

NEWS LETTER

№ 2

JANUARY 1980



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

NEW FORMAT

Newsletter No. 2 is the first in our new format. We are distributing with it a reprint of Newsletter No. 1 so that members who intend to file them will have uniform copies. We hope that our next newsletter, to be issued in June, will contain coloured photographs of new properties placed under Open Spaces Covenants or of other areas in which the Trust is interested.

LAKE WAINAMU

Lake Wainamu, near Te Henga Beach, is the first property to be purchased for the Trust.

It is the largest natural lake in the Waitakere Ranges and adjoins the Te Henga Dunes Reserve, recently acquired by the Waitemata City Council. Also close by are a wetlands area belonging to the Royal Forest and Bird Society, the Cascades Kauri Park Reserve, which is administered by the Auckland City Council, and public land managed by the Waitemata City Council.

Together these areas make a valuable addition to the Waitakere reserves, containing as they do breeding grounds for waterfowl and other birds, regenerating native bush and a moonscape of dunes.

The lake was formed in recent geological times when drifting Te Henga dunes impounded the waters of Wainamu Stream.

The area supported a large Maori population for many centuries. It is strategically situated between the Manukau and Kaipara Harbours and had abundant food resources, including land suitable for kumara cultivation.

There are four important pa sites in the area and more than 70 other sites of archaeological significance including food pits, terraces, lookouts, burial places and middens. The ridge peak pa site between Lake Wainamu and Lake Kawaupaku contains the remains of a stone platform and four large terraces, all with stone retaining walls of a type found nowhere else on the Auckland isthmus. Many of the walls have collapsed but others are up to 2m high in places and are back-filled to form the terraces.

Early European settlement had a profound effect on the environment. John Bethel, who settled at Bethel's Beach in 1860, described one now-vanished piece of virgin forest as "the finest kauri bush I have ever seen. It should have been kept as a reserve for the city of Auckland. On the way through this forest the kauri branches would meet overhead, giants of the forest, straight as a reed for 60, 70, 80 feet without a branch or a knot."

The Lake Wainamu property, now vested in the National Trust, cost a total of \$180 000 made up of subsidies on donations to the Trust and contributions from the Department of Lands and Survey, the Waitemata City Council, the Auckland Regional Authority, the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society and hundreds of private donors.

An aerial view of the lake, taken by Whites Aviation, appears in the centre pages of this issue.

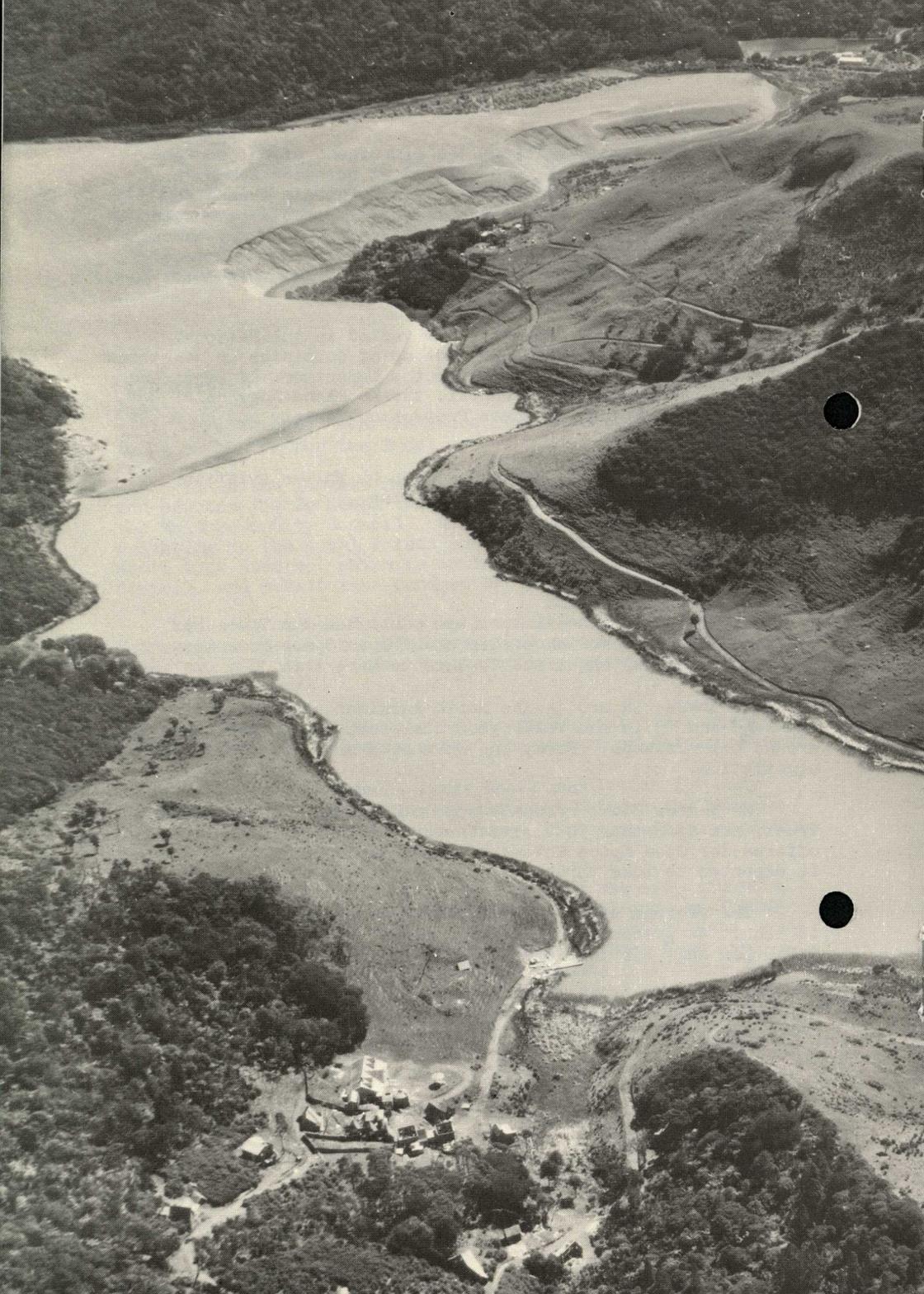
THE TRUST'S WORK EXPANDS

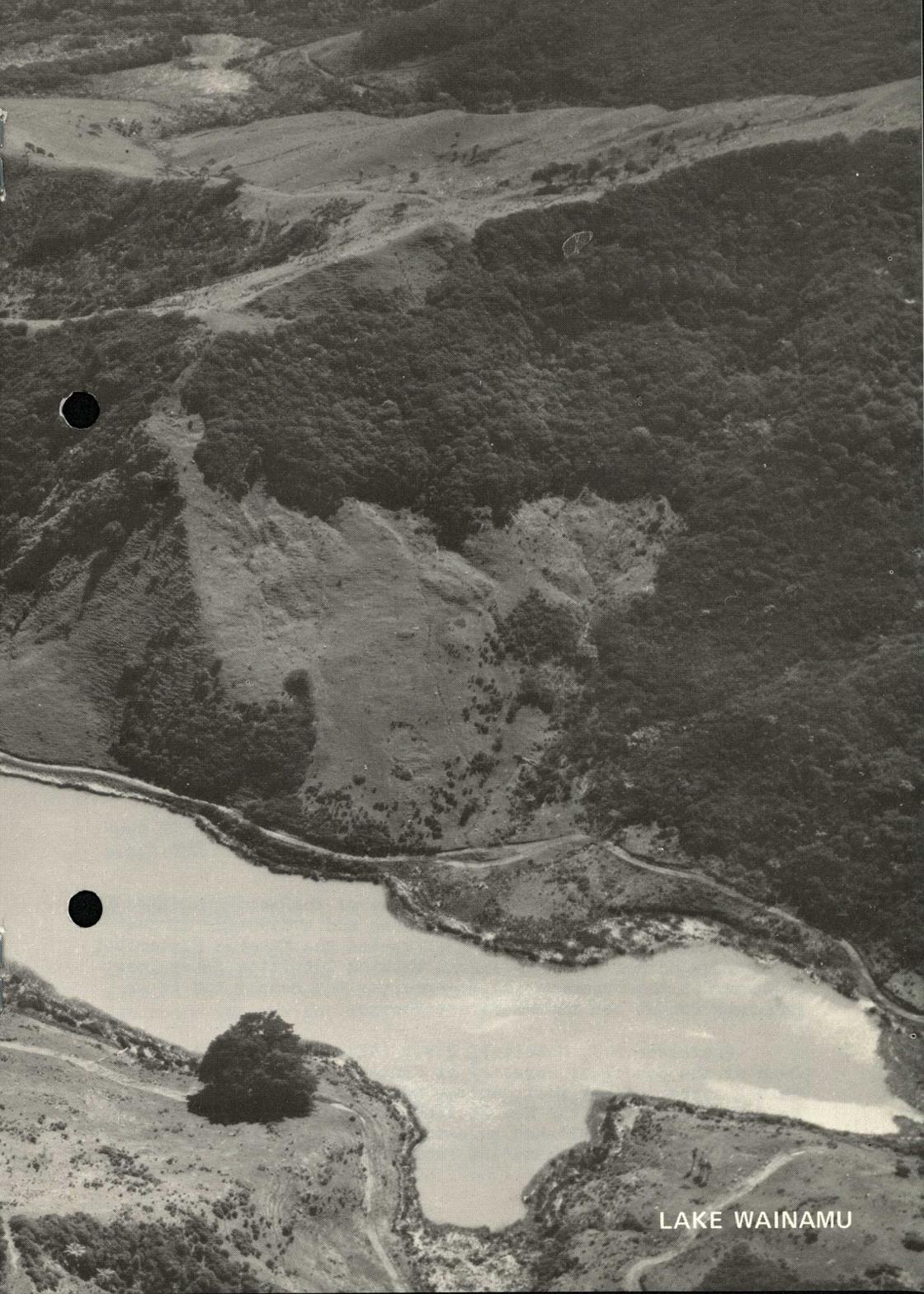
Since the last newsletter was published the Trust has received a further 100 enquiries about Open Space Covenants, bringing the total enquiries to date to more than 160.

Of these, 34 are in the North Auckland area, 44 in South Auckland and 33 in the Wellington district, with others spread around both islands. Forty-one covenants are currently under negotiation.

Mr Andrew Simm, recently appointed Field Officer for the Trust, has a further 50 visits to make to inspect properties offered for Open Space Covenants and this investigatory work is expected to take three or four months.

The average size of the areas to be protected under covenant is 52ha. At present it is costing the Trust an average of \$1240 per unit for fencing and weed control.





LAKE WAINAMU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are the directors who have been appointed to the Board for the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust by the Minister of Lands, Mr Venn Young, who is advised by Federated Farmers, the Counties' Association and the Municipal Association. Two more directors are to be elected by members of the Trust early in 1980.

The Rt Hon. Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, PC, KBE, Chairman of the Trust, has had a distinguished career in law culminating in his presidency of the Court of Appeal from 1973 to 1976. He was knighted in 1964 and appointed to the Privy Council in 1968. Sir Thaddeus has chaired a number of Royal Commissions and has played a major part in New Zealand public life during the past 50 years. Among his many interests are cattle farming, yachting and golf, and an abiding love of the New Zealand countryside.

Mr G.K. Stephenson, B.Sc. (Agric.), Deputy Chairman of the Trust, is the immediate past chairman of the Dairy and Beef Section of Federated Farmers and convenor of the working party of the Land Use Advisory Council. He has a 103ha mixed dairy and beef farm near Putaruru. He is actively involved in the Trust's work in the Waikato and was originally associated with the Federated Farmers' Heritage Trust Scheme.

Mr Assid Khaleel Corban, JP, is president of the Auckland Local Bodies' Association, Mayor of Henderson and Chairman of the Auckland Regional Authority Parks Committee. He was until recently full-time executive of the long-established family wine making firm. He is a keen orchid grower and has been a member of the New Zealand Orchid Society for 25 years and president for nine.

Mr O. Jennings is vice-president of the West Coast Provincial Section of Federated Farmers and a director of the Karamea Dairy Company. He is chairman of the Karamea Historical Society, a member of the Westland Walking Committee, West Coast convenor of the organisation to preserve the Heaphy and is an honorary ranger for the NZ Forest Service.

Professor P.J. McKelvey, B.Sc. (NZ), B.Sc. (For.) (Edin.), Dean of the School of Forestry at Canterbury University, has held a number of key posts in the New Zealand Forest Service. He was President of the New Zealand Institute of Foresters for 1974-75. He has published scientific papers on indigenous forests in New Zealand and the Pacific.

Mr C.S. Masters is an Auckland businessman and past-president of the Bureau of Importers and Exporters. He is chairman of the Auckland division of the National Party and vice-president of the party. He has been secretary of the Auckland section of the Alpine Club and has always been interested in outdoor activities.

Mr J.M. Somerville, OBE, has been president of the New Zealand Counties' Association for the past five years. He is a member of the Waitomo County Council and the Waikato Valley Authority. He farms 250ha of sheep and cattle country near Te Kuiti. He has been a keen climber and tramp for many years.

MANGANUI-A-TE-AO

The Trust is actively supporting the petition to save the Manganui-a-te-Ao River, illustrated on the cover of this issue. The Trust believes that any power scheme large enough to be economic would adversely affect the natural recreational and environmental qualities of the river. Government policy gives the Trust an advocacy role in the protection of wild and scenic rivers and the aims of the petition clearly correspond to those of the Trust.

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

The Trust's advertising campaign in "Straight Furrow", "New Zealand Farmer", "Journal of Agriculture" and "Forest and Bird" has brought in 63 enquiries to date.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Chairman, Board and Officers of the Trust wish all members and intending members a happy holiday season and look forward to a new year in which many more stretches of beautiful landscape will be set aside to be preserved for all time.

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