



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

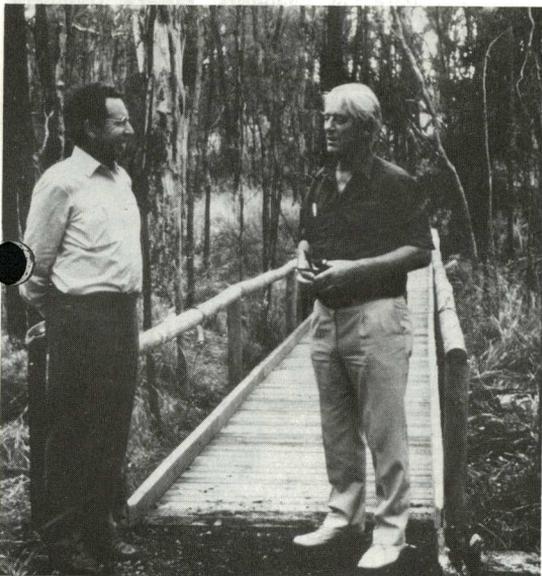
No. 8 June 1984

Visit to the Victoria Conservation Trust, Australia

In February of this year our Chairman Hon. L W Gandar and Director Dr Juliet Batten were invited to the Victoria Conservation Trust to discuss our Trust's work, particularly open space covenants, and also to look at the work of their Trust.

The Victoria Conservation Trust is based in Mel-

Continued overleaf



Hon. L.W. Gandar opening the Anzac Bridge, replacing the one burnt in the "Ash Wednesday" fire, near Melbourne. On left, Professor Swan, Chairman of the Victoria Conservation Trust.

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bourne, run by a Board of Trustees. It has been functioning for 11 years, and has had power to covenant for five years, but to date no covenants have been registered. The Trust was interested in our record of registered covenants, and also in our system of using regional representatives, as they have no such field officers working in rural areas. Another major difference is the Victoria Conservation Trust's membership of 24,000 and the active involvement of local management committees.

Mr Gandar and Dr Batten had discussions with the Victoria Conservation Trust trustees and others including the Minister for Environment and Planning. They visited Trust properties such as the George Tindale Memorial Gardens, in the Dandenongs, where gardens have been planted and flourish under a canopy of gum trees.

They also visited the Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, in Naringal East, the area devastated by the "Ash Wednesday" fire in 1983. In the year following the fire there has been encouraging revegetation, as can be seen in the background of the photo. Dr Batten planted a memorial tree and Mr Gandar named and opened the Anzac Bridge, replacing the one totally destroyed by the fire. He is seen here at the bridge with Professor John Swan, Chairman of the Victoria Conservation Trust.

A return visit to New Zealand by the Victoria Conservation Trust is being considered.

THE MOTU RIVER

The Motu River, an outstanding wild and scenic river in the Bay of Plenty, is now protected by a National Water Conservation Order. The Trust's involvement

with wild and scenic river protection, particularly the Motu, is outlined in Newsletter No. 6. The Trust undertook to apply for a Water Conservation Order to protect the Motu, the first such application under the Water and Soil Conservation Amendment Act 1981. It did this not only because of the Motu's value for recreation, wilderness, scenery and wildlife, but also because the Trust wished to set the criteria and precedents for subsequent applications.

The application was successful. In February the Government approved the Planning Tribunal's recommendation that the river be protected for its entire length of 95 kms, from the Motu Falls to the coast. This prohibits damming and the major drawing off of water and protects the major tributaries as well as the river. This decision has been welcomed throughout the country by canoeists, rafters, trampers, and conservationists.

The National Trust is very conscious that it has been supported in this work by many individuals and organisations. In particular, the Trust wishes to gratefully acknowledge the support and effort of the Environmental Defence Society who played a major role.

TRUST DEMONSTRATION FARM

Landscape planning and design work has been completed by landscape architect Susan Mort for one of the Trust's demonstration farms, Dunrobin Station, on the Pinney Property in Southland. This involves a comprehensive report, and detailed plans for a diversified longterm future land use. The plans include maximising the potential through farm forestry, tree crops, possible subdivision of the 6000 hectare

property into small specialised farm units, the development of an extensive network of farm ponds to serve as wildlife habitats, and details of new building sites.

During 1983 some work that forms part of the landscape proposals were implemented, and this year Mr Pinney is carrying out other work, such as preparation of the wildlife ponds. Once the planning work has been completed on all four demonstration farms, the Trust will publish the landscape architects' reports.

HOLLARD GARDENS

On a recent visit to Taranaki, the Trust Chairman Mr Gandar presented Mr and Mrs Hollard with a citation, officially thanking them for their generous gift to the Trust of the Hollard Gardens. The citation is hand written on pale gold paper with a Trust seal.

The Gardens will be mentioned in three forthcoming publications as gardens of national and international merit. Firstly, in the **Oxford Companion to Gardens** volume on world gardens, and secondly in **New Zealand: The Worlds Garden**. This is a project to promote overseas interest in horticulture organised by Mr Eion Scarrow in conjunction with the Department of Tourism and Publicity. It will include an audiovisual display and videos of some of New Zealand's beautiful commercial, public, and private gardens. Thirdly, the **AA Guide to New Zealand** will list the gardens.

At the end of April Mr Philip Liner of Radio New Zealand visited the Gardens and interviewed the Hollards. This was broadcast on **Roundabout** at the beginning of May.

Trust Chairman Mr Gandar presenting the citation from the Board to Mr Bernard and Mrs Rose Hollard.



REVEGETATION MANUAL

Our Chairman, the Hon. L W Gandar, contacted the Director-General of Education to draw the Education Department's attention to the possibilities of the **Revegetation Manual** as a school text. This generated a lot of interest from the department and the manual was advertised in the Education Gazette.

The Chairman and Landscape Architect were invited to talk to the Annual Meeting of the Department of Education's Science Advisers at New Plymouth about the manual and also about the role and work of the Trust. We are offering schools a special price of \$8, and already we have received several substantial orders.

LLOYD WHITE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Lloyd White Memorial Library has been established in memory of Mr G D Lloyd White, the Trust's first manager. From 1972 to 1978, Lloyd White was New Zealand's ambassador to the United States, and on his retirement became the Trust manager, a job he carried out with characteristic enthusiasm and humour. He died in 1981 after a brief illness.

To honour Lloyd White's memory, the Franzheim Synergy Trust of America made a donation to the Trust, which the Board decided to use to establish the Lloyd White Memorial Library. This is to be a reference library for the Trust's use, concentrating on open space protection, particularly in New Zealand.

Trust Chairman Mr Gandar has donated several books and placed others on long term loan. Such loans or donations will be distinguished by a bookplate.

The Trust invites members to donate books, or to make cash donations to enable us to build up the library as a resource on open space.

WAINUIOMATA TOWN BELT PURCHASE

The Trust is purchasing privately owned land in Wainuiomata on behalf of the Hutt County Council. In 1980 the Council approached the Trust for help with purchasing areas of hillside surrounding the township of Wainuiomata, for public use and as part of their programme for developing a Town Belt. The Trust agreed to assist and encourage such development.

As part of this, the Trust is purchasing 48 hectares of bush on the hills rising from the west of the township to the top of ridge separating the valley from the Hutt Valley. The higher parts are visible from most of the township.

The Council provided half the purchase price, and the Trust contributed to and coordinated the purchase. The Council is to manage the land.



Drawing by David Henshaw.

From Napier to Cape Egmont

An account of a 26-day, 380 kilometre walk across the North Island, from Napier city to the lighthouse at Cape Egmont, undertaken during February 1984 by a small group, including Trust Executive Officer Ben Thorpe and Trust benefactor Josephine Jackson of Woodville.

One of the questions most frequently asked about this trip is — “Who’s idea was it?” The ‘it’ being a month-long walk across the North Island through three mountain ranges and two national parks earlier this year. The exact answer to the question does not really matter because the whole thing was a composite, each of the four-person party making his or her contribution to the event.

The party: farmer and Trust benefactor Jo Jackson of Woodville; farmer Bill Whittle of Puketitiri, Hawkes Bay; scientist, Dr Hugh Thorpe of Christchurch; and myself, together with our support team, assembled in somewhat murky weather at the aquarium on Napier foreshore on the morning of Monday 29 January 1984. Two quick photographs, a boot full of sea water (for Bill) and the party was away, following city streets towards Greenmeadow at first, but then swinging west over the Wharerangi Hills towards Kaweka State Forest Park, kilometres ahead.

Stage One

The first stage was along the road to Makahu Saddle in the Kaweka Range, through the country districts of Rissington, Patoka, and Puketitiri, a three-day journey altogether.

Bill and I had driven over this road many times but had not considered walking all of it before. And it turned out to be something of a royal procession. Lunch on the first day came by car; afternoon tea was offered (and accepted) by two of Bill’s friends at Rissington; dinner was by courtesy of Bill’s wife, Mary, prepared and left

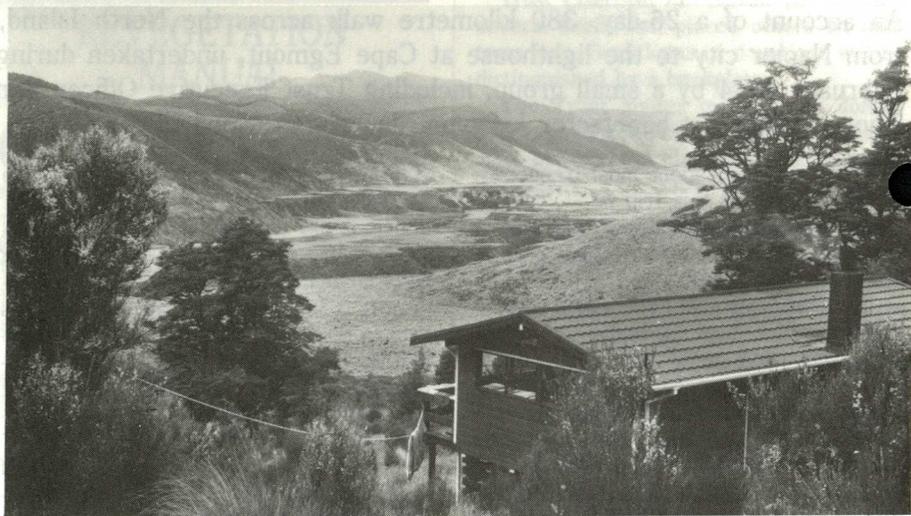
at another friend’s cottage which also served as our accommodation for the night. Lunch on day two was eaten at the Patoka store where we were quickly joined by a local farmer and a friendly transport operator; 3 kms up the road the call was “cuppa tea” from another family, and family number four made their shearers’ quarters available for the night. Our support team of Mary, plus Airdre Thorpe, provided food once again.

Day three saw us lunching at the golf course at Puketitiri then, after an interesting hour at the museum, trudging up the 500m climb to the crest of the Black Birch Range and on into the Makahu Saddle proper. Bill and Mary Whittle live nearby so we returned to a comfortable night and good food before setting off into stage two, our first venture into the high country.

By now the blisters were beginning to show; three days on hard roads were no joke for semi-soft citified feet and we soon learned to use our springier footwear. Sticking plaster and disinfectant was much in demand, and a layer of sheep’s wool helped a lot.

Makahu Saddle to Boyds Lodge — Stage Two

Boyds Lodge is a four-year old New Zealand Forest Service hut, built on the site of an old musterers’ hut near the head of the Ngaruroro River in Kaimanawa Forest Park. It holds about 16 people. The airstrip there is frequently used by light aircraft so we arranged to have our supplies replenished by this means.



Boyd's Lodge, Ngaruroro River, Kaimanawa Forest Park.

To travel from Makahu Saddle to Boyd's Lodge took three and a half days, climbing up to the high peak of the Kawekas, then following north along the main open tops, which divide the Mohaka River from the Ngaruroro River, to Ballard Hut, Pukeohikarua Hut, Tussock Hut, all in Kaweka State Forest Park.

The weather was not particularly kind to us at first with cooling mist on the first day, quite heavy showers on the second day, and into bright sunshine over the last two days to the lodge. But strangely, the weather always cleared when we needed to look for a hut or find the correct ridge. At no time during the whole month long walk did the weather hold us up.

The main Kaweka Range is a mixture of open, heavily eroded ridges, and bush covered spurs. But to the northwest, the route we followed lead through beech forest and alpine herbfield, then down to the

golden tussock valleys of the Ngaruroro River and its tributary, the Ngaawapurua (or the "Harkness"). With steadily improving weather the views were superb even extending out to the sea from a point near Ballard Hut.

After seven days we felt we deserved our first "day off", so taking advantage of the warm weather we paused for half a day at Boyd's Lodge, checking and repacking our food, chatting to the fishermen who had been staying there, good naturedly abusing the pilot who flew in with our supplies for being two minutes late, and being told in return that "it was strange what one met in the hills when you were without a rifle". And we climbed the 325 metre high Boyd's Rock at the back of the Lodge just to keep in trim.

Section Three — To the Desert Road

It is no real excuse to say that plenty of people have done the same thing when one walks across private land (in this case Maori land) without the courtesy of obtaining per-

mission, but this happened on the next section. Boyds Lodge is just inside Kaimanawa Forest Park and the track to the west passes out of the park 20 minutes after leaving the doorstep, and does not enter it again until within a short distance of the Waipakihi Hut in the Tongariro River catchment. The route proceeds up the Ngaruroro River (now called the Mangamingi), crosses over a saddle into a tributary of the Rangitikei (the Mangamaire) climbs up on to the Makaroro Range, moves north to the Middle Range, drops down into the Rangitikei River itself, up again on to Island Range, and down to the Waipakihi Hut in the head of the Waipakihi River. Then it is a 10-hour walk along tussock flats, down river to the Desert Road. But what has taken a few seconds to read took four days to cover.

We camped out on all three nights, one night in miserable weather and the other two in cool but clear conditions. The tops of the three ranges were quite misty for a start but rapidly cleared as the day warmed up, and the views towards Lake Taupo were excellent. And here we experienced our first glimpse of the rare Blue Duck, once in the Rangitikei and again in the Waipakihi. Long tailed Cuckoos were everywhere also, their screeching call a constant reminder of their presence.

The Mangamingi and Waipakihi Valleys are a delight to walk along. Their tussock filled flats were just that, flat and sometimes scrub-covered, but apart from the river crossings, very easy going. In February, with fairly low water, even the rivers were no real problem. They have cool, clear, readily drinkable water all the way.

Interlude

The whole journey was now half way through so a rest at Turangi seemed in order; the weather added its influence and

we welcomed the chance to replenish supplies, have several hot baths in the springs at Tokaanu, and sleep on a comfortable floor. When the weather finally cleared a spin on Lake Taupo in Bill's boat was an added and interesting variation.

Section Four — To the Wanganui River

What the tourist does not often see on the scenic Wanganui River is the layer of silty mud which covers the banks after each flood. We put our feet into it at the junction with the Mangatiti Stream as we climbed aboard the jet boat and again as we went ashore at the entrance to the Matema-teonga Walkway. But Department of Lands and Survey Senior Ranger, John Lythgoe, assured us that cleaning his boat was no problem. That little scenario was four and a half days away.

From Turangi we returned to the Desert Road and then walked the one and a half hours into the Waihohonu Hut in Tongariro National Park for our first night of section four of the trip. Very cruelly, we had compelled Hugh and Jo to walk the extra 8 kms that they had missed when hitch-hiking into Turangi several days before (which Bill and I had walked) but then Hugh left his hat behind at a rest stop near the road so we felt morally obliged to retrieve it for him. Fortunately, the track was mostly flat.

The first part of the four-hour walk through to the Chateau from Waihohonu was in reasonable weather but the mist soon surrounded us and we plodded along following the well worn track and thankful for the poles that showed the way. A near white-out prevented any sight seeing. At the Chateau, Ranger Murray Reedy volunteered a vehicle ride up the road to Scoria Flat and we moved across to the Whakapapaiti Valley and Whakapapaiti Hut in brilliant evening sunshine, a distinct con-

trast to the earlier part of the day.

A night stop then on down the stream and up to Hauhangatahi Peak, across the high terrace and down through the bush to Erua, and a welcome hot meal at the motel there.

The fifth party member, Grahame Walton, was to join up here so using a vehicle kindly lent by the motel people, I drove through to National Park to meet the Wellington express at about **2 am**. You guessed it! He had charmed the guard into letting him off at Erua Station. But it was very peaceful watching the stray cats and moths at the empty station.

On again the following morning, moving along the Old Erua Road west towards the river, stopping to make ourselves known to farmer Don Simonek, and to thank him for his courtesy in allowing us to cross his land. We accepted his advice about the best route to follow and just on dusk, and as the rain fell once more, arrived at Makino Station at the end of the Makino road in the Manganui-a-te-Ao River valley. Manager Rex Prince offered us the use of his spare house and very courteously donated a leg of wild pork to our food supply. Both were very welcome.

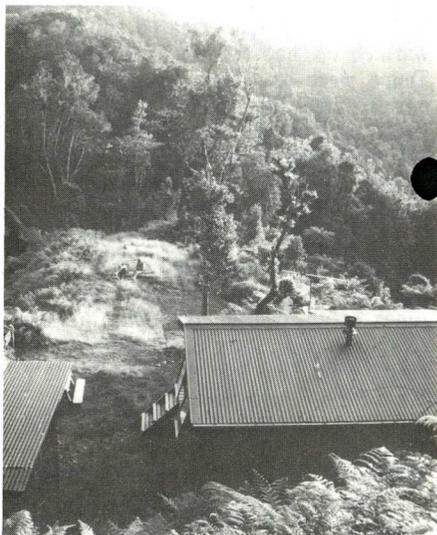
Following sound advice once again, we set off the next morning to climb through Makino Station farmland to the Ruatiti Road where a most unexpected offer of morning tea was accepted at the Littlewood Homestead. Refreshed and rested we followed the Murumuru Road west up and over the saddle into the Mangititi Valley, then cross-country to camp near the junction of the Mangatiti and Waipapa Streams. This country had been farmed in the 20s and 30s and then abandoned, so it is not bush all the way. It is possible to follow the old public road down the true right bank of the Mangatiti Stream from the Waipapa to the Wanganui, though it has not been ac-

cessible to vehicles for many years. It is easy, flat walking, passing a number of old homestead sites marked by their abandoned garden plants and trees, and the occasional wooden fence and gate. There are two possible camping spots near the Wanganui; one just above the river itself and it was here that we had lunch and were met by John.

Stage Five — To Stratford

One of the features of this whole venture was the interest and courtesy shown and given by so many people when they found out what the group was attempting. It occurred once again at Kohi Saddle on the Taranaki side of the Matemateonga Walkway when a friendly drainage contractor offered to carry our packs along Mangaehu Road to the Ford family farm, our destination for that night; a drive of about 7 kms.

John Lythgoe left us at the Ramanui end



Puketotara Hut, Matemateonga Walkway.

of the Matemateonga Walkway with his best wishes and suggestion of a swim in the Wanganui. Only Hugh and Bill were brave enough to do so. One and a half hours later we were at Puketotara Hut, the first of three nearly new ones on the track, having climbed steadily all the way from the river.

An overnight stop and then ever westwards following the well graded walk that was once a road line, at least in part. Someone had coined the phrase, "muddy muddy on yers" as a pseudonym for the name of the range, and this was the case for a start, but after two or three hours the track surface improved and we moved steadily along. An overnight at Pouri Hut, a quick trip to the summit of Mount Humphries during the next day, a brew only at the last hut on the track (Omaru), an hour and a half out to the roadside at Kohi Saddle, and the 7km walk to the Ford farm and shearers' quarters. Grahame's all too brief spell with the group ended at that stage.

The Matemateonga Track is a very easy one to follow and to walk. The old road route is almost flat and takes little effort to pass over. It is through bush all the way so there are few view-points but it is a good family adventure especially by the jet boat at one end.

Stratford is about 40 kms from the Ford farm and we walked all but 16 kms of this on our 22nd day out from Napier, then completed that distance the following morning. Just short of Strathmore, the Taranaki Daily News caught up with us and we heard later that there had been a short, somewhat ribald news comment over the local radio as well. Eccentrics was the term used, I believe.

I was foolish enough to suggest to the group that we attempt the summit of Mt Egmont during our day off at Stratford.

The weather was very good indeed and the summit clear, but I was somewhat taken aback when everyone went along with the idea. So we did just that on our 24th day, only to find that the cloud layer 300 metres below the summit obscured the very good views that can be seen from the top. But it was a unique climb for most members of the party.

Stage Six — To Cape Egmont

Day 25 was spent walking into Egmont National Park, past the Egmont Ranger Station and a refreshing cup of tea, up to the ski field for lunch, skirting north along the track to Tahurangi Lodge and then on to Holly Hut on the western side of the mountain where we spent our last night of the trip.

Day 26 moved us down to Bells Falls, on down the Stoney River and the Kahui Track to Puniho Road for lunch, along Wai-remu and Parihaka Roads, and finally to Cape Egmont near the lighthouse, where we were met by Mary and Airdre, plus Andrew and Prue Simm. Andrew, who had been the Trust Senior Field Officer for nearly four years, had undertaken to meet us at the finish line.

Our celebratory dinner was a chinese one at our New Plymouth motel and so the trip concluded. We were tired, a good deal fitter than at the start, and more than a little satisfied at what had been accomplished.

The party was not a young one (the average age was 52), but it was experienced. We travelled according to our individual strengths and achieved our ambition without mishap. It could not have been done without considerable help and the interest of many people. To all of them, our thanks.

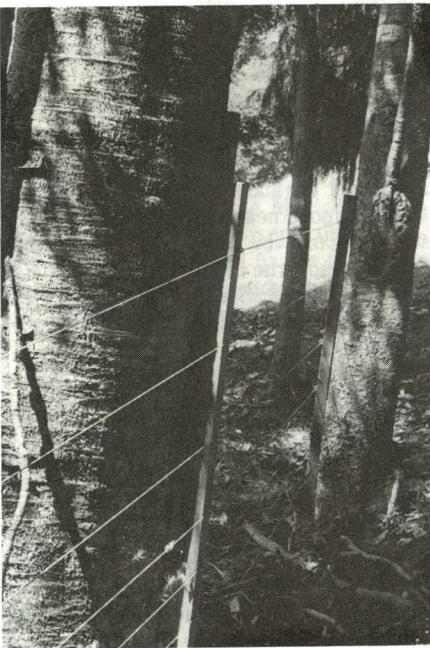
Ben Thorpe
Executive Officer.

Protected Natural Areas Programme

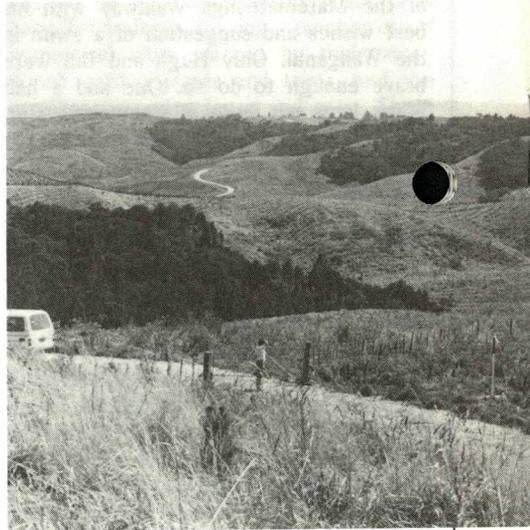
The Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNA) was set up by government to rapidly identify and record the remaining unprotected areas of natural importance in New Zealand. It is aimed at getting a system of protected representative reserves throughout the country. This is in line with the Reserves Act objective:

“The preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape which in the aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character.”

(Reserves Act 1977 Section 3 (i)(b)).



Fenced kauri remnant in the Rodney Ecological District, Protected Natural Area Survey. Detail showing the considerable effort of the owner to fence the remnant: note the batten between the tree and the fence.



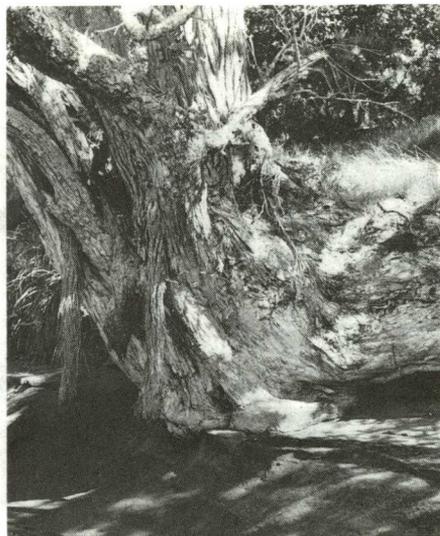
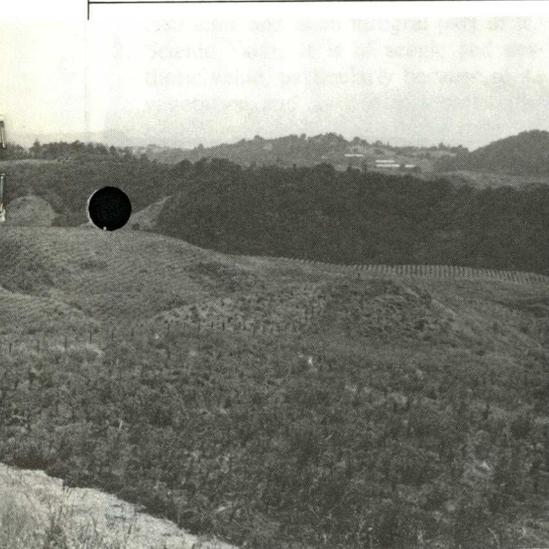
Weiti Station: One of the areas in the Rodney Ecological District surveyed in the Protected Natural Areas Programme.

In the foreground are recently planted *Pinus radiata*, with the native forest remnants in the gullies behind.

The surveys under the PNA programme need to be detailed, nationwide, and immediate: daily, the remaining natural ecosystems are being irretrievably modified or destroyed. The target for completing the national coverage is 1990.

The Biological Resources Centre (BRC) has subdivided New Zealand into 268 ecological districts within 84 ecological regions. These reflect and are defined by New Zealand's wide variation in climate, geography, biology and botany. The PNA programme is based on these subdivisions.

Each area is assessed in terms of standardised criteria, for example, size, the degree of naturalness or modification, and how representative it is. How much of the



representative type is already protected, e.g. in reserves, will also be indicated.

Four pilot surveys have been done, in forest and high country. One area (Rodney County, north of Auckland) has revealed a total of 12,000 areas ranging from half a hectare to large forest tracts, which should be considered for protection.

Underlying the PNA programme is the belief that when a landowner or organisation such as the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust makes a decision about protecting an area of the landscape, it should be based on detailed scientific information. Results from the programme will be put on to computer and therefore readily accessible.

A lot of the areas identified by the programme will be on private land. The National Trust, as the one independent organisation which can offer covenants to private landowners, is likely to become involved in the protection of many such areas.

Large pohutukawa on coastal estuary, Weiti Station, Rodney Ecological District, surveyed by the Protected Natural Areas Programme.

TE WHENUA TOITU

The Trust is gradually becoming involved with the protection of Maori land. To help the Trust gain a better awareness and understanding of Maori matters, and to let Maori people know more about the aims and objectives of the Trust, it has set up a committee called Te Whenua Toitu. This translates as "The Permanent Land".

Te Whenua Toitu is made up of Mr Gandar as chairman; Mr Rei Bailey, Trust Director and representative of the New Zealand Maori Council; Mr G Fouhy, who attends Board meetings on behalf of the Department of Maori Affairs; and Mr Brian Jones, our national representative.

Plimmerton Swamp



Plimmerton Swamp is a privately owned, scientifically important wetland next to state Highway 1 north of Plimmerton, near Wellington. In 1976 Porirua City Council designated it as a "Proposed Scientific Reserve", which under the Town and Country Planning Act makes it illegal to clear or otherwise damage the flora and fauna. The National Trust twice approached the owners of the major party of the wetland to discuss the possibility of protecting the wetland with an open space covenant.

When the owners indicated that they were not interested in a covenant the Trust called a meeting in December 1983 to discuss other means of protection. This was attended by people from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Department of Lands and Survey, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Wildlife Service, the Wellington Regional Council, the Hutt Country Council, the Porirua City Council, the Royal Forest and Bird Society, the Nature Conservation

Plimmerton Swamp, looking north along side State Highway 1. This may be protected through purchase.

Council, ECO and local residents associations. Purchase seemed the best solution.

The National Trust offered up to a 1 to 1 subsidy on what the other organisations could contribute towards the purchase, and indicated its support for the Porirua City Council or alternatively the Trust to be the purchaser.

The owners of the major part of the wetland had lodged an objection to the reserve designation and requested a rezoning. At the subsequent hearing the Wellington Regional Council called the Chairman of the National Trust the Hon. L W Gandar to appear as an expert witness. The Trust's evidence stressed the regional, and perhaps national, significance of the wetland, and stated that it meets major criteria for landscape significance:

1. Landscape character: The wetland contributes to the local and regional landscape

character and is an integral part of it.

2. Scenic Value: it is of scenic and aesthetic value, particularly because of its vegetation and its contrast with adjacent developed land and major road and rail routes.
3. High visibility: it is close to a large urban population and is seen by many commuters and tourists.
4. Educational: the wetland is a readily accessible resource for school and university groups. Also it is well documented.
5. Uniqueness. The National Trust believes that there is potential for enhancing the landscape values of Plimmerton Swamp; including recreational access, walking tracks, board walks, nature interpretation trails, maintenance of the wetland, and revegetation of adjacent cleared land.

Following the hearing Mr Gandar spoke with the owner of the major part of the wetland who agreed that if his objection was disallowed the land would have to be sold, and that under these conditions he would be willing to sell at an agreed price. Valuations are being obtained by the owner and the Trust.

The Porirua City Council and the Wellington Regional Council have indicated that funds have been allocated as contributions to the purchase.

LOGUES BUSH PURCHASE

Logues Bush, near Wellsford, is considered to be the best lowland kauri forest of its kind in Northland. It is 41 hectares of kauri (34%), totara (30%), and rimu (20%). When the farm which Logues

Bush is on came onto the market it was feared that new owners could log the bush.

The Department of Lands and Survey had been interested in the remnant as a possible scenic reserve but lack of finance had prevented them from proceeding to purchase.

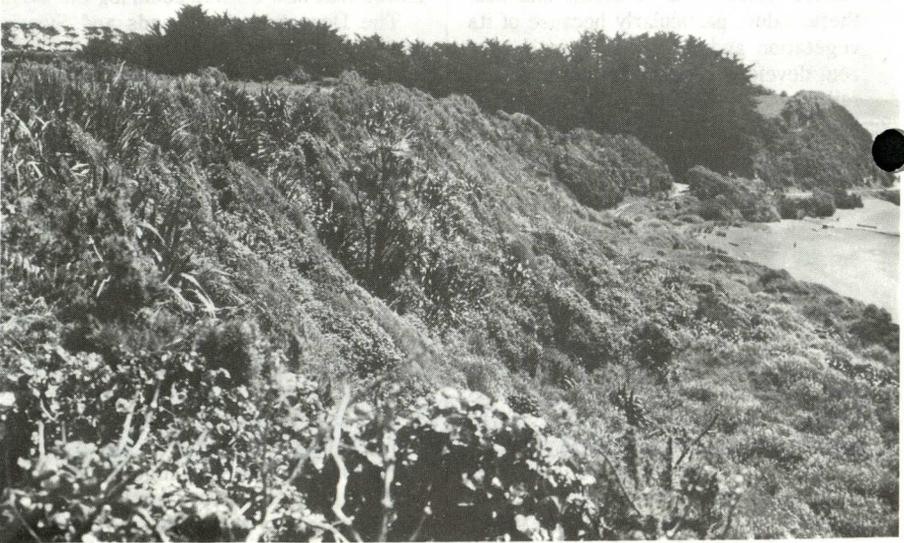
The Trust's former representative, Tony Childs and the Senior Field Officer, Andrew Simm inspected the area, and then in June 1983 the Chairman and Senior Field Officer met with representatives of the Rodney County Council, the Department of Lands and Survey, and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society to discuss a possible combined approach to purchase. The price was estimated to be \$150,000.

The Department of Lands and Survey had an opportunity to purchase it for \$150,000 and were willing to contribute \$50,000. The Rodney County Council indicated that they could also contribute, and the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust undertook to contribute \$55,000, if the remaining \$25,000 could be raised by donation by the end of January 1984. A public appeal was launched and within four weeks the money was raised. Many local people made contributions, and the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society, with its membership of 900, raised over \$3000.

The purchase of Logues bush is due to be completed when the survey has been done and the plan has received official approval.

The Inland Revenue Department has advised that individual donations to the Trust for specific purchases such as Logues bush qualify for tax rebates provided that the Trust confirms receipt of such donations, and that they are separately identifiable for the particular purpose. This could well encourage donations from individuals to the Trust for future purchases.

Taranaki Visit



Last November the Trust spent three days in Taranaki. There were four purposes to the visit: to hold a "retreat"; to inspect gardens and Trust property; to generally publicise the Trust; and to launch our "Concept for Taranaki".

The retreat was an opportunity for Trust staff and directors' to look at all aspects of the Trust, including its future directions. This took up a day and an evening of group discussions, and resulted in a series of recommendations which have since been formally considered by the Board or an appropriate committee.

The tours of inspection included a visit to the Trust owned Hollard Gardens and also to the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and the private garden of Tupare, owned by Sir Russell and Lady Matthews.

General publicity was ensured by good coverage (in the press and on radio and television) and also by the luncheon at which

Oakura coastline, south of New Plymouth. The Trust's Concept for Taranaki includes proposals for developing this beach, and protecting the cliff face.

the "Concept for Taranaki" was launched.

The "Concept for Taranaki" makes proposals for developing the various attractions of the province, particularly its tourist potential. These include establishing horticultural advice, training and educational facilities for the public, and to develop and link the existing public and private gardens.

The concept also suggests walking and cycling tracks and bus tours, a farm park designed for visitors to see farming activities, and development of the coastline at Oakura, south of New Plymouth.

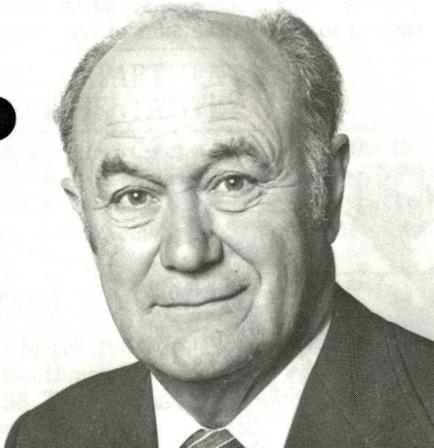
The meeting, attended by mayors of the boroughs and the city, county chairmen, and representatives of such organisations

as Federated Farmers, was highly successful. The suggestions put forward by our Trust are being developed by the United Council and other interested parties, including the newly formed Promotion Taranaki Incorporated, and local businessmen.

In March the Chairman, Mr Gandar and the Landscape Architect Mr Evans visited various organisations in Taranaki including the Department of Lands and Survey, the Taranaki and Stratford County Councils, and the Taranaki United Council, who confirmed their continuing interest in and activity arising from the Trust's concept.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Brian Jones has been appointed the Trust's first national representative, specialising in Maori land matters but also doing other work for the Trust as the need arises.

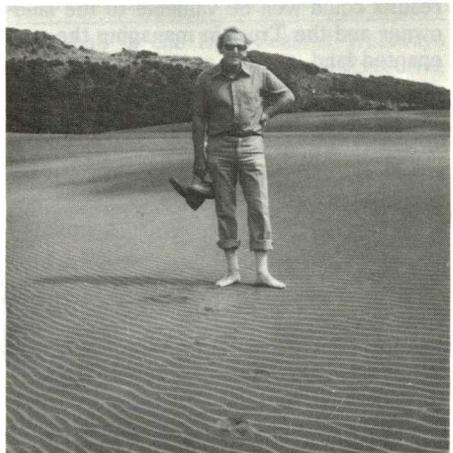


Brian Jones, the Trust's first national representative.

Brian Jones lives in Taupo, and his work has been with the administration of Maori lands in the Taupo region. However, because the offices are in Taumarunui he became involved with county and regional affairs, and was a councillor of the Taumarunui County, 1959-1968, and chairman from 1968-1981. He was also chairman of the King Country Regional Development Council from its inception in 1973 until 1981, deputy chairman of the Tongariro United Council, and a member of the former Tongariro National Park and Lake Taupo Reserves Board.

A member of two farm trusts and two forest trusts, Brian Jones is also on the Wairiki Maori Land Advisory Committee, the National Parks and Reserves Authority, and the National Parks Centennial Commission.

IN THE FIELD



Auckland regional representative Walter Willis inspecting Lake Wainamu.

SCHOOL/COVENANT PROGRAMME

The Trust has started a pilot School/Covenant Programme, which links schools with nearby areas protected by open space covenants.

Unlike much publicly owned protected land, many covenanted areas are close to schools. The idea of the programme is to give school children contact with open space in their local area, for their education, recreation, and enjoyment. While ideally the programme would include urban schools, in this early stage it is likely to involve mainly rural schools because our covenants to date are all in the country.

The programme has the following aims: for early primary school, enjoyment in visiting natural areas; for late primary school, enjoyment as well as observation and basic research; and for secondary school enjoyment and more advanced research. The results could well be valuable to the landowner and the Trust in managing the covenanted land.

Study subjects will be determined by the values of particular covenants, for example: ecology, landscape, geography, history, plant and animal identification, specimen collection, seed and seedling collection and growing, noxious animal damage, forest canopy structures, and so on.

The programme will give covenantors the opportunity to share their covenanted land with the local children. It will also increase public awareness of the Trust and our objectives through contact with the students and teachers.

The Trust helps with the programme, but essentially it is run voluntarily by the schools and the covenantors. Details are worked out individually. The owners may wish to be very involved, or hardly at all, for example only to the extent of being told when a school party wishes to visit. Other things have to be settled, such as timing of visits, access and transport to the property, and involvement of the school with planting or track maintenance.

The main emphasis is on enjoying being in areas of open space; a sound basis for wanting to support the aims of the Trust.



Drawing by David Henshaw.

Changes and Activities

DR ALAN EDMONDS

The Trust is privileged to have the services of Dr Alan Edmonds, Reader in Biological Sciences at Waikato University and Vice-President of the Royal Forest and Bird Society. Dr Edmonds has chosen to spend much of his sabbatical leave this year working with the Trust. In the past he has done site inspections and provided vegetation descriptions of areas of land, many of which are now under open space covenant, including Lake Maratoto and Limestone Downs in the Waikato. Dr Edmonds is also the author of Waipa Booklet Number Two, on the vegetation and wild-life of the County.

Dr Edmonds will work on a system of standardising the description of open space covenant areas, which will be useful particularly for our regional representatives. This will be on the basis of a landform — vegetation classification as worked out by the Biological Resources Centre. He will also be involved with specific projects such as the third Waipa booklet.

NEW DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr G Fouhy, Chief Registrar with the Department of Maori Affairs, replaces Mr J D T Hauraki as the Department's representative attending Trust Board Meetings.

TRUST'S NEW OFFICE

In March 1984 the Trust moved into Colenso House, a brand new office building at 138 The Terrace, Wellington. For some time the Trust has needed more space, and recent staff increases prompted the move. We lease the fourth floor and, apart from offices, we also now have a board-

room with a library and slide viewing equipment.

All members and other interested people are welcome to visit the new office and share our views of the city's open spaces.

NEW BOOKLETS

The Open Space Covenant Booklet and the Trust Rules Booklet have been updated and reprinted. They include illustrations by David Henshaw, of Hamilton whose sketches have been used in the Waipa booklets, and also some by Mrs Pat Cowan, who is a Trust member and with her husband Arthur Cowan holds 3 registered open space covenants.

STAFF CHANGES

Our receptionist Miss Sharon Galgey went to a new job and her replacement Miss Suzanne Julius started work here in March.

RAUKUMARA WALKWAY

On behalf of the New Zealand Walkways Commission, Ben Thorpe, Trust Executive Officer, spent four days in a proposed wilderness area which is part of plans for the Ruakumara Forest Park in the Gisborne region. This included two helicopter flights and two days walking in the Motu River Catchment.

OVERSEAS VISITOR

Mr Masahisa Arai, Chief Ranger for the National Government of Japan, visited the Trust and showed slides of Japanese National Parks. Mr Arai was in New Zealand on a six month fellowship to study the conservation systems and methods used here.

Open Space Covenants

Since the last newsletter 6 open space covenants have been registered, as listed below. Three are described in fuller detail. There are now 55 registered.

NEW REGISTERED COVENANTS

South Auckland Land District

1. Ward sisters, Mt Karioi. 15.7 hectares of bush.
2. Easton, D.J. Te Kuiti. 8 hectares of bush.
3. Mackersey, G.L. and M.M. Tauranga, 26 hectares, bush and stream.
4. Bignell, A. and A.M. Otorohanga, 12.5 hectares of bush.
5. Williams, M.J. and E.T., and Ryan, R.E. Te Miro, north of Cambridge. 17.5 hectares of bush.

Taranaki Land District

6. Hopkins, D.L. Okato. 2.5 hectares semi-coastal forest.

Canterbury Land District

7. Ahuriri Farms Ltd, Tai tapu, 23 hectares of tussock.
8. Morrison, J. and others. Kakahu, Canterbury, 87 hectares of bush wetland and geographical features.



Drawing by David Henshaw

THREE COVENANTS

South Auckland Land District

1. EASTON

A fourteen hectare stand of native forest at Aramatai, south of Te Kuiti on state Highway 4, owned by Mr David and Mrs Marjorie Easton.

The Eastons bush is three quarters of a mile back from the road; on a steep ridge behind their 290 hectare farm. On the upper slopes there are tawa and other bigger trees. There is a constantly flowing creek at the bottom, and a track goes from the bottom to the top of the hill along one side. Public access is by permission of the owners, which is often the case with covenants.

The purpose of the Eastons covenant is to protect the forest for all time, and it has been fenced to exclude stock and to encourage regeneration. The Eastons are planting more native trees, purchased from a local grower.

South Auckland Land District

2. WARD SISTERS

This is the third registered open space covenant protecting land owned by the Misses Ward of Ruapuke, Raglan. This area is 15 hectares on the Papanui Road, Ruapuke, 66 km from Hamilton. It is a steep bush covered hillside and gully of mainly manuka and kanuka, with a dense undergrowth of ferns, pongas with rewarewa and other coastal species. The purpose is to protect the native bush for its scenic value to the district, which is enhanced by its proximity to the road and by being opposite a scenic reserve. Public access is allowed with the owners' consent.

The Trust is delighted that this third area is now covenanted, particularly as the Ward sisters bought it specifically to enable it to be protected in this way.

Taranaki Land District

3. HOPKINS

A small (2.5 hectare) forest remnant stand of semi-coastal forest comprising of kahikatea, karaka, and tawa, on a 50 hectare dairy farm owned by Mr and Mrs D.L. Hopkins. It is on Puniho Road, off the "Round the Mountain" highway 45, 20 kms from New Plymouth.

The purpose of the covenant is to protect the native bush which, while being small, is visually significant and could be

endangered by future owners because of the farming potential of the land. It was already fenced. It is not available for public access because it is primarily of visual significance.

The bush is important also because it is a significant landscape feature, with the nearest reserves over 2.5 kms away, and it is important as a forest remnant with the potential of gradually regenerating to a tract of forest.

Trust Membership

The present Trust membership is as follows:-

Ordinary Members	346
Corporate Members	21
Corporate Special	35
Life Members	35
Junior Members	12
Covenant Life Members	70
TOTAL	519

To mark the milestone of the 500th member, a copy of the **Revegetation Manual** was presented to Miss Lindsay Adams of Christchurch. With membership steadily increasing, we can now look forward to doubling this number.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

In November last the Trust held a meeting for members in Auckland, which was attended by a small but enthusiastic number. The following month we held a similar meeting at Ruakura, Hamilton, which attracted over 40 people. Some came from as far away as Whakatane, Te Puke, and Tauranga.

People's ideas and enthusiasm were very

encouraging, and it was clear that it would be good to have further meetings. Members were generally keen to visit covenanted areas.

AN INVITATION

One suggestion from members at our Wai-kato meeting was to have "Letters to the Editor" in the Newsletter. We would welcome letters and hope that there will be "Letters to the Editor" in the next issue.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Two Trust members and active supporters have been honoured in the New Year Honours List. Mr A B Cowan of Otorohanga has been awarded the MBE, and Mr Bernard Hollard of Hollard Gardens, Kaponga, the QSO. We extend our congratulations to them both.

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LAND ALONE ENDURES

"It is now 140 years since European colonisation of New Zealand began. The harsh pioneering phase of 'land development at any cost' has already over-run its course; yet old habits die hard. For all future developments on all classes of land, the key questions must be:

- What are the biological qualities of this landscape?*
- Is part of New Zealand's unique natural heritage being destroyed?*
- If so, are the features adequately protected in existing parks and reserves?*

Until these questions can be answered satisfactorily, and they can be answered with appropriate deployment of resources, land development without regard to the biological consequences is no longer in the national interest.

What is certain is that if the best examples, the "key sites", for numerous threatened lowland and hill country ecosystems are not identified and reserved effectively within the next 10 years, the majority will be lost for ever."

L F Molloy, DSIR, 1980.
Land Alone Endures : Land Use and the Role of Research.