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Focus on Kaipara and North Canterbury | Annual Report | Covenants on Dairy Farms

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Helping you protect the special nature of your land



QEII National Trust
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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 fence under construction on a difficult fence line around a gully in Stephen and Phoebe Field's totara forest covenant in Hurunui. See page 12 for more about this fence.

Photo: Miles Giller

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII Trust) is a statutory organisation independent from Government and managed by a Board of Directors. QEII Trust is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Registration number: CC28488.

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Farm management in the Far North improved by protecting wetlands

Over fifty Far North landowners were acknowledged on 23 July for their commitment to protecting natural features with QEII covenants.

Along with council and Department of Conservation staff and others involved with QEII, the covenantors were invited to **Landcorp Farming Limited's** Sweetwater Station west of Kaitia for a tour of protected wetlands on the property.

The 2,460ha station has three dairy farms with 3,000 milking cows plus 2,000 cattle on the hills. Landcorp has recently protected 282 hectares of wetlands and dune lakes on the station with covenants, including the 129 hectare Tangonge Wetland.

'QEII covenantors in the Far North now protect 4,500 hectares with 150 covenants,' said Yvonne Sharp, Acting QEII Trust Chairperson. 'It is wonderful to work with the dedicated landowners who are protecting our unique habitats and features.'

Greg Blunden, QEII Far North Regional Representative, said wetlands, forest remnants and coastal landscapes are just some of the areas protected, with kiwi habitats adding an extra layer in the region.

Mark Johnson, Sweetwater Station Farm Business Manager, said that retiring the wetlands and fencing them off has improved farm management.

'Protecting the wetlands and dune lakes has improved water quality,' he said. 'As the cows cannot now access the wetlands, they are less subject to liver fluke. They also cannot swim through the lakes to gain access to other feeding areas.'



Above: Yvonne Sharp, Acting QEII Trust Chairperson, and Gerry Soanes, Landcorp National Manager Property, opened the Sweetwater Station QEII covenants.



Above: At the far right, Mark Johnson, Sweetwater Station Farm Business Manager, explained to Far North covenantors how retiring the wetlands has improved farm management. QEII directors, Yvonne Sharp and Jo Ritchie, are at the left.



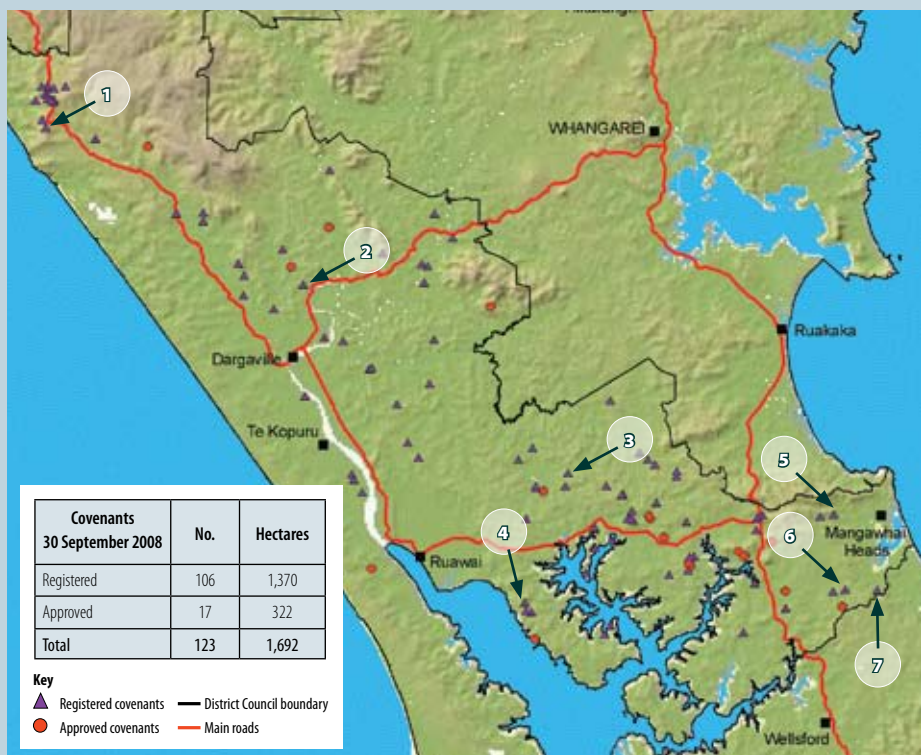
Above: Windmill Lake consists of two connected dune lakes, one a dry manuka wetland with dune hollows and the other an open water reed lake. A 44ha covenant now protects twenty separate dune lakes on Sweetwater Dairy 1 Unit.

All Photos: Loralee Hyde

Kaipara

Ecosystems in Kaipara range from estuaries, wetlands, coastal forests and shrubland to podocarp, broadleaf and kauri forests. These habitats support a rich diversity of wildlife including North Island brown kiwi, kukupa (New Zealand pigeon) and the endemic kauri snail. Just north of the region, Waipoua Forest, part of the public conservation estate, is home to Tane Mahuta, the largest living kauri.

Much of the bush and shrubland in Kaipara has been lost to timber milling and clearance for agriculture. Loss continues with subdivision and urban development, particularly in eastern coastal areas. Volcanic broadleaf and alluvial flood forests have been severely diminished, with only small remnants remaining.



- Waipoua Forest Trust**
Lowland forest and landscape, geological and cultural values
- Sybilla Schoonderwoerd**
Podocarp-broadleaf forest
- Graeme and Joanne Carter**
Podocarp-hardwood forest
- Ross and Jill Amesbury**
Semi-coastal forest
- Wayne and Barbara Jeffs**
Podocarp-kauri forest
- John and Gale Matheson**
Ilan and Jocelyn Blackwell
Podocarp-kauri forest
- Donn and Jill Olsson and Irene Geddes**
Semi-coastal wetland and forest

Protecting the mighty kauri with QEII covenants

Around 1,000 years ago, kauri covered much of the top half of the North Island. Now it is found mainly in Northland and Coromandel.

One of the largest trees in the world, kauri occurs on infertile sites such as ridge crests and leached soils of plateaus. Kauri forest is home to other trees including totara, taraire, kohekohe, towai and rata, with a diverse understorey and shrub layers beneath the canopy. Dense stands of kauri grass and gahnia can be found underneath mature kauri.



Photo: Nick Matich

In Kaipara, 59 registered and nine approved QEII covenants protect kauri forest, a total of 724 hectares.

Nick Matich, QEII Kaipara Regional Representative, says protecting kauri in Kaipara is pertinent as it is one of the main indigenous species and has immense historic value. 'Covenanting with QEII is the ideal way to protect the remaining kauri on private land for the future,' he says.

Left: Mighty kauri in Ian and Jocelyn Blackwell's 5ha covenant east of Kaiwaka with Nick Matich providing the perspective.

Covenants benefit the kauri snail



Kauri snails *Paryphanta* spp. (pupurangi) belong to the group of northern giant land snails. Once widespread in Northland before human settlement, they are now in gradual decline.

The snail inhabits moist areas of forest and native scrub. It is carnivorous and cannibalistic with a diet of earthworms, insects, insect larvae and snails.

Protecting forest and scrub with QEII covenants benefits the kauri snail. Fencing stops stock from trampling and crushing them. Predators such as rodents and pigs eat the snails, so pest control also helps populations to recover.

Kauri snails are known to be present in 21 registered and three approved covenants in Northland.

Rare coastal wetland and forest saved

South of Mangawhai Village, semi-coastal wetland and forest was protected by **Donn and Jill Olsson and Irene Geddes** with a 3ha covenant in May 2008. The area forms part of the wetland tributaries leading into the southern Mangawhai estuary.

Donn says that with a move from sheep to cattle four years ago, trees were being damaged by cattle browsing. 'We didn't want to see trees such as kauri, kahikatea, rimu and totara lost, as there are not many blocks of forest left in this valley.'

'We don't own the land, we just look after it,' explains Donn. 'Covenanting has ensured the forest and wetland are now protected.'



Photo: Nick Matich



Photo: Donn Olsson

Top: The 7-wire post and batten fence protecting the forest and wetland from stock was funded by Donn and Jill Olsson and Irene Geddes, QEII and the Northland Regional Council.

Above: The raupo dominant wetland, now rare vegetation in the Rodney Ecological District, drains into the southern end of the Mangawhai estuary.

Spectacular kowhai grove

Ross and Jill Amesbury protected 18ha of semi-coastal forest and scrubland on their farm west of Hukatere with two QEII covenants in 2007. Very few areas in the Otamatea Ecological District are protected and the kanuka-manuka scrubland is one of the best examples of its type in the district. With kauri, kukupa and kauri snails, the covenants form valuable habitat links to the nearby Hukatere Reserve.

'The areas were the least economic parts of the farm and the best thing to do was to protect them,' says Ross. 'It was something we really wanted to do.'



Photo: Ross Amesbury. Inset photo: Nick Matich



Photo: Nick Matich

Top: Regeneration is rapid now that fencing is completed around the 8ha Kowhai Grove covenant. Much of the canopy is kowhai, a spectacular sight when in flower.

Above: The Amesburys have subdivided an area of marginal land, with the lots having shares in the 10ha covenant which has a walkway through the protected kauri, totara and kahikatea forest.

Connected covenants aid regeneration

Inland from Mangawhai, **Wayne and Barbara Jeffs** protected lowland podocarp-kauri forest with a 5.5ha open space covenant in August 2007. The covenant also protects the headwaters of a tributary of the Tara Stream which flows into Mangawhai Harbour.

The bush area was previously grazed as part of a dairy farm. Proximity to the 417ha **Marunui Conservation Limited** covenant means there is a good seed source for regeneration.

'It's a beautiful piece of native bush and the regrowth is doing well,' says Wayne.

Below left: The podocarp-kauri forest remnant protected by Wayne and Barbara Jeffs connects to the Marunui Conservation covenant beyond, providing a food source for kukupa and tui.

Below right: Fenced in 2003, the forest is now regenerating with kauri, rimu, kahikatea, totara, tanekaha and kanuka.



All photos: Nick Matich

Protecting remaining kauri and totara

In an area where there are few kauri left, **Graeme and Joanne Carter** protected lowland podocarp-hardwood forest with a 2.5ha covenant on their 120ha dairy farm at Ararua in January 2008. The covenant protects mature kauri and totara and provides a valuable habitat linkage to nearby covenants and bush blocks.

'I've always hunted in the bush and it was time to put something back,' says Graeme.



Photo: Nick Matich

Photo: Graeme Carter

'The bush is an asset and it's wonderful to see it protected forever. When we take visitors through the bush, they are astounded by the beautiful kauri and kanuka.

'We plan to look at covenanting more bush in the future to ensure it will always be there.'

Above left: The 7-wire fence constructed with contributions from QEII, the landowners and Northland Regional Council protects mature kauri and tall kanuka from stock grazing.

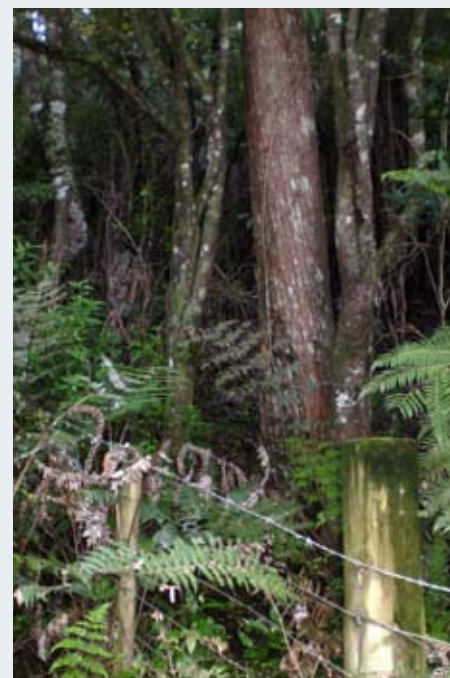
Above right: Graeme and Joanne Carter's two-year-old grandson, Braedyn, gazes in awe at the size of an ancient totara in the protected forest.

'Stepping stone' remnants

Sybilla Schoonderwoerd has two QEII covenants protecting lowland podocarp-broadleaf forest east of Dargaville. On her beef farm, the first covenant has protected 1.1ha of karaka, taraire and kahikatea since 2004. A food source for tui and kukupa, this small remnant is all that is left of the alluvial floodplain forest in the area.

In January 2008, a remnant on Sybilla's run-off farm was protected with a 3.6ha covenant. Highly representative of Kaipara Ecological District vegetation, it is also habitat for kauri snails.

'My late husband was a great nature lover,' says Sybilla. 'The forest is now protected for future generations.'



All Photos: Nick Matich

Top: The vegetation in Sybilla Schoonderwoerd's second covenant is diverse and healthy as fencing has excluded stock for many years.

Above: The remnant with kauri, kahikatea, rimu, totara, puriri and taraire is contiguous with other forest to the west and north, providing a protected 'stepping stone' between habitats.

Kauri forest saved from development

East of Kaiwaka, land is highly valued for productive farming and lifestyle blocks, giving remaining forest remnants added importance. On their 204ha dry stock and sheep farm, **John and Gale Matheson** protected two blocks of podocarp-kauri forest with a 9ha QEII covenant in May 2008.

'The bush was grazed when we came here 14 years ago,' says Gale. 'We fenced it off with a one-wire electric fence and were amazed by the fast regeneration.'

'There are about five hundred kauri in the bush with some big, mature trees. John said "let's protect the bush from development" when the farm next to us was subdivided.'

Below left: The Mathesons' covenant protects a very diverse range of species including mature kauri, kahikatea, rimu, totara, puriri, manao and kanuka. Manao is an unusual species for this region; this is the only covenant known to protect it in Kaipara.

Along with the adjoining 5ha covenant recently registered by **Ian and Jocelyn Blackwell**, a significant kauri and podocarp forest ecosystem is now saved from development by being protected with open space covenants in perpetuity.

Below right: Fully fenced in early 2008, there is already an improvement in the forest condition. John and Gale have found eight different orchids in their covenant.



All photos: Nick Matich

Neighbour helps with weed control

Adding to six open space covenants protecting 155ha of regenerating forest, a further **Waipoua Forest Trust** covenant was registered in March 2007. This 60ha covenant protecting Pukemiro Ridge near Aranga is mainly open pasture, with springs at the upper south end feeding a central gully and small waterfalls on volcanic rock. To the north, the covenant links to the Department of Conservation Katui Reserve.

'The first priority for managing the site is to get on top of the kikuyu,' says Stephen King, Restoration Project Manager. 'It will be another two years before we start restoration of the natural vegetation.'

'We are also spraying ten different weeds on the boundaries including Himalayan honeysuckle, cotoneaster and jasmine so they don't invade the covenant. A neighbour to the south, Lester Appleton, has also helped by cutting down privet on his farm.'



All Photos: Nick Matich

Lester says the invasion of privet in the district can be traced back to the original source at gumdiggers' shacks on his property. 'The gumdiggers planted the first privet as a windbreak around 1906,' he explains. 'I'm hoping that getting rid of the privet on my farm will act as a catalyst for the rest of the district to do the same.'

Stephen adds that the concept of reaching out to the neighbourhood and explaining the benefits of weed control and biosecurity helps with the management of indigenous habitats protected by open space covenants.

Top left: This spring on Pukemiro Ridge is a feature in the latest Waipoua Forest covenant which also protects landscape, geological and cultural values.

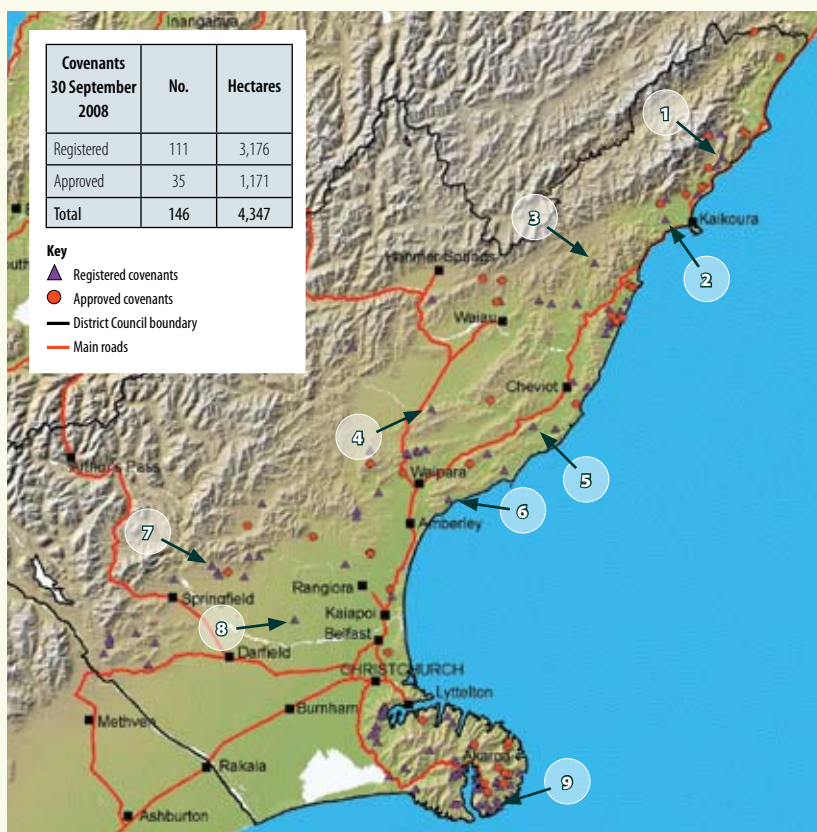
Left: The view south from Pukemiro Ridge. The covenant provides a natural interpretive platform with a view of the full rohe (tribal area) of the traditional guardians of Waipoua Forest, Te Iwi O Te Roroa, from Tutamoe, Tokatoka and Ripiro Beach in the south to the Waima Range in the north.

North Canterbury

'There are so many different facets to Canterbury,' says Miles Giller, QEII North Canterbury Regional Representative. 'From the coastal landscapes of Kaikoura and Hurunui to beech forest, limestone outcrops, the volcanic rocks of Banks Peninsula and the dry plains, every area and every covenant is unique.'

'The biodiversity of the Canterbury Plains is very modified with just fragments of the original vegetation remaining. QEII covenants are ideal for protecting what does remain; not just forest remnants but the shrubland, turfs and mosses on our dry east coast.'

Miles represents QEII on the Advisory Group to the Canterbury Region Biodiversity Strategy. Launched in March 2008, the focus of this strategy is on protecting and maintaining what remains, and then on restoring what has been lost. For more details, visit www.canterburybiodiversity.org.nz



High value kanuka protected

Highly representative of the kanuka forest, shrubland and savannah-grasslands that used to dominate the area following early Māori fires, the 2.3ha Langstone Kanuka Covenant on Eyrewell Station west of Kaiapoi was protected by **Landcorp Farming Limited** in 2006.

Such remnants are now scarce on the Canterbury Plains. Being of very high value, this covenant needs more intensive management than most. Several exotic grass species in the covenant are being progressively controlled by an appropriate sheep grazing management regime. Timely and careful gorse control is also essential to allow the kanuka to regenerate.

Right: Now protected by the Langstone Kanuka Covenant, this plains kanuka is an undescribed entity, currently known as *Kunzea* aff. *ericoides* 'species C'.

Far right top: Gary Blay from Waimakariri District Council and Gerry Soanes, Landcorp National Manager Property, examine bryophytes (mosses) which feature on the margins of the kanuka.

Far right bottom: In the grasslands, the covenant protects *Leptinella squalida* and *Leptinella serrulata* (dryland button daisy, in gradual decline), both creeping, perennial herbs forming small tufted patches, and *Dichondra repens*.

- Ken and Margaret Hamilton**
Lowland forest and treefernland
- Trevor Bolton and Nicola Montgomery**
Semi-coastal freshwater lake and wetlands
- Eniscote Farm Limited Hurunui District Council**
Lowland shrubland
- Mount Alexander Farm Limited**
Montane shrubland and scrub (see page 22)
- Stephen and Phoebe Field**
Totara forest
- Tiromoana Bush**
Semi-coastal and lowland forest and wetlands
- John and Rosalie Wardle**
Beech and exotic conifer forest
- Landcorp Farming Limited**
Kanuka forest and grasslands
- Mark and Sonia Armstrong**
Coastal shrubland, kanuka and broadleaved forest



Unique Kaikoura rainforest

On their 490ha sheep and cattle farm northeast of Kaikoura, **Ken and Margaret Hamilton** have protected two forest remnants with QEII covenants. Their first covenant protected 7ha of podocarp-hardwood forest in December 2006. Highly representative of the former forest in the area with totara, kahikatea, mahoe and kanuka, it is one of the least modified remnants of its type remaining.

In October 2007, the Hamiltons protected 3ha of lowland podocarp-broadleaved forest and treefernland with a further covenant. The remnant has been fenced off and managed for many years in conjunction with the adjacent Blue Duck Scientific Reserve. A beech portion that was once logged has recovered to near-primary composition and appearance.

On the south side of the Seaward Kaikoura Range, the climate is not typical of the east coast. With a high rainfall that is more representative of the west coast, the covenant is very different from others in the region.

'The bush is unique and we wanted to protect it to make sure the trees are not taken out in the future,' says Margaret.

Top right: Ken Hamilton in front of the 3ha podocarp-broadleaved forest covenant. The adjoining Blue Duck Scientific Reserve lies beyond.



Above: In the Hamiltons' covenant, the epiphytic *Collospermum hastatum* (kahakaha) is approaching its southern limit on the east coast.

Right: The covenant has high biodiversity values with black beech *Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*, podocarps including totara, rimu, miro and matai, 37 fern species recorded to date, epiphytes, kereru, karearea and tui.



All Photos: Miles Giller

Rare wetland preserved in open farmland

Very few lowland wetlands remain in the Hundalee Ecological District. Just west of Kaikoura on a dairy farm now owned by **Trevor Bolton and Nicola Montgomery**, the 13.6ha Rotoiti Wetland covenant has protected a semi-coastal freshwater lake, wetland and revegetated hillslope since January 2008.

A successful drilling and poisoning programme to control crack willows was

undertaken by the previous owner, **Stephen Young**. He also set up a restoration programme on the hillslopes surrounding the wetland, planting kanuka, cabbage trees and coprosma.

'This is a very high quality wetland,' says Miles Giller, QEII Regional Representative. 'It provides an excellent example of very good willow control and good restoration planting.'

Below left: The Rotoiti Wetland lake is an important habitat for feeding, roosting and breeding of open water divers, waterfowl, gulls and terns.

Middle below: Fenced off from stock, the water body is in excellent condition with a healthy fringe of sedges, rushes and reeds.

Below right: Magnificent pedestalled pukio in the sedgeland. The covenant also protects *Melicytus* aff. *alpinus* 'Waipapa' (in gradual decline).



All Photos: Miles Giller

Public access a major focus in the 300-year vision for a restoration project

Although it was farmed as part of the Tiromoana Station for 150 years, the **Tiromoana Bush** covenant north-east of Amberley is rich in landscape and natural values with substantial areas of regenerating semi-coastal and lowland forest and wetlands.

As part of the establishment of the Kate Valley Landfill, Tiromoana Bush was protected with a 407ha open space covenant in July 2006. Transwaste Canterbury, a joint public-private venture between six Canterbury councils and two private waste companies, is funding a long-term project to restore the forests and wetlands.

Developed by Dr David Norton of the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury, the plan has a 300-year vision for restoring Tiromoana Bush to coastal broadleaved, mixed podocarp-broadleaved and black beech forests, where plants and animals typical of the Motunau Ecological District can persist without threat of extinction, and where people can visit for recreation.

'The planning and oversight of David Norton provides the ecological expertise required to restore the area,' says Miles Giller, who represents QEII on the Tiromoana Bush Advisory Group.

'This protected open space will provide tremendous recreational, educational and scientific opportunities for present and future generations.'

Right: Public use is a major focus of the restoration project with access for walkers on the Tiromoana Bush Walkway which links Mt Cass Road to the coast.

Below: Tiromoana means 'to view the sea', a reflection of the outstanding views from the covenant across Pegasus Bay and to Banks Peninsula.

For more details of the vision for Tiromoana Bush and the walkway, visit www.tiromoanabush.co.nz



Photo: David Norton



Managing beech forest for ecological sustainability

In 1973, **John and Rosalie Wardle** took over a rundown property in the foothills northwest of Oxford. The original black beech forest was logged and burnt at the turn of the 20th century. By 1914 when it was taken up on a grazing permit, the farm was bare of trees except in a few steep gullies. Demonstrating that black beech forest regenerates naturally quite rapidly, more than half of the area had reverted to beech forest by 1974.

With an aim of producing a steady yield of high-quality timber, the Wardles have developed a forest management plan

with ecological sustainability in mind for the entire 120ha property, now consisting of 70ha of productive beech forest, 14ha of beech reserves that will be left untouched, and 29ha of pine forest. A dwelling, pasture and tracks make up the balance.

John, the author of *The New Zealand Beeches* in 1984, harvests the beech in small blocks which subsequently regenerate rapidly. This strategy minimises damage to the forest biodiversity.

In July 2008, Woodside Forest was protected with a 120ha QEII covenant. 'Woodside is a wonderful example of how natural and exotic forest can be sustainably managed for production forestry and biodiversity protection,' says Miles Giller, QEII Regional Representative.



Shrubland, bluff landscape, and public access preserved

South-west of Kaikoura in an area previously without QEII covenants, the 12.5ha Spey Creek Covenant was registered by **Eniscote Farm Limited** in September 2007. With scrub and shrubland vegetation on rock bluffs, this covenant is quite different to others in the region.

Adjoining the covenant, the **Hurunui District Council** has protected strips of riparian land on each side of the Spey River with a 4ha Landscape Protection Agreement.

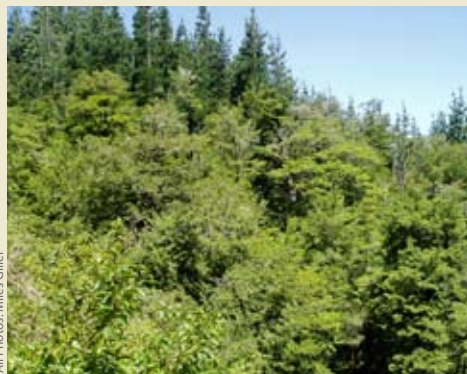
'One of our main reasons for protecting the area was to make sure the public can continue to access the waterholes in the Spey River,' says Euan Godsiff.

Another benefit of the covenant on the 680ha sheep, beef and deer farm is the fencing which excludes stock from the protected area. 'The fence helps with farm management as stock can no longer get into the gorge and hide in the vegetation,' Euan explains. 'On this land, growth of the native vegetation is slow even with the stock excluded. But weeds such as broom grow fast and we are controlling that with help from the council.'

Top right: Euan Godsiff above the Spey River. Species protected by the covenant and Landscape Protection Agreement include *Pachystegia B* (see page 31), *Heliohebe hulkeana*, *Brachyglottis monroi* and *Melicytus aff. crassifolius*. The snail *Wainuia edwardi* (in gradual decline) is also present.

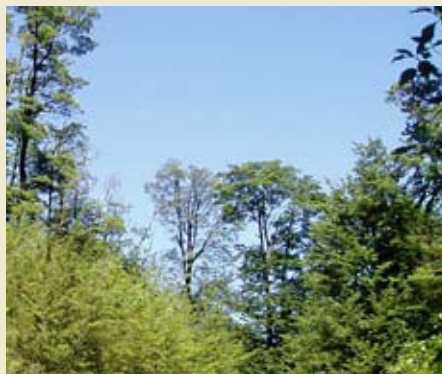


Above: Public access to the Spey River waterholes is now ensured. Inset: A cannonball like concretion in the shattered greywacke.



Above: The Woodside Forest covenant is an integrated mosaic of black beech forest and exotic conifer plantations, managed for ecological sustainability. Production and protection go hand-in-hand. On the right, beech forest regenerates following an earlier coupe harvest (a method where small patches of trees are removed to encourage regrowth).

Left: With a vision of managing the beech with near natural silvicultural practices, John and Rosalie Wardle registered the first Sustainable Forest Management Plan in New Zealand.



Conservation complements farming and ecotourism

Over the past twenty-three years, **Mark and Sonia Armstrong** have protected a total of 46ha of coastal shrubland and kanuka and broadleaved forest with three covenants at Stony Bay on Banks Peninsula. Their latest 25ha forest covenant has abundant mahoe, kanuka, kaikomako and kowhai with some red beech regeneration.

In a long-term pest control programme, Mark has trapped numerous predators including mustelids, rats and mice. These pests were decimating the nests of white-flipped penguins and sooty shearwaters that were once abundant in the area. An excellent weed control programme is also in place.

Together with neighbouring farmers, the Armstrongs operate the Banks Peninsula Track, a private 35km circular walk from Akaroa that winds around the coastal bays. 'We are now coming up to our twentieth season,' says Sonia. 'Walkers have an opportunity to see the penguins in the nesting boxes underneath the verandah of the accommodation at Stony Bay.'

For more about the track and its flora and fauna, visit www.bankstrack.co.nz



Above: Mark and Sonia Armstrong's latest covenant at Stony Bay forms a strong ecological link with other protected areas. Inset: The white-flipped penguin (korora) *Eudyptula minor albosignata* (nationally vulnerable) is found in several QEII covenants on Banks Peninsula.

Below: The Banks Peninsula Track passes through regenerating coastal forest in the covenant.



Joint project constructs a fence around a difficult totara gully

Reputedly the best remnant of totara forest remaining in North Canterbury lies in two steep gullies on **Stephen and Phoebe Field's** 1,300ha sheep and beef farm in Blythe Valley, south of Cheviot.



The totara probably postdates pre-European fires but predates clearance and farming in the area. Surviving extensive grazing by livestock since the mid-1800s, the forest was protected in 1989 with a 4ha covenant. Regeneration of totara and palatable species such as mahoe, karamu, pate, five-finger, lancewood and *Asplenium* ferns was confined to sites inaccessible to livestock such as steep banks and the north-western gully which was fenced by the Fields at their own expense in 1999.

With contributions from QEII, the Biodiversity Condition Fund, the Fields and fencing contractor, Murray Cooper, a fence has recently been constructed around the 1.5ha north-eastern gully.

Due to the steep topography and lack of vehicle access, all work (preparing line, ferrying and laying out materials, digging posts and tie-backs, driving waratahs, pulling wires, straining up, and repairs following slips) was carried out by hand.

'Constructing the fence was a difficult job,' says Stephen. 'Not only did it have to be done by hand, but we were caught with slips from the two big floods we had in the winter.'

'We were fortunate that the contractor, Murray Cooper, is of the old school and was one who was prepared to take this on. It's a terrific job.'

Above left: A good, reliable post and waratah fence with one electric wire now protects the north-eastern gully of Stephen and Phoebe Field's totara covenant. See the front page for another view.

Now that livestock are excluded, the ecological sustainability of this very valuable forest ecosystem and associated fauna has been ensured.

Below: Dwarf mistletoe *Korthalsella lindsayi* on red matipo *Myrsine australis*.



Above: The north-eastern gully before being fenced recently. With livestock having unrestricted access, the understorey had been stripped bare by browsing and trampling.

Below: As a comparison, in the north-western gully which was fenced some years ago, there is strong regrowth of seedlings including pate, karamu, five-finger, lancewood and totara plus regrowth from coppicing mahoe and red matipo root suckers.



All Photos: Miles Giller

Properties for sale with covenants

For more details of these properties, visit www.openspace.org.nz

'Puririlands', Waimate North, \$1,199,000



Peaceful park-like setting with QEII covenant. 12.8ha volcanic soil with 8ha grazing and 4.8ha original puriri bush. Also wetland. Brick house 230sqm, workshop 100sqm. 15 minutes to Kerikeri and airport.

Contact Pat 09 405 9640
or email puririlands@ihug.co.nz

Mid-Northland, Matakoho. From \$185,000

6 only exclusive, lifestyle lots.
1–1.5ha each plus 1/6 freehold share
10ha native bush QEII covenant.
All with awesome panoramic
rural outlooks and Kaipara Harbour
views. 10 minutes from Tinopai
harbourside village.

Phone 09 431 6869
or email hvfarm@xtra.co.nz



Ruapuke, south of Raglan, Waikato



24.7ha bush block protected by QEII covenant at Ruapuke, 10 kilometres west of Te Mata between Mt Kariori and the coast. Part of a deceased estate.

Contact Robyn Miles, Ellice Tanner Law Firm, phone 07 838 3333
or email robyn@ellicetanner.co.nz

Fencing Contractors Association NZ (FCANZ)

Phone 0508 4 FCANZ (0508 4 32269)
www.fencingcontractors.co.nz



Things to buy

QEII Swannndri® Vest



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

Price: \$165

including GST and postage
(Navy only)

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

QEII Greeting cards



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

Price: \$30

including GST and postage

ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address (for courier delivery) _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

☐ Please send a receipt

Prices include GST and postage

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 6140 or fax to 04 472 5578 or phone 04 472 6626

Protecting bush remnants on dairy farms adds value

Lobbying of the government by Federated Farmers led to the QEII National Trust being set up in 1977 to enable farmers to protect natural features on their farms.

Thirty years on, the QEII model of protection has been well demonstrated as being cost-effective and rigorous. Inherent in the success is independence from government, the involvement of the landowner and the respect of private property rights. Farmers retain ownership and management of the land and continue to control access.



Above: The attractive rural landscapes formed when productive land use is integrated with covenanted bush remnants add economic value to farm properties.

Farmers with open space covenants have shown the environment can be both restored and enhanced while retaining profitability. Leaving gullies and other steep land to regenerate back to bush improves farm management; benefits include less battling of regrowth and fewer stock lost in gullies.

Regenerating bush helps to filter rain and runoff, improving water quality. Bush remnants provide shelter and shade for stock in adjacent paddocks.

Farmers comment on birdlife increasing as the bush grows back. From kukupa in Northland to kiwi in Taranaki and to the more common tui and grey warblers, the bush is starting to ring with birdsong compared to the recent silence.

Two dairy farmers explain why they have protected bush remnants with QEII covenants.

Graham Mourie safeguards South Taranaki bush

East of Opunake in South Taranaki, Graham Mourie has two adjacent farms; one a recent purchase run with two others in an equity partnership. This farm is undergoing an intensive development programme to increase production.

In 1990, Graham protected 1.5ha of semi-coastal forest with a QEII covenant. Now with 550 cows on a total of 220ha, he had a second covenant approved in June this year protecting tawa, kahikatea and pukatea forest. The bush has a good base of seedlings including nikau, tree fuchsia, rewarewa, coprosma and mahoe.

‘There was twenty acres of bush on the farm I grew up on,’ says Graham. ‘Both my grandfather and father were great planters and I’ve always enjoyed and appreciated the bush.’

‘Trees have a place in a balanced environment. With the way bush is disappearing, covenanting helps to maintain a variety in the landscape.’

Neil Phillips, QEII Taranaki Regional Representative, says that most semi-coastal vegetation has been cleared in the Egmont Ecological District. ‘The bush protected by these covenants is in an acutely threatened, critically underprotected land environment,’ he says. ‘And with being on the road to Opunake, the bush has a high visual impact in this intensively farmed landscape.’

‘The owners have set up an environmental plan for the farm to balance development with the protection of the remaining forest, restoring waterways and revegetation plantings.’

Graham adds that planting the right species will help to bring back birds once common in the bush including tui, kingfishers and fantails. ‘The Taranaki Tree Trust is assisting with the revegetation,’ he says. ‘The plan is to plant “stepping-stones” to link the protected areas.’

Steep country in the King Country

South-east of Otorohanga, lowland forest and flaxland was protected by the **Purdie family** on their 180ha dairy farm with a 7.5ha covenant in May 2007.

'We run 330 cows on about 100ha as the rest is in bush or is too steep for cows,' says Paul Purdie. 'The bush is a beautiful spot with trees such as tanekaha.'

Paul's uncle, long-time covenantor Arthur Cowan, suggested protecting the valuable bush remnant which has rimu, totara, miro and tawa in the canopy and emerging tanekaha, kahikatea, matai and rewarewa. The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust has put considerable effort into revegetating the steeper, less productive land.

'Covenanting this significant area of forest has also protected the vulnerable soils on the steep sidings from erosion,' says Malcolm Mackenzie, QEII Waitomo-Otorohanga Regional Representative.



Above: Graham Mourie on the right, with equity partners Darrel Weston (and son Caleb) on the left and Mark Bridges, in front of a protected bush remnant on their Opunake dairy farm.

Funding assistance for fencing

Farmers who protect natural or cultural features on their land with covenants may be eligible for assistance from QEII for partial fencing costs. Councils may also contribute to fencing. Another possible source is the contestable Biodiversity Condition Fund (see page 12 for an example).



Left: Along with QEII, the South Taranaki District Council is contributing to the cost of replacing this old fence with a 7-wire post and batten fence around Graham Mourie's recently approved covenant in Opunake. The new fence will exclude stock in the future, allowing the bush to regenerate.



Above: Protected by a QEII covenant, the magnificent podocarp trees around ignimbrite bluffs enhance the landscape in this intensive dairy farming area near Otorohanga.

You may have a special area on your farm that you wish to safeguard forever. Contact your local QEII representative. For details see page 2 or visit www.openspace.org.nz

Little gems: Natural turfs of diverse tiny plants

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



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Bill Lee from Landcare Research describes the research being undertaken on our turf communities (native lawns) and the factors that maintain them.

One of our most spectacular and distinctive native plant communities is frequently overlooked, literally. It comprises a species-rich suite of prostrate plants less than five centimetres tall found on coastal headlands, in dune hollows, in riverine and wetland systems, and near tarns and kettleholes in the mountains.

In general, these communities are associated with environmental extremes, usually saline conditions near the coast, and winter submergence elsewhere. Because of these factors, it is unlikely that they were ever forested in the past but have always been open glades in a woody landscape.

In turfs, the plants are so small that the flowers and fruits often appear enormous – larger than the prostrate leaves. Nearly 20% of native higher plant species grow in these communities, which nationwide support over 62 threatened and/or uncommon plant taxa. Recently they were recognised as one of the important originally rare ecosystems of New Zealand.

Interestingly, the turf communities are locally most extensive where they are grazed by birds and nowadays by small mammals such as rabbits and hares, or sheep. In past times, they must have been dominated by long-extinct birds such as moa, duck, rail, and geese, and it is likely that these played a key role in their evolution.

Turf assemblages attract herbivores because of the nutrient-rich foliage and short accessible vegetation. The proximity of waterways and seasonal ponds also provides escape from predators. Our turf communities may represent avian grazing lawns adapted to concentrated and



Above: Rhys Millar's 2ha coastal herbfield QEII covenant at Smaills Beach near Dunedin protects distinctive exposed coastal turf communities alongside pasture, with *Trifolium repens* prominent.

The research will assist management of the covenant to ensure that the turf continues to occupy this important site.

persistent feeding by birds, similar to the marsupial lawns in Australia and the famous mammalian grazing lawns in the Serengeti.

We are investigating the origin and maintenance of this distinctive vegetation, particularly the role of native and introduced herbivores. Using a combination of field and glasshouse experiments, we are attempting to answer the following questions: How important are birds and do they act merely as grazers, or are they critical nutrient sources? How do the turf plants cope with defoliation and what stops many exotic species in adjoining communities from taking over? Is the impact of introduced mammals (e.g. rabbits, sheep, cattle) comparable to that of birds? The aim is to understand the role of grazers and assist the conservation management of turfy areas.



Above: Native coastal turf with tiny plants of *Leptinella dioica*, *Samolus repens* and *Selliera radicans* forming a dense prostrate cover.

Covenants protecting turf communities

QEI covenants include some impressive turf communities and we are working at two sites where these are a special feature. The Ohau Downs kettleholes occupy glacial moraine in the Mackenzie Basin and support extensive seasonally submerged turfs that have in the past been used for playing polo. In collaboration with QEI High Country Regional Representative Brian Molloy, we are measuring duration and depth of water levels in relation to turf zonation patterns, and what happens to the vegetation when all grazers are excluded.

Our second covenant, at Smaills Beach near Dunedin, supports salt-tolerant turf mixed with pasture above coastal cliffs. Here we are attempting to determine the factors that favour turf over pasture, in order to help sustain it.

Early results for a wide range of turfs suggest that these communities are sensitive to grazing, and that grazers appear to restrict encroachment of aggressive pasture species. Sheep graze across a wide area in and around turfs whereas rabbits and hares are similar to birds in that they appear to favour feeding on turfs. All animals feed on the most nutritious plants.

In coastal turfs, salt spray and grazers combine to sustain the turfs, while elsewhere it is not yet clear whether winter submergence alone will reduce pasture invasion and maintain turfs dominated by these special native plants. If grazers are essential, one option is to encourage native (paradise shelduck) and naturalised (domestic geese, Canada geese) birds to occupy these systems, as they do naturally at some sites – but confining game birds to refuges in many agricultural areas is a major challenge.

Right: An Ohau Downs enclosure plot set in a turf community dominated by the tiny prostrate native herb *Epilobium angustum*, with its large white flowers.



Above: At Ohau Downs Station in the Mackenzie Basin, a 1,185ha covenant protects lowland tarn wetland, grassland, and impressive shrubland communities on moraine deposits.



Usually ponded in winter, these depressions are fringed by a zone dominated by pasture grasses, which give way in the centre to turf that is grazed by rabbits and hares, and less often by sheep. The experimental enclosures shown here have been established in each community.

Left: The inland turf community showing a suite of creeping herbaceous species – *Epilobium komarovianum*, *Hypsela rivalis* and *Leptinella maniototo*.



Photo: Brian Molloy

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2008 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 467 367) to request a copy by post.

Chairperson's and Chief Executive's Report

With droughts and floods, this climatically challenging year served as a powerful reminder of our need to respect our environment and the natural processes that shape it. Environmental issues are now in the mainstream, with recognition that systems that lose resilience are vulnerable to shocks. Integrating conservation in our rural landscape with habitation, recreation and sustainable production will strengthen resilience. QEII has a significant role within this matrix.

This year, the Trust registered 233 covenants and approved 238 new covenants, with this number being limited only by the funds available for fencing and survey contributions. In total, there are 2,889 registered covenants protecting 86,652 hectares. We monitored 1,398 covenants with 95% being in average or good condition and less than 5% in poor adherence. We continue to be proud of this record of asset management and the ongoing testimony of the rigour of the QEII model for voluntary protection.

While the amount of open space protected in perpetuity is notable, there is still a vast opportunity for the protection of significant natural and cultural features on private land. The urgency of this is reflected in the Government's *Statement of national priorities for protecting rare and threatened biodiversity on private land* and the report *Environment New Zealand 2007*.

The new Board has settled in well, bringing a fresh perspective coupled with a healthy respect for the Trust's achievements over the last 31 years. The Regional Representatives and the Wellington office staff are committed and focussed in their work. A key priority is working towards the registration of our 596 approved covenants including landowners signing documentation and survey plans and completing fencing.

Board meetings held around New Zealand in conjunction with covenants' functions are most successful. It is a privilege to visit so many special places and the diversity and uniqueness never cease to make an impression. This year, we met inspired covenants and saw outstanding protected open space in the Bay of Islands, Southland, South Taranaki and Gisborne.

Our environmental decision making is underpinned by good science and we continue to work and liaise closely with Landcare Research. We have also developed a partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust which promotes and recognises sustainable and profitable farming practice.

Funding remains a key strategic issue. Government funding has been flat for three years which constrains the number of new covenants the Trust can commit to. We are pleased councils are increasing contributions to assist landowners

who legally protect private land. Availability of Biodiversity Condition contestable funds supports weed and pest control projects and fencing. Bequests and donations are a vital funding component and we thank the generosity of those who give to the Trust. These funds go into the QEII investment portfolio, the dividends from which provide an important contribution towards the annual operating capital. In particular, this year we thank the Estate of Dawn and Nancy Ward of Raglan.

Councils and the community are increasingly involved in preserving and enhancing open space. In May, the Governor-General opened Atiu Creek, an Auckland Regional Park protected by an 841 hectare covenant. Aroha Island, a QEII owned property near Kerikeri, is now managed by a community group, the Aroha Island Charitable Trust. Simple accommodation, camping and kiwi night walks continue to be available. Community members and school students take part in covenant revegetation and weed and pest control. Some covenants on private land allow public access to a special area, allowing people to experience our diverse heritage.

Our identity as a nation is embodied in the beauty of our unique environment. Protecting and enhancing open space involves us all; as private landowners, community members, local government, central government and most of all, our individual pride as New Zealanders.

Sir Brian Lochore

Sir Brian Lochore

Chairperson

16 September 2008



Margaret McKee

Margaret McKee

Chief Executive

16 September 2008



QEI highlights

- Covenantor gatherings in Russell in the Far North, Hokonui in Southland, Manutahi in South Taranaki, and Nicks Head Station in Gisborne.
- Number of covenants registered this year: 233 protecting 3,389 hectares.
- Record number of covenants monitored: 1,398
- Over 106,000 hectares of New Zealand's unique natural and cultural heritage protected in perpetuity by the wonderful vision and commitment of nearly 3,500 private landowners.



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Supplied by Jim Copland



Photo: Auckland Regional Council

Biodiversity highlights

- 74 new approved covenants (1,944 hectares) will protect threatened ecosystems including wetlands, dunelands, cliffs, rock outcrops, limestone country and a geothermal system.
- 116 new approved covenants (1,632 hectares) will protect primary forest – coastal, semi-coastal, lowland, submontane and montane.
- 105 new approved covenants (1,278 hectares) are in acutely or chronically threatened areas as defined by Land Environments of New Zealand.
- 56 new approved covenants (1,359 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 twenty-three vascular plant, eighteen bird, five freshwater fish, three reptile, two terrestrial invertebrate, one bat and one freshwater invertebrate species.

Above left: Nicks Head Station takes in the hills of the nationally significant landscape feature of Young Nicks Head. A 147ha covenant covers the hill country which forms the headland. At a gathering in the woolshed on the station in May 2008, Sir Brian Lochore acknowledged the generosity of Gisborne and Wairoa landowners who are protecting special areas with QEII covenants.

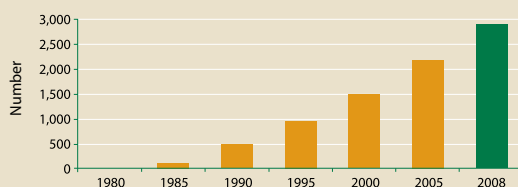
Middle left: On a walk through protected red tussock peatland west of Gore in November 2007, landowner Jim Copland discussed the high biodiversity and conservation values of the covenant with the QEII directors. From left: Yvonne Sharp, Jo Ritchie, Bernard Card, James Hunter, Jim Copland, Edward Ellison and Sir Brian Lochore.

Below left: On 5 April 2008, the Governor-General The Honourable Anand Satyanand officially opened Atiu Creek Regional Park which is protected by an 841ha QEII covenant. From left, His Excellency with Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat, who gifted the farm on the Kaipara Harbour to the people of New Zealand in an extraordinary gesture of generosity, QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore and Auckland Regional Council Chairman Michael Lee.

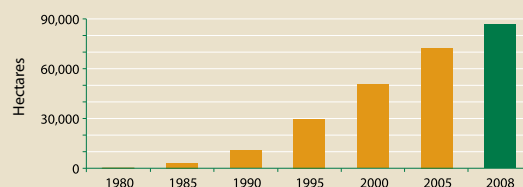
Statistics

Covenants

Total number of registered covenants



Total area of registered covenants



Monitoring

During the 2007/08 financial year, 1,398 covenants were monitored. Some key results are summarised as shown.

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

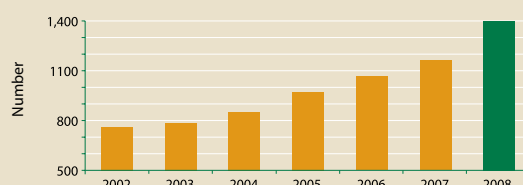
Good: Exceeds the terms and conditions

Average: Satisfies the terms and conditions

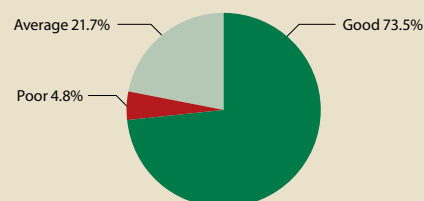
Poor: Remedial action required to ensure terms and conditions are being met.

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.

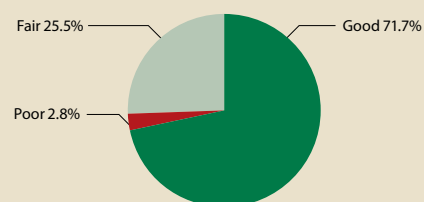
Number of covenants monitored



Adherence 2007–2008

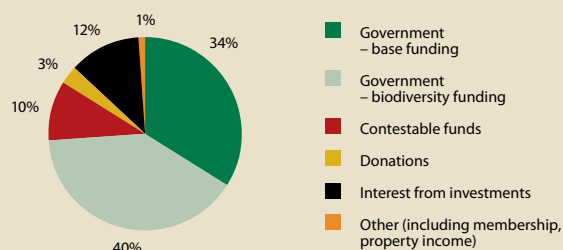


Canopy condition

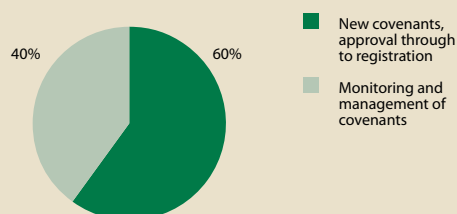


Financial statistics

\$ Income



\$ Expenditure



Registered and approved covenants as at 30 June 2008

QEII covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments Map

Summary – 30 June 2008

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	2,867	85,975
Approved covenants	596	19,820
Formal agreements	22	677
Total	3,485	106,472

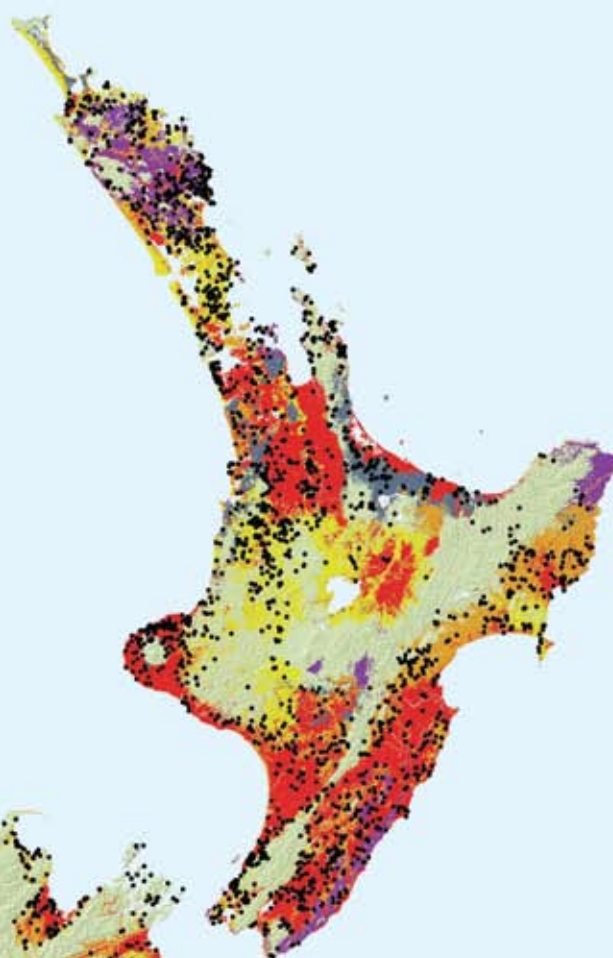
Covenant statistics to 30 June 2008

Largest covenant	6,564ha
Average size	30.6ha
Altitude range	Sea level to 2,200m
Region with most registered covenants	Northland: 495
Region with largest area in covenants	Waikato: 16,113ha
Organisation with most registered covenants	Landcorp Farming Limited
QEII properties	28: 1,582ha

Threat category

- Acutely threatened; <10% left
- Chronically threatened; 10–20% left
- At risk; 20–30% left
- Critically underprotected; >30% left and <10% protected
- Underprotected; >30% left and 10–20% protected
- Less reduced and better protected; >30% left and >20% protected
- Registered and approved QEII covenants

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



Covenants by Regional Council – 30 June 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	495	64	8,644	417	15.5
Auckland	500,000	205	42	3,939	841	15.9
Waikato	2,500,000	429	109	16,113	645	29.9
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	147	13	10,385	6,564	67.9
Gisborne	826,500	97	17	4,138	1,104	36.3
Taranaki	723,600	170	44	3,268	334	15.3
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	183	43	11,830	4,606	52.3
Horizons	2,221,500	252	46	7,176	276	24.1
Wellington	813,000	242	39	5,941	824	21.1
Tasman	978,600	103	21	2,210	641	17.8
Nelson	42,100	8	4	326	140	27.2
Marlborough	1,049,500	44	12	1,832	182	32.7
West Coast	2,300,000	34	13	1,999	619	42.5
Canterbury	4,220,000	186	42	12,966	1,679	56.9
Otago	3,200,000	124	34	10,324	2,735	65.3
Southland	3,035,000	170	53	5,381	214	24.1
Totals		2,889	596	106,472		30.6

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 native biodiversity on private land. These covenants are representative of the 233 registered during the year.

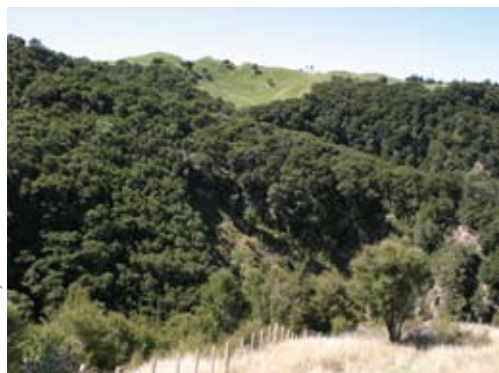


Photo: Marie Taylor

National Priority 1: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with land environments, (defined by Land Environments of New Zealand at Level IV), that have 20 percent or less remaining in indigenous cover.

Regenerating lowland forest in Hawke's Bay

Steep kanuka-clad gorges along Kaiwaka Stream have been protected with covenants totalling 81 ha by John and Fiona Wills on their 1,134 ha sheep and beef farm in Te Pohue. The kanuka vegetation with emergent titoki, matai, rewarewa and kowhai is typical of the lower part of the Maungaharuru Ecological District. The covenants, fenced with contributions from QEII, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the landowners, protect the habitat of a diverse range of native birds including karearea (NV) and kereru (GD).



Photo: Brian Molloy

National Priority 2: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands; ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity.

Ahuriri spring-fed wetland and peat dome

South-west of Twizel, the 1.7 ha Ben Avon Springs covenant protects a high altitude spring-fed wetland and associated indigenous flora and fauna. The wetland supports a network of small streams and seepages fed by springs emanating from the truncated face of a large gravel fan. An unusual peat dome is probably fed by a spring, resulting in a small area of free water. The regular flow of water maintains a range of riparian, aquatic and bog plant communities.



Photos: Stephen Hall

National Priority 3: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with 'originally rare' terrestrial ecosystem types not already covered by priorities 1 and 2.

Rotorua geothermal site

On Rotomahana Station south of Reporoa, Landcorp Farming Limited has protected a geothermal wetland and scrubland with a 10 ha covenant. Geothermal features protected include a lake, sink holes and vents. The vegetation includes prostrate kanuka *Kunzea ericoides* var. *microflora* which occurs only in geothermal areas. Geothermal sites are rare and unusual and are of national significance ecologically. This site is in an acutely threatened, critically underprotected land environment.



Photos: Miles Giller

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

Threatened species habitat in Hurunui

In an area representative of the dryland biodiversity of the Culverden basin, 15 ha of montane shrubland and scrub have been protected by Mount Alexander Farm Limited. The covenant includes the habitat of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* (NV) (pictured), *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides* (S) and *Coprosma intertexta* (S). Very little of the east coast dryland hill country is formally protected. Fenced with contributions from QEII, the landowner and Hurunui District Council, this threatened species habitat is now sustainable.

Key: NE = nationally endangered, NV = nationally vulnerable, SD = serious decline, GD = gradual decline, S = sparse

Collaborations and partnerships

QEII works closely with the Department of Conservation, regional and district councils, and other organisations and individuals committed to protecting and enhancing New Zealand's diverse open space.

Photo: Margaret McKee
Photo Inset: Rod Morris, Crown Copyright, DOC



Kiwi habitat in the Bay of Islands

Near Russell, Antonio Pasquale and Stefania Muraro have protected the entire catchment of Waitata Bay with two covenants. The 15ha of regenerating coastal forest and *Pittosporum umbellatum* kanuka/manuka shrubland is habitat for North Island brown kiwi (SD), weka (NE), kukupa (GD) and the snail *Amorhytida* aff. *Forsythi* (GD). On a tour of the covenants in July 2007, QEII directors and Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation Northland Conservator, discussed the significant biodiversity and conservation values with Antonio Pasquale.

Photo: Neil Phillips



Enhancing Taranaki forest remnant

South of New Plymouth on their 220ha dairy farm, Murray and Zoe Barrett have protected a semi-coastal primary forest remnant with a 2ha covenant. This type of forest was once found throughout the Egmont Ecological District but due to intensive farming the majority has been cleared. Enhancement plantings have been undertaken with contributions from the Taranaki Tree Trust.

Pictured: Rob Phillips, Taranaki Regional Council, and Donald McIntyre, Karen Schumacher and Michael Joyce from the Taranaki Tree Trust with Murray Barrett.

Photo: Margaret McKee



Partners protect Wellington kohekohe

Adjoining Long Gully Bush Reserve which is protected with covenants by the Wellington Natural Heritage Trust, 22ha of kohekohe and rewarewa forest in South Karori was fenced with contributions from the Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and QEII. The Wellington Natural Heritage Trust managed the fencing project. With goats, feral pigs and possums having access to the bush, the health of the native vegetation was in steep decline. The new fence will secure the bush from pigs and goats.

Photos: Brian Molloy



Joint protection of Otago biodiversity

Heather Pennycook's 34ha montane forest, scrub and grassland covenant at Makarora protects primary silver beech forest, rich birdlife including kaka (NE) and kakariki (GD), abundant mistletoes, a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and healthy and vigorous kanuka. With funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund and Otago Regional Council, sycamores and wildings including silver birch, Douglas fir and crack willow are being controlled in a three-year programme. Inset: Treated pole sycamores. The bulk of the sycamores have now been killed. Re-treatment and ongoing surveillance for new seedlings will continue.

Other partnerships

- QEII is one of the project partners in the Landcare Research programme *Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity* with representation by the Chief Executive on the Governance Board. The research is publicly funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.
- A partnership has been developed between QEII and the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust which operates the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This is a robust, peer reviewed process with the aim of promoting and recognising sustainable and profitable farming practice.

Access to open space

QEII covenants protect natural and cultural features on private land. Some landowners allow public access to their protected areas. These covenants are examples of where public access was provided or enhanced during the year.



Photos: Brian Melloy

▲ Wanaka kanuka stand walkway

Walkers along Lake Wanaka can explore the Blennerhassett Kanuka Reserve opened in December 2007 by Queenstown Lakes Deputy Mayor John Wilson. Jill and John Blennerhassett protected the area with a 2.4ha covenant for future generations to enjoy. School students and community members helped with weed clearance and path construction to enhance the reserve. Inset: Access is from the public walkway along Lake Wanaka. Behind the fence is the protected kanuka reserve with Mt Alpha and Roys Peak beyond.



Photo: Gay Munro



Photos: Johlene Kelly

▲ Accessible open space in the Waikato

In October 2007, John and Gail Mitchell protected semi-coastal forest and the 20m high limestone Vivian Falls south of Tuakau with a 7ha covenant. This connects to the 21ha Harker Reserve protected in 1985 by Rowan and Elaine Harker. Vivian Falls are accessible via public walking tracks through the covenants. The local Harker Reserve committee has undertaken enhancement plantings and Environment Waikato has contributed to possum control and track maintenance. This partnership between landowners, the community and the regional council is an excellent example of improving biodiversity and public access on a key ecological site protected by QEII covenants.

Key: GD = gradual decline, S = sparse

▲ Enhancing Southland kowhai reserve

The Kowhai Reach stretch of Winton Stream is protected with covenants by Louise Shand-Wilson and Wally Wilson, Richard, John and Ann England, Joelrosa Limited, Terry and Louise Forde and the Southland District Council. Limehills School students have assisted with enhancing the reserve including planting native species such as eco-sourced *Teucrium parvifolium* (GD) and *Olearia lineata* (S). On World Environment Day in June at the opening of a circular public track developed with funding from the council, Mayor Frana Cardno congratulated the students for their contributions.



Photo: Miles Giller

▲ Access extended on the Port Hills

On Banks Peninsula, the 63ha Gibraltar Covenant on the Port Hills was protected by the Gama Foundation in February 2008, providing a link for public access between the Foundation's Omaha Bush and Gibraltar Rock covenants, four Summit Road Society covenants and council reserves. With superb views from the public walkway of Gibraltar Rock and the Canterbury Plains, the covenant also protects historical and visual landscape values.

Statement of Service Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

The core work of the Trust is the protection and management of open space and natural values for the benefit of New Zealand. This statement measures performance against goals set at the commencement of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Minister of Conservation in July 2007.

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, considering ecological, landscape and other inherent values. When a proposal is approved, registration with Land Information New Zealand is targeted to be complete within two years. At 30 June 2008, there were 596 covenants with approved status progressing towards registration.

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.

Table 1: Numbers and hectares approved for protection and formally protected by registered open space covenants in New Zealand.

Legal Protection	2006/07 Actual		2007/08 Estimate		2007/08 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
Approved covenants	309 ⁽¹⁾	6,102	240	6,000	238 ⁽¹⁾	5,669
Registered covenants	224	6,063	200	5,000	233	3,389 ⁽²⁾
Cost	\$2,265,008		\$2,247,086		\$ 2,299,059	

1. The number of new covenants approved is limited only by funding available. For 2006/07, 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.
2. The number of hectares is less than estimated due to the high variability in covenant size. Average size is trending down, partly due to Government priorities for protection tending to be rare and discrete areas.

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, 95.2% of covenants visited met covenant conditions and 4.8% 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 28 properties with natural, cultural, scientific and aesthetic values. They are managed in accordance with approved management plans.

Table 2: Numbers and hectares for QEII owned properties and registered covenants monitored in New Zealand.

Management Services	2006/07 Actual		2007/08 Estimate		2007/08 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
QEII owned properties	27	1,286	28	1,582	28	1,582
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,162	31,213	1,280	32,000	1,398	41,371
Cost	\$1,181,729		\$1,409,599		\$1,551,014	

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

2007 Actual \$		2008 Actual \$	2008 Budget \$
	Revenue		
1,319,000	Government Grant – Base Funding	1,319,000	1,319,000
1,555,000	Government Grant – Biodiversity	1,555,000	1,555,000
432,156	Contestable Funds	378,130	305,000
282,109	Donations and Other Grants	141,316	110,000
49,713	Other Revenue	29,249	30,111
3,637,978	Operating Revenue	3,422,695	3,319,111
	Expenditure		
1,033,402	Field Operations	733,329	723,000
1,112,969	Covenant Expenditure	1,249,827	1,319,255
286,909	Contestable Funds	343,993	275,000
649,754	Administration	1,012,041	1,032,857
63,423	Property Operations	15,069	8,803
155,382	Public Relations	148,359	147,770
113,135	Depreciation	121,468	120,000
3,414,974	Operating Expenses	3,624,086	3,626,685
451,003	Finance Income	469,794	450,000
31,763	Finance Expenses	225,987	30,000
419,240	Net Financial Revenue from Investments	243,807	420,000
642,244	Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/Disposals	42,416	112,426
(85,000)	Property Gifted out by Trust	–	–
23,751	Property Gifted to Trust	20,400	–
580,995	Net Surplus	62,816	112,426

This Income Statement is an extract only. For the full Financial Statements and accompanying accounting policies and notes, see the Annual Report 2008 on www.openspace.org.nz or phone 0800 467 367 to request a copy by post.

Archaeological and cultural site management on the East Coast

The McRae Trust has three covenants protecting 15ha of lowland forest and the Waitahora Pa of Te-O-Tane near Frasertown. Waitahora Pa was built in the confluence of the Wairoa River and Waitahora Stream with the steep banks providing a natural defence. A series of trenches and other fortifications were constructed along with several house sites and storage pits. The locations of these are still clearly visible and well defined. Together with local iwi and QEII, the McRae Trust is developing a management plan with the objective of improving access and the surroundings for the public while minimising impact at this historic site.

Pictured standing behind the defensive wall at Waitahora Pa with the Wairoa River behind: Pita Robinson, Wairoa Taiwhenua; Dennis Munro, McRae Trust Chairperson; Malcolm Piper, Gisborne QEII Regional Representative; and Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive.



Photo: Liz Greenslade

Help protect New Zealand's unique open space for future generations

A bequest is a special gift of cash or assets left in your will to a person or organisation. Many people leave a bequest in their will to a charity.

A bequest to QEII can help to protect and enhance New Zealand's diverse open space for future generations to enjoy.

'Bequests and donations are a vital component of QEII funding,' says Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson. 'These funds go into the QEII investment portfolio, the dividends from which provide an important contribution towards our annual operating capital.'

'The dividends, for example, contribute to the costs of evaluating new covenant proposals, fencing approved covenants and maintaining properties owned by QEII such as Taupo Swamp near Wellington.'

'We thank the following who have given to the Trust during the last twelve months for their generosity:'

- Estate of Dawn and Nancy Ward
- Estate of Mr JRG Hughes
- Estate of Marion Southerwood
- Estate of Professor Athol Patterson.

'We often find those who make a bequest to QEII are motivated by the desire to leave a legacy to New Zealand,' adds Sir Brian.

'One way to achieve this is with a bequest to QEII of a covenant or a gift of land or cash. Even small gifts will benefit the protection of our open space in perpetuity.'

To make a bequest

When making your will, it is easy to include a bequest to QEII. Please talk about this when preparing your will with your solicitor or other adviser.

If you have already made a will, a simple way to leave a bequest to QEII is to alter your will by making an amendment called a codicil (see an example on the right). We do advise that you seek the advice of your solicitor or other adviser.

To discuss any aspect of contributing to QEII by bequest or gift, please contact CEO Margaret McKee on 04 472 6626 or from outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367), or email mmckee@openspace.org.nz

If you have arranged a bequest to QEII

If you would like to let us know that you have arranged a bequest to QEII, please complete the bottom form on the right and post it to us, or email mmckee@openspace.org.nz

Bequest Codicil

This codicil (amendment to a will) should be attached to your will. Please complete and send it to your solicitor or other adviser.

I, _____, give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or) _____ % of my estate (or) the residue of my estate, or property or assets as follows _____

free of all charges and duties to **Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust**, to be used for the general purposes of the Trust.

I declare that the receipt of **Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust** shall be sufficient acknowledgement of this gift and bequest. In all other respects I confirm my will. [Signed by me below in the presence of two witnesses]

My Signature _____

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

Date _____

Witness Signature _____

Occupation _____

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

Date _____

Witness Signature _____

Occupation _____

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

Date _____



I have arranged a bequest to QEII

Please complete and post to Freepost 180272, QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140.

- ☐ I have arranged a bequest to Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust.

Name _____

Postal Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140
Phone 0800 467 367 Email mmckee@openspace.org.nz
You can also photocopy this form or download a copy on www.openspace.org.nz

Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Registration number: CC28488.

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 June to 30 September 2008

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Landcorp Farming Limited (x2)	45.9	W	Far North
Baird	3.8	F,W	Whangarei
Easterbrook	3.9	F	Whangarei
Poppen	1.3	F	Whangarei
Smith & Bennett	2.5	F,S	Whangarei
Wharangi Limited	10.6	F	Whangarei
Dick	0.04	F	Kaipara
Kernohan	0.5	F	Kaipara
Andante Holdings Limited	4.0	F,W	Rodney
Shrub Hill Limited	72.0	S	Rodney
The North Shore Riding Club Incorporated	17.3	F	Rodney
Harrison	1.0	F	Manukau
Brough & Michie	0.6	F,S	Franklin
Hill	1.6	F	Franklin
Millett	10.8	F	Franklin
R & IM Norbis Limited	21.0	F,S	Franklin
Fowler	5.7	F	Thames-Coromandel
Professional Contractors Limited (x27)	182.9	F,W	Thames-Coromandel
Scorcha Farms Limited	5.6	F	Matamata-Piako
Tauroa	3.5	G,W	Waipa
Devine & Corn	8.3	F	Gisborne
Manuel	18.1	F	Gisborne
Savage, Grigg, Cox, Quinn & Smith	28.7	F	Gisborne
Wilcox	27.2	F	Gisborne
Mt Hassall Limited	49.1	F	Hastings
Nelson & Hardy	0.7	W	Hastings
Horizon Farming Limited	9.9	F	Central Hawke's Bay
McKenzie & Ellis	0.7	Ge,L	Central Hawke's Bay
Herbert	13.8	F	New Plymouth
Ingram & Bettington	2.2	F	New Plymouth
Jordan & Franklin	1.3	F	New Plymouth
Kjestrup	1.2	F	New Plymouth
Martin-Smith & Chauval	1.6	F	New Plymouth

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Smith & Russell	1.8	F	New Plymouth
West, Shearer & King	3.1	F	New Plymouth
Caskey, Prankerd & Armitstead	1.0	W	Stratford
Clement	7.8	F	South Taranaki
Cummings	94.5	F,S	Rangitikei
Paterson	0.3	Ge,L	Tararua
Stoddart	2.2	F	Tararua
Walker	36.4	F	Tararua
Ward	2.4	F	Tararua
Waugh, Ruff-Thomas & Allan	306.0	F	Tararua
Tinui Forest Park Limited	7.6	F	Masterton
Forest Lakes (One) Limited	4.0	W	Kapiti Coast
Rangeview Investments Limited (x2)	2.3	F	Kapiti Coast
Carrad & Gray	8.4	F	Porirua
Wharfe	1.2	F	Porirua
Jones	18.3	F	Wellington
Penrith Limited	5.0	S,W	Marlborough
Cable Bay Farm Limited	19.5	F,S	Nelson
MacFarlane	8.9	F	Nelson
Reg Turner & Associates Limited	5.8	F	Tasman
Woodside Forest Limited	120.6	F,G	Waimakariri
Bulow	2.7	F	Dunedin
Harrison, Cameron & Baillie	11.6	F	Dunedin
Heyward Point Farm Limited	1.4	F,S	Dunedin
Lynch	6.1	F	Dunedin
Mead & Hook	14.4	G,S	Clutha
de Wolde	1.1	F	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited (x5)	24.1	S,W	Southland
Taylor & Brown	31.4	F	Southland

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

Crimson corridor vision for Tolaga Bay



Photo: Olive Piper

The Tatarahake Cliffs are protected by Roger Cottle, Nicholas and Patricia Girling-Butcher and Karaka Bay Station Limited with QEII covenants. With Biodiversity Condition Funding and donations from Project Crimson, Simon Cottle, grandson of an original covenantor, Noel Cottle, and Malcolm Piper, QEII Gisborne Regional Representative, have organised community plantings of pohutukawa and other native species on the cliffs. Their vision is to create a crimson corridor flanking the bush. Tolaga Bay Area School students are helping with the planting, creating a young local interest in the future of this prominent landscape.

Restoring biodiversity link in Whangarei



Photo: Malcolm Pullman

Above: Ailsa Duffy with Geoff Pointon, Northern Honda Manager.

A restoration project at Ailsa Duffy's 13ha covenant at Ocean Beach is now in its fourth year. Volunteers are transforming the weed covered hill back to coastal forest, with 10,000 native trees planted so far. The revegetated covenant will provide an important biodiversity link to Bream Head Reserve. Partners with QEII are the Northland Regional Council, Whangarei District Council, Biodiversity Condition Fund and Honda TreeFund.

New Regional Representatives

Hawke's Bay



Troy Duncan grew up in Hawke's Bay, involved in the primary sector. He has a good overview of the region's environment and a network of contacts including in the Department of Conservation and Regional Council through being a TB Vector monitoring contractor assessing possum populations from Wairoa to Porangahau. Troy has a young family and a small block of land. He gets out and about in the outdoors, hunting, rafting and fishing.

Marlborough



Brought up in the Waitakere Ranges in Auckland, **Tom Stein** moved to Marlborough in 1996 and lives with his family on a small block near Linkwater. Tom has worked for the Auckland Regional Council Parks Service and in Marlborough with the Department of Conservation, Marlborough District Council and private landowners in various roles, particularly weed and pest management. He has a wide range of practical skills and knowledge of the local environment.

Award winners



Nelson botanist **Shannel Courtney** is the 2008 recipient of New Zealand's premier conservation award, the Loder Cup, recognising his commitment to protecting and restoring threatened indigenous plants. Shannel has protected northern rata forest on limestone at Pohara in Golden Bay with his 6.6ha Te Hapua covenant. With over 150 native vascular plant species, it is habitat for fierce lancewood *Pseudopanax ferox*, large-leaved milktree *Streblus banksii*, native germander *Teucrium parvifolium*, limestone kowhai *Sophora longicarniata*, gossamer grass *Anemanthele lessoniana* and limestone five-finger *Pseudopanax macintyreii*.



Photo: John Sawyer

Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe were honoured with the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. 'These are two of the most passionate plant people in Wellington,' said the President, Ian Spellerberg. Stalwarts of the Wellington Botanical Society and highly regarded as botanists and wise minds in the plant conservation world, they are involved with the Wellington Natural Heritage Trust that has protected the Long Gully Bush Reserve in South Karori with a 75ha covenant. Barbara has a suburban covenant in Kelburn.

Arthur Dunn 1939–2008 'A great tree has fallen'

Renowned QEII benefactor, **Arthur Dunn**, died suddenly in August while checking possum bait stations on his property in Puhoi. 'Arthur made a distinguished contribution both to his community and to New Zealand by safeguarding elements of the environment for the benefit of future generations,' says John Bishop, QEII Manager Legal Services. Arthur and his wife Val first made contact with QEII in 1984 about protecting a 49ha block of podocarp-hardwood forest on their farm. Their first covenant was registered in June 1987 with further covenants following to protect another 43ha of forest.

In April 1993, Arthur and Val offered to gift their covenant areas to the Trust. Named Dunn's Bush, this 92ha gift was accepted in 1994. With part of the Te Araroa Walkway passing through the property, visitors are welcome to enjoy the splendour of the forest by using the walking tracks Arthur developed. He and Val were recognised with Queen's Service Medals in 2000 for their contributions to conservation.

'Dunn's Bush is a living memory to Arthur and his family,' says John. 'In the years ahead, present and future generations will reflect on their commitment, generosity and foresight in gifting this wonderful area.'

For more about Dunn's Bush,
see *Places to Visit* on www.openspace.org.nz



Photo: Dan Gobby

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 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:

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 to 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 to 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

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: *Pachystegia* B, an unnamed rock daisy, in the Spey Creek Covenant protected by Eniscote Farm Limited south-west of Kaikoura (see page 11 for more about this covenant).



Photo: Shona McMahon

Walk Gisborne Track

With spectacular farm and coastal views, tracks through regenerating bush remnants and relaxing and refurbished accommodation, Walk Gisborne has been developed as a sustainable eco-tourism activity on two farms that have covenants protecting lowland forest remnants.

On the 576ha Makorori Station, **Richard and Robyn Busby** protected a 7.3ha remnant with puriri, titoki, tawa and nikau in 1994. On Karakaroa Farm, the original homestead block of the 1,200ha Rimunui Station, **Penny and Peter Hoogerbrug** protected titoki, kohekohe and kowhai in 2002 with a 0.7ha covenant.

'We love the beautiful bush blocks and enjoy sharing them with others,' says Penny. 'The income from walkers also contributes to the sustainability of our farms.'

The walk, which starts off by following the Waimata River and Whainukota Stream, goes over open farmland and through pockets of puriri-rich bush before reaching Makorori Beach on the coast. Walkers can enjoy breathtaking 180 degree views over Poverty Bay to Young Nicks Head and beyond to Mahia Peninsula. Historic kumara pits and ancient mud volcanoes are unique features.

Accommodation is provided in a Girls Brigade Lodge built in the 1950s and the former Shearers' Quarters; both fully equipped with cooking facilities, fridges and hot showers. 'We can also provide locally prepared gourmet meals and arrange pampering massage treatments,' adds Penny.

Located eight kilometres from Gisborne on Riverside Road, Walk Gisborne is open from Labour Weekend until 30 April.

For more details and to book, phone 06 867 6114, fax 06 863 0549, email info@walkgisborne.co.nz or visit www.walkgisborne.co.nz



Above: Passing through two working farms, Walk Gisborne covers a variety of terrain and conditions. With parts of track being quite challenging, walkers need a reasonable level of fitness.

Right: In Busbys' Bush which is protected by an open space covenant, the track passes through regenerating bush that includes nikau and this enormous 400-500 year old puriri tree.

Below: The eye-catching view from the track over Makorori Beach.

