



QEI National Trust  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

# Open Space<sup>TM</sup>

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Focus on Taranaki | Council QEII Covenants | Annual Report | 3,000th Covenant



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## Helping you protect the special nature of your land



**QEII National Trust**  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā 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 over 92,250 hectares of land through 3,250 registered QEII 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 29 properties, which collectively protect 1,686 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** Visible from Manawatu Gorge, Graham Bolton's second covenant protects 17ha of lowland forest. With contributions from QEII, the landowner and Horizons Regional Council, Graham, who is 77, constructed new fencing and upgraded existing fences where required. Photo: Bill Wallace

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

### 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

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# Sir Brian Lochore reappointed as QEII Chairperson

Wairarapa sheep farmer, Sir Brian Lochore, has been reappointed as Chairperson of the Board of the QEII National Trust by the Minister of Conservation, Hon Tim Groser.

This is Sir Brian's third term as Chairperson of the Trust. As well as his long term farming experience and outstanding contribution to New Zealand sport, Sir Brian has previously been chairperson of the Hillary Commission.

The Minister also reappointed Yvonne Sharp for a third term as a Director on the Board. Yvonne brings to the Board an extensive knowledge and experience of over 20 years in local government including working at CEO level and three terms as Mayor of the Far North District Council.



Above: Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, with Hon Tim Groser, Minister of Conservation.

Right: Conor English, Federated Farmers Chief Executive, with Yvonne Sharp, QEII Deputy Chairperson, at a gathering for covenantors at Pikarere Farm on the Wellington coast.



Below: Sir Brian Lochore with Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive, at Pikarere Farm. The kohekohe remnant in the background is in the process of being protected with an open space covenant.



## Election for QEII directors

Members of QEII National Trust will have the opportunity to vote for two directors for a three year term, effective 1 April 2010. Members should have received a call for nominations by post.

Key dates are:

- Financial members intending to vote must ensure subscriptions are paid by 31 December 2009
- Nominations close 5pm, 15 January 2010
- Ballot papers and voting forms posted to members on the electoral roll by 12 February 2010
- Voting closes 5pm, 8 March 2010.

See [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz) for more information.



## Matapouri family's long term commitment to preserving bush recognised



Photos: Lon Lee-Hyde

Guy Bowden discussed the extensive weed and pest control the family has carried out in the protected coastal forest with QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore.

Over fifty Whangarei landowners who protect natural features with open space covenants were acknowledged by Sir Brian Lochore on 22 July at **Tawapou Farm** in Matapouri.

Along with representatives from Northland Regional Council, Whangarei District Council and the Department of Conservation, the covenantors were invited to the farm to meet QEII directors and staff and for a walk through the **Bowden family's** coastal forest covenants. Since 1993, the Bowdens have protected ten outstanding blocks of coastal cliffs and forest remnants with covenants totalling 33ha. Strong regeneration in the bush is a reflection of their commitment to nearly 40 years of restoration and possum control.

'The fine custodianship of this land is obvious,' said Sir Brian. 'Without the work done by the Bowdens and our other generous covenantors, we couldn't protect so much of our natural heritage for future generations.'

Katharine Bowden welcomed the guests to the farm. 'One of the first things we did when we arrived here was fence off a piece of bush,' she said. 'The protected areas in this piece of paradise are now a huge source of pride and achievement.'

The family's long term weed and pest control is bringing back native species such as bellbirds to the bush. 'One of the best examples of pohutukawa forest in Northland is protected on the farm,' Guy Bowden explained. 'We are now replacing fences around our original covenant to make sure this protection continues. Without the help of QEII, their local representative Nan Pullman and the Northland Regional Council, we wouldn't be where we are today.'



Whangarei covenantors and others involved with the Trust gathered in the Tawapou Farm woolshed to meet Sir Brian Lochore and other QEII directors and staff. Katharine Bowden is seated at the right.



Guests took the opportunity to walk through the spectacular coastal forest covenants protecting pohutukawa, kowhai, totara, tanekaha, puriri, manuka, flax and coprosma. With their close proximity to the Poor Knights Islands, the covenants form 'stepping stones' for native birds.

For more about the covenants on Tawapou Farm and Pikarere Farm visit [www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant stories](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant%20stories)

# Integrating conservation with farming on the Wellington coast

Covenantors along with representatives from the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington and Porirua City Councils and the Department of Conservation, enjoyed a visit to **Pikarere Farm** in Titahi Bay on 16 September.

**Below: Dan Stevenson and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, welcomed covenantors and other guests to the gathering in the new woolshed at Pikarere Farm.**

**Bottom: Dr Jan Wright, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and Dr Grant Blackwell (centre, front row) were among the guests.**

They were invited to the farm for lunch with QEII directors and staff and for an overview of a kohekohe remnant being protected with a covenant. Owned by the **Stevenson family** for 60 years, Pikarere Farm is an 810 hectare sheep and beef farm with 5,500 stock units. With five kilometres of coastline, the farm has spectacular views over Mana and Kapiti Islands.

At the gathering, Sir Brian Lochore acknowledged the covenantors for their generosity. 'In my time with QEII, I've been privileged to meet so many covenantors who care about their country and who are doing such a fantastic job for New Zealand,' he said. 'I noticed how well this land is cared

for as soon as we came on to the farm. The work the Stevenson family is doing is a prime example of how to look after our land.'

Dan Stevenson recounted the history of Pikarere Farm. 'My father acquired the farm in 1950,' he said. 'Other than an old woolshed, it was very much a bare farm and the family has developed it to the economic unit it is today. Protecting the bush with a covenant is part of our farm management. Fencing the gully to keep the stock out has improved the water quality on the farm as well as helping the bush to regenerate.'



**Right: On a tour of Pikarere Farm, John Sawyer from the Department of Conservation explained how small areas like the kohekohe remnant can be significant for biodiversity conservation. Some remnants support threatened species and most contribute to landscape interconnectedness, allowing species movement and gene flow. Robyn Smith from the Greater Wellington Regional Council described how the kohekohe forms an important link between Kapiti and Mana Islands and other remnants including John and Christina Carrad's 8.4ha covenant in Pukerua Bay.**

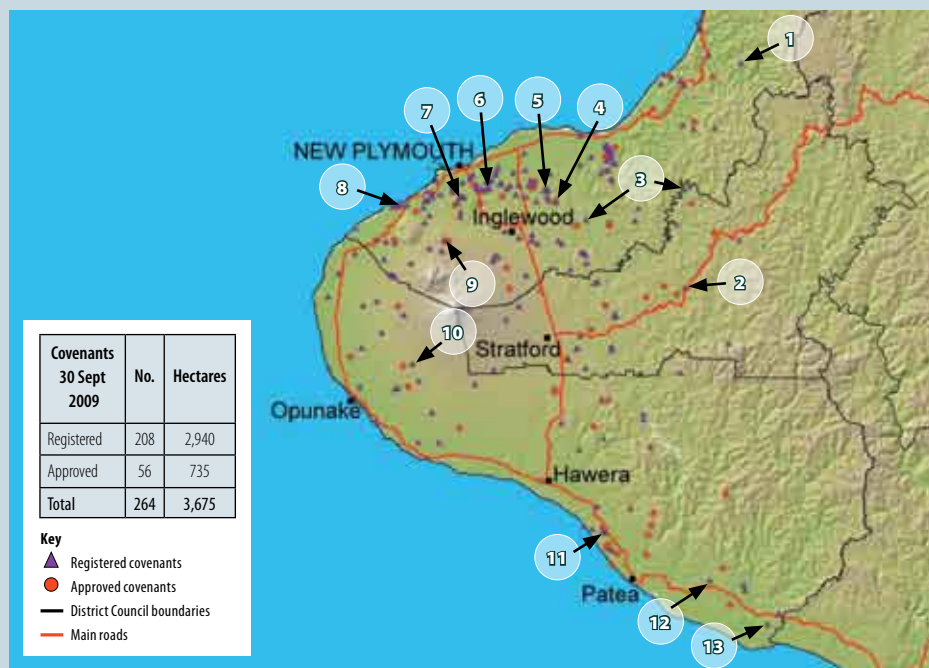


# Taranaki

'Taranaki's mountain, Mount Taranaki, has had a major influence on the region,' says **Neil Phillips**, QEII Regional Representative. 'With very fertile soils and high producing farms, land clearance and drainage have been inevitable to increase production.'

'The majority of the remaining forest remnants are small and only 1% of our wetlands are left. It's therefore critical that landowners with special areas are helped and encouraged to protect them.'

'Along with QEII, the Regional Council's Land Management and Biodiversity Programmes, the South Taranaki District Council's Significant Natural Areas Programme and policy of helping landowners with a share of fencing costs, and the New Plymouth District Council's Heritage Protection Fund that can be used for significant sites are all helping to make this happen. Landowners have an increased awareness of their environment and are keener than ever to be involved in protecting their own patch.'



- Steve and Beverly Wilson**  
Lowland forest and shrubland
- May Harrison**  
Lowland wetland
- Chris and Ann Jensen, Bryan and Helen Hocken**  
Historic karaka stands (see page 14)
- Vertical Horizon Adventure Centre**  
Lowland forest
- Allan and Beverley Jones**  
Swamp and lowland forest
- Zimmerman Family Trust, Alison and Elizabeth Rumball, Carolyn Cowley**  
Swamp forest
- Denise and Neil Phillips**  
Semi-coastal primary forest and wetland (see page 29)
- Norton and Coral Moller, New Plymouth District Council**  
Coastal public walkway (see page 13)
- Hugh and Linda Kjestrup, Vince and Sue Martin-Smith**  
Lowland forest
- Andrew and Jocelyn Clement**  
Semi-coastal swamp forest
- Moana Breeze Inc Limited**  
Semi-coastal forest, wetland and pā site (see page 14)
- Mill Dam Park**  
Recreational open space
- David and Sue Pearce**  
Sand dune lake and wetland

## Joint protection of Taranaki biodiversity

Complementing a 1.7ha covenant that protects a swamp forest wetland on their sheep and cattle farm north-east of Inglewood, **Allan and Beverley Jones** protected a lowland forest remnant with their second 1.7ha covenant in 2007.

Protecting the catchment of the Mangatui Stream which flows from the wetland through the forest to the Waiongana River, the

covenants contain regionally rare species including swamp maire *Syzygium maire*.

To help restore the forest, native species have been planted with an Environmental Enhancement Grant from the Taranaki Regional Council.



Far left: Darren Scown from Taranaki Regional Council and Neil Phillips, QEII Regional Representative, discuss the regeneration in the forest protected by Allan and Beverley Jones.

Left: The plantings funded by the council three years ago are now healthy and vigorous. QEII and the landowners contributed to the costs of constructing the 8-wire (1 electric) fence that protects the forest and revegetation from stock.

## Umutekai Wetland: A key native ecosystem protected by neighbouring dairy farmers

Swamp forest was once common on the poorly drained but fertile sites of the volcanic ring plain around Mount Taranaki. Most of this type of forest has been cleared and drained for farming.

Just five kilometres from New Plymouth at Umutekai, a significant swamp forest classified as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) by Taranaki Regional Council has been protected by three neighbours with covenants totalling 47 hectares. The forest blocks are mainly kahikatea and pukatea with some swamp maire. Tawa and rewarewa occur on a slightly higher point.



Photo: Neil Phillips



Photo: Taranaki Regional Council

The first covenant was put in place in 2000 by the **Zimmerman Family Trust** (see *Open Space* Issue 52, August 2001). Kevin and Heather Zimmerman run just under 200 cows on the farm which now has 19ha of swamp forest protected. 'With the weed and pest control that's been done, we've noticed more regrowth in the swampy areas recently,' says Heather.

In 2003, **Carolyn Cowley** protected 1.5ha of forest on the family farm that runs 400 cows. 'We protected it for future generations,' she says. 'The bush gives the farm appeal and allows the cows to shelter from the wind.'

**Alison and Elizabeth Rumball** have protected a total of 26ha, with their latest covenant registered in May 2009. 'It's wonderful to have neighbours working together and leaving a legacy for the New Plymouth district and ultimately the wider community,' says Alison. 'My late husband Barry and his family were proactive in conservation since purchasing the property

in 1954. They chose to fence off the bush rather than clearing it. Barry said they were leaving flight paths for the birds.

'The Regional Council and QEII have been absolutely magnificent with what they have done. The bush is now so lush and protecting it has significantly improved the farm.'

Jake Goonan from the Taranaki Regional Council says Umutekai Wetland is a flagship biodiversity project involving QEII and proactive neighbours who are committed to weed and pest control. 'The council co-ordinates the weed and predator control work. There are 81 stoat boxes and major possum control was done recently. A rat monitoring programme is underway as we have discovered goldstripe geckos in the wetland.

'Umutekai is an ideal place for school groups to visit. It's exciting for the future to have this special environment right on our doorstep.'

Left: Taranaki Regional Council and the landowners have funded the fencing protecting the forest. Woolly nightshade in the covenants was controlled with funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund in 2005.

Right: Eighty-six native vascular plants have been recorded in the swamp forest. In the more open areas there is a variety of plant communities including raupo reedland, *Carex* species and shrubland dominated by *Coprosma tenuicaulis*.



Photo: Rod Morris, Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

Above: In gradual decline, goldstripe geckos *Hoplodactylus chrysosireticus* are found only around the Taranaki coastal strip from north of Urenui to Patea and on Mana Island near Wellington. Their natural habitat is flax.



### Learning about our bush

North-east of Inglewood, a lowland forest remnant opposite the Everett Park Scenic Reserve was protected with a 2ha covenant by the **Vertical Horizon Adventure Centre** in 2008. A second 1.6ha covenant was recently approved. School groups from the lower North Island use the centre's facilities for camps and outdoor education.

'Covenancing with QEII will make sure the bush is preserved,' says Paul Hitchcock, a trustee of the centre. 'We are keeping the area as natural as we can. All the pine trees have been taken out and we are developing walkways so students can learn about the bush. Our long term aim is to have a kiwi reserve here.'



Photo: Vertical Horizon Adventure Centre



Photo: Neil Phillips

**Top:** With the protected bush beyond, students enjoy adventure based learning at the centre. Visit [www.verticalhorizon.co.nz](http://www.verticalhorizon.co.nz) for more about the facilities available.

**Bottom:** The vegetation in the covenant including emerging totara, kahikatea, rimu and rewarewa is now protected from stock by a 7-wire (1 electric) post and batten fence funded by QEII and the landowner.

### Public access to Mill Dam Park in Waverley preserved

Named Mill Dam Park after a flour mill that once stood on the Mangatangi Road site, a lake created at the original water supply site for Waverley was protected with a 3.8ha open space covenant by **Craig and June Lupton** in 2008.

In an ongoing enhancement project at the dam, the Waverley-Aotea Rotary Club has removed weeds, replanted the area and developed a walkway and picnic spot. Marie Deadman, the club's spokesperson, says that cleaning up and beautifying the area is helping to maintain the history of Waverley. Craig Lupton adds that the covenant protects all the work that has been done and will allow the public to enjoy the area.



Photos: Neil Phillips

The public will continue to have access to the recreational facilities at Mill Dam Park now it is protected in perpetuity by a QEII covenant.

### Dairy farmers save threatened sand dune lake

South Taranaki's coastal sand country has been heavily modified for agriculture and forestry. Many of the smaller lakes and wetlands in the once extensive lake dune systems have been drained or filled.

On their dairy farm south-east of Waitotara, **David and Sue Pearce** protected a sand dune lake system with the 6ha Paetaia Lake covenant in 2007. 'The Taranaki Regional Council was keen to progress the restoration of the area as it's part of a string of coastal lakes,' says David. 'We've replanted the margins of the lake with plants supplied by the Taranaki Tree Trust.'

The planting will enhance water quality in the wetland by shading the water, intercepting and filtering runoff and absorbing or removing nitrogen.

**Below:** David and Sue Pearce run 1,750 cows on their farm. The new fencing that excludes stock from Paetaia Lake was constructed with contributions from QEII, South Taranaki District Council and the landowners.



Photo: Taranaki Regional Council



## Working together protects significant wetland

North-east of Opunake on their high producing dairy farm that runs over 500 cows, **Andrew and Jocelyn Clement** protected a semi-coastal swamp forest remnant with a 7.8ha covenant in 2008. 'With kahikatea, tawa, kamahi and swamp maire, the remnant is highly representative of the swamp forest that once covered the poor draining soils on volcanic mudflow deposits in this area,' explains Neil Phillips, QEII Regional Representative.

'As this is a regionally significant wetland, the Taranaki Regional Council supplied plants to restore bare areas on the site and will maintain them until they are self-sustaining. QEII, South Taranaki District Council and the landowners contributed to the cost of the new 7-wire post and batten fence that keeps stock out of the vegetation. The protection of this wetland is a prime example of how Taranaki benefits from the agencies concerned working together.'

**Right: Jared Coombes from Taranaki Regional Council checks the healthy growth of the vegetation that was planted two years ago in Andrew and Jocelyn Clement's covenant.**



Photo: Neil Phillips

## Adjoining covenants help with species viability

Connected covenants on neighbouring properties contribute to the ecological viability of native species and impact on the visual character of the landscape. Keeping stock out of the covenants with fencing allows the native vegetation to regenerate and improves water quality in catchments.

South-west of New Plymouth, two neighbours protected lowland forest remnants in a gully system of the Ngakara Stream catchment in 2008. **Hugh and Linda Kjestrup's** covenant protects 1.2ha of forest and a 1.6ha block is protected by **Vince and Sue Martin-Smith**. Larger trees were previously logged from the forest. To help with restoration, the Taranaki Tree Trust supplied trees for planting the margins of the covenants with the landowners arranging the planting.



**Flowering rata *Metrosideros fulgens* in the protected forest with Mount Taranaki beyond. The lowland forest has a canopy of kamahi, puka, pigeonwood and miro, emergent tawa and rewarewa and an understorey of fuchsia, lancewood, pate and coprosma.**



**The new 7-wire post and batten fence excluding stock from the covenants was constructed with contributions from QEII and the landowners.**

Photos: Neil Phillips

## Rare lowland wetland saved

Outside Egmont National Park, only about 0.2% of Taranaki's original wetland area remains. It is important the now scarce wetlands are saved to maintain the biodiversity of the region. In April 2009, **May Harrison** protected a lowland primary wetland south-west of Whangamomona with a 2ha covenant.

Due to its significance, the Taranaki Regional Council has fenced the wetland with an 8-wire post and batten fence, controlled invasive willows and initiated replanting on the edges. 'We planted one hundred kahikatea supplied by the council plus cabbage trees and lancewoods,' says May. 'It gives me peace of mind that the wetland is protected forever.'



**The wetland is predominantly *Juncus* and *Carex* species with some kahikatea. The willows have been poisoned by the Taranaki Regional Council.**

Photo: Neil Phillips





Photo: Neil Phillips. Inset: Rod Morris, Crown Copyright, DOC



Photo: Neil Phillips

Above: Steve Wilson in the silver beech *Nothofagus menziesii* forest on the south side of the covenant.

Left: Steve and Beverly Wilson's 85ha covenant protects rimu, tawa, northern rata and kamahi with an area of silver beech. It is habitat for the threatened North Island brown kiwi, karearea (falcon) and pekapeka (long-tailed bat).

## A win-win for kiwi and pekapeka in northern Taranaki

**Steve and Beverly Wilson** protected a valley of lowland primary forest and regenerating manuka shrubland with an 85ha covenant at Ahititi in 2008. Between the Hutiwai, Mount Messenger and Waitaanga Conservation Areas, this block is practically all that remains in private ownership in the locality.

The Wilsons run their 295ha dairy and beef farm on an organic basis 'We do our own possum control by trapping, shooting and cyanide poisoning,' explains Steve. 'We've seen and heard kiwi while doing this and the Department of Conservation has monitored long-tailed bats here in the past. We also have some tremendous trees including rimu.

'It's therefore worthwhile to protect the area. Between the Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki Tree Trust, New Plymouth District Council, QEII and us, we got the forest fenced. I can't say enough about Neil Phillips from QEII. He brought it all together and made it so easy. It's a win-win for all of us.

'We are continuing to plant out and retire land that is not suitable for farming. This helps with erosion control and provides shelter for the animals.'

## Uniquely New Zealand: Pekapeka, long-tailed bats

Pekapeka (bats) are New Zealand's only native land mammals. Found only in New Zealand, there are two main kinds, the long-tailed bat *Chalinolobus* and the lesser short-tailed bat *Mystacina*.

Both kinds are threatened as numbers have been reduced by fire, logging, land clearance, disturbance of roosts by introduced mammals, birds and wasps, and predators such as stoats, rats, possums and cats. Long-tailed bats (North Island) *Chalinolobus tuberculata* are classified as nationally vulnerable.

Undertaking predator control and protecting native forests help pekapeka to recover. QEII covenants are an ideal way to protect the habitat of our unique species. Find out how to protect a special area on your farm on p31 or visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)



Photo: J.L. Kendrick, Crown Copyright, DOC



## Unique Southland riparian treeland protected by 3,000th QEII covenant

On their 450ha sheep farm near Winton, **John and Rhonda Cowie** have protected riparian kowhai-ribbonwood treeland along the meandering Otapiri Stream with a 2ha covenant. Highly representative of the forest that once covered floodplains in Southland, threatened species protected include *Olearia hectorii*, *O. fragrantissima*, *Coprosma wallii*, *Pseudopanax ferox* and the mistletoe, *Tupeia antarctica*.

A Department of Conservation planting programme is re-establishing the threatened species in the covenant. In addition, the **Southland District Council** has protected an adjoining area with a 3.8ha Landscape Protection Agreement. The Cowies have also protected a podocarp-broadleaf forest remnant on a prominent limestone scarp with a 9ha covenant.



Photo: Gay Munro

With *O. fragrantissima*, from left: Brian Rance, Department of Conservation, with John Cowie and Janet Gregory, Biodiversity Southland Co-ordinator.

Mike Copeland, QEII Regional Representative, with Landcorp representatives: Chris Kelly, Chief Executive; Graeme Mulligan, National Business Manager; Gerry Soanes, National Manager Property; Bruce Hunter, Dairy Business Manager; and Julie and Paul Hateley, Cape Foulwind Farm Business Manager.

## Conservation complements farming and forestry in Hawke's Bay

With the aims of preventing future subdivision, protecting significant Māori archaeological sites and preserving the rural landscape, the **Holt family** protected 378ha of farmland and planted indigenous and exotic forests with their Wairoaiti Farm and Maraetara Farm covenants in 2007. In the hill country landscape that forms a backdrop to Napier City, the covenants allow for farming to continue along with sustainable harvesting of the forests.

**Kipper and Esther Holt** were awarded the 2009 Transpower NZ Landcare Trust Award for Innovation in Sustainable Farm Forestry for establishing the forests and their conservation programmes. Kipper began planting Flag Forest with timber species including totara, puriri, rimu, kauri and black beech in 1992 at the age of 70. Many species are now regenerating naturally.



In June, Kipper and Esther Holt (at the right) described the management of their indigenous and exotic forests at a field day on Wairoaiti Farm.

**David and Ngaire Bryant** who have a 37ha covenant protecting a forest remnant west of Hastings, received the North Island Husqvarna Farm Forester of the Year Award for all-round excellence in land management.

Looking from Flag Forest in the Wairoaiti Farm covenant towards Napier Airport.



Photos: Troy Duncan

## Landcorp's West Coast environmental protection

**Landcorp Farming Limited** continues to protect bush, wetlands and riparian margins on the West Coast, with 12 registered and approved covenants protecting a total of 1,140 hectares in the region. On 16 September 2009, Landcorp's commitment to providing this legacy of protected habitat, beautiful farm landscapes and open space was recognised by the Department of Conservation with a Conservation Award.



## Councils, communities and QEII: Working together to protect our special areas

QEII National Trust was established in 1977 to encourage and promote the protection and enhancement of open space. With a core activity of securing long term protection of natural and cultural features, usually by the legal mechanism of an open space covenant, QEII acts as a perpetual trustee to ensure the values remain protected forever.



Photo: Graeme Platt

Most covenants protect special areas on private land. However, QEII covenants or formal agreements are also options councils can use to protect special features on land held by them. Benefits for councils and their communities are the independence QEII offers and the extra layer of protection provided when QEII and councils work together.

There are 58 registered and approved QEII covenants and formal agreements protecting nearly 2,500ha of council-held land in perpetuity for the people of New Zealand.

Council covenants include the 841 ha **Atiu Creek Regional Park** on the Kaipara Harbour. **Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat** gifted this farm in an extraordinary gesture of generosity to the **Auckland Regional Council** in 2005 so that future generations may enjoy unspoilt access to the open space. At the other end of the scale, a 0.1 ha Landscape Protection Agreement protects the habitat of the threatened grass *Simplicia laxa* (Nationally Critical) in Otago. Such agreements are used where the land does not have title, for example, roadside areas.

**Three Streams Reserve in Albany** is protected by a QEII covenant. In September 2009, British botanist and conservationist **Professor David Bellamy** planted a kauri in the reserve with the help of local school students. Here they admire their work along with **Dan Godoy**, QEII Regional Representative.

## North Shore City: Volunteers contribute to managing community assets

The **North Shore City Council** has two public assets protected in perpetuity with open space covenant: the 3.7ha **Three Streams Reserve** in Albany and the 20.5ha **Kauri Point Centennial Park** in Birkenhead.

**Three Streams** was gifted to QEII in 1991 by long-time conservationist **John Hogan**. Over the past 40 years, John has enhanced the natural values of the area by removing pine trees and planting 4,000 native trees including 600 kauri. In 2005, ownership of **Three Streams** passed to the council which manages this special natural area with the help of community volunteers.

On a prominent headland on the Waitemata Harbour, **Kauri Point Centennial Park** has numerous walking tracks through regenerating pohutukawa, lancewood, coprosma and kauri forest and a raupo and swamp maire wetland to Kendall Bay.

The Kauri Point Centennial Park and Chatswood Reserve Management Committee recently won the *North Shore*

*City Council Civic Award – Heritage & Environment* for their contributions to the upkeep of the park over the past 20 years. David Roberts from the committee says the work done by local volunteers is two-fold.

'First of all, there's the physical work,' he explains. 'A group devotes a couple of hours a week to maintaining the tracks and drains and clearing weeds. Then there's the information flow as we act as a watchdog for the park. This includes writing

submissions to the council and QEII and letting residents know what's happening.'

Dan Godoy, QEII Regional Representative, says QEII has had a long working relationship with the committee and recognises the pivotal role it has played in the success of the park. 'We are impressed with the group's vision for the park's future and the commitment made to the health and long term sustainability of this beautiful open space,' he says.

Looking across to Kauri Point from Kendall Bay. The Onewa Pā site on the point is the only remaining example of a fortified pā on Waitemata Harbour.



Photo: Dan Godoy



## Marlborough: Partners restore beech and totara treeland

The 3.4ha **Koromiko Forest Reserve** south of Picton was a deer park until 1997. The **Marlborough District Council** took over management of the reserve in 2002 and protected it with a QEII covenant in 2006. Koromiko School students have been involved in revegetating the treeland with eco-sourced plants since 2003 and other replanting has been undertaken by contractors and community volunteers with funding from Honda TreeFund.

Until a recent discovery on a property neighbouring Koromiko Forest owned by Russell and Marian Gent, white maire *Nestegis lanceolata* was thought to have disappeared from the region. As part of the Tasman Environmental Trust's rare plants programme, sixty white maire seedlings were planted in the covenant in 2008 from seeds collected from the Gents' farm and propagated by Martin Conway, a former QEII Regional Representative.

Robin Dunn from the council says QEII and the council have a similar focus on protecting natural values. 'Our partnership with a national body enables a higher level of protection to be provided. We value having the endorsement by QEII that the values are worth protecting. A management plan has been put in place for the reserve and we will encourage public access once the vegetation has recovered.'

Tom Stein, QEII Marlborough Regional Representative, adds that covenants on council-held land are an effective way of ensuring public space is protected. 'Not all council land is set up as a reserve for native biodiversity,' he explains. 'Covenanting makes sure stock are kept out which helps the regeneration. Priorities for protecting our biodiversity may change within councils but QEII covenants ensure values remain intact.'



Photo: Marlborough District Council



Photo: Tom Stein

**Koromiko School students are helping to restore the covenant. Over 15,000 native trees and shrubs have now been planted.**



Photo: Neil Phillips

**With the Moller Escarpment covenants in place, public access to the spectacular Taranaki coastline at Oakura is assured. 'We do thank the New Plymouth District Council for its forward thinking in protecting the escarpment for future generations,' says Norton Moller.**

## New Plymouth: Public access to coastal walkway at Oakura assured

The first covenants protecting primary coastal forest in Taranaki were put in place in April 2009 by **Norton and Coral Moller** and **New Plymouth District Council** at Oakura. The 1.2ha **Moller Escarpment** covenant is a public walkway with coastal species including karaka, kawakawa, taupata, flax and pohutukawa providing a habitat for tui, kereru and fantails. The council maintains the walkway and Oakura School is involved in restoring the coastal strip. The Mollers also have a 4ha covenant protecting primary forest on their farm.

'We have always felt the cliff face should be protected as keeping the area as a natural bush landscape makes it better for everyone,' says Norton. 'We gave the land to the council as a reserve in 1989 and all concerned felt it was the right solution to protect it with a QEII covenant in perpetuity.'

Mark Bruhn, Manager Parks at the council, explains this situation was unique as the land was held and managed by the council as a reserve for scenic purposes under the Reserves Act 1977. 'While there did not appear to be any additional benefit from placing a QEII covenant on the reserve, the council wanted to acknowledge the wishes of the Moller family,' he says. 'The covenant process allowed the council to incorporate additional special conditions including the future provision of suitable walking tracks through the reserve.'



## Protecting the natural and cultural values of Waikaikai Pā in South Taranaki

At Manutahi south of Hawera, the site of the Waikaikai Pā along with a semi-coastal forest remnant and a wetland were protected by **Moana Breeze Incorporation Limited** with an 8.3ha covenant in April 2009.



In the intensively farmed landscape, the Waikaikai Pā site stands out on the ridgeline.



The fence protecting the pā site, kahikatea, tawa and rewarewa in the forest remnant and *Carex* species and raupo in the wetland was funded by QEII, South Taranaki District Council and the landowner.

With sixteen well preserved pits on the platform, the ridge pā has formidable natural defences to the south and strong artificial transverse defences. The Taranaki Tree Trust recently supplied and planted 2,000 trees to help restore the margins of the covenant. Excluding stock from the riparian areas will improve water quality in the Waikaikai Stream catchment and enhance the habitat for fish.

'With a QEII covenant on the whole site, it is now protected forever,' says Brian Rogers, spokesperson for Moana Breeze.

## Historic stands of karaka saved

On their 1,250ha sheep farm at Matau forty kilometres north-east of Stratford, **Chris and Ann Jensen** protected an historic stand of karaka with a 0.75ha covenant in April 2009. Karaka groves are closely associated with former Māori occupation sites. The Waitara River is nearby and the area is part of the overland route historically travelled by Māori.



Above: With contributions from QEII and the landowners, a new 8-wire post and batten fence has recently been constructed to protect the karaka along with tawa, pukatea, miro, hinau and totara that Chris Jensen's grandfather had the foresight to preserve.

Right: Over 100 years old, the windswept karaka in the Hockens' covenant are festooned with epiphytes. The Taranaki Tree Trust supplied trees for replanting the margins to reduce the effects of the wind.



'The farm has been in my family since 1903,' says Chris. 'My grandfather left the stand when clearing the bush because he spotted the karaka. There are very few areas inland with karaka so this site is worth protecting.'

One other historic stand of karaka is protected in the eastern hill country. **Bryan and Helen Hocken** protected an isolated stand high up on their sheep and beef farm at Tarata with a 0.3ha covenant in 2006. To ensure the long term viability of the trees, the Hockens funded the fencing required to exclude stock from the vegetation.



# Safeguarding exceptional dryland grey scrub in North Canterbury

Very few remnants of dryland grey scrub in North Canterbury are protected on private land. This ecosystem type is also under-represented in the public conservation estate. Understanding the significance of dryland shrublands and their management requirements is fundamental in encouraging landowners to both recognise and protect grey scrub sites.

On Collessie, **David Anderson's** 1,053ha sheep and beef farm in the Lowry Peaks Range, a hilltop stand of dryland grey scrub is unusual in that two kowhai species are growing close together. As a rule, either tree kowhai *Sophora microphylla* or prostrate kowhai *S. prostrata* is dominant. The Collessie shrubland is exceptional with both species co-existing and equally abundant.

David protected two blocks of grey scrub with the 21ha Cameron's Knee covenant in March 2009. As well as protecting the kowhai, the covenant is habitat for the threatened *Coprosma wallii* and several species uncommon in the Waiau Ecological District including *C. virescens*, *Melicope simplex*, *Scandia geniculata* and *Vittadinia australis*. Porcupine shrub *Melicytus alpinus*

along with *Melicytus* aff. *alpinus* ("Blondin") and *Melicytus* aff. *alpinus* ("Dark") are also present.

To safeguard the high biodiversity values, a fence protecting the northern 11ha block from grazing stock has been constructed with contributions from QEII, the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Environment Canterbury and the landowner.

'The southern block is on steep rocky land and will remain unfenced in the meantime,' says Miles Giller, QEII North Canterbury Regional Representative. 'This area has regenerated under a light grazing regime for over 150 years, a practice that is considered sustainable. Monitoring the two blocks will give us valuable insights on management regimes for dryland ecosystems.'

With some steep terrain to take into account, a measured approach was taken to planning and constructing the fence. 'I like doing a fence well the first time as this reduces maintenance later,' says David. 'Much of the line was bulldozed but we did use an existing bank in one area rather than forming a new track which would have left a scar.'

'Part of the line is on a vertical rock face and we had to blow some holes and dig others by hand. Doug Taylor was contracted to do the post driving and Les Exton who works on the farm did most of the construction.'

'I've been on the farm for 49 years and have always had a soft spot for this area,' explains David. 'Having the assistance of Miles Giller gave me the motivation to protect it with QEII.'

## Clockwise:

This unusual shrubland containing both tree kowhai *Sophora microphylla* and prostrate kowhai *S. prostrata* is now protected in perpetuity with an open space covenant.

David Anderson checks the new fence protecting one block of the covenant from grazing stock. The fence consists of wooden posts with 7 wires and lightning droppers.

Looking north along the western fence line towards the Lowry Peaks Range. Comparing the sustainability and succession of vegetation in the fenced block with the lightly grazed block will improve understanding of dryland ecosystem management.

The threatened *Coprosma wallii* (Declining) has light grey bark with a red inner layer, numerous dark green, shiny, small leaves and violet-black fruits. *C. wallii* habitat tends to have rather fertile substrates with vegetation limited by frost, water logging or severe summer drought.



All Photos: Miles Giller

For more about the biodiversity of the Cameron's Knee covenant, visit [www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant Stories](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant%20Stories)

# Seabirds: The impact of rats on their activities and the flow-on effects on ecosystems

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



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

Birds transfer nutrients within and across our landscape, creating local nutrient-rich sites that support distinctive plant and animal communities. Prior to human settlement, the New Zealand mainland supported very high densities of nesting seabirds that functioned as major ecosystem drivers by transporting nutrients from the ocean to land and by cultivating soil with their burrowing.

One study under the Landcare Research collaborative research project *Sustaining Critical Interactions between Functional Species* is determining the relative importance of seabirds in restoring nutrient-rich coastal and island ecosystems. Using islands with seabirds present and others without seabirds due to rat predation, the research team is finding out how the birds affect linkages between above and below ground subsystems and is gaining an understanding of how rat eradication would help to restore the health of ecosystems.

Peter Bellingham from Landcare Research says the study fits into global efforts on developing an understanding on how seabirds fit into ecosystems. 'New Zealand is the world capital of seabirds,' he says. 'We have more species of breeding seabirds than anywhere else. Of the 350 species worldwide, there are 140 species here. Of these, 84 species breed in New Zealand with 35 species such as the Buller's shearwater breeding nowhere else.

'There has been a catastrophic loss of seabirds throughout the world. We still have some shearwaters and petrels but they used to breed throughout New Zealand including in the mountains. Currently restricted to offshore islands and some isolated headlands, their contributions to ecosystems are now very localised.

'Our economic prosperity is based on what comes from the sea, for example, the use of rock phosphate as fertiliser. Nutrients that boost plant production such as phosphorous and nitrogen were once brought in by seabirds but these ecosystem engineers are now gone.

'By looking at what the natural vegetation is like when there are no predators and what the impacts of rodents are, we are seeking to develop a practical approach to the restoration of ecosystems.'

## How seabirds and rats affect ecosystem function

The research was undertaken on islands offshore from Whangarei to the Bay of Plenty. Some have never been invaded by rats, while others currently have rats. The work was done with permission from and

the support of tangata whenua, either in their role as owners of the islands or kaitiaki (guardians).

The multi-disciplinary team assessed how plant communities above the ground and invertebrates below are interlinked, how native ecosystem engineers (seabirds) affect ecosystem function and how alien predators (rats) disrupt processes. Sample plots in forest on each island were examined for burrow densities, vegetation structure, soil microbiota and invertebrates, and litter and wood decomposition.

The research showed the main effects of rat predation are that nutrients are no longer being brought in by seabirds, and trampling and burrowing which brings new soil to the surface has come to a shuddering halt. Plant and invertebrate species once present are gone and other species are rushing in to fill the gaps.



Photo: David Wardle

Ngātiwai are the kaitiaki of Tawhiti Rahi, a rat-free island in the Poor Knights. The forest floor has dense burrows of seabirds such as Buller's shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*.



'The balance alters,' explains Peter. 'What was once forest turns to a thicket. Species such as karaka become more common. Above ground, the total carbon budget goes up by about a third, whereas there is not so much carbon below ground.'

'Soil communities change dramatically with numbers of animals from springtails to small beetles to moss larvae going into freefall. Land snails are also lower in number.'

'The results indicate that rats and seabirds act as major ecosystem drivers by exerting wide-ranging effects on both above and below ground systems.'

'One example of the flow-on effects of rat predation is that the pohutukawa forest along our coastline which we think of as pristine, has developed and functions in a very different way from how it did before rats were introduced.'

### Covenants help to protect the breeding sites of seabirds

'Seabirds such as petrels and shearwaters need advocates as they are an integral part of our landscape and economic prosperity,' says Peter. 'Farming and native forest both need marine phosphate. Our unique biodiversity, a key driver for tourism, is influenced by the action of seabirds.'

'Protecting the habitat and breeding sites of seabirds with covenants helps to slow the disruption to our ecosystems. An example is the Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve in Kaikoura that protects one of our two remaining Hutton's shearwater breeding colonies.'

'Now that we have an understanding of the basic flow-on effects of rat predation on seabirds, we are following through with a 4-year project on a bicultural approach to the restoration of coastal ecosystems. The outcomes of this will provide some practical strategies for those restoring our natural habitats including QEII covenants.'

A number of QEII covenants previously featured in *Open Space* magazine protect the habitat and breeding sites of petrels and shearwaters.

**Rapanui** Taranaki, Issue 76, July 2009: Grey-faced petrels *Pterodroma macroptera*.

**Mark and Sonia Armstrong** Banks Peninsula, Issue 74, November 2008: Sooty shearwaters *Puffinus griseus* visit this covenant from a nearby breeding site.

**Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve** Kaikoura, Issue 68, November 2006: Hutton's shearwater *Puffinus huttonii*.

**Denise Howard** West Coast, Issues 44, April 1999 and 57, April 2003: Westland black petrel *Procellaria westlandica*.

Download these articles from [www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant stories](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant%20stories)

For more details of the research visit <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/ecosystems/rasp/index.asp>



Photo: Dennis Burman

**Top: The Puhi Peaks Nature Reserve covenant in Kaikoura protects a breeding colony of the Hutton's shearwater.**

**Middle: A grey-faced petrel after landing near its burrow after dark in the Rapanui covenant in Taranaki.**

**Bottom: The Westland petrel (tāiko) is endemic to New Zealand and breeds only along an 8km stretch of coastal forest near Punakaiki.**



Photo: Barry Hartley



Photo: Rod Morris, Crown Copyright, Dept of Conservation



Photo: Tadashi Fukami

**Aiguilles, a rat-invaded island off Great Barrier, is owned and managed by Ngāti Rehua. Seabird burrows are virtually non-existent on the forest floor owing to rat predation of the birds.**

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2009 was audited by Ernst & Young on behalf of the Auditor General. Visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://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

The ongoing success in protecting natural and cultural features on private land by the Trust, particularly on productive working farms, is outstanding. As a uniquely Kiwi and altruistic model that engages the landowner with commitment and passion, the QEII model continues to be a highly cost-effective and rigorous mechanism for protecting our special areas.

Our natural capital – the magnificent landscapes and our unique biodiversity and habitats that define New Zealand – is continuing to disappear. The Government has made it clear that we must ensure that today's natural farming resources are kept in good condition for the farmers of the future. With the Trust's record of effectiveness, there are huge opportunities for QEII to continue to protect the values that contribute to our economic sustainability.

The 3,000th QEII covenant was registered in October 2008. It took 19 years from when the Trust was set up in 1977 to register the first 1,000 covenants. Eight years later in 2004, the 2,000th was registered. It has taken only a further four years to reach 3,000. Proof that inspired landowners, most of whom are farmers, consider the QEII model an excellent mechanism to protect the resources on private land that our economic prospects rely on – clean water, clean air and unique biodiversity and landscapes.

This year, the Trust registered 278 covenants and approved 216 new covenants, with this number being limited only by funds available for fencing and survey contributions. There are now 3,189 registered covenants. Within the stewardship programme, we monitored 1,542 covenants. Expenditure to manage covenants and enforce terms and conditions is essential. The effectiveness of the rigorous monitoring and management is reflected in the result of 96% of monitored covenants meeting or exceeding agreed terms and conditions. The number of breaches is small with appropriate and remedial action being taken quickly for each occurrence.

Good science is essential and we continue our close working relationship with Landcare Research, in particular, in the multi-layered *Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity* publicly funded research programme.

The governance of the Trust is strong with directors offering a broad range of expertise. Two positions for directors come up for election in February 2010 and nominations will be called for in late 2009.

Board meetings and covenantors' functions were again held in provincial locations, this year in Kaitia, Cromwell, Raglan and Westport. These events provide the opportunity for directors and staff to meet landowners on their patch and to hear and see the local issues first-hand. The occasions, now a signature of

the Trust, are an enormous privilege and honour for us.

This year has been encouraging for bequests and donations to the Trust. Donations in excess of \$100,000 were received from the Estates of MA Southerwood and JRG Hughes. Two dairy farms in Waverley were bequeathed from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson. One farm has been sold and the other is currently leased. In acknowledgement of this extraordinary bequest, the annual QEII Athol Patterson Bursary has been set up at Massey University for students interested in sustainable farming practices.

Income derived from donations and bequests passes into the Trust's investment portfolio from which the interest and dividends are used for annual operating income.

We look forward to the oncoming year with a small but significant increase in government funding. We acknowledge and thank the Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Tim Groser, and the Director-General of Conservation, Al Morrison, for this support and the recognition that there is still much to be achieved on private land.

To our passionate and generous covenantors, hardworking staff and keen supporters around the country, we sincerely thank you for helping to make our rural landscape a healthier and more productive place.

**Sir Brian Lochore**

Chairperson

15 September 2009



**Margaret McKee**

Chief Executive

15 September 2009





## QEII highlights

- Covenantor gatherings at Kaitaia in the Far North, Cromwell in Central Otago, Aotea Harbour in the Waikato, and Cape Foulwind on the West Coast.
- Number of covenants registered this year: 278 protecting 4,320 hectares.
- The 3,000th covenant registered: Southland riparian treeland protected by John and Rhonda Cowie.
- Record number of covenants monitored: 1,542
- Over 109,000 hectares of New Zealand's unique natural and cultural heritage protected in perpetuity by the wonderful vision and commitment of 3,700 private landowners.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

## Biodiversity highlights

- 79 new approved covenants (1,630 hectares) will protect threatened ecosystems including wetlands, dunelands, frost hollows, old tephra plains, inland outwash gravels, inland sandfields and saline patches, coastal turfs, karst bluffs and limestone caves.
- 95 new approved covenants (960 hectares) will protect primary forest - coastal, semi-coastal, lowland, submontane and montane.
- 103 new approved covenants (1,611 hectares) are in acutely or chronically threatened areas as defined by Land Environments of New Zealand.
- 55 new approved covenants (1,052 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.
- Threatened and at risk indigenous species known to be present in new approved covenants include thirty-one vascular plant, twenty-eight bird, six freshwater fish, six terrestrial invertebrate, two frog, two bat and one freshwater invertebrate species.

Top: Landcorp Farming Limited has eleven registered and approved covenants on the West Coast protecting 1,100 hectares of bush and wetlands. In May 2009, Hon Jim Sutton, Landcorp Chairman, and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, opened the new Totara and Tram Road Dairy Unit covenants protecting over 100 hectares of semi-coastal primary forest remnants and riparian margins on Cape Foulwind Station.



Photo: Tim Hawkins

Middle: In the early 1920s, Dr Leonard Cockayne, one of New Zealand's foremost plant research scientists, set up a number of fenced experimental plots on Northburn Station near Cromwell. Tom Pinckney, who now owns the station, protected ten of the historic plots in 2001 with a covenant totalling 1.3 hectares. At a gathering in the station's woolshed in November 2008, Tom Pinckney explained the protection of the Cockayne Plots to local covenantors and others involved with QEII.

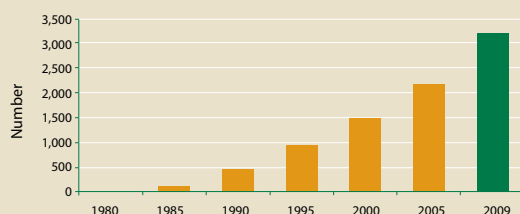


Bottom: As a result of a generous bequest to QEII from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson, the QEII Athol Patterson Bursary has been set up to support students at Massey University interested in sustainable farming practices. From left, at the handing-over of the bequest in Wanganui in March 2009: Bernard Card, Director; Margaret McKee, Chief Executive; Sir Brian Lochore; Chairperson; Christine Ralph, Prof. Patterson's niece; Lindsay Dunn, Prof. Patterson's nephew; and Bill Hone, Glenn Brown and Paul Coe, trustees.

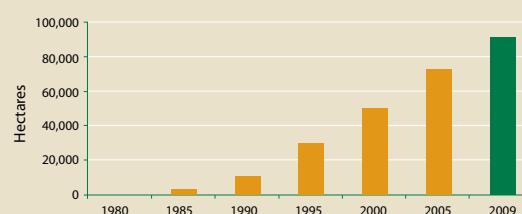
## Statistics

### Covenants

Total number of registered covenants



Total area of registered covenants



### Monitoring

During the 2008/09 financial year, 1,542 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

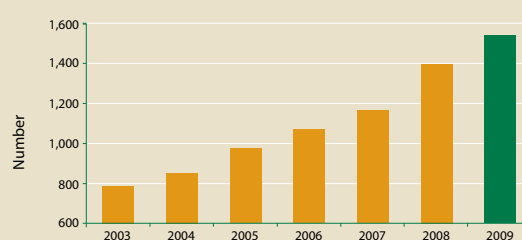
*Average:* Satisfies the terms and conditions

*Poor:* Where covenant terms and conditions have been breached.

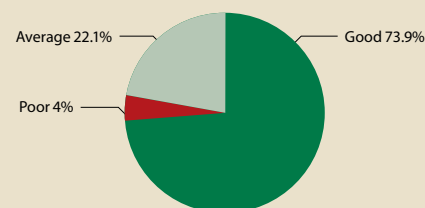
Results show standards of adherence are not affected by changes in ownership. Poor adherence is split equally between originating covenantors and subsequent owners of covenants. Appropriate and remedial action is taken quickly for each occurrence.

**Canopy condition**, where applicable, 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.

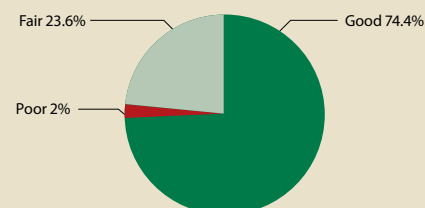
Number of covenants monitored



Adherence 2008–2009

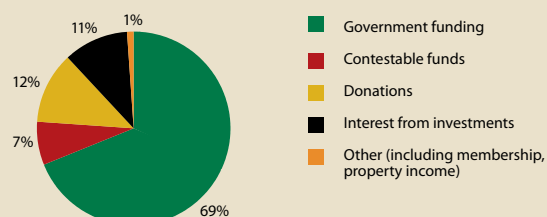


Canopy condition

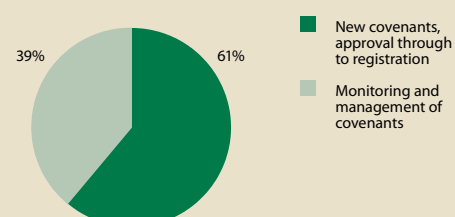


### Financial statistics

\$ Income



\$ Expenditure





# Registered and approved covenants as at 30 June 2009

## QEII covenants on Landcare Research Threatened Environments Map

### Summary – 30 June 2009

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	3,161	90,588
Approved covenants	524	18,672
Formal agreements	28	688
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>109,948</b>

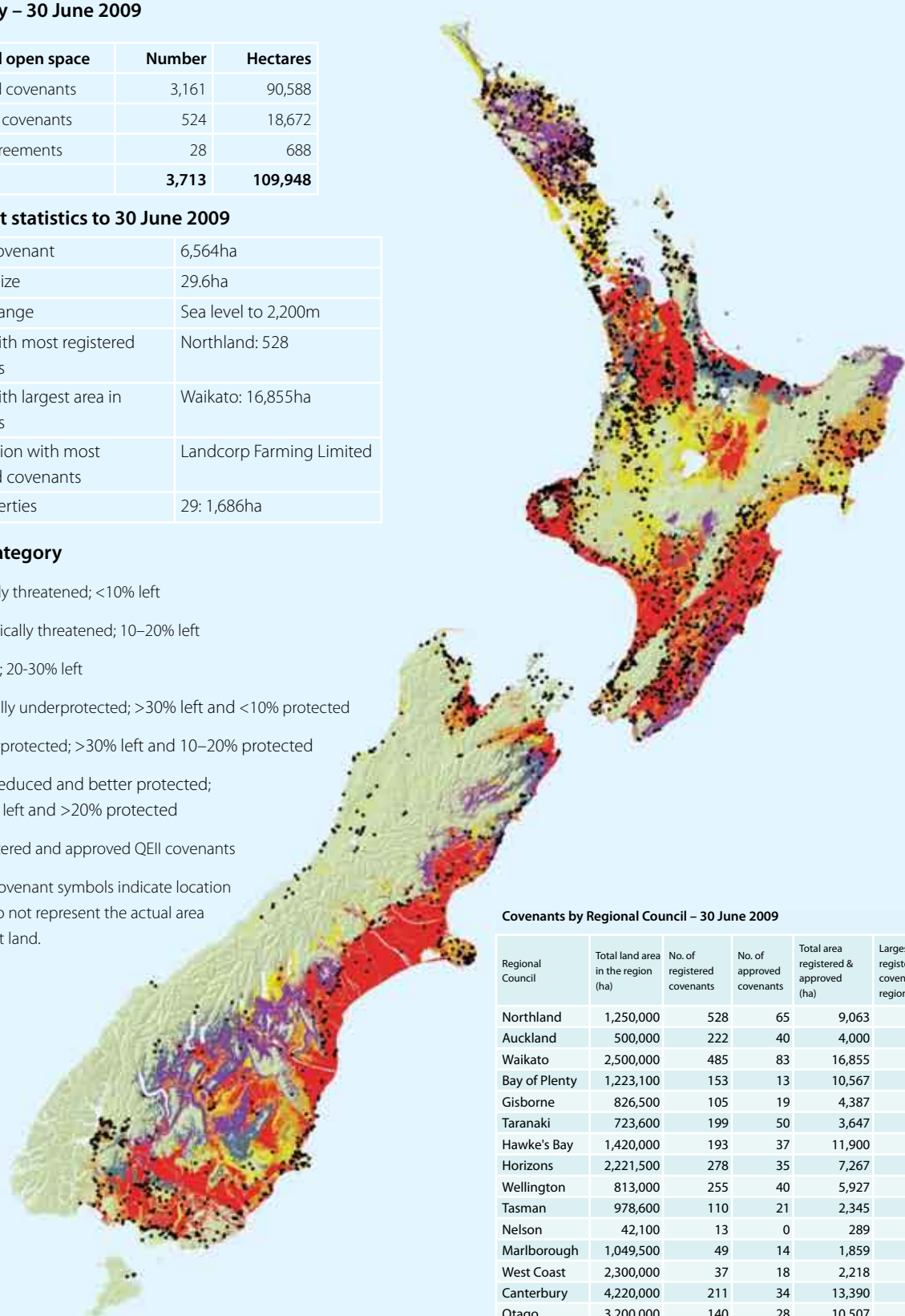
### Covenant statistics to 30 June 2009

Largest covenant	6,564ha
Average size	29.6ha
Altitude range	Sea level to 2,200m
Region with most registered covenants	Northland: 528
Region with largest area in covenants	Waikato: 16,855ha
Organisation with most registered covenants	Landcorp Farming Limited
QEII properties	29: 1,686ha

### 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 2009

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	528	65	9,063	417	15.3
Auckland	500,000	222	40	4,000	841	15.3
Waikato	2,500,000	485	83	16,855	645	29.7
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	153	13	10,567	6,564	63.7
Gisborne	826,500	105	19	4,387	1,104	35.4
Taranaki	723,600	199	50	3,647	334	14.6
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	193	37	11,900	4,606	51.7
Horizons	2,221,500	278	35	7,267	306	23.2
Wellington	813,000	255	40	5,927	824	20.1
Tasman	978,600	110	21	2,345	641	17.9
Nelson	42,100	13	0	289	140	22.2
Marlborough	1,049,500	49	14	1,859	182	29.5
West Coast	2,300,000	37	18	2,218	619	40.3
Canterbury	4,220,000	211	34	13,390	1,679	54.7
Otago	3,200,000	140	28	10,507	2,735	62.5
Southland	3,035,000	211	27	5,728	214	24.1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,189</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>109,948</b>		<b>29.6</b>

## 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 278 registered during the year.



Photo: Rex Webby

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

### Primary lowland forest in the Waikato

Four lowland forest remnants have been protected with an 18ha covenant by John and Heather Taylor on their 235ha dairy grazing farm east of Cambridge. Fenced with contributions from QEII, Environment Waikato and the landowner, seedlings are regenerating now that stock are excluded. With canopies of tawa, titoki, rewarewa, rimu and totara, the remnants provide 'stepping stones' for kereru, tui and bellbirds between other forest fragments and the nearby Maungakawa Reserve.



Photo: Greg Blunden

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

### Far North sand dunes

On the Karikari Peninsula north-east of Kaitiā, MBR Developments Limited has protected a foredune and a block of manuka shrubland with an 18.5ha covenant. A revegetation project using eco-sourced plants including pohutukawa, flaxes, karo, sedges, toetoe and cabbage trees is transforming the coastal landscape back to what it may have been like originally. Clearing invasive species will help to restore the habitat for native vegetation such as sand daphne *Pimelea arenaria* (D).



Photo: Brian Molloy

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

### Central Otago outwash terrace

On an outwash terrace of the Clutha River, Beau and Ann Trevathan have protected a rare combination of habitats with lag gravels, saline patches, sand dunes, consolidated sands and shallow stony soils with a 4ha covenant. The area is unique to the Upper Clutha Valley with thirteen nationally threatened and uncommon plants including *Leptinella* "Clutha River" (NC), *Daucus glochidiatus* (NC) and *Isolepis basilaris* (NE); nine species of moths, some now nationally uncommon; and six undescribed plants.



Photo: Rob Campbell. Inset: John Barila

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

### Threatened species habitat in Coastal Otago

North of Aramoana, a coastal podocarp-broadleaf forest and shrubland remnant has been protected by Heyward Point Farm Limited with a 1.4ha covenant. Fenced with contributions from QEII, Otago Regional Council and the landowner, the covenant protects the habitat of Hector's tree daisy *Olearia hectorii* (NE) (pictured), fragrant tree daisy *O. fragrantissima* (D), fierce lancewood *Pseudopanax ferox* (NU) and an array of native insects including the noctuid moth *Meterana exquisita* (GD) whose larvae feed on *O. hectorii*.

Key: NC = Nationally Critical, NE = Nationally Endangered, NV = Nationally Vulnerable, NU = Naturally Uncommon, D = Declining, GD = Gradual Decline



## Collaborations and partnerships

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



Photo: Greg Blunden

### Sharing knowledge on managing animal pests

The 90ha Humphreys Bush covenant owned by Greg and Gay Blunden at Paponga north of Hokianga Harbour is habitat for North Island brown kiwi (NV), kukupa, tomtits and fernbirds (D). An integrated pest management programme has been set up in the covenant with Biodiversity Condition Funding. A field day in March 2009, run jointly by QEI, NZ Kiwi Foundation and the Biodiversity Advice Fund, shared knowledge on how to manage animal pests. From left, covenantors Gay Blunden, Asta Wistrand, Dawn Driver, John Garton, Wendy Sporle, Eddy Gompelman and Misty Gaitens.



Photo: Lynda Fleming

### South Auckland archaeological site consultation

On Awhitu Peninsula, John and Julie McNamara protected Te Kohekohe Pā and a semi-coastal forest remnant with a 22ha covenant in January 2009. Along with six defensive units, each fortified with ditches, banks and steepened scarps, the site has over eighty kumara pits. Consultation on the covenant fencing and management plan was undertaken between the landowners, Auckland Regional Council, Franklin District Council, Historic Places Trust, QEI and Ngāti Te Ata. A light to medium grazing regime provides for continued farming use.



Photos: Miles Gillier

### Partners protect Canterbury dryland biodiversity

Alan and Adrienne McKnight protected one of the largest areas of dryland forest and shrubland remaining in the Waikari Ecological District with a 26ha covenant in April 2009. The vegetation, highly representative of native dryland plant communities, contains species uncommon in the locality including *Hebe cheesemaniae*, *H. glaucophylla*, *Aristotelia fruticosa*, *Coprosma intertexta* (pictured) and *Grammitis poeppigiana*. Stock are now excluded by a fence constructed with contributions from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Environment Canterbury, QEI and the landowners.



Photo: Mairland Manning

### Restoring Sherwood Forest in Southland

With Biodiversity Condition Funding, Biodiversity Southland has undertaken weed and pest control and revegetation plantings in Sherwood Forest north-east of Invercargill since 2003. Protected with a 34ha covenant in 1991 by Pat and the late Derek Turnbull, the matai-dominated forest is a nationally significant ecosystem and contains the threatened species *Olearia hectorii* (NE). Planting a matai in April 2009, from left, Gay Munro, QEI Regional Representative, Stuart Collie, Environment Southland Chairperson, and Frana Cardno, Southland District Council Mayor.

### Other partnerships

- QEI 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.
- The partnership continues between QEI and the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust which operates the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This robust, peer reviewed process has an overall objective of promoting sustainable land management on farms.

## Integrating farm production and protection

During the year, farmers continued to show that by protecting natural features with covenants, New Zealand's biodiversity and habitats can be both restored and enhanced while retaining profitability.



Photo: Neil Phillips

### ▲ South Taranaki dairy farm bush remnants

Graham Mourie's first covenant protected a 1.5ha semi-coastal forest remnant on his dairy farm near Opunake in 1990. A recently purchased adjacent farm is undergoing a development programme to increase production balanced by protecting forest remnants, restoring waterways and revegetation plantings. With fencing funded by QEII, South Taranaki District Council and the landowners, a second 2.6ha covenant was put in place in April 2009. Pictured: Graham Mourie on the right, with equity partners Darrel Weston (and son Caleb) on the left and Mark Bridges.



Photo: Bill Wallace

### ▲ Regenerating forest in Tararua

On her remote 800ha sheep and beef farm south-east of Pongaroa, Janette Walker protected a block of regenerating kanuka forest with a 36ha covenant in July 2008. In steep country along the Makatote Stream, the area was difficult to muster and manage. Retiring this unprofitable piece of land will also help to maintain the health of the stream by excluding stock. The covenant fence was constructed with contributions from QEII, the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the landowner.



Photos: Tom Stein

### ▲ Sustainable dryland management in Marlborough

At Cape Campbell, a remnant of mahoe, ngaio and five-finger forest, manuka forest and tauhinu-*Olearia* shrubland was protected with a 12ha covenant by The Shirt Farm Limited in February 2009. Identified by the Marlborough District Council's Significant Natural Areas (SNA) Project, the covenant was fenced with contributions from QEII, the landowners, the council and the Biodiversity Condition Fund. Working with the council, the landowners have developed a whole farm plan to integrate production and protection values in this dryland environment.



Photo: Miles Giller

### ▲ North Canterbury kanuka forest

Jim and Corina Hazlett have protected 44ha of kanuka and beech forest on their 630ha sheep and beef farm north of Waiau with two covenants. Registered in March 2009, their second covenant protects the catchment of a tributary of Counting Stream which flows into the Waiau River. Funded by QEII, Environment Canterbury, the Biodiversity Condition Fund and the landowners, the covenant fencing has helped to improve farm management as it allows better use of the adjacent land including strip grazing.



# Statement of Service Performance

for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

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 2008.

## 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 2009, there were 524 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	2007/08 Actual		2008/09 Estimate		2008/09 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
Approved covenants	238	5,669	200	5,000	216	3,466
Registered covenants	233	3,389	200	5,000	278	4,320 <sup>(1)</sup>
Cost	\$2,299,059		\$2,300,699		\$ 2,281,838	

1. 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 protecting 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, 96% of covenants visited met covenant conditions and 4% of covenants visited had poor adherence where there had been a breach of covenant terms

and conditions. Appropriate and remedial action is taken quickly for each occurrence.

Property ownership, either permanent or transitory, is sometimes appropriate to secure protection. QEII Trust currently owns 29 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	2007/08 Actual		2008/09 Estimate		2008/09 Actual	
	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares	No.	Hectares
QEII owned properties	28	1,582	28	1,582	29 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,686
Monitoring of registered covenants	1,398	41,371	1,350	33,750	1,542	40,421
Cost	\$1,551,014		\$1,376,707		\$1,484,321	

1. Farm bequeathed from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson and currently leased.

## Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

2008 Actual \$		2009 Actual \$	2009 Budget \$
	<b>Revenue</b>		
2,874,000	Government Grant	2,874,000	2,874,000
378,130	Contestable Funds	266,919	200,000
141,316	Donations and Other Grants	523,571	420,000
29,249	Other Revenue	27,354	24,481
<b>3,422,695</b>	<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>3,691,844</b>	<b>3,518,481</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
733,329	Field Operations	731,017	724,500
1,249,827	Covenant Expenditure	1,240,915	1,357,284
343,993	Contestable Funds	267,535	200,000
1,012,041	Administration	1,095,133	1,077,401
15,069	Property Operations	22,931	26,721
148,359	Public Relations	121,581	121,500
121,468	Depreciation	82,901	120,000
<b>3,624,086</b>	<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3,562,013</b>	<b>3,627,406</b>
469,794	Investment Income	475,969	450,000
225,987	Investment Expenses	165,688	50,000
<b>243,807</b>	<b>Net Financial Revenue from Investments</b>	<b>310,281</b>	<b>400,000</b>
<b>42,416</b>	<b>Net Surplus before Property Acquisitions/Disposals</b>	<b>440,112</b>	<b>291,075</b>
20,400	Property Gifted to the Trust	2,963,577	-
-	Expenses Associated to Gifted Property	38,458	-
<b>20,400</b>	<b>Net Income from Gifted Property</b>	<b>2,925,119</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>62,816</b>	<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>3,365,231</b>	<b>291,075</b>

This Income Statement is an extract only. For the full Financial Statements and accompanying accounting policies and notes, see the Annual Report 2009 on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz) or phone 0800 467 367 to request a copy by post.

### Gisborne family protects threatened forest

North-west of Te Karaka, the Savage family has protected podocarp-hardwood forest remnants on the 2,200ha Poututu Station and the 480ha Kowhai-Nui Station since 1997. Registered in August 2008, their latest 29ha covenant protects totara, titoki, kahikatea, kanuka and kowhai in a chronically threatened, critically underprotected land environment. Excluding stock with fencing funded by QEII, the Biodiversity Condition Fund and the landowners will enhance regeneration and improve water quality by reducing siltation in Wheao Stream, a tributary of the Waikohu River. Pictured: Tom Savage.



Photos: Malcolm Piper



# Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 June to 30 September 2009

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Atkinson, Mason & Rondel	36.9	F	Far North
Garton	105.5	F	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited (x2)	61.9	R,S,W	Far North
Lee	10.5	F	Far North
Nixon	17.0	F	Far North
Macky & O'Connor	29.2	F,S,W	Whangarei
Cullen & Jaques	1.7	F	Kaipara
Ledbury Farm Limited	1.0	F	Kaipara
Miller	4.9	F	Rodney
Prictor	6.4	F	Rodney
Ritchie	12.6	F,FI,L	Waikato
Scott	7.5	F	Waipa
Hollyman & Harris	75.6	F	South Waikato
Graeme	0.9	F,W	Tauranga
Hutchinson	2.1	S	Whakatane
Turamoe Farms Limited	12.6	F	Otorohanga
Grandiek	5.8	W	Gisborne
Pohatu, White & Evans	64.5	F,S	Gisborne
Hildreth	12.1	F	Hastings
Barr	0.5	F,W	New Plymouth
Carruthers, Burn & Reeves	6.9	F	New Plymouth
F.J. Goodin and Sons Limited	1.6	W	New Plymouth
McGlashan	1.3	F	New Plymouth
Avery & King	11.3	F	Stratford
Campbell	3.2	F	South Taranaki
Cape Farms Limited	0.6	F	South Taranaki
Thurlow & Graham	173.6	F	Wanganui
Hughes & Craw	3.8	F	Rangitikei
Smith	12.9	F	Rangitikei
Love & McGillivray	58.2	F	Palmerston North
Dandy	10.3	F	Tararua
Zenith Land Company Limited	47.6	F	Tararua

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Byrne & Brewerton	4.5	F,W	Masterton
Daniell & Garstang	1.2	F	Masterton
X-Site Limited	1.6	T	Carterton
Marsh & Campbell	1.9	F	South Wairarapa
Prickett	16.6	D,W	South Wairarapa
Porirua City Council	0.1	W	Porirua
Watson & Cardno	0.8	F	Wellington
Goulter (x2)	2.9	FI,S,T,W	Marlborough
Marlborough District Council	0.5	F	Marlborough
Mitchell & Beere	1.1	F,W	Tasman
Whitaker	4.1	F	Tasman
Landcorp Farming Limited	28.2	F,W	Buller
Anderson & Hargreaves	0.7	A,F	Westland
Kaikoura District Council	0.9	F,S	Kaikoura
Turnbull & Martin	22.4	F	Hurunui
Craig & Clark	8.6	F	Christchurch
Davis & Andrews	1.0	F	Christchurch
Kimberley, Delaney & Keegan	15.0	F	Christchurch
Lappage	1.5	S	Selwyn
Murchison & Weastell	7.2	T,W	Selwyn
Stark	1.4	G,S	Selwyn
Kontze & Stoodley	9.3	F	Waimate
Central Otago District Council	5.4	G,S	Central Otago
Oliverburn Farm Limited	0.6	G,S	Central Otago
Laphorne	8.0	R,W	Clutha
Landcorp Farming Limited	42.4	F	Grey
Toghill	7.5	F	Grey
Collie	15.4	F,S	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited (x9)	193.0	F,S,Tu,W	Southland
Michaels & Wilkes	11.6	F,W	Southland
Westray Holdings Limited	3.4	W	Southland

**Key:** A Archaeological feature C Cushionfield D Duneland  
 F Forest FI Flaxland G Grassland  
 Ga Garden / arboretum Ge Geological feature L Landscape  
 P Predator-proof area R Rushland S Shrubland  
 T Treeland Tu Tussockland W Wetland



## Southland wildlife habitat

East of Te Anau, **Andy Gillespie** protected a prominent wetland and wildlife habitat with a 3.4ha covenant in July 2009. In glacial moraine on top of Ramparts Hill Range, the area is a peat and sphagnum moss sink that was dammed and flooded in the past. 'It's a lovely area for a variety of birds including grey teal and scaup,' says Andy. 'The covenant has now secured this wetland forever.'



## Contributing to Auckland region water supplies

On their drystock property east of Papakura, **John and Marlene Glasgow** protected lowland primary forest in an at risk, critically underprotected land environment with a 5.6ha covenant in January 2009. Watercare contributed to the cost of fencing along with the landowners as the covenant protects a stream that feeds into the Hayes Creek Dam catchment. Students from Paparimu, Ardmore and Buckland Beach primary schools are helping with revegetation plantings to enhance the edges of the protected gullies.

## QEII Athol Patterson Bursary

As a result of a generous bequest to QEII from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson, this bursary has been set up at Massey University to support students interested in sustainable farming practices. The \$2,000 bursary is awarded annually in May. For full details and application form visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz) or email [K.Harrington@massey.ac.nz](mailto:K.Harrington@massey.ac.nz)

## National Wetland Restoration Symposium

Wetland Management and Restoration (Freshwater and Estuarine)

Rotorua, 3-5 March 2010

Special discounted rate for a limited number of wetland restoration community group members or individuals undertaking wetland restoration on private land. For more details visit [www.wetlandtrust.org.nz](http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz)

## Planting at Te Wherowhero Lagoon

Te Wherowhero Lagoon including **Ian and Sally Foxley's** 69ha covenant is a significant wildlife area at the foot of Young Nicks Head near Gisborne. Funded by the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Banrock Station Wines and Wetland Care NZ, a further 6,500 trees and shrubs were planted this year in an ongoing restoration programme.

Pictured: Lani Latu and Tom Stone planting harakeke.



Photo: Malcolm Piper

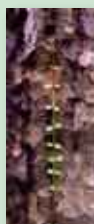
## Things to buy

### QEII Swannndri® Vest

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

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

Sizes available:	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>
<b>Chest (cm)</b>	94	99	104	114	124	134
<b>Waist (cm)</b>	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

## Property for sale

For more details of this property, visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

**Coromandel Gem, \$509,000**



80ha QEII covenant property, regenerating forest, stream, active pest control. House site, harbour views, power, telephone. Boat ramp, 3 minutes Whangapoua beach. Phone 07 866 0020 or email [henry.a@xtra.co.nz](mailto:henry.a@xtra.co.nz)

## ORDER FORM

Name

Address (for courier delivery)

Telephone

☐ 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

## 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. 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](mailto:mmckee@openspace.org.nz)



## New Regional Representatives



### Bay of Plenty

A former QEII Chairperson and Director, **Maggie Bayfield** has had more than 20 years experience working as an ecologist, with the last three years being based in the Bay of Plenty. Maggie has led Protected Natural Area surveys in Taranaki and as a trustee and facilitator of the Taranaki Tree Trust, she has worked with councils and landowners to protect and enhance natural areas. Maggie is a keen tramp.



### Southland

**Graeme Watson**, a Southland sheep farmer for over 30 years, has had a long involvement in wetland development and shelter design. He is a regular host of field days encouraging landowners to develop wetlands, plant native shelter and improve water quality. Graeme's work has been recognised with a farm environmental award. He is a fly fishing guide and a keen surfer with a strong interest in water quality.

## Ensuring long term protection with QEII

**Denise and Neil Phillips**, QEII Taranaki Regional Representative, protected a remnant of semi-coastal primary forest and wetland on their property just south of New Plymouth with their second 1.4ha covenant in May 2009. 'We purchased this property primarily to ensure its long term protection with QEII,' says Neil. 'In an acutely threatened and critically underprotected land environment, the healthy forest provides a good link to other remnants to the north.'



The forest protected by Neil and Denise Phillips has a canopy of rimu, pukatea, nikau, rewarewa, tawa and pigeonwood with an understorey of lancewood, kanono, karamu, mahoe and ferns.

## In Memoriam – Alan Houston QC

Long time Benefactor of the Trust, **Alan Houston**, died in Hamilton on 8 July 2009. Until his retirement at the end of 2008 from his legal practice, Alan was highly respected as New Zealand's most senior Queen's Counsel.

In March 1981, a 258ha regenerating lowland forest property north-west of Waitomo Caves was acquired by Alan and Margaret Houston and gifted to QEII in

memory of their late son, Robert Houston. This bush will be protected and managed as open space forever.

Although in failing health in recent years, Alan maintained his commitment to protecting and enjoying indigenous flora and fauna, as was demonstrated by the covenanting of a lowland forest and wetland area on his property north of Otorohanga known as Tihiroa Farm.



In July 2009, QEII directors, staff and regional representatives explored the Ngunguru River near Tutukaka on a boat trip with Captain Percy Ginders, passing podocarp-hardwood and kauri forest, wetlands and saltmarsh protected with covenants by Percy, Gloria Bruni, Kevin and Dale Jull, Richard Saul and Roberta Cameron, and Wade and Jan Doak. From left: Percy Ginders; John Bishop, Manager Legal Services; Dan Godoy, Northwest Auckland Regional Representative; Greg Blunden, Far North Regional Representative (obscured); Sir Brian Lochore, Chairperson; Alistair Webb, Technical Officer; and Kerri Lukis, Technical Officer.

Photo: Loralee Hyde

# 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 to filter rain and runoff ensuring improved 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 to 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.

Heart-leaved kohuhu *Pittosporum obcordatum* at Mangarara Station

## 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*<sup>™</sup> 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:

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 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.

## 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 values, naturalness, sustainability, existing or potential value as an ecological corridor, wildlife, geological features, landscape values,

and 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](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.

## Central Hawke's Bay: Restoring landmark bluffs



These imposing limestone bluffs at Kairakau Beach were protected by the 2.9ha Kairakau Cliffs covenant in 2007. The Manawarakau Trust is revegetating the cliffs with assistance from Hawke's Bay Regional Council and volunteers.



Ted Bibby and Warwick Hesketh, Land Management Advisor at Hawke's Bay Regional Council, tackle the steep terrain. Over 800 flaxes, tauhinu, cabbage trees, karaka, coprosmas, hebes and pittosporums were planted this year.

## Mangarara Station: A vision of sustainable farming

### Protecting bush and wetlands and restoring the hills

Mangarara Station, **Greg and Rachel Hart's** 610ha sheep and beef farm near Patangata in Central Hawke's Bay, was the first recipient of a grant from the Air New Zealand Environmental Trust. This initiative helps communities with conservation projects and funds research into ways to enhance New Zealand's environment. When people book an Air New Zealand flight online, they are encouraged to donate to the Trust.

Much of Mangarara Station is steeper hill country, devoid of trees after more than 150 years of intensive farming. On the flatter land, two remaining areas of native vegetation, a podocarp forest and a lake and wetland, have been protected with QEII covenants.

When Greg and Rachel took over the farm from Greg's parents 13 years ago, they started thinking about the sustainability of farming practices. They have a vision of the farm becoming a model of sustainable land management. Their objectives are to restore the ecosystems by planting native bush and to create a beautiful place people will want to visit to find out about farming life and restoring the environment.

'We were looking at alternatives for more sustainable methods and approached Air New Zealand,' says Greg. 'They provided a grant of around \$450,000 over three years to plant 85,000 trees on the farm including in a 40ha gully we have retired. Family, volunteers and contractors have planted and mulched 22,000 native plants this year

including manuka, kanuka, hebes, cabbage trees, karamu and flaxes. These plants will provide shade and shelter for trees such as totara and kowhai that will be planted at a later stage.'

Greg has experimented with a number of different weed mats and mulches to help the plants thrive in the harsh conditions. 'We have extremes of weather here with freezing temperatures in winter and drought conditions in summer,' he explains. 'It has been difficult to retain the plantings and we are now trialling mulch mats made from waste paper to control weeds and keep in moisture.

'What we are doing here keeps me focused. It's a challenge but the motivation is what we are going to leave for all of our children. A requirement of the grant is to protect the replanted block with a covenant for future generations along with the two QEII covenants on the farm.'

For more about the Air New Zealand Environmental Trust visit [www.airnzenvironmenttrust.org.nz](http://www.airnzenvironmenttrust.org.nz)

To find out about Greg and Rachel Hart's vision for the future of Mangarara Farm visit [www.thefamilyfarm.net.nz](http://www.thefamilyfarm.net.nz)

**Above right: Protected with a 10ha QEII covenant in 2004, this stunning kahikatea, matai and totara forest on Mangarara Station contains the threatened heart-leaved kohuhu *Pittosporum obcordatum* (Nationally Vulnerable).**



**Above: Greg and Rachel Hart with Emma, George and Bill in front of Horseshoe Lake. Protected with a 35ha covenant in 2006, the lake has been a wildlife refuge since 1957 and is a prime habitat for water birds.**

**Right: In August 2009, volunteers from Napier placed EcoCover™ mulch mats around recently planted native species. Made from recycled waste paper, the mats are compostable and biodegradable. Contractors and volunteers have placed 14,000 mats this year.**

**Far right: Alongside his grandmother, Barbara Bruce, four-year-old Bill Hart is already contributing to his family's vision for Mangarara Station.**



Photos: Loralee Hyde