



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

# newsletter

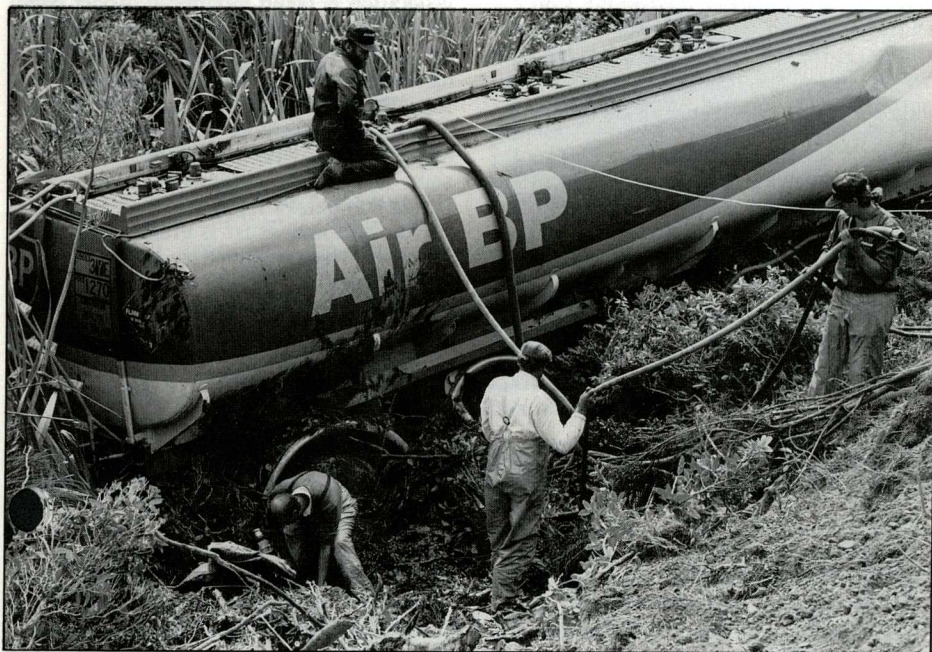
No. 23 APRIL 1991

## Taupo Swamp Spill

**O**n Thursday March 14 a fully loaded BP tanker carrying 27,000 litres of jet fuel ran off State Highway One into Taupo Swamp. The tanker was on a trip to Ohakea Air Force

Base.

One of the tanker's 4000 litre compartments ruptured in the accident and 3000 to 4000 litres of fuel leaked into the Swamp.

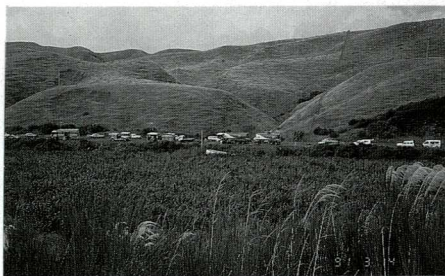


The remaining fuel in the tanker is pumped out before the tanker is lifted out of the swamp.

Photo: Courtesy of The Dominion

## IN THIS ISSUE

Additional Financial Support	2	Registered Covenants	8
Wyn Harris Covenant	4	Munro Covenant	14
Bequests, Gifts, Endowments	7	Notable Tree Scheme	17



**The accident disrupted traffic on State Highway 1.**

The driver was taking evasive action to avoid a southbound logging truck. A Ministry of Transport spokesman said that the logging truck was travelling close to the centre line and its load was on the wrong side of the road. The tanker driver suffered facial injuries and concussion.

Fortunately the truck narrowly missed bringing down high tension wires which run parallel to the highway. The New Zealand Fire service and BP(NZ) Ltd responded quickly and efficiently to the situation, pumping out both the tanker and as much as possible of the leaked fuel from depressions in the ground around

the crash site.

The Fire Service's normal response would be to reduce the fire risk by spreading foam around the site. This was ruled out on the grounds of greater ecological damage. BP staff returned on subsequent days and continued to mop up as much fuel as they could.

It was unfortunate that heavy rain fell on the next day, washing the remaining fuel further into the Swamp. Since that day however, there has been a spell of fine warm weather. The combined effects of evaporation and ultra violet light and biological activity should remove the remaining threat from the Swamp.

The impact on the wildlife and vegetation is being monitored. Apart from some fish deaths immediately around the crash site there have been no reports of distressed wildlife. The Wellington Regional Council has checked the Taupo Stream at its outflow from the Swamp and no fuel has been detected. It will be some time before the impact on the vegetation shows itself.

The National Trust is grateful for the efficient actions of the Fire Service and BP (NZ) Ltd in quickly dealing with this potentially destructive incident.

## Additional Financial Support

**R**ecently the National Trust received significant financial support from two sources, the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and the Forest Heritage Fund.

Early in March the National Trust was told that \$98,450 had been granted by the NZ Lottery Grants Board to be used for open space covenants. A grant of \$26,845 was also given to complete a programme of path repair and rebuilding at Tupare.

In the last Newsletter we stated that the Trust would continue to apply to the

Forest Heritage Fund for assistance with covenanting and other work. We are very pleased to report that at the December meeting the Fund approved applications from the Trust totalling \$82,000. All but \$5,000 of this (which was for land purchase) will be committed to fencing and survey work on 12 covenants totalling some 630 ha.

These two grants have provided very welcome additional finance which will help to reduce the amount of covenant fencing and survey work which has been held over until funding was available.



# “Partial Retirement” for Ben (Alec) Thorpe

**B**en Thorpe, the Trust's longest serving staff member, has recently retired from head office work. However, he will carry on his working association with the Trust acting as a part-time Regional Representative for South Wairarapa. This is an area which has experienced considerable new open space covenant activity in recent years, and Ben's association with this will be of continuing benefit to the Trust.

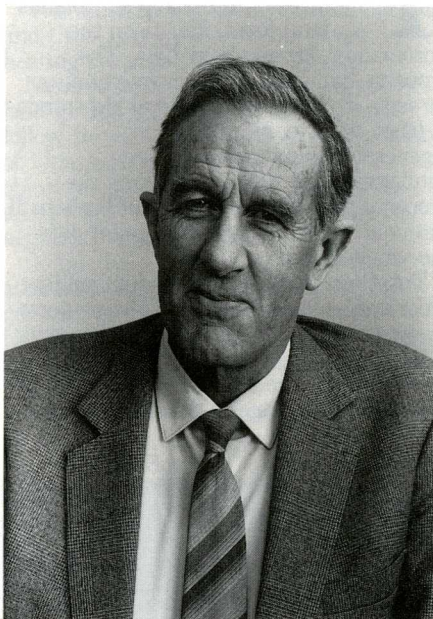
A brief history of Ben's time with the Trust indicates the very considerable contribution he has made and his significant role in the development of the Trust.

Ben came to the Trust as Executive Officer in October 1979 only 18 months after it started. At the time the Trust was very much feeling its way. With a very broad legislative mandate the Trust had to choose which role it could best perform for the greatest benefit of conservation.

Some of the elements of that mandate included acting as adviser to the Minister, arbitrating, initiating wild and scenic rivers conservation orders, receiving overtures on and later accepting very substantial property gifts, purchasing, or co-ordinating the purchase of property, and becoming increasingly involved in open space covenants to protect privately owned landscape features.

Since then the Trust's work has tended to concentrate on covenanting, property ownership, and landscape awareness and education.

Throughout this period of experimentation and consolidation, and with changes in Chairmen, Directors and staff, Ben was a primary focus for continuity and even at times quiet restraint, when enthusiasm from all quarters exceeded the Trust's resources.



**Ben Thorpe**

He acted as Executive Officer for some seven years, five of them as chief executive; since his “first” retirement from Executive Officer position, he has worked with the Regional Representatives and covenanting in the North Island, with particular interest in Maori lands and the Whenua Toitu Committee.

Many of the hallmarks of Ben's style are fortunately the hallmarks of the Trust's: consistency, integrity, and quietly getting on with the job.

We are pleased that Ben has chosen to continue his working association with the Trust as a Regional Representative, and very grateful for the contribution he has made to our growth and development over the last twelve years.

# The Tim Wyn Harris Covenant

**T**im Wyn Harris purchased his 344 hectares of forest and scrublands up Paul Road, Tairua on the Coromandel Peninsula in 1985. The property had some large rivers running through it. There were several big stands of kauri with many pockets of regenerating rimu, tanekaha and kahikatea. Soon after purchasing the property he invited the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust to place a covenant over the whole title.

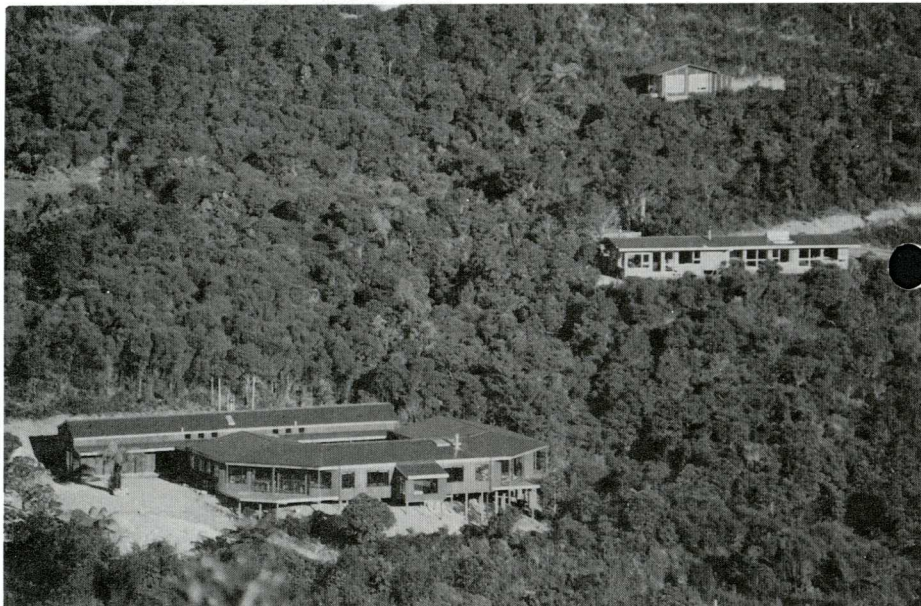
Tim then started an extended building programme; in the middle of the property he constructed a large building known as 'The Barn'. It had access by walking track through the bush, a twenty minute walk, and had sleeping facilities for large

parties. Water came from a ram pump in a nearby creek; there was no electricity.

Construction of three retreat huts followed that of 'The Barn' and these were located even further into the property. All had sweeping views over bush, farmland and out to sea. Access again was by walking track.

The purpose of all the buildings was to provide places for people to escape from the pressures of everyday life. These were places where people could find peace and tranquility; where only tuis and bellbirds called by day and moreporks by night.

Many people have since visited Te Moata, as Tim Wyn Harris calls his land; the enthusiasm has been such that expansion of the programme was



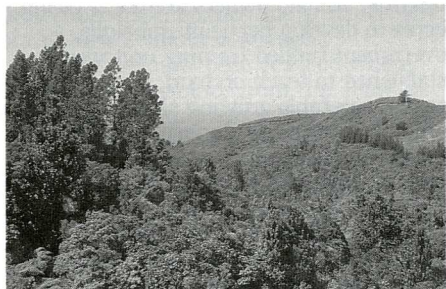
The new centre (bottom left) with Tim's house (centre) and retreat hut (top).



ultimately called for. After a visit to the USA, where Tim participated in a meditation course, the idea for building a meditation centre in the quietness of the bush was developed.

Aided by donations from overseas and considerable assistance from local friends on the Coromandel Peninsula, Tim embarked on an ambitious building project. A large dormitory block was constructed complete with dining area, library and meditation rooms.

The building blends in harmoniously with the surrounding protected bush and



Looking toward the sea from the Haybarn.

it has many pleasant features. One is its internal courtyard planted with native trees and with a central fountain.

Others include the timber lining of all the rooms and the views of the protected bush which can be seen from every window and especially from the sunken lounge area with its comfortable chairs.

The building has solar powered lighting and there is a wood-fired hot water heating system. Cooking is by gas.

Meditation courses are now regularly held in this peaceful environment and follow the Buddhist silent forest tradition of Vipassana (silent meditation). The object of this meditation is to free the mind from distortion, self-centredness, negativity and confusion.

So far the courses have been well attended with pupils also enjoying the network of bush walking tracks, the birdlife, the botany, the river swim holes and the chance to get right away from the present.

Should anyone be interested in visiting Te Moata they can contact Tim Wynn Harris at PO Box 100, Tairua.

*Stuart Chambers  
Waikato Regional Representative*

## Subscription Renewals for 1991

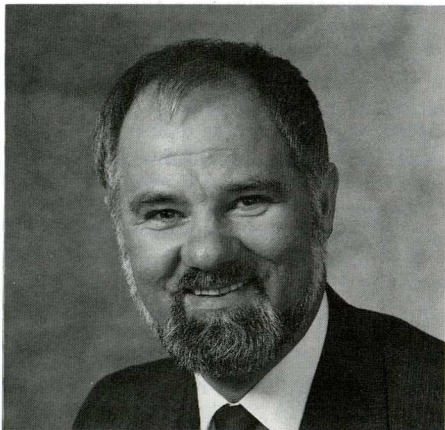
Individual subscription renewals have been coming in at an encouraging rate in recent months, along with a small but steady flow of new members. The Trust is currently installing a new computer-based information system, and a membership "package" is an integral part of this system. Such a system, proven and tested, is essential before we can develop our membership base.

Corporate and endowment subscriptions and major donations have also been coming in, although with some companies having to reduce their contribution in a

difficult economic climate. We are very grateful for continuing support so far this year from:

- \* Alexander Stenhouse Ltd
- \* ANZ Bank
- \* B & C Hewett Charitable Trust
- \* BP (NZ) Ltd
- \* Department of Survey & Land Information
- \* E B Firth Trust
- \* Landcorp
- \* Mobil Oil NZ Ltd
- \* New Zealand Rail Ltd
- \* Sir Ron and Lady Trotter

# New Bay of Plenty Regional Representative



Stephen Parr

**S**tephen Parr of Tauranga has taken up a new position with the Trust as representative for Bay of Plenty.

His early work experience was with the Forest Service as a Forest Ranger and included carrying out vegetation surveys in the Urewera Ranges as well as high country revegetation research in the Kaweka Ranges.

Later as a forest supervisor for NZ Forest Products Ltd Stephen was responsible for the development of public recreation and scenic reserves within the forest, and river catchment reserve strips in areas of scrub conversion.

A part time, propagation tree and shrub

nursery led a move to horticulture. This later included obtaining a National Diploma of Horticulture and establishing three acres of blueberries.

He went on to establish a horticultural company in the Tē Puke area which assisted multiple owners of Maori land to develop viable horticultural blocks. This resulted in the development and management of a number of kiwifruit orchards. To help owners and local young people to develop horticultural skills, a government funded training unit was established to teach orchard, nursery and organic vegetable growing skills.

As a consequence Stephen became further involved with training including being a committee member for the Horticultural Cadet Scheme.

With a subsequent down turn in horticulture and an increasing interest in financial and investment matters he set up a partnership company offering business and investment advice. Further study and experience has enabled him to become a Registered Financial Planner specialising in business matters.

However, becoming office bound created a desire to put his feet on the ground again. Stephen says that the new position with the Trust will allow him to continue to make a contribution to the conservation values in which he believes.

His current interests include sailing in square rig tall ships.

## Newsletter Issues for 1991

**D**ue to current financial constraints it is the Trust's intention to publish only three issues of the Newsletter this year. The Trust has also faced a steep increase in

postage costs for the Newsletter since New Zealand Post have lifted the circulation numbers requirement for postage permits.



# The Queen Elizabeth National Trust as Trustee and Beneficiary

## Bequests - Gifts - Endowments

**T**he National Trust, established in perpetuity under its Act of Parliament, has a unique role as a permanent trustee. It is able to accept bequests, gifts, and endowments for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the New Zealand landscape.

A stage has now been reached where demand for assistance from the Trust to protect significant areas of open space far exceeds the Trust's resources. The National Trust needs to increase its income and capital not only to assist materially now but to seize upon opportunities as they become available in the future.

There is an increasing awareness that the National Trust can be a perpetual trustee, that it can own, manage and lease property; and that the Trust can assist in management during a proposed benefactor's lifetime. In making decisions about property ownership, or maintenance, the Trust considers the simple criteria written into its Act: - does it facilitate "the preservation of a landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific or social interest or value?"

Demand for the Trust's assistance is ever growing. With the generosity of benefactors our ability to protect significant features of New Zealand's landscape will increase.

The National Trust has been the recipient of a number of bequests, gifts and endowments, and has been advised of several intended bequests. Also it has continuing communication with a number of people throughout the country concerning future protection of property.

In some cases this concerns property which will ultimately provide income for the general work of the Trust. A specialist officer is available without obligation for confidential discussions concerning any gifting proposal.

Whilst the Trust has received generous gifts for its general work, there has been an increasing inquiry for gifts to be channelled to specific activity areas, for example covenants, education, gardens, and property purchase. Accounting procedures now provide for this. In certain circumstances, such as an endowed development proposal, there is opportunity for the establishment of a separate trust fund. Being a statutory body, the National Trust must report annually to Parliament. Its accounts and books are examined by the Audit Office.

Gifts of property are free of estate duty where there is clear title transferred. Gifts and donations are free of gift duty. The National Trust is a charitable trust under the Charitable Trusts Act. The Trust's income is free of tax under its Act.

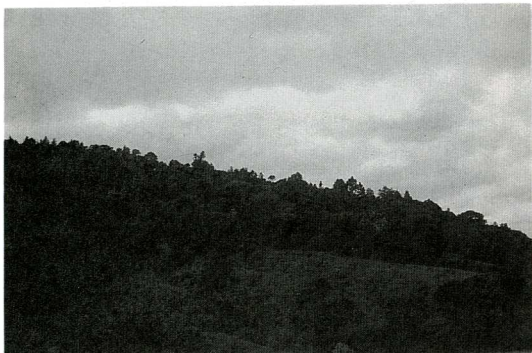
The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust has established a record of achievement in protection of areas of open space in its twelve years of existence with hundreds of trustee responsibilities throughout New Zealand. There is an insert about gifts and bequests with this issue, if you would like more information about the Trust or for an officer to call for a confidential discussion.

*Ken Davidson  
Special Adviser*

# Open Space Covenants

**B**y February 1991 there were 457 registered covenants, while a further 358 were approved and proceeding towards registration.

## RECENTLY REGISTERED OPEN SPACE COVENANTS



General view of Bell covenant

### AUCKLAND DISTRICT

1. **BELL AG & CA.** Awanohi Road, 6km from Albany.  
Three hectares of regenerating bush have been protected. The covenant area contains a wide variety of species including kahikatea, kauri, taraire, puriri, rimu, tanekaha and rewarewa.
2. **WRIGHT DS & AF.** Tenders Road, Dairy Flat.  
A 2.67 ha area of regenerating bush has been covenanted. Predominantly manuka there is also a small group of medium sized kauri as well as kahikatea. This extends a series of other nearby covenants.
3. **RIVETT CL & LF.** Peach Hill Road, Drury.

Two forest remnants totalling 10.32 ha have been covenanted. Situated on steep sided gullies the remnants contain some large rimu and a variety of other species including kahikatea, tawa, miro and cabbage trees as well as some large ferns. Native pigeons and other birds inhabit the area.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

4. **BURT T & S.** Corner of Matata and Mimiha Roads, on SH 2, Matata.  
Easily viewed from Matata Road. The 6.96 ha covenant area comprises white cliff faces studded with pohutakawa with some mahoe as well as cabbage trees. When flowering the pohutakawa make a striking display.
5. **DAVIE L & W.** Ross Road, Whakamarama.  
A 4.21 ha area of bush, bounded by the Waipapa River, has been protected by covenant. It is highly visible from Ross Road. Bellbird, tui, tomtit, and pigeon are especially prominent in the area.



Cliff face, Burt covenant

6. **BARTZ K.** Onewhero - Tuakau Road, 6km from Tuakau.  
A small forest remnant has been protected by covenant. The 2.92 ha area is adjacent to the Harker covenant. It contains old puriri, taraire and regenerating kauri.





Bartz covenant

**TARANAKI DISTRICT**

7. KENDELL GR. Tongaporutu, North Taranaki.

The covenant protects two blocks of bush totalling 110.8 ha. Comprising beech and mixed podocarp species, 36 different types of native and introduced birds have been recorded here by the owner. The small block is very close to SH 3 while the much larger second block follows the steep hills above the

Tongaporutu River and is alongside SH 40.

**HAWKES BAY DISTRICT**

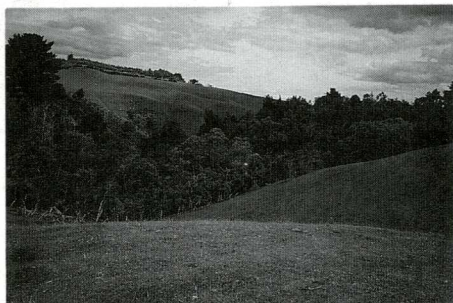
8. SIMCOX RT & PJ. Puketitiri, 50 km west of Napier.

Two areas of bush totalling 5.07 ha have been covenanted. Visible from Little Bush Road the area contains many young rimu plus a variety of other species including matai, miro, totara, kahikatea and lemonwood.

**WAIRARAPA DISTRICT**

9. TAWERA PARTNERSHIP (JVA & PM REID). Longbush, on the Gladstone - Martinborough Road, 32 km from Masterton.

The covenant protects a 3.51 ha area of bush which contains a wide range of species including kanuka, totara, titoki, rewarewa and karaka.



Gully on Simcox covenant

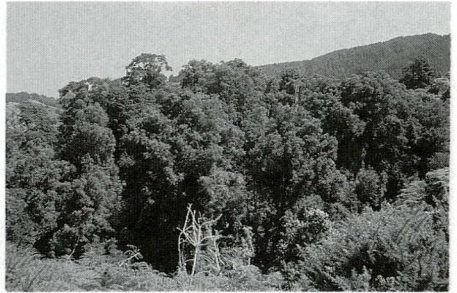


**MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT****10. MOORHOUSE DS & GW. Awatere Valley, Blenheim.**

18.14 ha of wetland and seepage zone on a Marlborough high country property have been protected. The covenant area contains large areas of flax, sedges and raupo, with manuka, kanuka, cabbage tree, matipo and tauhinu. Being a watershed adjacent to Ferny Gair Reserve it provides a habitat for a range of birds including shining cuckoo, morepork, tomtit, robin, paradise duck, mallard, fantail and pukeko. This wetland is one of the few remaining of its kind on the Awatere Fault.

**NELSON DISTRICT****11. MORAN L & M. Lloyds valley, near Orinoco valley, 24 km southwest of Motueka.**

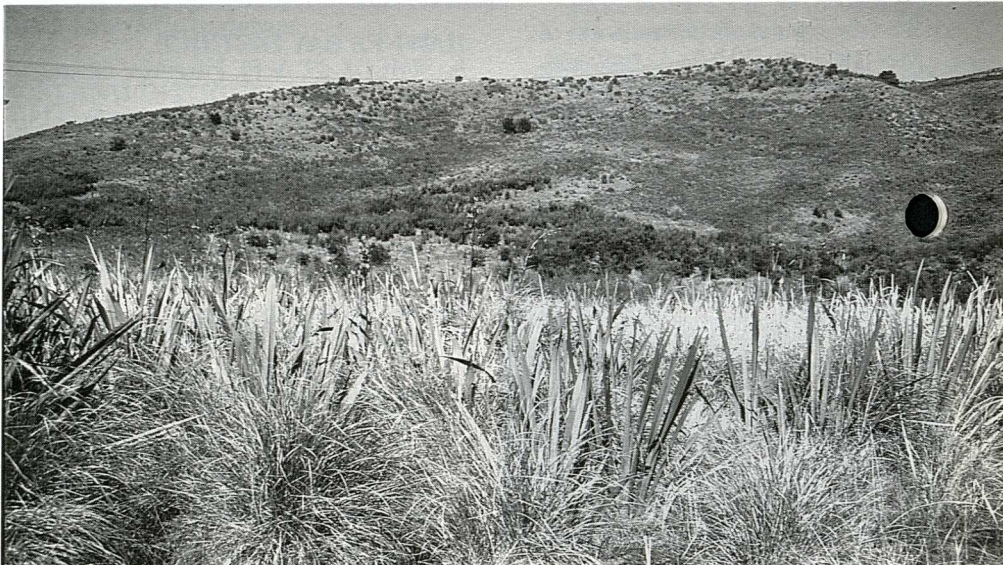
4.43 ha of bush have been protected representing one of the few remaining remnants in the area. It contains totara, matai, miro, rimu, red beech



**Moran covenant**  
and titoki.

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT****12. MEARES GG. Bluecliffs, 26 km south west of Timaru.**

A 9.40 ha bush remnant in the Hunter Hills has been protected by covenant. It adjoins the 16 ha Robbs Bush which was gifted to the Trust by the Rhodes Estate. The dominant species are lacebark and ribbonwood with mahoe, kowhai, broadleaf, five finger and fuchsia.



**Moorhouse covenant**





Mears covenant  
Photo: Eric Taylor

# New Regional Representative for Taranaki

**T**he Trust has recently appointed John Murphy of Hawera as representative for Taranaki. This is the first time that the Trust has had a representative based in this region: it was previously covered by Eddie Suckling in Palmerston North.

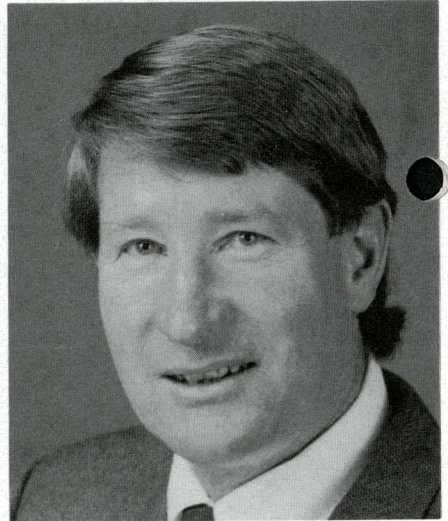
John and his wife Marion live on their 95 hectare property "Four Winds Farm" which carries 270 milking cows. The farm is currently run by a manager.

Born and bred in Taranaki, John studied at Otago and Massey Universities before undertaking a variety of farming work. At this time he was also active in the Young Farmers Club.

Subsequently he was involved in the development and marketing of the Allflex Eartag, a family business, now Allflex International.

In 1980 John was awarded a Kellogg Rural Leadership Scholarship and participated in an intensive leadership course at Lincoln College. He served as the Taranaki Provincial Chairman, Agriculture Section of Federated Farmers in 1982.

John extended his business experience by assisting to set up the New Zealand operation for a American based skiing tour company, and then formed his own tourist and marketing company.



**John Murphy**

More recently he was appointed to and trained for the position as New Zealand Rural Trust financial adviser for the Taranaki Region. Through this John was actively involved with debt restructuring and counselling for local farmers.

Having a keen interest in the region's natural heritage John has already found his new position with the National Trust both interesting and rewarding.

## Director Stands Down

**M**arilyn Waring, Trust Director for the last three years resigned in March 1991.

Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy said "During her term Marilyn worked very energetically for the Trust, not only at regular board meetings but particularly at Trust functions in Northland and Auckland. She is a most innovative thinker and the Trust has benefitted from

her ideas and enthusiasm."

Marilyn Waring's commitments with international consultancies and the University of Waikato have meant it was difficult for her to continue as National Trust Director.

The Trust's Board and staff are grateful for her significant contribution and wish her well.



## Gift for Tupare

A timber garden seat has been donated to Tupare by the Meadowbank Garden and Beautifying Society in Auckland. Made by Legend Garden Furniture in Amberley, North Canterbury the seat is crafted in a traditional design in keeping with the formal landscape garden at Tupare.

This generous donation from the Meadowbank Garden and Beautifying Society will enable visitors to rest and enjoy the garden. A plaque on the seat acknowledges the gift. This is the first donation of its kind to the garden.

There are many opportunities to enhance facilities for visitors and the Trust welcomes donations for garden projects.



## Overseas Visitors to the Trust

In a short period after Christmas we had three very welcome overseas visitors.

- Mike Calnan, Gardens Adviser with the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is based at Cirencester, and oversees about a quarter of the National Trust's gardens in the west of England, and in Wales. He visited New Zealand as part of a Churchill Scholarship study tour including Australia and California. In particular he was looking at historic garden conservation and wind break species and design. Mike visited Tupare and Hollard Gardens as well as giving Wellington staff an illustrated talk about his work.
- Alasdair Oatts, Factor for Lothian, Fife and Borders with the National Trust for Scotland, has responsibility for most Trust property activities in that part of Scotland. He described, again

with slides, the work of his Trust, and drew comparisons between Scotland and our own National Trust.

- Pru Palmes is a Farm Conservation Adviser with the Devon Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, based in Exeter. This trust (similar trusts cover other parts of England) operates in a style comparable to the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, but with an emphasis toward wildlife protection which is particular to England. Pru was on a study tour and visited a number of Trust covenants in the Bay of Plenty (where she was hosted by Trust Director Jenny Seddon) and in other parts of the country (she was hosted by Director Hamish Ensor in Canterbury). She also distributed a questionnaire to a number of farmers as a basis for comparing attitudes toward conservation in the two countries.

# A Covenant With a Difference

I can well recall the National Trust's founding chairman, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, addressing a meeting of regional representatives towards the end of his term of office. He made a plea for a greater level of diversity in open space covenants.

Sir Thaddeus will no doubt derive some pleasure in learning about the Munro covenant at Mokotua in Southland. While this 64 hectare area does contain four small podocarp remnants (notable for regenerating rimu) it also includes peatland and a very significant created wetland. These features combine to make a very diverse and valuable wildlife habitat.

The Munro property lies on the northern margin of the once great

Awarua- Waituna peatland complex. The covenant complements the nearby and internationally significant Waituna Wetland Reserve and has attributes not found in the Reserve.

Ron and Gay Munro are a young Southland farming couple who, like many of their generation, have a strong desire to live in harmony with nature and derive much satisfaction from it.

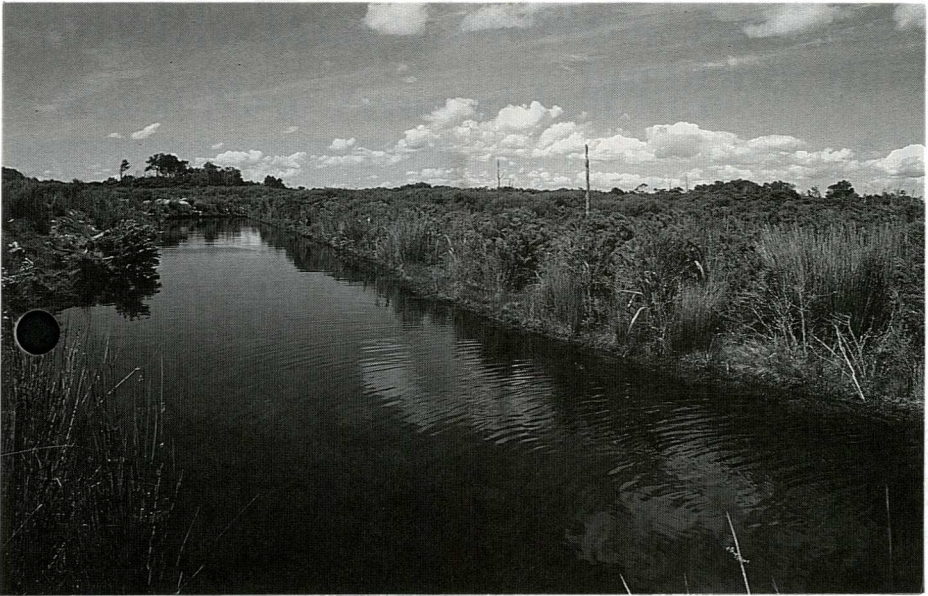
Ron is an enthusiastic breeder of native and exotic waterfowl. Overflow from this activity, which takes place near the homestead, is often evident in the wetland. It is not unusual to see Cape Barren geese or Australian shelduck among the masses of other waterfowl present.

As an extension to his interest in



The created wetland with Canada geese in the foreground and forest remnant behind.





**A typical section of the moat. Peatland, on the right, provides a fernbird habitat. The forest remnant is in the background.**

waterfowl and with the judicious use of an excavator, Ron has created a series of adjoining shallow ponding areas within the covenant. This has been astonishingly successful. In autumn there are teeming flocks of mallard, shoveler, grey teal, paradise duck and Canada geese. New Zealand scaup, black swan and grey duck (which is now scarce in Southland) are also present, not to mention pukeko, kōwhiri, shag and the elusive crake. A visit in springtime will further emphasise the habitat's value. The place is a hive of breeding activity involving practically all the species mentioned.

The peatland's main wildlife feature is the presence of a viable population of South Island fernbirds. A highlight of the peatland vegetation in summer is the native orchid in flower. The forest remnants and adjoining scrublands support a good population of native bush birds, particularly grey warbler, fantail and bellbird.

A further example of the Munro enthusiasm and ingenuity has been

excavating a moat along some of the covenant boundaries in lieu of fencing, making good use of the high natural water table. This has many advantages. Not only does it halve the cost of fencing, it is a permanent and easily maintained stock barrier, a durable fire break and an easily defined covenant survey boundary. The moat also serves as a valuable and well used addition to the waterfowl and water bird habitat.

While some aspects of this covenant are a departure from the norm there are other factors which are more typical. In particular these are the attitude and aspirations of the owners and the benefit to the wider community, now and in the future.

The satisfaction that the Trust's staff gains from coordinating such land owner goodwill and these protective covenant agreements is highly rewarding.

*Roger Sutton  
Southland Representative*

## Part Time Librarian Polly Buckland

**P**olly Buckland joined the Trust in October 1990 to look after our growing collection of books, journals, slides and photographs.

Polly has previously worked as a librarian at the Nuclear Sciences Institute and Applied Mathematics Division of DSIR, the New Zealand Forest Service and the Building Research Association of New Zealand.

One of Polly's main interests is singing. She is a member of both the Wellington Orpheus Choir and a madrigals group from Applied Maths Division called 'Musica Statistica'. Walking, short tramps and gardening are also hobbies.

Polly and her husband also have a one year old child, Emma, so other interests tend to revolve around her.



Polly Buckland

## Developments at Pyramid Valley

**H**awarden Area School in North Canterbury have for some time been interested in being associated with the nearby Pyramid Valley Moa Swamp covenant owned by Michael and Jan Hodgen. In particular, discussions have focused around replanting the area surrounding the swamp.

During 1990 the school received a grant of \$1720, from the 1990 Commission bringing that goal one step closer. The money has been put toward obtaining plants of local origin for revegetation work at the swamp. A number of community members have shown interest in the project, offering advice and support to the school.

Late last year the school held a

ceremony at the Swamp to commemorate 1990, to acknowledge the grant and to illustrate the school's commitment to the project.

Sixteen plants of species native to the area were planted; these included ribbonwood, karamu, kaikomako and cabbage tree. Assistance with this was provided by our Canterbury representative, Graham Dunbar, and local Trust director, Brian Molloy.

Hawarden Area School plans to organise working parties to visit the swamp from time to time, to remove weeds from around the plants. Members of the local community will also be invited to participate.



# Notable Trees for New Zealand

## A Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Scheme

**A**lan and Ngaire Hancock own a farm at Rangiwahia near Palmerston North. A very large totara (*Podocarpus totara*) has been a feature of the property since the Hancock family came to live there in 1886. An area around the tree was fenced off to create a private park.

At 1.5 metres above ground level the totara has a girth of eight metres. It is 30 metres high and has a canopy spread of 12 metres. Estimated to be 1000 years old, this tree is a remnant of the original forest which occupied the site. However at the time of fencing there were very few other native trees around it.

The Hancocks decided to give it "some of its own for company" and have since planted some 200 native trees in the park, which is open to visitors by appointment. While many people have commented on its timber value, most are amazed by the tree's age and size. They enjoy and value the totara as it is.

The Hancock's commitment to preserving the totara is underlined by their decision to register it as a Notable Tree with the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) in 1987. To see it as a benefit to the property without restricting their management options.

The Notable Trees Scheme aims to locate and identify trees of cultural value to New Zealanders. All trees, whether located in rural or urban settings, whether growing wild or in cultivation, have values recognised by most people. But some trees, as individuals or small groups, have associations or characteristics that make them special.

Such associations may have been with people, events or landscape patterns resulting in a spiritual or historic value to the tree. One such tree is taketakerau, a

puriri (*Vitex lucens*) in Opotiki. This very large, old tree is sacred to the Opokorehe hapu of the Whakatohea tribe. It was a burial site where the bones of distinguished tribe members were placed in the hollow trunk. Taketakerau grows in the Hikutaia Domain which was gazetted in 1927, after local Maori chiefs appealed to their county council to have their tree preserved. This tree is New Zealand's largest puriri, estimated at 2000 years old. Its girth at ground level is 21.3m, with a height of 20m and a spread of 24m.

Many people enjoy propagating and growing native plants, especially if they know the species is threatened in the wild. These cultivated plants are potentially very valuable for conserving those species in New Zealand, so long as the original wild source of the plant material is known. The genetic makeup of a particular species can differ significantly between regions. Many natives are also dioecious or unisexual, with each individual plant having only male or female flowers. For these species it is also important to identify and locate plants of both sexes.

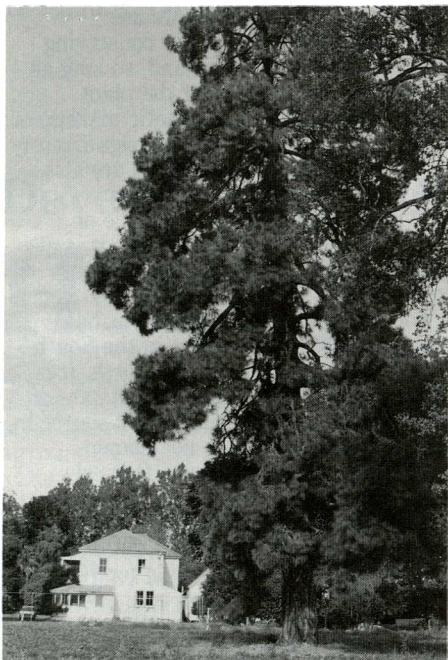
For example, *Pseudopanax ferox* has many localised populations in the South Island but only a few in the North. It is widely cultivated but these plants are of little conservation value as their source in the wild (provenance) is not known.

*Pittosporum "kaitiaki"* was formerly included in *P. obcordatum*, as variety *kaitiakiensis* but is now thought to be a species in its own right. It is dioecious and has not been seen in the wild for 70 years. However it is known from only one locality in Northland. Thus all cultivated plants of this species are suitable for efforts to plant into the wild and the conservation value of these plants is obviously very high.

While the National Trust and the Department of Conservation focus on protecting the natural habitats of these plants, the RNZIH Notable Tree Scheme is collecting information about our threatened species in cultivation. Through these combined efforts a significant contribution is being made towards the survival of these species.

There are of course many trees, particularly those planted around our homes, towns and cities, that are not native to New Zealand but have strong historical or scientific value. Some are simply outstanding examples of their species. The Notable Tree Scheme is also able to protect these trees.

An example is the Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) at Karamu in Hastings. It was planted about 1880 by the Hon. John Ormond. It is now the best specimen of its type in the country, combining great size and beautiful form.



The Canary Island pine at Karamu  
Photo: T Looij

On the other hand the Weeping Pagoda Tree that grows in Lower Hutt is only 5m tall. It was planted on the estate of Mr T Moson between 1840 and 1845 when the major European settlement in the region, the fledgling settlement of Petone, was still 6km away. This tree, *Sophora japonica* 'Pendula', is a relative of our own kowhai and is possibly one of only a handful in the world.

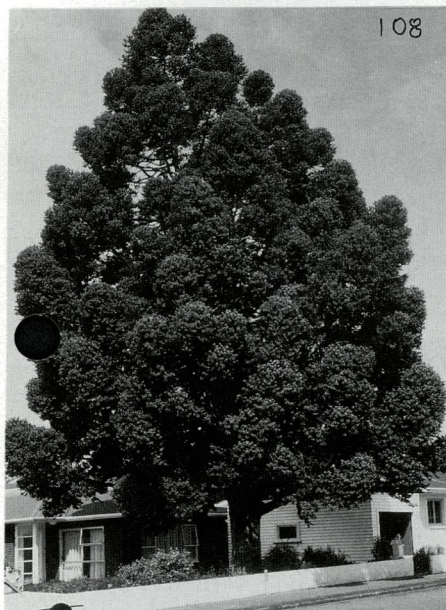
Listing trees in the Notable Tree Scheme serves two purposes. Firstly there is an educational role; coordinating information locally and nationally to make it more accessible. Also while there is currently no legislation to support the scheme, the recognition of the trees gained from listing does offer a measure of protection. Further protection is provided through local authorities who include these nationally notable trees as well as many locally important ones on their district scheme.

The first notable tree lists were compiled by Dr HH Allan, a well known New Zealand botanist, and were published in 1940-41 in the RNZIH Journal. Thereafter the NZ Forest Service collected information adding to the original list of 153 trees, SW Burstall making the largest contribution. His interest resulted in a book, coauthored by EV Sale "Great Trees of New Zealand" and published in 1984.

In 1977 the RNZIH set up the Notable and Historic Trees scheme, now shortened to Notable Trees Scheme, and a committee to administer it. Also that year local authorities under the Town and Country Planning act were given the responsibility of listing and protecting the trees that had amenity value in their area. As a result the Notable Trees Committee and council officers have worked well together.

In order for local bodies to effectively protect trees and seek compensation for damage they required a consistent basis for evaluating trees. The Notable Tree Committee were asked to address the problem. This led to "A Tree Evaluation Method for New Zealand", published in 1988. It provides a defensible and consistent means of evaluating amenity trees.





A registered kauri specimen at New Plymouth

The Notable Tree Scheme now has over 1200 trees listed under 202 registrations. All registered trees are provided with a plaque to promote public awareness. The committee is very keen to hear from people who either have trees on their property or know of trees they would like to see registered. They would also welcome enquiries from anyone interested in assisting with registration or information gathering.

RNZIH Notable Tree Committee  
PO Box 11379  
Wellington

*Chris Ferkins*  
*Notable Tree Committee Member*

---

## Victorian Conservation Trust

**T**he Victorian Conservation Trust, based in Melbourne, has closely modelled its work on that of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. It is a smaller organisation than the National Trust but is achieving impressive results in landscape protection with both covenants and property acquisitions.

National Trust General Manager Euan McQueen and his wife visited the Victorian Conservation Trust while holidaying in Australia in October 1990. Some Board members and staff have also spent time there in recent years. Euan McQueen gave a formal lecture with slides entitled "Conservation: Challenges for the Future" to the Victorian

Conservation Trust, as well as spending a day looking at covenanted properties and gardens associated with or owned by the Conservation Trust.

"It's always interesting, and instructive, to see how another trust approaches landscape protection questions", he said. "The Victorian Conservation Trust, like the National Trust in New Zealand, got off to a slow start, but has made real progress with limited resources in recent years. It's good to see New Zealand ideas applied to protected landscapes elsewhere, and particularly how these ideas are adapted to the Australian landscape."

# Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

## Board April 1991

Appointed by the Minister of Conservation after consultation with the organisation noted:

### CHAIRMAN

**Sir Peter Elworthy** of Timaru

### DIRECTORS

**Rei Bailey** of Wanganui.  
NZ Maori Council

**Hamish Ensor** of Methven.  
Federated Farmers of NZ

**Richard Alspach**  
Federated Farmers of NZ

**Margaret Mortimer** of Frankton.  
NZ Local Government Association

**Jennifer Seddon QSM** of Tauranga.  
Appointed by the Minister

**Elected by National Trust Members:**  
**Arthur Cowan MBE** of Otorohanga.

**Dr Brian Molloy** of Christchurch

### General Manager:

Euan McQueen

## Regional Representatives

### April 1991

#### NORTHLAND

**Fenton Hamlin**  
Waipapa Road  
RD 2  
Kerikeri  
Tel: (09) 407 7562

#### AUCKLAND

**Walter Willis**  
10 First Avenue  
Stanley Point  
Auckland  
(09) 4453 595

#### WAIKATO

**Stuart Chambers**  
649 River Road  
Hamilton  
Tel: (07) 559 939

#### BAY OF PLENTY

**Stephen Parr**  
PO Box 444  
Tauranga  
Tel: (07) 5787 658 Home  
(07) 5776 129 Work

#### TARANAKI/WANGANUI

**John Murphy**  
PO Box 227  
Hawera  
Tel & Fax: (062) 87 864

#### SOUTH WAIRARAPA

**Ben Thorpe**  
43B London Road  
Korokoro, Petone  
Tel: (04) 691 887

#### GISBORNE

**Richard White**  
14 Seymour Road  
Gisborne  
Tel: (06) 868 8269 Home  
(06) 867 2119 Work

#### MANAWATU/HAWKES BAY/ NORTH WAIRARAPA

**Eddie Suckling**  
8 Wikiriwhi Crescent  
Palmerston North  
Tel: (063) 75 726

#### NELSON/MARLBOROUGH

**Martin Conway**  
Palmers Road  
RD, Brightwater  
Nelson  
Tel: (054) 23 712

#### CANTERBURY

**Graham Dunbar**  
19 Hadlow Place  
Christchurch 8004  
Tel: (03) 358 8278

#### OTAGO

**Ian Williamson**  
32 McKenzie Drive  
Twizel  
Tel: (05620) 595

#### SOUTHLAND

**Roger Sutton**  
16 Vogel Street  
Invercargill  
Tel: (03) 215 7810

### Published by:

Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington.  
Colenso House, 138 The Terrace, Wellington. Telephone (04) 726-626

Registered at PO Headquarters Wellington as a Newsletter.