



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

NEWS LETTER

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The cover photo shows the magnificent views from the bush on the Collier property to the cleared land on part of the Glenui Station. The Patea River flows between the bush in the foreground and the cleared land. Daily News photo.

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THE PRESERVATION OF MORRISON'S BUSH

"It's a pretty spectacular area. I wanted to preserve the bush. I knew that if I ever had to sell the property some cockie would come through with a bulldozer and rip it all out. I just couldn't abide the thought."

This is how Ian Morrison feels about the 125 ha of bush and gully on his farm, about 25 km north-west of Timaru, which he has recently covenanted with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

It could not by any stretch of the imagination, be called an ordinary farm. It has historical and geological curiosities including two lime kilns, Maori rock drawings, excellent geological sequences, exposed marble, lignites, and plant fossils which were first studied by Sir Julius von Haast. And there is bush. It was his love of this bush area that led Mr Morrison to contact the trust.



A spectacular view over Mr Ian Morrison's farm near Timaru, showing rocky outcrops, bush, and developed farm land.

“Having bush on the hills stabilises the area,” says Ian Morrison, “and I can farm just as well as without that piece of land as I ever could with it. There are far fewer slips now since the bush has been left to grow.”

The Historic Places Trust has restored and now maintains one of the two lime kilns, and Mr Morrison is thinking of putting a covenant on the second kiln and on the area containing the Maori rock drawings.

Condensed from *Straight Furrow*.

FOREST REMNANTS IN THE NELSON LOWLANDS

In 1978 the Botany Division of the DSIR published a pilot survey entitled *Inventory of tall forest stands on lowland plains and terraces in Nelson and Marlborough Land Districts of New Zealand*. It identified 932 stands and ranked them according to size, degree of modification, proximity to and contiguity with hill forests, distribution and rarity of major species, fragility, isolation, security of tenure, and regional and national importance to nature conservation. The survey showed that many of the areas of bush important to biologists and very much part of the local landscape are not likely to survive — being too small or damaged in some way. It also identified areas that, with care, could be maintained. The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust has approached the owners of nine areas in the Motueka and Takaka regions seeking to protect them in perpetuity. Five of the nine owners have so far agreed. The trust is now considering how best to arrange for the preservation of a further 80 possibly valuable areas.

WAIPA COUNTY SURVEY

The Waipa County Council has prepared an open space survey on the lakes, archaeological sites, and remnant native vegetation in the county. The initial reports were prepared by Mr Jack Boubee, a Ph. D. student at Waikato University, and will be published in a series of booklets covering such topics as “Native Bush Stands”, “Sites of Historical Interest”, and “Management of the Waipa Lakes”.

More booklets on the historical landscape, the landscape today, and the landowner’s role in guiding landscape change are planned.

The National Trust offered to help the county in its preservation efforts and engaged Mr Boyden Evans, a landscape architect, and Mr Andrew Sim, the trust’s senior field officer, to make a further survey and to approach several local landowners with a view to establishing open space covenants in the area.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL TRUSTS

The Chairman of the trust, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, recently attended the second world conference of national trusts held in north-eastern United States.

It was attended by representatives from 41 national trusts or conservation organisations from the United States and from other countries including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, Greece, India, New Zealand, and several Australian states.

The highlight of the conference for Sir Thaddeus was the concluding 4 days spent in Adirondack Park.

“This celebrated area of high hills, lakes and magnificent forests, long frozen winters and blazing autumns is world renowned,” said Sir Thaddeus in his report. “It covers about 2.4 million hectares of both state and private land and is home for some 125,000 people. It is controlled and administered by the Adirondack Park Agency, an organisation set up by Statute and imposed on the area because of the belief that conservation demanded it.

“The Agency could be likened to one of our national park boards except that it has extensive jurisdiction over the use and disposal of private land as well as public lands,” said Sir Thaddeus.

Of all the organisations attending the conference only the Countryside Commission of Scotland seemed to Sir Thaddeus to have similar aims to those of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. Many of the other organisations, like the National Trust of England, for example, were more concerned with the preservation of historical buildings and other notable properties, than with the preservation of open spaces as such.

“One note sounded by the older and more experienced national trusts was not to be discouraged by lack of progress in the early years,” said Sir Thaddeus. The National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland had taken about 50 years to reach its present strength. Both its membership and its funds were very low for most of that period, but its membership trebled in the last 10 years to reach the present 10 000 and its funds were now enormous.

The paper presented by Sir Thaddeus about the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust caused great interest. The concept of an organisation supported by the Government and relied upon by the Government for advice on the preservation of open spaces was regarded as a novel one and there was considerable discussion about its chances of competing successfully with other interest groups.

Sir Thaddeus concluded his report by saying that although he had initially been rather skeptical about the value of international conferences, this one had been invaluable for the opportunity it provided for getting to know and forming friendships with related organisations throughout the world.

BUSH-CLAD LAKE ON PATEA RIVER

Three very public-spirited farmers and the Egmont Electric Power Board will give the people of Taranaki a superbly scenic recreation spot when the new power project on the Patea River is completed in the late 1980s.

The three farmers, Keith Collier, Peter Lintott, and Ross Matthews, entered into open space covenants with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust to preserve in perpetuity the bush-clad hills on their properties bordering on the river.

Another farmer with bush bordering on the new lake, Mr Ernest West, is also considering entering into an open space covenant.

The new man-made Lake Rotorangi will wind up between developed farm land and the bush areas which the four farmers wish to see preserved.

The possibility of a walkway through the covenanted block is being investigated by Mr Collier, because access is at present very difficult. About two thirds of this area was selectively logged for rimu, kahikatea, matai, and totara about 20 years ago, and Mr Collier believes that the bulldozer tracks could form the nucleus of a walkway system.

The rest of the block is virgin bush. Tuis, bellbirds, grey warblers, tomtits, and fantails are common, and North Island robins have been reported. Mr Albie Mullins, who manages the southern half of the Collier farm, says that he has seen a kiwi in the scrub near the reserve.

Next to Mr Collier's land and also bordering the new lake is 125 ha of bush that has been covenanted by its former owner Mr Peter Lintott. Access to this property is also very difficult but visitors will be able to reach the bush by boat when the lake is filled.

"It's beautiful bush," says Peter Lintott, "and I want to see it preserved. I'm sure there are kiwis in there and the rest of the birdlife is terrific. When the dam is full there will be some great views. I love it out there."

Most of Ross Matthews' property is virgin forest but the northern portion, cut in 1933, shows graphically the time-scale required for the regeneration of native bush.



An aerial view of bush areas on the Patea River covenanted by Keith Collier and Peter Lintott. Looking northwards, upstream, the boundary between the two properties is opposite the tributary stream on the right. Daily News photo.

NEW TRUST BOOKLET

The comprehensive new booklet on the work of the trust published last November is now widely distributed throughout the country. The text was written by the late Mr Lloyd White, then Trust Manager, and the art work and design done by the National Publicity Studios.

The directors believe that the booklet will be valuable in recruiting members and in explaining the benefits of open space covenants to interested landowners. Copies are obtainable from offices of the Department of Lands and Survey, from trust district correspondents, and from the head office of the trust in Wellington.

THE FIGHT FOR THE MANGANUI-A-TE-AO

The Manganui-a-te-Ao River, illustrated and discussed briefly in our first two newsletters, is still a live issue in the controversy over preservation and exploitation. The river combines the assets of being suitable for development as a small hydro scheme and being one of the country's best rivers for wild, scenic, and recreational qualities.

The Wanganui-Rangitikei Electric Power Board wants to build three power stations on the river with a combined generating power of 80 MW and an annual output of 225 GWh. They will involve diversionary channels and tunnels totalling nearly 20 km in length which will reduce residual flows to the order of about 30 percent of the mean monthly flow.

In 1979 concerned local people presented a petition to Parliament with more than 5000 signatures, asking that the river be preserved in its natural state.

They said that the Manganui-a-te-Ao was the last major river in the Central North Island Plateau not already harnessed for hydro power. They pointed out that it was readily accessible to the public for 30 to 40 km for camping, tramping, rafting, and trout fishing as well as providing a wildlife habitat especially suitable for the endangered blue mountain duck.

The petition was supported by the Commission for the Environment, the Wildlife Division, the Department of Lands and Survey, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the National Trust. It was opposed by the Electricity Division of the Ministry of Energy.

The Committee of the House, which heard the petition, referred it to the Government "for consideration", suggesting that petitioners might lodge objections to the granting of water rights under the Town and Country Planning Act.

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust wrote to the National Authority for Water and Soil Conservation asking that they use their power to fix a minimum flow for the river equal to the naturally existing flow at all times, effectively preventing the use of the river for power generation.

As a result of submissions by the trust, the Wanganui-Rangitikei Catchment Board has decided to hold a special hearing on the Manganui-a-te-Ao and has called for public submissions to be in its hands by 22 June 1981.

The power board believes that hydro development and fishing can co-exist by the establishment of compensation flows, residual flows, limited fluctuations, and a number of other devices.

“Unfortunately,” as our late manager Lloyd White pointed out in a recent article in *Soil and Water*, “whatever they do will not get over the fact that rainbow trout must travel upstream into the tributaries to spawn, and they cannot swim through a series of dams, tunnels and power schemes.”

His opinion is backed by analyses conducted by the Fisheries Research Division and by the Cawthron Institute.

The trust has now been asked by the Government to advise interested groups in the compilation of a national inventory of scenic, recreational, and other features of our rivers. Mr White expressed the hope in his article that legislation giving greater protection to wild and scenic rivers would be introduced this year.

“Anyone who has visited Manganui-a-te-Ao would agree that it is an outstanding example of wild and natural scenery and a superb trout fishery,” he concluded. “There are few enough such rivers left in their natural state. Once gone, it would be irreplaceable.”

G.D. LLOYD WHITE

Members will have read in the press of the death on 19 February of Lloyd White, our Trust Manager, after a short illness.

Lloyd came to the trust in its earliest days after his retirement from the State Services. He obtained an M.A. in Economics at Canterbury; served for 4 years in the 2NZE in the Middle East and Italy, and then joined the Treasury. He moved to

the Department of External Affairs (now Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in 1949 where he had a most distinguished career here and overseas, completing his service as our Ambassador in Washington.



The late Mr Lloyd White.

From this background he brought to the trust a happy mix of innate ability, charm, and experience. He had a delightfully dry and laconic wit, and an interest and enthusiasm for outdoor activities, especially trout fishing. To his work he contributed the benefits of his years in diplomacy and in the reporting to Government on important discussions and interviews. All this made him a most suitable officer for an organisation setting out to establish itself in the life of our country. His international reputation and considerable ability added distinction to the trust, and contributed greatly to securing the public approval which the trust has sought. We at headquarters are grateful for his contribution and for his friendship. We shall miss him.

Thaddeus McCarthy, Chairman.

MEMORIAL MINUTE – G.D.L. WHITE, TRUST MANAGER

At its February meeting the trust board recorded its sorrow at the death of the Trust Manager, Lloyd White, and its gratitude for his highly valued services to the board over the last 3 years. Those services contributed greatly to the launching and development of the trust's activities. The board extends its sympathy to Mrs White and her family.

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION TEAM

The Environmental Council stated recently that landscape protection or enhancement should be one of the first things considered at the planning stage of any project involving major land modification.

They suggested that there was a need for an inventory of regional landscape features and an assessment of their relative values. The then Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Venn Young, took up this suggestion and asked the National Trust to get together a team from the Environmental Council and from the Department of Lands and Survey to advise him. The NZ Landscape Architects' Institute has produced a paper outlining the procedures to be followed, and the National Trust will assist in co-ordinating the activities of all Government departments involved in future construction work.

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the National Trust is growing steadily and had reached 140 at the time of going to press.

OPEN SPACE COVENANTS

A further 35 open space covenants have been approved by the Board of Directors since our last newsletter was issued, and negotiations are now under way on the following properties:

North Auckland Land District

Mr & Mrs B.S. Anderson

Dargaville

4 ha of kauri forest on a hill country farm north of Dargaville. This bush is a local landmark.

Mr N.J. Caldwell of Ohio, USA

An area of native forest overlooking Doubtless Bay from the south.

Mr R.J. Mansell

Kaukapakapa

9 ha of native forest, a remnant typical of the original bush cover of the district.

Mr J. S. Mason and Mr P. Lowes

Kerikeri

12 ha of native forest near Takou Bay. A scenically attractive area.

B.K. Matheson Ltd

Waipu

20 ha of native forest dominated by kauri, rimu, and totara. A scenic asset in the district.

Mr G.G. Phyn Tangiteroria
17.4 ha of native forest on a Northland sheep farm. Kiwis could be present.

Mr D.M. Ross Parua Bay
11.4 ha of native forest near Whangarei. A botanically valuable area.

I. M. Rutherford & Sons Waiuku
10 ha of native forest on coastal land near the Manakau Heads.

Group Captain and Mrs G. E. Watt Takapuna
5.3 ha of mixed exotic and native forest at Hauwai Bay, Mahurangi Harbour.

Mr G. E. Webster Great Barrier Island
3 ha of coastal landscape and native forest at Smokehouse Bay. The area is used by boaties.

South Auckland Land District

Mr A. Boggust Mokauiti, Te Kuiti
24 ha of near virgin forest on a remote steep hill country property.

Mr J.D. Crook Te Awamutu
4.5 ha of native forest on a farm 23 km from Kihikihi. Easily seen from the Arapuni-Te Awamutu highway.

River Lodge Farm Ltd Tauranga
1 ha of native forest, mainly tawa and rewarewa. The block adjoins the Wairoa River which at this spot is popular with canoeists.

Taranaki Land District

Mr E.O. West Hawera
About 40 ha of native forest which will eventually adjoin the Patea River Hydro Lake. The bush is possibly the only virgin area to border the proposed hydro scheme.

Hawke's Bay Land District

Mr J.H. Bibby Waipawa
19.2 ha of native forest on a southern Hawke's Bay hill country farm not far from the Ruahine Ranges.

Mr P.J. Haynes, Reef Station Mahia Peninsula
60 ha of southerly facing forest dominated by kohekohe and tawa in the Mangatea Stream valley.

Mr P.B. Latey and Mr R.G. Gallen Napier
43 ha of regenerating forest and scrub in the foothills of the Maungaharuru Range west of Tutira.

Wellington Land District

Mr J.N.P. Collyns Pauatahanui
12 ha of native forest on the Paekakariki Hill Road. Kohekohe and tawa are the dominant trees.

Mr A.M. Hamilton Palmerston North
5 ha of native forest and an oxbow lagoon on a farm near the Manawatu River. The lagoon is a wildlife area.

Huiarau Family Trust Dannevirke
6 ha of native forest on a northern Wairarapa farm near Weber.

Mr N.H. Robinson Pongaroa
97.2 ha of native forest on a hill country farm east of Pongaroa.

Mr J.M. Skerman Martinborough
4.45 ha of swamp and scattered kahikatea a short distance north of the town. The area is a bird sanctuary.

Nelson Land District

Mr B. Beuke Upper Moutere, Nelson
1 ha of remnant native forest, part of an originally much wider bush cover.

Matuku Farms (Takaka) Ltd Takaka
4.36 ha of native forest. A remnant of the original Takaka valley forest.

Mr B. S. Petterson Takaka
5.4 ha of forest remnant from the original Takaka valley forest, growing on the banks of the Takaka River.

Mr G.J. Petterson Takaka
3.2 ha of forest remnant from the original Takaka valley forest. Contiguous with that owned by Mr B.S. Petterson.

Mr P.J. Upchurch

Riwaka

20 ha of native forest remnant near the Motueka River. Completely surrounded by a pine plantation.

Canterbury Land District

Ahuriri Farms Ltd

Christchurch

87 ha of native forest on the western end of Banks Peninsula near Tai Tapu. One of the very few remaining blocks of forest in the area.

Mr M.R. Hodgen

Hawarden

1.2 ha of swamp which contains many moa skeletons.

Musgrave, M.M. Estate

Geraldine

14 ha of native forest near the Waihi River. A significant south Canterbury bush remnant.

Southland Land District

Mr J.F. McDonald

Invercargill

20 ha of swamp and lake to be kept for wildlife preservation. Situated on the coast near Waimatuku.

Mr I.A. Mathieson

Longwood, Riverton

40 ha of attractive lightly milled forest near the coast, west of Invercargill.

Southland Acclimatisation Society

Redcliffe

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.

Mr A.J. Keller

Invercargill

13 ha of regenerating forest on low-lying land east of Invercargill. Scenically attractive.

Mr G.M. Gunther

Mokotua

40 ha of forest on a dairy farm 12 km south-east of Invercargill. An important part of the local landscape.

REGIONAL ORGANISATION

The Executive Committee has approved the appointment of the following people as Trust Correspondents for their areas.

Northland Mr J.A. Childs,
50 Te Paka Crescent,
Kamo,
WHANGAREI. Ph. 51-302

Waikato Mr A.E. Turley,
11 Berkley Avenue,
HAMILTON. Ph. 65-654

Taranaki, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Manawatu.
Mr K.E. Davidson,
33 Orr Crescent,
LOWER HUTT Ph. 726-626

Canterbury Dr I.D. Blair,
65 Puriri Street,
CHRISTCHURCH. Ph. 489-571

Dr Ian Blair, formerly head of the Microbiology Department, Lincoln College, and now living in Christchurch, has agreed to represent the trust in Canterbury. He is a member of the Guardians of Lake Wanaka, Vice-President of the Canterbury Council of the Acclimatisation Society, a trustee of the National Library of New Zealand, and a fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science. He works occasionally with Dr B.P.J. Molloy, of the Botany Division, DSIR, in his field activities.

Southland Mr R.R. Sutton,
Lorneville RD 4,
INVERCARGILL. Ph. 358-230

Mr Sutton of Lorneville, near Invercargill, has agreed to represent the trust in Southland. He is currently Senior Field Officer for the Southland Acclimatisation Society and an elected member of the Southland Catchment Board. He has been very active in the local conservation week committee, and he and his wife were recently awarded the Loder Cup for their work in the cultivation of native trees.

BACK COPIES OF NEWSLETTER

New members of the trust who would like to have back copies of the newsletter may obtain these free from the trust's head office in Wellington.

