

Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

newsletter

No. 9 January 1985

Auckland Visit

As part of the Trust's policy of holding a Board meeting outside Wellington each year, and targeting one region for special attention, the Trust directors and staff met in Auckland for three days at the end of November.

On the first day there were meetings of the Executive and Finance Committees, followed by the first National Trust Lecture (described below). The next
Continued overleaf



Trust directors, staff and others viewing the Te Henga Marsh.

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day was spent at the Auckland Regional Authority rooms where there was a Trust Board meeting and the directors hosted a lunch for Auckland local body officials and other people involved with the management and protection of open space in the region.

The last day was a field day spent inspecting land that the Trust owns or manages and also two open space covenant areas. This began with the first official Board inspection of Lake Wainamu, after which the directors were given morning tea by Mrs Elizabeth Wheeler, who with her late husband owned the portion of the lake that the Trust purchased. This was followed by an inspection of nearby Te Henga Marsh (see below). The Trust was accompanied by John Staniland, chairman of the West Auckland Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and by John Wheeler, son of the lake Mr H. Wheeler, both of whose local knowledge was of considerable help and interest. The directors then inspected two covenant areas and the Morgan Bush Reserve.

Morgan Bush Reserve

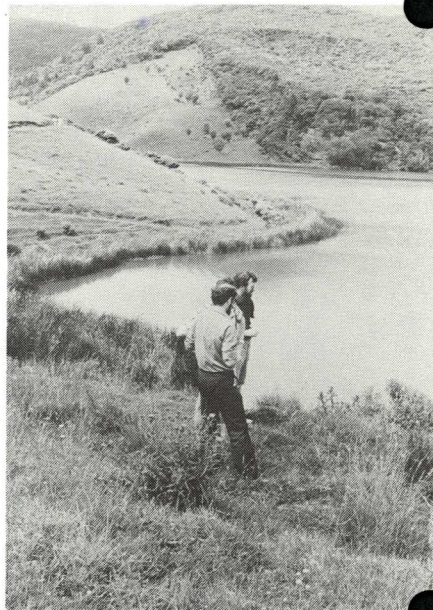
This 21 hectare reserve of regenerating native forest is in the Ararimu Valley at Riverhead. It is owned by two sisters, one of whom is gifting and the other selling her share to the Trust, who is purchasing it with the help of the Native Forests Restoration Trust. The bush contains kauri, rimu, totara, tanekaha, and kahikatea, and is completely fenced and regenerating well. It can be seen from the road.

Kauri Point

The Trust then looked at Kauri Point, which is a dominant coastal landmark on the North Shore, just west of the Harbour Bridge. It is a large open space on a promontory, not built on, and a valuable asset. The Birken-

head City Council is interested in seeing it permanently protected and has asked the Trust to consider helping with purchase.

The Trust's visit received good publicity from radio, television, and the newspapers, and already there have been several open space covenant enquiries resulting from it.



Lake Wainamu Inspection.

THE FIRST NATIONAL TRUST LECTURE

The Trust held the first National Trust Lecture in Auckland on 26 November 1984. This was the first of a series of occasional lectures intended to provide an opportunity for a distinguished contribution to be made to our understanding of

the importance and means of protecting significant open space in New Zealand.

Mr David A R Williams, an Auckland lawyer, delivered the first lecture, entitled "The Law Relating to Natural Water: Protection and Management".

Mr Williams LLB (Auckland) LLM (Harvard) is a partner in the law firm of Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartleet & Co. He is the author of *Environmental Law in New Zealand* which received the Legal Research Foundation Prize for the best law book published in New Zealand in 1980, and is one of the founders of the Environmental Defence Society. Mr Williams practises principally in commercial and environmental litigation and has appeared as counsel in many leading environmental cases, including the successful application by the Trust for a protective water con-

servation order for the Motu River.

In the lecture, Mr Williams gave a brief history of New Zealand water law and then considered the protection of wild and scenic rivers, and wetland protection, in particular drawing on the Whangamarino Swamp case. Mr Williams concluded that there is a strong case for refining and reforming present legislation and that there is a compelling need to expedite protection of our remaining wetlands.

The lecture, held at Auckland University, was open to the public and was attended by over 100 people, including Trust members. The text of the lecture is being printed and will be widely distributed.



Mr David Williams delivering the first National Trust lecture.

PLIMMERTON SWAMP

The Trust has successfully negotiated the purchase of Plimmerton Swamp, or the Taupo Mire, north of Wellington (see Newsletter No 8). Funds for purchase have been given by the Porirua City Council, the Wellington Regional Council, the Wellington Botanical Society, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and other organisations including the local scout group and many private individuals. The Trust has subsidised these contributions one for one.

A management committee chaired by the Trust has been set up with members of the above organisations and others who have an interest in the wetland's management. It is preparing a management plan for which public submissions will be invited later in the year. The plan will look at various aspects of the wetland's care and management including maintaining it as a habitat for wildlife and encouraging public awareness of the wetland's many values, eg: scenic, scientific, and ecological.

The National Trust's Financial Development

The government passed legislation in 1977 establishing the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen who had given her concurrence to the proposal.

The legislation provided for the new concept of the public use or enjoyment of private land through the vesting in the National Trust of the title or control of suitable land. The modest expenditure vote was intended to encourage the Trust to seek as much of its own funds as possible through individual and corporate membership contributions, donations and gifts, and thus to become an independent organisation.

The value of the National Trust as an independent organisation able to protect, manage and own areas of open space as distinct from public ownership through a government department or local body was fully recognised by government. Full independence could only be achieved through financial stability and in recognition of this the government instructed Treasury that donations to the National Trust would attract a subsidy.

Through its formative years the Board adopted a low profile with the aim of establishing an impeccable record of achievement and integrity. In this the Trust has been singularly successful. That policy has, however, had a restrictive reaction on development of capital resources. Nevertheless, the Trust does have over 600 members and has now established a sound financial base on which to build. We now need to develop our membership and to expand our capital structure. From throughout New Zealand the Trust receives a continual flow of requests for assistance either to purchase, assist in purchase, co-ordinate purchase, or act as

a catalyst in protection of areas of open space of particular merit. The success of the Trust's open space covenants is evident from the large number of enquiries continually being received. The Trust's ability to develop special projects is also acquiring widespread recognition.

Under its Act, the Trust can acquire purchase, lease, exchange, bailment, or otherwise, any interest in land or other form of property, and it can engage any person to manage, alter, develop, etc., any of its properties. The National Trust is increasingly being seen as an organisation of integrity and with perpetual succession which can act as a Trustee. Several people have advised the Trust that they have appointed it as a beneficiary in their wills or of their intentions to donate or transfer property to the National Trust. Valuable gifts of property and donations have been received and negotiations covering a variety of proposals concerning gifting are in progress.

Exemptions under the Stamp and Cheque Duties Act and the Estate and Gift Duties Act are available to benefactors and donors. The Trust's Assistant to the Chairman is available to advise and help people who want to discuss any proposal concerning possible gifting to the Trust, either at the person's home or with their professional advisors.

WAIPA BOOKLETS

The second Waipa booklet *Vegetation and Wildlife* is now completed. It was written by Dr Alan Edmonds (visiting scientist with the Trust during 1984) and is illustrated with sketches done by David Henshaw of Hamilton, whose work also appears in the first Waipa booklet and in the Trust's



A kahikatea remnant in a typical Waipa County Landscape.

open space covenant and rules publications. Subsequent Waipa booklets will also be illustrated by David.

Early in the year the Waipa County Council will organise a meeting of all County landowners who have forest remnants or other important landscape features on their land. They will discuss the ways of permanently protecting such features. The Trust has been invited to contribute to these discussions. The first two booklets will be distributed along with the invitations to the meeting.

Waipa 3 on the peat lakes is being written by Dr John Green of the University of Waikato and will be published by the Trust later in the year.

AKAROA-WAIREWA

A project with aims similar to the Waipa County project is underway for the Akaroa and Wairewa Counties on Banks Peninsula. This is being co-ordinated by Trust regional representative Dr Ian Blair, and a booklet is being prepared that will be published later this year.

The booklet discusses the landscape of the two counties and the ways in which landowners can permanently protect significant features on their properties.

Contributors to the booklet are:

- Mr G W Lucking, architect
- Mrs Beverley McCulloch, anthropologist
- Mr Stuart Moore, Wildlife Division, Department of Internal Affairs

- Dr E Pawson, Department of Geography, University of Canterbury
- Dr S D Weaver, Department of Geology, University of Canterbury
- Mr Hugh Wilson, freelance botanist

Banks Peninsula has some very special natural features and qualities and a distinctive landscape character. It is hoped that by focusing on these features and describing the landscape character, the booklet will encourage people to be more aware of them and protect them. The Trust has already secured protection through open space covenants for several very important areas on the Peninsula. However, many of the unprotected areas such as remnant native vegetation and geological features cannot be protected by this means and their care largely relies on the understanding and goodwill of the landowner.

REGISTER OF PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

The *Register of Protected Natural Areas in New Zealand* lists more than 1600 natural areas protected by statutes and managed by various agencies including the National Trust. Each protected area is described in terms of location, size, topography, geology, soils, history, vegetation, wildlife and notable features. The register, published by the Lands and Survey Department, will be regularly updated.

The areas are arranged according to ecological regions and districts. In some districts the National Trust open space covenants are the only form of protected area, particularly in Southland, and the Wairarapa, and some parts of Auckland and Taranaki.

All registered open space covenants will be listed in future editions.

OLD MANS BEARD

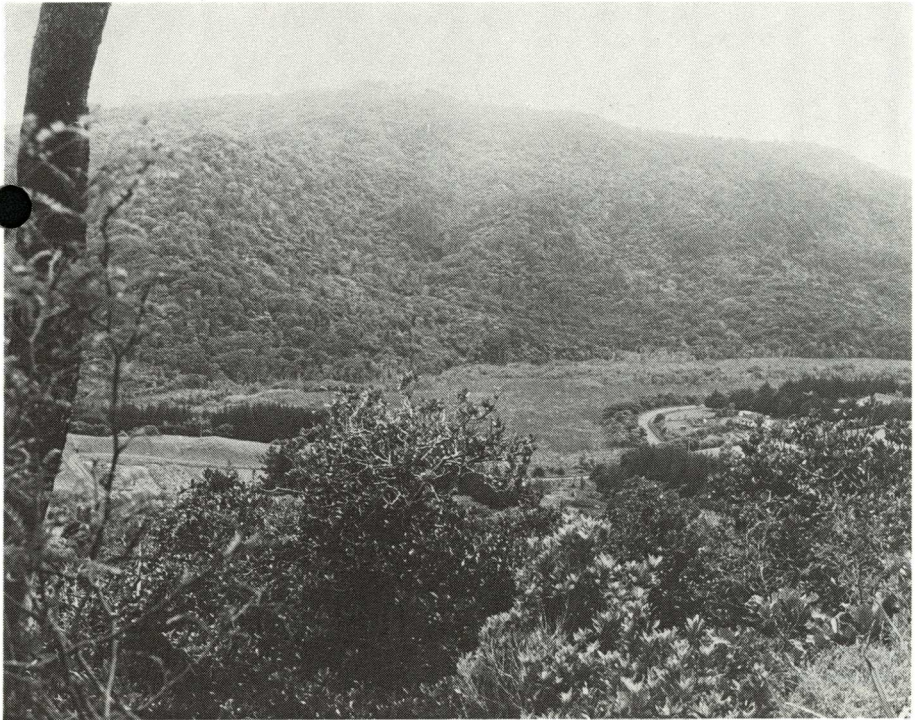
Old mans beard, or *Clematis vitalba* is threatening large areas of New Zealand native forests. It is a vigorous introduced clematis that grows over trees and shrubs, blocking the light and killing them.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a pamphlet "Our Native Forests are Being Smothered" put out by the Noxious Plants Council. This describes the weed and tells you how to control it. Note that it does not recommend chemical control, although 2% Roundup Spray or Roundup and a "Weed Wiper" has been successful in some cases. It is not possible however to recommend this until further research has been done. Grubbing, as described in the brochure, is the most effective way of trying to get rid of it.

Clematis vitalba is in some open space covenant areas. It is better to prevent it rather than try to get rid of it, as once this weed gets a hold it is hard to remove. Please keep an eye out for it. If you want more of the brochures for your neighbours or the local school, for instance, write to the Noxious Plants Council, Private Bag, Wellington. A dramatic poster is also available from the Council.

TE HENGA MARSH

Te Henga Marsh, about 80 hectares, is one of the few remaining large areas of freshwater wetland in the Auckland region. Such large areas of wetland are becoming increasingly rare in the region and in New Zealand generally, and wetlands are now among the country's rarest ecosystems. The elimination of wetlands for the creation of dry land for agriculture,



industry, housing or public works has reduced their area by over 90%. The conservation of the remainder has become regionally and nationally important.

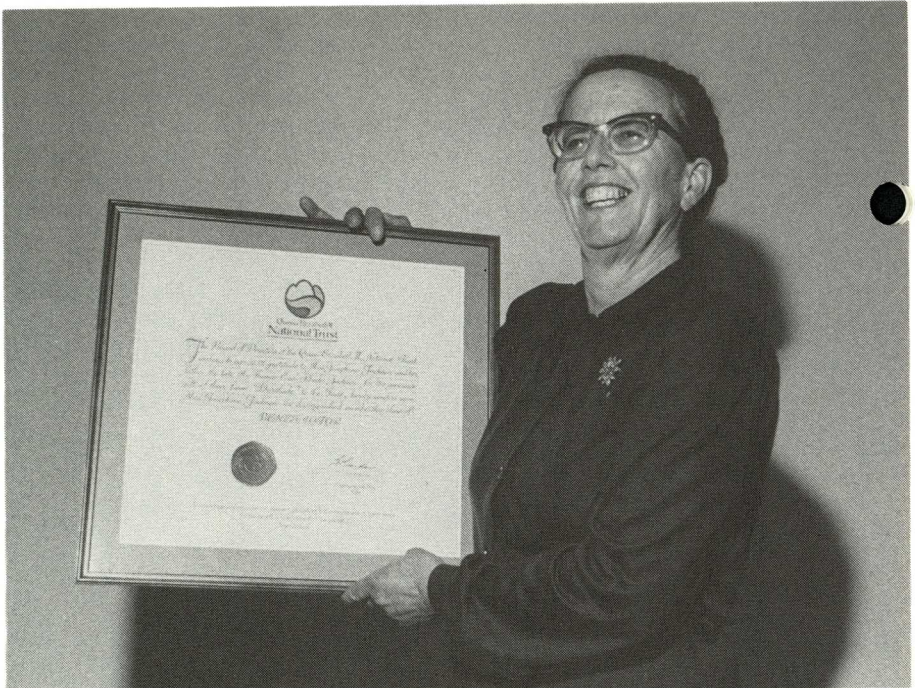
The value of these wetlands, apart from their important contribution to the natural landscape, lies in the habitat they provide for a number of species, some rare, of native plants, birds and fish, which cannot survive without them. Te Henga Marsh supports a good range of wetland plant species and also 15 different native birds, including several rare species, such as the fernbird, the bittern, marsh and spotless crakes, and the banded rail.

The marsh stretches 5 km inland from the mouth of the Waitakere River and is

Te Henga Marsh

mainly privately owned apart from an esplanade reserve. The private owners include the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, who both aim to protect the area in its existing state. Most of the holdings extend beyond the marsh on to dry land and where activities could have detrimental effects on the marsh due to siltation or pollution. It is possible that in the future some owners may wish to reclaim or develop part of the wetland which could destroy its unique ecology. The National Trust is keen to find some way of protecting this rare and valuable area.

Benefactor Citations



Hand rendered benefactor citations have been presented to Trust benefactors Miss Josephine Jackson and Mr and Mrs R A Houston. The citations are similar to the one given to Mr and Mrs Hollard.

DURSLADE

Miss Josephine Jackson gifted Durslade, her farm near Woodville, to the Trust following the wishes of her father the late Mr T. C. Jackson. The 100 hectare property was bought in 1925 by Mr Jackson who farmed it for 56 years as a sheep and cattle farm. A strong conservationist, Mr Jackson did not use chemicals or sprays

Miss Josephine Jackson

and his gift to the Trust was made with the request that this be continued. After his death in 1981 Miss Jackson undertook to gift the farm with a supporting \$90,000. The Trust Board presented Miss Jackson with the citation in formal recognition of her generosity.

ROBERT HOUSTON MEMORIAL RESERVE

The Trust Board also wished to formally acknowledge Mr and Mrs R A Houston's gift of the Robert Houston Memorial Reserve. The reserve is in memory of their



Mr and Mrs Houston receiving their citation

son, Robert Alan Houston Junior who farmed a property at Hauturu, 16 km from the Waitomo Caves, for 8 years. He was keen to protect a 267 hectare block of native forest on the property which he always referred to as the Houston Reserve.

Following his sudden death in February 1981 his parents Mr and Mrs Houston Senior decided to establish the forest as the Robert Houston Memorial Reserve and to gift it to the Trust.

The reserve is completely covered with native forest, in an excellent state of regeneration. It includes tawa, rimu, totara,

puriri, kanuka, and manuka. There are also many fern species including a fine clump of the Prince of Wales feather fern which is very rare in the district. The reserve is rated botanically very important, and forms part of a corridor of natural habitat between two major forest blocks on either side.

The Kuritunu Stream forms one boundary and the land adjoins the Mahoe State Forest. The plentiful bird life includes pigeons, tuis, a pair of kokako, and the New Zealand falcon, and bats also live in the forest. The Trust has fenced the reserve, and the Forest Service will control noxious animals. A memorial stone with a plaque is now in place on the reserve.

Mr & Mrs Houston have further hon-

oured the Trust with the long term loan of two paintings by leading New Zealand artists, *In Afternoon Shadow* by Sir Toss Will Woollaston, and *Truth from the King Country: load bearing structure* by Colin McCahon.

The Houstons also donated Dr Salmons book on New Zealand Native Trees to the Lloyd White Memorial Library where it will be kept on permanent display.

WAIKATO REPRESENTATIVES

Bert Turley started with the Trust as the first regional representative for the Waikato in May 1980. Now, after 4½ years of enthusiastic and effective work, Bert has



Bert Turley

decided to spend more time on his golf, gardening, and other interests.

Over these years Bert, in association with other Trust staff, has worked hard to establish the Trust's reputation and achieve an impressive record of open space covenants in the Waikato. Of the 404 applications to the Board for covenants, 101 have come from the Waikato, and of the registered covenants 26 are in that area.

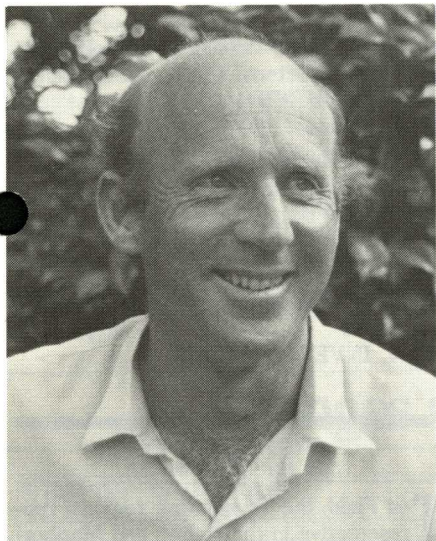
Before joining the Trust, Bert was Commissioner of Crown Lands for Taranaki and South Auckland, and served as chairman of the Egmont and Urewera National Park Boards, and the District Land Settlement and Marginal Land Committees in Wellington, Taranaki, and New Plymouth.

Bert's experience of working with farmers, local bodies, stock agents, Government departments and others was important, but it was particularly Bert's humour, enthusiasm and hard work that made him such an effective promoter of the Trust.

Following Bert Turley's retirement, the Trust has appointed Stuart Chambers of Hamilton as the new regional representative for the Waikato.

Stuart Chambers (Dip. Ag.) farmed for 25 years and is now semi-retired and involved in business, including a horticultural enterprise. He is a writer, contributing to publications such as *NZ Farmer* and the *NZ Economist*, and his book *The Way of the Farmer* (1976) has sold over 1000 copies.

In 1979 Stuart became a farm adviser in Tanzania, working on a Swiss Aid project. For 9 years he and his wife ran an "on farm" tourist venture, demonstrating agriculture to overseas people, and last year he ran a 3 week bird-watching tour throughout New Zealand. Another 2 tours for New Zealanders and overseas visitors are being organised.



Stuart Chambers

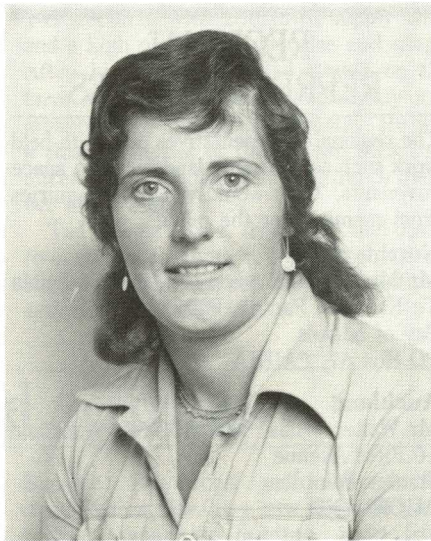
Stuart is interested in ornithology and insect collecting, and is a Council member and editor for the Miranda Naturalist's Trust.

Having lived in South Auckland and the Waikato, most of his life, Stuart knows the area well.

NELSON-MARLBOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

The Trust recently appointed Mrs Stephanie Hole as the new regional representative for the Nelson-Marlborough areas.

Stephanie is the first woman to be regional representative and is also the youngest representative, being the mother of six year old triplets. She shares with her hus-



Stephanie Hole

band the management and daily running of their 3000 s.u. sheep, cattle and horse farm, the Acacia Grove QH Stud at Matariki, in the Sherry River Valley, south-east Nelson. Stephanie has sole charge of the American Quarter Horse Stud, which stands two stallions including an Imported Syndicate owned horse. She is also actively involved in judging horses both locally and throughout the country and has a wide clientele of farmers. Most of the stock buying and selling for the farm is done by Stephanie and she is well known locally.

Stephanie has had public speaking experience, announcing at A and P shows, and she and her husband took part in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries "Landline" programme. She has worked as a science technician for the DSIR (entomology division) and appreciates the scientific as well as scenic and other values of the landscape.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The regional representatives help with field work such as assessing land for open space covenants. They would welcome enquiries from members or the public.

Northland

Mr Mick Philips Ph. 27-654 Paihia
Te Karawha Parade, Paihia
Bay of Islands
PO Box 67, PAIHIA

Auckland

Mr Walter Willis Ph. 453-595 Auckland
10 First Avenue
Stanley Point
AUCKLAND

Waikato

Mr Stuart Chambers Ph. 59-939 Hamilton
649 River Road
HAMILTON

Taupo

Mr Brian Jones Ph. 86-055 Taupo
PO Box 204
TAUPO

Manawatu/Hawkes Bay/

N. Wairarapa

Mr Eddie Suckling Ph. 75-726
8 Wikiriwhi Crescent Palmerston North
PALMERSTON NORTH

Wellington

Mr Ken Davidson Ph. 694-862
31 Pinny Avenue Wellington
LOWER HUTT

Nelson/Marlborough

Mrs Stephanie Hole Ph. 34-123
Acacia Grove QH Stud Tapawera
Matariki, RD 2
WAKEFIELD

Christchurch

Dr Ian Blair Ph. 489-571
65 Puriri Street Christchurch
CHRISTCHURCH 4

Dunedin

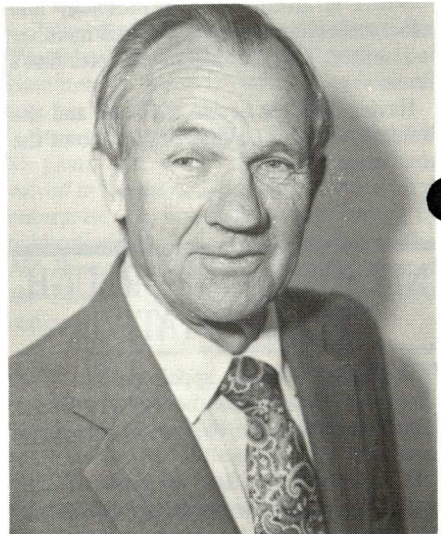
Professor Ron Lister Ph. 761-346
23 Porterfield Street Dunedin
Macandrew Bay
DUNEDIN

Southland

Mr Roger Sutton Ph. 358-230
Lorneville Invercargill
RD 4, INVERCARGILL

TED FIELD

Ted Field, the Trust's first regional representative in the Nelson and Marlborough areas, died last August, 1984. The Trust's Executive formally recorded their



Ted Field

tribute to the work Ted did for the Trust and observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect. At Ted's funeral the Trust was represented by director Owen Jennings and Mrs Jennings, by Philip Lissaman Senior Field Officer and Alan Edmonds visiting scientist.

Ted started with the Trust in August 1981. A farmer all his life, he originally owned the land which is the present site of Nelson airport. He then moved to Richmond and expanded a 40 hectare farm to

161 hectares with 280 town supply cows and a high production of maize and silage. After his retirement Ted stayed on the farm helping his two sons diversify into loganberries, apples, and forestry. He was a Board member of the Nelson Milk Producers Association, an active church member and tramper.

Ted was an astute, thoughtful, and down-to-earth person with a flair for public relations, and he worked hard and enthusiastically for the Trust.

Changes and Activities

VISITING SCIENTIST

In December, Alan Edmonds ended his stay with the Trust to return to teaching at Waikato University. Alan finished his work on standardising the description of open space covenant areas on the basis of the



Alan Edmonds (right) with Trust Deputy Chairman Gordon Stephenson, at Lake Wainamu, November 1984.

Biological Resources' landform/vegetation classification. He also saw the *Waipa 2* booklet through to printing. Apart from this, however, Alan also participated fully in the daily work of the Trust, helping with tasks such as organising the Auckland visit.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

After two years as the Trust's Executive Officer, Mrs Jane Baynes left in December to live in Nelson and work for the Department of Lands and Survey. During her time with the Trust Jane vigorously set up an efficient system for processing the open space covenants which sped things up and resulted in a large number of covenants being registered. She also compiled a manual for the administration group which will be very helpful for future staff.

COVENANT OFFICER

Mrs Betty Place started with the Trust in June 1984 as the Covenant Officer, working with the Field Group. Betty returned

to New Zealand two years ago from Argentina where she taught English as a second language and geography. Nature conservation is a life long interest.



Mrs Betty Place, Covenant Officer

OTHER CHANGES

Mrs Adrienne McElroy, Mr Ted Byrne and Mr Peter Brinsley all left the Trust during 1984. The former two worked on covenants and Peter Brinsley helped with various aspects of the Trust's work, particularly the accounts and legal matters.

HONOURS LIST

Mr Roger Sutton our Southland regional representative was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List (1984) with an MBE for his services to the environment, mainly

through the Southland Acclimatisation Society.

Professor Peter McKelvey, Trust director, was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List (1985). A former Conservator of Forests in the Wellington Conservancy, Professor McKelvey is head of the Forestry School at Canterbury University.

COVENANT DOCUMENT

We now have a standard and distinctive document (incorporating the Trust logo) for the registration of open space covenants in the Land Registries.

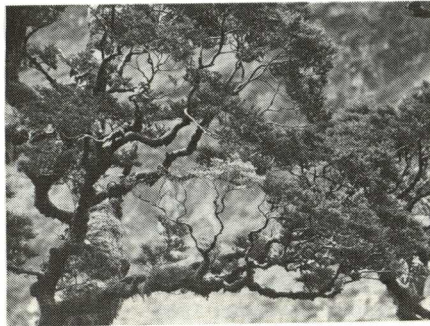
REVEGETATION MANUAL

There are still copies of the *Revegetation Manual* available, at \$7.95 to members and \$9.95 to the public.

LLOYD WHITE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Donations: The following two volumes have been donated to the Lloyd White Memorial Library.

1. Dr Salmon — *The Native Trees of New Zealand*. Mr and Mrs R A Houston.
2. Thomas — *The Hidden Places of Britain*. Penguin Books (Trust members).



Open Space Covenants

By the November 1984 Board meeting 114 applications for open space covenants had been declined by the Board and 284 had been approved.

Since the last newsletter 27 covenants have been completed and (as at 23 January 1985) there are now 82 registered. The most recent are listed below:

NEW REGISTERED COVENANTS

North Auckland Land District

1. ALLEN, D.J., Waimauku, Rodney County. 1.71 hectares of regenerating native bush.
2. BENNETT Family Trust, Papakura.

Senior Field Officer, Philip Lissaman pointing out the Sturman and Allen covenants in the distance, at Waimauku.

6.9 hectares of second growth native bush.

3. LITTLE, E.C., Kerikeri, Bay of Islands. 12.14 hectares of mangrove mudflat and an island with native and exotic trees.
4. RUTHERFURD, I.M. and sons, Waiuku, Franklin County. 5.5 hectares of coastal forest remnant.
5. SMEATH Family Trust, Moerewa, Bay of Islands. 9 hectares of native forest.
6. STURMAN, A.A. and T.J., Waimauku, Rodney County. 1.6 hectares of regenerating native bush.

South Auckland Land District

7. ASHE, F.L., Te Puke, Tauranga. 88.2 hectares of regenerating native forest.
8. SKLENARS, R.G. and M.J., Bonny Glen Farm, Otorohanga District. 1.42 hectares of replanted native bush.



9. DONNY, Mr and Miss, Morrinsville, Piako County. 6.1 hectares of native and exotic trees.
10. GARRETT, M.A. and P.M., Cambridge. 4.6 hectares of regenerating native forest.
11. GUMBLEY, J.W. and E.K., Ngaruahia. 4.8 hectares of native forest.
12. LOCHIEL farms Ltd, Waipa. 45.8 hectares of lake and lakeside.

Hawkes Bay Land District

113. SWINBURN, H., Ongaonga, Waipawa. 10.2 hectares of native bush and a Maori pa site.
14. WILLIAMS, H.M. and A., Te Maire Trust, Tikokino, Waipawa. 26.5 hectares of native forest.

Wellington Land District

15. BAIRD, C.R., Mangaweka. 15 hectares of native forest.
16. HARRIS, Sir Jack & Lady, Waikanae. 10 hectare forest remnant.
17. HOWDEN, D.D. and L.C., Te Wharau, Masterton. 100 hectares of regenerating native forest.
18. JENNINGS, W.H. and J.E., Kimbolton, Kiwitea. 15.2 hectares of riverside bush.
19. JONES, P.N., Okoia, Wanganui. 3.5 hectares of regenerating and planted native forest.
20. McKELLAR, H., Feilding. 28 hectares of riparian bush and grassland.
21. PEMBERTON, C.B., Rangiwhia. 5.5 hectares of native bush.
22. WILSON, A.Q., Sanson. 8 hectares of native bush.

Nelson Land District

23. BEUKE, B., Upper Moutere, Waimea. 10.7 hectare forest remnant.

Canterbury Land District

24. HOLDERNESS, J., Gebbies Valley, Wairewa. 8 hectares of tussockland

and geological features (rocky outcrops).

25. MUSGRAVE, D.J., D.D. and C., Geraldine. 14 hectare forest remnant.

Southland Land District

26. OLSEN, J.F., Rimu. 6.9 hectare native forest remnant.
27. SOUTHLAND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY, Redcliffs Wetland Reserve, Wallace. 109 hectares of recreated wetland.

SIX COVENANTS

Because so many open space covenants have been registered since the last newsletter, only a small selection can be described more fully.

Smeath, North Auckland

The Smeath's open space covenant protects 10 hectares of native bush on their dairy farm at Hupara, near Moerewa in the Bay of Islands. About half of the protected area would be suitable for farming if it were cleared, and Mr and Mrs Smeath were keen to make sure that this could not happen. The bush is an example of the typical original forest in the area. It contains many plant species, including totara, puriri, rimu, miro, taraire, kahikatea, tawa, kohekohe and lancewood. It is one of a number of bush areas growing over a large area that form a good habitat for birds.

The bush is fenced to keep out stock and is regenerating well. Public access is by the Smeath's permission, which is readily given.

Rutherford, South Auckland

The Rutherford's open space covenant is one of five on the Awhitu Peninsula, on the southern side of the Manukau Harbour



The Awhitu Peninsula

Heads. They are in close proximity to each other and are intended to protect forest remnants which are an integral part of the landscape character of the peninsular.

The Rutherford's 10 hectares of coastal forest, in a steep valley on their farm, is easily seen from the Awhitu Central Road, one of the main roads out to the Heads. It consists of secondary forest and a number of very large trees that were probably growing before the european came to the area. There is a wide selection of native plants, over 104 species, including some uncommon to Auckland. Trees from the original forest include kauri, totara, rimu, kahikatea, tawa, taraire, puriri, mangao, and rata. The nearest scenic reserve, at Waipipi, 15 km to the south, has a different geological formation and does not show the original forest pattern as well as the Rutherford's remnant does.

Collectively, the Awhitu Peninsula covenants have a dramatic impact on the landscape and illustrate an approach to

landscape protection that the Trust is keen to adopt in other parts of the country.

Ashe, Te Puke

A large stand (88 hectares) of native forest 13 km south of Te Puke is now protected by an open space covenant. Owned by Mrs E. Ashe, the forest is a distinctive feature of the Ashe's sheep and cattle farm and can be seen easily from the road and from the adjacent Otaine Wainuku State Forest. The forest, on steep north-facing slopes, is mainly rimu with some mangao, rewawera and rata. It has been fenced and is regenerating, and provides habitats for many birds, including wood pigeons and tuis. Local horticultural development, particularly kiwifruit growing, could have meant future pressure to clear the trees and use the land, so it is particularly pleasing that it is now legally protected.

Garrett, Cambridge

A privately owned stand of kahikatea at Roto-o-rangi, near Cambridge, is now protected by an open space covenant. The

trees are in the middle of the dairy farm owned by Mike and Pam Garrett, and are easily seen from both Chamberlain Road and the Te Awamutu/Cambridge Road. The large kahikatea would be good millable timber and in the past millers have asked the Garretts if they would sell it. However, the Garretts wanted to protect the trees and stop any threat of clearing, and so they fenced the stand, started planting new seedlings, and began negotiations for a covenant.

The fencing keeps out cattle and stops them from trampling and eating the seedlings and preventing regeneration. Now the stand is regenerating well, with new mahoe, lacebark and tree ferns. The Garretts have planted kowhai, totara, and rimu, both to encourage regeneration and to protect the trees from wind damage.

The Garretts' 6.8 hectares of bush is one of the landscape features that was identified in the Waipa County Landscape Project. This project, carried out by the Trust and the Waipa County Council, identified important landscape features such as forest remnants, archaeological sites, and the peat lakes.

Some of these sites are now protected by open space covenants. Also, as part of the project, the Trust is publishing the Waipa booklets, aimed at the county landowner. Their actions influence the way the landscape looks, and the booklets provide guidelines based on the belief that the more people that understand what influences a landscape the more likely they are to be sympathetic towards it. The first booklet is about the history of the county's landscape and the second is about the county's vegetation. They emphasise the importance of forest remnants such as the Garretts', partly because they are all that remains of the original forest that once clothed the country, but also because they

are significant features of today's landscape. Stands of kahikatea are not found elsewhere in the county, and make the local landscape very distinctive.

For some years now, the Garretts have been inviting pupils from a local primary school to visit their bush, and encouraging them to learn about conservation and enjoy being out in the country. Mike and Pam Garrett have many ideas about how children can enjoy the bush, and they have helped the Trust with the school/covenant programme. (This links schools with nearby areas protected by open space covenants.) The Garretts' forest remnant was the first to be considered in the pilot project. In some cases the owners may wish to be involved very little, whereas in others, such as the Garretts, the owners take a very active and enthusiastic part.

On an intensive dairy farm like the Garretts', protecting a forest remnant with a covenant means removing it from potential production, and such a protected area is a generous contribution to New Zealand's natural heritage.

McKellar, Manawatu

Native bush and a campsite just west of Feilding are now protected by an open space covenant. The 28 hectares on the banks of the Mangaone West Stream are part of "Woodchester", the long established sheep farm owned by Mr Hew C W McKellar. The stream runs through the broad terrace and valley slopes of the well managed farm, with its planted woodlots and shelter belts. The land for 20 metres on either side of the stream, except for a short stretch which is in pines, is now protected and fenced. This is to encourage native plants to grow under the present cover of manuka, kanuka and various other native shrubs. There are a few rimu and kahikatea.



Geological features on the Holderness property protected by an open space covenant.

An additional 20 metres of pasture is also being protected as a campsite for guide and scout groups.

Holderness, Gebbies Valley

The Holderness covenant protects a spectacular outcrop of rocks and a native vegetation remnant in Gebbies Valley, 75m above sea level, at the foot of Gebbies Pass that leads into the upper reaches of Ttletton Harbour.

The covenanted area of 8 hectares is very conspicuous and visible from the road. The outcrops or eruptions of rhyolite rock are a very striking feature of the landscape and are a geological resource highly regarded by New Zealand geologists. There is a native vegetation remnant growing on and immediately surrounding the outcrops, mostly at the base of the rocks and in shaded parts. The plants include mahoe, mapou, matipo, New Zealand iris, silver tussock, New Zealand buttercup, and neck-lace fern.

The area is fenced off so grazing is not

a problem, but it needed protection against possible threats of damage by quarrying, earth works, or any land use change. There are similar geological outcrops on nearby land, but the Holderness's landscape is the most unchanged. Mr Holderness does not mind people going on to the area to look at the rocks and vegetation (except during lambing).

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The present Trust membership is as follows

Ordinary members	394
Corporate Members	22
Corporate Special	37
Life Members	42
Junior Members	12
Covenant Life Members	105
TOTAL	612

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TREES FOR THE NEW ZEALAND COUNTRYSIDE

"History clearly tells the story of how our native forests have been destroyed (a process which unfortunately still continues in some areas). Original forest cover is replaced by a farming landscape which now has to be moulded into not only a productive asset, but also one which should make a positive contribution to our environment. Unless we preserve the small pockets of native trees which remain on our farms, and keep on planting trees (both indigenous and exotic) in accordance with good design principles our descendants will give us scant thanks for what we have bequeathed them."

John and Bunny Mortimer

Trees for the New Zealand Countryside — A Planter's Guide.