



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

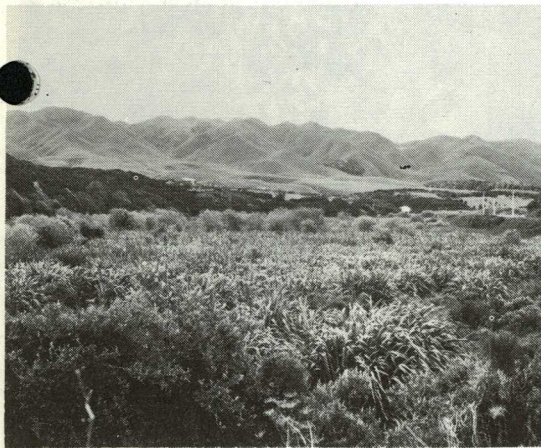
NO. 11 SPRING 1985

Queen Visits Plimmerton Swamp

The Queen has asked to see something of the work of the Trust while she is in New Zealand, and so she is to visit Plimmerton Swamp at 10.30am on 27 February. Plimmerton Swamp, now also known by its maori name as Taupo Swamp, on State Highway One north of Wellington, was bought by the Trust last year (see newsletters 8 and 9). Her Majesty will be introduced to the Trust directors. She will then view the wetland from a specially built platform and look at a photographic display of the Trust's work. A presentation to her Majesty will conclude the visit.

Trust members would be welcome to join the members of the Trust staff and the public observing the occasion.

The next newsletter will report on the visit.



Plimmerton Swamp

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Published by
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McGregor Memorial Reserve

The National Trust has helped protect the McGregor Memorial Reserve in Northland. The 146.5 hectare kauri forest is on Katui Road, 47 kms north of Dargaville and adjacent to the Waipoua State Forest. Ideal as Kiwi habitat and containing regenerating kauri, totara, rimu and other trees, the Reserve is part of the ecological unity of Waipoua forest.

National Trust involvement with the protection of this fine regenerating kauri forest began with Arthur Cowan, MBE, active National Trust covenantor and member. Executive member of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, member of the Otorohanga Zoological Society, and owner of three large forest tracts protected by open space covenants, Arthur Cowan is well known for his conservation efforts. These include buying 1250 hectares of forest on the Rangitoto Range near Te Kuiti to save it from development threats, and protecting native wildlife, such as the blue duck, wattlebird, and the kiwi. It was the Cowans' efforts to save kiwis

threatened by forest clearance that brought the kauri forest to the Trust's notice. Arthur Cowan was searching for new areas to transfer threatened kiwis to, and he spotted this privately owned forest. Determined to secure its protection, Arthur Cowan approached the Native Forest Restoration Trust and the National Trust and organised an inspection of it with Mr Gandar and Roy Dench of the Otorohanga Zoological Society. The National Trust Board agreed to contribute to the purchase by the Native Forests Restoration Trust on the basis of public donations.

A fund raising campaign organised by the NFRT was launched in Auckland in October and National Trust directors Dr Juliet Batten and Mr Assid Corban attended. Dr Batten addressed the meeting, stressing the National Trust's support for protecting the reserve both as a wildlife habitat and as an outstanding example of regenerating Northland Kauri forest.

The fundraising was a rapid success and on the basis of donations, the National



Arthur and Pat Cowan, who initiated the protection of the McGregor Reserve

Trust contributed \$40,000 of the \$102,000 purchase price.

Opening Ceremony

Trust Chairman L. Gandar attended the recent opening ceremony. The following description is taken from his account of the occasion.

The McGregor Reserve is at 800 feet above sea level, facing the north, and cut over first of all, and parts of it totally cleared. The first miller who cleared the land 40 years ago turned up to the dedication and planted a miro which he had planted on his own property which he now farms about 20 miles away to the north-west. He brought this tree down especially, and said it was taken from the same forest, so he has now transferred it back.

There is a general falling away of the country from the south towards the north so that you get a grand view of the Waipoua Forest itself. The seedlings of some very flat rolling, quite extensive ridges, still remain in regeneration and also some remnants of the original forest, although the big trees have been cut out. The pasture lands taken out of the forest were farmed for the next 30-40 years. It is in rough, poor pasture and only used for winter grazing and cutting for hay in the summer. There are good possibilities for regeneration, with an enormous seed source available on three sides of the area.

There is already evidence of the creeping in of some nurse crops. For example there is an invasion of fern bracken which would not have been evident if the grazing had been continued through this last winter. In the next couple of years the pasture will be invaded by these types of plants followed by other species. The Native Forests Restoration Trust intends to help this by planting, particularly kauri taken from the same seed source.

The ceremony was very interesting. The Chairman of the County Mr Klaricitch, a Maori himself, and Chairman of the Hokianga County Council, came up with the Reverend Ihaka, the local vicar, to bless the new forest area. There was a Maori welcome given by Mr Klaricitch and responded to by Mr Gandar on behalf of the visitors, all in Maori. Mr Klaricitch also spoke briefly in English about the need to continue the preservation of the forest areas. There was a warm sun, and the grass was warm and dry, which is amazing considering that earlier that week there had been very heavy rain. The participants were able to sit there with a grand stand view of this majestic forest. The President of the Native Forests Restoration Trust spoke and then Mr Gandar spoke on behalf of the Trust. He mentioned a very old Taparapara which means "Listen to the call of the Huia and the song of the Huia". He said that this epitomised the changes that had occurred just within our lifetime. There probably had been a few remaining Huia in the forest but now they were totally extinct so it was unlikely that anybody would hear the call of the Huia, but nevertheless, this should remind us that we cannot afford to let all the other similar treasures of the past, such as the kauri and the kauri forest, disappear in the same way as the Huia disappeared. Mr Gandar also spoke about the work of the Trust.

Mr Ihaka conducted a service in the open, with about 200 people. The service was in English but towards the end in dedication Mr Ihaka spoke in Maori, very movingly. Then the gentleman mentioned earlier walked down the hill with this great miro about 10 feet tall, right to the edge of the bush and planted the tree. Then on one of the lower slopes some 6 or 7 kauri were planted, and Mr Gandar planted one on behalf of the Trust.

Pyramid Valley

The Pyramid Valley Moa Swamp brochure, featuring a spectacular limestone outcrop on the cover, is the first in a series of brochures about outstanding open space covenants. Although open space covenants, by their very nature, protect special features of the landscape, there are some that are particularly significant, perhaps for scientific or scenic reasons for example, or are particularly unusual. These brochures are intended to highlight such extraordinary covenants.

The Pyramid Valley Moa Swamp is near Waikari in North Canterbury and is named after the spectacular outcrops of Weka Pass limestone that are a feature of the Valley that the swamp is in. There is also a ridge of younger, Mount Brown limestone, and the swamp is formed in the eroded siltstone depression between the limestone. The swamp is 0.8 hectares, and consists of surface vegetation, a layer underneath this of black peat, and then a calcareous, jelly-like yellow deposit. This is always moist, and free of oxygen, and was formed when the site was a lake. This provides an ideal environment for preserving both plant and animal remains.

History

The swamp's scientific wealth was first discovered in 1938 when Joseph Hodgen, grandfather of the present owner, dug into the swamp to bury a dray horse. He unearthed three leg bones of the biggest moa, *Dinornis maximus*. Canterbury Museum recognised the significance of the discovery. Many moa swamps had been excavated in Canterbury and elsewhere, but never one containing the remains of clearly distinguishable individual birds.

By 1941, 50 almost all complete skeletons of moas of four species had been

recovered. It was then that the significance of Pyramid Valley as the most important discovery of its kind was appreciated. Since then, the Museum has done other excavations, obtaining the best collection of well preserved moa skeletons in the world.

Moa and other Birds

Moa is the popular name for about a dozen species of very large, flightless birds, 1-3m high, closely related to birds such as ostriches, emus and the kiwi. They existed in New Zealand for millions of years before the arrival of people about 1000 years ago. When Europeans arrived moas had been extinct for some centuries due to the hunting and egg-gathering of the early Polynesians, who burnt much of the moas' forest home and food supply. Like many creatures without predators, moas were defenceless, slow moving, and probably had a very low reproduction rate.

According to radio-carbon dating moas became trapped in the lake muds of Pyramid Valley about 4000 years ago. At that time, the forest, their main food source, surrounded the peat-covered swamp which remained as the lake dried up. The moas undoubtedly walked on to the vegetation covered apparently solid surface, and with their considerable weight broke the surface crust becoming trapped in the yellow lake jelly beneath. Over the centuries hundreds of moa bones dotted through the swamp sank beneath the peat.

The lake jelly formed an ideal medium for bone preservation, almost entirely excluding oxygen and therefore the organisms which cause decay. Also, because of the high limestone content, there were no acids to dissolve the bone as happens in many New Zealand swamps. Analysis of preserved gizzard contents shows what the trapped birds last ate. A complete unlaidd

moa egg was found in hundreds of fragments within the skeleton of one of the swamp's victims.

Other extinct birds found in Pyramid Valley include a giant rail (or wood-hen), a flightless goose, and a great eagle which was probably trapped when it fed on moa carcasses. The bones of takahe, kiwi, and more common forest birds such as the pigeon, have also been found.

Other Animal Remains

Far more abundant, but less obvious, are the remains of countless smaller organisms, which existed mostly when it was a lake. They contribute to our knowledge of freshwater fauna: for example, two previously unknown freshwater snails have been collected.

Throughout the deposits in even greater numbers are the shells of ostracods, tiny crustaceans (relatives of crayfish and crabs) including two new species. They have yielded much information about the swamp life over a considerable period.

Plant Remains

The swamp abounds in plant remains, most obviously the peat layers and large logs found during excavation, evidence of quite extensive past forest around the lake margins. The preserved moa gizzard contents and the pollen grains which occur throughout the swamp are of most interest to botanists.

As well as the information from the gizzard contents (that moas were forest dwellers, living on leaves, berries and twigs of trees and shrubs), analysis of plant species in the gizzards and in the swamp, together with the identification of pollens, have yielded valuable evidence on the vegetational and climatic history of North Canterbury over the last 4000 years.

The Future

Since 1983, an open space covenant has protected the Pyramid Valley swamp. This was negotiated at the request of the landowner who wanted the swamp protected and managed on a long-term basis in the best interests of New Zealand science. An advisory committee representing the National Trust the landowner, and several scientific disciplines, is responsible to the Trust for management.

In this way future generations of New Zealanders will be able to appreciate and learn from one of the most interesting and valuable scientific sites in the country.

Further Reading

NO MOA by Beverley McCulloch, a popular booklet describing moas, published by Canterbury Museum.

RECORDS OF THE CANTERBURY MUSEUM, VOLUMES 4, 5, 6 and 9. (Various papers relating to the scientific evidence recovered from the swamp over the years).

Brochure

A copy of the Pyramid Valley Moa Swamp brochure is enclosed for members (c. Beverley McCulloch 1984).

DEMONSTRATION FARMS

A Demonstration Farms National Steering Committee was set up to advise on the National Trust's demonstration farm project. The inaugural meeting held at the Trust office on 1 July 1985 was attended by Mr Gordon Stephenson (National Trust and Chairman), Mr John Scott (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), Mr Rene Odinet (Federated Farmers), Mr Bruce Treeby

(N.Z. Farm Forestry Association), Mr Bernard Pinney (Dunrobin Station, National Trust demonstration farm), Mr Anthony Plummer (Te Kouka, demonstration farm), and Hon. L.W. Gandar, Dr Alan Edmonds and Mr B. Evans (Trust). The committee consists of representatives from Federated Farmers, Department of Lands and Survey, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Farm Forestry Association, and the Trust, with Mr Pinney and Mr Plummer as invited members. Other organisations and people shall be asked to contribute as needed.

The role of the Committee is to recommend to the National Trust Board on the selection, establishment, monitoring, and promotion of private demonstration farms. Specific responsibilities include establishing policy, determining criteria for selecting farms, and preparing a publicity strategy.

This year both Te Kouka, the Plummers' farm in Southern Hawkes Bay, and Dunrobin, the Pinney's farm in Southland, have been developed, including publicising Dunrobin through the field day and finishing the development plan for Te Kouka.

COVENANT 100

The one hundredth open space covenant was registered in August. A year ago we were pleased to reach 55: and as we go to press 115 are registered. This means that 4000 hectares of some of New Zealand's most significant landscape is permanently protected. The idea of protecting open space for future generations is certainly taking shape.

Gordon Stephenson, Trust deputy chairman, the man who back in the 1970s dreamed up the idea of an organisation to protect privately owned land, and the



The Tombleson family and their Trust sign. From left to right, Mr and Mrs Rodney Tombleson and daughter and Mr and Mrs John Tombleson



Fenced edge of the Tombleson covenant looking north

owner of the first covenant, presided over a small ceremony to mark this milestone. The John Tombleson family of Gisborne have the honour of owing the land protected by the hundredth covenant. They were pleased to receive a case of wine, donated specially for the occasion by Board member Assid Corban. The covenant protects 45 hectares of native forest on the Tombleson's farm Ahititi station. The 1141 hectare farm is the upper Waimata Valley, 27 kms north of Gisborne in a relatively

remote valley. The covenanted area is a very attractive forest remnant, with a giant rimu and a large rata. The main species are tawa, rewarewa, pukatea, and hinau. The forest is protected by windbreaks of pine, redwoods, and a few eucalypts.

Most of the covenanted area has never been milled and it is well known as an attractive feature of the district. It is protected mainly for its scenic value, and can easily be seen from the road. However, the Tomblesons readily give permission to people who ask to visit the forest, and school groups visit every year.

The covenant was straight forward, with the bush ring fenced and no new fencing required. Mr and Mrs John Tombleson are very enthusiastic about the Trust and have done much to encourage our work in their district.

ELECTION

Dr Juliet Batten and Dr Charlotte Wallace, the two directors elected to the Trust Board in 1983, will have completed their three-year term by 31 March 1986.

An election will be held in March for Trust members to elect their representatives. Both Dr Batten and Dr Wallace are eligible for re-election, and there have been 5 other nominations. Information about each candidate and voting papers will be sent to all members, and voting papers will need to be returned to the Trust by 14 March.

PLIMMERTON SWAMP

With the flax in flower and the final payment now made, the Plimmerton Swamp just north of Wellington on State Highway One is an attractive sight for the

Trust. The management plan is underway, and the management committee met recently to consider the wetland's development. There are two new representatives on the Committee; Dr Margaret Wassilief of the Wellington Botanical Society, and Mrs Tungia Baker, representing local Maori interests.

The wetland, lying between the highway and the north island main trunk line, is seen by numerous commuters, travellers, and tourists, and is one of the most visible areas of open space that the Trust is involved with. The Trust's ownership and role in its protection will soon be clear, when the signs are put up in February.

The blackberry and fennel growing on the National Roads Board land along the highway edge of the wetland has been cleared by the PEP scheme people under the supervision of the Porirua City Council. Under the Beautiful New Zealand Scheme 6000 plants have already been planted. During 1986 there will be extensive planting by the Porirua City Council's work skills team with species of locally collected seed, propagated by the Porirua City Council nursery. This work will also be funded by the Beautiful New Zealand Scheme.

NEW BROCHURE

Native tussock and dramatic geological formations under a vast sky in the Old Man Range, Central Otago, form the cover of the new Trust pamphlet.

"The National Trust: Protecting the Landscape" tells people what the Trust is, what it does, how it can help landowners and New Zealanders generally to protect the landscape, and how they can help the Trust. It is a general information pamphlet, designed to be distributed with an

insert form for membership, gift, bequest and covenant applications. We have printed a large number and intend them to be widely distributed. Members would be welcome to give them to people who might be interested in becoming members or covenanting or making a donation, or supporting the Trust in any other way. Copies will be supplied on request.

The cover photograph is by Eric Taylor, Auckland photographer and author of "This Land of Light: New Zealand Photographs" (Oxford 1982). The major inside photograph is by Sue Gee, also an Auckland photographer. It was taken in Logues Bush, the 41 hectare forest remnant near Wellsford that the Trust helped purchase (see newsletter 10. p.4). Sue and Eric kindly gave permission for their photographs to be used. The other pictures are by Trust staff, showing aspects of significant open space from all over the country.

The Trust is pleased with this latest publication, designed and produced by Richard Gyde, of Creative Services, Wellington.

TUPARE

Tupare was open to the public on Labour Day for the first time under National Trust ownership. It was also open for two following weekends. This was following the tradition of the Matthews family in opening the garden to the public every Labour Day for many years.

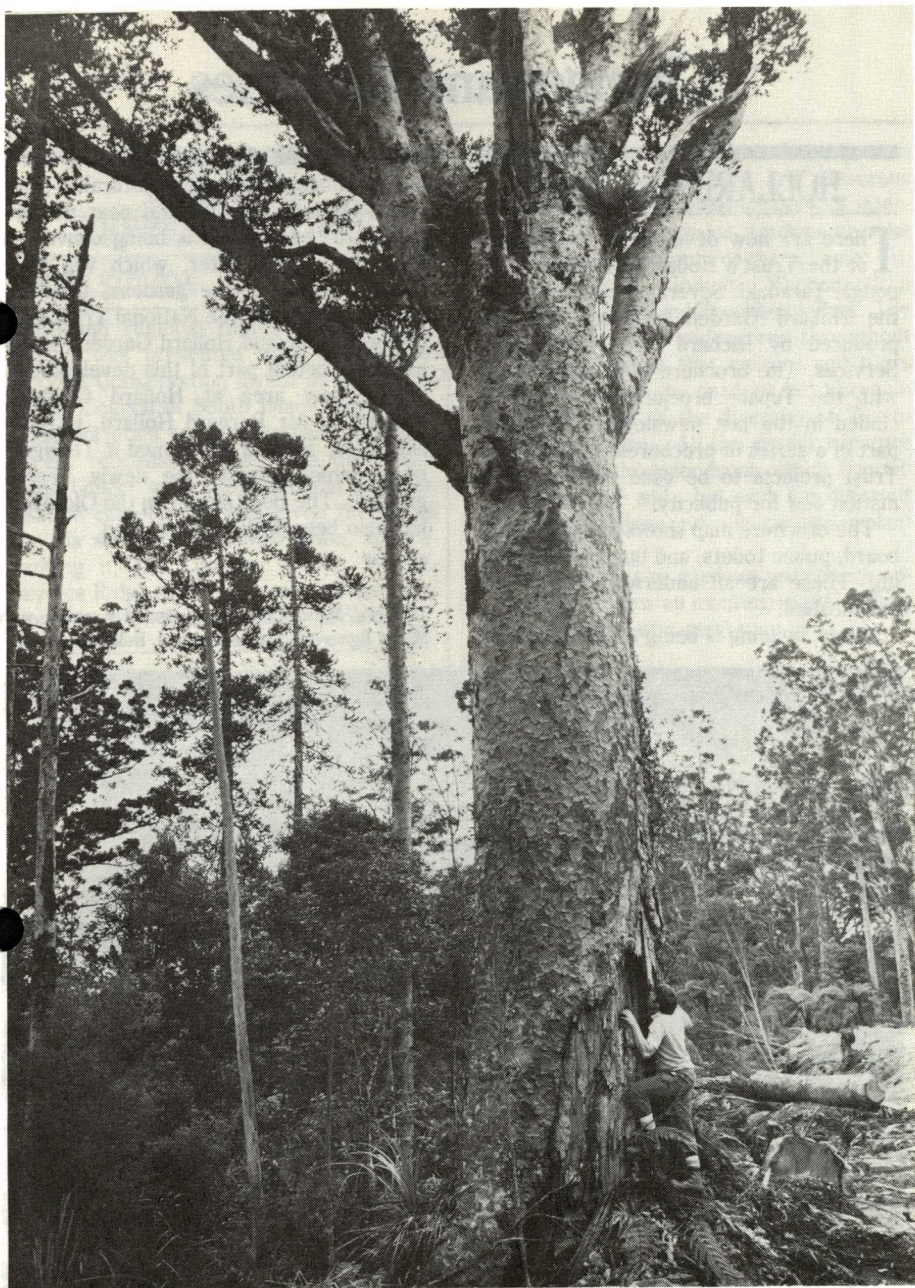
Traditionally, too, the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust has worked hard for the open days, taking the entrance fees, selling refreshments, and doing numerous other tasks. They generously offered their services again this year, and carried out the arrangements that they previously had with Sir Russell and Lady Matthews.

The weekends were a great success, in spite of some inclement weather. National Trust chairman Les Gandar and manager Alan Edmonds attended at Labour weekend and were impressed by the well organised and thorough arrangements of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust people.

Following Labour weekend, the Tupare draft management plan was made available for public. The Trust is not obliged to make management plans available to the public, but considers it a useful way of encouraging public support and of informing people about the Trust's activities. In the Tupare case, particularly, this is also a good way of getting ideas from local people about ways in which the local open space in the Trust's care could be best used.

The management plan is intended to make sure that the garden and houses of Tupare are maintained and developed according to the design evolved by Sir Russell and Lady Matthews. It also aims at ensuring that the public can enjoy Tupare's special charm both now and in the future. The New Plymouth City Council is generously looking after the day to day running of Tupare for the Trust while arrangements for the long term management are being worked out. Copies of the draft plan are available from the Trust office for \$10.00.

Some years ago Sir Russell wrote a guide to Tupare, showing the walks and the garden's features, and particularly the different plant species. This was sold to people who visited Tupare, and this year the Trust produced an updated version, which was made available on Labour weekend. "Tupare Guide", available for \$1 from the Trust, gives an introduction to Tupare and takes the visitor on a guided walk around the garden, listing plants with useful comments.



Kauri forest

Changes and Activities

HOLLARD GARDENS

There are new developments underway at the Trust's Hollard Gardens in Kaponga, Taranaki. Several are mentioned in the Hollard Garden brochure, recently produced by Richard Gyde of Creative Services. The brochure is designed to go with the Tupare brochure (that was included in the last newsletter). They are part of a series of brochures about specific Trust projects to be used both as information and for publicity.

The brochure map shows an information board, public toilets, and bus and car parking. These are all underway, though not yet finished.

A new building is being erected that will

include the public toilets, a workshop, store, and an office for the horticulturalist (Mrs Jenny Oakley). An old shed near the entrance to the gardens is being converted into the public shelter, which will have information about the gardens, the Taranaki Concept and the National Trust generally. Tupare and Hollard Gardens would be an important part of this development.

The new area at Hollard Gardens, planted by Mr Bernard Hollard, is flourishing. Mr Hollard has named it Te Ngaki mara, which means "the newly cleared ground". The Bog Garden, in the Old Area, has also been further developed.

Te Ngaki Mara, "The newly cleared ground", with Mount Egmont in the background. Hollard Gardens



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

ROGER SUTTON

Southland regional representative Roger Sutton was presented with the Wildlife Service Conservation award at a meeting of the Council of South Island Acclimatisation Societies earlier this year. Until his recent retirement Roger was the Senior Field Officer with the Southland Acclimatisation Society and was given the award for his services to conservation. In presenting it, the Director of the Wildlife Service Ralph Adams commented that only seven such awards had been made.

IAN BLAIR

Dr Ian Blair, Canterbury representative, was advised by the Minister for the Environment of his reappointment for a further term as a member of the Guardians of Lake Wanaka (under the Lake Wanaka Preservation Act 1972).

TARANAKI TOURISM CONFERENCE

Trust Chairman L. Gandar addressed the Taranaki Tourism Conference held in New Plymouth in October. The conference was organised to consider the possibilities for developing and co-ordinating tourism and the various attractions of the region. Recommendations for developing tourism included the proposal to link the different gardens. This idea was part of the Taranaki Garden Concept, proposed by the Trust in 1983.

Tupare and Hollard Gardens are consid-

ered as an important part of the garden linking plan. While there are numerous smaller, privately owned gardens of interest, the following major gardens are the most obvious elements of the scheme: Tupare, Hollards, Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, Pukekura, and Brooklands Park. The fact that they are widespread throughout the region means that visitors and tours not only will see the gardens but also gain an appreciation of the diversity of Taranaki's open spaces. All the gardens feature azaleas and rhododendrons which flourish in the volcanic soils, but each has different climatic conditions and suits particular plant species.

Collectively the gardens provide an opportunity to view an exciting range of New Zealand and exotic plants.

NEW DIRECTOR

Mrs Margaret (Bunny) Mortimer is the new Counties Association representative on the Trust's Board of Directors. Bunny Mortimer was first elected as a councillor of the Waipa County in February, 1979, and was re-elected unopposed in 1980, and again in 1983. She was representative of the Waikato Old People's Welfare Committee, is currently representative of the Pirongia Afforestation Committee, and is a member of the Executive and Town Planning Committee and the Reserves Committee.

Bunny runs a Charolais cattle stud farm in Frankton, the Waikato, with her husband Mr John Mortimer who is current president of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association. Bunny shares an active interest in farm forestry, and is a committee member of the Waikato Farm Forestry Association and the Native Forests



Bunny Mortimer

Action Council, and is vice president of the National Fieldays Society. She has also served as president of the South Auckland Conservation Association, and as committee member of the Hamilton Civic Trust.

Bunny is also well-known as the co-author with John Mortimer of *Trees for the New Zealand Countryside: a Planters Guide* (Auckland: Silverfish 1984), a comprehensive and well illustrated guide to farm forestry in New Zealand.

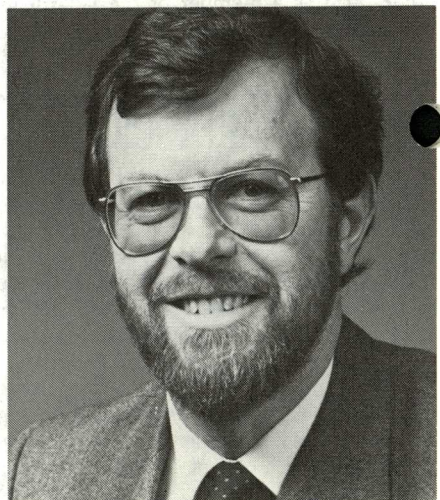
TRUST MANAGER

The first Trust Manager was Lloyd White, who was with the Trust from its earliest days until his death in February 1981. His position remained unfilled until July of 1985 when Dr Alan Edmonds became the second Trust Manager.

Members will remember Alan from his

time as visiting scientist with the Trust last year. He came to the Trust following 14 years at Waikato University as Reader in Biological Science with research interests and teaching responsibilities in ecology and plant science. With a wide interest in environmental matters, Alan has served with many advisory committees and conservation agencies. He is a member of the Environmental Council and the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary Advisory Committee and is President of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

Alan lectured at Lincoln College, Canterbury, where he gained his doctorate in plant science, studied at the Department of Forestry, Oxford (England), and spent a year at Ruakura Agricultural Research Station investigating pasture and crop plant nutrition. Alan Edmonds said "The National Trust has been astonishingly successful in its 8 years. In August our 100th covenant was registered, with over 200 more in the pipeline. Our relative inde-

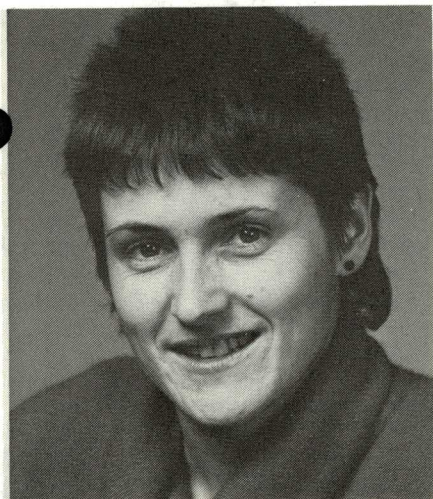


Alan Edmonds

pendence from the Government has been an important factor in this record. Just as important has been the quality of the work done by the Trust in its special role of co-ordinating the community and various agencies in the protection and enhancement of open space. The Trust must maintain this record of quality and independence to ensure that it can continue to provide a service to the private land owner."

JILLIAN ZANDERS

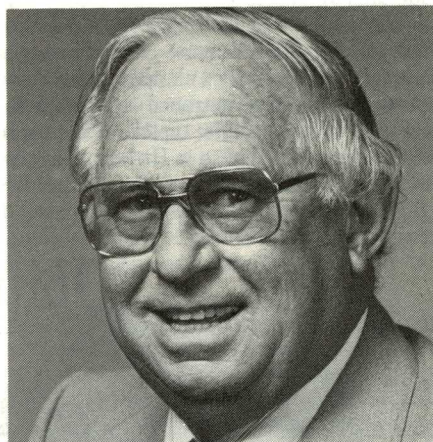
Jillian Zanders has joined the Trust as Assistant Covenant Officer working with Betty Place on covenant processing. Jillian worked for 7 years as a Land Administration Officer, for the Department of Lands and Survey in Hamilton and when her husband was transferred to Wellington Jill took this as an opportunity to move to a smaller, more involved organisation. Jill is keen on tennis and conservation.



Jill Zanders

KEITH JONES

Keith Jones enjoys two days a week as the Trust's accountant and financial adviser. As a sole practitioner accountant for 30 years in Onehunga, Auckland, Keith retired last year to Eastborne. Past President of the Onehunga Rotary Club, Keith is active as a director of the Petone Club.



Keith Jones

PUBLICATIONS

The First National Trust lecture (free) and the *Revegetation Manual* (\$9.95, \$7.95 to members) are still available from the Trust office.

ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the National Trust's Annual Report to Parliament for the year ending March 1985 is enclosed for Trust members. Further copies are available from Government bookshops and the Trust office.

BANKS PENINSULA CALENDAR

A beautiful calendar of scenes of Banks Peninsula, Canterbury, has been produced by Dr. Martin London, Akaroa general medical practitioner and National Trust member. The 12 colour photographs depict forms, bush remnants, seascapes, and small bays, that typify Banks Peninsula's outstanding landscape.

There is one of Hickory Bay (a corruption of the Maori name Waikerakikari) where the seafront has an open space covenant over it. The entrance to the bay is bounded by great cliffs, typical of the bays of the Peninsula. These in Hickory Bay are the eastern most point of the Peninsula,

separated from Chile by 4000 miles of the Pacific. Another photograph is of the stand of Totara also protected by an open space covenant. This stand above Onuku is one of the finest remaining stands of totara on the Peninsula. It is *Podocarpus totara*, distinct from the mountain or Hall totara (*Podocarpus hallii*).

The calendar notes that Banks Peninsula, as an area with outstanding natural features and a distinctive landscape, is one of the areas that the Trust is focussing on.

The calendar (30 × 40cm, with descriptive text) is available for \$8.95 from book shops, Caxton Press Christchurch, or Dr London, Akaroa.

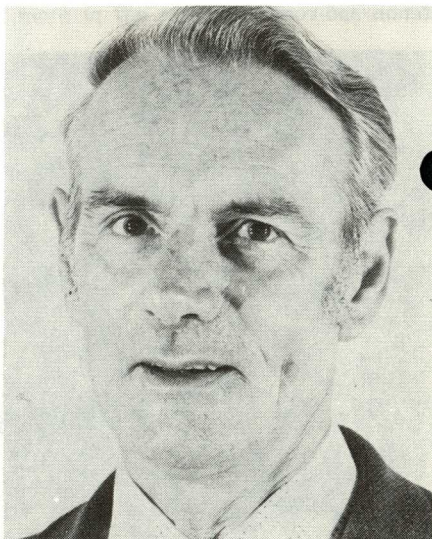
Obituaries

RON LISTER

Ron Lister, Trust regional representative in Otago, died suddenly on 26 September 1985. Until he retired 3 years ago, Ron was Professor of Geography at Otago University, a position he held with great distinction.

Ron was very much the Otago man, and was on many regional committees, particularly those concerned with the environment. The issues of the Clutha Valley and the protection of Otago Peninsula were of great concern to him.

In 1972 Ron accompanied the Hon. Duncan Mc Intyre to the Stockholm Environment Centre, as Ministerial Adviser, and played a valuable role in the proceedings. A member of the Environmental Council for 15 years, and the only foundation member still serving, Ron took part



Ron Lister

in and let many working parties on such diverse topics as population growth, coastal planning, indigenous forest policies.

Since China has opened to tourism, Ron led a number of tours there. With his acute power of observation, he returned each time with not only the usual tourists tales, but also with a clear perception of new changes in that society.

He had an ability to analyse enormously complex issues and documents and, with a fine clarity of language, to reduce them to a few simple and straightforward statements.

Always cheerful and willing to undertake more than his share of work, and supportive and encouraging of the work of others, Ron Lister will be sorely missed by both his peers and Otago students, and by the National Trust staff.

Gordon Stephenson,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL GARRETT

The Trust was sad to learn of the death of Mr Michael Garrett, Trust member and covenantor. Michael Garrett was an enthusiastic supporter of the Trust's work and had an open space covenant protecting 12% of his total dairy farm. He discussed the covenant at the Waipa County Native Bush Seminar held in the Waikato last May (described in newsletter No. 10 p10). When he began protecting the bush in 1968 it had only 6 plant species, and now there are 37, 9 introduced by the Garretts and the rest self introduced.

Michael Garrett was very keen on people visiting his protected bush, and from early on encouraged groups of school children to visit. From this enthusiasm grew the school Covenant Project with Michael

and his family actively supported. The Trust was represented at his funeral by Trust directors and regional representatives.

PAMELA BENCE

Trust staff were saddened by the death in October of Pam Bence, Trust secretary and typist. Pam had been with the Trust since its early days, and had a wide knowledge of its activities and people. She was very enthusiastic about the work, and cheerfully worked long hours when special tasks required it, still managing to keep up her interest in ballroom dancing, gardening, swimming, dressmaking and upholstery. The Trust staff and chairman, and the first chairman Sir Thaddeus McCarthy attended Pamela's funeral.



Pam Bence

MRS NORTON

We also record with regret the death of Mrs Amy Norton, one of the owners of the Ernest Morgan Forest Reserve. (see Newsletter 10 p.7). Mrs Norton and her sister Mrs E. Williams, descendants of the Morgan family who settled there in the 1880s, wanted to protect the 21ha reserve

in memory of their father, Ernest Morgan. With the support of the Native Forests Restoration Trust, they decided to gift half and sell half to the National Trust, thereby ensuring its permanent protection. The National Trust remembers with gratitude Mrs Norton's generosity in allowing the Ernest Morgan Forest Reserve to be established.

Open Space Covenants

By the November Board meeting 110 covenants were registered, (and 395 approved by the Board). The recent registered covenants are listed below:

NEW REGISTERED COVENANTS

North Auckland

1. WHITMORE R G, 8km north of Wellsford. Two areas of native Forest. 52 hectares.

South Auckland

2. A G SPRATT and W and J. HUTCHINGS. 15km from Te Puke. A 4ha bush gully.
3. R J and E F HARKER. Taupau/Onewhero Road, 6km from Taupau. A 21ha bush gorge.
4. I S SOMERVILLE and L M LAMB. 19kms west of Te Kuiti on Te Kumi — Te Anga Road. 3.3ha forest remnant.
5. R G BARTON and C. REGNIER. 7kms south-west from Rotorua on Te Manu Road 2.6 ha of native bush.
6. J G and M J HODGE. Bedford Road, 3 km west of Te Kowhai (North of Hamilton). A small forest remnant, mainly of Kahikatea.

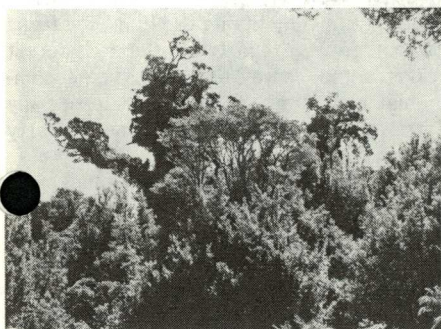
Taranaki

7. R T FULLERTON-SMITH and Co. Ongarue, 25km north of Taumarunui. 3 areas of bush 49 ha.



Morrison, Stratford

8. R J and M E MORRISON. Sole Road, off State Highway 3 near Stratford. A 1.6ha forest remnant.
9. HORNER and FINDLATER, at Oeo, 20km north-west of Hawera. 2.8ha of regenerating forest.



Tall rimu at Barton and Regniers land, Rotorua

Gisborne

10. A M, G W R, and J Tombleson. A 4.4ha forest remnant, 27kms north of Gisborne on the Waimata-Hokoroa Road. The 100th covenant.
11. J R D COATES, 6km north of Te Karaka on Whakarau Road, 64kms from Gisborne. 31 hectare forest remnant.

Wellington

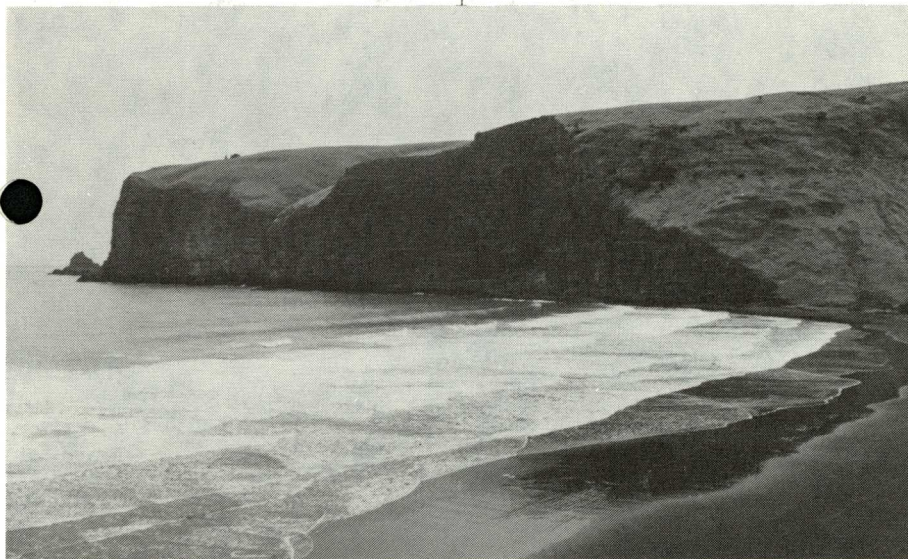
12. ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND at Pauatahanui, north of Wellington City. 1.8ha of land being the amenities area for the Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve.

Nelson

13. K A STRINGER. A 1.9 forest remnant in Pig Valley near Wakefield.
14. A E LANGFORD. 9.5ha forest remnant in the Clark Valley, State Highway 6, 67km south of Nelson.

Canterbury

15. R MAXWELL, 10 hectares of sandstone outcrop on Motunau Beach Road, 80km north of Christchurch.
16. D E GRIGG and SON. Hickory Bay, Banks Peninsula. 4.9 beach coast and headland with seals and penguins.
17. J M ARMSTRONG. 13.6ha of land and seascape at Stony Bay, Akaroa.



Grigg, Stony Bay, Banks Peninsula

GARLANDS BUSH

Garlands' Bush on Rahiri Road, Mount Maungatautari, Waikato, is protected by an open space covenant, and when about 50 members of the Waikato Forest and Bird Society visited it in July, Trust regional representative Stuart Chambers went too. He talked about the Trust and how it operated, and handed out Trust pamphlets. Two people expressed an interest in covenants on their land. Rex Garland, owner of the 12 hectare forest, spoke enthusiastically about the Trust and the visit.

Garland's bush is a particularly fine stand of kamahi and mangao, some of the latter being 30 metres high, and covered in fruit. There are also very tall kamahi and rewarewa. Some members of the party spent

a lot of time identifying the fungi and ferns which grow profusely on the rich forest floor, untouched by browsing. The aspleniums and filmy ferns were especially attractive. Birdlife is scarce, but the party heard the occasional bellbird.

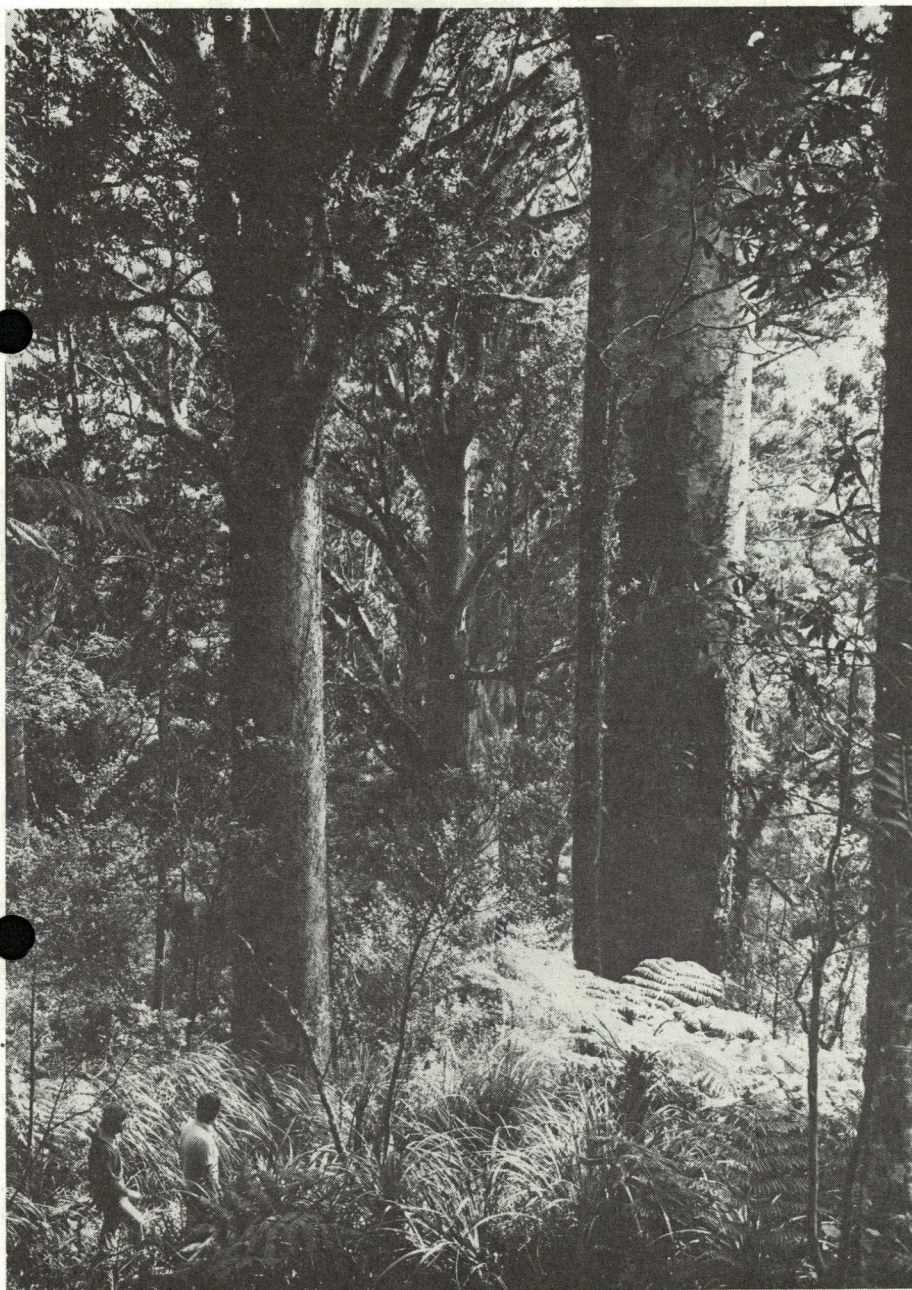
This relatively small trip to a small bit of bush was very enjoyable and informative, and reminded people of how important these small forest remnants are, particularly to botanists but also to ornithologists and nature lovers generally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank David Henshaw of Waikato for permission to use his drawings on pages 11, 12, and 14 of the last newsletter (10).



Garlands Bush, looking north to Lake Karapiro



Kauri forest

NEW ZEALAND'S FORESTS

"Today the preservation of native forests has become a very important conservation issue with highly sophisticated, extremely well-informed and active conservation organisations fighting to save the remnants that are left. New Zealand's forest cover is now reduced to approximately 6.2 million hectares, or 23 per cent of the total land area. In contrast, Japan (the second most important importer of New Zealand forest products), with a population density approximately 27 times greater than that of New Zealand, has a forest cover of 67 per cent."

New Zealand's Forests
Harriet Fleet
(Heinemann 1984)