



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

# newsletter

No. 24 SEPTEMBER 1991

## Three Streams

**T**hree Streams, a beautiful property at Albany north of Auckland, has recently been gifted to the National Trust following the winding up of the Three Streams Trust.

The 3.7 hectare property was purchased in 1969 after months of searching around the Auckland region. Despite being

covered mainly by pines, with some gorse and blackberry, the site had much potential for revegetation and regeneration. Situated near the bottom of Albany Hill on State Highway One, it offered easy topography, three merging streams, good access and shelter. The remaining native vegetation was



Three Streams

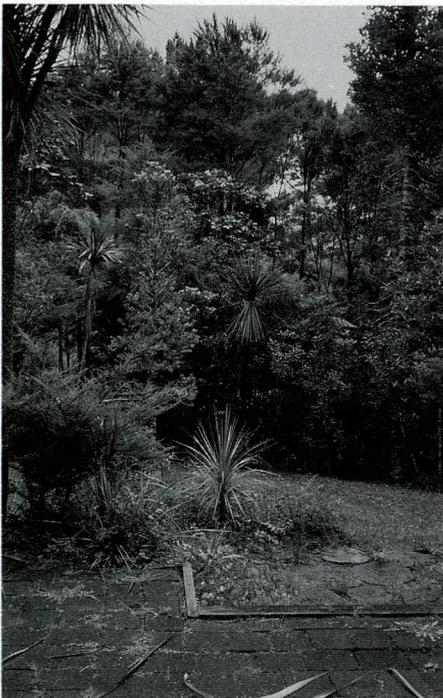
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regenerating well and the site seemed ideal for landscape work with further plantings.

The areas were quickly cleared of pines and weeds, with minimum damage to other vegetation, and large numbers of trees were planted each year. Most pine trunks were tidied up and left to rot. Nothing was burnt and everything went back into the soil. Some very beautiful pine trees were left to provide shelter. By 1975 the property was gazetted as the Three Streams Private Scenic Reserve.

A private roadway was built leading from the highway over streams and winding through trees to a comfortable home built from timber felled on the property. A Mediterranean pine, *Pinus pinaster*, was used for the interior panelling and beams. Large pine slabs,



Young kauri viewed from the patio.

cured with creosote, old oil and diesel were used on paths and the patio. Further felled pines and some manuka proved useful for banks, bridges and paths.

Prominent species in the indigenous regeneration were tanekaha, mapou, five finger and kumerahou in addition to the primary nursery and canopy provided by manuka, kanuka, mahoe, karamu, pate, cordyline and ferns. Other regenerating species include matipo, rangiora, putaputaweta, koromiko, *Scenecio greyii* rewa rewa and lancewood.

The original landscape plan included exotic species. However, with the then growing emphasis on the ecological value of native species, planting of exotics was confined to specific sites for colour and variety as well as to attract birds, bees and insects.

Plantings have followed the landforms, and some areas such as stream banks, where glow worms flourish, were left deliberately untouched. Many kauri were planted to accompany the original well grown survivor at Three Streams. The property also has a number of microclimates.

The three streams provide a constant source of interest. The water tumbles over natural rock outcrops, eddies in small ponds and flows down behind small weirs and dams. The ponding has been designed to slow down water flow and thus reduce erosion. The ponds also provide a habitat for the indigenous freshwater crayfish. As one would expect there is abundant birdlife at Three Streams. Tuis, pigeons, grey warblers, fantails and parakeets feature strongly.

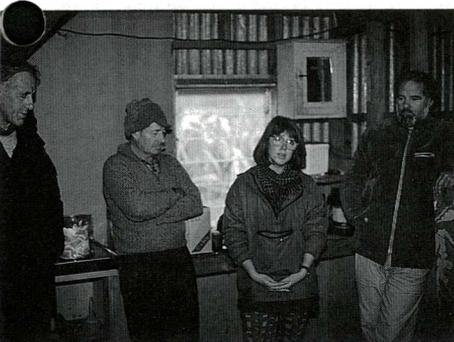
Three Streams is being developed as an arboretum and will eventually be open to the public as a scenic and scientific reserve. A management plan will be prepared under the direction of the National Trust. The Trust will be working closely with the North Shore City Council in the development of the property. All are confident that it will prove an outstanding acquisition and a real asset to the region.

## Regional Representatives Meeting

The National Trust's 12 Regional Representatives gathered in Wellington from April 9 - 11 this year. These meetings are usually held annually but due to financial constraints it had been 18 months since they last met as a group. There are not many occasions for most of the Trust to meet under one roof.

It was a valuable time to discuss the wide variety of issues that the Regional Reps encounter during their work for the Trust. It was also very useful for the Head Office staff to be able to talk with the group about a range of topics.

Sandwiched between two days of meetings was a field trip for Reps and other staff to the South Wairarapa via Taupo Swamp and the Jacobson/Smith covenant at Pauatahanui. Ben Thorpe gave a commentary as the group visited a number of covenants including the Cameron bush and lake at Lake Pounui, the Eglinton bush at Palliser Bay and Mrs B H Watters land at Taumata Island near Greytown. Unfortunately the weather became particularly bad that day so that the areas could not be seen at their best. However, morale was high and the consensus was that it had been a most worthwhile day.



In the Cameron's woolshed, from left to right: Ben Thorpe, Don Cameron, Michele Frank and Stephen Parr.

At Taupo Swamp the group heard Tim Porteous describe the excellent revegetation work undertaken over the last two years by Conservation Corps and contract labour funded by a Lottery Board grant.

Christine Smith braved the rain at their property at Pauatahanui to talk about their area of bush which has encouraged the growth of a rather unusual patch of nikau.



Ben Thorpe, Stephen Parr and John Murphy study an aerial photo.

Don Cameron's outline of Lake Pounui and its history was necessarily conducted in his woolshed which created a warm convivial atmosphere over lunch.

The forest floor in Mrs Watter's bush block has been sprayed with "Round-up" herbicide to combat Wandering Jew, (*Tradescantia sp*) with considerable success in one area but not so much in another where there is more light and more vigorous growth.

The day was pleasantly rounded off with a meal at Euan and Noline McQueen's house at Martinborough and the return journey to Wellington an hour and a half before the road closed due to flooding!

*Ben Thorpe*  
South Wairarapa Representative

## Legislative Change

**O**n 6 June 1991 the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Amendment Act was passed. Royal assent was given on 12 June.

The major feature of this Act is a restructuring of the Board of Directors. Until now it has comprised ten members; after the 31 July 1991 meeting there will be six. The Chairperson, as is the case now, will be appointed by the Minister of Conservation and two directors will continue to be elected by Trust members.

The other three directors are appointed by the Minister, after calling for nominations from interested organisations, and having regard to environmental and conservation values, the interests of rural landowners, and the interests of the Maori community. The Minister will consult with the Ministers of Agriculture and Maori Affairs, as well as with Federated

Farmers of NZ, before deciding on particular appointments. It is expected that these new directors will be announced by mid-October.

Other aspects of the Amendment Act include abolishing the Executive Committee; the Board will continue to have the ability to appoint special committees as the need arises. The position of Executive Officer disappeared, but there is provision for a chief executive officer, and a variety of other employment matters. There is a new ability to vary the terms of open space covenants in a way which is not contrary to the purposes and objectives of a covenant, but with strong safeguards on the integrity of the original proposal.

And, like all amending Acts, it tidies up points of consequential change to the major features outlined above.

## Greenbox

### A Collective Project from the Environmental Education Forum

**A** group called the Environmental Education Forum meets in Wellington every six to eight weeks. Established in 1990 the Forum provides an opportunity for representatives of a growing number of organisations involved in environmental education to meet, share ideas and information and to work together on common projects.

The first such project is Greenbox. The idea came into being through the frustration experienced by some groups in trying to send information to schools. Schools receive a great deal of material and it does not always find its way to the staff who would have the most use for it. After much thought and discussion it was decided that a collective effort would offer

many advantages. A box containing a range of information from the various groups could be sent out every six months to each of the 3000 primary and secondary schools throughout the country. The school could keep the box as a resource in the library and other relevant information could be added to it over time.

The Environmental Education Forum approached New Zealand Post with a sponsorship proposal. They agreed to providing boxes and delivery for two mailouts both in 1991 and 1992. Attractive green and white cardboard boxes were designed featuring the logos of nine organisations including the National Trust. Other participating organisations include WWF(NZ), Forest and Bird Protection Society, Department of

Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, DSIR, New Zealand Natural Heritage Foundation and Greenpeace.

The first Greenbox mailout was during early March. Over several days volunteers from the organisations involved and some student labour assembled and filled all the boxes in a large room at the old Post Office Headquarters Building. It was a first effort and a learning experience but generally things ran very well. The occasion also provided a further opportunity for communication between the groups; the cooperative atmosphere

was very encouraging.

Feedback from schools has been prompt and mostly very good. The information supplied is definitely filling a gap. It has certainly proved a very cheap and effective way for the Trust to have contact with all schools.

As the circle of the forum widens to include more organisations who wish to participate more information and resources will be supplied to schools. The next Greenbox mailout is planned for October.

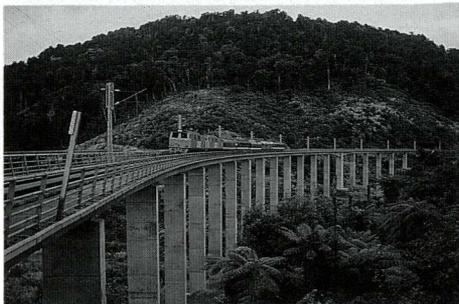
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## Railways and Conservation

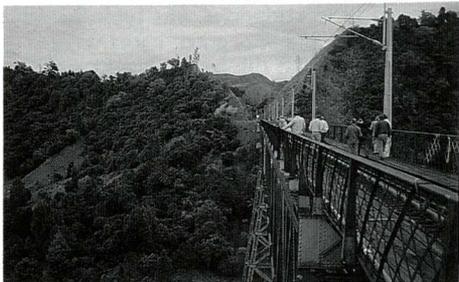
**N**ew Zealand Rail Ltd, which operates the nation's rail freight and passenger network and the rail ferries, made a special effort on April 30, 1991 to show how it was responding to conservation and environmental requirements.

Some fifty people from conservation and environmental groups (including the National Trust General Manager) were taken by special train from Wellington to National Park and back. The purpose of the 15 hour trip was to inspect major deviations, revegetation projects and their progress, and to give a general message about the environmentally friendly qualities of rail transport.

The key area of interest was between Ohakune and Horopito, where a lengthy deviation through the edge of Tongariro National Park had been handled with sensitivity by concentrating earthworks in a very tightly defined corridor, and extensive revegetation programmes. There were also other examples, such as at the Makohine Viaduct, where a major cutting replaced a tunnel close to an area of regenerating bush; again, great care was taken to minimise the impact of earthworks.



**The train crossing Hapuawhenua Viaduct, just north of Ohakune.**



**Makohine Viaduct**

The trip certainly provided a great opportunity to discuss conservation with a captive and like minded group on the train.

# Smeath Covenant



**Smeath covenant**

**B**ill Smeath's grandfather arrived in the Nupara district in 1870. Located between Opua and Moerewa in Northland it was typical bush country. The soil was good; kauri were relatively few and the forest cover was dominated by totara and rimu. Mills were established and the best trees felled for timber.

The Smeath home was built of roundwoods using totara and rimu rickers, in the style of a log cabin. The first home survived for some forty odd years, which must be have been good going for untreated sap wood in Northland's climate.

After the millable timber was removed the bush was burned, however, some puriri survived the burn-off as did the odd pockets of bush in the colder gullies. This

being a fairly friable soil it was ploughed by horses before sowing with grass seed.

Bill Smeath grew up on this property. As a youngster he walked to school at Pakaraka, and each day he passed through an area of taraire dominant bush. Over the years he came to know that bush well and it undoubtedly stimulated his interest in the New Zealand bush.

Today the 10 hectare block is protected by an open space covenant. It is typical of the original cover and contains many species including totara, puriri, rimu, miro, taraire, kahikatea, mamaku, towai, kohekohe and lancewood. Some of the miro and rimu are up to a metre in diameter. There are also some large towai which are becoming rare in the possum ravaged forests of Northland. Since the stock were excluded in 1983, an excellent

understorey has established. Bill did most of the fencing himself and did it very well to ensure good physical protection for many years to come.

In 1961 Bill was joint winner of the Bay of Islands Dairy Company, Farmer of the Year Award. Over the last six to seven years his farming policy has changed to one of buying in beef bred heifers and steers as weaners and selling fat. He keeps the heifers for 16-18 months and some of the steers are taken through a summer and winter and sold at heavier weights. Fortunately the bush was securely fenced before the change in farming policy for, as Bill points out, beef cattle are far more damaging to the bush than dairy types.

Today the bush is an attractive stand and is a feature of the local landscape. A number of visitors, including former Trust Chairman, the Hon. Les Gandar, have visited the area over the years. Tuis, kiwis, pigeons and grey warblers inhabit the bush. The pigeons appear to gorge themselves on the miro and taraire berries and often hit fence wires as they try to fly over the ridges.

This year Bill and Val Smeath have decided to sell their property. It has been in the Smeath family for three generations so it will be a major change for them. Fortunately for the Trust, Bill and Val will stay in the homestead for a couple of years and will continue to enjoy "their" bush and the attractive environment. The



**Bush interior**

Trust looks forward to developing a good relationship with the new owner, whom we are assured by Bill, is another good farmer and is very keen on seeing the bush looked after.

*Fenton Hamlin  
Northland Representative*

## Maori Name for the Trust

Over the last year the Trust has been discussing with the Maori Language Commissioner (Professor Timoti Karetu and then Sir Kingi Ihaka) an appropriate Maori name for the National Trust. Nga Kairauhi i a Papatuanuku (the guardians of Mother Earth) was suggested, but as the Commissioner commented, the name was rather long. He suggested it be abbreviated to Nga Kairauhi Papa; Papa is an abbreviation of Papatuanuku, but is

also a word for earth.

The very full title would be Nga Kairauhi Papa a Kuini Irihapeti Te Tuarua - but after further discussion, particularly with the Trust's Komiti Whenua Toitu, it was agreed that the most practical and appropriate name was Nga Kairauhi Papa.

As opportunity offers we shall introduce this additional name on stationery, in our head office, and on appropriate occasions such as at Trust functions. It captures so well what the Trust stands for.

# Open Space Covenants

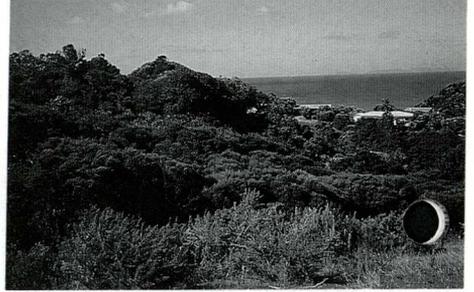
**B**y July 30, 1991 there were 477 registered covenants, while a further 417 were approved and proceeding towards registration.

## RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

### NORTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

1. McDONALD TPJ. Cove Road, Langs Beach, Waipu.

A block of bush in full view of Cove Road has been protected. The 8.65 ha covenant contains a number of very large, magnificent kauri. There are also numerous other species including puriri, totara, rewarewa, nikau, rimu and taraire. As well there is a stony stream flowing through the property.



McDonald covenant

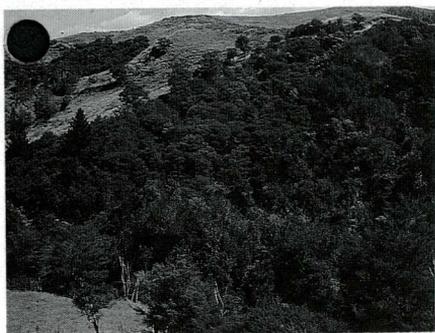
2. RAY GC & JR. North side of Conical Peak Road, approx 8 km north west of Matakana.

A 167.79 ha block of bush on steep country has been covenanted. About 30 - 40 hectares were never logged due to inaccessibility and they contain large northern rata, rimu, Hall's totara and a few kahikatea. There is a variety of birdlife with large



Southern access to the Ray bush.

populations of tui and pigeon as well as tomtit, fernbird and kiwi. The block is trisected by two streams which drop over 15 waterfalls. The streams join and leave the block as a branch of the Waiwhiu Stream. This block is part of a number of contiguous areas of native bush stretching into the Dome Valley and east as far as Mt Tamahanga and the Omaha State Forest.



Part of Howard covenant featuring tawa, kohekohe and pukatea.

3. DE MONCHY RA & K. Ponga Road, 5 km south east of Papakura. 8.10 ha of bush has been covenanted. It is close to a covenant owned by L & A Thurston and is an extension of that bush area. It contains a wide variety of species including kauri, rimu, tanekaha, taraire, rewarewa, kahikatea, puriri and many ponga.
4. GRAY KA & MJ. Ponga Road, approx 5 km south east of Papakura. The covenant protects 5.78 ha of bush adjoining a council reserve. Taraire, rimu, rewarewa and kahikatea are dominant; there are also puriri, some medium sized kauri as well as ponga and nikau. The bush can be seen from Ponga Road and is near the de Monchy covenant.
5. WRIGHT EE. Horseshoe Bush Road, Dairy Flat, 3km west of State Highway One. A narrow strip of bush with a small

stream at the bottom of a valley has been protected. The 1.30 ha covenant area has numerous kahikatea, rimu, puriri, taraire, rewarewa, nikau and ponga as well as 25 medium sized kauri. The owner has another registered covenant nearby, as are covenants owned by DS & AF Wright and RH Court.

## SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

6. HOWARD M. Wright Road, Katikati. Three areas of bush totalling 14.46 ha, including part of the Whatakao Stream, are protected by a covenant. Each of the areas contain distinct forest types. One has a mixture of podocarp, tawa, pukatea and kohekohe. The second is a wide gully with very ancient puriri trees, and the third protected area contains kanuka, rewarewa, five finger, mahoe and is regenerating into rimu.
7. HADLEY P & R. White Pine Bush Road - Taneatua - Awakeri Road, south of Whakatane. The covenant protects 17.93 ha of pristine forest on steep country. The forest remnant, which can be seen from Taneatua Road, contains tawa, rimu, miro with puriri and kohekohe. It is dissected by streams with numerous waterfalls. Birdlife is particularly plentiful in the area; pigeon, tui and bellbird are especially noticeable.
8. COULTER G & E. On SH 27, opposite the Waharoa Dairy Factory, near Matamata. A kahikatea remnant of 2.68 ha has been protected. The owners covenanted a solid belt of kahikatea running across the middle of their dairy farm. It provides a dense windbreak for much of the property and adjoins a small reserve. The trees are highly visible from the SH 27 and this is one of the few remnants of its type in the district.



Northeast view of Campbell covenant.

9. **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION** (formerly Hamilton Education Board). Main Road, Mokauiti, near Waitomo. A tall podocarp forest remnant next to the Mokauiti School site has been covenanted. The small but attractive 0.49 ha remnant contains kahikatea, rimu, pukatea, lancewood and several kinds of tree ferns. It sustains a variety of birds including pigeon, tui, bellbird, grey warbler, fantail and silvereye. The covenant was initiated in 1988 by the Chairman of the Mokauiti School Committee. Because the school was small and likely to be closed it was felt that the remnant would be vulnerable to milling. The school is now closed and the property will be sold with a covenant in place.
10. **WILSON J & H.** Poland Road, Waikino. The covenant protects four areas of bush totalling 16.50 ha close to the Coromandel Forest Park. The bush contains a diverse range of species including podocarps and kauri. The

owners purchased the property for its bush.

### **GISBORNE - EAST COAST DISTRICT**

11. **CAMPBELL RM.** Tablelands Road, 12 km southeast of Opotiki. Two blocks of bush totalling 6.35 ha have been covenanted. They contain a wide variety of species including rimu, tanekaha, kahikatea, miro, titoki, wineberry, tawa, rewarewa and northern rata. It is adjacent to the Alspach covenant.

### **WELLINGTON DISTRICT**

12. **LINDEMAN SE & JP.** 1 km south of Horopito, near Waiouru. 26.15 ha of bush have been covenanted on the boundary of Tongariro National Park. The bush is dominated by kamahi and contains a wide variety of other species including miro, totara, rimu, rata, matai and white maire. The covenant area can be seen from the main trunk railway.

13. EDWARDS DS & K. Pukewhai Road, north of Eketahuna in the Wairarapa. Easily seen from State Highway 2 and Pukewhai Road, 2.73 ha of bush have been protected by a covenant. It is a prominent landmark in the district. The bush is dominantly tawa with a variety of other species including titoki, matai, fuchsia, rewarewa, cabbage tree and lacebark.

### NELSON DISTRICT

14. WHITE AROWHENUA FARMS LTD (JR, AJ & PJ Dick). Pig Valley, 7 km from Wakefield.

Three blocks of bush totalling 12.9 ha on a steep hill country property have been covenanted. The bush is predominantly podocarp with totara, titoki, matai, kahikatea, pigeonwood and whiteywood. There are some very large kanuka also.

### OTAGO DISTRICT

15. OMBLER E. Clutha Cromwell Gorge. A whole title covenant of 6.29 ha, at the mouth of the Cromwell Gorge, protects a series of rock outcrops which form an outstanding landscape feature. The botanical values on the property are worthy of protection in their own right. This area is one of Central Otago's well known landmarks and there are no other protected areas of this type in the district.



Ombler covenant



The inner salt marsh and fernbird habitat at the Holvey covenant.

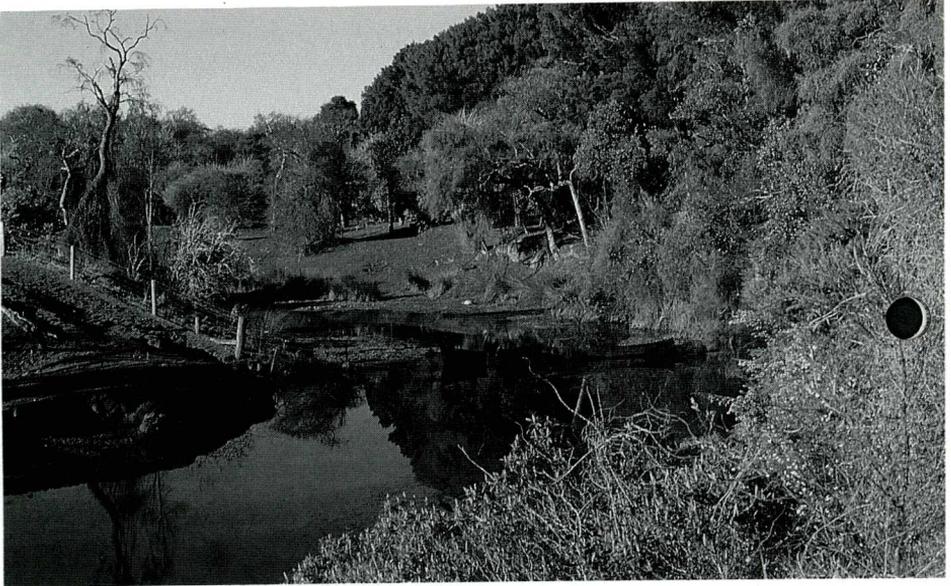
### SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

16. HOLVEY WB & BM. Grant Road, Otatara, Invercargill.

This semi urban covenant of 3.50 ha is of particular importance because it protects a wide diversity of native vegetation ranging from tall podocarp forest to salt marsh plants and is a wildlife habitat of very high value. It supports a remnant population of fernbirds being well known and much visited by local and overseas ornithologists. As well as being the site of New Zealand's definitive study on South Island's fernbirds it is also a traditional colonial roosting area for harrier hawks. The covenant area is easily accessible and has high potential for school studies.

17. TURNBULL DPF & IE. Channel Road, Tussock Creek, 20 km north east of Invercargill.

An outstanding podocarp forest remnant combined with significant wetlands totalling 34 ha have been covenanted. The wetlands are in the form of old stream bed oxbows. The vegetation is dominated by many large matai and kahikatea up to 3.9 m in circumference. There are also many large pokaka and lowland ribbonwood with kowhai, broadleaf and weeping mapau. A typical range of forest birds are present plus shoveler, paradise and mallard duck, black swans and herons



### Turnbull covenant

on the water areas. Marsh crakes are known to be present. The combination of large trees, pasture and water gives

the area a park-like atmosphere with high visual impact. It is an important local landscape feature.

## The Coming Year's Finances

**A**s in all agencies with a strong dependence on public funding, the National Trust is suffering financial constraints. Government funding for the year to 30 June 1992 will total \$880,000 - a basic grant of \$800,000, plus a \$100,000 grant (less GST). This latter sum is part of a five yearly payment of \$100,000 a year designed to replenish the Trust's capital funds, which were depleted some years ago in an era of financial uncertainty. The constraints have been exacerbated by the non-appearance of a promised \$200,000 in the 1990/91 year.

A major new element in Trust funding is the Forest Heritage Fund, established in 1990. This contestable fund (that is, any

organisation with a proposal to protect indigenous forest can apply to it) had some \$6.75 million available in the 1990/91 year.

The National Trust has been applying successfully for Forest Heritage Fund support since the Fund's inception, and so far has some \$570,350 approved for indigenous forest protection. In the case of open space covenants, the money is granted only for fencing and survey, and occasionally for other specific items eg legal cost of registration on titles. All the staff and other costs involved with covenanting must continue to be paid by the National Trust.

# The East Coast Region

The geography of the East Coast Region is a challenge of great urgency for our geologists and botanists as well as those working in the related sciences. The land movement and instability of the pastoral hill country has to be seen to be understood. The latter is bringing new in relation to our historic past - Lake Waikaremoana was created by a massive landslide. Another example is the gradual growth and formation of the Poverty Bay Flats. This occurred over a period of five thousand years at a time when the whole country was covered in heavy virgin native forest.

After 45 years of massive land movement in the Mangatu catchment (part of the Waipaoa river system) the first of the region's pine forests was planted to provide protective cover. It is now being cut as productive forest. There is still the infamous Taradale slip at the headwaters of the Waipaoa catchment, as yet unconquered.

Within this district of huge pine forest planting for both productive and protective timber, there are many valuable areas of native vegetation. The largest and most spectacular is the Gisborne City Waterworks bush reserve. It comprises about 1000 hectares in the headwaters of Waingake Valley and is within a 40 minute drive from the city. It was protected by open space covenant in 1987. Looking at the Gisborne region, the only significant part which does not contain any covenanted areas is a large area of Maori - owned land north of Tokomaru Bay and east of the Raukumara Range. However there is considerable potential for covenants here.

There are some 60 areas either covenanted or under consideration and hundreds of other small areas of valuable bush that are at risk through social, political, environmental and other pressures.

As can be seen, the farming politics of the 1960s and 1970s land development and livestock support schemes started a land use policy that became unsustainable during the eighties. This financially crippled a large number of Gisborne - East Coast hill country pastoral farmers. Coupled with three successive droughts and Cyclone Bola, it put the whole of the hill country more at risk.

The conservation and farming battle is far from being lost. Local government has changed their land use policies from total pastoral use to now actively subsidising (with central government help) the afforestation of these risk areas.

Recently I drove past a 1000 ha steep hill country block. It once had a Government Valuation of \$1.2 million dollars. Over a 15 year period it has gone from scrub and native grass carrying seven stock units per acre, with two station homesteads, woolshed, covered sheep and cattle yards and numerous other buildings to total pine forest with one small shed. This is because of unsustainable financial commitment.

There is a case for asking the Government to underwrite a protective and productive reafforestation project with both exotic and native timber in this region which produces some of the fastest growing and finest timber in New Zealand.

As the Trust's covenanted, fenced off native bush areas with no commercial value have shown, in three to five years the return to their pre-European values has been spectacular. These remnants are highly valuable in the fight against soil, pastoral and financial erosion.

*Richard White*  
*Gisborne East Coast Representative*

# Preservation of a Garden

**T**upare, the well known Taranaki garden in the English style, is one of the finest landscape gardens in New Zealand.

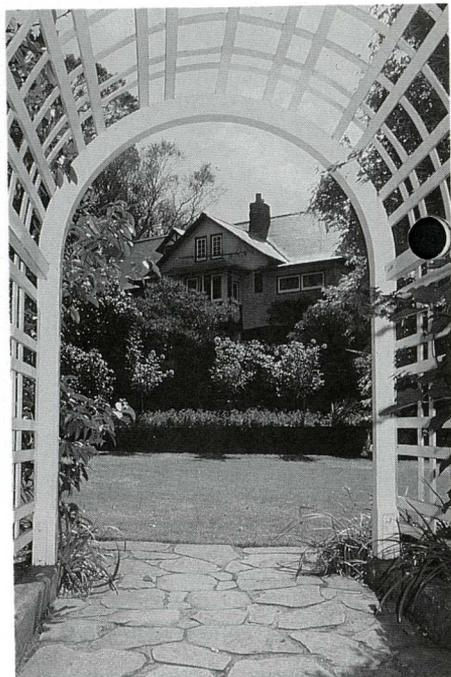
In 1985 the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust, with financial assistance from the Taranaki United Council, purchased this 3.6 hectare New Plymouth property to ensure its permanent protection. Under its Act, the National Trust's role is to protect, provide and enhance open space for the benefit of the people of New Zealand.

Developed by Sir Russell and Lady Matthews for over 40 years, Tupare is an important part of New Zealand's gardening heritage. As John Sales, Chief Gardens Adviser to the National Trust in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has commented;

"Gardens more than anything else reflect our culture and history and our values, more than buildings, more than anything else we show our character in our gardens and each generation does this and to lose that would be to lose a great deal."

Unlike buildings, gardens are dynamic, living entities. They are never static and are constantly growing, decaying and changing. Understanding this process of change must be built in to the management of a garden. The major challenge facing the National Trust when it accepted responsibility for Tupare was to implement the transition from a private to a public garden without losing the essential spirit of the place that was created by Sir Russell and Lady Matthews. Without sensitive and consistent long term care, the ideals which the makers of the garden pursued would be lost.

It is this element that makes every garden unique. At Tupare it is the unique combination of house and garden developed on a sloping site on the banks of the Waiwhakaiho River, which has led to a national and international reputation.



**Tupare**

Tupare's character and appeal are the result of careful and sensitive plantings creating a series of interesting linked spaces, together with features such as walls, paths, bridges, arches, pergolas, pools and cascades.

The three-storey tudor replica house took 12 years to complete. The nearby river provided shingle for its reinforced concrete walls. Designed by Chapman Taylor, the house features adzed Australian hardwood beams, linenfold panels and a cedar shingle roof.

The garden was developed in three main stages: Elizabeth Garden, followed by the Dell, and the brickwork and walls. Elizabeth Garden was designed by Douglas Elliott, the only landscape architect to contribute to the development of Tupare. The waterfall, one of the

garden's focal points, was built over four years from stone brought in from a quarry near Te Kuiti.

As a basis for managing the garden the National Trust has prepared a comprehensive management plan for its future protection and development. A small staff is employed with assistance from a local Gardens Advisory Committee and the National Trust. The contribution from local members Graham Smith, Lyn Bullitz, Alan Jellyman and recently appointed members Elaine Gill and John Barrett is very much appreciated by the National Trust.

A restoration programme has begun to ensure that the structure and fabric of the house and garden is maintained. A \$24,125 grant from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board has enabled further important restoration work to be carried out. This includes installing a new gas-fired heating system in the house; restoring and repairing garden structures including brickwork, seats and walls as well as path maintenance. Sealed paths allow people to walk more safely and comfortably around the garden and the first stage of this programme has now been completed.

A further \$26,845 was received from the Lottery Grants Board in 1991. This grant will enable further path maintenance to be carried out.

An interpretive display board for visitors is being prepared. This will explain how the house and garden evolved

together with information about the National Trust.

In 1988 the Trust completely re-roofed the house with *Pinus radiata* shingles. Buildings and other fixed structures are also subject to decay but these changes can be anticipated and any restoration planned.

This is not the case with planting which is subject not only to decay but also to change and development. Because of this gardens are unique amongst visual art forms in having time as an extra dimension. Each group of plants decays at its own rate from annuals to trees with a lifespan of hundreds of years. A garden must be constantly renewed and replanted within a broad outline. The management plan provides a framework from which to work, always conscious of the original intent of the creators.

Within this framework, a refurbishment programme is part of the normal review process within a garden. At Tupare this work is constantly being carried out.

Recently the birches along the main driveway have been replaced with *Betula 'Jermyns'*. Many old rhododendrons have been removed or re-sited to strengthen or create views from one area to another. In the Dell lower growing cultivars such as *R. 'John Bull'*, *R. 'Ciliicalyx 'Charisma'*, *'Hydon Hunter'*, *'Rubicon'* and *R. 'formosum'* emphasise the path borders.

Underplanting has been used to add variety all year round and to reduce maintenance.

The tree canopy has been raised throughout the garden to provide more light. Extensive shrub plantings of winter roses (*Helleborus spp.*), *Plectranthus oertendahlii*, and saxifrages (*Saxifraga spp.*) have been used to add interest and enhance the garden. Rengarengas or rock lilies (*Arthropodium sirratum*), libertias and hostas are massed in broad sweeps under trees.

Russell Avenue has been widened, and the arch heightened by removing the mixed avenue of *Prunus spp.* and replanted with *Prunus 'Shimidsu Sakura'*. The fence has also been removed to give an



Cottage lawn

uninterrupted view of the avenue down to the river flats. New mollis azaleas are planted on John Walk and to the river flat boundary.

Tupare already has a notable collection of maples and magnolias and these have been added to by *Magnolia 'Vulcan'*, developed by Felix Jury. The large dark purple flowers make a striking feature at the top end of John Walk.

New maples include *Acer 'Toyoma Nishiki'*, a weeping standard at the top of Cliff's Cascade; *A. linearilobum* planted at the corner of Watson and John Walk; *A. 'Ukigumo'* overhangs the lower pools with new leaves unfurling in a green and yellow spatter painted pattern; *A. 'Dissectum Ornatum Variegatum'* at the corner of the carpark and Mary Lane and *A. 'Shindeshojo'* in the Glade. *A. 'Shindeshojo'* is one of the most brilliant foliage plants with crimson-scarlet leaves. In spring the leaves emerge with green down the mid-rib and mottled pink and cream edges.

The Rose garden has been planted with a border of clipped santolina with new shrub roses including 'National Trust', 'Mount Batten', 'Wimi' and 'Rosarama'.



Gate designed by Sir Russell.

Herbaceous plantings feature behind the Rose garden and in the North garden terraces.

All this is achieved with just three staff: Alistair Duncan, Curator, Donna Christiansen, qualified gardener and Michael Mansveldt who replaced George Mann as part-time groundsman. Open to the public seven days a week, the garden requires a high level of maintenance to meet the demands of thousands of visitors annually.

Tupare represents a lifetime of artistic creation and love by the Matthews. Today, under the commitment and management by the National Trust, it continues to develop as one of New Zealand's most beautiful and distinctive gardens.

## Gardens Prepare for Festival

The Taranaki Rhododendron Festival is being held this year from November 1 - 10. The Bank of New Zealand is providing substantial sponsorship. The 1991 festival is shaping up to be even bigger than last year's event. There will be 125 gardens open to the public, including Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

Tupare, at New Plymouth, is always very popular with festival visitors and its curator, Alistair Duncan, predicts that the garden should be at its spring peak with rhododendrons, azaleas and flowering cherries in bloom. Masses of cinnararias together with saxifrage, woodland anemones and other border plantings add interest at all levels.

Hollard Gardens, at Kaponga just south

of Mt Taranaki, is also a popular destination. Curator, Greg Rine, describes it as a natural woodland type garden of great diversity. Rhododendrons and azaleas are the major highlights during the festival with *Rhododendron nutalli x lindleyi* providing a real feature. Primulas and irises also peak during the festival.

This year both of the Trust gardens will have a small selection of plants for sale to help raise funds.

So why don't you visit Taranaki this November for the biggest garden festival in New Zealand! Don't forget to book accommodation - motels are booking up fast. For further information phone: Tupare 067-86480, Hollard Gardens 06632-6544 or Tourism Taranaki 06779909.

# Riverview School Adopts Nearby Covenant Area

**W**ith much enthusiasm Riverview School made their inaugural visit to Selwyn Driver's fine bush covenant 15 km north of Kerikeri on the first day of May this

Principal Rick Merrington had done much preparation work to ensure a successful day and had solid support from parents. Well constructed toilets had been built adjacent to the bush; help with the digging was provided by the local Power Board.

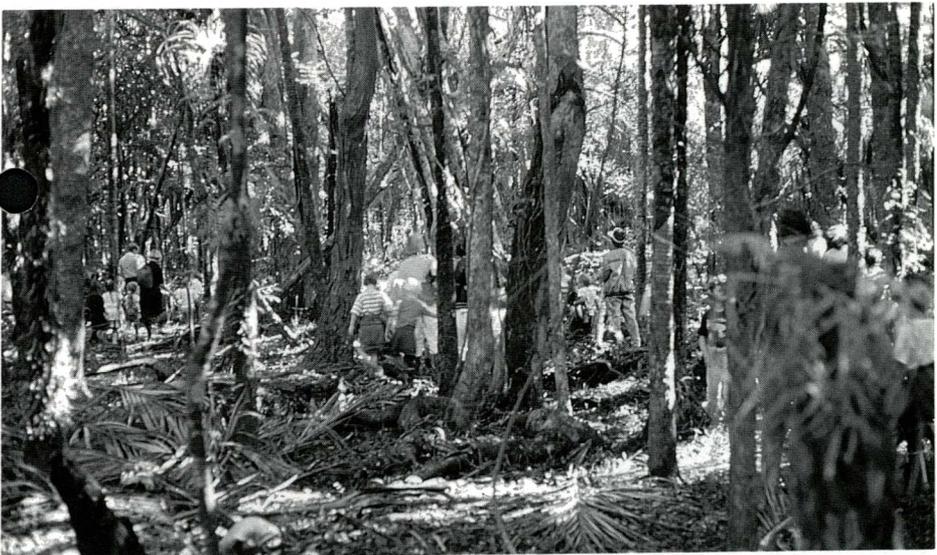
This first visit involved the whole junior school, new entrants to ten year olds, which totalled just over 100 children. Thirty parents and supporters provided the transport and enabled the children to be split into groups of three to four per adult, thus providing good supervision in the bush.

Perhaps not surprisingly the youngsters

seemed more over-awed by the depth of the "long drops" than they were by the quality of the flora and fauna! However children and adults alike enjoyed an excellent and informative day basing their bush exercise on the worksheets from the School Covenant Project Manual.

Northland Representative, Fenton Hamlin, spoke briefly to the group outlining the Trust's role in helping the present owners ensure the long term protection of their land and then helped each group with their various projects. The day was designed to give the children and their parents an overview of what is planned to become an ongoing project. Future visits will be made by smaller groups who will undertake more specialised projects.

*Fenton Hamlin  
Northland Representative*



Exploring the Driver covenant.

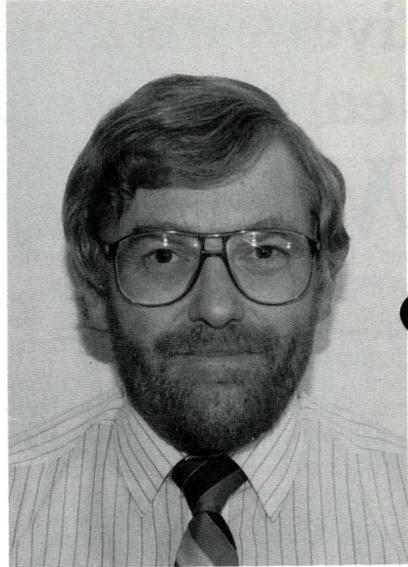
## John Bishop

**J**ohn Bishop joined the National Trust office in February as Advisory Officer in the Field Group. He holds a BA degree in political science from Victoria University.

John has an extensive working background in land administration and management in the public sector. In the former Department of Lands and Survey he was involved in national parks and reserves administration in the department's Invercargill and Wellington district offices, as well as Crown Land management in Head Office. Prior to concluding employment in the public sector, he was acting Director General in the Department of Lands.

Since early 1990, John has been involved in two private businesses; one offering land related consultancy advice and assistance and the other management and strategic planning advice to sports people and organisations.

Together with his wife Vicci, John has one son and they share their home with three large Newfoundland dogs. His



**John Bishop**

interests include music, theatre, collecting wine and sport.



**Leah Perkins**

## Leah Perkins

**L**eah Perkins joined the Trust in April this year as receptionist/word processor operator. She took over from Lianne Smylie, who left at Easter to travel overseas.

Leah came straight from Polytech, having completed a full year secretarial course. She lives in Lower Hutt and in her spare time works with college students through Campus Life - Youth for Christ programme. Leah has been involved with this work for four years and enjoys it immensely.

Apart from church involvement her other interests include music, singing, rugby league, and being with family and friends.

# Taupo Swamp News

## Sequel to Fuel Spill

In the last issue of the Newsletter we reported on the large aviation fuel spill at Taupo Swamp in March. This occurred when a loaded tanker ran off State Highway one into the Swamp; the driver was taking evasive action to avoid a southbound truck.

The crash site has been completely cleared of debris and was replanted courtesy of BP New Zealand. There has been no further measurable impact on wildlife or vegetation.

## Conservation Corps

During May and June the Corps continued the work they had earlier started and poisoned the remaining willows in the Swamp.

## Planting Programme

A visually significant raised area of 2400m<sup>2</sup> near the southern end of the swamp is undergoing revegetation work. Covered in blackberry it has been sprayed



Taupo Swamp

in preparation for planting in manuka, kanuka and a range of other native forest species including karaka, kohekohe, ngaio and tawa. Further planting of the area will take place in 1992 and 1993.

## Removal of Pine Trees

A large pine tree is being removed from the middle of the swamp by a contractor.

## St Gerard's Monastery, Wellington

**S**t Gerard's on Mt Victoria is a Wellington landmark, very visible from most parts of the inner city, from many of the take-off and approach paths for Wellington flights, and from the inner harbour.

The property has recently been sold by the religious order who have owned and occupied it for many decades, and the new owners have sought to have open space surrounding the buildings sold for subdivision.

In December 1990 Wellington City Council called a public meeting to test citizens' response to a proposal that the

Council purchase the land proposed for subdivision. The new owners were very willing to cooperate with the idea. At the meeting, chaired by Trust General Manager Euan McQueen, both local residents and others, along with those with a professional interest in the city's future, strongly supported the Council's move to purchase the land. In essence the case was made that St Gerard's without open space around it was no longer a quality landmark.

The project prompts thoughts about the National Trust's wider role in protecting open space in urban areas.

# Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Board September 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

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