



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

NO. 12 SUMMER 1986

The Queen's Visit

In February the National Trust was honoured with a visit from Her Majesty the Queen to Taupo Swamp. The Queen had earlier requested that she see some aspect of the Trust's work. Most of the land that the Trust protects, either by covenant or purchase, is in rural areas, remote from city centres, and Taupo Swamp was the one Trust property that was close enough to other places on the Royal Itinerary. However, it was also appropriate for Her Majesty to see it for a more important reason: its significance as open space.



Her Majesty the Queen escorted by Trust Chairman Hon L W Gandar to view Taupo Swamp.

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Taupo Swamp, north of Wellington by State Highway One, is 27.4 hectares of wetland, one of the few remaining examples of the freshwater wetlands that once covered large areas of parts of New Zealand. It contains several rare or uncommon native plants, including a buttercup, nettle, willow herb and rare vegetation types. Also the native fish, the giant kokupu, thrives there.

It was not necessary for the Queen to wear gumboots to see the Swamp, as some had speculated, because a wooden platform was built on the side of the road overlooking the area. This was generously donated to the Trust by Fletcher Development and Construction Ltd.

Her Majesty arrived at the wetland on the morning of 27 February accompanied

by a motorcade of 15 cars. Her Majesty was greeted by the Minister of Customs, the Honourable Margaret Shields, who introduced Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, Chairman of the Trust and a Queen's Privy Councillor, His Worship the Mayor of Porirua Mr J Burke, and Trust Chairman Hon. LW Gandar, and Deputy-Chairman Mr Gordon Stephenson. Mr Gandar then presented the Trust directors, Mr Maui Pomare who was representing local Maori interests, and Trust Manager Dr Alan Edmonds.

Her Majesty was then escorted to the viewing platform by Dr Edmonds and Mr Gandar. Dr Edmonds explained the significance of Taupo Swamp as an important open space and answered Her Majesty's questions.



The Taupo Cub pack of Plimmerton waiting for the Queen to arrive. Last year the cubs raised \$187.23 which they contributed to the Trust's purchase of the wetland.



The Queen, escorted by Mr Gandar, looking at the photographic display of the Trust's work.

Following this, the party moved into a marquee set up on the edge of the wetland, where Her Majesty viewed a photographic display of the work of the Trust, escorted by Mr Gandar.

With Trust directors in attendance, Mr Gordon Stephenson then made a presentation to the Queen on behalf of the Trust. As Mr Stephenson handed Her Majesty the gift of a stone sculpture, he made the following speech:

"We would be honoured if your Majesty would accept this small token of New Zea-



land's open space. It is a sculpture of greywacke, a rock which forms much of the spine of New Zealand. It is inlaid with copper, jasper and greenstone. The sculptor, John Edgar, shaped it as much as for the pleasure of its feel as for the beauty of its simple lines. We hope that your Majesty might, at times, touch this stone, think of New Zealand, and feel thereby some of the peace that flows from being in our beautiful open spaces."

The stone sculpture was chosen because it symbolised the open spaces and the beauty of the land that the Trust is involved with.

The sculpture was inside a small rimu box which had a Trust logo discreetly carved onto the lid.

Both the sculpture and the box were made by Auckland artist John Edgar, who began painting and carving in wood and bone in 1975. Before that, with a BSc.

From left, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, past Trust Chairman, Gordon Stephenson Deputy-Chairman and Directors Rei Bailey and Juliet Batten at Taupo Swamp.

Hons, he had worked as a research chemist in Canterbury. In 1978 in Parnell, Auckland, he set up the first stone carving workshop, and began exhibiting in 1979. John Edgar's exhibitions include an exhibition of New Zealand crafts at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 1984, and "Pakohe", an exhibition of argillite carvings at the Dowse Gallery, Lower Hutt early this year.

Gordon Stephenson, Trust Deputy Chairman, presenting John Edgar's sculpture to the Queen inside the marquee at Taupo Swamp.

The greywacke, jasper and greenstone sculpture in the rimu box made by artist John Edgar and presented to the Queen by Trust deputy chairman Gordon Stephenson. Photos by Eric Taylor



BNZ Site — Urban Open Space

The National Trust has recently become interested in the future of a significant site in central Wellington city. It is at the corner of Lambton Quay, Willis Street and Customhouse Quay, at present occupied by the old Bank of New Zealand building and owned by the Wellington City Council. The City Council is presently attempting to uplift the open space designation applied to the site and the National Trust is objecting.

In the early 1970s when the Bank of New Zealand was given approval to increase the height of its headquarters, (the tall black tower block opposite the old site), the development rights were transferred from the old site to the new block. An open space designation was then assigned over 40% of the site occupied by the old building. The City Council purchased the old BNZ site in 1975 with the intention of forming an open space reserve.

In 1980, after a successful application by the Historic Places Trust, the Wellington City Council registered the four buildings on the site with Historic Places Trust categories "B" and "C". This created an anomaly i.e. an open space designation and an historic building designation.

The City Council held a competition in 1984 for future uses and developments of the site resulting in a proposal for keeping one of the buildings intact, retaining the facade of another, and constructing a multi-storey tower block on another part of the site.

Negotiations began between the developers of the accepted proposal, the Historic Places Trust, and the City Council. Then, in 1985, the Council set about resolving the anomaly by taking steps to uplift the open space designation in order to let some of the buildings remain. The National Trust, other organisations, indi-

viduals and mercantile houses considered this an inappropriate move, and formally objected to the proposed uplifting of the designation.

The Trust has been instrumental in coordinating the objectors.

In summary the objectors seek to retain the open space designation on the grounds that: there is need for open space in the inner city; uplifting of the designation would have an adverse effect on public confidence in the integrity of the district scheme; the present buildings are not necessarily unique nor do they conform to present zoning provisions; the proposed scheme change fails to address the critical issue of alternative provision for open space; and associations which the site has with the early history of the city would be lost by such proposed developments.

Until now, the Trust has worked mainly with rural open space. The BNZ site is an example of one of the many inner urban areas that could properly be developed as open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the public. This issue presents an opportunity for the National Trust to become involved with the protection of urban open space and might well develop another role for the Trust.

TAUPO SWAMP NAME

In earlier publications, Taupo Swamp was referred to as Plimmerton Swamp. This was the local name, based on the settlement Plimmerton, south of the wetland. At a recent meeting of the Taupo Swamp Management Committee, a proposal to recognise the Maori name of the wetland was suggested by committee member Ms Tungia Baker. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and consequently the wetland is now known as Taupo Swamp.

The question of whether the wetland is a swamp, bog, or mire was also discussed. Although it is sometimes described as a topogenous mire, because of the way it was originally formed, swamp is considered to be an accurate description.

HARWOOD LOOKOUT

The Harwood Lookout on the top of the Takaka Hill is now completed. The location sign, interpretation panels, and commemorative plaque are being installed on the site.

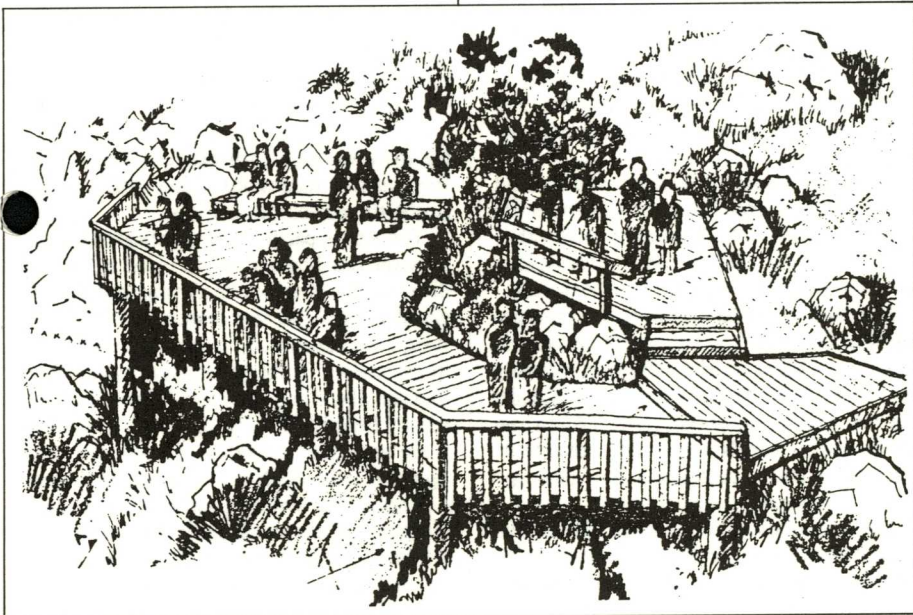
The lookout is on the property of the Harwood family, on Takaka Hill, 60km north west of Nelson. Mr and Mrs David Harwood own the 1200ha sheep and cattle farm which consists of easy flats in the Upper Takaka Valley, the steep west side of the Takaka Hill, and

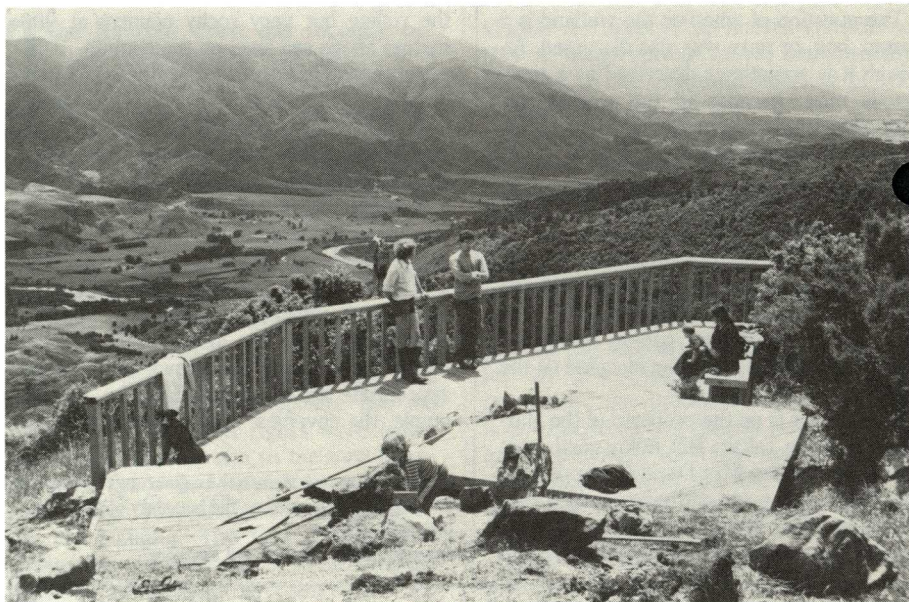
the rolling but very rocky country at 900 metres above sea level on the summit.

An open space covenant protects 153 hectares of this rocky (karst) land. The surface is broken with limestone outcrops of relatively pure calcite, interspersed with native shrubs and small clumps of beech forest. It is a dramatic, rugged landscape, with spectacular views of Tasman and Golden Bays, and is a major tourist attraction in the area. The lookout is not in the area protected by an open space covenant, but the land immediately surrounding the lookout will be covenanted to protect the views and ensure appropriate and compatible land use. For example, the covenant would prevent inappro-

The A D Harwood Memorial Lookout on the summit of Takaka Hill, located on the boundary of three Ecological Districts

Drawing: Boffa, Miskell and Partners.





appropriate planting of exotic forestry or quarrying.

The lookout was designed by Landscape consultants Boffa, Miskell and partners, and built by Mr Rex Bolwell, a local building contractor.

All the timber for the lookout was donated by Baigent Construction and a generous donation was made by Mr David Harwood. Other funds are being contributed by the Golden Bay Promotion Society, and the Lions Club.

The National Trust is grateful for this support and is pleased to contribute to what is becoming a major tourist attraction. Already tour buses from Nelson stop at the Takaka Hill summit to enjoy the views. When the interpretation panels are constructed, tourists will be able to read about the landscape as well as enjoying the beauty of it.

The lookout consists of a large lower viewing platform and a smaller upper deck where the interpretation panels will be mounted. The panels will depict the panoramic view with

The Harwood Lookout under construction, with the Takaka Valley in the background.

the features named, for example the peaks of the Tasman mountains. They will also describe the ecological districts.

The site is particularly significant because it is on the boundaries of three ecological districts: the Wangapeka, Arthur, and Golden Bay districts. The key features of these districts are: extensive limestone formations, mostly beech forest (Arthur); alluvial valleys (Golden Bay); and geological diversity, with mostly beech forest (Wangapeka). These are three of the nine ecological districts that make up the Northwest Nelson Ecological Region.

The interpretation panels will also point out some of the areas special features such as the rocky outcrops and the special vegetation (eg: clematis and olearia) that is specific to limestone country.

Election Results



Members will be interested to know that Dr Juliet Batten and Mr Gary Taylor have been elected to represent Trust members on the Board of Directors. Their appointments are from 1 April 1986 to 31 March 1989, when another election will be held.

JULIET BATTEN

Juliet Batten is now in her third, and necessarily final, term as Trust director. Juliet has a background in environmental studies particularly as a lecturer at Auckland University. From 1973 to 1983 she was involved in the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, first as secretary and then president. She has been active as a Trust Director since her election in 1980, and is a member of the Executive Committee, and Chair of the Communications Committee which oversees publicity and special projects.

Dr Charlotte Wallace with fellow directors Mr Stuart Masters and Professor Peter McKelvey at the Trust Board meeting in February 1986.

GARY TAYLOR

Also from Auckland, Gary Taylor is an Environmental Consultant in private practice, and is serving his second term as Councillor of Waitemata City. Gary is an original member of the Trust and was active in organising the acquisition of Lake Wainamu Reserve. He also coordinated the successful application for a National Water Conservation order for the Motu River, providing free legal consultants through the Environmental Defence Society.

CHARLOTTE WALLACE

Dr Charlotte Wallace has completed her second and last term as a Director elected by Trust members. Instrumental in devel-



Trust Board of Directors April 1986

Back left to right: Mr Owen Jennings, Professor Peter McKelvey, Dr Juliet Batten, Dr Charlotte Wallace, Mr Assid Corban, Mrs Bunny Mortimer, Mr Rei Bailey. Front left to right: Mr Stuart Masters, Hon Leslie Gandar, Mr Gordon Stephenson.

oping the concept which led to the establishment of the National Trust, Dr Wallace has continually introduced and emphasised to the Board new philosophies and principles, in particular drawing on her first hand experience of overseas Trusts.

Dr Wallace has consistently urged the Board to bear in mind the importance of the fact that landowners voluntarily approach the Trust. She has also emphasised that small areas can be of equal value as

larger areas, and she felt that the Trust should respond positively to all requests from private landowners to protect their land.

Accepting that not all areas offered for protection meet the necessary criteria for open space covenants, Dr Wallace also advocated the Trust should develop other ways of recognising the value and importance of such areas.

The tremendous National Trust activity in the Waikato, for example with 32 covenants registered and 80 under consideration, can be largely attributed to the decade of active promotion of the Trust by enthusiasts such as Dr Wallace. The Trust is grateful to Dr Wallace for her extensive contribution to its development and direction.

NEW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Ian Williamson is the Trust's new regional representative for the Otago area and the High Country. Ian, married with four children, lives on a small holding, "The Hills", Hodges Road, Waimate. For 10 years Ian was Manager and co-owner of Birchwood Station in the headwaters of the Ahuriri River where he was brought up, and then farmed 800 acres for 23 years at Ikawai in South Canterbury. Ian has had considerable public and community involvement, particularly as a Federated



Ian Williamson, Otago and High Country regional representative

Farmers office bearer (Chairman of Waihao Federated Farmers from 1981). He has also worked with dog trialling, A and P Societies, and school committees in the Oamarama, Ikawai and Waimate districts. Most recently Ian has chaired the Federated Farmers Confidence Committee assisting the farmers affected by droughts.

MINISTER VISITS

In early April the Honourable Russell Marshall, Minister of Conservation, visited the Trust to learn more about its work and statutory responsibilities. The one and a half hour working lunch provided a valuable opportunity for the exchange of information and questions. Staff members gave talks and showed slides on different aspects of the Trust's work — gifts and bequests, open space covenants, and landscape protection projects — and Trust Manager Alan Edmonds commented on the Trust's future association with the new Department of Conservation. The presentations were well received by the Minister, and future meetings planned.

SIGNS

The Taupo Swamp sign which the Queen saw is the first of a new series of National Trust signs. That particular sign was temporarily removed after the Royal visit in order to be put into its permanent position at one end of the wetland. Another identical sign will be at the other end.

The sign is made of laminated timber in which the Trust logo and the name of the wetland are expertly carved by Hamilton woodworker Derek Kerwood. Derek is working on several other signs for Trust owned properties around the country.

Changes and Activities

CONFERENCE

Trust Chairman Mr Gandar spoke to 200 delegates of the New Zealand Catchment Authorities' Annual Conference in April about the work of the Trust, in particular the ways in which the Trust and the Catchment Authorities' can cooperate.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr Gandar will represent the National Trust at the Fourth International Conference of National Trusts in June. He will chair the Landscape Conservation Session which will be introduced by a speech on the role of the (British) National Trust in landscape conservation, clearly of direct relevance to our own responsibilities. Delegates from thirty countries, including such diverse places as Fiji, India, and Zimbabwe, will be able to exchange views, methods and policies over the eleven days of the conference.

SOMERVILLE MEMORIAL GROVE

In memory of the late Max Somerville, Trust director, the Somerville Memorial Grove was opened in Brook Park, Te Kuiti on 9 March 1986. Trust Deputy Chairman Gordon Stephenson and Director Bunny Mortimer represented the Trust at the ceremony.

"PROBLEMS IN THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE"

"Problems in the agricultural landscape" is a report written by the Agricultural Landscape Research Project, Lincoln College. The National Trust contributed fi-

nancially to it and edited it.

The report summarises the findings of stage one of an agricultural research project which studies the farmed landscape and identifies characteristics and qualities, past and present changes, and their effect on the landscape's appearance.

The report should be relevant to many government departments, agencies and individuals who influence agricultural land use. It identifies conflicts between such groups which suggest that their policies and procedures need reappraisal.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to general increased costs, the Trust Board agreed to new subscription rates, to be applicable from 1 April 1986. They are now:

Individual \$15

Junior (under 18) \$5

Corporate-ordinary (firms, business organisations) \$75

Corporate-special (societies, voluntary organisations, schools) \$20.

Life \$300

Additionally, GST will be levied on subscriptions for the last 6 months of the 1986-87 financial year.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Trust members will be interested to know about a new book published by the New Zealand Environmental Council, "Environmental Ethics — a New Zealand Contribution". The collection of essays by philosophers and ecologists includes a discussion on the reasons for preserving species by Alistair Gunn, a Waikato University teacher, and Alan Edmonds, Trust Manager.

GARDEN HISTORY GROUP

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture at its AGM in May 1985 agreed to form a Garden History Group to foster and encourage the documentation of New Zealand early horticultural history. A Garden History Section is to be included in the RNZIH Journal, and a list of people carrying out work and research will be compiled and updated. Eventually it is

hoped to publish a bibliography of articles, in New Zealand journals to do with garden history.

There will be a seminar at the RNZIH conference on Monday 19 May at Otago University, to discuss and establish the aims and objectives of the Garden History Group. Anyone who is interested would be welcome to attend this founding meeting (contact Robert Scott, University of Otago).

Open Space Covenants

By the April Executive Meeting, 123 open space covenants had been registered, and 450 approved by the Board.

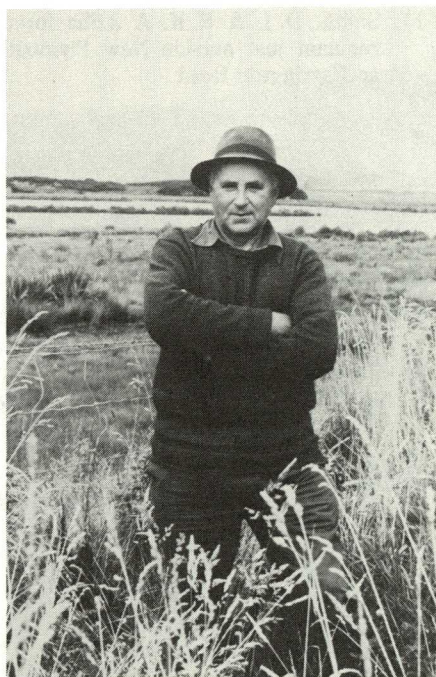
NEW REGISTERED COVENANTS

North Auckland

1. Keene, R. L. 17ha of native forest in Kaitia.
2. Stowell, R. F. & A. A. Whole title covenant protecting 8ha of bush and coastline near Purerua Bay on Te Puni Inlet.
3. Smith, D. M. & G. A. 8.4ha forest remnant at Maungatapere off State Highway 4.
4. Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, 45.5ha of wetland and forest remnant at Te Henga, in the Waitakere, West Auckland.

South Auckland

5. Mark, J. R. & A. 2 areas of bush totalling 38ha on Te Matai Road, 18km south of Te Puke.
6. Bradshaw, W. E. Whole title covenant



Horrie Sinclair at his wetland at Waipori, Otago.

protecting 1ha of bush, 1km from Ohope Post Office, overlooking the beach.

7. Culloty, H. F. J. Two areas, 2 ha of bush and 6.8ha of Lake Rotongata, Rotongata Road, 12km south of Arapuni.
8. Gluyas, W. 14.7ha of forest remnant, mostly tawa, 3km south of the Waitomo Caves.

Gisborne

9. Reed, N. R. 3 forest remnants totalling 26.5ha, 20km west of Tolaga Bay on Panikau Road.

Taranaki

10. Sinclair, R. M. & D. Three forest remnants totalling 14.4ha, 40km north of Taumarunui on State Highway 4.
11. Smith, D. J. & R. K. A 3.6ha forest remnant just outside New Plymouth on Carrington Road.

Canterbury

12. Prendergast, A. 55.8ha forest remnant at Otahuna, Taitapu, Canterbury.

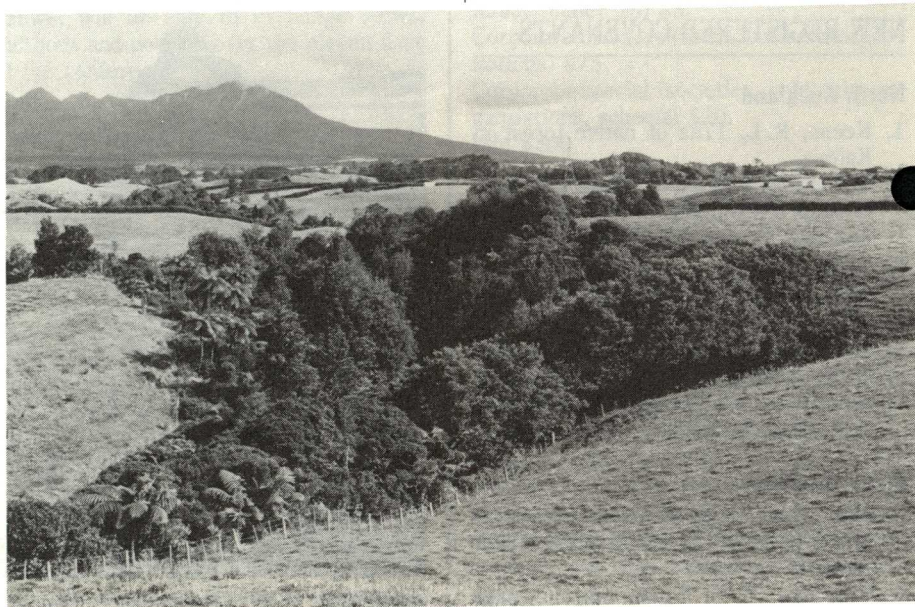
Otago

13. Ducks Unlimited. Whole title covenant protecting a 315.4ha wetland between Lakes Waipori and Waihola, Taieri plain.

STONY BAY, AKAROA

An open space covenant now protects a striking land and seascape in Stony Bay, one of the remote bays on the eastern coast of Banks Peninsula. Part of a farm, some 14km from Akaroa by a very steep hill road, the 15ha stony, ocean-facing

Smiths forest remnant near New Plymouth



beach front is protected to prevent intrusive structural works or other development which might spoil its visual qualities.

The owners of the land, Mark and Sandra Armstrong, are enthusiastic about the covenant, in particular because it allows the public to have continued access to the bay as long as they ask permission, and also because the Armstrongs can continue established farming uses and management.

The Armstrongs were prompted to seek an open space covenant after a Lands and Survey Department survey of Coastal Banks Peninsula commented on the number of bays where public access was restricted and also proposed buying beachfronts, perhaps for development.

The North Canterbury Catchment Board and the Trust made an agreement that enables Mark Armstrong to plant native species for erosion control on the land overlooking the beach, which he is very enthusiastic about. Flax, pohutukawa, rata, ngaio and cabbage trees have been planted.

This is a good example of a covenant protecting a coastal area which is an important feature of the overall Banks Peninsula landscape.

(The Trust acknowledges the assistance of the Agricultural Editor of the Christchurch Press).

Keene's 17 ha of native forest in Kaitaia.



CARE OF THE EARTH

“The care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”

from *The Unsettling of America*
Wendell Berry.