

NEWS LETTER

Nº3

JUNE 1980



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

COVER PHOTO

The bleak southerly aspect of Bald Cone (280m) is typical of the granite country in the south west of Stewart Island. What ground cover there is consists of native grasses with a low tangle of scrub and stunted forest along the shore. Port Pegasus is a fiord-like inlet shielded from the fury of the southern ocean by three large islands. Tall forest in the more sheltered North Arm supported logging and sawmilling as early as 1826 but climate and the distance from the market made the industry unattractive. South Arm, seen here in the foreground and behind the peak, is bare and open country. In the late 1880s there appeared to be some prospects of mining for tin and gold in the area east of Pegasus Creek, which flows into the North Arm from the north. An overgrown tram-track can still be seen leading from the Tin Range to the shore of Port Pegasus, but probably not more than one tonne of cassiterite (tin ore) was ever extracted. There was a small but steady production of gold from the area in the closing years of last century. Apart from a small stretch of State forest and a tiny patch of private land, the whole of the Port Pegasus area is a scenic reserve. The hinterland, to the north and the west, is part of the 84 440ha nature reserve which comprises just over half the total area of Stewart Island. It was in these isolated valleys and uplands that two female kakapo were found recently by a party of scientists.

KARIOI OPEN SPACE STUDY

Late last year the Trust undertook an assessment of the Mount Karioi area, near Raglan, for its scenic and recreational potential. The study is being carried out by Trust staff and aims to identify priority areas for the Trust's concern and to prepare policy guidelines for protection, enhancement or development.

Local landowners and the Raglan County Council are also being consulted.

When the study is completed the findings will be embodied in a concise document and presented to the Trust, the Raglan County and the landowners involved.

Vegetation patterns, soil types and erosion potential have been mapped and this information will be combined into a physical patterns overlay map for the final report. Farming operations will be recorded in a second overlay and will include pasture and production potential. Data and photographs required for visual assessment were gathered during the January 29 - February 1 field trip.

An attempt has been made to identify key recreational areas but unfortunately there has been a slow response from the clubs involved.

The forested slopes of Mount Karioi not only form the backdrop to the study area but also play a major part in the ecological viability of the associated vegetation on the privately-owned lower slopes. As it is part of Pirongia State Forest, the study team will consult the New Zealand Forest Service so that management policies on such matters as access, tracking, fencing and noxious animal control can be co-ordinated.

LEWIS PASS STUDY

Earlier this year the Minister of Lands and Forests, Mr Venn Young, sought the assistance of the Trust to study the Lewis Pass area and to offer advice on the future of Crown land in the area.

A Trust sub-committee visited the Lewis Pass area and is now studying public submissions and the joint report of the Forest Service and the Department of Lands and Survey.

A final report will be submitted to the August meeting of the Board of Directors and then to the Minister.

OPEN SPACE COVENANTS

A total of 51 Open Space Covenants has now been approved by the QE2 National Trust Board of Directors and final negotiations are now under way for the following properties:

NORTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT

BLACKLER, L.A. & J.L. Wellsford (Wharehine)
10 ha of bush.

BUCKLETON, J. Matakana, Warkworth
52 ha. Whole farm with a number of forest patches.

DELAMORE, R. (Matiatia Farms Ltd) Waiheke Island
10 ha of coastal cliffs covered with flax, light scrub, grass and pohutukawa.

FISHER, W. (MR & MRS) Birkenhead, Auckland
2.8 ha of regenerating bush on Auckland's North Shore.

FLEMING, G.G. Tuakau
14 ha of bush in four clumps on coastal hill country south of the Waikato River mouth.

HOMES, AND BARNES Kaukapakapa, near Waiwera
23 ha of bush.

KIDD, G.E. AND M.I. Te Kopuru, Dargaville
4 ha of kauri/kahikatea forest.

ST PAUL, W. Papakura
4 ha of bush on a small farm within the Manukau City Council planning area.

WHEELER, C.W.L. Tryphena, Great Barrier Island
80 ha of second growth forest overlooking Tryphena Harbour.

WHITMORE, R.G. Te Hana, Wellsford
58 ha of second growth forest in two areas on a sheep/dairy farm.

SOUTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT

CALDWELL, W.R. Mangaotaki, Piopio
6.5 hectares of native forest in the northern King Country.

COWAN, A.B. Upper Waipa Area, Otorohanga
42 hectares of forest in excellent order in four small blocks.

BROCHENDALE FARMS LTD (MR A.B. COWAN) Otorohanga
Whole farm covenant to protect the forest.

COWAN, MISS J.L. Rewa Rewa, Otorohanga
12 hectares of good bush in five pieces.

EASTON, D.J. Te Kuiti
12 hectares of bush.

GRAY, V.M. & J.S. Matata, Whakatane
100 hectares of native bush on a Bay of Plenty farm.

MELVILLE, J. Whakatane
12.5 hectares of forested gully near the Whakatane-Ohope Road.

NZ FOREST PRODUCTS LTD Tokoroa
90 ha of native forest, exotic forest and a giant totara reserve,
in six areas.

PETRE, J. (TRUST) Piopio
About 8 ha of bush.

POTTER, W.G. Pururu, Te Kuiti
45 ha of good dense regenerating forest on rolling, high, sheep
country.

ROBERTSON Paemako, Piopio
4 ha of average to good forest near the Mangaotaki River.

STEPHENSON, G.K. Waotu, Putaruru
About 8 ha of forest in two areas. Covenant completed and signed.

SWANN, D.E. Papanui, Raglan
61 ha of coastal farmland west of Mt Karioi.

MACKINTOSH, J.D. Matata, Bay of Plenty
19 ha of good second growth bush on rolling hill country.

SAVOURY, J.C. Matata, Bay of Plenty
137 ha of first class native forest not far from the Whakatane-
Rotorua highway. Kokako present.

WARREN, M.G. Morrinsville
12.5 ha of cut-over forest in a steep valley on Morrinsville-Orini
Road.

REWA LAND CO. Otewa, Otorohanga
10 ha of heavy lowland podocarp bush in four blocks on rolling
sheep farming land.

COVEWOOD FARMS Tapu, Coromandel Peninsula
45 ha farm with scattered patches of forest running down to a beach
and sea cliffs.

TATHAM, R.B. (RB TATHAM TRUST) Mangaotaki, Piopio
10 ha of forest in several blocks on rolling limestone country, in
very attractive landscape.

WARD, MISSES D.C. M.L., AND M.V. Ruapuke, Raglan
159 ha farm containing several areas of bush and scrub near the
coastline west of Mt Karioi.

WILLIAMS, E.J. Te Miro, Cambridge
26 ha of forest on a rolling hill country sheep farm.

TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT

COLLIER, K.R. Eltham
187 ha of native forest on the Patea River, Taranaki. Kiwis and
bush robin present. Will eventually bound on to the Patea River
hydro-electric lake.

LINTOTT, P. Tangahoe Valley, Hawera
125 ha of forest adjacent to above property

MATTHEWS, W.R. Tangahoe Valley, Eltham
120 ha of healthy native forest enhancing the Meremere Track which
is one of the features of the proposed Patea Hydro scheme.

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT

ASHDOWN, W.G. Gladstone, Wairarapa
2.6 ha of attractive open bush plus a large shallow dam on a
Wairarapa sheep farm.

BAIRD, C.R. Mangaweka
15 ha of good to excellent forest in two areas near the Aupata
Scenic Reserve, and on the Rangiwahia Road.

HOULBROOKE, D.A. Tiraumea, near Eketahuna
2 ha of forest overlooking the Tiraumea Valley.

JENNENS, R.W. Blairlogie, Masterton
127 ha of attractive second growth native bush near the Wairarapa
coast and Riversdale Beach.

JONES, P.N. Okoia, Wanganui
2.7 ha of regenerating forest in three areas.

NEWCOMBE, R.W. Rewa, Fielding
21 ha of regenerating native forest in four areas; one large
white pine and many kowhais present.

PEMBERTON, B.C. Rangiwahia, Fielding
3 ha of magnificent podocarp forest of high scientific value.

DEAR, G. Rongotea, Fielding
9 ha of forest in two areas, on flat land south of Fielding.

SMITH, K. Marton
12.5 ha of good native bush near SH 1 north of Marton.

OLIVER, W.G. Orautahi, Raetihi
4 ha of mature beech forest on the banks of the Manganui-a-te-Ao river.

VOELKERLING, G. Orautahi, Raetihi
3.5 ha of forest in two areas near the Manganui-a-te-Ao River adjacent to above property.

NELSON LAND DISTRICT

STOCKER, J.E. Takaka
A small area of forest (bush gully) on a 6.5 ha farm near Takaka in limestone country.

WALKER, R.A. Wakefield
2 ha of good mature forest on alluvial flats in the Wai-iti Valley.

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

MEARS, P.G. Oxford, North Canterbury
4 ha of remnant hardwood beech/podocarp forest near Oxford town.

MORRISON, I.J. Kakahu, Geraldine
125 ha of potentially good native forest in three areas, plus unique geological features, early Maori drawings, some wetland and an old recently restored lime kiln.

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

HOLMS, W.T. Waimahaka, Mataura
64 ha of remnant, dense, matai/kaihikatea forest near Fortrose.

MATHIESON, I.A. Longwood, Riverton
40 ha of attractive lightly milled forest near the coast west of Invercargill.

SOUTHLAND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY Redcliff
103 ha of wetland and swamp. The largest and most important remaining in Southland. To be protected for improved wildlife habitat and for recreation, study and enjoyment by the public.

OBITUARY

Mrs H.P. Harris, Rototuna, Hamilton

We regretfully record the death of Mrs Harris who was a passenger in the ill-fated DC10 which crashed in Antarctica last year. Mrs Harris had been a member of the Trust since 1978 and was very active in supporting the trust in the Waikato area. She was a member of the South Auckland Conservation Society.

FOREST GEMS

BY Hazel P. Harris

Stay, by the hidden pool,
And gather gems
Of beauty for your hair,
A star sapphire of clematis
Is shining there;
Or you may choose
A ring of gold
From Kowhai flowers,
And from the lawyer vine
Collect its amber beads;
See there, a fern
Unclench its tiny fist
And loose a crystal
On the mossy jade,
While pendant earrings
Droop from fuchsia trees,
Pale rubies, glowing
In this jewelled glade.

VISIT TO STEWART ISLAND

A party representing the QE2 National Trust visited Stewart Island last month to make an independent assessment of the various options for the island's future administration. The Chairman of the Trust, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, was accompanied by Dr J.E. Batten, a lecturer at Auckland University, Mr J.M. Somerville, OBE, president of the New Zealand Counties Association, both directors of the Trust, and Mr B. Thorpe, executive officer of the Trust.

The visit was made at the request of the Minister of Lands and Forests, Mr Venn Young, who sought the advice of the Trust on the Stewart Island Land Management Study, a joint report prepared by the Department of Lands and Survey and the Forest Service. At present the greater part of the island is administered by these two departments.

A small sub-committee chaired by Sir Thaddeus will submit a final report to the August meeting of the Trust Board of Directors and then to the Minister.

REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE TRUST

The Executive Committee has approved the appointment of three people as Trust Correspondents for their areas, as follows:

North Auckland

Mr Tony Childs, former District Field Officer for the Department of Lands and Survey, now retired to Whangarei.

Waikato

Mr A.E. Turley, formerly Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Taranaki and South Auckland Land Districts, retired to Hamilton.

Wanganui, Taranaki, Manawatu

Mr Ken Davidson, formerly General Manager for Newton King Ltd of New Plymouth, now living in Wanganui. Mr Davidson has already completed several covenant reports.

The appointments are initially for one year.

MOTU RIVER

The Trust has agreed to a request from the Power Division of the Ministry of Works and Development to participate in studies of the Motu River.

The aim is to investigate all possible aspects of the river resources before examining any proposals for hydro power development.

Working parties will evaluate the ecology of the area, possible land uses and forestry potential and its recreational and scenic values. The Trust will be represented on the recreational and scenery working party.

These studies are expected to take some time.

A more immediate issue is the granting of water rights to MOWD to conduct preliminary investigations at possible dam sites. This right is in abeyance pending the hearing of an objection by the New Zealand Canoeing Association.

The Association believes that the Motu River is one of the finest and most accessible wild water rivers in the world and is concerned that the investigations themselves might alter the river irreversibly. Objectors feel that the drilling of rock faces, the disposal of rubble into the river, the construction of water diversion schemes and the building of access roads and bridges will damage both the river itself and its wilderness surroundings.

The Trust has agreed to support the Association in the presentation of its objection.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

A system to provide for the better protection of wild and scenic rivers was outlined in a Government policy statement on 6 December 1979. It recognises the need for an amendment to the water and soil legislation and a combined effort by interested administrative authorities. The Trust is to have an advisory role for the recreational interests involved and an advocacy role in all general matters concerning wild and scenic rivers. The Trust is now in consultation with MOWD on draft amendments to the legislation necessary for the change in Government policy and on procedures to make sure that the policy is carried out effectively. The Trust believes that greater public participation in decision making is the key to effective protection. The Trust has already made submissions to the Wanganui-Rangitikei Catchment Board concerning their management plan for the Wanganui River system.

Published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, P.O. Box 3341, 70-78 The Terrace, Wellington.

Prepared by the Information and Publicity Section, Tourist and Publicity Department, P.O. Box 10247, Wellington.

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