



QEI National Trust  
Open Space New Zealand  
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

# Open Space<sup>TM</sup>

\$7.50

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST ISSUE 79 | JULY 2010



High Country | Focus on Whangarei and Coastal Otago | Awards | Wetland Restoration



# Contents

- 3** News and Events
- 4** Classic High Country open space covenant
- 5** Event: Wairere Farm
- 6** Showcase Golden Bay covenants
- 8** Focus on Whangarei
- 12** Focus on Coastal Otago
- 16** Research: Wetland restoration
- 18** Restoring wetlands to healthy, living ecosystems
- 23** Fragments
- 24** Award winners
- 26** Covenants update
- 29** Trust people
- 30** About QEII Trust
- 32** In the community: Wairarapa schools



6



9



18



32

## Regional Representatives

**Far North** Greg Blunden  
Ph 09 407 1119 gblunden@openspace.org.nz

**Kaipara** Nick Matich  
Ph 09 439 8932 nmatich@openspace.org.nz

**Whangarei** Nan Pullman  
Ph/Fax 09 434 3457 npullman@openspace.org.nz

**Auckland** Dan Godoy  
Ph 09 521 3208 dgodoy@openspace.org.nz

**South Auckland**  
Ph 0800 467 367 info@openspace.org.nz

**Coromandel** Hamish Kendal  
Ph 07 866 0770 hkendal@openspace.org.nz

**Waikato** Rex Webby  
Ph 07 825 2250 rwebby@openspace.org.nz

**Waikato East – Taupo** Hamish Dean  
Ph 021 741 222 hdean@openspace.org.nz

**Waitomo – Otorohanga** Malcolm Mackenzie  
Ph 07 873 7728 mmackenzie@openspace.org.nz

**Bay of Plenty** Maggie Bayfield  
Ph 07 312 5356 mbayfield@openspace.org.nz

**Gisborne** Malcolm Piper  
Ph/Fax 06 867 0255 mpiper@openspace.org.nz

**Hawke's Bay** Troy Duncan  
Ph 06 844 3838 tduncan@openspace.org.nz

**Taranaki** Neil Phillips  
Ph 06 753 6433 nphillips@openspace.org.nz

**Central – Manawatu** John Williamson  
Ph 06 328 6851 jwilliamson@openspace.org.nz

**Tararua** Bill Wallace  
Ph 06 376 7796 bwallace@openspace.org.nz

**Wairarapa** Trevor Thompson  
Ph 06 372 5870 tthompson@openspace.org.nz

**Wellington** Peter Ettema  
Ph 04 970 0324 pettema@openspace.org.nz

**Nelson – Tasman** Philip Lissaman  
Ph 03 526 6114 plissaman@openspace.org.nz

**Marlborough** Tom Stein  
Ph 03 574 2978 tstein@openspace.org.nz

**Banks Peninsula** Alice Shanks  
Ph 03 337 1256 ashanks@openspace.org.nz

**North Canterbury** Miles Giller  
Ph/Fax 03 313 5315 mgiller@openspace.org.nz

**South Canterbury** Rob Smith  
Ph 03 689 7735 rsmith@openspace.org.nz

**West Coast** Mike Copeland  
Ph 03 789 7709 mcopeland@openspace.org.nz

**Coastal Otago** Rob Campbell  
Ph 03 439 4333 rcampbell@openspace.org.nz

**High Country** Dr Brian Molloy  
Ph 03 348 1077 bmolloy@openspace.org.nz

**Waiau Catchment** Mark Sutton  
Ph 03 249 9373 msutton@openspace.org.nz

**Southland** Graeme Watson  
Ph 03 230 4843 gwatson@openspace.org.nz

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

## 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 nearly 95,000 hectares of their land through QEII registered covenants (or protection agreements). QEII Trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants.

QEII Trust also owns 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

Spectacular schist rockland protected by Richard and Jacqui Parsons with their Waikerikeri covenant near Clyde. See page 4 for more about this covenant. Photo: Brian Molloy

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  
Megan Balks, Te Awamutu  
James Hunter, Porangahau

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

Open Space™ is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Level 4, FX Networks House, 138 The Terrace, Wellington

ISSN 1179-3880 (Print) ISSN 1179-3899 (Online)

Phone 04 472 6626 Fax 04 472 5578

From outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367)

Design Toolbox Creative Editor Lorelee Hyde

Email editor@openspace.org.nz [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

# We stand by the rigour of the QEII covenanting process

'The success of QEII in protecting natural features with open space covenants is outstanding,' says Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson.

'There are now over 3,350 covenants protecting nearly 95,000 hectares of our natural heritage in perpetuity. This along with the longstanding and independent relationship the Trust has with landowners is proof that the QEII model is an excellent mechanism to protect our special areas.'

Sir Brian says a recent public campaign has spread erroneous and misleading information about the QEII covenanting process.

'QEII covenants protect natural features forever,' he emphasises. 'Covenants cannot be extinguished at any time. A variation is possible but any such variation must enhance the overall objectives of the covenant and have unanimous approval of the Board.'

A documented strength of the QEII process is the ongoing monitoring of covenants. Each covenant is visited regularly by a local QEII representative, usually every two years, to monitor its condition and trends and advise the landowner about how to meet the covenant objectives.

'Within this stewardship programme we have monitored 1,640 covenants over the last twelve months and we take any breach of terms and conditions very seriously,' Sir Brian confirms.

'The effectiveness of the rigorous monitoring and management is reflected by the fact that 96% of monitored covenants meet or exceed agreed terms and conditions. The number of breaches is small and we take quick remedial action for each occurrence.'

'There are penalties under the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1997 for committing an offence and fines may be imposed. The Trust may also sue for breach of contract, obtain injunctive

relief or seek additional enforcement when appropriate, for example, under the Resource Management Act 1991.

'Covenantors throughout the country protect a wide variety of natural features from small patches of bush to large areas of tussock grassland. The percentage of covenants that meet or exceed the terms and conditions is consistent between originating covenantors and any subsequent landowners; an indication of the commitment of the inspired landowners we work with.'

Misleading criticisms in the public arena include statements that covenants in the high country do not require fencing or do not exclude stock. In fact, each and every covenant is unique and is considered on a case to case basis. There is considerable scientific evidence that supports light summer grazing as a conservation management tool in some situations. Where required, covenants have robust fencing provisions in place.

The question of public access has also been raised. Sir Brian says that as the majority of QEII covenants are on private land, access is down to the landowner. However, where covenants are negotiated as part of a commercial transaction, unrestricted access in perpetuity is included as a mandatory outcome where desirable.

'The overriding benefit of the QEII covenanting process on private land is that it is voluntary,' Sir Brian adds. 'Take the outstanding Waikerikeri covenant on high country near Clyde. Following tenure review, Richard and Jacqui Parsons voluntarily put 252 hectares of their freeholded land into a QEII covenant. That's such a generous contribution for the benefit of future generations.'

Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and QEII recognise there will now be greater use of covenants in tenure review to reflect and implement Government policy. A set of operating principles on the use of covenants has been agreed\*.

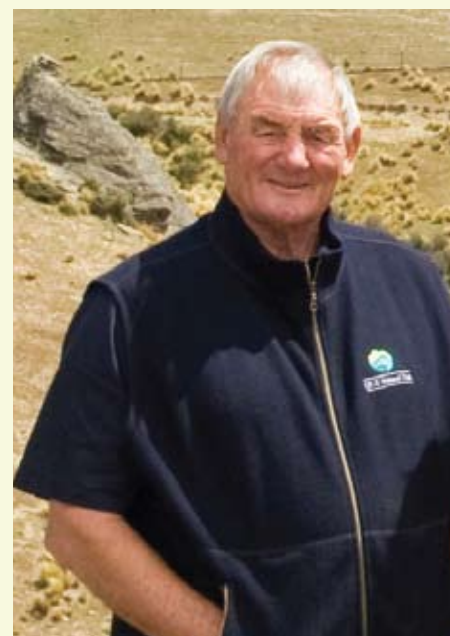


Photo: Tim Hawkins

**The QEII covenanting process is a robust, simple and highly cost-effective environmental and resource management tool.**

**Sir Brian Lochore**  
QEII Chairperson

Sir Brian says covenants put in place during tenure review will be facilitated under different rules than those for voluntary covenants on freehold land.

'The process for covenants arising from tenure review cannot be compared to that for covenants on private land but we will certainly continue to value the importance of constructive working relationships with landholders to make the covenants work.'

\*To download the operating principles, visit Resources/Policies under [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)



# A classic High Country open space covenant:

## Protecting landscape, historic and biodiversity values in Central Otago



Photos: Brian Molloy

**Top:** Rising from Waikerikeri Creek up the very steep slopes of the valley to the ridgelines, the covenant is topographically well contained and completely fenced. A light grazing regime in the grassland areas forms part of the management plan.

**Middle:** The landscape values of the spectacular schist rockland on the lower slopes of the Dunstan Mountains are now protected in perpetuity by the Waikerikeri covenant. 'The protection with QEII will benefit the long term value of the property,' says Richard Parsons.

**Bottom:** Hawthorn, willow, elder, sweet brier and wild currant lie dead in the covenant after treatment early in 2009. Already native grey scrub species are regenerating. **Inset:** The old mining water race.

In Waikerikeri Valley near Clyde, a spectacular schist rockland landscape was protected by **Richard and Jacqui Parsons** with the 252ha Waikerikeri covenant in April 2009.

'This area is a highly representative example of a Central Otago schist landscape covered with grey scrub,' says Dr Brian Molloy, QEII High Country Regional Representative. 'It is one of the best examples of a protected dryland ecosystem in a district where there is a paucity of significant protected areas, especially at lower altitudes.'

An excellent collection of semi-arid Central Otago plants is protected by the covenant including *Elymus apricus* (Naturally Uncommon), *Poa "colensoi"* (unnamed), *Melicytus* sp. (unnamed), *Carmichaelia petriei*, *C. compacta* (Declining), *Hebe pimeleoides* subsp. *faucicola* (Naturally Uncommon), *Helichrysum intermedium*, *Vittadinia australis*, *Acaena buchananii*, *Pimelea aridula* (Declining) and *Sophora microphylla*. The wide range of other native plants includes an abundance of *Olearia odorata*, *Muehlenbeckia australis* and *M. complexa*. The insect, lizard and invertebrate faunas are unidentified as yet but are likely to be significant. Birdlife includes falcons (Nationally Endangered), pipits, harriers and grey warblers.

Waikerikeri Valley featured prominently in early gold mining in the district. A stone walled mining water race in the covenant is a historic relic of that era. Being an old mining area, the grey scrub alongside Waikerikeri Creek was heavily infested with 'camp followers' weeds such as hawthorn, willow, elder, sweet brier and wild currant.

With contributions from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, the landowner and QEII, sixty hectares have been treated with the herbicide Answer® to control the weeds and allow the grey scrub to recover. Nine hectares of willows were treated with Roundup®.

'The Waikerikeri covenant combines all the elements of a first class recipe for an open space covenant from the early mining and prospecting history through to pastoral farming and now the protection of the biodiversity,' Brian concludes.

The remnants of original vegetation provided the motivation for the Parsons to protect the area with QEII. 'The property was under pastoral lease and during tenure review only the high altitude land on the Dunstan Mountains was allocated to the Department of Conservation,' says Richard. 'Once the low altitude areas became freehold, it was a good opportunity to put a covenant in place.'

'We have long term plans to make the property more sustainable and achieve a balance between conservation and farming. With possum control done before the spraying and the intensive weed control, the covenant will look spectacular in the future.'

Find out more about the plants protected by the Waikerikeri covenant on [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)

# Integrating long term conservation with farming in the Wairarapa

Over fifty Wairarapa and Tararua covenants and representatives from Greater Wellington and Horizons Regional Councils, Masterton District Council and the Department of Conservation enjoyed a visit to **Wairere Farm** north-east of Masterton on 3 March.

They were invited for lunch with QEII directors and staff and for a tour of the farm. Owned by **Derek and Chris Daniell**, the 1,206 hectare property was established as a registered Romney stud over 70 years ago by Len Daniell. With 1,070ha farmed and the balance in bush and manuka, the farm runs 9,500 sheep and 300 breeding cows. A 58ha covenant has protected four lowland podocarp-hardwood forest remnants on the farm since 1988. Another 1.2ha covenant was registered in June 2009.

QEII Chairperson, Sir Brian Lochore, acknowledged the generosity of covenants saying the Daniell family are typical of the landowners who have the foresight to look after their land for future generations. 'The protected bush on this farm shows the benefits of long term protection by a forward thinking farming family,' he said.

Derek Daniell recounted how the bush was preserved. 'My father, John Daniell, took over Wairere in 1951 and started fencing off bush blocks in the late sixties and early seventies,' he said. 'My sister Stella was working for the Commissioner for the Environment in the 1980s and suggested QEII protection.'

'We had one of the earliest covenants in the Wairarapa. QEII do a fantastic job and it's tremendous to see the voluntary win-win for the environment resulting from the relationship between them and landowners.'

Trevor Thompson, the local QEII representative, described how wind can affect small bush remnants in the Wairarapa, increasing the risk of the bush dying off. 'Plants on the edges can be stunted while inside there may be little natural regeneration in the dry conditions,' he said.

'At Wairere, the bush is very dense as stock have been excluded for over 40 years. The bush edges are healthy with the buffer of the hardy natives such as manuka and coprosmas and the native vines climbing them reduce wind effects in the block.'



Photos: Loralee Hyde

Above: Covenants and other guests gathered in the woolshed on Wairere Farm to meet QEII directors and staff.



Above: The protected remnants on Wairere provide wildlife corridors for birds such as kereru. Trevor Thompson explained the value of doing seasonal rat control just prior to bird breeding and how this could be done efficiently with minimum cost and effort.



Left: Sir Brian Lochore and Derek Daniell discussed the benefits of integrating long term conservation with sheep and beef farming.

For more about the Wairere Farm covenants, visit Covenants/Covenant Stories under [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)



## Showcase covenants protect the unique biodiversity of Golden Bay

Over 80 Nelson and Tasman covenantors and representatives from the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game and Forest and Bird enjoyed morning tea with QEII directors and staff at Tukurua Swamp near Takaka on 12 May and a tour of three covenants protecting the unique biodiversity of Golden Bay.

At the gathering, Sir Brian Lochore recognised the commitment of the local landowners to looking after native plants and wildlife, saying he is overwhelmed by the generosity of those who have put covenants in place. 'To anyone thinking of protecting their land with QEII, I suggest visiting local covenantors to find out what is involved and to see the wonderful work being done to preserve our natural heritage forever,' he said.

Owned by **Gerard Hindmarsh and Melanie Walker**, Tukurua Swamp was protected with a 1.4ha covenant in 1988. With vegetation ranging from swamp flax and *Baumea* rushes to ferns and native herbs, the wetland is habitat for fernbirds and the threatened freshwater fish, the giant kokopu.

Gerard came to Tukurua when he was nineteen, attracted by the lifestyle and the potential of the creek and swamp. 'I was a back-to-the-land homesteader and ready to drain the swamp for farming but Graeme Elliott, a scientist, found fernbirds in the swamp and pointed out that it was one of the last coastal swamps left in the Bay,' he said.

'I decided not to drain the swamp and cancelled the digger booked for the next morning. My appreciation of the swamp has grown over the years as it's so productive at all times of the day.'

Philip Lissaman, the local QEII representative, said 35 covenants including the 145ha Mangarakau Swamp covenant owned by NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust protect forest remnants, shrublands and wetlands in Golden Bay.

'A benefit of protecting natural habitats with covenants is that as well as preserving some of the rare species already there, plants that were once present can also be reintroduced,' he explained.

**Below: Gerard Hindmarsh recounted how finding fernbirds set him on the path to restoring the swamp. Find out more about the impact the swamp has had on Gerard's life in his book *Swamp fever*.**

**Below: QEII directors and covenantors took the opportunity to stroll along boardwalks constructed by Gerard through Tukurua Swamp. Some were fortunate to catch fleeting glimpses of fernbirds and banded kokopu.**



Photos: Loralee Hyde

**Above: Nelson and Tasman covenantors and others involved with QEII gathered at Tukurua Swamp to meet Sir Brian Lochore and other QEII directors.**



## Coastal forest covenant with a wide range of botanical values

Just north of Takaka, guests enjoyed a walk through coastal beech and podocarp forest in the 41ha Soper's Hill covenant protected by **Frank and Berna Soper** on their Beinn Dobhrain property in 1998.

**Near right: Frank and Berna Soper with Sir Brian Lochore.**

**Above right: The Soper's Hill covenant reaches from Waitapu Estuary to the ridgeline, protecting a sequence of coastal plants from sedges and rushes to kowhai and kanuka to beech, rimu, kawaka and tanekaha. A diverse range of fern species and numerous orchids flourish in the forest.**

**Below right: The covenant is habitat for the grass-tree *Dracophyllum urvilleanum* (Naturally Uncommon). Shannel Courtney from the Department of Conservation described its features. Endemic to Nelson and North Marlborough, the fine weeping leaves of this species gives it a distinctive open, lacy appearance.**



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Philip Lisaman



Photo: Dave Banks

## Rare coastal rata forest on limestone

**Shannel Courtney**, the 2008 recipient of the Loder Cup, New Zealand's premier conservation award, put his 6.6ha Te Hapua covenant in place at Pohara in 1992. With over 150 native vascular plant species, the northern rata forest is habitat for species such as fierce lancewood *Pseudopanax ferox*, large-leaved milktree *Streblus banksii*, native germander *Teucrium parvifolium* and limestone kowhai *Sophora longicarniata*.

'I purchased the property twenty years ago to have a chance to bring bush back to its former glory,' Shannel said. 'Being on limestone with a warm climate and fertile soils, there were a lot of weed species here including the worst infestation of old man's beard in Golden Bay and two hectares of wandering willie along with barberry, hawthorn, banana passionfruit, yellow jasmine and climbing asparagus.'

'The best way to handle a big weed control project is to prioritise things and focus on bite size chunks,' Shannel advised. 'It's then achievable. The first thing I did was tackle the climbing weeds by slashing them and then applying Roundup®. Now the bush is pretty much weed free.'



Photo: Loralee Hyde

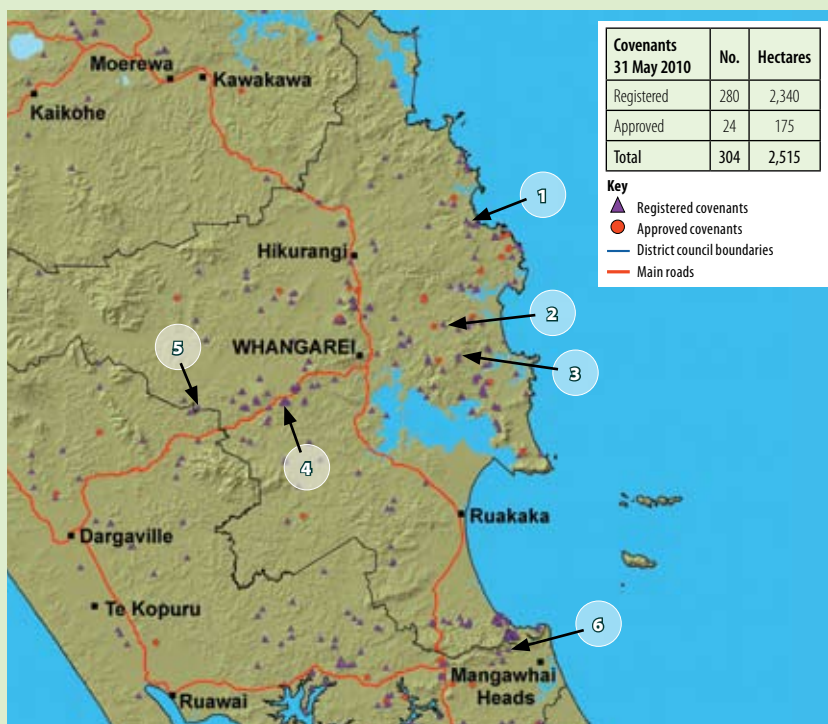
**Shannel Courtney described how he cleared the once abundant invasive weeds from the coastal rata forest, now a rare vegetation type in the region.**

For more about these Golden Bay covenants, visit Covenants/Covenant Stories under [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

# Whangarei

'I am often asked what a typical covenant is,' says **Nan Pullman**, QEII Regional Representative. 'My answer is that every covenant is different. Whangarei has very small covenants protecting geological features; mid-range covenants protecting wetlands or riparian margins; sand dune covenants with rare plants; and larger areas of specific habitats for species like North Island brown kiwi, kukupa, and Hochstetter's frog.

'The covenants featured here encapsulate this diverse network and also show how landowners and environmental agencies are increasingly working together. Larger projects involve adjacent landowners with funding and practical support from Northland Regional Council, Whangarei District Council and the Department of Conservation as well as core funding from the Government's Biodiversity Condition Fund.'



Nan Pullman with QEII director Bernard Card at the Bowden family's coastal forest covenant in Matapouri during a gathering for covenantors in July 2009.

1. **Denver and Pru Olde, Barry and Suzanne Whitehead**  
Kiwi habitat
2. **Ian and Sandy Page**  
Podocarp-broadleaf forest, shrubland and landscape
3. **Peter and Kathryn Miles**  
Podocarp-broadleaf forest
4. **Peter and June Grove, Janie and Cameron Francis, Geoff and Pam Adams**  
Volcanic broadleaf forest and swamp maire forest (see page 27)
5. **Northland Fish and Game Council**  
Jack Bisset Wetlands
6. **Marunui Conservation Limited**  
Broadleaf-podocarp forest

## Minimising damage to bush while replacing a broken down fence

Now owned by **Peter and Kathryn Miles**, a 37.5ha covenant protecting a podocarp-broadleaf forest remnant at Parua Bay was put in place by **Jennifer Ross** in 1995. With a high diversity of species and a thick understorey, the vegetation is regenerating well now that Peter has culled the majority of goats that once invaded the forest.



Photo: Nan Pullman

An old boundary fence was deteriorating with the barbed wire rusting away. With funding from QEII, the landowners and the Northland Regional Council, a new 7-wire post and batten fence has been constructed to protect the forest.

'The job was a mission as the fence is at the back of the covenant,' says Nan Pullman, the local QEII representative. 'The materials had to be gradually taken in. Then rather than using a bulldozer to clear the line which would have removed too much native vegetation, Peter and the fencer, Neil Krissansen, cleared the whole line by hand. To make the job even more difficult, the ground was extremely hard following the recent drought.

'Having farmers, fencers and agencies working together in such a strategic manner to construct an effective fence with minimal damage to the bush is such a positive outcome of QEII protection.'

**Peter Miles** admires his replacement fence while **Kathy Mortimer** from Northland Regional Council records the completion of the joint project.



## Ongoing ecological restoration aids kiwi survival

The slightly erratic cadence of young kiwi practising their mating calls suggests an animal pest control programme in the hills around Sandy bay is producing positive results. Funded by the Biodiversity Condition Fund since 2005 and with support from QEII and the Northland Regional Council, the programme has been working to retain North Island brown kiwi and to also improve overall forest health for a range of species.

The 100ha predominantly bush clad zone includes the 58ha coastal broadleaf-podocarp forest covenant protected in 1999 by **Denver and Pru Olde** and a 5.4ha covenant put in place by **Barry and Suzanne Whitehead** in February 2010. These covenants sit on the northern edge of a contiguous area of bush that stretches south to the Ngunguru River and is intensively managed for mustelids and feral cats by the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition.

A high diversity of plant species is protected by the covenants including large puriri and kohekohe, mature northern rata and kauri ridges with rimu and kawaka, as well as a regionally uncommon filmy fern *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*.

David Wright, an ecologist, is overseeing the control programme in the covenants and ongoing monitoring. By poisoning possums and rats and trapping stoats, feral cats and hedgehogs, the aim is to reduce predators to a level low enough to increase kiwi survival and breeding and to enhance the overall health of the forest.

Nan Pullman, the local QEII representative, says bird monitoring has shown a general increase in abundance with a noticeable improvement in particular bird species and forest health. Locals are reporting small flocks of kukupa feeding on fruiting taraire and more tui and pied tits. Kohekohe have been covered in both flowers and fruit. Northern rata trees have regained foliage density and are beginning to flower again. Kiwi call monitoring is showing an exciting upward trend with this season's first night of kiwi listening recording four or five pairs plus individual birds and some juvenile kiwi.

'Landowners in the Sandy Bay area have been preserving habitats and native bird populations for more than 50 years,' Nan explains. 'Encouraging more landowners to improve the overall health of the forest with increasing numbers of birds as well as linking existing habitats and kiwi populations, is a key to creating a wider core kiwi habitat around Sandy Bay.'

'With dedicated landowners working alongside agencies, the pest control initiative is an effective step towards achieving this goal. In the long term, we hope to work with the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition group and other landowners and agencies to create a pest managed environment for the wider Tutukaka Coast environs.'

### From top:

**Denver and Pru Olde on their property at Sandy Bay.** 'We are very proud of the protected bush,' they say. 'Now the pest management is taking effect we are excited about hearing kiwi call.'

**The vegetation sequence in the forest protected by Barry and Suzanne Whitehead extends from a dry ridge dominated by kauri rickers through to a wet gully with kohekohe, nikau and kahikatea.**

**A young North Island brown kiwi about to be released in Tutukaka.**



Photo: Malcolm Pullman



Photo: Nan Pullman



Photo: Malcolm Pullman



### A prime example of sustainable land use

Inspired by the protection of Atiu Creek Farm on the Kaipara Harbour by Pierre and Jackie Chatelangat, **Ian and Sandy Page** used a similar model to protect the open space values and multiple uses of their property north-east of Whangarei. They put the 162ha Tahere Farm covenant in place in December 2009.

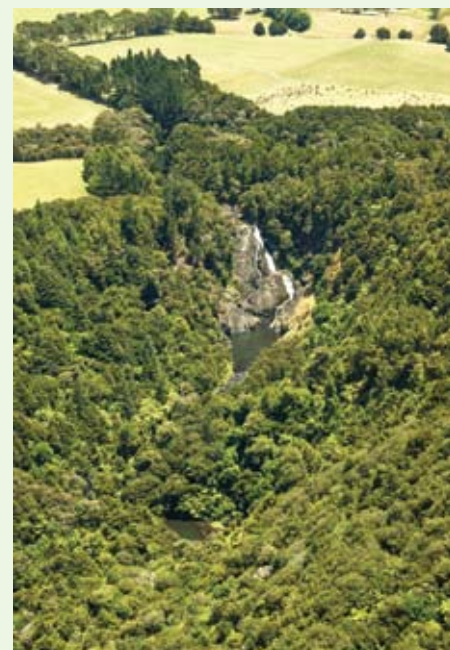
Bounding the Taheke River and the adjoining Taheke Scenic Reserve, a 51ha block of native forest dominated by totara, tanekaha, kanuka and taraire was fenced off in the 1980s to exclude stock and goats. The balance of the covenant covers pasture, managed plantations of pine and cypress and several small blocks of native shrublands and wetlands.

‘The landscape is typical of this part of Northland with bush, plantations and pasture,’ says Ian. ‘One motivation for protecting the whole area with QEII was to ensure there will be an income from the property in the future to manage the bush. Another motivation was to have the ability to develop tracks for non-motorised recreational use such as walking that will not conflict with the indigenous ecosystems.’

‘We are delighted that QEII took the concept of protecting the whole landscape on board, enabling us to continue using parts of the land for sustainable production.’



Sandy and Ian Page on Tahere Farm. The secondary podocarp-broadleaf forest protected by their covenant has a diverse range of species covering all forest tiers including the naturally uncommon ferns *Hypolepis dicksonioides* (giant hypolepis) and *Hymenophyllum atrovirens*.



The visual values of the landscape on Tahere Farm including the spectacular outlook over Taheke Falls at the north-western point of the covenant are now protected in perpetuity.

### A welcome habitat for wetland birds

Just 5% of Northland's original wetlands and 10% of riverine flood forest remains. Flanking the Wairua River at Tangiteroria, a complex of created ponds, shallow wetlands and indigenous shrubland and riverine forest was protected by the **Northland Fish and Game Council** with the 54ha Jack Bisset Wetlands covenant in March 2009.

Grey ducks (Nationally Critical), bittern (Nationally Endangered), fernbirds (Declining) and spotless crakes frequent the wetland along with various species of game waterfowl.

With Biodiversity Condition Funding, the area has been enhanced with native plant species by the Jack Bisset Wetlands Committee and the New Zealand Landcare Trust. In recognition of their restoration work, they won a Northland Community Conservation and Environment Award in 2009.



The Jack Bisset Wetlands covenant protects a significant area of wetland habitat and riverine forest remnants.



## Involving the community in bringing back birds to Marunui

Protected with an open space covenant by **Marunui Conservation Limited** twenty years ago, the management of the 423ha Marunui forest on the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn Hills is a remarkable illustration of multiple landowners and agencies working together to achieve conservation objectives.

Eighteen families and individuals share in the ownership and care of the forest which is the largest QEII covenant in Northland. Part of the company's management plan is to control plant and animal pests but finding sufficient funds to manage the entire property was a hurdle.

Initial Biodiversity Condition Funding in 2003 enabled a large scale pest control programme to be set in motion which included the preparation of an ecological management and monitoring plan by ecologist Dr Ray Pierce. Nine kilometres of track were cleared by shareholders to provide efficient access for the contractor. In 2004, Sean Gardiner from Wild Animal Control Services carried out possum and rat control followed by mustelid control using double Fenn traps.

Forest health has been monitored using:

- 10 minute bird counting to record the key indicator species of kukupa, tomtit, tui and kingfisher
- Marker trees such as taraire, kohekohe and pate to measure the effectiveness of control
- Vegetation transects to record the growth of vegetation over time in three different forest types – taraire dominant broadleaf, tanekaha dominant/kanuka secondary growth and kanuka dominant/gorse shrubland.

Since 2005, Marunui has funded pest control as part of its annual budget, with the aim of significantly reducing possums, rats, mustelids, feral cats and hedgehogs. With the help of grants from Northland Regional and Kaipara District Councils, DOC 200 mustelid traps and Philproof rodent bait stations have been purchased and are serviced by shareholders on a substantially extended track network. The goal is to enable resident kukupa, tui and miromiro (pied tits) to breed more successfully and for korimako (bellbirds), kaka and kakariki to re-establish from Taranga Island.

Marunui Conservation recently obtained Biodiversity Advice Funding for Ray Pierce to prepare a report summarising the natural values of the Brynderwyn Hills as a whole and identifying opportunities for coordinated protection and care of indigenous flora and fauna. This resource will be used to encourage other local landowners to undertake weed and pest control. Practical assistance will come from QEII, NZ Landcare Trust, Department of Conservation, Northland Regional Council and Kaipara and Whangarei District Councils.

'With their long experience in restoration work and a clear strategic vision and objectives, Marunui Conservation provides a wonderful model for integrated protection and management of a forest,' explains Nan Pullman, the local QEII representative. 'They are now taking another innovative step by acting as a catalyst for the wider community to become involved in protecting our native plants and wildlife.'

*Nan Pullman would like to organise a field trip for Whangarei QEII covenantors. If you interested in attending, please email Nan on [npullman@openspace.org.nz](mailto:npullman@openspace.org.nz)*



Photo: Astrid van Meeuwen-Dijgraaf

**Taraire *Beilschmiedia tarairi***



Photo: Nan Pullman

**Left: Shareholder John Hawley checks a mustelid Fenn trap in Marunui forest.**

**Below: The aim of the intensive pest control at Marunui is to bring back more native birds such as kukupa (kereru).**

**Kukupa is the only native bird species capable of eating and dispersing the large fleshy fruits in our forest, such as the dark purple plum-like fruits of taraire.**



Photo: Malcolm Pullman



# Coastal Otago

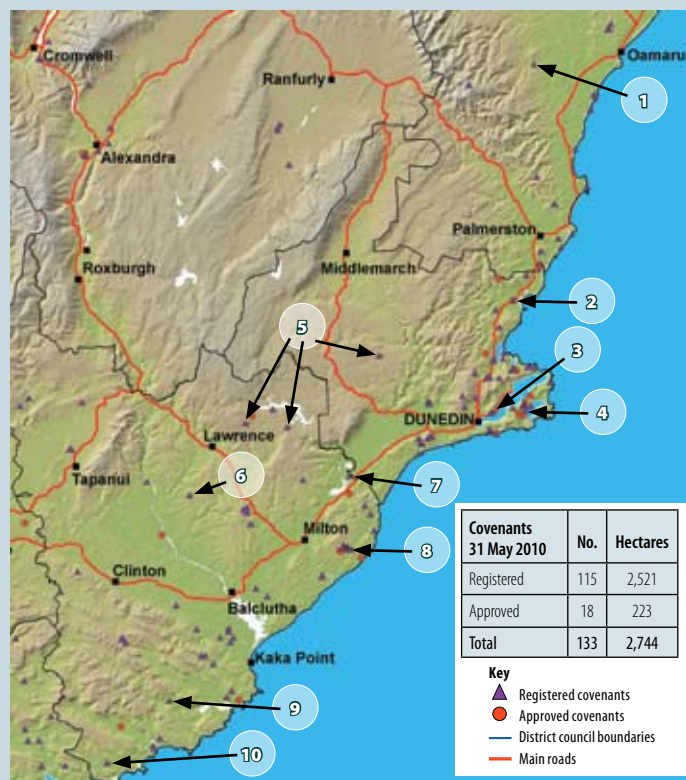
‘The thing I most enjoy about Coastal Otago is the wide variety of landscapes and habitats,’ says **Rob Campbell**, QEII Regional Representative. ‘These range from dry hill country scrub through to tussockland and dry coastal forest to rainforests in the Catlins. Other distinctive natural features include estuarine herbfields, hill country bogs and freshwater swamps.

‘Our covenants help to protect a variety of threatened (and rapidly disappearing) habitats as well as fauna such as yellow-eye penguins, jewelled geckos, fernbirds and bush falcons. Along with this comes a similar wide variety of friendly and welcoming covenantors, without whom none of this protection would be possible.’



Photo: Nicola McGrouther

**Rob Campbell** (at the left) on a visit to an estuarine saltmarsh covenant at Waikouaiti with landowner **Ian Ritchie** along with **Andy Barratt** and **Joel Vanderburg** from River-Estuary Care: Waikouaiti-Karitane, a community group that helps to maintain the Waikouaiti Estuary.



- Bryce and Janice Burnett**  
Broadleaf forest and tussock grassland (see page 28)
- Ian and Wendy Ritchie**  
Coastal estuarine herbfield (see page 26)
- Christina Gibb, Ravensbourne Environmental Trust**  
Regenerating broadleaf forest
- David and Rose Swete Kelly**  
Estuarine wetland
- Landcorp Farming Limited**  
Red and silver tussock grassland
- Glen and Kate Mead**  
Regenerating shrubland
- Sinclair Wetlands**  
Sedgeland and reedland (see page 22)
- Thomas and Jacqueline Fischli, Murray, Frances and Tim Grant, Mark and Kelli Divers**  
Rata-kamahia forest
- Fergus and Mary Sutherland**  
Podocarp-hardwood forest and silver beech forest
- Peter and Robyn Shanks**  
Frost hollow vegetation

## Restoring rare frost hollow vegetation

One of the last remnants of original frost hollow vegetation in the Chaslans Valley was protected by **Peter and Robyn Shanks** with a 1ha covenant in December 2009. The vegetation of tussock, shrubs and mosses is typical of areas with heavy and frequent winter frosts.



Photos: Rob Campbell

Fed by a small stream that runs into Hukihuki Creek, the wetland vegetation protected by the Shanks' Tussock Restoration covenant includes red tussock, *Carex secta*, flax and sphagnum moss.

Members of the Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust including Fergus and Mary Sutherland are helping to enhance the area. ‘They have been controlling broom although we have to be careful that it is the weed that’s cleared and not the native broom,’ says Robyn. ‘Locally sourced plants will also be put in during the winter.’



Frost hardy shrubs surrounding the wetland include weeping matipo, manuka, coprosma and native broom. A netting fence funded by the landowners and QEII now excludes cattle and sheep from the covenant.



## Saltmarsh buffers the ecologically rich Hoopers Inlet

On the Otago Peninsula, **David and Rose Swete Kelly** protected an estuarine wetland on the edge of Hoopers Inlet with the 3.1ha Ara Kotare Wetland covenant in December 2009. Plant communities in saltmarsh act as a buffer between the land and the sea by trapping sediments and absorbing excess water.

The covenant protects an ecological sequence of native vegetation from the sea to the hills extending from a glasswort dominated herbfield to sedges, rushes and *Carex* species to kanuka treeland. Fencing required to exclude stock from the saltmarsh was constructed with contributions from QEII and the landowners.



Photos: Rob Campbell

Looking north over the Ara Kotare Wetland covenant. The saltmarsh vegetation helps to reduce sediment and pollutants being washed or leached from the catchment into Hoopers Inlet.



The saltwater tolerant glasswort *Sarcocornia quinqueflora* is a native succulent herb that forms dense creeping mats in saltmarsh.

## Suburban neighbours join together with a vision of restoring bush

On the western side of Otago Harbour, **Christina Gibb** protected regenerating broadleaf forest on her Ravensbourne property with a 0.5ha covenant in 2005. 'I started restoring the bush twelve years ago by getting rid of proliferating sycamores and elders,' says Christina.

Christina worked with a group of neighbours on a vision to restore the area. Five years ago, the **Ravensbourne Environmental Trust** was set up to take over ownership of the council land and re-establish native bush. The Trust protected the area with the 0.6ha Wanaka Street covenant in November 2009.

'Steven Peat, an arborist who is skilled in doing conservation work without damaging native seedlings, removed the invasive trees. I then became concerned about the covenant being re-infested with weeds from council owned land below me.'

'Our first step was to remove the sycamores,' explains Christina. 'Thirty large trees were taken out. As well as replanting the cleared areas with seedlings transplanted from my covenant, we are still controlling regenerating sycamores and other weeds such as old man's beard.'



Photo: Rob Campbell

Grants from the Dunedin Biodiversity Fund and QEII have helped with weed control work in the steep Wanaka Street covenant. John McCafferty who is doing much of the work has found peripatus, the threatened velvet worm, near the creek in the gully.



Photo: Rob Campbell. Inset: Rebecca Field

Christina Gibb with the revegetated edge of the Wanaka Street covenant in February 2010. The enrichment plantings have flourished since 2005 (inset).



### Significant kamahi and rata forest preserved by neighbouring farmers

Linking remnants of forest remaining in our landscape is a key to their long term sustainability. In an area north of Glenledi that is now mostly intensively farmed or in exotic forests, three neighbouring farmers have covenants in place protecting rata-kamahi forest at the most northern limit for this type of vegetation in the eastern South Island.

Since 2006, **Thomas and Jacqueline Fischli** have protected six blocks of forest totalling 109ha with three covenants. **Mark and Kelli Divers** have 18ha on their farm protected by two covenants while **Murray, Frances and Tim Grant** have a 23ha covenant. The Divers and Grants had further covenants approved in 2008.



Photos: Rob Campbell

Southern rata *Metrosideros umbellata* flowering in the protected forest in January 2010.

The forest with a canopy of kamahi, rata and rimu and a rich understorey of regenerating podocarps including miro, totara and matai is in excellent condition. Significant stands of tree ferns are a feature, particularly along the edges of Bull Creek which runs through the covenants. A small shrubland contains the bushy shrub *Melicetyus flexuosus* (Declining).

‘This is a great example of farmers working together to preserve a significant area of healthy forest,’ says Rob Campbell, the local QEII representative. ‘The value of protecting the biodiversity on their farms with covenants is already apparent with widespread regeneration and no sign of browsing.’



The deer fencing protecting the vegetation in the covenants was constructed with contributions from QEII, the landowners and Otago Regional Council. Netting was chosen to help exclude goats from the forest.

### Network of Landcorp tussock grassland covenants grows

**Landcorp Farming Limited** continues to protect tussock grassland that has weathered the effects of grazing and burning for agriculture.

Red tussock on Waipori Station south-west of Lake Mahinerangi has been protected by the 37ha Loch Luella covenant and the 22ha Rooneys’ covenant in recent years. A further covenant has been

approved on the station. On Hindon Farm, an 8.4ha red and silver tussock covenant was put in place in April 2009.

Where required, fencing funded by QEII, Landcorp and Otago Regional Council has been constructed to exclude stock from the tussock.



Photo: Rebecca Reid

Dr Brian Molloy and Aalbert Rebergen discuss the management of the red tussock wetland protected by the Loch Luella covenant. One area has been fenced while another has been left unfenced to monitor the differences and changes in the grassland habitat.



Photo: Rob Campbell

The Rooneys’ covenant is an excellent example of dense red tussock wetland along with regenerating patches of bog pine *Halocarpus bidwillii* and kanuka, manuka and *Olearia bullata* shrubland. In the developed landscape alongside Waipori Road, this protected wetland has high visual values.



## Discover the landscapes and wildlife of the Catlins

With a lifetime commitment to conservation and nature education, **Fergus and Mary Sutherland** have been running wildlife and walking ecotours in the Catlins for over twenty years. A forest remnant on their Mohua Park property contains two of the original forest ecosystems of the Tahakopa Ecological District, lowland mixed podocarp-hardwood forest and montane silver beech forest.

In a 2007 survey, 112 indigenous species were found in the forest including scarlet mistletoe *Peraxilla colensoi* (Declining), green mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus*, small-leaved milktree *Streblus heterophyllus* and one of the densest populations of raukawa *Raukawa edgerleyi* in the region. The Sutherlands protected the forest with a 9ha covenant in May 2009.

Fergus and Mary are restoring the covenant by planting locally sourced native trees and undertaking regular pest control. Rob Campbell, the local QEII representative, says the forest is healthy with increasing regeneration. 'The Sutherlands are justly proud of their covenant and are committed to its wellbeing,' he remarks.

For details of the Mohua Park eco-accommodation, walks and tours, phone 03 415 8613, email [info@catlins-ecotours.co.nz](mailto:info@catlins-ecotours.co.nz) or visit [www.catlins-ecotours.co.nz](http://www.catlins-ecotours.co.nz)



Photo: Rob Campbell

On a rounded hill overlooking the Catlins Valley, the Mohua Park covenant forms an attractive natural feature in the farming landscape. The pines are not in the covenant area.



Photo: Mohua Park

Fergus Sutherland with a large matai in the podocarp-hardwood forest. Rimu, kahikatea, totara, pepper tree, mahoe and weeping mapou are also prominent in the canopy.

## Naturally regenerating shrubland with significant biodiversity values

There is now little native shrubland remaining in gullies in the Lawrence Ecological District. On Kyalla Downs Station in Waitahuna West, **Glen and Kate Mead** protected a remnant of regenerating manuka-kanuka-*Olearia lineata* shrubland with a 14.4ha covenant in September 2008.

Dense stands of *Coprosma propinqua*, *Olearia lineata*, *O. bullata*, native broom and matagouri feature in the shrubland that borders a silver tussock and flax wetland alongside Black Stream.

'The steep land needed fencing and Otago Regional Council encouraged us to protect the area,' explains Kate. 'We are able to lightly graze the grassed sections to manage the weeds and pasture and are planting native trees in the open areas.'



Photos: Rob Campbell

To protect the shrubland vegetation in the Mead covenant, new fences were constructed and existing fences repaired with contributions from QEII, the landowners and Otago Regional Council. Inset: A native broom *Carmichaelia* species.



Photo: Aalbert Rebergen

*Olearia lineata* trees (Declining) are naturally regenerating in the shrubland that attracts brown creepers, tui, bellbirds, fantails and grey warblers. Welcome swallows nest on the steep rock faces in the covenant.



# Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems

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



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

Landcare Research aims to assist farmers and other landowners in protecting and restoring wetlands by providing guidelines to underpin management and restoration strategies. The research is under the *Maintaining and Restoring Wetlands Project* which has synergies with the *Sustaining and Restoring Biodiversity Programme*. Other wetland research partners include NIWA, Waikato University and Landcare Trust.\*

A substantial new publication, *Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems*, edited by Monica Peters, NZ Landcare Trust Regional Coordinator, and Bev Clarkson, Landcare Research Plant Ecologist, has brought together expertise from specialists and groups involved in restoring wetlands.

‘The handbook a major output for the research programme,’ Bev says. ‘It sets out steps in a useable and readable format that can be acted upon to return degraded wetlands back to what they once were – healthy, living ecosystems.’

‘Another spin-off of the research is the development of a database of wetlands being restored throughout New Zealand. This information has enabled us to include a wide variety of case studies of successful projects in the handbook to provide practical examples of the main principles of wetland restoration.’

To highlight the key phases of restoring a wetland, the handbook is structured into three main sections.

\* See *Wetlands: Assessing the effectiveness of restoration* in *Open Space* Issue 70, July 2007 or download under Resources/Covenant Management Information on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

Bev explains that the first section covers how to set up a restoration project. ‘There are chapters on determining what kind of wetland you have, planning your restoration, what your goals and objectives are and how to learn more about your site.’

‘The second section is about action on the ground including restoring the hydrology (the storage and movement of water), managing nutrients, controlling weeds and pests, revegetating with native plants, bringing back native fauna such as mudfish, and monitoring changes in native fauna, for example, birds.’

‘It’s really all about doing it bit by bit, starting with clearing the weeds and then planting natives.’

‘The final section sets out how to monitor progress in restoring a wetland and how to protect wetland areas including through QEII covenants.’

Bev adds that the next step in the research is to study the restoration of cultural aspects of wetlands and to produce a handbook in the same series. ‘We are now seeking funding for this,’ she says. ‘An example is restoring kuta *Eleocharis sphacelata* which is used to insulate dwellings and in weaving.’

If you are restoring a wetland and would like to be included on the wetland restoration database, email [monica.peters@landcare.org.nz](mailto:monica.peters@landcare.org.nz)



*Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems* is a comprehensive 280 page handbook illustrated with superb photos of wetland restoration throughout New Zealand.

The handbook has three main sections:

- Beginning a wetland restoration project
- Action on the ground
- Measuring the results and protecting the wetland.

Each section has numbered chapters to make it easy to find information plus lists of useful references. A CD with all text references and web links is included.

The support of sponsors has enabled the handbook to be published at a reasonable cost. Purchase from Manaaki Whenua Press [www.mwpress.co.nz](http://www.mwpress.co.nz) for NZ\$45 plus shipping. Or download by chapter on <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/biocons/wetlands/>



Photo: Mark Sutton

**A harrier hawk's nest amongst rushes in the 3.2ha Wayne's Gully covenant protected by Landcorp Farming Limited in August 2009 on Lynmore Farm near Te Anau.**



‘The vegetation is recovering rapidly now that stock is excluded from this small but diverse ecosystem. Two small open water tarns are a real feature of the wetland, providing a perfect habitat for families of our native grey ducks.’



Photos: Mark Sutton

of the 1990s, the 2000s, and the 2010s.

[illegible]



# Returning degraded wetlands back to healthy, living ecosystems

Only 10% of our original wetlands remain. Many of these ecosystems are now highly degraded with their unique flora and fauna under threat.

Helping to reverse this decline are the encouraging numbers of landowners and community groups dedicated to restoring wetlands.

The key phases of restoring a wetland are planning the restoration, taking action such as fencing out stock, carrying out revegetation and undertaking weed and pest control, measuring results and protecting the wetland. Throughout New Zealand, committed QEII covenantors are in the process of returning their special areas to what they once were – healthy, living ecosystems.

## Tararua: Eradicating crack willows invading a swamp wetland

On their 378ha sheep, beef and dairy runoff farm near Manawatu Gorge, **Craig and Brenda Blatchford** protected a raupo, flax and *Carex secta* wetland and an associated kahikatea and pukatea treeland with the 3.2ha Warratah Wetland covenant in 2008.

The treeland contains species no longer common in Tararua including ramarama *Lophomyrtus bullata*, green mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus*, swamp maire *Syzygium maire*, milk tree *Streblus heterophyllus* and narrow-leaved lacebark *Hoheria angustifolia*.

Crack willow *Salix fragilis* had invaded the wetland. This weed is a major threat to swamp wetlands as it forms dense stands that exclude native vegetation and block water channels causing flooding and erosion. QEII and Horizons Regional Council funded initial control of the willow in April 2008.

A further two-year control programme is now underway with funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, QEII and Horizons Regional Council. Over last spring and summer, contractors drilled and poisoned the willows with a herbicide mix of 50% water, 25% Roundup Transorb®, 25% Codacide Oil® and 1 gram metsulfuron/litre. Next season, any willows showing regrowth will again be drilled and poisoned.

Following that, control will be managed by the Blatchfords with assistance from the Regional Council. Bill Wallace, the local QEII representative, will also monitor any willow regrowth during his regular visits to the covenant.



**Top: Prior to willow control:** Crack willows had invaded Warratah Wetland between the open water and Ballance Gorge Road.

**Bottom: Carrying out willow control:** Kay Griffiths from The Conservation Company injects herbicide mix into holes drilled in the crack willow.

Photos: Bill Wallace



## Kapiti Coast: Revegetating interdunal swamps with eco-sourced plants

North of Wellington, extensive dune vegetation and swamp forests once covered the rolling dunes of the Kapiti Coast. Less than 5% of this indigenous vegetation remains. The Te Hapua wetland complex at Te Horo is one of the best examples left of these interconnected swamps.

Nine registered covenants protect over 40ha of harakeke flaxland swamps at Te Hapua. The vegetation was heavily modified by stock in the past and drainage works during subdivision altered the hydrology. Landowners are now restoring their covenants with the assistance of grants from contestable funds and councils.

**Mari Housiaux** protected two areas of harakeke flaxland, *Carex secta* sedgeland and open water with the 2ha Marwen Glen Wetlands covenant in 2005. She obtained funding from the Biodiversity Advice Fund for John Preece, an ecologist, to advise on biodiversity values and provide management options, and funding from the Biodiversity Condition Fund and Kapiti Coast District Council for three years of restoration work.

**2007:** The western area of Mari Housiaux's covenant six months after exotic trees were felled. Clearing the trees, spraying, weed-eating, planting and mulching took over 400 hours of labour.

**2009:** Three years after the tree felling and clearing. The original plantings of swamp flax, toetoe, coastal tree daisy *Olearia solandri*, mingimingi *Coprosma propinqua*, kanuka, *Carex secta*, oioi (jointed wire rush) and marsh ribbonwood *Plagianthus divaricatus* are forming a canopy and nursery for plantings of later successional species including totara, kahikatea, pukatea, titoki and swamp maire. Karamu *Coprosma robusta*, taupata *Coprosma repens* and ngaio provide shelter and shade.

'In 2007, the pines, wattles and poplars were cleared,' says Mari. 'Since then we have revegetated the wetland with 4,500 plants. I started growing my own plants in 2007, mostly from eco-sourced seeds from nearby wetlands. I've built a propagation nursery to handle all the plants and am now proud to have one hundred flourishing nikau palms. Greater Wellington Regional Council is also helping with hydrological monitoring and contributing to controlling stoats and weasels.

'Restoring the wetland is the most wonderful thing I've ever done. It's so rewarding to see the progress and I am hoping this place will ultimately become a seed bank.'

**Eco-sourced plants** are those grown from seeds collected from local native plant populations growing as close as possible to the site being replanted.

**Ecological succession** is the process whereby one plant community gradually changes into another. Early successional species are usually hardy, fast growing plants. These will shelter later successional species that are slower growing, more shade tolerant and more susceptible to frost and wind.



Photos: Mari Housiaux

Find out more about Mari's restoration work under Covenants/Covenant Stories on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)



# Keeping stock out helps wetland species to recover

Stock browsing in wetlands trample the vegetation, pug the ground, increase nutrient levels and carry in weeds. When wetlands are protected with covenants, the areas are fenced where required to exclude stock.

As well as the economic benefit of preventing stock losses and injuries in waterways, keeping out stock improves water quality and allows native wetland species to thrive.

## Taranaki: Coastal raupo reedland

On the coast near Okato, **Frank and Shirley Goodin** protected a raupo reedland on their 83ha organic dairy farm with a 1.6ha covenant in June 2009. This type of wetland is now rare in Taranaki as most have been drained for farming.

Constructed with long lasting high tensile wire to withstand the corrosive conditions on the coast, the new fence protecting the wetland from stock was funded by QEII and the landowners.



**April 2008:** Before the wetland was protected with a covenant, stock grazed the margins and pugged the wet soils. As well as damaging vegetation, animal hooves deform the topsoil which reduces subsequent plant growth.



**April 2010:** The interior of the wetland is in good condition with dense raupo, kuta *Eleocharis sphacelata*, toetoe and *Carex* species. The grazed margins have been replanted with assistance from the Taranaki Tree Trust.

## Central Hawke's Bay: *Carex secta* sedgeland

Long time conservationist, **Robin Hilson**, put an 8.1ha covenant in place on his ram breeding property west of Norsewood in October 2009. A *Carex secta* sedgeland forms part of the covenant along with two remnants of kahikatea, totara and tawa forest. Adjoining treeland was protected with a 0.7ha covenant by **Richard Schneider** and **Anna Locker-Lampson**.

'Since the 1960s, I've put in 40 kilometres of shelter belts including flaxes, cabbage trees and pines,' says Robin. 'The shelter changes the microclimate by reducing the effects of the westerly winds. I'm pleasantly surprised how fast the regeneration is when there's shelter. A lot of kereru are also around now after possum control. My objective is to leave the farm with everything from worms and insects to birds and plants in a better state than when I started.'

To make sure stock can no longer access the wetland, a new 8-wire (1 barbed) post and batten fence was constructed and other fences repaired where necessary with contributions from QEII, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the landowner.



**April 2008:** Before Robin Hilson's covenant was fenced, stock grazed the wetland on the flats of the Makaretu River. A creek spilling from the river terrace behind the cabbage trees feeds the sedgeland.



**February 2010:** Two years after being fenced, the sedgeland is showing signs of recovery. In the forest on the terrace, Robin is noticing regeneration of kahikatea, tawa and rimu.



## Marlborough: Attracting birds by enhancing the environment

East of Blenheim on the Opawa River, **Will Parsons** protected a freshwater pond surrounded by sedges and rushes with an 11 ha open space covenant in 2000. Initiated by Graham and Ethne Copp in 1993 with the support of Nelson-Marlborough Fish and Game, many species of birds are now attracted to the wetland habitat emerging from the once grazed pastureland.

Following a report by ecologist Geoff Walls and with advice and funding assistance from Marlborough District Council, Will is eradicating exotic species from the wetland including crack willows, Tasmanian ngaio, oaks and Himalayan strawberry trees.

‘We are planting locally sourced trees to replace the exotic ones and have started propagating plants once common in the area,’ says Will. ‘The species include marsh ribbonwood, coastal shrub daisy *Olearia solandri*, cabbage trees, totara, kahikatea, swamp maire, kowhai, kanuka and manuka.’

Will and Rose Parsons run Driftwood Eco-tours, offering bird watching, photography, kayaking and walking tours through to the tidal estuary of Wairau Lagoons. Visit [www.driftwoodecotours.co.nz](http://www.driftwoodecotours.co.nz) or phone 03 577 7651.

‘The tourism and wetland restoration go hand in hand,’ Will explains. ‘Reinvesting back into the wetland to replicate what grows naturally is enhancing the environment for our wildlife.’



**1993:** The rough pasture around the open water was grazed by stock. With funding from the Lottery Grants Board and the landowner, 4-electric wire fences were constructed in 1996 to exclude stock from the wetland.



Photo: Tom Stein

**2009:** Revegetated with local species, the wetland is now habitat for a wide variety of birds including royal spoonbills, glossy ibises, matata (fernbirds) and kotuku (white herons).



Photo: Will Parsons

**Above:** A rare kotuku (Nationally Critical) takes flight over the covenant.

**Left:** Fernbirds (Declining) are returning to areas revegetated with eco-sourced native species by Will Parsons.



Photo: Will Parsons



### Otago: Realising the long term vision for restoring Sinclair Wetlands

The **Sinclair Wetlands/Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau** on the Taieri Plains between Lakes Waipori and Waiholo are named after Horrie Sinclair, a conservationist who bought the property in 1960 with a vision of letting it revert to its natural state. Now owned by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, the wetlands were protected with a 315ha covenant in 1986.

Once covered with weeds such as gorse and broom and home to predators including ferrets, feral cats and hedgehogs, a management plan for the wetland ensures the restoration started by Horrie continues. Community volunteers and local school students help with weed and pest control and replanting native vegetation. Open to the public, a visitor centre and walking tracks provide insight into the history, habitat and many species of plants, native fish and birds in the wetlands.

For more about Horrie Sinclair's vision, see *Without habitat there is nothing* in *Open Space* Issue 43, December 1998 or download under Covenants/Covenant Stories on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

**Top: 1994:** The late Horrie Sinclair at Sinclair Wetlands. 'One of the things about this swamp that makes it so great is that it has everything,' he noted. 'It is good habitat: a food chain; cover so birds can hide from predators; and has changing vegetation all season. Without habitat there is nothing.'

**Bottom: 2007:** Weed and pest control and revegetation plantings form part of the ongoing restoration work in the wetland. The Fenn trap and tunnel at the bottom right catches mustelids such as stoats, ferrets and weasels.



Photo: Karlene Hill

### Canterbury: Protecting scenic values as well as a significant wildlife habitat

At the south-eastern end of Lake Coleridge, a prominent lagoon and surrounding sedgeland and treeland was protected with the 7.2ha Doctors Cottage covenant by **John Murchison and Lynda Weastell** in September 2009.

The area is an important feeding and breeding area for grey ducks (Nationally Critical), southern crested grebes (Nationally Vulnerable), black shags (Nationally Uncommon), paradise shelducks, New Zealand shovelers, New Zealand scaup, spur-winged plovers, southern black-backed gulls, oystercatchers, black swans, mallards, Australian coots and harriers.



Photo: Brian Molloy

You may have a special wetland that you wish to safeguard forever.  
Contact your local QEII representative or visit [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

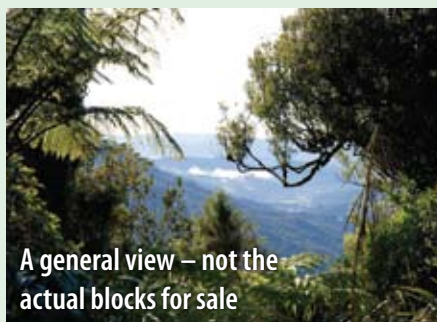
## Properties for sale with covenants

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



### Bay of Plenty - Katikati

Secluded 53ha, only 8 minutes to Katikati, with sweeping views. Superb native forest with 25.7ha covenanted and pine plantation surrounded by forest park. Pure spring water supplying two alternative energy dwellings. Opportunities abound! Ph 07 549 0947. E-mail [skyland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:skyland@xtra.co.nz)



A general view – not the actual blocks for sale

### Coromandel – Mahakirau Forest Estate, The 309 Road

Forest and bird lovers' dream. Choice of four protected bush blocks ranging from 10ha to 15ha. Gated Private Estate. Private sealed road with underground services. Elevated with views forever. Priced to sell. Contact vendor: 021 529 625



### Catlins - Mohua Park, \$850,000

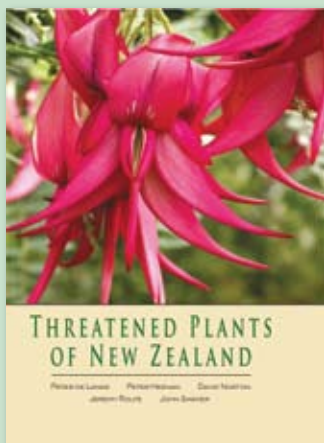
4 star plus self-catering accommodation business. 14ha property – four new eco-friendly cottages, historic homestead, 1ha garden and sheds, 9ha covenanted native forest, 4ha pines. Fergus and Mary Sutherland, RD 2, Owaka. Ph 03 415 8613. Email [info@catlinsmohuapark.co.nz](mailto:info@catlinsmohuapark.co.nz)

## Kauri dieback

*Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis* PTA is a disease that affects kauri. Symptoms include yellowing of foliage, loss of leaves, canopy thinning and dead branches. For more about PTA and how to stop it spreading, phone 0800 695 2874 or visit [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz)

## Landcare Research: Key issues and priorities in pest management – request for input

Landcare Research is interested in synthesising and subsequently publishing views on the 20 most important issues in pest management for biodiversity protection in New Zealand. We are therefore seeking your views on the following question: What, from your perspective, are the most important questions in terrestrial weed, pest, and disease research and management that need to be addressed in the next 20 years for protecting and restoring native biodiversity and ecosystems in New Zealand? Email your responses to [pests2020@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:pests2020@landcareresearch.co.nz)



*Threatened Plants of New Zealand* is a comprehensive, up-to-date account of New Zealand's six extinct and 184 severely threatened native flora. Canterbury University Press, March 2010, RRP NZ\$99.95, hardback, 472pp, ISBN 978-1-877257-56-8 [www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz)

## Purchase a QEII Swanndri® Vest

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

**Price: \$150** 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>	112	117	122	127	132	137



## ORDER FORM

Prices include GST and postage

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vest size(s) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$150 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for courier delivery) \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of payment** ☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send a receipt

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



# Ballance Farm Environment Awards: Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

With an overall objective of promoting sustainable land management on farms, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards find and celebrate role models who show how an environmentally sensitive approach can be part of a profitable farm business and who can inspire and motivate others by example. We congratulate these winning QEII covenantors.



## Native vegetation now flourishing

Winners of the Northland Ballance Nutrient Management and PGG Wrightson Land and Life Awards, **Ken and Janine Hames** are intensive beef farmers on their 310ha hill country property north of Paparoa. 'They are well-connected, very motivated and astute farmers and business operators,' the judges noted.

A broadleaf-podocarp forest remnant dominated by kahikatea, kohekohe and taraire has been protected on their farm with a 3.6ha covenant since 1994. The initial inspection by QEII in 1992 reported the bush as 'badly grazed out and almost moribund'. With stock having being excluded by the covenant fencing for 17 years, the condition of the forest is now healthy with dense regeneration.



Photo: Fenton Hamlin

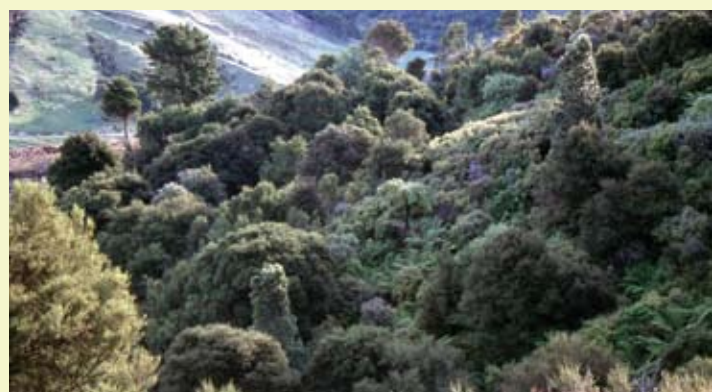


Photo: Nick Matich. Inset: Northland BFE Awards

**In 1992, there was no sign of regeneration in the remnant and only a moderate canopy. With stock excluded for many years, the forest condition is now recovering well. Inset: Ken and Janine Hames.**

## Transforming a striking coastal property

On their 879ha property at Castlepoint in Wairarapa, **Bill and Jill Maunsell** won the Greater Wellington Regional Council Special Places Award. With extensive native bush preservation and retirement of marginal land, just 504ha of the property is effective for farming.



**The regenerating forest protected by the Waio Bush covenant contains a wide diversity of species including large kanuka, karaka and ngaio.**

Catchment areas and very steep land have been fenced off so there are now many patches of regenerating native bush or woodlots. The 58ha Waio Bush covenant was put in place in 1996 and a 4.7ha covenant has protected a kanuka forest remnant since 2004. Fenced with contributions from the landowners, QEII and the Regional Council, this block is recovering well now that deer have been excluded.



Photo: Greater Wellington BFE Awards

**Bill Maunsell on his coastal property. Bill has been creating walking tracks on the farm and is investigating opening them up for public access.**



## Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Awards

On Weardale Farm, their sheep and beef property south of Te Puke, **Barry and Maggie Waite** and their daughter **Carol Burt** protected significant remnants of semi-coastal primary forest with a 78ha covenant in 2005. In the Onaia Stream catchment, the protected areas form important linkages with other nearby covenants and the Kaharoa Conservation Area just to the south.\*

The ten blocks of bush in steep gullies around the farm are now all well protected from stock with 7-wire post and batten fences constructed with contributions from the landowners, QEII, Environment Bay of Plenty and Western Bay of Plenty District Council. Environment Bay of Plenty and the landowners undertake ongoing possum control.

'The birds are coming back and there are kokako on some neighbouring farms, says Barry. 'Fencing the protected areas has also made stock management easier as animals are no longer lost over steep faces or in the bush.'

\* See *Kaharoa Kokako* in *Open Space* Issue 78, March 2010 or download under Covenants/Community on [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz)

**Top: Carol Burt with her parents, Maggie and Barry Waite.**

**Bottom: The Waite family's covenant is dominated by tawa with scattered rimu, mangleo, rewarewa and pukatea. Large kahikatea and rimu stand out in the bush.**



Photo: Bay of Plenty BEE Awards



Photo: Stephen Hall



Photo: Stephen Hall

**Top: Looking west over the Seddon covenant to Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park. The bush is typical of lowland Bay of Plenty with kamahi, puriri, tawa, matai and mamaku. Rimu and kauri have been planted through the covenant.**

**Bottom: The excellent regeneration of nikau in Charlie Christiansen's covenant is a result of the extensive pest control being carried out by the community.**



Photo: Stephen Hall



### Protecting water catchment areas as well as landscape and ecological values

**Landcorp Farming Limited** protects over 1,700ha of forest remnants, shrublands, tussock grasslands and wetlands in Southland with 58 registered and 11 approved covenants. On Mararoa Station near Te Anau, six covenants totalling 320ha are in place on the 5,440ha sheep, beef and deer property. Along with Landcorp Farming, Station Managers Tim and Trish Smith won the Southland BFEA Water Quality and Massey University Discovery Awards.

The Mararoa River runs along the eastern boundary of the station and the farm has three main water catchment areas. The priority has been to protect the natural water systems and according to the judges this is 'a very good example of dedicated managers initiating environmental sustainability along with the corporate owners'.

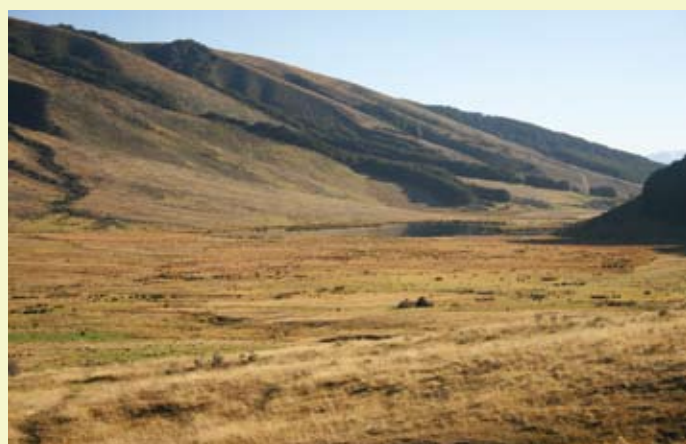
The Smiths and Landcorp Farming were also recognised at the 2010 Biennial Deer Industry Environmental Awards, winning the Premier Elworthy Award for leadership in environmental sustainability and excellence in land management along with the Duncan & Company and New Zealand Landcare Trust Awards.

**Left: Tim Smith, Mararoa Station Manager, and Gerry Soanes, Landcorp National Manager Property, check the fence protecting the approved Thomas Burn covenant. Landcorp, QEI and the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Enhancement Trust funded the fencing.**

**Right: The 61h Lake Echo covenant on Mararoa Station adjoins the public conservation estate and protects the head of the Lady Burn catchment. The covenant contains sedgeland with *Carex secta* and *C. coriacea*, red and silver tussock grassland, wetlands, lichenfields and shrublands plus a small area of silver and red beech forest.**



Photos: Mark Sutton



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

## Otago saltmarsh:

### A prime example of a habitat under increasing pressure



Photo: Rob Campbell

## Covenants update

About 30km north of Dunedin, SH1 runs alongside the Waikouaiti Estuary. Saltmarsh vegetation once dominated low-lying land surrounding the estuary but much of this has been drained and converted to pasture. The saltmarsh that remains has significant ecological values, providing a habitat for native birds, fish and invertebrates.

**Ian and Wendy Ritchie** protected an area of saltmarsh on their sheep and cattle property with the 12.5ha Merton Arm Waikouaiti Estuary covenant in May 2010. The covenant also protects riparian strips on pasture land and a section of terrace scarp that once would have been covered with coastal forest.

To ensure stock no longer damage saltmarsh species such as *Samolus repens*, glasswort, *Selliera radicans*, salt grasses, buck's horn plantain and shore celery, the covenant has been fenced with contributions from QEI and the landowners. The community group River-Estuary Care: Waikouaiti-Karitane is revegetating the riparian strips with eco-sourced native species that will help improve the water quality by filtering farm runoff nutrients.

**Left: As well as protecting saltmarsh biodiversity, the Merton Arm Waikouaiti Estuary covenant beside SH1 has high visual values.**



## Maungatapere Mountain: A landscape feature of Whangarei

Rising above the surrounding plateau south-west of Whangarei, Maungatapere Mountain is the only completely forested volcanic cone in the district. With slopes covered by volcanic broadleaf forest dominated by taraire and special swamp maire forest in the crater, the mountain is a physical hub for all the smaller fragments of broadleaf forest protected with QEII covenants nearby. A feature is the number of kukupa flying between these remnants to feast on their main winter food - taraire drupes.

**Peter and June Grove** have spent a lifetime working to protect the bush on Maungatapere Mountain culminating in the formal protection of 22.5 hectares of this rare volcanic broadleaf forest with QEII. Peter has lived and worked all his life on Maungatapere's slopes and fondly remembers making huts under fallen trees and gorging on taraire berries. 'My father bought the property in 1924. The bush is now nothing like it was then. I remember as a child seeing rata flowering in November and a prolific birdlife. There were weka running around and we heard kiwi up until the 1960s.'

He still recalls the mystery the mountain held for him as a child and the eerie stillness as you descended into the crater with the wind blowing over the top.

June and Peter have owned a portion of the mountain since buying it from Peter's father in 1950. In the early 1980s, they covenanted 16.1 hectares with the Ministry of Lands. This original covenant and several other adjoining areas are now protected by a QEII open space covenant. June and Peter say they protected the bush with QEII because they observed what the Trust was doing around the country and thought it was the most sustainable type of protection.

'It's made a big difference having the covenant with QEII as fences have been repaired and Nan, the local QEII representative, has supported us by liaising with other landowners, agencies and covenantors around the mountain.'

There are two other landowners on the mountain with covenanted areas that are contiguous with the Groves' forest and the Maungatapere Scenic Reserve. On the north-eastern side of Maungatapere, **Janie and Cameron Francis** protected 8.6ha in 1986 and **Geoff and Pam Adams** covenanted two areas totalling 2.7ha on the western side in 2008.

Funding from Whangarei District Council has enabled the preparation of an updated ecological report on the mountain as well as baseline pest monitoring. Landowners have now signed up to a five-year Community Pest Control Area programme with Northland Regional Council to control rats, mustelids and possums over the entire mountain. June and Peter are hopeful that 'serious inroads in pest control will happen'.

Recently the Groves have completed fencing another 4ha taraire/puriri remnant near their home. 'It's been our privilege to protect the forest and know that it will always be here. It's wonderful that more and more people are protecting their bush for future generations with QEII.'

**From top: Protecting the bush on Maungatapere Mountain has been a lifetime labour of love for Peter and June Grove.**

**Ghostly aerial breathing roots (pneumatophores) of swamp maire protrude from the swampy crater of Maungatapere Mountain.**

**With birds dispersing the seeds, Queen of the night *Cestrum nocturnum* forms dense thickets and has the potential to become a major problem on the mountain. Together, the Groves and QEII have funded weed contractors to target pockets of infestation.**



Photos: Northland Regional Council



Photos: Malcolm Pullman



Photos: Malcolm Pullman



# Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February to 31 May 2010

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Herdson, Potter & Champtaloup	1.7	F	Far North
Kerr	14.0	F	Far North
Landcorp Farming Limited (x3)	189.6	F,S,W	Far North
Lanz	2.3	F	Far North
Craig	5.5	F,S	Whangarei
Drake	4.0	F,T	Whangarei
Ferguson	3.3	F,S,W	Whangarei
Ruedi	4.9	F,S	Whangarei
Whitehead	5.4	F,W	Whangarei
Garnerdale Farm Limited	2.8	F,W	Kaipara
Lane	10.9	F	Rodney
Conway, Letcher & Godkin	1.0	F	Manukau
Craig	8.3	F	Franklin
Honey	6.9	F	Franklin
Smith	10.8	F	Thames-Coromandel
Wildwood Ranch Limited	40.0	F	Hauraki
J S Bailey Limited	9.7	F,W	South Waikato
Waite & Burt	78.2	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Whiteman	3.0	T	Western Bay of Plenty
Thomas	5.6	F,Ge	Otorohanga
K.P. Malcolm Limited	19.6	F	Ruapehu
Kelt, Kite & Torrie	2.5	T	Gisborne
Percy, De Lautour, Kite & Oosten	5.0	F	Gisborne
Bogard, Sawers, Gray & Laughton	1.5	F	Hastings
Her Majesty the Queen - Puketitiri School	0.3	F	Hastings
Landcorp Farming Limited	4.4	F,W	Central Hawke's Bay
Hartley Land Limited	1.9	F	New Plymouth
Mander & Jordan	7.1	F	New Plymouth
Pleiter	269.8	F	New Plymouth
Wisniewski, Thomson & Fanthorpe	22.0	F	New Plymouth
Thoms	2.9	F	Stratford
Topless	2.8	F	Stratford
Muller & Greiner	1.2	F,W	South Taranaki
Walker	3.4	W	South Taranaki
Mete Kingi & Peina	0.6	F,S	Wanganui
Free & Brumby	12.1	F	Tararua
Foreman	1.3	F,W	Carterton
Landcorp Farming Limited (x2)	64.3	F,G	Buller
Todhunter & Hampton	1.9	F	Hurunui
Jones (x2)	141.2	F,S	Christchurch
Chapman	1.4	F	Dunedin
Ritchie	12.6	G,W	Dunedin
Cochrane	1.1	F,S	Clutha
Cassels & Church	9.1	F,W	Southland
Collie & Fitzgibbon	6.8	F	Southland
Inglennook Farms Limited	1.7	F	Southland
Johnston	4.9	F	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited (x3)	94.2	F,S,Tu,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

## Covenants by Regional Council - 31 May 2010

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	560	63	9,419	417	15.1
Auckland	500,000	231	34	3,966	841	15.0
Waikato	2,500,000	501	76	16,096	645	27.9
Bay of Plenty	1,223,100	159	12	9,632	6,564	56.3
Gisborne	826,500	110	22	4,946	1,104	37.5
Taranaki	723,600	222	65	5,015	334	17.5
Hawke's Bay	1,420,000	201	27	10,336	4,606	45.3
Horizons	2,221,500	288	29	7,127	306	22.5
Wellington	813,000	264	41	6,029	824	19.8
Tasman	978,600	120	19	2,277	641	16.4
Nelson	42,100	11	2	301	140	23.1
Marlborough	1,049,500	53	13	1,868	182	28.3
West Coast	2,300,000	43	22	2,426	619	37.3
Canterbury	4,220,000	220	48	13,855	1,679	51.7
Otago	3,200,000	150	23	10,467	2,735	60.5
Southland	3,035,000	226	22	5,861	214	23.6
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,359</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>109,620</b>		<b>28.3</b>

## A dryland haven in Otago for native birds and plants

On the steep slopes of the Kauru River south-west of Oamaru, **Bryce and Janice Burnett** protected a remnant of primary broadleaved forest and tussock grassland on their dryland property with a 19ha covenant in 2004. Their aim was to protect the bush from grazing animals to provide a haven for the rejuvenation of native plants and for the birdlife flourishing after possum control in the area. The covenant deer fencing was constructed with contributions from QEII, the landowners and Otago Regional Council.

'This is only covenant protecting this type of indigenous vegetation in the Duntroon Ecological District,' says Rob Campbell, the local QEII representative. 'It is so encouraging to see farmers like Bryce and Janice protecting bush for future generations and for the benefit of our native species.'



Photo: Rob Campbell. Inset: Scott Dunavan

The bush in the dryland Kauru Hill covenant is regenerating well now the area is no longer grazed, while snow tussock *Chionochloa rigida* is making a comeback in the open spaces.

Inset: Hookers mountain daisy *Celmisia hookeri* (Naturally Uncommon) features in the rich herb flora on a rocky area in the covenant.

## Welcome to two QEII directors

Two directors were elected by QEII Trust members for three-year terms from 1 April 2010.



Originally from a Wairarapa sheep farm where her father established an early covenant, **Megan Balks** has over 20 years of teaching and research experience in soil and environmental sciences at Waikato University including four years as Earth Sciences Department Chair.

Megan served two terms on the Waikato Conservation Board including one as Chairperson. She is a fellow of the NZ Society of Soil Science. Megan and her husband Errol Balks, a land surveyor, have a small sheep farm on Mt Pirongia near Te Awamutu with 24 hectares of lowland forest protected with covenants.



**James Hunter**, a sheep and beef farmer at Porangahau in Hawke's Bay, has been elected for a second term. He has a B.Com (Ag) Lincoln, is a former Rural Bank appraiser and was a councillor on the Central Hawke's Bay District Council from 1992-2004. James was Lean Meats North Island Lamb Supplier of the Year in 2009.

With covenants protecting 42ha of bush and wetlands to which another wetland is being added, James is a strong believer in the QEII ethos of voluntary protection, describing the Trust as 'a quiet, often unheralded achiever'.



**Rob Smith**, QEII South Canterbury Regional Representative, with covenantor **Pam Holmes** at a get-together to mark the Bell Rock covenant in Rakaia Gorge.

**Pam and Anthony Holmes** put the 4.5ha covenant in place in April 2009 to protect two distinct features – regenerating forest on a terrace gully bordering the camping ground and a roadside rocky outcrop.

Photo: Barbara Duffy

## 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 OPENSOURCE (0800 467 367) or email [mmckee@openspace.org.nz](mailto:mmckee@openspace.org.nz)

## 2010 QEII Athol Patterson Bursary awarded

As a result of a generous bequest to QEII from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson, a bursary has been set up to support students at Massey University interested in sustainable farming practices. Professor Patterson was a doctor of tropical medicines and taught in various universities around the world before retiring to Waverley where he had two small dairy farms.

At an awards ceremony at Massey University on 18 May, the inaugural **QEII Athol Patterson Bursary** was awarded to **Thomas Harvey** from Glen Orkney, a high country sheep and beef farm in Marlborough. Thomas is studying for a Bachelor of Science majoring in animal and agricultural science.

His parents, Simon and Lynda Harvey, have two covenants protecting four blocks of lowland forest, shrubland and sedgeland. Thomas believes that sustainable farming can go hand in hand with profitable productivity.

'To me, sustainable farming means leaving the land in as good or better health than what it was in when you got it,' he says. 'By identifying and protecting fragile areas of indigenous vegetation, the diversity of that area can be maintained while focusing on farming the more productive areas.'



Thomas Harvey with David Hopkins, a trustee of Professor Patterson's estate and a Covenant Life Member, and James Hunter, QEII director, who presented the award to Thomas on behalf of the QEII Board.

Photo: Margaret McKee



# 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.

Remuremu *Selliera radicans* in Ara Kotare Wetland.

## 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. Some covenants allow unrestricted access as agreed in the protection document.

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.

## Covenants protect the habitat of our threatened species

Cromwell broom *Carmichaelia compacta* (Declining) is just one of the threatened plants protected by the Waikerikeri covenant (see page 4).

Endemic to New Zealand, this broom colonises schist rock, debris slopes and rock outcrops and associated steep tussock grassland and river gorges in Central Otago. It is susceptible to browsing by sheep, goats, hares and rabbits.



The bittern or matuku *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Nationally Endangered) inhabits dense reedlands and swamps such as the Jack Bisset Wetlands near Whangarei (see page 10).

When alarmed, a bittern stands stock-still with its bill pointing skywards and eyes fixed on the intruder. On a windy day, it will sway to match the movement of surrounding plants.





## Wairarapa schools help to restore local ecosystems

### Extending students' knowledge of native plants and their environment

Students from two schools in the Wairarapa are developing an understanding of their natural environment with practical experience. In March, QEII directors and staff found out how the students are helping to restore the biodiversity values of two covenants.

In suburban Masterton, the 1ha **Solway College Bush** covenant was put in place in December 2009. The remnant is highly representative of alluvial lowland forests that were common on the plains before being cleared for farming but it is now heavily invaded by weeds. Enthusiastic working bees of students, teachers, ground staff, parents, Old Girls' Association members and neighbours are tackling the wide array of pest plants.

'The group has done a huge amount of work removing exotic trees and weeds such as feral plums, hawthorn, blackberry, ivy periwinkle and sycamores,' said Trevor Thompson, the local QEII representative. 'However, they do not have the resources to deal with the severe tradescantia infestation in the forest.'

'We've now obtained Biodiversity Condition Funding to spray the tradescantia. Students will collect seeds from the forest and remove vulnerable seedlings before the spraying begins. The plants will be grown in the school's nursery and then used to revegetate the treated areas when the project is completed in 2013.'

On **Ed and Marilyn Beetham's** Highcliffs property east of Masterton, a 7ha covenant has protected totara, kahikatea and kowhai treeland along the Wainuioru River since 2005. Students from the nearby Wainuioru School are propagating native plants such as ribbonwood, manuka, flaxes and cabbage trees from seeds and then planting them in the covenant.

Rob Cameron, the school principal, said students and parents plant 300-800 plants a year. 'It's a great opportunity for the students to learn about our native plants and help with restoring a protected area,' he explained. Sir Brian Lochore, QEII chairperson, added that Warren Field who co-ordinates Trees for Survival Trust activities and the Greater Wellington Regional Council have provided superb support for the students.

Robyn Smith from Greater Wellington has also been involved with the school's planting programme. 'The Beethams' covenant is a perfect site for *Olearia gardneri*,' she said. 'We are potting up seedlings at the school and then planting them out. It's a brilliant way for students to be involved in helping to save a threatened species.'

**Top: John Pansters from Solway College along with students Katherine Sprowson, Mackenzie Paton, Natalia Grant and Laurel Moore, described the work being undertaken in the Solway College Bush covenant to QEII directors and staff.**

**Middle: Wainuioru School principal, Rob Cameron, explained the school's propagation unit to Sir Brian Lochore and others from the Trust.**

**Bottom: Students and teachers from Wainuioru School all set to plant Gardner's Tree Daisy *Olearia gardneri* (Nationally Critical) in the Beethams' covenant in 2008.**



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Robyn Smith