



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

NO. 10 WINTER 1985

Tupare

In April National Trust Chairman Hon. L.W. Gandar announced that Tupare, a magnificent garden of national importance, has been bought by the Trust. Tupare, near New Plymouth, is one of New Zealand's finest landscape gardens and the Trust bought it in order to protect it not just for the enjoyment of the people of Taranaki, but also for New Zealanders and overseas visitors. Substantial financial support from the Taranaki United Council made the purchase possible.

The English style garden was created by Sir Russell

Continued overleaf



Tupare, the tudor-style house and garden at New Plymouth. Photo: Margaret Bake.

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and Lady Matthews who began it in 1932, on the edge of the Waiwhakaiho River, 7 kms south of New Plymouth at Ngati Tupare Kino, named after the Maori tribe who once lived in the area. Tupare translates as "a garland of flowers".

The original 3 hectares were covered with gorse and blackberry and had only one tree, a mahoe. Today the 3.6 hectares is covered with exotic and native plants. One of the first trees that the Matthews planted, a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is now over 30 metres tall, and the garden requires a full time gardener with part time help.

The Matthews not only planned and developed the garden but also built a tudor-replica three storied house and a matching cottage, designed by the famous New Zealand architect Chapman Taylor, but altered by Sir Russell before construction started.

Tupare combines paths, woodland walks, streams, a bog garden, arches, pergolas, lawns, and specialised plantings, all based on the Matthews' two loves, trees and water. It has a wide variety of hardy, sub-tropical trees, both evergreen and deciduous, a collection of native ferns, and numerous species of azaleas and rhododendrons. These are ideally suited to the rich volcanic soils and mild climate of Taranaki.

While the garden is always beautiful and worth visiting, the most dramatic impact is in September and October with the spring growth and flowering. For 20 years the Matthews have opened Tupare to the public on Labour Day, and they have hosted a large number of overseas visitors over the years.

Purchase by the Trust

Last year the family decided to divest itself of the property and the National Trust, believing Tupare to be nationally as well as regionally important, looked for ways of ensuring its permanent protection. Protection through purchase by the Trust has been made possible

only because of the substantial financial commitment of the Clifton, Taranaki, Inglewood, Stratford, and Egmont County Councils, the Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, and Eltham Borough Councils and the New Plymouth City Council and Hawera District Council, being constituent members of the Taranaki United Council.

\$350,000 was required: the Taranaki United Council contributed \$250,000 and the



Mr Dick Wilson, Mayor of Waitara, Mr Gandar, and Lady Matthews at the announcement of the Trust's purchase of Tupare. Photo: Margaret Bake.

National Trust the remaining \$100,000.

The cost of the operation, management and development of a property of this size and quality is substantial and in order to help the National Trust ensure that Tupare is kept to its present high standards the Trust launched a fundraising campaign. This is headed by a generous contribution of \$100,000 from Sir Russell and Lady Matthews and their four children. The campaign is being co-ordinated by a well known local businessman, Mr Neville Davies, and the Trust is keen to encourage the involvement of local Taranaki people with Tupare.

The Future

The management and daily running of Tupare will be the responsibility of a management committee, consisting of representatives from the local authorities, local interest groups, and the National Trust.

A management plan will be prepared incorporating such aspects of Tupare's future as the upkeep and development of the garden and the use of the Tudor replica and matching cottage.

Discussions are being held to determine these management arrangements which will be announced on 26 June 1985, the day of the official handover. It is expected that Tupare will be opened to the public on the traditional time, Labour Day, and from then on more frequently and for longer periods.

It is the National Trust's intention to maintain Tupare as a garden of high horticultural importance and landscape beauty as part of our national heritage, giving the people of Taranaki, visitors from other parts of the country, and overseas tourists, the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful garden.

The Taranaki Concept

As members will recall, in 1983 the National Trust visited Taranaki in order to acquaint the Board of Directors with our involvement

in the area and also to promote the Trust's work. Part of this was the presentation of the Taranaki Concept which suggests promoting tourism by linking the significant features of the province. Taranaki has remarkable landscape diversity and beauty which could attract many tourists.

Tupare, Hollard Gardens (owned by the Trust), Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and other notable gardens of the province could be the nucleus for a comprehensive development including recreational and educational aspects, that will benefit the province greatly.

With such a cohesive open space plan that integrates all the existing and proposed developments, Taranaki could become a major tourist region. This could take time to develop, but we see the securing of Tupare for the public as a step towards realising this potential.

Brochure

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the brochure about Tupare. The Trust plans to produce a series of such brochures about specific Trust projects to use both for publicity and as information sources.

LAKE WAINAMU

Lake Wainamu Scenic Reserve, a magnificent dune-impounded lake on the west coast of Auckland near the Waitakeres, was bought in 1980 with contributions from the Trust and local groups such as the Waitakeres Ranges Protection Society. Recently, the Auckland Regional Authority agreed to take over the day to day management of the reserve. The Lake Wainamu management committee met on site to discuss the development of specific areas. All development and management will follow the objectives and policies outlined in the management plan prepared by the Trust.

Logues Bush

Logues Bush is a 41 hectare forest remnant near Wellsford, north of Auckland, which the National Trust has helped purchase to ensure that it will be protected for the future. Logues Bush is a valuable example of a forest type that was once widespread throughout Northland.

Traditionally, the first occupiers of the area were the Ngati-Awa, some time before 1600. Subsequently, tribal conflicts and movements from both north and south continued until the 19th century.

The first Europeans were timber traders, attracted by the extensive forests, particularly kauri. They were followed in the 1830s by missionaries and travellers. Settlement was centred on timber milling and the area was regarded as a valuable resource for the growing city of Auckland to the South. There was an influx of settlers to the Wellsford area in the 1860s.

The Logues Bush land, first registered in the 1890s, was bought by the Logue family in 1901. Over the years they cleared some of

the land for farming, but kept the 41 hectare Logue Bush and other forest remnants on the farm, particularly along the Waiteiti Stream. For over 80 years the family has protected and cared for Logues Bush. To make sure that it will be looked after for the future they decided to sell it as a reserve.

In 1983 the Logues offered the bush for \$150,000 and a combined purchase was announced. The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust undertook to contribute \$55,000, the Department of Lands and Survey \$50,000, and the Rodney County Council \$20,000. The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society then launched a public appeal and the remaining \$25,000 was raised within a record four weeks. Well over a thousand people from as far away as Christchurch contributed, some as much as \$1000, and the members of the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society raised over \$3000. This enthusiastic

**Mr Gandar planting a kauri tree at Logues Bush.
Photo: Sue Gee.**





Logues Bush Scenic Reserve opening. Photo: Sue Gee.

effort made the protection of Logues Bush possible.

The first impression visitors will get is of a vigorously regenerating forest dominated by totara, with lesser amounts of kauri and kahikatea. There are still a few individuals of original tall trees, notably totara, kauri and kahikatea, emerging through a broadleaf canopy. Now that the future of the site is assured, by public acquisition and the exclusion of stock, it can be confidently expected that a tall forest will re-develop. This protection will enhance the active seedling regeneration that is now occurring, so that within a few years the understorey as well as the canopy will be much like its former state.

The ecological significance of Logues Bush has been shown by a recent survey sponsored through the Department of Lands and Survey. It represents one of the best remaining

examples of this relatively unusual lowland forest association. There is little lowland forest remaining in New Zealand and the protection of such a good example as Logues Bush is an important contribution to our natural heritage.

The official opening of the Logues Bush Scenic Reserve was held in March and was enthusiastically attended by several hundred people, including National Trust representatives and a bus load of people from Whangarei. Speeches were made by the Rodney County Council, the Trust, and the Logue family, and Mr Gandar planted a commemorative kauri tree, and Mr Eddie Logue opened the new bridge built by the Department of Lands and Survey which gives access to the forest.

Visitors then enjoyed a picnic lunch and a walk through the bush.

Enclosed is the Logues Bush brochure that is one of the planned series of brochures about National Trust projects and is designed to match the Tupare brochure.

DUNROBIN STATION FIELD DAY

The first field day to be organised by the National Trust was held on Saturday 27 April at Dunrobin Station, Southland, in perfect weather. Over 100 people attended, including local farmers, and representatives from the local Catchment Board, Acclimatisation Society, Department of Lands and Survey and Federated Farmers.

The purpose of the field day was to make people aware that the demonstration farm concept is underway, and there was considerable interest shown in both the concept and the specific proposals for Dunrobin Station.

Dunrobin Station is one of the two privately owned farms that have been established as National Trust demonstration farms.

Lying in the north-eastern foothills of the Takitimu Mountains, Dunrobin is 17 km from Mossburn, 65 km from Te Anau, and 6 km from Invercargill. It covers 4,878 hectares and has grazing rights for 625 hectares of forest owned by the Invercargill City Council. Land development is a major activity on the property and every year virgin tussock is ploughed, fertilised, and sown out to highly productive pasture to feed an increasing number of livestock. These produce wool, fat lambs, velvet antlers, venison, and beef, for export around the world. There are 22,500 sheep, 700 beef cattle, and 500 red deer.

Sue Mort, landscape consultant, prepared landscape proposals for the development of Dunrobin by considering the natural qualities and processes of the land in conjunction with the actions and influences of people, particularly those who work on the land. The development concept provides for a long term plan incorporating new land uses such as woodlots, shelter planting etc. The plan shows the potential for five economic units, with each farm

designed to run efficiently and provide a stimulating environment for the farm families. Each living space — private, work, and communal — is created by conserving and enhancing the natural features together with new landscape elements, such as plantations, woodlots, copses, shelter belts, and wildlife ponds.

The presentation of these proposals, which generated a lot of interest, was followed by visits to various parts of the property to look at specific examples of tracks, woodlots, shelterbelts, farm ponds, and buildings. The group also saw work being done on preparing the land for shelterbelt planting and a large forest block. New tracks and shelterbelts have already been developed and Mr Pinney has been working on wildlife ponds. These are well de-



Trust regional representative in Southland, Roger Sutton, and Trust Senior Field Officer, Philip Lissaman, at the field day at Dunrobin.

signed and well and extensively planted, and are used by wildfowl.

At each site Sue Mort talked about the specific features and proposals, and people discussed them. A site of particular interest is the tussock reserve, 19 hectares of native tussock now protected by a National Trust open space covenant. Dr Colin Meurk described the vegetation in the reserve and the importance of such permanently protected areas as part of New Zealand's heritage, and also its value for undertaking scientific baseline studies.

Eight information boards were on display, summarising the landscape report and proposals with diagrams and photographs. Eight information sheets were handed out covering tracks, buildings, water, conservation and planting, and containing practical information and ideas for landowners.

ERNEST MORGAN FOREST RESERVE

The Ernest Morgan Forest Reserve, 35 kms north of Auckland city, is now owned by the National Trust. The reserve is off the Ararimu Valley Road, 8 km northeast of Wai-mauku, near Kumeu, and is opposite part of Riverhead State Forest.

The reserve is 21 hectares of moderately steep bush clad land, bounded by the Ararimu Stream. The regenerating native forest includes tanekaha, rimu, some magnificent kauri trees that protrude through the main forest canopy, as well as a wide range of secondary forest species.

The forest was owned by two sisters, Mrs E Williams and Mrs A Norton, who are descendants of the Morgan family who settled and bought land in the Ararimu Valley in the 1880s.

In pre-european days the land was part of

the portage route from the upper reaches of the Waitemata Harbour (Riverhead) to the Kaipara Harbour and the far north. The Maori used the natural ford over the Ararimu Stream, and Mrs Williams (who supplied the historical detail in this article) remembers as a child people calling and asking directions to cross the land when walking to Helensville. Mrs Williams can also remember when her father ploughed the land and uncovered heaps of shells and Maori artefacts. There were also several large holes which were connected to the river, and it is possible that there was a Maori village there at one time.

In 1854 the reserve, as part of a Crown grant of 416 acres, was given to James Maxwell, who employed men to pit saw logs from the forest which were then transported by bullock team to his landing at Riverhead. After Maxwell's death by accident in 1857 the property changed hands and logging continued. In 1884 William Morgan arrived in New Zealand with his wife and four sons, and established a drapery in Karangahape Road, Auckland. He bought a property by auction in the Ararimu Valley, for holidays and recreation, and then bought the adjoining property, the 416 acres originally granted to James Maxwell. The land went to Morgan's son, Ernest, who farmed the cleared part of it and then left it to his daughters who took it over in 1932. Farming was continued to 1972 when the dairy farm was sold. The remaining forested area was kept by Mrs Williams and Mrs Norton who decided that they wanted to ensure that the forest, named after their father, would be protected for future generations. With the support and enthusiasm of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust, the sisters decided to gift half and sell half to the National Trust.

Access to the reserve is by a public right of way which runs from the Ararimu Valley Road across flat dairy land. The reserve is well fenced to keep out stock and encourage

regeneration except for the boundary along Ararimu Stream, which in any case is a natural stock barrier. The stream has an excellent swimming hole.

Under Trust ownership the Ernest Morgan Forest Reserve will be open to the public next summer. It is easily seen from the road and is an important feature of the local landscape.

MIRANDA-KAIAUA

Dr Juliet Batten, National Trust Director in Auckland, recently addressed the annual general meeting of the Miranda Naturalist Trust, an Auckland based ornithological group whose activities centre on the Miranda-Kaiiua coastline in the Firth of Thames. The Miranda Naturalist Trust for some time has been concerned to see this important stretch of coastline protected. It is of international significance as a habitat for migratory bird species, such

Miranda — Kaiiua in the Firth of Thames.

as the oyster catcher, and it is also important geologically.

Most of the coastline is privately owned, so permanent protection of it depends on the owners also wanting to ensure that it is kept for future generations. The owners of a key site on the coastline attended the Auckland meeting and are interested in working with the Trust to find a way of permanently protecting this magnificent wildlife habitat.

SCHOOL COVENANT PROJECT

The Trust's School Covenant Project (previously referred to as the School Covenant Programme: see newsletter No.8 p16) is developing well. The 1984 pilot programme in which three primary schools were associated with open space covenant areas in the Waikato district was extremely successful with each school making a number of visits to the



covenant throughout the year.

Based on this experience, guidelines are being drawn up with the assistance of Mr John Mathieson, a district science adviser with the Hamilton Education Board. The guidelines will provide background information for schools' headmasters, boards, committees, and teachers, for the owners of areas protected by open space covenants, and Trust staff. They will also provide basic resource material for use by the teachers and classes, including books, slides and aerial photographs.

Widening the scope of the project to include more schools in different areas is being considered, but meanwhile the initial three schools are enthusiastically continuing their association with Trust covenants.

OLD MAN'S BEARD

Since the last newsletter there has been the following progress with attempts to control Old Man's Beard, or *Clematis vitalba*. In conjunction with the Department of Lands and Survey, Dr I Popay of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has completed trials on controlling Old Man's Beard on land near Raetihi. The plots were sprayed in March 1984 and checked for regrowth in November 1984 and April 1985.

From the results of the trials and from other people's experience, we make these recommendations:

1. *Waste Area*

Tordon 50D or Brush killer and Garlon 520 should give very good control with a single application. However, these sprays damage many native plants and have residual activity in the soil.

2. *Sensitive Areas* (e.g. Forest remnants protected by open space covenants).

During the winter cut at a convenient height (e.g. waist high) the vines that grow up into

the canopy. (The vines are easier to see when there are no leaves, but then identification needs more care.) Then, from November onwards (in the summer) give the regrowth a good wetting of Roundup (at 2%) or Versatill (2%). Note that for this there must be sufficient leaf to absorb the spray. A follow-up spray of regrowth and seedlings may be necessary in the following summer. Versatill is unlikely to damage *most* native plant species, but Roundup will cause temporary damage.

3. *Gardens and Single Plants*

Grub out roots and destroy all pieces of stem. Cutting and painting with 245T is less effective and more time consuming than cutting and spraying the regrowth the next season. However, it could be used for the occasional single plant.

CAUCUS COMMITTEE VISIT

Members of the Government Primary Production and Marketing Caucus Committee visited the Trust for a working lunch on 26 February. Mr Gandar and three staff members introduced the Trust and discussed its work, with a slide presentation. Ministers took the opportunity to ask questions about the Trust, and they were given Trust information pamphlets.

The following ministers attended:

Ralph Maxwell (Convenor), Waitakere.

David Butcher, Hastings.

Anne Fraser, East Cape.

Jack Elder, West Auckland.

Bill Sutton, Hawkes Bay.

Jim Sutton, Waitaki.

Trevor Mallard, Hamilton West.

Ken Shirley, Tasman.

Alan Wallbank, Gisborne.

Clive Matthersen, Dunedin West.

Waipa County Native Bush Seminar

National Trust representatives attended the Waipa County Native Bush Seminar on 1 May organised by the Waipa County Council. The purpose of the seminar was to encourage county landowners who have patches of native bush on their properties to discuss with the Trust, the Council and government agencies, ways to protect the bush. There were 107 people at the seminar, mostly landowners representing 57 properties with bush remnants.

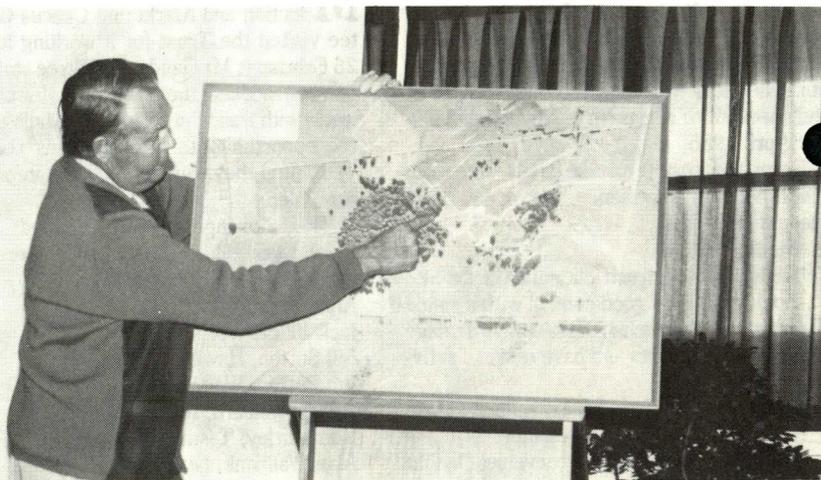
Dr Alan Edmonds, author of the second booklet in the Waipa series *Waipa 2 — Vegetation and Wildlife*, described the ecological and botanical aspects of the Waipa County vegetation. Mr Alan Saunders from the Wildlife Service then discussed the importance of the forest remnants as habitats for wildlife. This was followed by Mr John Greenwood, Senior Ranger with the Department of Lands and Survey, who outlined the role that the Department can play in protecting important

Mr Michael Garrett at the Waipa Seminar discussing the open space covenant that protects 12% of his farm.

forest remnants under the Reserves Act. Trust Chairman Mr Gandar then introduced the work of the Trust and in particular open space covenants. Trust landscape architect Boyden Evans then talked about management of forests remnants and revegetation.

Mr Michael Garrett, a dairy farmer who has 12% of his total property protected by a registered open space covenant, gave an enthusiastic talk about the merits and advantages of open space covenants. He said that when he began protecting the bush in 1968 it had only 6 plant species and he introduced 9 more, but now there was a total of 37 species, the rest being self introduced.

The final speaker was Mr Albert van Oostrom, a biologist employed by the Waipa County Council, who resurveyed all the important forest remnants in the County in the summer of 1984-85. This was a follow up to the survey done in 1978 by Mr Jacques Boubee. Mr van Oostrom's report was distributed at the seminar, and is of great interest because in the intervening years since the first survey many landowners of their own accord have done much to protect the forest



remnants on their land. For example, in 1978 there were 20 fenced forest remnants, and now there are 50. Furthermore, in 1978 24% of the landowners who were surveyed were interested in conserving the bush, and now this has increased to more than 30%. These trends can be attributed to:-

1. An increased awareness of the necessity for conservation throughout the whole country.
2. The interest generated by the initial 1978 survey.
3. Several National Trust open space covenants in the county.
4. The publication of the first two of the booklets on the Waipa County landscape.

The survey also revealed that 36 landowners are interested in having their forest remnants protected by an open space covenant,

with another 50 willing to consider covenanting if there were some kind of incentive, e.g. help with fencing or noxious plant control.

The survey identifies and maps 243 forest remnants in the county that would be worth protecting.

After the speakers there was considerable discussion and many landowners asked questions about the Trust and about specific points such as access to land protected by open space covenants, legal restrictions that having an open space covenant may entail, and rates on covenanted areas.

After the seminar officially ended all the landowners stayed to talk with the Trust Chairman, Directors and staff about their properties, and Trust regional representative Stuart Chambers now has many follow up visits to make.



Changes and Activities

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP ASSISTANT

Sarah De Renzy has joined the Trust as Special Projects Group Assistant, and will be involved with all the group's and activities. Sarah has a Diploma in Horticulture and a Diploma in Landscape Technology from Lincoln College, and comes from a farm in the Waikato. She has spent the past two years working as a landscape technician in the Parks and Recreation department of the Wellington City Council.



Sarah De Renzy, the Special Projects Group Assistant.

MEMBERS' SKILLS

From time to time the Trust would like to be able to call on members to help with particular work, for example to participate in management committees for local land owned by the Trust. If members would be willing to be considered for this sort of assistance, they could let us know of their particular skills and

this information would be recorded in our membership files. For example, we would be pleased to know if you are a professional photographer, a land administrator, a botanist or geologist, or if you have spent some years working for the National Trust in Britain. If you would be happy for us to note this sort of information please let us know. It would place no obligation on you: it would just mean that our regional representative or other staff member might contact you some time.

TRUST LECTURE

The text of the first National Trust lecture "The Law Relating to Natural Water — Protection and Management" by Mr David A R Williams, environmental lawyer, is available from the Trust's office.

RUBBISH

Enclosed is a leaflet "Rubbish!" published by Radio New Zealand to accompany a new radio series about rubbish broadcast in May. The series and the leaflet look at what happens to rubbish, and how it is disposed of, and point out that most rubbish can be recycled. National Trust members might like to bring this to the attention of others as a worthwhile aspect of protection our open spaces.

LLOYD WHITE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Social Advisory Council donated:

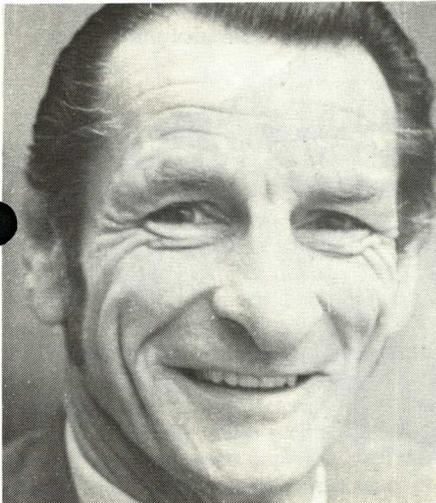
Change and Diversity in New Zealand. Seminar Proceedings 1984; Foster Care: A Report to the Minister of Social Welfare; and The Extra Years: Some Implications for New Zealand Society of an Ageing Population, 1984.

If you are thinking of donating books to the

library but are not sure if we already have them and/or need them please drop us a note or telephone (collect). We would be pleased to consider any donations.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN GISBORNE DISTRICT

Mr Richard White of Gisborne is the first Trust regional representative in the Gisborne district. Previously the area was covered by Trust staff based in Wellington and by the Manawatu representative, Eddie Suckling, but increasing workloads and requests for open space covenants meant that we needed a local person to be on the job. We were fortunate to have the usual range of skilled and qualified applicants, and the job has gone to Richard White, former Mayor of Gisborne City. Richard White was a farmer from 1951 to 1975 and is now a life insurance underwriter. He is well known as an All Black footballer from



Richard White, Trust regional representative in the Gisborne district.

1949 to 1956 and as a member of many sporting and other groups and committees. He is particularly known for his work on the East Cape United Council, the Cook Hospital Board, and the District Roads Council.

Richard knows the Gisborne area and its people well, and his many interests include boating, fishing and photography.

He can be contacted at
 14 Seymour Road Gisborne
 telephone Gisborne 88-269.

REVEGETATION MANUAL

The *Revegetation Manual* is still available (\$7.95 members, \$9.95 public).

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Trust membership as at 22 May 1985 was:

Ordinary members	430
Corporate	22
Corporate Special	37
Life	46
Junior	12
Covenant Life	119
	<u>666</u>



Open Space Covenants

By the May 1985 Board meeting 115 applications to the Board for open space covenants had been declined, and 331 had been approved.

Since the last newsletter another 11 covenants have been registered, giving a total of 92.

The most recent registered covenants are listed below:

NEW REGISTERED COVENANTS

North Auckland District

1. MATHESON, B K, Waipu, south of Whangarei.
20 hectares of regenerating forest including kauri, rimu, totara and tariare.

South Auckland District

2. MACKERSY, G L and M M, Whakamarā, Tauranga.
40 hectares of regenerating forest, mainly tawa with puriri, rewarewa, mangao, and both regenerating and mature rimus.

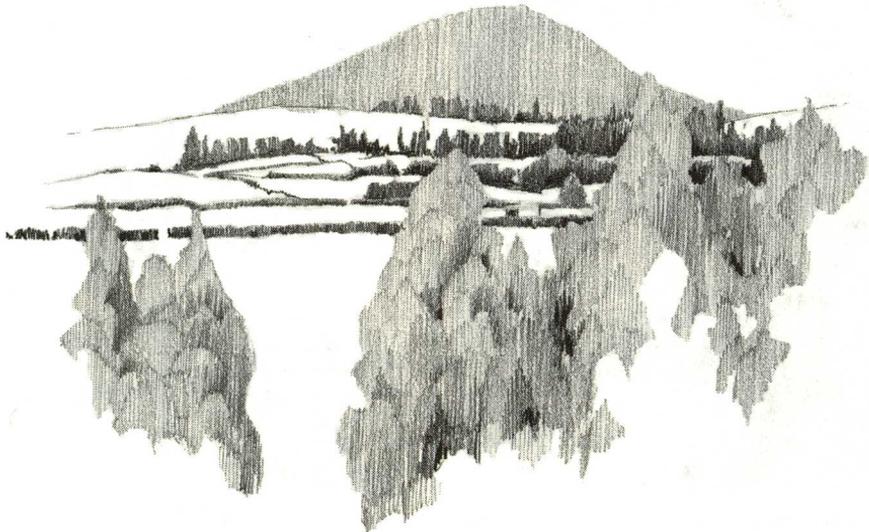
3. COOK, M K Ltd, Pukeatua, Te Awamutu.
Visually prominent 1.4 hectares of predominantly tawa forest with rimu, rewarewa, matai, and titoki, and extensive birdlife.

Gisborne District

4. TE MAIRE TRUST, Tikokino, Hawkes Bay.
26.5 hectares of native forest, mainly white pine and totara, on a typical central Hawkes Bay farm.

Taranaki District

5. MURCOTT, M, Benneydale, King Country.
Visually prominent 9 hectare steep scarp covered with native bush behind Benneydale township.
6. MURCOTT, M, Benneydale, King Country.
1.5 hectares of swamp containing a forest buried possibly by the Taupo eruptions 2000 years ago.



Wellington District

7. COLLYNS, J, Paekakariki Hill, Wellington.
12 hectares of native forest, with kohi-kohi and tawa, on a steep face.

Nelson District

8. EMMAUS FARM LTD, Motueka, Nelson.
3.7 hectare forest remnant with large rimu, matai, and beech.
9. LIVINGSTON, O, Waimea, Nelson.
2 hectare forest remnant with matai, totara, titoki, kowhai, kahikatea etc in intensively farmed area.

Canterbury District

10. JOHNSTON, R H M, Ashley Gorge, North Canterbury.
80 hectares of native silver tussock, the only such stand in the district.

Southland

11. STEWART, O A and C C FAMILY TRUST, Otapiri, Winton.
Two native forest remnants (10 hectares) with kahikatea, matai, rimu and pokaka.

COVENANTS FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH

Two Canterbury landowners with open space covenants have agreed to co-operate in an extended research project organised by the University of Canterbury Botany Department.

The project is investigating the reproduction of New Zealand plants, and requires sites reasonably close to Christchurch where the botanists can study things such as quantities of seed produced, seed dispersal, seed dormancy and longevity, and germination requirements. They already had one site in the Ahuriri Bush on the Summit Road and were wanting others with a different range of spe-

cies. The forest remnants owned by Mr Graham (Ahuriri Valley Bush) and Mr Prendergast (at Tai Tapu) seemed to be ideal and permission was readily given. The research work is not destructive to the land, but does require regular access to the sites to collect the seed traps. The work at present involves experimenting to find optimum densities of seed traps. The researchers lay out an area of 50m x 50m, map every tree in it, and set up a series of seed traps which are 30cm in diameter and about 1m off the ground. They are unobtrusive, but would be disturbed easily by cattle or sheep, and so fenced stock-free covenanted bush areas are most suitable.

Such explicit use of covenanted areas for scientific research emphasises their value as a resource not just for the people who drive past or visit the bush, but also for the whole country.

COVENANTS AND RATES

The value of open space covenants in protecting significant landscape features is being recognised increasingly in various ways throughout the country. A recent example was the Waipa County Council's unanimous decision "that all land protected by registered open space covenants be treated as non-rateable for the purpose of the levy and collection of general rates".

GARRETT'S OPEN SPACE COVENANT

In the May issue of *Forest and Bird* there is an article about the kahikatea stand protected by an open space covenant on Pam and Michael Garrett's farm at Roto-o-rangi. This is of particular interest not only because it protects an eighth of their property, a considerable portion, but also because it is part of the School Covenant Project.

WAIKATO COVENANTS

Two open space covenants were recently registered on Maru Road, Pukeatua, in the Waikato, protecting two areas of tawa-pukatea forest totalling almost 5 hectares. They are on the properties of Mr John Crook and Mr and Mrs John Scott. John Crook was the former owner of the Scott's property and initiated both covenants.

John Crook has lived in Pukeatua all his life, and about 30 years ago he fenced off his 2 hectare block to let it regenerate. He bought his second block of land about 14 years ago and fenced off 2.9 hectares of forest, which was recently bought by John and Fay Scott who were farming near Te Aroha. The Scotts share John Crook's interest in native forest and this fenced and covenanted remnant was one of the appealing features of the property.

They saw benefits in the forest both aesthetically and practically, as it is a massive wind break and provides shade which is needed for their deer farm.

Both the covenanted areas are being used in the School Covenant Project in association with Pukeatua School. There are plans to make walkways through the forest and label trees so that children can learn the tree names. The fact that there is not a wide variety of trees means that the children can learn more easily without being overwhelmed by a lot of Latin, English, and Maori names. The Scotts have already built a large stile into the forest to allow children easy access. The National Trust sign is displayed nearby.

Opposite: John and Fay Scott with their protected forest remnant.

John Crook with his protected forest remnant.





TWO KING COUNTRY COVENANTS

The Murcott family farm at Benneydale in the King Country has two areas protected by open space covenants. One is a visually prominent steep scarp of 9 hectares covered with native bush behind the Benneydale township. The other is a 1.5 hectare swamp containing a forest buried about 2000 years ago.

The farm overlooks Benneydale, 50 km east of Te Kuiti, and is bounded on three sides by State Highway 30 and Ohirea Road. The land is mainly easy rolling hills, but they are divided in several places by steep rocky scarps, such as the one protected by a covenant. There are several small wetland swamps in the low lying areas.

The present owner's father Mr Murcott first settled there in 1913 when Benneydale did not yet exist. Then a large block of land was surveyed at Mangapehei (on the main trunk line and on State Highway 30) and Mr Murcott got a section by ballot. He was to

have gone to the First World War but contracted TB and stayed on the farm, with its healthy climate at 9 to 15,000 feet above sea level, until he died aged 89.

Benneydale was established three miles up the valley in the late 1940s when the State Coal Mine was opened.

At first all the high areas on the farm were covered in bush, and the lower parts in ferns and scrub, with some secondary growth. Mr Murcott cleared and milled the timber in the early days, using it for fencing. The areas that were obviously not so useful for farm production were set aside for woodlots, or because they looked attractive, e.g. stands of totara.

The Murcott family started thinking about protecting the bush along the cliff face adjacent to the Mangapehei Scenic Reserve to the west. When Mr Murcott Senior died his son, the present owner, began developing the farm, starting with refencing and subdividing it into paddocks. They started negotiations for an open space covenant and the fact that

the Trust was prepared to help with fencing was encouraging. The bush has been fenced for 18 months now, except for the western boundary with the Mangapehei Scenic Reserve.

The buried forest was discovered in the early 1970s when the Murcotts decided to drain the swampy area. A digger cutting drains 1 to 2 metres deep came upon the buried forest, consisting of frequent, more-or-less horizontal logs, and occasional stumps ranging from a few centimetres to a metre through. A gate was made from a combination of rimu and rata, which still had the bark.

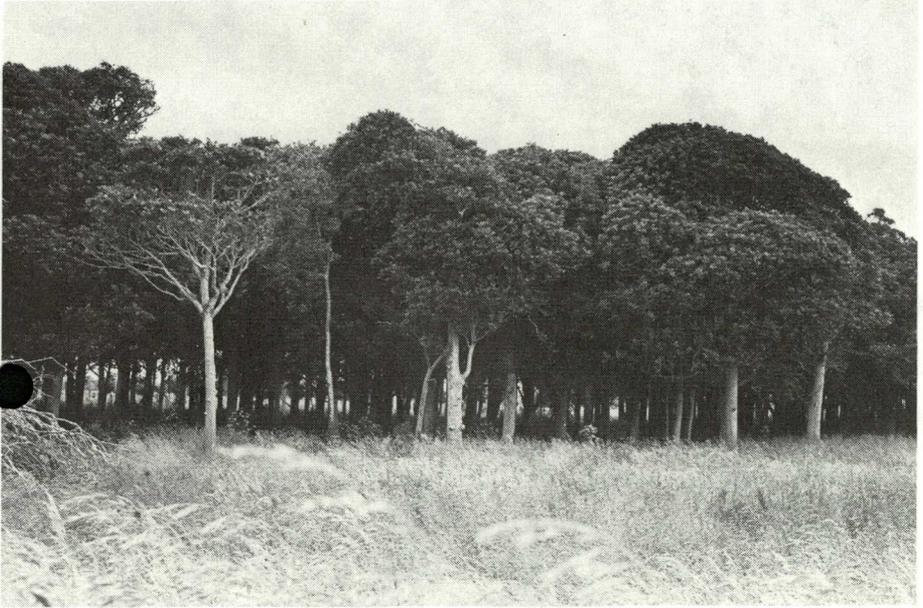
Scientists from the Forest Research Institute at Rotorua investigated the buried forest and a radiocarbon dating of a rimu log gave a date of 2,150 years ago (plus or minus 50 years). It is possible that the forest was buried by the Taupo eruption which is thought to

have occurred about 130AD, but in any case it is scientifically important in that it contains a unique preservation of pre-Taupo eruption forest in the central North Island. (It should be possible to reconstruct the composition of the forest and compare it with existing forest in the vicinity.) It also should provide information relevant to the theory of climatic change in the North Island, and also to the Taupo eruption (e.g. the mechanisms of construction).

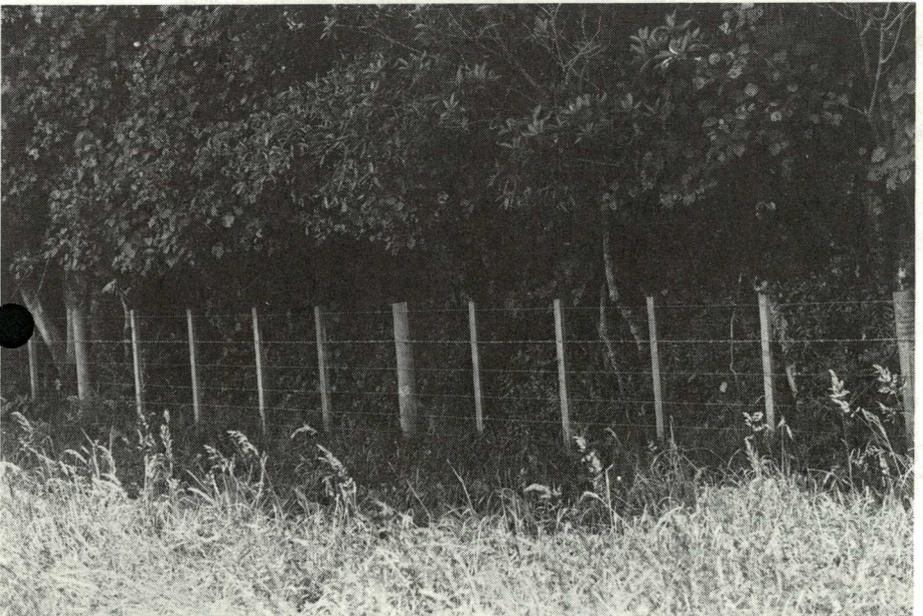
Because the buried forest is buried, and all you can see is a grassed paddock, and because the covenanted bush can be seen easily from the road and from Benneydale township, there is no need for people to actually visit the sites. If someone had a special reason for visiting them, permission would have to be sought from the Murcotts. The significance of the buried forest is primarily scientific. The most obvious significance of the protected bush is the way it visually enhances the landscape and the fact that the Murcotts, and visitors and locals will always be able to enjoy it.

A preserved log about 2000 years old on Murcott's farm.





An unfenced remnant of kohekohe on the Otaki Plains. Photo: P F J Newsome.



Well fenced forest remnant. Note the browse-line in the vegetation. Photo: P J F Newsome.

NEW ZEALAND GARDENS

“The gardens of New Zealand have not as yet evolved a distinctly national character as have those in land with established cultures, but the plants grown in them are the best of two hemispheres, and if any pattern emerges it derives from the use of these contrasting materials, the evergreen natives and the exotic, the hardy, the tender . . .

One of the most beautiful and distinctive gardens in New Zealand was once a rough-grassed and scrub-covered hillside on the outskirts of New Plymouth. It took vision and a lot of very hard work to carve “Tupare” out of these raw acres, and after 50 years it is an ideal fulfilled for . . . Sir Russell and Lady Matthews, who planned and created it together.”

from *Gardens of New Zealand*
Barbara Matthews, 1983.