species and is home to threatened plants and insects.

'It is marvellous to see groups and communities come together to protect this diverse area. Awarua raises the bar for wetland restoration and expansion in New Zealand,' said Steve Chadwick.

With bog, swamp, shrubland, forest, red tussock, sand dunes, mudflats and estuary habitats, the Awarua Wetland includes private land as well as public land. At the celebration, three QEII wetland covenants were recognised for being part of the Ramsar site.



Photo: Jenny Campbell



Photo: Chris and Brian Rance

Top: Second from left, Hon Steve Chadwick, Minister of Conservation, with QEII covenantors Ian and Jenny Gamble, Chris and Brian Rance, and Russell Nicol, with their Ramsar certificates which recognise the international importance of their wetland covenants.

Bottom: At Otatara, 5km from Invercargill, Chris and Brian Rance have restored a wetland beside their coastal podocarp forest remnant that is protected with a 3ha QEII covenant.

Top right: Jenny and Ian Gamble have open space covenants at Otatara protecting 4.3ha of coastal wetland of particularly high value, with sequences from estuarine rushland to shrubland and then primary podocarp forest. Ian is shown at the manuka interface in the wetland.

Right: On the eastern edge of the extended Ramsar site, 30km southeast of Invercargill, the threatened species *Coprosma pedicellata* can be found in the swamp area of Russell Nicol's 30ha podocarp-hardwood forest covenant.

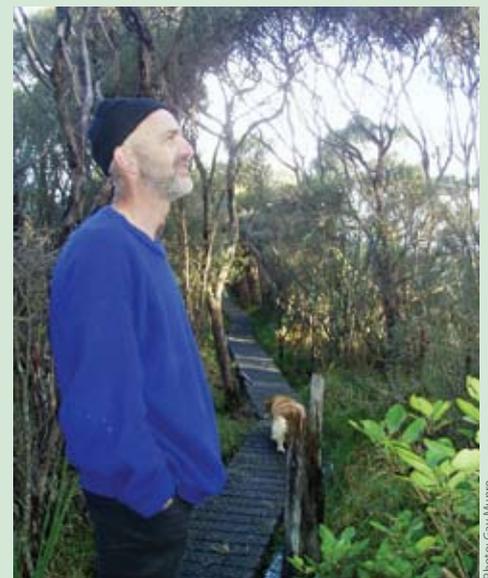


Photo: Gay Munro



Photo: Gay Munro

# Khan's initiative protects habitat of the threatened peripatus

In 2006, students at Weber School in the Taranaki District completed a research project with the help of an adult mentor. **Khan Coleman's** project involved researching the protection of an area of bush in Wimbleton with a QEII covenant. The landowner, **Brian Hales**, supported him in reaching his goal.

During Khan's field research, he made an amazing discovery; he found two specimens of the rare peripatus. At the age of 12, Khan won first equal place in the 2006 YHA Young Conservationist Awards for finding these caterpillar-like creatures and for his efforts in protecting their habitat.

In January, 0.3ha of primary podocarp-broadleaved forest named **Khans Bush** was protected by Brian with a QEII covenant. Students from Weber School laid the fence line and on each post is a nameplate of the child who laid it. There are also a number of carved totara guardians around the covenant, representing those involved with protecting the bush including QEII and Horizons Regional Council.

'It is awesome that protecting this bush as a habitat for peripatus was Khan's initiative,' says Brian. 'It's all about a young boy making a discovery which created a need to protect the habitat forever. The children from Weber School will be able to come back in seventy years time and still find the bush here.'



Above: Khan Coleman and Brian Hales at Khans Bush, protected in perpetuity with a QEII covenant. The fence was constructed with contributions from the landowner, Horizons Regional Council and QEII.

Below right: Khan and Brian with Khan's carved totara guardian.



Below left: The threatened peripatus (ngaokoeko, velvet worm) is an ancient forest creature in the Onychophora order, a sister group to the arthropods. Found only in the southern hemisphere, peripatus is nocturnal and lives in leaf litter and rotten logs.



All Photos: Bill Wallace

# Atiu Creek: Public access to unspoilt open space on the Kaipara

In an extraordinary gesture of generosity, **Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat** gifted Atiu Creek Farm on the Kaipara Harbour to the people of New Zealand. Protected by a QEII covenant, ownership of the 841ha property passed to the Auckland Regional Council so that future generations may enjoy access in perpetuity to this unspoilt open space.



Photo: Auckland Regional Council



Photo: Auckland Regional Council

Above: The Governor-General The Honourable Anand Satyanand officially opened Atiu Creek Regional Park on 5 April. From left, His Excellency with Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat, QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore and Auckland Regional Council Chairman Michael Lee.

Left: Sir Brian Lochore expressed QEII's appreciation of the foresight of private landowners like Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat who protect open space with QEII covenants in perpetuity.

## Visual values of Te Anau wetland protected



Photo: Mark Sutton

Above: The scenic landscape of Pyramid Wetland on Eweburn Farm north of Te Anau, was protected with a 20ha open space covenant by Landcorp Farming Limited in April. The protected wetland can be seen from Sinclair Road.

# Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February to 31 May 2008

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District council
Candy	167.9	F	Far North
Carr (x2)	33.0	F	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited	128.5	W	Far North
Owen (x2)	4.1	F,S	Far North
Poulton	17.0	F,S	Far North
RPNZ Properties Limited	11.4	F,S	Far North
Callander (x3)	8.9	F	Whangarei
Gwyn & Petherick	2.5	F	Whangarei
Mase & Hayes	2.8	S,W	Whangarei
Timperley Road Holdings Limited et al (x4)	13.1	F,S	Whangarei
Geddes & Olsson	2.8	F,W	Kaipara
Matheson	9.2	F	Kaipara
Hay	1.1	F,W	Rodney
Wightman Developments Limited	4.1	F,W	Rodney
Carrier	1.3	F	Auckland
Meager	0.3	F	Auckland
Didovich	1.8	F	Franklin
Nikau Bros Limited	2.6	F,T	Franklin
Ambreed N.Z. Limited	19.8	L	Waikato
Wilson & Smith	7.5	F	Waikato
Lockerbie Farm Limited	3.6	T	Matamata-Piako
Van Der Valk	14.6	F	Waipa
Gray	1.9	F,G,S	South Waikato
Blundell	2.6	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Christiansen	5.7	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Henry	0.3	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Lusby	0.2	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Riddington	3.5	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Seddon	17.8	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Landcorp Farming Limited	9.9	S,W	Rotorua
Hamlett	2.1	S	Rotorua
Harty	0.2	F	Otorohanga
NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust Incorporated	104.0	G,T	Waitomo
Tatham	11.7	F,L	Waitomo
Landcorp Farming Limited	90.3	F	Gisborne
Murphy	4.3	F	Gisborne
Landcorp Farming Limited	1.8	F	Wairoa
Riversdale Pastoral Limited	20.8	F	Wairoa
Waituku Holdings Limited	1.5	T	Wairoa

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District council
Beamish & Padman	7.2	F	Hastings
Heretaunga Trustees Limited	18.5	F,S	Hastings
Wills & Davidson	39.7	F	Hastings
Blackwell	0.8	F	New Plymouth
Brough	0.2	F	New Plymouth
Halcombe & Seed	0.5	W	New Plymouth
Hill's Valley Limited	0.2	F	New Plymouth
Jury	3.1	F	New Plymouth
Kaipikari Farm Limited	0.7	W	New Plymouth
Lynch	3.5	F	New Plymouth
Peters	2.1	F	New Plymouth
Vertical Horizon Camp	2.0	F	New Plymouth
Caskey, Prankerd & Armitstead	1.1	W	Stratford
Riddle & Mansvelt	1.4	F	South Taranaki
Jones, Fluker & Brandon	1.7	F	Horowhenua
Blair & Macdonald	0.6	W	Kapiti Coast
Fisher & Caughley	1.4	F	Kapiti Coast
Fraser	0.5	F	Kapiti Coast
Jentime Holdings Limited	2.0	F	Kapiti Coast
Blatchford	3.2	F,W	Tararua
Ireland & Olesen	59.4	F	Tararua
Thomson & Smyth	4.7	F,T	Tararua
Wyfield Farm Limited	8.9	F	Tararua
Stuart	4.8	F,W	Masterton
Skerman, De Lautour, Todd & Murphy	12.9	A,L,T	South Wairarapa
Krammer	5.7	F	Tasman
Smith	8.7	F	Tasman
West Coast (Dairy) Limited	202.3	F,L,W	Grey
Macfarlane & Dawson	2.5	F	Hurunui
Mount Alexander Farm Limited	15.1	S	Hurunui
The Gama Foundation	63.1	G,L,S	Selwyn
Ben Avon Run Co. Limited	1.7	W	Waitaki
Bushey Park (Otago) Limited	11.7	F	Waitaki
Rousselot & Rebmann	18.8	S,T	Dunedin
Scott	6.2	F	Dunedin
Feldwick Pastoral Limited (x2)	31.4	F,T	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited (x6)	197.8	F,S,W	Southland
Wairaki Station Limited	19.7	F	Southland

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

## Covenants by Regional Council – 31 May 2008

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	489	71	8,694	417	15.5
Auckland	500,000	205	44	3,972	841	16.0
Waikato	2,500,000	428	108	16,105	645	30.0
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	147	14	10,437	6,564	64.8
Gisborne	826,500	97	18	4,173	1,104	36.3
Taranaki	723,600	168	46	3,263	334	15.2
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	182	39	11,814	4,606	53.5
Horizons	2,221,500	251	47	7,176	276	24.1
Wellington	813,000	240	41	5,997	824	21.3
Tasman	978,600	102	20	2,192	641	18.0
Nelson	42,100	8	4	326	140	27.2
Marlborough	1,049,500	44	12	1,829	182	32.7
West Coast	2,300,000	34	9	1,798	619	41.8
Canterbury	4,220,000	186	40	13,067	1,679	57.8
Otago	3,200,000	123	31	10,292	2,735	66.8
Southland	3,035,000	168	52	5,478	214	24.9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,872</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>106,614</b>		<b>30.7</b>



Photo: Matt Walters

## National Pollination Survey of Tree Fuchsia

The purpose of this survey, which is part of ongoing research by Landcare Research, the Department of Conservation and University of Canterbury, is to measure the health of bird-plant mutualisms by using pollination of tree fuchsia *Fuchsia excorticata* as an indicator.

The survey measures the bright blue pollen load on the stigma of hermaphrodite flowers (left). Female flowers (right) do not release pollen. If you find tree fuchsia flowers in the flowering season from July-August to December, you can help by completing the survey. Sampling earlier in the season is usually best.

To find out how to complete the survey, visit:  
[www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/pollination\\_survey/index.shtml](http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/pollination_survey/index.shtml)

## Regional representatives

### Wellington



**Lisa Clapcott**, the new Regional Representative for Wellington, combines her background in eco-tourism guiding throughout New Zealand with a strong personal interest in native flora and fauna and conservation. She lives with her partner Matt in the semi-rural community of Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast. Lisa is a part-owner of an eight hectare bush block in Lewis Pass and her interests are cycle touring, mountain biking and tramping.



Photo: Kerlene Hill

### South Canterbury



**Rob Smith** is the new South Canterbury Regional Representative. He knows the area well having spent the last 25 years tramping, fishing and taking students into the region. As well as his QEII work, he is a financial adviser and a councillor of Aoraki Polytechnic in Timaru. Rob lives with his partner Karen on a small block in rural Waimate and is a part-owner of a QEII covenant in the Marlborough Sounds.



Photo: Margaret McKee

**Tupare**, a formal landscaped garden on the outskirts of New Plymouth, is protected with a 3.6ha QEII covenant by the Taranaki Regional Council. In March, QEII directors and staff toured Tupare.

Above: **Greg Rine**, Regional Gardens Manager, explained the comprehensive upgrade being undertaken by the council including garden refurbishment and improved facilities.

Left: **Sir Brian Lochore**, QEII Chairperson, with **Basil Chamberlain**, Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

**Jo Ritchie**, QEII director, enjoys kayaking in the open space covenant protected by Ross and Raewyn Symes in South Taranaki (see page 3).

### Enjoy a break on Aroha Island



In the Bay of Islands, 12km from Kerikeri.

- Camping, cottage accommodation or B&B in the lodge
- Information centre
- Kiwi night walks and kayaking.

For more details, visit

[www.aroha.net.nz](http://www.aroha.net.nz)

e-mail [kiwi@aroha.net.nz](mailto:kiwi@aroha.net.nz) or call 09 407 5243

# 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](mailto:info@openspace.org.nz) or phone 04 472 6626, or from outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367).

## QEII National Trust Membership Application

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

Address .....

Postcode ..... Phone (0 ) ..... Email .....

### Membership Type (please tick)

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

Corporate – business \$75

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:

<input type="text"/>									
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

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

Total \$ .....  Please send a receipt

For direct debit option, please email [info@openspace.org.nz](mailto: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 3,500 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 Covenants and Local Government Rates – Best Practice Recommendation* under *Resources/Publications* on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://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: White mistletoe *Tupeia antarctica* on marbleleaf (putaputaweta) in a lowland primary forest remnant in Dovedale, inland Nelson. Protected with a 10.6ha QEII covenant in June 2007 by Ian Hannen and Elaine Newman and Ian's daughter Christine, the remnant contains three mistletoe species and is possibly the best fruiting source in the area for collecting white mistletoe seeds.**



Photo: Philip Lisaman

# Unspoiled limestone formations in Nikau Cave

In spectacular limestone country in Waikaretu Valley, southwest of Tuakau, **Philip and Anne Woodward** and **Nikau Bros Limited** have protected four lowland podocarp forest remnants and an exceptional limestone cave with QEII open space covenants.

Philip and Anne have been on their sheep and beef farm for 30 years. 'We wanted to protect the cave in its natural state and QEII was the best avenue,' says Philip. Their first covenant was registered in 1986 and the latest in February 2008.

Nikau Cave has been open to visitors for 14 years, with a one kilometre tour following a stream, passing unspoiled stalactites and stalagmites including giant pillars, fine straws and flowing shawls. Glow worms and their dewy threads abound.

The cave is an easy adventure, with a ten metre crawl partway through, stream walking, and a bit of boulder hopping. Good average fitness is required.

'Our tours are small and personal and limited to ten per guide,' says Philip. 'People enjoy the challenge of exploring this special place.'

**Nikau Cave is in Waikaretu off SH22, 50 minutes from Tuakau. The guided tour is \$30 for adults and \$15 for schoolchildren. Hand-held torches and helmets are provided. B&B and backpackers accommodation is also available.**

**For more details and to book, phone 09 233 3199, email [info@nikaucave.co.nz](mailto:info@nikaucave.co.nz) or visit [www.nikaucave.co.nz](http://www.nikaucave.co.nz)**

**Middle right: After their Nikau Cave adventure, visitors can relax in the café with stunning views of limestone outcrops.**

**Bottom right: Visitors to Nikau Cave, named after nikau forest protected by QEII covenants, are welcome to walk the bush tracks on the farm.**



Photo: Amos Chapple

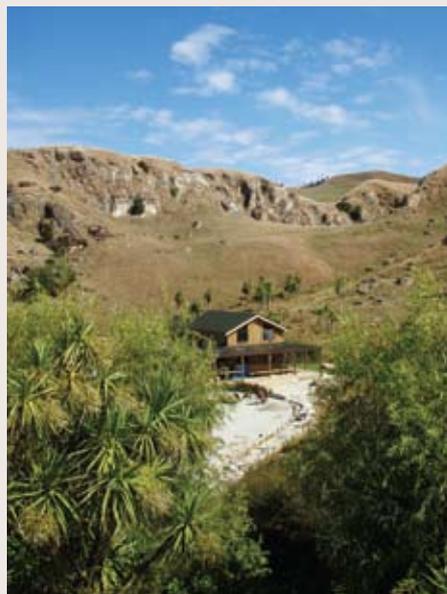


Photo: Richard Drake



Photo: Hamish Dean



Photo: Amos Chapple

**Top and above: Visitors appreciate the natural state of Nikau Cave, remarking that it's an awesome experience.**