

Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

No. 26 AUGUST 1992

500th Covenant Celebrated

In spite of the discouraging cold winds, thunder and lightning and torrential rain, over 100 covenantors, Trust members and supporters, as well as local authorities and allied conservation bodies, celebrated the registration of the National Trust's 500th open space covenant on Sunday, 14 June. The Trust

was represented by Directors, Dr Brian Molloy and Arthur Cowan, Trust Manager, Tim Porteous and the Auckland Representative, Walter Willis.

The 500th covenant covers an area of 37 hectares of native forest on Arthur and Val Dunn's 340 hectare sheep and cattle farm in the upper Puhoi Valley, about 60



Visitors gathering at the Dunn property.

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km north of Auckland.

It is contiguous with an earlier covenant entered into by Mr and Mrs Dunn, which was registered in 1987. Thus a total continuous stretch of nearly 90ha of beautiful native forest is now protected on the farm.

The forest includes some fine stands of kauri, kahikatea and many large rimu, totara, miro, puriri and rata, including the comparatively rare carmine rata. Several rare native ferns, orchids and shrubs are also present.

The Dunn covenant is an excellent example of the community response engendered by the concept of voluntary protection and the event was an opportunity to acknowledge the range of individuals and organisations who had contributed to the protection of this valuable area.

The list includes: The Auckland Natural History Club, Maruia Society, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc, NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust Inc, NZ Lottery Grants Board, Forest Heritage Fund and, of course, the owners.

The occasion began at the head of the valley within sight of both covenant areas. Because of the unpleasant weather conditions, this stage was limited to a brief welcome and introduction by Walter Willis followed by a quick look at the covenants.

The rest of the proceedings were then transferred to a warmer and dryer venue in the Dunn's woolshed.

Dr Molloy deputised for the Trust's Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy, who was overseas. He told the visitors about the Trust's work and achievements and thanked them for their support. He then presented Arthur and Val Dunn with J T Salmon's book *Native Flowers of New Zealand*, and a cheque for the balance of the Trust's contribution to the cost of fencing the covenant.

In reply, Arthur Dunn thanked the Trust for its special recognition of the covenant and its assistance in making protection of the bush possible.



Dunn covenant, Puhoi

He also thanked the members of other conservation organisations and individuals for the considerable physical and financial assistance they had given towards completion of the very extensive fencing which had been necessary to protect the covenants.

Diane Lucas, who chairs the Committee for the Forest Heritage Fund, and Ross Miller, representing the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board, spoke about the financial assistance which their respective bodies were able to offer the National Trust in its valuable work of protecting some of New Zealand's natural heritage.

The occasion concluded with afternoon tea provided by the local branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

Walter Willis

Auckland Representative

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NEW ZEALAND

Lottery Grants Board

Further Lottery Grants Board Assistance

The Trust has been fortunate in successfully securing additional funding from the Lottery Grants Board.

The latest grant is made up of the following:

- \$90,000 for the establishment and management of open space covenants over wetlands. The need for wetland protection is well known and this grant enables the Trust to respond to landowner requests for assistance to protect these vulnerable ecosystems.
- (b) \$16,875 to allow the completion of the entry of data into the covenant information system. This is the final phase in establishing the Trust's computer-based information system. The grant has enabled the Trust to employ two people on a part-time basis to complete this task.
- (c) \$16,875 for the upgrading of the Trust's computer system. With the

three packages (word processing, membership, and accounting) now fully operational and the fourth and largest (covenant information) rapidly approaching this stage, an upgrade of the Trust's computer network was required to achieve maximum benefit. This included improving the response time of the network, extra workstations and an extra printer.

This work is now complete.

Without this valuable support from the Lottery Grants Board the efficiencies possible with a computerised information system would not have been fully achieved.

In addition, the wetlands grant will assist the Trust in being able to protect a full range of land with open space values.

The National Trust is very grateful for the continued significant support of the Lottery Grants Board.

From the Trust Manager

At two recent National Trust events (the 500th covenant commemoration - see page 1 and the Northland Field Day - see next issue) attended by Directors Arthur Cowan and Brian Molloy, and by the Trust Manager, we met over 140 covenantors, landholders and supporters of the Trust.

This, in itself, is very enjoyable given the range of ages, backgrounds and interests represented by these people. The considerable efforts in the interests of conservation undertaken quietly and cost-effectively, can only be admired. Also impressive is the landholders' commitment to managing these areas.

Many of them adopt innovative techniques

when dealing with weed and pest control, revegetation etc.

These gatherings generate a tremendous exchange of ideas not only between covenantors themselves but between the Trust and covenantors. It is particularly important for members of the Board of Directors to meet and talk over issues of mutual interest and concern with landholders.

We hope to hold field days regularly around the country from now on. The next one will be held in the Wairarapa in mid August.

Tim Porteous
Trust Manager

New Directors

Two new directors appointed by the Minister of Conservation last November have been welcomed to the Trust Board.

Maggie Bayfield



Maggie Bayfield from Inglewood, Taranaki is a plant ecologist and does a variety of consulting work in this area. As well as being the Chairperson of the Taranaki-Wanganui Conservation Board she is an executive member of her local branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

Maggie has worked for a range of agencies including the Department of Lands and Survey, the Taranaki Catchment Commission, Biological Resources Centre and the Department of Conservation.

She has worked on a botanical survey of scenic reserves in eastern Taranaki. This was followed by Protected Natural Area surveys and reports for the Egmont Ecological Region and the North Taranaki District. She was also involved in the initial implementation of the Egmont Report which entailed liaising with landholders about mechanisms available for protecting natural areas on private land.

Maggie is married with two young children. She enjoys landscape gardening in her leisure time.

Maui Pomare

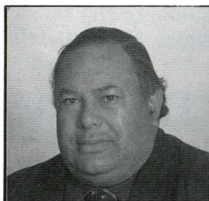
Maui Pomare, OBE, from Plimmerton, near Wellington has been a member of the National Trust's Komiti Whenua Toitu since 1987.

He is a leader in the Wellington (Ngati Awa) Maori community and descended from the original tangata whenua of Wellington and has many tribal affiliations.

He received a Diploma of Agriculture from Massey University and farms his property 'Hongoeka' at Plimmerton, with his wife Louise. Their two children are studying at Victoria University.

He has been involved in a very wide range of community areas including marae, agricultural organisations, charities, environmental groups and education.

He is also a Justice of the Peace and served as President to the Royal Federation of Justices of the Peace from 1985-90.



Maui was a member of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Council from 1975-80, having previously chaired the Maori Buildings and Advisory Committee of the Trust.

He has been a trustee of the National Art Gallery, National Museum and War Memorial since 1977 and of the National Museum Council since 1978. He has chaired the Council since 1981. His most outstanding work has been in the area of conservation, repatriation of Maori artefacts and the return of Mokomokai from overseas, as well as his contribution to the new Museum of New Zealand.

Bowman's Bush

The National Trust formally recognised a significant contribution to conservation in Southland on March 23.

Chairman, Sir Peter Elworthy presented Mrs Majorie Bowman with a National Trust Benefactor Certificate at the 1.2 hectare reserve that bears her name. This marked the Trust's appreciation of Mrs Bowman's generosity, the faith she has placed in the Trust and the Trust's long term commitment to honour that.

The area has never been logged and the larger native trees are thought to be 300 to 500 years old. Trust Southland Representative, Roger Sutton, says the reserve is probably the best example of modified indigenous podocarp forest in the Southland coastal strip.

The bush was purchased by Mrs Bowman's father, the late Dr John MacDonald of Invercargill in 1920. He bought it for its natural values and fenced and maintained it until his death. Mrs Bowman then became the owner, continuing to maintain and protect the bush, in accordance with her father's wishes.

In February 1986, after moving from her home adjoining the bush to Lake Hayes, Mrs Bowman sold the area to the National Trust as one lot.

She could have sold the bush as three prime residential sites as it was the most financially rewarding option. In addition to her considerable generosity in selling the land at much less than the market value Mrs Bowman agreed to a four year deferred payment period.

The Otatara Community Board contributed 66 per cent of the purchase price, the Southland branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society 14 per cent and the National Trust 20 per cent. The Invercargill City Council has taken responsibility for the day to day management of the reserve and has entered into a formal management agreement.



Sir Peter Elworthy presenting Mrs Bowman with the Benefactors Certificate.

About 50 people attended the early evening function at Bowman's Bush. They included representatives of the local authorities, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, National Trust covenantors and members. A number of Otatara residents have covenanted their properties.

The reserve is a valuable asset for Southland. It is freely accessible to the public and offers education, scientific and recreational values. The purchase and management arrangements enshrine the aspirations of Mrs Bowman's father.

The Hodge Covenant

Te Kowhai

Kahikatea forest remnants are often a disappointment to their owners. After livestock are excluded with fencing many remnants sit for years without any signs of significant understorey regeneration. Instead, very often, they continue to grow only grass, inkweed and ragwort. This makes farmers wonder why they ever bothered to fence the remnants in the first place.

John and Margaret Hodge's kahikatea remnant at Te Kowhai near Hamilton was no exception. The 1.2 hectare area remained denuded of understorey native vegetation for some time until steps were taken to alter this. Now it is an excellent example of what can be done to change a severely depleted grazed forest floor into a delightful, thriving, under-forest.

In 1978 Margaret Hodge, a New Zealand flora enthusiast, fenced off the remnant from the dairy herd. Before this it had been used for livestock shelter in winter and shade in summer. Consequently the trunks of its tall old trees were surrounded by rank cocksfoot, fog, fescue and little else.

Strong competition from grasses meant that even though the adult trees fruited prodigiously, their seeds were prevented from reaching the forest floor and germinating. Also, in the odd places where the forest floor was bare and the seedlings had emerged, the podocarps were so tall that the sunlight could not reach them on the forest floor.

This discouraged their development and left them surviving in a 'bonsai' state of dormancy.

Therefore, Margaret Hodge decided to assist regeneration of the remnant by clearing the grass away in the more sunlit areas and planting them with a wide range of seedlings, as well as by moving some of the dormant ones from the shaded areas.



A school party visiting the Hodge covenant.

The work started in the winter following the fencing. Species introduced included olearia, karo, tarata, kohuhu, mahoe, kawakawa, pigeonwood, coprosma, tanekaha, lancewood, rata, pohutukawa, kamahi and kowhai. Also a number of fern species were planted, the main ones being silver fern and mamaku.

Planting was undertaken carefully with proper holes being dug for each plant after a good sized swath of grass was removed around each hole. Watering was carried out in summer and plants were regularly released from the ever invasive grass species until each plant was firmly established.

Care was also taken to ensure that plants were sited where sunlight was available. Only shade tolerant ferns were planted in darker under-storey areas.

The results of this work have been excellent and today it is difficult to push your way through the under-storey. Not only have the trees planted by Margaret Hodge done exceedingly well but the new forest micro-climate has brought about the re-seeding of many of the trees which make up the canopy. Hence, young

pukatea, titoki, nikau, kahikatea, tawa and rewarewa are now joining the planted species as competitors for space and sunlight.

This revegetation example shows what can be done to kahikatea remnants if owners are prepared to carry out a proper planting programme. The programme should start, according to Margaret Hodge, with shelter plants such as flax, toetoe or even exotic tree lucerne being

planted along the windward side to shut out the under-storey draughts.

This must then be followed by proper planting and releasing programmes with watering if at all possible.

If this is done the end will be a sustainable forest of much variety and something like the Hodges' – a pleasure to walk through and a joy to look at.

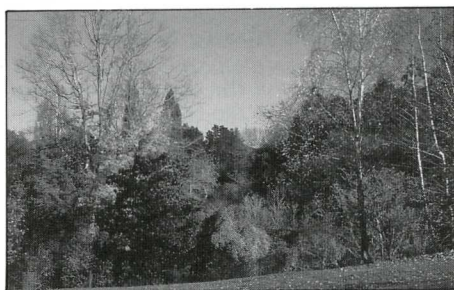
*Stuart Chambers
Waikato Representative*

Eastwoodhill Arboretum Covenant

The Eastwoodhill Arboretum at Ngatapa some 35km inland from Gisborne, is among the more recent areas to be protected by a registered open space covenant with the National Trust.

Described as 'The Jewel of Eastland', the 131 hectare arboretum was established by Douglas Cook after his return to the Gisborne area following World War I. Mr Cook had been so impressed with English homes and gardens that he resolved to create a beautiful park 'in his lifetime' at Eastwoodhill.

Mr Cook took great care to collect and plant only first rate material so that today Eastwoodhill has a collection of genetically sourced material, some of which is now only available in the country of origin.



Eastwoodhill Arboretum

The arboretum is the largest collection of northern hemisphere temperate zone plants in New Zealand and possibly in the southern hemisphere.

In order to secure Eastwoodhill for posterity the property was purchased by Mr H B Williams in 1965. Mr Cook died in 1967. In 1975 the Eastwoodhill Trust Board was established by its own Act of Parliament. The main function of the Trust Board is to 'maintain and develop Eastwoodhill as an arboretum and to use its best endeavours to make the area available to the public for educational and recreational use'.

Eastwoodhill is internationally recognised for its botanical and educational values. It is visited by hundreds of people each year including many from around the world.

To mark the completion of the open space covenant the National Trust presented a new entrance sign to the Eastwoodhill Trust Board. The sign, carved by Southland Representative Roger Sutton, was installed in April by Gisborne Representative, Richard White, assisted by David Summersby.

Richard White has described Eastwoodhill as a very special covenant with inestimable values. He encourages all travellers to the Gisborne region to visit the property.

International Consultation on Protected Mountain Areas

The following article is based on a report to the National Trust from Deputy Chairman, Hamish Ensor.

At the end of October last year Trust Deputy Chairman, Hamish Ensor attended the International Consultation on Protected Mountain Areas - 'Parks, Peaks and People'.

Held in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park it attracted 41 participants from 17 countries.

The Consultation was sponsored by the International Union of Conservation Nations (IUCN), East West Centre Hawaii and the United States National Park Service. Other New Zealanders present were Dr Les Molloy (Department of Conservation) and Pat Devlin (Lincoln University). Bing Lucas (IUCN and Chair of Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas - CNPPA) was one of the organisers and facilitators.

The Consultation was divided into a number of themes covering issues that impact on Mountain Protected Areas (MPA's). These included international borders, climate change, cultures and economies, biodiversity, religious and sacred aspects, visitors and tourists, water resources, landowners/users, design and management requirements.

Bing Lucas gave one of the two formal papers presented. It gave participants a clear historical overview of the international MPA scene and some common threads for the establishment of MPA's.

The other paper was presented by Dr Jim Thorsell, CNPPA, IUCN of Gland, Switzerland. It covered a global inventory and assessment of MPA's including some statistics.

He commented that, subject to receiving

further information, he believed New Zealand had the most fully protected mountain chain in the world.

All of the participants were involved in some form of mountain land research or administration. A few lived in the mountains as park managers or supervisors.

Hamish was the only member who actually derived a living from a traditional or semi traditional use of mountain resources.

A number had each spent several years living and working with indigenous mountain people. He thought this was particularly valuable to the Consultation and was probably the single most influencing factor in the outputs.

New Zealand differs most from the other parts of the world because of the very recent influence of humans and grazing animals and their impact on the mountain environment. Elsewhere these factors are much more traditional and are the very things requiring protection.

It appears that in many countries large areas of mountain lands are nominated as parks or protected areas but then are not managed to the extent that poor land use practices continue. In nominating these areas the politicians believe they are significantly contributing to international MPA's.

The outcomes of the Consultation were being forwarded to the IVth World Parks Congress in Caracas, Venezuela. It is hoped that they will become the basis for international guidelines for MPA's.

The outcomes are too detailed to list here however the quote is the first of two basic principles which, for Hamish, encapsulated most of the Consultation's outcomes.

“Metaphysical Mountains

1. IUCN communicate to Protected Area management agencies the need for greater awareness of sacred and cultural values in MPA's and the importance of consultation with local people in formulating and applying policies and practices:
 - to ensure respect for sacred/cultural sites and beliefs;
 - to avoid or minimise conflicts between protection of cultural and natural values.”

Other outcomes will be listed more fully as an appendix to Hamish's main report, a copy of which will be made available to the National Trust's library.

Implications for the National Trust

The essence of the Consultation was fully supportive of the principles and philosophy that the National Trust operates under. However all of the discussion tended to be at the more basic level of cultural rights and expectations rather than at the level of individual property rights such as the Trust deals with.

Hamish concludes, after attending the forum, that due to New Zealand's comparatively recent and therefore

dramatic development of its land resources, New Zealanders have a more puristic and less integrated view about the protection of natural values than does the rest of the world.

“It is a perfectly natural reaction for a comparatively sophisticated western community to endeavour to grab back anything that is left that looks remotely natural and protect it for its intrinsic value before any more is lost. And so we should, but not at the expense of alienating people in the process.

A sign of maturity will be in accepting what we have changed and the mistakes we have made. We should now concentrate our effort on making our surroundings a more pleasant place to live while at the same time ensuring long term viability. A far more holistic approach to landscape and protected natural areas is required. There is an urgent need to include local communities in the planning process to ensure the support of the very people who have to make it all work.”

Hamish thanks his sponsor, the Lincoln University Foundation for his funding and the National Trust for encouraging him to go.

A Reminder to Trust Members

To ensure that newsletters and other items of membership interest continue to reach you please remember to notify us of any change of address.

For covenant owners it is even more important as Clause 16 of the Covenant Document Second Schedule states:

“The Owner shall notify the Trust of any change of ownership or control of all or any part of the land, and shall supply the Trust with the name and address of the new owner or lessee.”

When ownership of a covenant changes

it is important for the Regional Representative to visit the new owner as soon as possible to establish contact and discuss any concerns they may have.

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Open Space Covenants

By April 3, 1992 there were 523 registered covenants, while a further 489 were proceeding towards registration.

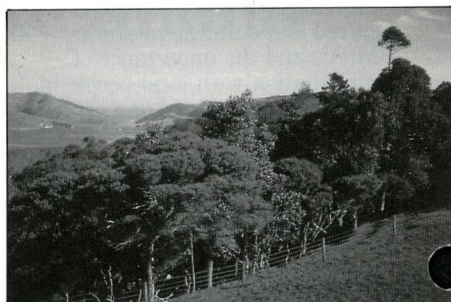
RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

NORTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

1. DUNN AJ & VF. Puhoi-Ahuroa Road, about 6 km north-east of Puhoi. This is the second area that the owners have covenanted on their property and it adjoins the existing covenant area.

Visible from the Puhoi-Ahuroa Road, the 39.69 ha forest remnant contains mature vegetation and is similar to the existing covenant area. It is predominantly taraire with some kauri rickers. Rimu, kahikatea, totara, rata, kohekohe, maire, miro, rewarewa, mapou, nikau and ponga are also present. Rare species include redrock rata and the fern *Asplenium hookerianum*. The area features a prominent rock outcrop. The addition of the second area means that a block of 89.64 ha is now protected.

2. HAMILTON K McR. Corner of Awhitu Rd and Tindall Rd, Awhitu Peninsula, Auckland. The covenant protects two areas of bush totalling 12 ha. A wide range of species are present including taraire, puriri, kauri, kahikatea, rimu, miro, rewarewa, kohekohe, karaka and nikau. There are a number of registered covenants on the Awhitu Peninsula.
3. McNAUGHTON IS & E. Ponsford Road, 8 km north of Waiuku, Awhitu Peninsula.



Hamilton covenant, Awhitu Peninsula

A 7.10 ha forest remnant containing some quality kauri has been covenanted. The area also contains a diverse range of other species. It is close to a number of other registered covenants.

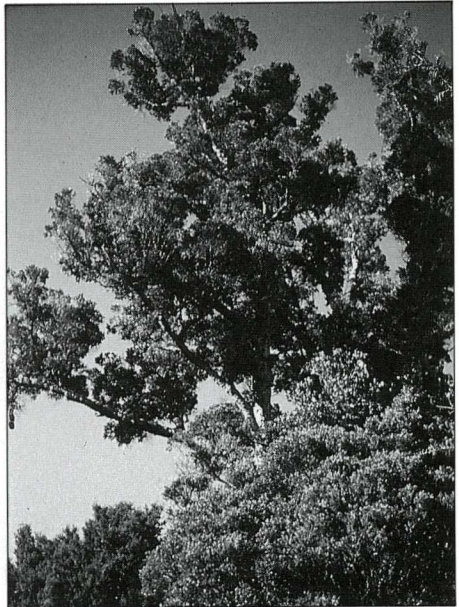
SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

4. CROWNSHAW J & M. Joyce Rd, Tauranga. The covenant protects 3.02 ha in two areas. Both areas are steep slopes leading down to and bordering the Waiorori Stream and form part of the catchment area for the Tauranga water supply. The bush canopy is rewarewa and tree ferns with other shrubs and ferns as an understorey.
5. NEW ZEALAND RURAL PROPERTY TRUST (WP Edward). Marychurch Road, Matangi, south-east of Hamilton. A covenant protects 3.02 ha of tall kahikatea forest. Other species include titoki, hinau, pukatea and mahoe. The area is visible from Marychurch Road and provides a habitat for grey warbler and fantail.
6. PARKINSON MD. 4 km up Maratoto Valley, north of Paeroa. A whole title covenant is registered over this 386.64 ha property. It is almost surrounded by the Coromandel

Forest Park. The Paikarahi Stream (Peel's Creek) runs along the southern boundary. Trees include rimu, kauri, rewarewa, tawa, totara and towai. There are also a wide variety of ferns. It is a habitat for tui and bellbird. The owner has also covenanted another area nearby.

GISBORNE DISTRICT

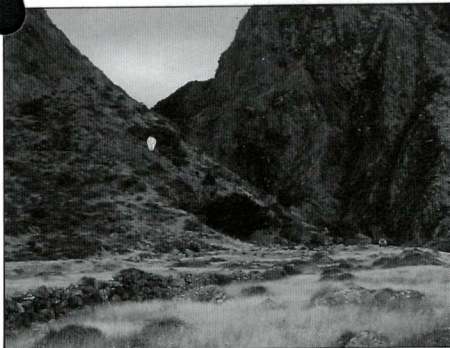
7. **EASTWOODHILL TRUST BOARD.**
Ngatapa, on Gisborne-Wharekopae Highway, 35 km NW of Gisborne. Eastwoodhill, an internationally recognised arboretum of northern hemisphere trees, shrubs and climbers, with a recently established New Zealand section has been protected by covenant. The 131.02 ha area is visited by many hundreds of people each year. There are over 340 genera of trees, shrubs and climbers with over 2600 species, natural varieties and cultivars.



Rata tree, Barton covenant

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

8. **MATAKITAKI TRUST TRUSTEES.**
Cape Palliser, 55 km south-west of Martinborough, South Wairarapa. Three covenants protect a total of 819.12 ha of Maori land in three blocks on the South Wairarapa coast. The blocks stretch back from the coast to 800 metres above sea level and are surrounded by the Haurangi Forest Park.



Matakitaki covenant - northern end

One area of 346.12 ha contains scrub and hardwoods with manuka, tauhinu and broom. The second block of 197.89 ha comprises a range of species including kamahi, maire; mahoe, hinau, karamu, ngaio and kanuka. The third block of 275.11 ha contains a coastal platform which has a strong association with the early Maori navigator Kupe. There are also some ancient Maori stone walls.

9. **BARTON RT & BM.** Woodside, 6.8 km from Greytown.
Four areas of regenerating forest and wetland totalling 242.80 ha have been protected by covenant. The largest area adjoins the Tararua Forest Park. At the southern end manuka is dominant. The middle section contains rewarewa and ponga and the top end features mature beech forest with rimu and matai. A small wetland area is dominated by kahikatea with pukatea, tawa, titoki, ti kouka and some rimu.



Newcombe covenant

10. **BLUNDELL MN.** 35 km east of Masterton on the Riversdale Road. One of the few bush areas visible from the Masterton - Riversdale Road has been covenanted. Situated on steep hill country the 20.40 ha bush is important for erosion control. The covenant area contains a wide variety of established and regenerating species including rewarewa, maire, totara, tawa, nikau, kanuka and ferns.

11. **NEWCOMBE RW & BN.** 2 km north of Rewa on the Cheltenham - Vinegar Hill Road, northwest of Marton. A covenant protects 50.20 ha of regenerating bush in a large deep gully. There are many regenerating species and some big totara trees.

12. **POTTINGER A & J.** Anerley, Tinui, 70 km from Masterton. Two areas of bush totalling 15.80 ha have been protected in addition to two other areas that the owners have

already covenanted on the property. There is a wide variety of species present including tawa, hinau, pukatea, rewarewa, maire and titoki. One area features a very large rata. Situated on easily erodible, sandstone hill country, the bush is important for erosion control.



Manuka and kanuka with regenerating understory at Blundell Covenant

13. **FREEMAN DJ.** Ngaumu, 25 km from Masterton on the Motukai Road. A covenant protects 6.10 ha of bush in a district with very little regenerating bush. There is a wide range of species present including hinau, rewarewa, putaputaweta, lemonwood, totara and ti kouka.

14. **FRENCH LS & CM.** 'Beauley', 36 km from Masterton on the Castlepoint Road.

Situated on the southern side of the Taipo range, a 41.00 ha bush area has been protected. The covenant area contains several large pukatea and matai at the bottom of some gullies. Other existing species include titoki, tall kanuka, kahikatea, rewarewa, matipo and nikau.

15. **BUNNY TW & DK.** Te Roto, 18 km northeast of Masterton on the Bideford Road. A covenant protects a 10.20 ha forest

remnant. Situated in hill country it contains a large number of totara, miro, matai and maire with a wide variety of other species.

TARANAKI DISTRICT

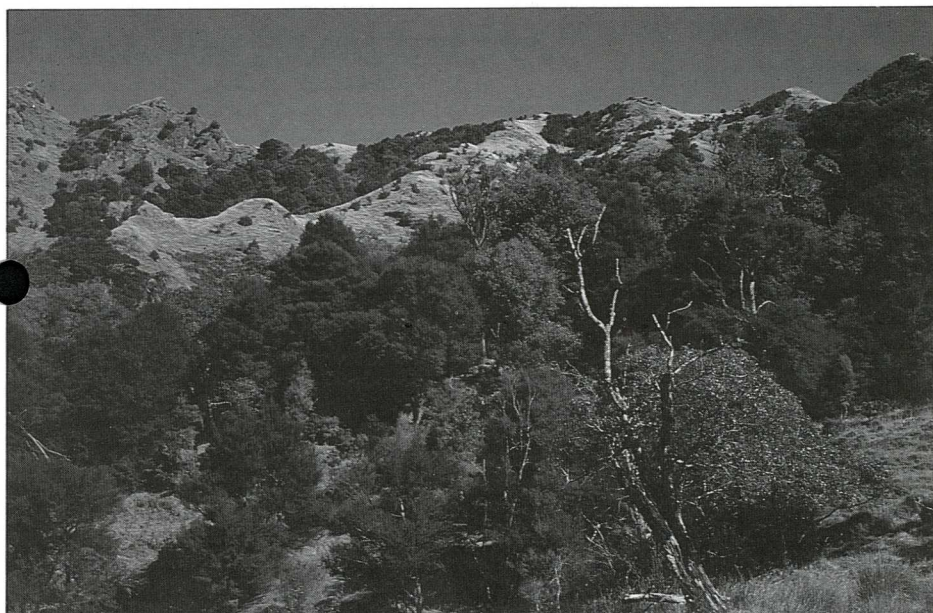
16. **ASHTON R.** Lower Durham Road, near Inglewood.

A 0.83 ha bush area situated on both sides of a stream has been covenanted. It contains some very large old tawa as well as large pukatea, titoki and rewarewa. The bush has been fenced for over 25 years and is an excellent example of Taranaki forest.

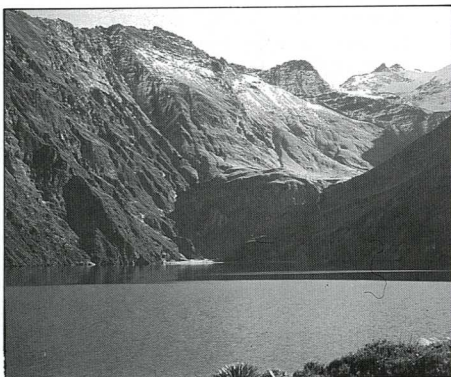
HAWKES BAY DISTRICT

17. **CLARKE AWR & OE.** Nuhaka River Road, north west of Mahia.

A covenant protects 2.87 ha of bush on a steep, erosion prone scarp which overlooks the River Road. Kohekohe is the dominant species with kahikatea, matai, rimu and pigeon wood.



French covenant



Lochnagar, Borrell covenant

NELSON DISTRICT

18. **BRERETON PCM & N.** Next to SH 1, 20 km south of Motueka.

A 3.50 ha remnant of mixed podocarp-beech forest has been protected by covenant. It was fenced about 10 years ago and a strong understorey has emerged under the canopy. The remnant is of particular botanical interest because it is a meeting point of coastal associations and beech-podocarp vegetation.

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

19. **BATES PJ & AM.** At the head of Gough's Bay, Bank's Peninsula. The 12.81 ha covenant is an extension to an area on the property that was previously covenanted. It is dominated by Hall's totara. There is a wide range of other species present.

20. **PRICE'S VALLEY PASTURES LTD** (D & N Thomas). Price's Valley, 50 km from Christchurch on the Akaroa Highway. A 4.00 ha podocarp remnant has been protected. The covenant area is regarded as the best of its kind remaining on Bank's Peninsula. The Price's Valley Road passes through the covenant and therefore it has a high visual impact.

21. **WOODS SJ & CE.** 8 km from Geraldine, on Pleasant Valley Road.

A covenant protects 6.70 ha of regenerating podocarp contained in a steep gully. Clearly visible from Downs Road the remnant contains totara, kahikatea, matai, mahoe, fuchsia, tarata and kanuka.

Woodpigeon, bellbird and shining cuckoo are common. This remnant is representative of podocarp forest once common on the Geraldine downlands.

OTAGO DISTRICT

22. **CITY FORESTS LTD** (Dunedin City Council). Toko Mouth Road, adjacent to the Toko River estuary, south of Milton.

A covenant protects 22.50 ha of lowland fresh water swamp. There are extensive areas of rushes and sedges with some flax, coprosma, ti kouka and manuka. The area is adjacent to the estuarine marshlands of the Toko Mouth area and provides a habitat for fernbird.

23. **BORRELL A & L.** 'The Branches' station, Mid Shotover, 50km from Queenstown.

Two large areas on one of the remotest runs in New Zealand have been covenanted. Sixteen Mile Creek, 1020 ha, is a valley clad with patches of regenerating beech forest. At its head is a high hanging valley over which the Alexander McKay Falls drop to Sixteen Mile Creek. The area is used by an increasing number of trampers and tourists.

Lochnagar, 400 ha, features a high altitude lake and surrounding land. It is geologically significant being considered one of the best South Island examples of a giant rock slide and dam/lake behind it.

24. **WALKER BA & G.** Anderson Road, 7 km east of Palmerston, 57 km north-east of Dunedin.

A covenant protects a 7.61 ha coastal area next to a lagoon. The protected area contains a coastal strip, sand dunes and an estuary. The area is also significant for wildlife, forming part of



Walker covenant

a chain of feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds along the South Island east coast.

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

25. JOHNSTON NK & CB. Myross Bush, 3 km north-east of Invercargill. A lowland podocarp forest remnant has been protected by covenant. The 12.71 ha area has never been logged and has been in the family for over 50 years. It contains large mature rimu, matai, miro, kahikatea and pokaka. Some natural wet areas have allowed for added diversity of vegetation. Birds including native pigeon, tui, bellbird, fantail, grey warbler, silver eye and brown creeper are abundant.

Rating Powers Amendment Act, 1992

For many years some territorial authorities have given rating relief to covenant owners. This recognised the benefits to the community, and the often significant cost to the landholder, of covenanting a valuable open space feature on their property. However many authorities felt unable to give rate remission as the statutes were unclear on this matter.

The National Trust has, for some years, tried to get the situation rectified. Despite submissions to the Rating Powers Bill in 1987 and attempts to get legislative change since, the Trust has been frustrated in its attempts. However it is gratifying that these efforts, and those of supportive covenantors and councils, have resulted in the Amendment Act.

Under this Act, territorial authorities can adopt a policy of rate remission or postponement for land voluntarily

protected with the National Trust. They can set their criteria for rate remission as part of the policy. Covenant owners could then apply under those criteria. The territorial authority must give public notice of all decisions to remit rates and owners should be aware of this when they make application. However it does recognise the territorial authorities' accountability to other ratepayers.

In recent years the Trust has found territorial authorities very supportive of rating relief especially when they fully understand the contribution being made by covenant owners to protecting New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage.

The National Trust has written to all territorial authorities in the hope that they will develop policies and criteria on rate remission as soon as possible so covenant owners can benefit from this timely legislative change.

The Pollok Covenant At Colville

Jim and Fay Pollok purchased their 56 hectare forest remnant behind the small township of Colville on the Coromandel Peninsula, in 1979. They wanted to protect the area before it was lost to development.

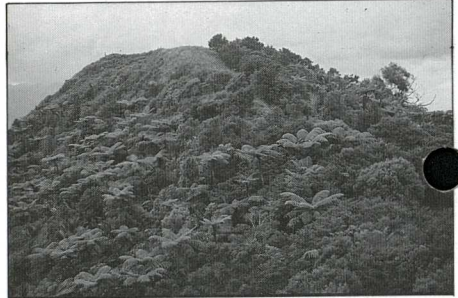
They also wanted to protect it from soil erosion, a problem Jim was well aware of and concerned about since his days as a lecturer in Soil Science at Massey University. Their main goal however, was to save a small piece of New Zealand as a habitat for birds, and for people who had a love for bush.

Purchasing this area achieved all of their goals but the Polloks wanted more. They wished to see the area firmly protected by law and protected in perpetuity, so in 1985 they approached the National Trust for a covenant.

About the same time they also built a small Lockwood type house right in the bush to use as a summer retreat, especially after their retirement. This little cottage now sits at the head of a wide gully and fits snugly into the surrounding kanuka vegetation while retaining a wide view to the north over the Colville Harbour.

There is no power connected to the cottage and none is wanted as the aim is to get away from everything. Cooking is done on either a gas or firewood stove and water is heated the same way. Nevertheless, the people from Colville town always know when the Polloks are in residence because their single gas light appears like starlight from below in the clear Coromandel air.

This lovely area of bush is rich not only in kanuka but has trees such as kauri, rimu, tanekaha, puriri, taraire, kohekohe and rewarewa. Bird life is also plentiful



Kauae-O-Maui

with fantail, grey warbler, silvereye and bellbirds greeting you almost as soon as you walk into the bush. Pigeons can be seen flying across below and kingfishers are common. The bellbird dawn chorus is quite impressive.

Most of the Pollok's summer visitors, after spending some time out on the verandah high above the valley, are usually escorted to the high point behind the house which is known as Te Kauae-O-Maui (the chin of Maui). This vantage point provides a 360 degree view, looking to Auckland and Rangitoto Island in the north-west, to Mount Moehau in the north-east, and back to the Hauraki Plains to the south.

However, the greatest feature of a visit to this area is its privacy. As soon as you enter the ten minute walking track to the house there is a sense of solitude, a feeling which is now difficult to find. When you arrive at the house and collapse in the peace of kanuka, with bellbirds right at hand, you feel you never want to leave. It is then you appreciate what the Polloks have achieved.

*Stuart Chambers
Waikato Representative*

Trust Farewells Two Representatives

Recently two National Trust Representatives left the Trust due to pressure of other work.

Martin Conway

Martin has been Regional Representative for Nelson, Marlborough and north Westland since mid 1988.

During his time with the Trust, Martin has been involved with some very exciting proposals, many of which incorporated Martin's personal and professional interest in landscape protection. Much has been achieved but some will take time to finalise.

Martin's groundwork will bear fruit in future, particularly in Golden Bay, Nelson and Marlborough. Watch this space!

He leaves with the very best wishes for continuing success of his landscape architecture practice and nursery business. There will be continuing contact

between the Trust and Martin, among other things, through his own covenant and the significant revegetation programme in it.

John Murphy

John was the first Trust Regional Representative for Taranaki and the Wanganui districts, appointed in December 1990.

During this time a number of interesting and valuable covenant areas came forward, engendered by John's enthusiasm for the cause. This same enthusiasm was also applied to the wider interests of the Trust in Taranaki. He played an integral part in establishing the 'Friends of Hollard Gardens' last year.

John's many other commitments, to a large scale dairy unit and to a variety of further interests, have forced John to resign from the Trust. We wish him well.

Alistair Duncan Visits China

In May, Tupare Curator Alistair Duncan visited northern Yunnan in China. He was a member of a group organised through Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust at the invitation of the Department of Botany, University of Kunming.

He reports that the object of the visit was to evaluate plant material suitable for New Zealand and not yet cultivated here.

The tour covered some 2500 kilometres from Kunming to Dali, to Lijiang and on up to the Tibetan plateau near Zhongdian. Here they were only the third group of westerners allowed into that area. Alistair was also among the few in the group to climb to the top of the 14000 ft Mount Cangshan.

As a result of the visit, interesting plant material likely to come to New Zealand includes *Catalpa duclouxiana*, a pink *Campylotropis*, *Dipelta*, *Pistacia*

weimania, *Piptanthus tomentosa*, *Mangletia insignis* and a pink form of *Magnolia delavayi*. Also in the offing is a white double form of *Camellia reticulata*.

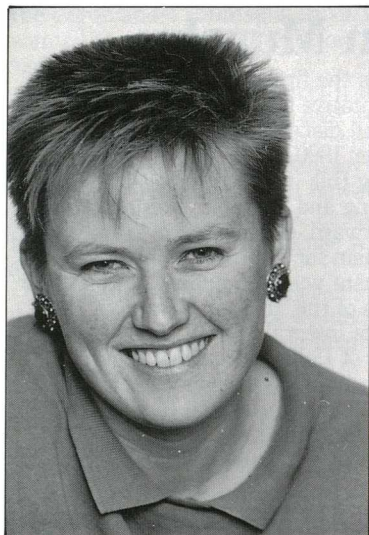
Superior forms of some rhododendrons were found including a magnificent *Rhododendron dichroanthum*. Alistair says that to wade through fields of *R. racemosum* and *R. hippophaeoides* at 10,662 ft or to lunch under arching bowers of *R. sinocarpum* at 12000 ft, pink blooms glistening in the mist, *Abies delavayi*, bright yellow *R. lacteum* and white *R. fictolacteum* disappearing far across the valleys, is an unforgettable sight.

He feels that there is no doubt that the Trust's gardens and New Zealand generally will soon benefit from the visit.

"There is much to gain from the close links forged with our hosts and the free exchange of ideas and expertise" he says.

New Regional Representatives

The Trust is pleased to introduce two new Regional Representatives.



Marie Taylor

Marie Taylor has taken over from Martin Conway as the Nelson-Marlborough Representative for the National Trust.

Marie, a rural journalist with qualifications in horticulture and journalism, has just set up her own business called Bronte Stories. She will also be lecturing on print journalism at Nelson Polytechnic. She worked for the Nelson Evening Mail for the past five years and before that worked in Whangarei for the Northern Advocate.

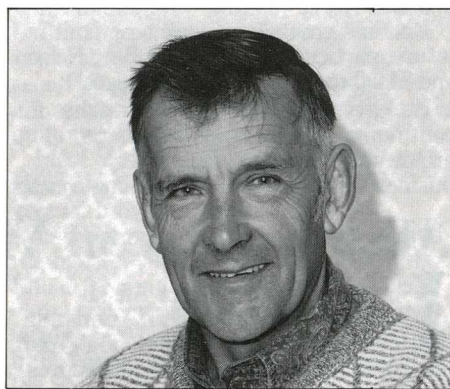
Marie was born and raised on a sheep farm at Knapdale in Southland, where her parents still live.

She has enjoyed writing about a wide variety of land-based issues including

horticultural crops, livestock farming, forestry and tree crops as well as agribusiness and politics.

Marie and her husband Richard Croad live on a one-hectare property on the coastal highway, between Nelson and Motueka. It looks out over the Waimea Estuary and they are revegetating a small bush gully as part of making their property a large garden.

In her spare time Marie enjoys mountain biking, sea-kayaking and snow skiing. She looks forward to working with the National Trust.



Ross Bishop

Ross Bishop in the new Trust representative for Taranaki, taking over from John Murphy.

Born in Inglewood, Ross has lived all his life in Taranaki and has a long history of involvement with the land. He and his wife Helen who have a grown up family of three, currently farm a 21 hectare drystock unit in the Koru district inland from Oakura.

The property is close to Egmont National Park where he spends time pursuing two of his great interests, the

study of native orchids and ferns.

Ross's other interests include membership of the local Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Ornithological Society.

Being involved with the National Trust

will, Ross believes, add another reason to his long list of good reasons for going bush.

He is looking forward to meeting and working with Taranaki people interested in protecting their natural landscape.

High Country Involvement

The National Trust recognises that the South Island high country contains a diversity of landscapes ranging from those that are essentially unmodified to those that are the result of the interactions of natural and cultural processes. These landscapes include special features and values that deserve protection in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations.

Much of the South Island high country is leased to property holders by Crown pastoral leases which place certain restrictions on land use change which may impact on the landscape.

The role the Trust can play in achieving landscape protection objectives in the high country has been recognised since the early 1980s. More recently there has been a growing interest by Crown pastoral lessees in entering into open space covenant arrangements with the Trust.

Recognising that there is both an increasing desire by lessees to formally protect open space values on their leaseholding together with significant public interest in many aspects of high country management, the Trust has adopted a policy to clarify its work in

open space (landscape) protection in the high country.

The National Trust believes that its activities can significantly contribute to effective open space protection without impinging on the rights of the lessor (the Crown) or lessees. The Trust policy notes that in general open space covenants covering extensive areas of a pastoral leaseholding would be agreed to subject to conditions set out in a management plan. As management of covenanted areas remains the responsibility of the leaseholder in accordance with the terms negotiated for each covenant, the provisions of a management plan would be worked out between the leaseholder, the Trust, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands as lessor.

The policy statement focuses on the statutory situation as far as the Trust's own responsibilities are concerned, while recognising the statutory responsibilities of other agencies involved in the management of Crown pastoral leasehold land. Existence of the policy will ensure that covenant proposals involving land in the high country will generally be assessed in a uniform way.

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Board August 1992

Appointed by the Minister of Conservation in terms of the QEII National Trust Act 1977

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