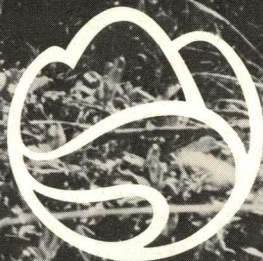


# NEWS LETTER

Nº 1

MARCH 1979



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust





## REPRINT

This is a reprint of our first newsletter, which many members will already have received. We have reproduced it in the same format as Newsletter No. 2 so that members who intend to file them will have uniform copies.

## COVER PHOTO

A view of Manganui a te Ao which is discussed briefly on page 4. Further information about the fight to save this river appears in Newsletter No. 2.

## UNDER WAY AT LAST

Since mid-September last year when the Trust set up its offices it has been making a satisfactory start towards fulfilling the many functions assigned to it. It sees its ultimate role to be as protector of open space in New Zealand, but it appreciates that this can only be achieved gradually, in consultation and co-operation with all interested parties.

A new organisation, set up to administer what is considered by some to be an already over-legislated and administered country is bound to be the subject of suspicion both by those it seeks to help and by those other authorities who feel it may in some way supersede their role. Luckily, in the case of the Trust there has been general acceptance of the need for such an organisation right from the start and the limiting factor on its success will obviously be the level of its resources, both financial and manpower.

## OPEN SPACE COVENANTS

One of the major motivating forces behind the passing of the Trust Act was Federated Farmers on the basis of their proposed Heritage Trust.

Their intention was to provide a service to farmers, who wished principally to ensure the preservation of native bush on their property. However, with the setting up of the National Trust this role was incorporated in the new organisation's responsibilities.

As a result, the negotiation of this type of covenant i.e. the "farm bush lot" is becoming a major job for the Trust. However, the open space covenant is a much more versatile vehicle and can be used for almost any purpose over any type of landscape.

## FARM BUSH LOTS

So far the Trust has received over 60 enquiries about Open Space Covenants of this type. The majority of these relate to small areas of native bush or forest (10 - 100 acres). This is only the tip of the iceberg because the Trust has knowledge of many more people waiting until details of the scheme have been finalised and it is shown to be successful.

All of this interest has been self-generated with almost no promotion by the Trust.

The first covenant, with Mr and Mrs G.K. Stephenson of Putaruru was signed on 15 March and a small ceremony was held to mark the occasion.

There has been some soul searching by the Board as to the standards adopted when considering an area offered for a covenant. Often the small areas are of doubtful independent viability and they may be away from the road so that public access is impracticable. In many of these cases preservation is the motive rather than provision of open space for the public. However, the Trust has a responsibility to provide a service to farmers who wish to protect an area of bush on their property, particularly if it is of a high quality or scarce in any particular area. It is a means of retaining pockets of native trees, with the enhancement of the landscape as a whole for much less cost than the purchase of a Reserve.

One problem is the delay in finalising a covenant. The covenant is registered against the title of the property and therefore requires a survey. This takes time to carry out and so it may be some months following the decision to proceed before a covenant is completed.

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

A second major type of covenant is aimed at preserving large areas of open space, with an emphasis on public access and recreation. These covenants may be over farm land near urban centres, where farming continues, but the land is protected from sub-division and public access is permitted into certain areas. Others may be larger areas of bush.

The first of these is under negotiation, a 740 acre (approximately 300 ha) property on the banks of the Patea River, near Eltham. This land will shortly border a twenty six mile hydro lake and will be extremely valuable as a botanical and recreation area, as the lake will be the only one in the Taranaki region. The area is over two properties, one owned by Mr and Mrs Keith Collier and the other by Mr Peter Lintott. These owners are happy for public access from the Patea River and the Trust, with the owners' help, is fencing the bush area off from the rest of the farms.

## LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

The Trust is interested in the use of covenants to preserve the landscape qualities of whole areas such as peninsulas, river and coastal valleys. This will involve signing covenants with all landowners in an area to preserve present land use, buildings, bush, etc; to improve the visual impact of an area with planting; to control the nature of structures and buildings; and to improve public access through walking tracks, private roads etc.

Obviously the existing land use would continue but new undesirable uses would not be permitted (i.e. sub-division for housing).

The Trust is particularly keen to use this type of covenant when considering the preservation of a river, to put together a complete management package for protecting wild life habitats and recreation and scenic values.



## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Over the last few years, those looking with concern at the destruction of wild and scenic rivers throughout the country have become more vocal. The Commission for the Environment did a study of the problems and as a result of that study, there is wide support for the Trust to become the promoting agency for the protection of rivers.

It is obvious that present statutory processes, while giving ample opportunity for public participation and objection, are often negative in approach for the preservation of scenic and recreation values. Preservation is only by way of objection to development proposals rather than by positive designation of rivers. While many user groups are very capable of objecting on their own behalf, others of a more passive nature, i.e. family picnickers, who may not need such a high standard of resource, are often never heard. The cards are stacked in favour of the development proposal, which has an economic use for hydro, irrigation, town water supply, etc, and which has already incurred big expenditure on engineering investigation.

It seems unlikely that any new legislation will be introduced relating to river protection and so the Trust is moving to exercise its influence through the existing processes in cases where recreational use is threatened.

As mentioned earlier, the use of open space covenants to provide a total management package may be an important factor in its efforts.

Currently the Board is concerned at small hydro development proposals on the Manganui a te Ao (River of the World). This river, a tributary of the Wanganui, with headwaters on the south western side of Mt Ruapehu is the last major recreational river in the area not to be tapped for hydro developments. It is an extremely important trout river, one of the best remaining in the North Island, a major habitat of the Blue duck (over 70 birds) and is attracting growing general recreation use, particularly now with the development of Ohakune as a tourist resort based on the Turoa Skifield.

The hydro proposal with two small dams and tunnels to two power stations is also very attractive to the local power authority. It will produce 60mw but the cost will be the best twenty miles of the river.

A local "Save the Manganui a te Ao" campaign committee has been formed and the Trust will co-operate with it as required. Alternative independent action by the Trust is also being considered.

In this matter the Trust is receiving enthusiastic co-operation from officers of the Fresh Division of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Wildlife Division of Internal Affairs.

## OPEN SPACE SURVEY

The need for an inventory of the open space resources, both land and water, on a regional basis has become apparent to the Trust even at this early stage. Since this assessment must be related to user demand, the task is a major one.

There are several groups already undertaking such studies.

Lands and Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Land Use Studies - Northland, King Country.</li><li>- Outdoor Recreation Studies - Marlborough</li><li>- Coastal Survey.</li><li>- Reserve and National Parks identification and management plans.</li></ul>
Agriculture & Fisheries and Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fresh Water Fishery Assessment.</li></ul>
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recreational plans for their regions, ARA in particular.</li></ul>
Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Biological assessment of natural environment - Northland, Waikato, Nelson.</li></ul>
User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Federated Mountain Clubs.</li><li>- Canoe Association.</li></ul>

While the Trust, with the help of the Department of Lands and Survey is tapping all these sources, the need for a programme of regional research, probably along the lines of the Marlborough Outdoor Recreation Pilot Study, has not yet been faced up to. The Trust may have to sponsor such research.

Without this data base the Trust is often acting blind in its activities and the contribution it can make in its co-ordination role will reflect this.

## LAKE WAINAMU - TE HENGA

The Trust is at present engaged in negotiations with the Auckland Regional Authority, Waitemata City Council, Department of Lands and Survey and the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society to see if a formula can be reached for the joint purchase of the Lake Wainamu property at Bethells Beach.

This 121 ha property is thought to be of national significance along with an adjoining sand dune area being purchased by the Waitemata City Council, and a wetlands area purchased by Royal Forest and Bird Society.

The area contains a wide variety of native trees and bush and the only dune impounded fresh water lake within easy driving distance from Auckland.

## PUBLICITY

So far the Board's attitude on publicity has been to adopt a low key approach until the Trust has established its roles and proven itself. Now that this is gradually being achieved, the Board will, during the next twelve months, step up publicity on the Trust and its activities.

A drive for membership is planned for later in the year.

## FINANCE

At the present time, apart from membership subscriptions, the Trust is almost entirely dependent on Government for its funds. While the existing grant is adequate to cover the administration, if the Trust is to adequately fulfill its responsibilities, a considerable increase in its resources, both financial and manpower will be necessary.



The Board is looking at possible sources of revenue and recently made submissions to the Minister of Lands on its future. As a result of this submission, the Trust is preparing a paper for Cabinet on alternative methods of funding.

## DONATIONS

A key factor in the Trust's financing is the two dollars for one dollar subsidy by Government on all donations to the Trust, regardless of source. These include donations for the purchase of land from private individuals, groups, companies and local authorities.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership application are slowly flowing in as the Trust becomes better known. The main initial support has been from local authorities and interested groups and associations.

Like all new organisations there have been delays in preparing such things as membership certificates. The printing of the Trust Rules has also been delayed while the details of the polling system for the election of Directors by the members are finalised and adopted by the Board.

Initially a similar system to that used previously by the Historic Places Trust will be used.

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to apply for membership, the membership categories and subscriptions are:

Ordinary subscribing - individuals	for annual payment	\$10.00
Junior (under 18 years)	annual payment	\$ 2.50
Corporate (Ordinary) - business firms, public bodies and other organisations.	annual payment	\$50.00
Corporate (Special) - schools, historical, archaeological and similar societies.	annual payment	\$15.00
Life - individual	for one payment of	\$200.00

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since its inception and inaugural meeting the Board has held two working meetings. These have largely been aimed at establishing objectives. The next Board meeting will be held 23/24 April in Auckland, with quartely meetings held thereafter as follows:

1979	August	27/28
	November	26/27
1980	February	25/26
	May	26/27
	August	25/26
	November	24/25

In terms of the Act, the three longest serving directors must retire each year starting this year. As is the case at present, when all the directors have served the same length of term a ballot is held to decide the three to retire.

As a result of this year's ballot the three directors to retire are:

Mr C.S. Masters of Auckland  
Dr R.J. Walker of Auckland  
Mr Owen Jennings of Westport

Directors may serve more than one term.

It is anticipated that the rules for the appointment of two directors by the members will be adopted by the Board at its next meeting and that elections will take place towards the end of the year. The rules will be circulated to all members following the meeting.

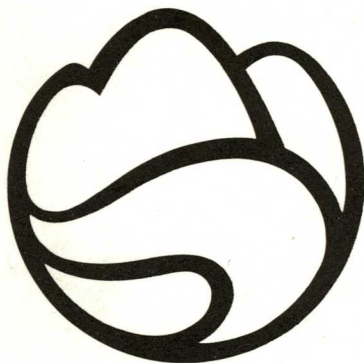
## INFORMATION

Copies of the information sheets on the Trust and Open Space Covenants are available to members. The Trust needs the help of members to promote its work throughout the country. Therefore, if any member has any ideas or suggestions the Board would be extremely grateful to receive them. It would also appreciate members advising it of any matters concerning open space that they feel the Trust should investigate or consider.

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