

Open Space

FOREVER PROTECTED

Conservation that lasts more than a lifetime



QEII NATIONAL TRUST
Ngā Kairauhi Papa | Forever protected

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Dan Coup

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forever protected

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A word from the Chair

As we head towards the end of 2019 and into a new year, I can't help but be encouraged by our members and covenantors who continue to lead and inspire through their actions and commitment to conservation. In the last five years, QEII has created over 550 new covenants. That's 550 new special areas of Aotearoa that are protected forever, bringing our total to over 4,600 covenants.

Sadly, in August we said farewell to one of QEII's great champions with the passing of Sir Brian Lochore. His eight years as chair of the Trust will be remembered as a period of growth and expansion and he used his mana very effectively to raise the profile of the work of the Trust. He had a great affection for the QEII whanau and was quietly proud of the contribution he made and the legacy he left.

In October we welcomed a new Chief Executive to take on the leadership of QEII National Trust, Dan Coup. Dan hit the ground running and even committed to attending the QEII Annual Conference earlier this year in September, ahead of his tenure. Dan brings a breath of primary sector experience with him. I am confident that he will bring strong leadership and direction to take QEII into our exciting future.

Issues around the protection of private land are getting increasing attention as landowners grapple with a tsunami of environmental legislation proposed by the Government. QEII's history of partnering with private landowners to deliver secure and cost-effective protection at a national scale is increasingly held up as an example of environmental best practice for the future. This presents both opportunities and challenges for us, and we look forward to defining our part in growing the mosaic of protected special places in an evolving environment.

This issue of Open Space is filled with interesting and inspiring stories from all over the country. There's a story about pest control of pigs in the Far North, to a story of intergenerational stewardship down south, featuring Willie Lawson, who has taken on the commitment of protecting areas of

native forest on his property from the original covenantor, his father. If you enjoy statistics, this issue also includes a short excerpt of our 2019 Annual Report, highlighting some of our major achievements over the past year. The full version of the annual report is available to view on our website.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

James Guild
Chair



Introducing Dan Coup

Kia Ora everyone. My name is Dan, and at the time of writing this, I have been Chief Executive of the QEII National Trust for a fortnight. I have certainly hit the ground running, meeting so many new people, spending as much time out in the regions with our regional representatives as I can, and learning very quickly about the legacy of QEII and the wonderful people that we work with.

I have been really impressed with our team, both in the field and at head office in Wellington and am blown-away by the generosity and dedication of our members and covenantors. I have already seen some amazing properties with some amazing work going on in them.

I am excited about the future for QEII and jumped at the opportunity when it came along. My background is mostly in primary production, so I have a reasonable understanding of farmers and what they do. In my most recent role I had the pleasure of working with deer farmers – many of whom are doing excellent work in environmental management on their properties. I never spoke to a deer farmer who didn't know what the QEII National Trust was. In contrast, some of my towny friends thought I might have taken a new job at that swimming pool in Christchurch! One of my goals is for QEII covenantors to get

greater recognition for what they do collectively for New Zealand.

Over the last three years I have supported my good friend, also named Dan, in establishing, provisioning and running the Predator Free Miramar group here in Wellington. This has been an incredibly rewarding experience and opened my eyes to just how many people are ready and willing to get involved in conservation projects, and how much of a difference they can make when given the right opportunity. I hope to apply that sort of thinking at QEII.

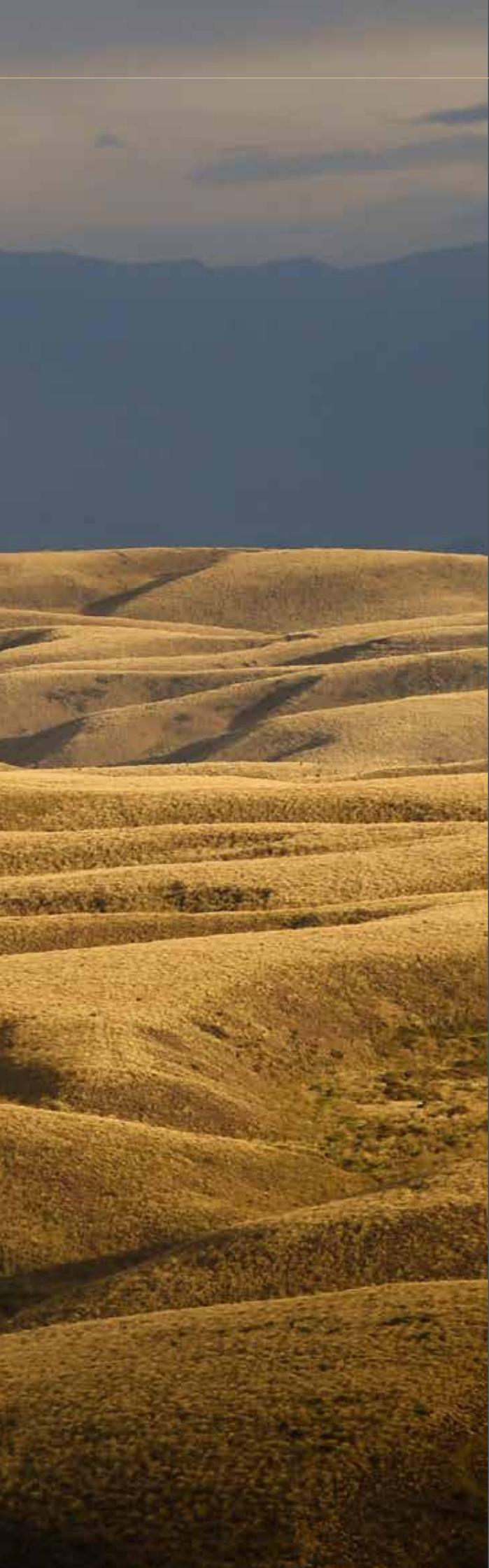
I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as I can and enjoying the wonderful places that you are creating – tough work but somebody has to do it!

Follow me on Instagram, where I'll be sharing highlights of life as the CEO of QEII National Trust @itsdancoup



QEII 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

— This summary of our 2019 Annual Report highlights some of our achievements from the past year. If you would like to receive a physical copy of the report please get in touch with us on 0800 467 367, send an email to info@qeii.org.nz or submit an online enquiry. The full version can also be viewed on our website, qeii.org.nz, in the publications and resources section.



Covenanted numbers

111 New registrations
3,577.4 ha protected this year

New proposals approved
105 (4,275 estimated ha) will be protected

4,608
Total registered covenants

187,202 ha
Total area (approved and registered covenants
and formal agreements)

Dannevirke, Tararua – Te Maunga Farms Limited 'Lord of the Rings covenant'

Located on a 428-hectare dairy farm just east of Dannevirke is a covenant named Te Maunga Lord of the Rings. This enchanting area holds a lot of meaning to landowners Andrew Hardie and Helen Long who named it after the iconic movies. "When the kids were little, we would take them here and pretend that this was where the films were shot" Andrew remembers fondly.

Limestone cliffs and boulders are the dominant features of the four-hectare covenant which is distinctive in the surrounding landscape and an outlier of the narrow limestone belt that runs up the East Coast from the Wairarapa to Hawke's Bay. Calcareous boulderfields and cliffs are an 'originally rare' terrestrial ecosystem with a threat status of "Vulnerable", and their protection meets Priority 3 of the National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land. The area has been fenced and retired from dairy cows for a few years which is important for preventing the erosion of the features, and the geology itself has protected remnant vegetation growing on the cliffs and amongst the rocks. The limestone habitat is home to several native species such as glow worms, morepork, lizards and possibly even native bats. In addition to National Priority 3, this covenant also meets National Priorities 1 and 4.

Andrew and Helen plan to further enhance the biodiversity values of the area by planting natives, facilitating natural regeneration and carrying out weed and pest control, while still retaining the aesthetics of the geological features. This work complements other initiatives Andrew and Helen have underway, including the establishment of the Upper Manawatū catchment group. Initiated by landowners, the purpose of this catchment group is to lead the community to monitor, restore, enhance and preserve water quality in the upper Manawatū and its tributaries, while building rural resistance within the changing rural environment.

Andrew and Helen's commitment to farm sustainability was recognised last year when they received the supreme award at the 2018 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



ABOVE: Aerial view of the covenant. Credit - Surveying Company Hawke's Bay

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT:
Limestone boulderfield.
Kowhai growing in and around limestone boulders.

Hardie-Long Family - Andrew, Helen, Katelyn, Callum & Jordan in the 'Lord of the Rings covenant'. Credit - Andrew Hardie.



Canterbury – The Galloway Wetlands

Craig and Lyn Galloway bought their farm in 1986 on the south bank of the North Branch of the Ashburton River. When they purchased the property, all paddocks had been developed except for the wetland paddock which remained uncultivated.

Craig and Lyn applied to the Ashburton Water Zone committee for a grant to expand their successful riparian planting programme to the margin of a stream and man-made pond. They were initially surprised, then delighted, when ECan and QEII representatives pointed out the rarity of the unprepossessing spring-fed wetlands in the stony paddock adjacent to the stream and pond. Spring-fed channel wetlands like theirs have virtually disappeared elsewhere on the Canterbury Plains. They decided to place a covenant over the whole six-hectare wetland complex to preserve the relict pre-human vegetation.

The covenant is a rare example of the highly diverse wetland complex and landform created by hydrologically connected springs associated with braided rivers. The wetland ecotone contains a spring-fed mossy fen, bog rush channel wetland, stream, man-made ponds, pukio and kiokio fern swamp, and toetoe marsh.

Even though there is an almost full complement of the expected wetland plant species, some are in perilously low numbers. The Galloway covenant protects the only known mānuka, sphagnum moss and the pink-flowered wetland ladies tresses orchid (*Spiranthes australis*) on the Ashburton Plains. Matagouri and the long-lived rhizomatous shrubby violet, known as a porcupine shrub, have survived on the stony ridges in the covenant but both are rarely encountered elsewhere in the region. The landowners plan to supplement these species with new plants, grown from seed sourced from the local area.

This covenant is one of very few that meet all four National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land.

With assistance from QEII and Environment Canterbury, Craig and Lyn have fenced the area and are now focused on weed control, strategic riparian planting, and predator trapping.



*ABOVE: Amongst the low-growing sedge-wetland (*Carex flaviformis*) a keen eye can find sphagnum moss, native swamp St John's wort, waioriki/swamp buttercup, the herb centella, and a patch of the pink-flowered ladies tree orchid, all now rarely encountered on the Canterbury Plains.*

BELOW: Craig and Lyn Galloway



QEII National Trust covenants and Manaaki Whenua Threatened Environments Classification (2012)



95% of registered covenants are ≤ 100 ha

QEII National Trust-owned properties:

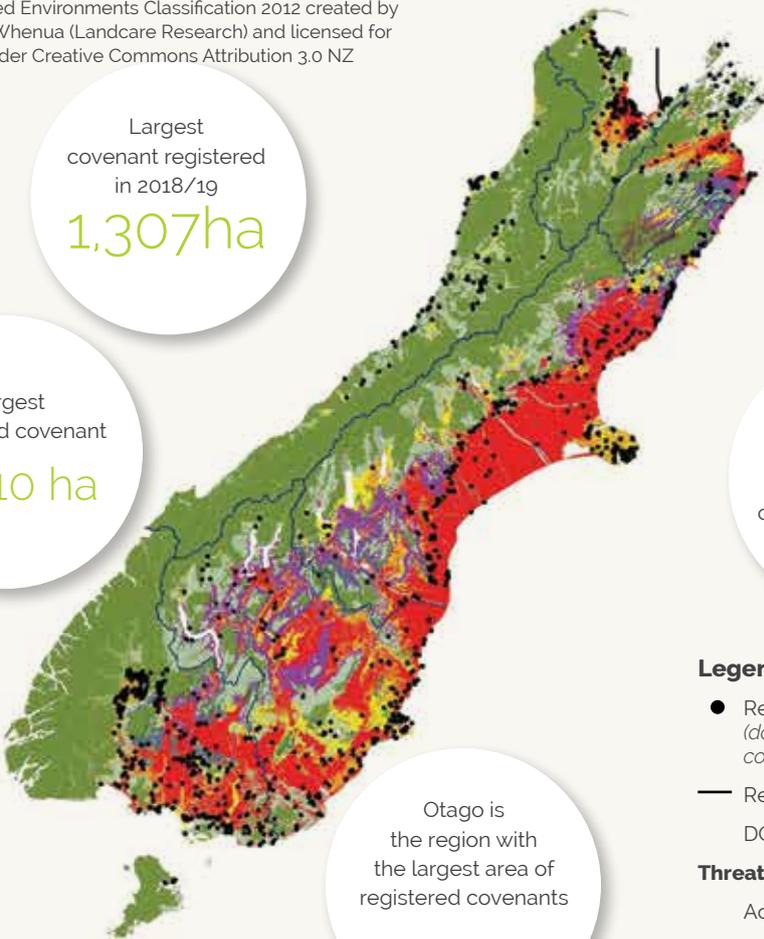
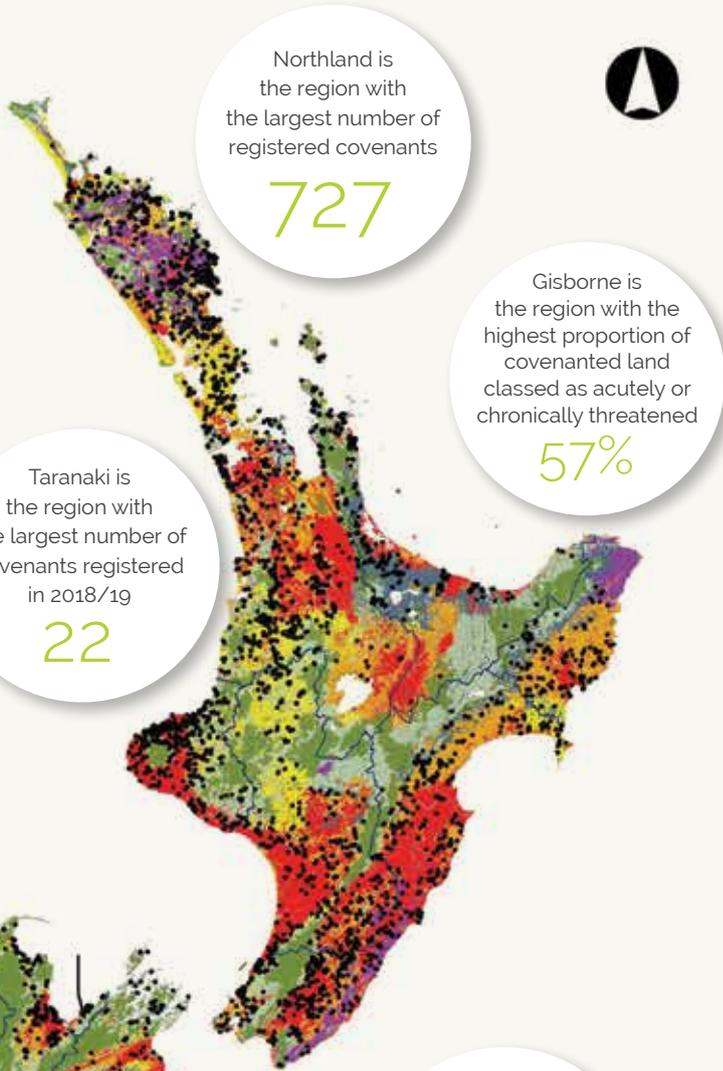
- 26 properties (1,439 ha) (14 formalised & 12 registered as covenants).
- 1 license to occupy (85 ha)

Organisations with the most covenants:

Pāmu (Landcorp Farming Ltd)

- 204 registered covenants (8,953 ha)

Public Conservation Land Crown Copyright: Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai [2019] Threatened Environments Classification 2012 created by Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research) and licensed for re-use under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 NZ



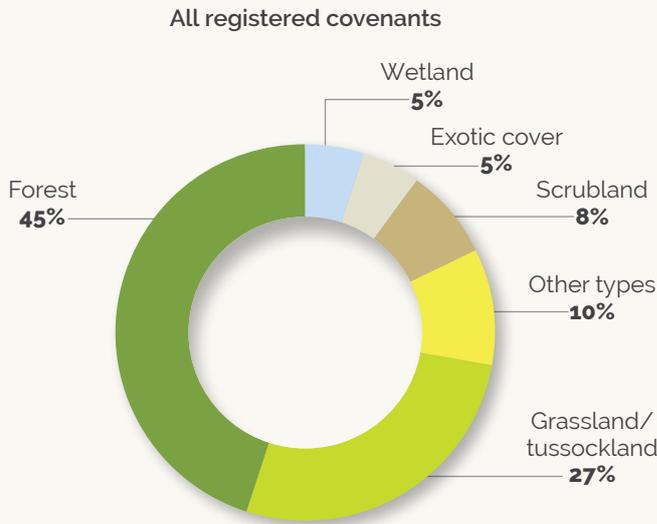
Legend

- Registered and approved QEII National Trust covenants (dots represent locations only and not actual area of covenanted land)
- Regional Council boundary
- DOC Public Conservation Land

Threatened Environments Classification (2012)

- Acutely threatened (<10% indigenous cover left)
- Chronically threatened (10-20% indigenous cover left)
- At risk (20-30% indigenous cover left)
- Critically underprotected (>30% left and <10% protected)
- Underprotected (>30% left and 10-20% protected)
- Less reduced and better protected (>30% left and >20% protected)

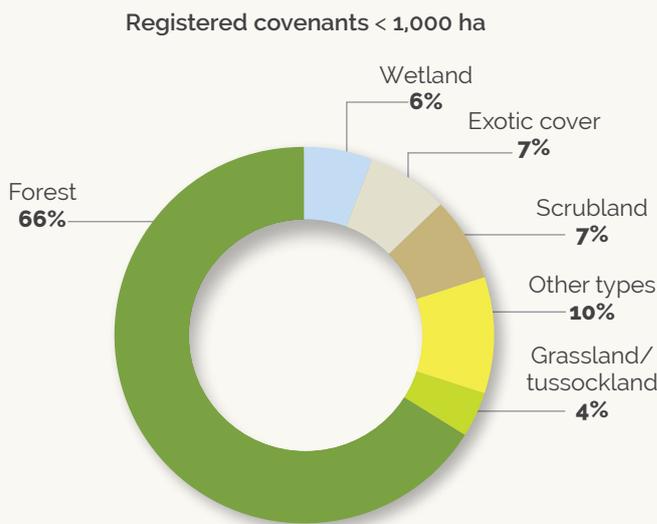
Landcover type



Grouping the vegetation types recorded for all registered covenants into 6 broad landcover categories shows that 45% of covenanted land is forest and 27% grassland/tussockland.

93% of covenanted grassland/tussockland (approximately 43,500 ha) is located in the 17 largest covenants, each over 1,000 ha in size.

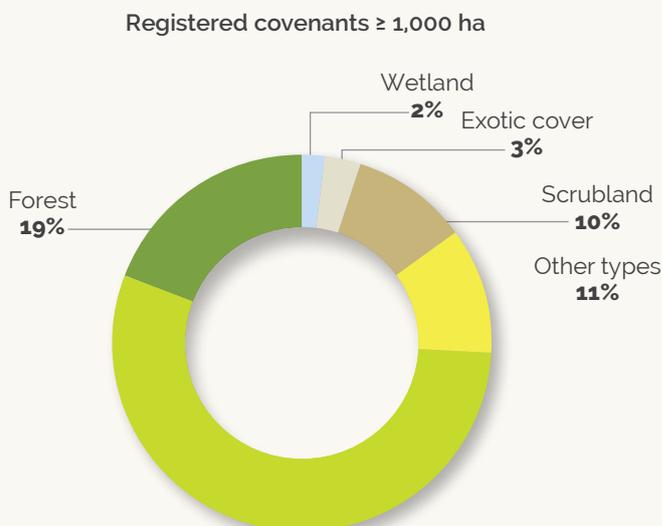
81% of covenanted forest (approximately 65,000 ha) is located in covenants < 1,000 ha in size.



99.6%

of registered covenants (4,591) are <1,000 ha

- representing **56%** of registered covenant land
- **66%** of this covenanted land is classed as forest, representing **81%** of all QEII covenanted forests (approximately 65,000 ha), spread across all regions of New Zealand
- of the **111** covenants registered in 2018/19, **110** were <1,000 ha, comprising **70%** forest by area (approximately 1,600 ha)



0.4%

of registered covenants (17) are ≥1,000 ha

- representing **44%** of registered covenant land
- **55%** of this covenanted land is classed as grassland/tussockland, representing **93%** of all QEII covenanted grassland/tussockland (approximately 43,500 ha)
- most of these large areas of covenanted grassland/tussockland (**99%**) are located in alpine to submontane regions of the South Island

COASTAL OTAGO REP BRINGS LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION TO ROLE



“My philosophy has always been if an opportunity presents itself, take it and the door will open to more opportunities,”

Robin Thomas



Group photo at Robin's covenantor barbecue, January 2019

You could write a book about the conservation work our Coastal Otago rep Robin Thomas has done over a long successful career. A 26-year career with the Department of Conservation from its inception in 1987 included a few surprising achievements, including devising and leading the development of the Otago Rail Trail, advising on controlling goats in the Galapagos Islands and even helping Australians track their saltwater crocodiles. Throughout those years he was experiencing some of New Zealand's most amazing places and working with some of our rarest species.

"My philosophy has always been if an opportunity presents itself, take it and the door will open to more opportunities," he says. One of the opportunities that is particularly significant to Robin was working with iwi, enriching the way he views the natural world.

"It's a richness and diversity that we run the risk of missing if we don't embrace it. It's critical, it's part of our being. It is part of who we are and understanding it is fundamental," he says.

His awareness of Māori culture was awoken when he helped recover a partly completed waka from near Whangamomona in the mid-1970s. "Hearing the karakia ring out in that remote area of forest and experiencing the depth of belief and passion shown by the tohunga in uplifting the tapu was unbelievable". Many other experiences since have deepened his respect for Māori culture.

Robin's work in conservation started with the Lands and Survey Department in the 1970s and his early enthusiasm has remained undimmed. After a long spell as DOC's regional manager for Otago, he joined QEII in 2013 as the rep covering a patch from Moeraki in the north to the Catlins in the south.

"We've got these huge, towering unlogged rata and totara forests in the southern coastal rainforests in the Catlins through to covenants that have some of the most delicate of our native orchids. There's amazing expansive windswept upland tussock grasslands with multi-coloured sphagnum moss soaks and down at the coast we've got salt meadows that are like billiard tables."

Robin is fascinated by the rare wildlife found in these landscapes such as rare multi-coloured southern forest geckos, jewelled geckos, and yellow-eyed penguins. A few upland streams are home to Eldon's galaxids. Two of just 13 known populations of these freshwater fish are found in streams on land protected by QEII covenants.

But none of what Robin does would be possible without the people. Both covenantors and QEII staff are incredibly welcoming, he says. "Within QEII, they're amazingly supportive, we've got some really skilled people with a huge depth of knowledge and they're free in giving assistance or advice if you're not sure about something."

He describes his visits to covenants as a real privilege. "I have two significant health and safety issues in my job. One is too much caffeine – people say, come on, of course you've got time for a cuppa, and the second one is too much home baking," he jokes.

Robin returned some of that hospitality early this year, inviting covenantors for a barbecue at his Strath Taeri property. He expected up to 20 but almost 90 turned up to swap ideas and socialise.

RIGHT
Robin Thomas



“ Within QEII, they’re amazingly supportive, we’ve got some really skilled people with a huge depth of knowledge.”

Robin Thomas

“There’s a lot of camaraderie among the covenantors. The hubbub of noise was phenomenal, people talking, sharing ideas and thoughts.”

His property includes an off-grid cottage set in a stark landscape of tussock, matagouri and rock outcrops that reminds him of the Canterbury high country where he was brought up. “I call the property Elsewhere because on the weather forecast it’s always raining in town and fine elsewhere.”

Rare native plant and wildlife species are another special feature of the property, some of which are only found in the local area. Robin’s intensive trapping of hedgehogs, ferrets, weasels, stoats, possums and feral cats has made a big difference to protecting these species. Robin spends an average of 5 hours per week checking his trap network, and has done so for the last 14 years. His annual tally averages around 40 feral cats, 70 ferrets, 20 stoats and weasels, and 100 hedgehogs.

Robin loves New Zealand’s diverse wild places but taking care of a landscape that is familiar to him from his youth gives him particular satisfaction. “The expansive open spaces, rock tors and tussock grasslands – that’s my soul place, the kind of place that I relate to most easily and am most at home in.”

THE PROBLEMS WITH FERAL PIGS

Written by Greg Blunden, QEII regional representative for Far North and Kaipara

Wild or feral pigs are a huge issue for rural landowners. They're a nationwide problem and although they taste delicious and hunting feral pigs is a major pastime in many parts of New Zealand, feral pigs do a lot of ecological damage.

People will usually become aware that they have a pig problem when they see ground which has been turned over. The damage that pigs can cause (usually overnight) can be massive and can result in loss of pasture, destruction of groundcover in native bush as well as directly impact on kiwi nests.

Populations can be difficult to control as feral pigs breed regularly, more than once a year, with each litter up to six or more piglets. Feral pigs are wide ranging, with boars only part of a "sounder" (group) during mating. Pig trails are common in the bush and entry points on to farms and lifestyle blocks can be easily identified at points in fence lines where there is room to easily get under the lowest wire. It's also worth noting that it's not reasonably possible for fencing to restrict wild pigs – I have tried nine wire post and batten with posts at 3 metres which was unsuccessful, partly due to ground movement.

Feral pigs have also been identified as a major problem when it comes to the spread of Kauri Dieback disease. The photo on the following page shows a pig trail at the base of a young kauri right on the bank of the Kerikeri River. A pig wallow was located nearby, and the pigs have rubbed the trunk of the kauri as well as disturbing the ground when passing through. The pigs effectively move mud from their wallow to the kauri and we know that soil is the main medium for kauri dieback disease.

There are several reasons to control or progressively remove feral pigs from New Zealand. However, the difficulty of controlling feral pigs, and the pig hunting community, complicate this. Hunters tend to take only the boars and leave the sows and piglets to breed. Some hunters breed and release feral pigs into the environment to supplement the population to be hunted, thus contributing to the struggle to control the population of feral pigs.

Options for those who want to control pigs on their properties are limited. As there is no registered poison for feral pigs, hunting or trapping are the only options. Feral pigs can be shot on open ground but not easily in the bush, meaning that dogs are favoured by pig hunters. Because few hunters are willing to kill sows and piglets, the use of pig hunters should be quite selective from a covenantor's perspective. Pig dogs should be trained to avoid ground dwelling species such as kiwi which are particularly susceptible to death by both pigs and dogs. Thankfully, the days



**CLOCKWISE
FROM LEFT:**

Pig in a trap

*Turned over land
kanuka shrubland with
kikuyu inside a covenant
in north Hokianga*

*Pig rooting around the
base of a kauri tree,
spreading soil which
may contain pathogens
such as kauri dieback*

of large numbers of pig dogs per hunter are gone. Pig hunters generally only use two or three trained dogs, all of which are equipped with GPS transmitters and are required to complete kiwi aversion training when this is appropriate. The Department of Conservation (DOC) has been influential in this by requiring pig hunters operating on any DOC estate to have these qualifications.

There are hunters who will kill all pigs found if it's possible, but it's best to ask at the time of engaging a hunter that sows and piglets are killed as well. Also, ensuring that you use trusted hunters who can be relied on not to leave their dogs behind under any circumstances, as even the best people can sometimes lose a dog in thick bush or gnarly country where the GPS might not be very clear. This can be an issue as pig dogs have been known to take lambs or even attack adult sheep. A great approach would be to hire professional cullers or work with a local hunting group – the peer pressure of a hunting group means they'll ensure their members act responsibly, or else everyone loses access to the land.

If you have a feral pig problem as a landowner, you may want to try deal with the issue on your own using a firearm, if you have a gun licence and a suitable firearm. Note that a .22 rifle is not powerful enough with a .223 required at least. Trapping is another method that landowners can implement, however it is worth noting that you generally need to shoot the pig once trapped, so you need a good plan from the start. Pig traps can be purchased but typically cost more than \$1,000. Locally, there are other options, for example, Northland Regional Council has a small library of pig traps and several Landcare groups have traps available for members to use. A great place to set up pig traps is near an offal pit, especially if there are lamb carcasses or offal being disposed of as pigs tend to investigate these.

If you're not sure about where to go to deal with your pig problem, get in touch with your Regional Council who are ultimately responsible for pest and weed control in your area. Otherwise, get in touch with your local council or your QEII Regional Representative who can possibly direct you towards more information about controlling feral pigs.

Covenantor follows in father's footsteps

Farming families always take great pride in seeing the work of one generation built on by the next. This can also apply to QEII National Trust covenants as Coastal Otago sheep and beef farmer Willie Lawson is proving by adding to those initiated by his father Jim.

Willie, his wife Georgie and their boys Ardie, 3, and Freddie, 1, live on the 1350 hectare farm south of Waikouaiti, next door to Willie's brother Rob. The two farms were once a single unit owned by Jim, who retired in recent years but still takes a close interest in the properties.

Willie's farm contains the first 16ha covenant created by his father in 2012. Another covenant established by Jim was part of a parcel of land sold off as a lifestyle block. A new covenant was finalised for a 14 ha block earlier this year and more are planned for other areas of regenerating bush.

Jim Lawson is happy to see his legacy being added to. "I think it's great. I hope I live long enough to see what it's going to look like because I can envisage it looking pretty special," he says.

The farm has been owned since 1950 by the family, which has deep roots in Otago. Jim's great-grandfather Robert Arthur Lawson was a famous Scottish-born architect, whose buildings included Larnach's Castle, Otago Boys High School and Dunedin's First Church.

Willie said his father had done a huge amount of work improving the productive areas of the farm, including removing vast amounts of gorse. The covenanted areas are the steepest and most unproductive parts of the rolling and steep hill country property. The fences around the covenants have the advantage of making it easier to track down stock at mustering time.

"What I'm doing is really just a step on from seeing what Dad's done to the property and following what most farmers and landowners are

thinking, trying to leave the land better than they found it," Willie says. Jim agrees the covenants have made management of the land easier and he and Willie are also hopeful the covenanted areas may produce some carbon revenue in the future.

But neither of the Lawsons consider only the economic and practical advantages of the covenants. Jim is happy to see the health of the bush in the fenced areas improving. "I can see the bush seems to be sharper and brighter where it's fenced off. There's no stock interfering with the undergrowth."

"You never go out there now without seeing kererū swooping around the big deep ravine-type gullies where the bush is fenced off. In the past you'd see them on the odd occasion, now you see them all the time and a lot of bellbirds and tuis."



Willie, Georgie, Ardie and Freddie



“What I’m doing is really just a step on from seeing what Dad’s done to the property and following what most farmers and landowners are thinking, trying to leave the land better than they found it.”

Willie Lawson

The expansive, tussocky hill country with its bush blocks appeals to walking groups who come out during the summer months, Willie says. “They love getting close to those covenants and seeing the native bird life and vegetation flourishing. For us too, it’s quite tranquil on a day when it’s not too windy to take in those covenants as we’re working around the farm.”

The step by step approach to adding to the covenants makes economic sense to Willie. The covenants are in the back blocks of the farm and the rough terrain makes fencing an expensive proposition, even with QEII paying half of the costs. “They’re quite big projects because of the terrain, it’s quite difficult getting the fencing gear out there and to get the fence line bulldozed. It’s a really tough job for the fencing contractors given the nature of terrain.”

Willie says his family has been grateful for the partnership with QEII and Coastal Otago rep Robin Thomas. “Having a guy like him who is knowledgeable about the land, the native bush, means we’re able to get good advice from him on what to do.”

Robin is equally full of praise for what the Lawsons have achieved. “I think it’s an outstanding commitment to environmental protection and one they should be proud of. The areas they are protecting are not far from a network of protected public areas just north of Dunedin. These covenants form part of a corridor out beyond those public lands,” he says.

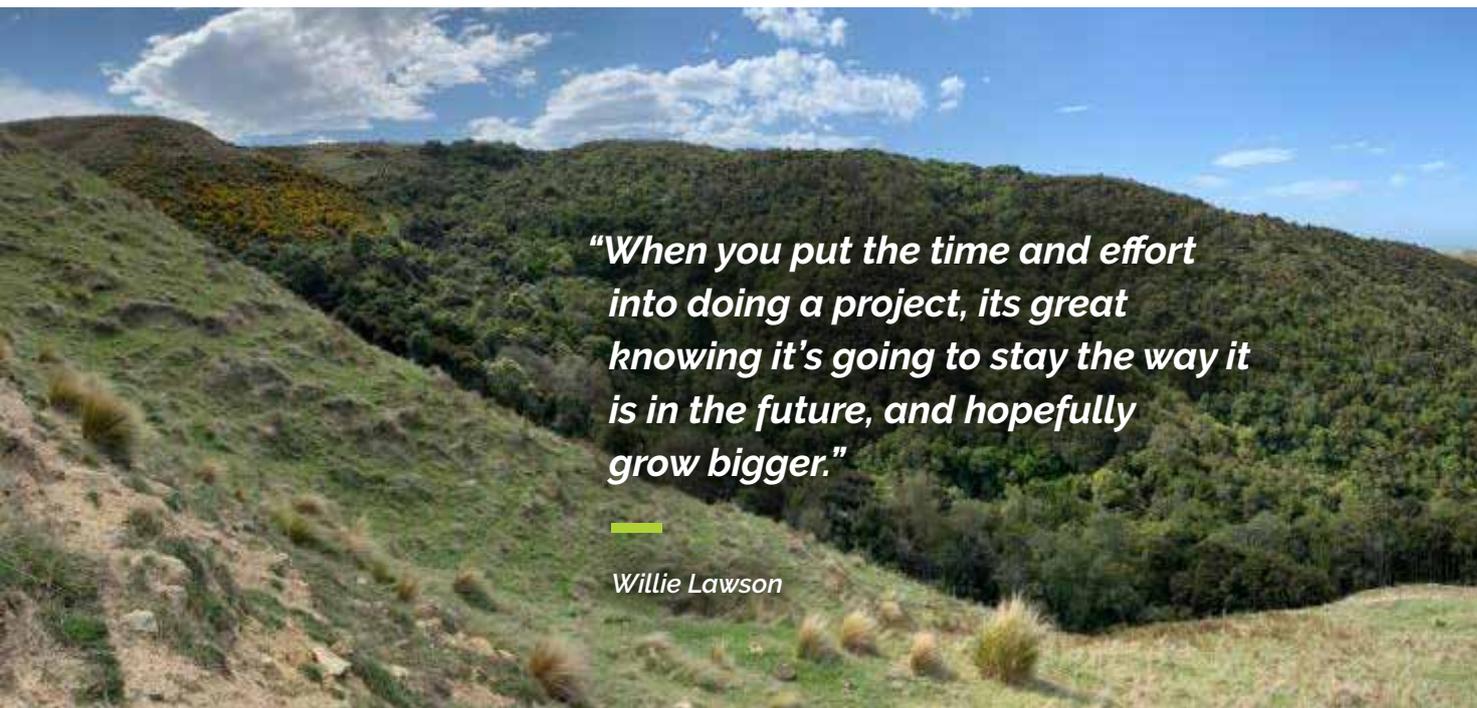
Willie has just applied to get a third covenant on the farm, a 10 ha block of similar regenerating bush and he hopes this will be completed by the end of next year or the start of 2021. His plans don’t stop there and he

reckons there would be another 50 to 60 hectares that could be covenanted in three different blocks.

He likes the idea the covenants will be protected forever. “That’s definitely a huge benefit. When you put the time and effort into doing a project, its great knowing it’s going to stay the way it is in the future, and hopefully grow bigger.”

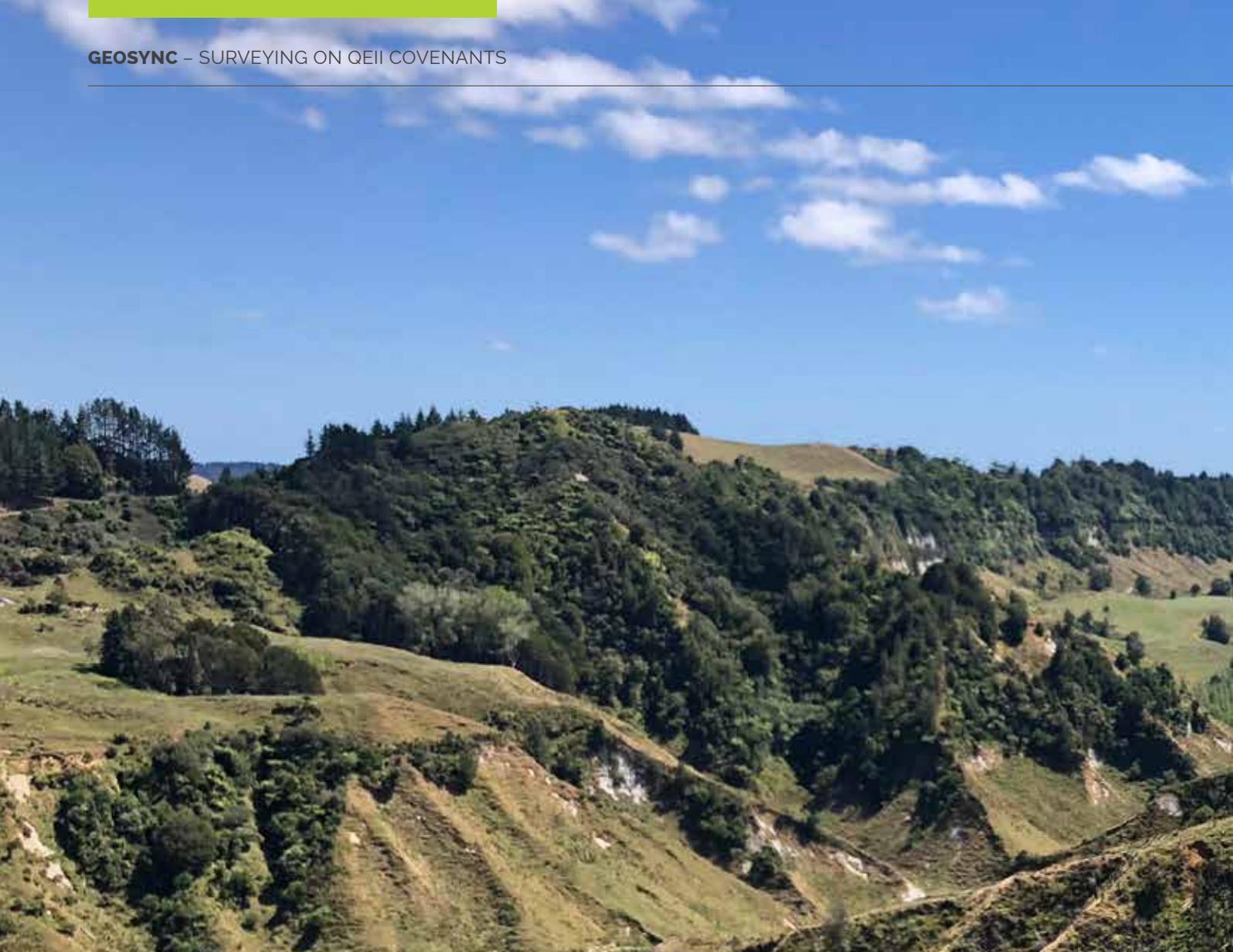
The Lawsons are proud of the way the family have made their farm more productive over the years but they’re also proud they are improving the economically unproductive parts of the farm as well and seeing nature become more vigorous in those areas.

But Willie thinks there’s nothing special about what he is doing. “I think the majority of farmers out there are doing a lot of work that’s benefiting the environment through QEII covenants and in other ways.”



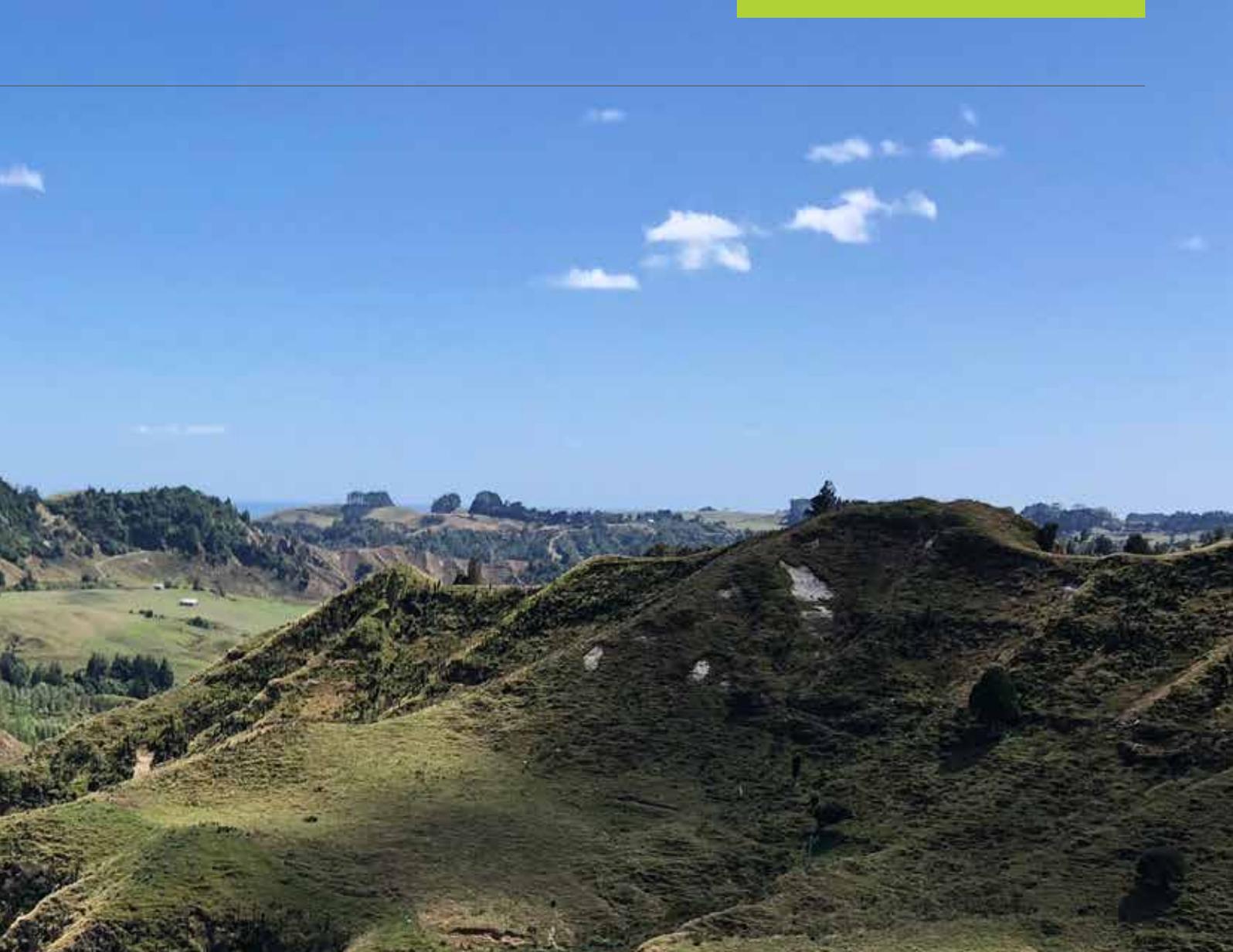
“When you put the time and effort into doing a project, its great knowing it’s going to stay the way it is in the future, and hopefully grow bigger.”

Willie Lawson



WORKING WITH QEII: **GEOSYNC**

Written by the GeoSync team
geosync.co.nz



GeoSync is a creative, open-minded, social, green, small team based in New Plymouth. We've been surveying QEII covenants for around 10 years now but we're certainly not your conventional surveying firm. GeoSync is the only New Zealand land surveying company that is owned and operated by a sole female practitioner and director - Belinda Willis.

Belinda says that, "as a land surveyor – often we find ourselves working for developers that want to carve up the land to make money – but with QEII work it is all about protection, protection, protection and in perpetuity! Meaning forever!" Belinda "totally loves that," but only wishes that as a business owner she could do more work like this, especially considering climate change and the dire state of our planet.

Hill views from a QEII covenant in Urenui Hill views from a QEII covenant in Urenui



“it’s inspiring to see their passion for the environment and how much hard work they have put into the regeneration of the land.”

Katherine Turton



Swing bridge at the Makakaho QEII covenant

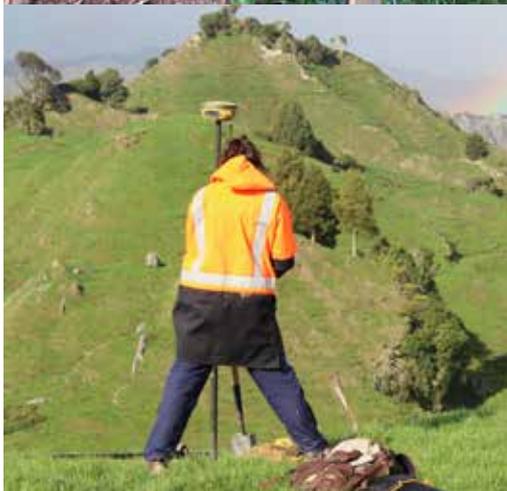
The GeoSync team includes Belinda Willis (Owner/Director/Licensed Cadastral Surveyor MNZI); Scott Willis (Director of GeoSync and Software Engineer); Josef Sobek (Senior Surveyor); Katherine Turton (Surveyor and UAV Specialist aka a Drone Pilot), and new to the team, Anna Rowe (Office Manager and previous Legal Counsel of QEII), taking over the role from Katie Vogl who was a whizz on our marketing and public relations.

What Katherine loves most about her work is the land. "We get to escape the city to some of the most beautiful places in Taranaki. We never quite know what we are going to encounter and there is always something special and unique about each piece of land. It is a real privilege visiting covenants all over Taranaki getting to see a lot more of the beautiful spots that you won't see advertised in a tramping guide!"

Josef, who came to New Zealand from overseas says that "working on QEII covenants is the best way to experience New Zealand's amazing nature first-hand. We get off the beaten track and visit places you'd otherwise never heard of. The work we do with QEII makes me appreciate New Zealand's nature even more." Josef really enjoys the serenity and peacefulness of Taranaki bush "where the only 'noise' you can hear is the song of a tui and the swoosh of kereru flying by". We have a great partnership with QEII, especially the local QEII regional reps: Neil Phillips, Jake Goonan and Melissa Sinton. They will often stop into the office to catch up about work and the beautiful land we are all working to protect.

Our work also gets us building relationships with landowners, which is one of the best parts of the job. Katherine says, "it's inspiring to see their passion for the environment and how much hard work they have put into the regeneration of the land." GeoSync never says 'no' to a cup of tea and a bit of a history lesson, and Belinda, Joe and Katherine have been known to return to the office with a carton of eggs, fruit or handmade crafts. "Meeting local farmers is a real highlight, some of which are definitely true characters!"

Katherine thinks QEII work is challenging with the ruggedness of the land but this, she says is one of the rewards of the work - "you just have to get stuck in and also hope that you don't get stuck!"



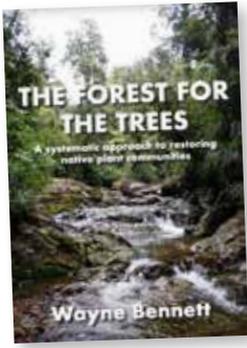
FROM TOP

Fenceline checking at a QEII covenant in Tikorangi

Checking a survey mark in Waitotara at a QEII covenant wetland

"The work we do with QEII makes me appreciate New Zealand's nature even more."

Josef Sobek



THE FOREST FOR THE TREES – A systematic approach to restoring native plant communities

By Wayne Bennett,
Published by Forest Flora NZ.
126 pages, A4 soft cover.

Review by Lynette Benson,
QEII Regional Representative for
Waikato-Hunua

It was a privilege to be asked by Wayne Bennett to review his recently completed new book. Wayne has been involved with forest restoration for a number of decades, setting up Forest Flora in 2006 to guide and support ecologists in the Waikato propagating plants native to the region. In this process, he has developed an understanding of the communities they have come from and the dynamics within these communities. Wayne and I have had numerous discussions about the field of ecological restoration and it is fantastic that his experience and thoughts have been captured in this publication. It is a practical and useful book that is easy to read with over 200 relevant images.

The title is a play on the expression "can't see the forest for the trees" whereby the big picture is lost through focusing on the detail. Wayne would argue that without knowing this detail, we lose sight of the aim of the big picture: ecological restoration.

Wayne draws an interesting parallel between taxidermy (a skill he possesses) and some approaches to restoring ecosystems. A stuffed animal may be a reconstruction of the form and appearance of it, but it cannot behave or function as one. Ecological restoration is similarly not just about a collection of plants, an illusion of a forest, but is about reinstating natural

processes and following natural patterns, which will hopefully result in a more authentic ecosystem that is resilient and self-sustaining. Just planting or revegetating areas with quick-growing shrubs without thought of facilitating succession to longer-lived species or a complex forest structure will result in an outcome like a taxidermy specimen – it may look the part but will never function as one.

The book is a great guide to understanding what steps are required and what thinking is needed when undertaking the best attempts at ecological restoration, providing background and historical context as to why ecological restoration is even necessary in New Zealand.

One of the most important chapters "A reference ecosystem" lays out the processes in play when native vegetation becomes naturally established in a site, hypothetically free from weeds and animal pests. Understanding how the characteristics of a site and the vulnerabilities and tolerances of plants influence their interactions and interdependencies, provides guidance for what is appropriate to plant where. This information ties in nicely with a more detailed explanation in a later chapter of the different factors that determine where a plant will 'find' itself, and discusses how planting should take into account succession and patterns both in time and space. It covers a range of topics to consider including protecting biodiversity, dispersal mechanisms, eco-sourcing and mycorrhizae.

Anyone undertaking ecological restoration will be or should be familiar with the various impacts of weeds – described in the book as "unfair competition". There are good examples and reasons for why introduced plants do so well in environments far from their natural range, and a range of control considerations and options are suggested, particularly when planning a project.

The book provides a really useful outline or template for preparing and implementing a site-specific plan. One of the most important aspects to consider first, and which is often overlooked in the rush to get things in the ground, is the objective of the project. A clear understanding of the reason for the project will determine what is the best approach to take. The chapter is self-explanatory and details the strategies, activities and tools that should be considered for achieving an excellent outcome for a project. Preparation, planting and maintenance are explained along with the suggestion that recording progress is useful for reference and monitoring the success – or otherwise! There are always opportunities for learning.

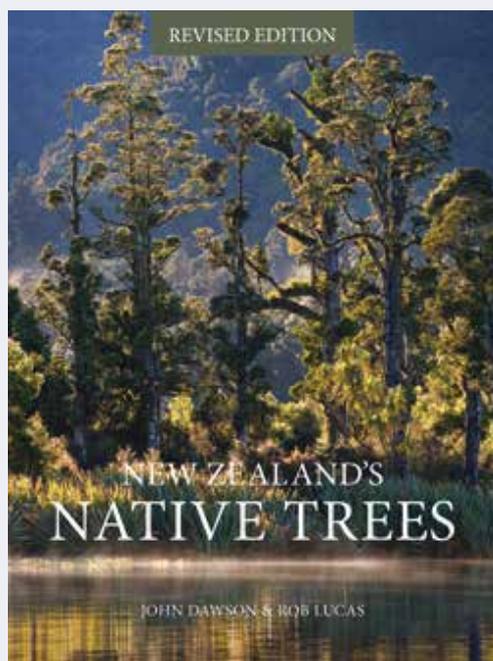
There are useful examples of restoration projects where different approaches are used at different sites because of inherent limitations or advantages encountered. Although the projects are located in the Waikato, the fundamental approach and considerations are universal.

The book is a great asset for any covenant owner or anyone interested in restoration to have at hand, when thinking about their own native plant community, in whatever ecosystem form that may be. Taking time to observe and contemplate what interactions, natural patterns and functions are there or what might be absent will inform what possible actions could be undertaken to remedy it.

If nothing less, the book should help the reader spot the difference between a stuffed ecosystem and a functioning one - unlike Wayne's grandfather and the pheasant...

A digital edition is available to view on the Forest Flora website, <http://www.forestflora.co.nz/> and hard copies are also able to be purchased by contacting Wayne at wayne@forestflora.co.nz hard copies are retailing for \$45.00 (incl GST & postage).

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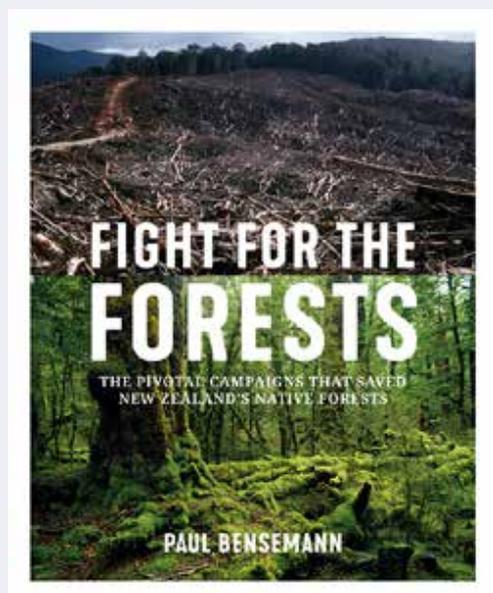
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John Dawson & Rob Lucas

310 x 229 mm, 688 pp

Hardback with dustjacket, colour throughout

Published: October 2019



Fight for the Forests

Paul Bensemann

The remarkable and inspiring story of how New Zealand's native forests were saved between 1960 and 2000.

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Paul Bensemann

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Published: November 2018

To receive 20% discount and free delivery in NZ, order online at pottonandburton.co.nz and use the coupon code **QEII19** at the shopping cart. Offer ends 20 December 2019.



Sir Brian Lochore

QEII National Trust was deeply saddened by the death of former QEII Chair and all-round good bloke, Sir Brian Lochore. Sir Brian passed away on 3 August 2019 at the age of 78.

Sir Brian Lochore was Chair of the QEII National Trust for 8 years. He left many legacies during his lifetime of service but one of the most enduring will be the nearly 2,000 special parts of New Zealand he helped place under permanent protection during his eight years of chairing QEII National Trust. Those living, growing taonga will be here forever – a permanent memorial to an outstanding New Zealander who used his mana to benefit his country in many ways.

James Guild, QEII National Trust Chair, said at the time, "Sir Brian is a great loss to New Zealand and leaves a strong legacy behind in private land conservation."

Current QEII board member and former All Black captain, Graham Mourie reflected on Sir Brian Lochore, "BJ has always been an inspirational figure. I have always admired the role he played in QEII and his commitment to the QEII community. Sir Brian's passing is a huge loss to New Zealand, rugby and the farming community."

QEII Wairarapa regional representative Trevor Thompson said, "Sir Brian was the QEII Board Chair when I started at QEII and I have always been proud to say I was on 'Brian Lochore's team'. On a QEII trip to a remote hill country farm, I remember him telling me how he never tired of seeing the back country of the Wairarapa. His genuine interest in people of the land and his easy communication style made him friends and earned him respect wherever he went."

FROM TOP

Sir Brian speaking to Prince Harry at QEII event in October 2018





"Sir Brian served his province and his nation incredibly well, but I will always remember him as a classic man of the land who I could say g'day to in the RSA. Sir Brian, you will be greatly missed by all who knew you," said Thompson.

We were lucky enough to have Sir Brian and his wife Lady Pam attend the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy dedication event last October with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. It was lovely to be able to recognise his commitment and contribution to QEII by having him with us for that day, and Prince Harry was visibly touched at meeting such a legend.



Sir Brian was farewelled at his home ground, Masterton's Memorial Park on Thursday 8 August 2019.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

James Guild (current QEII Chair), Pam and Sir Brian Lochore at QEII event, October 2018
Photo Credit: Malcolm Pullman

Sir Brian Lochore with Brian Molloy, March 2004

Sir Brian & HRH Prince Andrew 2007 at QEII 30th Anniversary celebrations at Lake Pounui

Wade Doak

QEII is saddened by the passing of environmentalist, Wade Doak. Wade passed away on 12 September 2019 at his home in Northland, aged 79. He was one of our earliest covenantors and was a passionate, inspirational and vocal advocate for the environment. Wade has left a "living legacy" alongside the Ngunguru River and will be remembered fondly by our Whangarei team for his work both in marine and land conservation.





Selling a property with a QEII covenant?

If you would like to include your property for sale in a future issue of Open Space, send an email with to us at info@qeii.org.nz. Open Space is published in November and May.

MARLBOROUGH





> Rare wetland opportunity in Marlborough's wine province

The Parsons have loved and enhanced their 12-hectare property for 20 years and now it's time to move on. The property includes a split level, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with balcony views over the 8-hectare QEII wetland and Wairau Lagoon.

Optional income stream can be gained with the separate, purpose build guest accommodation with two bedrooms, shared bathroom and private gate to the wetland walk.

This beautiful property borders the Opaoa River in the Lower Wairau Valley with a 4-hour loop walk of the Wairau Lagoon just a short paddle across the river. An absolute treat for bird watchers and kayakers. Birds seen are bittern, fern bird and royal spoonbill.

The site is conveniently located 10 minutes from Blenheim in the heart of the sunny Marlborough wine country. The vendors are motivated to sell to new owners who will continue the ecological protection and development of this very unique property at 749, Dillons Point Road, Blenheim.

P.O.A. Please contact Graham McCarthy at Summit Real Estate Blenheim 027 209 7171 for more details.



v Grand Vista

Grand Vista, named for its spectacular views, especially at sunset, is on the market for the first time ever. The original owners have dwelt here 25 years.

This is an exceptional 11-acre lifestyle property, complete with a three-bedroom dwelling, wrap around veranda and double garaging. Handily located 40 kms northwest and within the bounds of the Auckland Super City limits, on the hill range between Waimauku and Helensville.

It boasts beautiful panoramic views out to Muriwai and Kaipara Harbour, with a 5-acre QEII protected covenant containing pristine native forest complete with mature Kauri and a natural stream forming spring. The property also has a further 6 acres of fully fenced paddocks.

The dwelling is north/west facing, meaning that residents benefit from all day sun. There are three double upstairs bedrooms, with the master being a treble. Two bathrooms, one upstairs and one down.

Private sale, asking price is \$2.5 million. For more information, or to arrange a viewing appointment contact the current owner Rei on 0279334543.

> Bush Lover's Retreat

This unique Kaitaia surrounds bush block comes complete with an amazing outlook of mostly native mature bush, beautiful nikau groves and thriving birdlife. This is the perfect place for those looking for a chance to get back to nature, while only being 10 minutes away from Kaitaia. Has been on the market looking for the right motivated buyer with the same passion for conservation as the current owner.

Set on 41.50 hectares on Munn Road, the covenant allows for two dwellings and the property has a house and a good sunny building site with a small storage shed already established. The open plan dwelling needs some love but comfortably sleeps six. Complete with a new Wagner wood range with a wetback system, a new generator, new hot water cylinder and natural water springs on the property and has potential to develop hydro power. An elevated northeast facing property with great views, the neighbours include DOC and Forest and Bird – this is an opportunity to own a slice of paradise.

For more information contact the current owner Maja on 027 464 0546 or view the listing on TradeMe, listing number: 2030144661. Buyer enquiry over \$350,000, 2019 CV \$305,000.

KAITAIA



AUCKLAND





Facilitating Biodiversity Enhancement using Income from Carbon Credits

Suky Thompson, Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust

Emissions Trading Scheme

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) puts a price on greenhouse gasses to provide an incentive to reduce emissions and encourage landowners to establish and manage forests in a way that increases carbon storage. The main unit of trade in the ETS is the New Zealand Unit (NZU). One NZU represents one tonne of carbon dioxide.

Forest owners participate in the ETS in two ways:

- **Voluntarily** – owners apply to register their post-1989 forest land into the ETS to earn NZUs
- **Mandatory** – owners become participants when non-exempt pre-1990 forest is deforested

More overview information about the ETS can be found on the Tu Uru Rākau, Forestry New Zealand website, teururakau.govt.nz.

“Carbon credits provide the only opportunity for landowners to earn income directly from setting aside land for biodiversity,”

Suky Thompson, Manager of the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust speaking at the recent QEII conference

The Rod Donald Trust is a charitable organisation. It was spun-off by the Christchurch City Council nine years ago to help it realise the environmental and recreational potential of the huge rural area of Banks Peninsula that had recently been amalgamated into its territory.

Much of Banks Peninsula is steep, marginal land that, when left to nature, rapidly reverts to native forest. The Trust sees the potential for landscape scale biodiversity gains if the income from carbon sequestration through natural regeneration can compete favourably with traditional land-uses such as grazing.

We've found that local landowners are interested in registering their regenerating marginal land into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) but have found the process difficult.

A key issue is that the ETS is designed around simple monocrop plantations, whereas naturally regenerating areas are generally much more complex. Firstly, they tend to be irregularly shaped and contain a mix of seedlings. These seedlings usually differ in age and species and tend to be interspersed with ineligible pre 1990 areas, open pastureland and sometimes dense gorse. Each application needs to be individually prepared, usually by specialist consultants, to establish that the regeneration started after 31 Dec 1989 and contains enough tree species to meet the definition of a forest. There is no guarantee that such applications will succeed, as MPI then apply their own strict assessment process. It can mean that most covenanted areas are excluded as they tend to protect pre 1990 areas.

TOP:
MPI Staff members visit Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula with stakeholders from the multi-agency group convened by the Rod Donald Trust.

Land that is early in transition to forest has the greatest earning potential, meaning that those creating new covenants could consider protecting the core old growth area and a surrounding area making use of existing fence lines. The wider area will then earn a carbon income once it has sufficiently regenerated to qualify. This raises the issue of how to regenerate retired pastureland as quickly as possible and whether it is worth planting, particularly given the current Billion Trees grants.

To answer these questions, the Trust carried out some basic cost/benefit modelling and found that natural regeneration, particularly when supplemented with a \$1,000 per ha Billion Trees regeneration grant, is likely to generate a better return than large scale planting projects. Registering land managed for conservation is well worth while, provided that the applicant has clear proof of the post 1989 establishment but whether it is worth farmers retiring land en-masse from grazing is less clear, and highly site dependent. We have published the research on the Rod Donald Peninsula Trust website, roddonaldtrust.co.nz project search: native forest climate change.

The main concern now is to overcome the hurdle of registering naturally regenerating areas into the ETS. The Trust has convened a stakeholder group to work with MPI on this and our next step is likely to be a submission to the Climate Response Act Amendment Bill at the select committee stage lobbying for a native regeneration category in the ETS.

We're keen to hear from others interested in co-operating during the submission process and if you would like to get in touch, email us at manager@roddonaldtrust.co.nz.

BOWMAN'S BUSH

FOREVER PROTECTED – 100 YEARS AND COUNTING

Jesse Bythell

Nestled in the quiet forested suburb of Otatara lies Bowman's Bush – a 1.3 ha dune system covered in ancient tōtara and kahikatea. For over 100 years this place has been lovingly cared for and stands testament to the dramatic changes which have unfolded nearby.

From the air the series of sinuous parallel lines bely prehistoric processes, where the interplay between the sea, the river and the constant westerly winds have formed the areas known as Sandy Point and Otatara. These patterns of relief influence soil fertility and moisture, which in turn inform the overlying patterns of vegetation. Visitors are often surprised to discover dunes covered in old growth forest, dominated by tōtara and mataī in the drier parts, and kahikatea in the wet swales between. Nationally there are very few dune forests remaining, and it is unusual to have residential housing and forest combined in this manner.

People have occupied this area for many centuries, enjoying the rich resources found in both the sea and the forest. By the early 1900s, over 100 years of European settlement meant that Invercargill rivalled Whanganui as New Zealand's largest town after the four main centres. The appetite for growth affected Otatara and dozens of sawmills sprang up, sand dunes were mined for land reclamation projects and mobs of cattle and sheep roamed the area. However, one man saw the values of the area very differently and the results of his actions we are now able to enjoy today.

Dr J.G. Macdonald was a general practitioner based in Invercargill who had a keen love of the natural world. He bought a few acres in Otatara as a place to holiday with his wife and four children Gertrude, Edith, Gair and Robin. Dr Macdonald swiftly fenced out livestock and later erected a rabbit proof fence to ensure the long-term survival of the forest. Dr Macdonald's grandson Richard recalls his grandfather kept fox terriers to control any rabbits which broke into the protected area. The forest began to recover, and in time a small cottage was built to allow the family to holiday there for extended periods, including living there for three months during a polio epidemic.

In time Dr Macdonald's youngest daughter Robin and her husband Ewen bought the land, where they raised their children Jane and Richard. Richard's early childhood memories include learning the scientific names of plants from his grandfather and running wild with his siblings and friends, exploring the forest and river. He later pursued a degree in geology and spent over thirty years working for the regional council advocating for biodiversity protection in Southland and New Zealand.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Mature matai (Prumnopitys taxifolia) and healthy understorey of Bowman's Bush
Occasional large rimu (Dacrydium cupressinum) are found in Bowman's Bush
Matai and kahikatea on the walking track through Bowman's Bush



Totara, matai and kahikatea growing on an ancient sand dune

“Bowman’s Bush is a just a tiny remnant of a former landscape once dominated by great lowland forests of mātai, rimu, kahikatea, miro, tōtara and pōkākā. These are becoming increasingly rare in New Zealand. It is very important to keep as much as we can of what is left in the best possible condition for future generations to know and value.”

Richard Bowman

In 1984, Ewen Bowman died, and Robin was faced with selling the property while wanting to protect the forest. The Otatara County Council supported protecting the forest but could not raise the purchase price. In 1986 Roger Sutton, the first QEII National Trust regional representative in Southland, championed the idea of protecting the forest. By the end of the year, an agreement had been reached for the QEII National Trust to buy the land, with financial assistance from the Otatara County Council, the Otatara Community Board, the Forest and Bird Society and private donations.

In 1992, Robin Bowman was recognised as a benefactor of the QEII National Trust and Bowman’s Bush was opened to the public. Today a walking track wanders through the area, allowing users of all ages to enjoy the forest. The high regard the community has for this forest is clearly seen in the care it receives. Invercargill City Council maintains the walking tracks, Otatara Pest Busters do predator control and the Otatara Landcare Group have been having an annual weeding bee for the last 12 years. Otatara is recognised by Invercargill City Council as being an area of outstanding natural features and landscapes. Today, there are many protected areas within Otatara, and a strong community of conservationists working together to protect and enhance what remains.



RIGHT:
Macdonald
Family Picnic

About the bush

- Bowman's Bush supports 43 native forest species including 24 trees & shrubs, 11 ferns, 5 monocots and 3 vines. All of the 'big five' Southland podocarps are present: rimu, kahikatea, mataī, miro and tōtara
- Typical birds present include: fantail, grey warbler, tui, bellbird, kereru, kahu and red crowned kakariki and occasionally ruru and even kaka visiting from Rakiura/Stewart Island
- Pernicious weeds being managed include escaped garden plants such as Chilean flame creeper, holly, periwinkle and cotoneaster
- Predator control includes rats, mice, hedgehogs, possums and mustelids
- Public access can be gained from Spence Ave via Patterson Reserve or from Ruru Ave



Tawapou kiwi release

At least 300 people recently met four wild kiwi at a gathering on Tawapou Farm.

Written by Nan Pullman, regional representative for Whangarei

They came from the Far North to the Waikato, with a sprinkling of visitors from France, and heard Kawiti Waetford welcome Prudence, Sarah, Kiaora and Pikiake on behalf of the mana whenua.

The four adult female kiwi, raised from chicks in a sanctuary on Matakoho/Limestone Island in the Whangarei Harbour, were being released into the wild to join a now steadily increasing population of kiwi in the area.

The release was coordinated by the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition which is in turn supported by the Northland-wide Kiwi Coast project. After many years of predator control and advocacy the Tutukaka Coast is now recognised as one of the Northland Regional Council's High Value Conservation areas, attracting rates-based funding.

The Bowden family's Tawapou Farm has become a cluster of five QEII Open Space covenants overseen by the recently formed Tawapou Conservation Trust. The first covenant of over 30 hectares of coastal forest was established in 1992.



FROM LEFT:
Kawiti Waetford from Te Rangi o Whakaahu marae welcomes visitors to Tawapou

Sue Smith (a covenantor), with husband Bruce behind, about to place Kiaora into her release burrow

Covenanted coastal pohutukawa forest as a backdrop the crowd listens to Backyard Kiwi Project Manager Todd

Sarah in the safe hands of Department of Conservation Biodiversity Ranger Julia Brady

Covenants have been progressively added with the last one of 71 hectares bringing the entire farm into protection. Remaining pasture is being steadily retired and planted in native vegetation. In the 2019 planting season 60,000 natives went into an area previously in pine forest and a further 6,500 into retired pasture when nearly 100 people turned up for a public planting day.

Tawapou Trust's vision includes landscape-scale ecological restoration linking the Poor Knights Islands with the Tutukaka Coast in a sanctuary for threatened and endangered plants and wildlife.

Already extra pest control along the coastal margin plus monitoring by local volunteers is helping re-establish an Oi (grey faced petrel) colony. And a project backed by QEII's Stephenson fund has attracted interest from passing gannets, where it is hoped a model rookery and solo powered sound system broadcasting recorded calls will encourage the formation of a new mainland gannet colony.

In the late afternoon light, overlooking covenanted coastal bush, the 300 visitors learned about the special features that make kiwi so different from other birds and why they are so vulnerable to introduced animals. They also heard about the intensive trapping and dog control advocacy that has made it safe enough to begin releasing kiwi back into the area.

BELOW:
Sue and Bruce Smith (covenantors) carry Kiaora to her release burrow



District Council	Location	Covenant Name	Area (ha)	Main open space type
Tararua	Akitio		40.8447	Lowland modified primary and modified secondary forest
Southland	Tuatapere	Pahl - Groveburn Bush	22.3994	Semi coastal modified primary forest
Masterton	Te Ore Ore	Cameron Bush Springs	5.7022	Lowland modified primary and modified secondary forest and modified secondary mossfield.
Gisborne	Matawai		2.9044	Lowland modified primary forest, secondary forest, treelands and sedgeland and open water
Central Hawke's Bay	Weber	Peter Mackenzie Bush	10.073	Lowland modified primary forest and modified secondary shrubland
Central Otago	Queensberry	Viriditas	5.8795	Lowland modified primary and secondary treeland and modified secondary herbfield
New Plymouth	Okato	Foley's Folly	1.4095	Lowland modified primary forest
New Plymouth	Oakura	Richard and Margaret Hodges Covenant	1.2248	Semicoastal modified primary forest
Dunedin	Waikouaiti	Pigeon Bush #2	15.2806	Lowland modified primary forest, secondary scrub and exotic grassland.
Kaipara	Ruawai-Hukatere	Powell Forest	2.386	Lowland secondary forest remnant
Dunedin	Purakaunui township	J W Squires Covenant	0.4947	Coastal secondary forest and exotic treeland
Waitomo	Piopio	The Petch Family Preservation	0.1017	Lowland modified secondary treeland and exotic treeland
South Taranaki	Opunake	Fisher Family Bush	3.8774	Lowland modified primary forest
Ruapehu	Raetihi	Delaney's Bush	130.634	Submontane modified primary forest
Waitomo	Piopio	The Petch Family Preservation	0.5736	Lowland modified secondary treeland and exotic treeland and grassland
Tasman	Mapua	Botting Bush	0.9927	Semicoastal secondary forest and treefernland
Rotorua	Rotorua,Mamaku	Fredricksen's Folly	18.17	Lowland modified primary forest, stream and riparian edge.
Kapiti Coast	Otaki	O-te-Pua Booth Wetland	6.015	Semicoastal modified secondary forest and artificially created sedgeland and openwater
Waitomo	Waitomo		4.24	Lowland modified primary forest, secondary scrub and wetland.
Whakatane	Manawahe		1.2486	Semi-coastal modified primary forest and revegetation.
Far North	Kerikeri		45.035	Lowland modified primary, secondary and modified secondary forest, and modified primary sedgeland (brown kiwi habitat)
Rotorua	Mihi	Mangamingi Bush - Mangamingi	95.1001	Lowland modified primary forest

Kaipara	Oneriri	Pukeatua Trust Forest	6.358	Semicoastal secondary forest
Auckland	Oratia	La Selva	0.3842	Lowland modified primary forest
New Plymouth	New Plymouth	Paull Masson Bush	1.161	Semi-coastal modified primary forest, secondary sedgeland and artificially created open water
Timaru	Orari Gorge	Orari Gorge	33.0305	Lowland modified primary forest, secondary scrub and exotic grassland
Waitomo	Te Kuiti		5.7282	Lowland modified primary forest
Horowhenua	Ohau	Brown's Bush	0.5015	Lowland modified primary forest
Hurunui	Hundalee Hills	Crows Nest	2.05	Semi-coastal secondary forest
New Plymouth	Tarata	Fairy Forest	3.1388	Lowland modified primary forest and modified secondary scrub
Waikato	Whatawhata		2.3859	Lowland secondary forest and revegetated sedgeland
Timaru	Peel Forest	Watties Bush	7.6536	Modified primary riparian forest
Hurunui	Hundalee Hills	Okarahia Downs Bush	5.426	Semi-coastal secondary forest
Whangarei	Tanekaha	Edwin and Beverley Smith Family Conservation Park	5.414	Lowland modified secondary forest, shrubland and sedgeland
Waitomo	Te Kuiti		2.9117	Lowland modified primary forest
New Plymouth	Urenui	Aberconway	2.0856	Semi-coastal modified primary forest
Whangarei	Tanekaha	Edwin & Beverley Smith Family Conservation Park	3.521	Lowland modified secondary forest

The Stephenson Fund

We are excited to announce that QEII is now accepting applications for the next round of The Stephenson Fund. Applications close on **20 December 2019**.

The Stephenson Fund was established in 2017 with the key aim to support stewardship for covenants by strengthening our partnership with covenantors. The fund is named after Gordon and Celia Stephenson, key founders of the QEII National Trust.

Grants can range from \$2,000 up to a maximum amount of \$20,000 to support landowners with the ongoing management and enhancement of their covenants open space values. A 50% contribution is required for most projects, this can either be financial or an in-kind contribution (i.e. your time). There is \$150,000 available nationally and for the current round \$30,000 of this will be prioritised towards hardship applications. All projects must be aligned with the purpose and objectives of the covenant deed and protect and enhance the covenants open space values.

In addition, the projects must be:

1. Priority work for the covenant (ask your local rep if uncertain)
2. Sustainable
3. Not required under a district or regional plan
4. In a registered covenant
5. Able to be completed within the next 12 months

If you think your project may be eligible for funding, talk to your regional rep or visit our website for funding criteria and how to apply, keyword search: **Stephenson Fund**.



QEII NATIONAL TRUST

Ngā Kairauhi Papa Forever protected

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