



Queen Elizabeth II
National Trust
 For open space in New Zealand
Nga Kairauhi Papa

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FIVE MOA SPECIES IDENTIFIED AT CHEVIOT



Beverley McCulloch, of Canterbury Museum, excavates a large deposit of moa bones, representing several species, in the swamp.

Five different species of moa have been identified from the bones found in Ira and Yvonne McNabb's Cheviot moa swamp. Their recently registered 20 hectare covenant over the swamp on their Treasure Downs property protects the scientific values of the land.

Palaeontologist Trevor Worthy of Nelson has identified five different species from the 36 individual mixed and partial skeletons discovered in the swamp. Of the 36 individuals, 17 were *Pachyornis elephantopus*, the heavy-footed moa. A further 10 were the eastern moa, *Emeus crassus*. There were three *Euryapteryx geranoides*, the stout-legged moa, and two sorts of *Dinornis*. There was only one *D. giganteus*, the giant moa, but there were five *D. novaezealandiae*.

Mr Worthy says Treasure Downs

is an important site because real differences can be seen in the moa fauna when there are more than 30 birds present - and few sites contain that many birds.

Just looking at the paddock isn't very revealing - it looks like a big open paddock with willows at the end. But Canterbury Museum's head of science, Beverley McCulloch says it is the most important site to be discovered in New Zealand since Pyramid Valley (also a National Trust covenant) was identified more than 50 years ago.

Mr McNabb found the moa bones while he was ditching through springholes to drain the land in 1986. "It was initially thought that these were typical springhole deposits of moa bones - the remains of birds trapped in the mudholes caused by underground water risers -

although the bones were in much better condition than is usual in such sites," she says.

"During a salvage excavation in 1987 and further investigation in 1988 a main bone deposit - material in as good a condition as that from Pyramid Valley - was located in the yellow calcareous sediments of a dried-up lake which had been fed by the springholes."

Coring showed the lake sediments were up to seven metres deep in places (Pyramid Valley is two to three metres deep), and they may have accumulated throughout the whole of the Holocene (or post-glacial period) - that is the last 10,000 years, she says.

"The value of this site is incalculable not only for its wealth of subfossil remains which include gizzard contents, eggshell and moa chicks, but also to geologists, botanists and zoologists, reflecting a

history of climate, vegetation and fauna throughout the Holocene."

"It is a veritable treasure trove of scientific information, and as such fully warrants permanent protection." The covenant is only two kilometres northeast of Cheviot township, and is near both the Winskill and Burnett covenants.

Mr McNabb says the covenant has been a great thing, and protected the site from "half-hearted diggers who want to go through it for their own benefit." The paddock is now covered in tall fescue and red clover, and the wetland at the end, which contains orchids and other plants now rare on the east coast, is protected.

The major dig in 1988 was a perfect example for the National Film Unit which was filming a documentary on moas at the time, he says. Other people, including his

father, had found signs of moas such as gizzard stones and eggshells.

"I wasn't the first one to try draining the swamp. In the past they had picked up bones and taken them home, but after a few months they would decay and break up completely, and go back to lime."

There was an enormous amount of interest in the moa swamp while the dig was underway, he says. "I was quite surprised about how many came to see the dig. Pretty well every class from Cheviot School came up and one class came up three times. It was possible to have 150 people there in the afternoons."

"Beverley McCulloch said to me I would know an awful lot about the swamp and it wouldn't help me grow any more grass. But I was very, very keen to be associated with that particular area."

FROM THE TRUST MANAGER

Membership of the National Trust has continued to grow - no mean feat when many other organisations have experienced a decline in membership as a result of people facing the need to "rationalise" the numbers of organisations they belong to.

However, with our total membership at just over 2,000 we do need more members. The benefits to our organisation of an increased number of members not only accrue from increased revenue to assist us perform our tasks but, more importantly, from the 'political clout' it gives the Trust as an organisation. Each year we negotiate with government and the private sector to secure funding for landscape protection. The level of public support for our work we can demonstrate is important, particularly for the private sector who, naturally, look for some form of return on their

involvement with, and support of, the Trust.

In return, membership of the National Trust offers tangible benefits:

- A newsletter three times a year.
- The right to vote other members onto the Trust Board and stand for election. (See article about 1995 Election for Directors in this issue.)
- Free entry to the Trust's two magnificent Taranaki Garden properties.
- Free entry to many overseas National Trust properties (England, Scotland, Australia).

Full details of reciprocal rights with overseas organisations will be published in the next *Open Space*.

If you know of someone you believe may be interested in membership of the National Trust, please encourage them to

join. There is a membership application form within this newsletter.

A reminder that Tupare and Hollard Gardens in Taranaki are at their best at this time of the year and are well worth a visit. The BNZ Rhododendron Festival (of which our gardens are an integral part) runs from 28 October to 6 November. This year for the first time the magnificent Chapman-Taylor designed house at Tupare will be open to the public.

Thank you to those of you who responded to the Trust's questionnaire. The analysis of the questionnaire is being undertaken by a post-graduate student and the demands of her other studies have prevented her from completing her task, as yet. As a result, we are still happy to receive further questionnaires, at least until the end of November.

Tim Porteous

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME AT OTEWA

Six separate bush areas totalling 33.15 hectares have been protected by Robert and Janet Hopkins, south of Otewa near Otorohanga. The Hopkins farm on easy hill country, and the bush extends down a large gully system.

One area they have protected has the Tahaia Bush Road running through it, and the second area is the vast gully.

The bush is strong tawa, mangeo and pukatea with kanuka, rewarewa, mahoe, and mamaku on areas of regeneration. Kahikatea, totara and rimu are also present. The understorey had not been damaged too much by stock before fencing was carried out.

Trust Board member Arthur Cowan recounts the story of the covenant: "In a straight line it's only a mile away from us, but it takes 15 minutes around the road. It's near the back of our property, and protects the headwaters of our streams. We kept looking at it and hoped someone would protect it, because it's so important for the district and for the waterways."



A view of the Hopkins covenant showing mamaku tree ferns.

"After several rather bad situations where we felt it was going to be felled - and indeed some was - the Hopkins bought the place. Robert was very enthusiastic and determined, once he found out a few things about the Trust, that was the way to go."

"He didn't have any hope of financing the covenant himself. We applied for 100% fencing costs from the Forest Heritage Fund, but they cut us back, and we had to work out some other way of financing the

rest."

"Now I am retired from the farm work I was able to do quite a lot of the fencing of the first block which was about 50 chains of fencing. The Waikato branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society came up to help with materials and so we went ahead. We had enough money to get a contractor to do the rest. I spent a lot of time there, and currently we are getting near to completing the battening part. We were able to obtain the battens cheaply, and we have two more days work there this spring."

"Mr Hopkins was absolutely delighted with it, and it is a very important piece of bush which is now secured. He was very generous with the fence lines, and we have also been planting in the areas between the bush and the trees," Mr Cowan says.



Trust members are entitled throughout the year to free entry to the garden at Tupare, New Plymouth.

Tips and Techniques

for Forest Management and Restoration

POSSUM CONTROL

(Part 1)

Possums were introduced to New Zealand in about 1840 and since then have multiplied to reach a population of an estimated 70 million.

Possums are a significant threat to native forest areas. They are browsing animals and, although they seem to prefer the forest canopy, can cause considerable damage to trees, shrubs and seedlings in regenerating forest.

Possums frequently alter the composition of forest by heavily browsing certain species. Many of the tree species favoured by possums are important food sources for native birds. They also eat flowers and fruit of many species thus reducing food available for birds. There is also increasing evidence of the predation of the young of native birds from the nest by possums. Possums are nocturnal animals feeding at night and sleeping in nests or dens during the day. They come out of their dens around dusk and return just before dawn. They are tree dwellers but move across open country and often follow the same track regularly.

Possums are also a threat to New Zealand agriculture as they can carry bovine tuberculosis.

While it is arguably impossible to totally exterminate possums in New Zealand, planned control can reduce local populations to less damaging levels.

Control:

(a) **Habitat Manipulation**

The removal of nesting sites in association with a control programme is worthwhile.

Methods of removing nesting sites:

- cut down and burn any standing stumps or dead trees suitable for nesting sites outside the forest
- block hollows or crevices in branches or trunks of trees
- regularly check through the forest for obvious nest sites and block them up
- encourage natural regeneration in the forest by controlling other browsers such as domestic stock, goats and deer. Possums are deterred by dense, wet vegetation.

(b) **Shooting**

Night shooting can assist in controlling possums. Possums' eyes shine red at night when exposed to a beam of light. Use a five shot bolt action 0.22 rifle fitted with a 4 x 32 telescopic sight, sub-sonic ammunition and a silencer. A motorcycle battery in a backpack to power a light attached to the rifle is useful.

The hunter should move into the wind, working along the edges of the forest first, putting the possums between the shooter and the cover.

The hunter should move quietly, making even sweeps of the light. When a possum is seen, it is held at the edge of the light beam so as not to frighten it. When ready to shoot, the possum is placed in the middle of the light beam. A gun licence is required to use a rifle.

(c) **Poisoning**

Poisoning is by far the most effective method of controlling possums. It is believed that the most



effective control strategy is to undertake an initial 'blitz', followed up by annual control measures rather than by constant pressure. This helps to overcome the problem of bait shyness. It is worth considering using professional hunters for the initial treatment to maximise the reduction of possum numbers. Licensed operators are also able to use 1080 poison whereas private individuals must use alternatives listed below.

Possums are creatures of habit frequently following the same tracks night after night, forming flattened pathways called possum pads. They often have favourite trees that are visited regularly. These trees can often be identified by leaves that have been eaten, and claw and horizontal teeth marks up the trunk or along branches. These easily identified signs make the possums relatively simple to poison. There are four poisons commercially available for possum control:

- cyanide paste
- phosphorus paste
- pindone pellets
- talon 20P pellets

Cyanide and Phosphorus Pastes

To use these poisons a licence to become an approved operator under the Pesticides Act must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Having obtained the licence, a landowner may purchase poison for his/her own use provided warning notices are posted at all main access points to the forest area.

It is important that possums are primed or pre-fed with a non-toxic bait before toxic bait is laid. This attracts possums to the bait site and means that a better kill will be achieved with the toxic bait. The non-toxic bait can be made from:

*3 parts flour
1 part icing sugar
some drops of cinnamon, curry or allspice.*

Put the bait in a clean plastic squeeze bottle. Lay this bait each day for several days before laying toxic bait. Non-toxic bait and subsequently toxic bait should be laid alongside possum pads and on the tops of branches about 40 cm from the trunk of trees that are regularly visited by possums. Once poisoning operations have been completed, all toxic bait left uneaten should be removed. This prevents possums consuming small non-lethal doses of the poison and possibly building up a resistance.

Bait should be placed in bait stations to prevent it deteriorating in the weather. These can be made out of old plastic containers. Lay bait at dusk on a fine, warm night making sure it sticks to the surface it is placed on.

Dust around the bait with flour lure used for pre-feeding. Bait should always be placed up a tree to prevent the possibility of kiwi or weka taking the bait.

Talon 20P Pellets and Pindone

These poisons are anti-coagulants which cause internal bleeding and have the advantage that no licence is required for their use and no pre-feeding is required.

Bait stations are used to dispense these poisons. Bait stations have a number of advantages:

- bait is protected from the weather
- the chance of accidental contact by humans is lessened
- they can be removed after use, cleaned, stored and reused
- they can be used continuously, rebaiting at the recommended period to gain long-term control of possum populations
- they can be used in areas where stock is present as they can be placed out of the animals' reach.

Bait stations constructed from plastic downpipes are attached to the base of target trees, about 30cm above the ground within the forest area.

Unlike cyanide or phosphorus, possums poisoned with pindone or talon normally return to their nest to die.

PART II in the next *Open Space* will cover Trapping of Possums.

This material is sourced from *Native Forest Restoration: A Practical Guide for Landowners*, published by the National Trust.

TARAIRE SAFE FROM LOGGING

Just north of Paparoa at Mararetu, Gwen and Jim Worthington of Whangarei have protected 11.93 ha of predominantly taraire forest remnant. Their recently registered covenant is over an oblong-shaped block of bush which runs up a hillside from the main Paparoa Road.

Mrs Worthington says since it was fenced three years ago the bush has regenerated well. "At one stage we had contemplated selling the farm, and we thought 'oh, no' because it was the time everyone was planting pine trees. Someone was liable to put in one of those dirty big rollers."

"We didn't want the risk of that. We just wanted to preserve it so that there was no risk of it being chopped down if we sold the farm. We and our family are very conservation minded and we wanted to leave it."

"It's original bush, which is a big thing. It's just lovely, walking through it. There's the taraire part, and then sandstone rocks at one end on a knob. I've even found a little green clematis."

"When I was a kid there was a lot

of bush around, and we learnt all the trees. There are a lot of ferns in there and it's very attractive. There are kauri too, and I found a broken kiwi egg once. I lived nearby as a teenager, and used to hear the kiwi in the bush. Now I don't know if they are there or not."

"We look at blocks of bush around the countryside, and wonder if they are covenants. Everyone we have mentioned the covenant to has been most enthusiastic," she says.

As well as taraire, the bush

contains totara, rimu, tanekaha, matai, miro, kahikatea, kohekohe, rewarewa, and tawa. There's a lot of birdlife in the area, including pigeons and bellbirds. The bush is quite near the Mareretu state forest which is connected to the Brynderwyns, and there's a lot of bird life around because of that, Mrs Worthington says. One day they even saw a couple of kakariki flying past.

The Forest Heritage Fund supported this valuable covenant.



The magnificent bush covenant at Mareretu protected by Gwen and Jim Worthington.

RAILWAY RESTORES A FOREST

Barry Brickell, who describes himself as an eccentric and a visionary, has covenanted almost his whole Coromandel property with a recently registered National Trust covenant. He bought the hilly property just north of Coromandel town in 1973 while making a living as a potter and ceramic artist. Before this, he bought a smaller property in 1962 after his Auckland City education and became the first full-time potter in NZ and the first to restore an old kauri villa in Coromandel.

The 23.4 hectare forest remnant covenant in the Coromandel hills has seen major plantings of canopy tree species starting in 1975,

especially kauri, rimu, tanekaha and rewarewa.

His Driving Creek Railway and potteries on the Kennedy Bay Road is an intriguing place. Mr Brickell, also a railway enthusiast, has two trains taking fare-paying passengers up through the covenant area. He is also now well known for his large sculptured forms made in terracotta clay. His art is becoming internationally acclaimed and very original for NZ.

The covenant covers regenerating manuka and kanuka country which is acting as nurse crop for rewarewa, tanekaha, five-finger, rangiora, hekatara, kawakawa, hangehange and towai. There are also areas

where kohekohe, puriri and kamahi are emerging. Rimu, totara, kauri, miro and matai have all been planted in areas where pine trees have been removed.

"I have planted thousands of trees up here since 1975. My concern is to restore the forest type as it was. Phase one is to get the forest canopy trees species in first, and phase two (if I live long enough) is to aid and abet the introduction of the sub-canopy shrubs. It'll take more than my life to do that. I am fortunate in that possum numbers are not high at present."

"It's a forest restoration job rather than preservation - and it's been very difficult for me to get funding for it.

I spend \$10,000 to \$20,000 of my own money a year on the project. Despite repeated applications to conservation groups, I have to date received no outside funding from them."

Thousands of people a year travel on the three kilometres of narrow-gauge railway through the Driving Creek bush. "It's the main tourist attraction in this area now. The passengers get a talk at the top of the line about the forest project, and I ask them for donations and I get about \$2000 a year, mostly small change, but once a \$50 note."

"You can take heavy loads through sensitive landscape on a narrow gauge railway." As well as passengers, he transports pine wood from the upper part of the property on the railway, and this is used to fire the pottery kilns. "Once the railway is constructed there is no damage to the bush."

Driving Creek, now the only railway in New Zealand other than NZ Rail, which offers a daily year-round timetable service, is featured on a recently released video called "Rails in the Wilderness." The video tells the story of how hundreds of private sawmilling companies built their own railway systems, known as "bush trams" to exploit native forest throughout the country for timber. The last of these to operate was in Westland in the 1960s, except for one or two small wooden rail tramways. At Driving Creek a large *Pinus radiata* log, from a self-sown tree, was railed down the line in the traditional manner for the film, the only railway in existence that can do it. To the visitors, it is emphasised in a talk that the Driving Creek Railway is used to remove intrusive pine trees and to transport the many hundreds of nursery-raised young native trees for planting. Thus it is

dubbed as the "world's greenest railway".

Mr Brickell intends to add a further kilometre of track through the bush in the coming year.

"I've been interested in native forests all my life. I won a primary school arbour day competition once with a description of native bush on Auckland's North Shore. I was helped by Laing and Blackwell's *Native Plants of New Zealand*. It's a book of high literary quality as well as giving botanical information. I did a degree in botany at Auckland University."

"But I'm also an engineer. What appeals to me most is how to do sensitive civil engineering in a beautiful landscape. I don't see a primeval forest as something you can't modify sensitively. A narrow gauge railway sensitively built is by far the most attractive and interesting way of doing it. Furthermore, from an environmental viewpoint, mankind has hardly yet developed a kinder way of transporting large numbers of people or goods through a naturally vulnerable area. By comparison, a road or even a well-used tramping track is more destructive, especially in high rainfall areas."

The Forest Heritage Fund contributed finance to the covenant, while Lottery Grants Board funds were made available towards revegetation work by the National Trust.



Part of Barry Brickell's narrow-gauge railway through his regenerating covenant at Driving Creek, Coromandel.

ELECTION FOR TRUST DIRECTORS: 1995

Preparations are underway for the triennial election of two members of the National Trust to the Board of Directors. The three year terms of the present elected directors, Mr Arthur Cowan and Dr Brian Molloy end at 31 March 1995. Both are eligible for a further three-year term.

Trust members will find enclosed with this newsletter the following material relating to the election:

- a copy of the Trust Rules which prescribe the method of election
- a background information sheet.
- a nomination form.

If you intend to participate in the nomination process, please note that both the proposer and nominee must be members of the National Trust. In the case of financial members, this obviously requires members to have paid their 1994/95 membership subscription.

Voting forms will be sent out in February 1995.

Open Space Covenants

As at 5 September 1994, there were 772 registered covenants totalling 27,182 hectares with a further 449 areas totalling 42,649 hectares approved and proceeding towards registration.

The breakdown by Land District (which differs from our Regional Representatives' boundaries) is as follows:

REGISTERED OPEN SPACE COVENANTS AS AT 5/9/94

LAND DISTRICT	TOTAL NO.	AREA PROTECTED (HA)
North Auckland	147	3,143
South Auckland	188	5,556
Gisborne	37	1,600
Hawkes Bay	25	943
Taranaki	46	1,385
Wellington	128	7,688
Marlborough	3	159
Nelson	40	1,152
Westland	2	10
Canterbury	64	2,070
Otago	27	2,043
Southland	63	1,424
NATIONAL TOTAL	772	27,173

ago, and totara is the dominant species. Other trees present include kohekohe, puriri, taraire, rimu, kahikatea, wheki, red mapou, rewarewa and nikau. The understorey is also quite dense, probably because the bush is on such steep land and hasn't been grazed very heavily by stock before it was fenced.

The Hames' also own another covenant proposal which will be registered when the title is discovered! The Forest Heritage Fund supported this covenant.

AUCKLAND

Te Heke Farms Covenant

A small but significant area of bush in a steep gully at Evans Road, on the South Kaipara peninsula has been protected by P D (Patrick Denton) McCarthy. Mr McCarthy wanted the bush protected in the memory of his great-grandfather, Daniel McCarthy, one of the first settlers in the area in the late 1870s.

Daniel McCarthy, a stonemason who built lighthouses around the Scottish and Welsh coasts, had a strong desire to secure land. He finally took up land in Evans Road in the late 1870s, buying it from the Government.

The 1.9 hectare covenant contains a number of very fine large pohutukawa trees, puriri and many karaka. Other species include rewarewa, nikau and ponga, as well as a fringe of large kanuka. The bush can be seen from Parakai, some seven kilometres away.

Stock access to the bush meant there was no regeneration, Mr McCarthy says. "The seedlings are now coming up. I feel the native bush is in diminishing decline, and it should be protected whenever it can be. As custodians we should be looking after it."

RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

CENTRAL NORTHLAND

Alspach Covenant

Dairy farmers Richard and Helen Alspach have protected a 1.53 hectare covenant next to the Powley Land Company's registered open space covenant at Arapohue. Mr Alspach, who was a director on the National Trust Board for a time, has been heavily involved in Federated Farmers.

The covenant has been fenced for almost 10 years and is in a small gully. It contains totara, taraire, puriri, tanekaha, ponga and karaka, with good ground cover and many young karaka and puriri are establishing.

McGrath Covenant

This covenant was started off by George Lambert, and it was registered just before he died. Now the 3.43 hectare forest remnant on the corner of Lambert and Pipiwai Roads at Purua, northwest of

Whangarei, is owned by Jim McGrath.

The Forest Heritage Fund supported this covenant, and the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society also gave a substantial contribution towards fencing costs.

This is a small but attractive bush remnant and valued highly by the local community. It includes some large mature trees and there's a wide mix of species including kauri, kohekohe, nikau, puriri, rata, rimu, totara, lancewood, kahikatea, mahoe, taraire, miro, towai, tanekaha and matai. It also contains a rare native fuchsia and yellow-flowering rata. Kiwi are present in the forest.

Ewenny Farms Covenant

Paparoa's Hames Brothers have protected a 4.7 hectare block of bush on steep country five kilometres north of Paparoa. This block was probably cut over 50 or 60 years

Otway Covenant

Whitley and Joan Otway, who run Charnley Deer Park at Kaukapakapa, have protected 2.27 hectares of wetland on the edge of the Kaipara Harbour.

The wetland is at the mouth of the Araparera River, 14 km north of Kaukapakapa, and contains salt marsh vegetation and mangroves. Wildlife which use the area include sea birds and waders, and there is a pied shag colony present. Pied stilts, oystercatchers, godwits, dotterels, bitterns, herons and ducks all frequent the wetland.

Ormsby Covenant

Ten kilometres east of Clarks Beach on the southern coast of the Manukau Harbour, the Glenfield Bethel Trust registered a covenant over 8.7 hectares of roosting area for wading birds. Since registration the property has been sold to Michael and Adelene Ormsby, who are very keen on the covenant and its objectives.

The foreshore covenant preserves the value of the land as a roosting area for wading birds which use the adjacent harbour tidal flats as a feeding area. About 47,000 wading birds use the harbour feeding areas along the coast, and the area is part of adjoining flat land they use for resting and roosting at high tide.

The covenant now forms part of a very important, and internationally significant wading bird habitat, and protection was strongly supported by the Department of Conservation, the Regional Council and the Franklin District Council.

The owners hope the covenant will encourage similar covenants nearby.

WAIKATO

Linyard Covenant

Erna Linyard of Timaru has protected a very valuable 148 hectare forest remnant on land she leases out about two kilometres northeast of Te Aroha. Close to the

Hansen and De Jong covenants, this block is adjacent to Department of Conservation land on two sides.

The covenant protects the bush, prevents erosion, protects landscape views from Te Aroha, and adds to the adjoining habitat.

It is a steep block, and 70 hectares of it is tall old forest which appears not to have been logged. A further 80 hectares is regenerating and contains kanuka, mahoe, five-finger, rewarewa, rangiora, olearia, silver ferns and manuka. It is fast closing in and in a few years will blend in with the nearby older forest.

Birdlife includes tui, bellbird, pigeon, kingfisher, whitehead, tomtit, robin, fantail and grey warbler. It is good bird habitat. The understorey is undisturbed through most of the covenant.

Environment Waikato's land management officer in Te Aroha, Grant Blackie started the covenant process in motion. "The lessee wanted to burn some gorse and needed a DOC permit; and we all went up and had a look at the block. I started negotiating protection of the block with Mrs Linyard and we narrowed down the options. The one that made the most sense was connecting up an existing fence with a fence DOC had done."

The covenant turned out to be a real joint effort between the owners, the Trust, Environment Waikato and the Department of Conservation. Three kilometres of fence were put up, and Environment Waikato put in \$15,000, DOC put in \$4000 in labour and the National Trust put in \$9000.

"Because we were fencing off a stream, we piped spring water to a cattle trough," Mr Blackie said.

For Environment Waikato, the covenant was part of the wider Waihou Valley scheme for protection and soil conservation which runs from Thames to Tirau.

Day Covenant

This 4.27 ha forest remnant covenant, owned by Fredrick Day, and in the Waiomu Valley north of Thames, protects an area which links in with the Coromandel Forest Park. The covenant is on steep hill country and is densely vegetated in kanuka, manuka and mingimingi. Underneath this cover puriri, tanekaha, ferns, lancewood, rangiora, rewarewa, mahoe and coprosma species have come away very strongly. The covenant has a wide and clean stream running through it, and alongside this grow larger trees of puriri, tawa and kohekohe.

The covenant is highly sustainable and has had no livestock in it for many years. As this was a subdivision-based covenant, Mr Day paid for the survey, fencing and legal costs.

Brown Covenant

Harman and Helen Brown of Kuaotunu have protected three small and separate areas with a recently registered National Trust covenant. The areas total 1.4 ha, and include giant pohutukawa trees, a pa site and 0.7 ha of bush.

The pa site is one the best examples in the area, while the pohutukawa trees are some of the largest to be seen, and are protected by a background of tall kanuka. The fenced-off bush contains tawa, pukatea, kohekohe, puriri, nikau, mamaku and kanuka. It has a strong understorey and has been fenced for 10 years.

The Browns have also collected seeds from the bush and grown on plants to help revegetate the bush area. This covenant was financed partly by the Forest Heritage Fund.

Slingerland Covenant

Two sides of an attractive stream have been covenanted by Catherine Slingerland at her property southwest of Kuaotunu in the Coromandel. The 7.34 ha forest remnant is healthy regenerating bush including tall kanuka, rewarewa,

mahoe, olearia, rangiora, tree ferns and towai. There are also a few rimu and kahikatea along the stream.

The stream is the real focus of the covenant, and includes a 12 metre waterfall, and other smaller waterfalls and swimming holes.

The Forest Heritage Fund supported this covenant.

Tatham Covenant

Frank and Adrienne Tatham's 5.38 hectare covenant was already fenced, and because it is a whole title covenant, it didn't need surveying. Known as the Creamery Reserve because it was set aside many years ago as a dairy factory site, it straddles each side of Te Marama Road, north of Waikawau on the way to Marokopa.

The tawa dominant covenant also includes rimu, totara, miro, rewarewa, karaka, pukatea, pigeonwood, rata, nikau, puriri and kohekohe. It has a wide range of tree species for such a small area.

Because the area hasn't been grazed there is a good understorey of seedlings and ferns and the covenant is in good heart. It appears as though it has never been logged and is in a relatively natural state. The covenant protects the roadside bush and retains the landscape view.

BAY OF PLENTY

Tuart Covenant

This extensive bush block of 176 hectares was first protected and registered by Tasman Forestry. It is at the eastern end of Lake Rotoiti, and was recently sold to David Tuart, who farms in the area.

The block is made up of tall tawa forest with some podocarps and pukatea sprinkled through it. Kohekohe is also present. There's a rich understorey of ferns and mosses. Part of the block was to be cleared by Tasman but clearing stopped after a protest by the Tauranga branch of Forest and Bird.

The covenant is particularly rich in birdlife, with whiteheads, tomtit,

tui, bellbird and pigeon present in excellent numbers. Kokako is known in the area and so are kiwi.

The purpose of the covenant is to protect the bush from logging and to retain a valuable habitat in an area of good bird populations.

Williams Covenant

Begun by the Dawson family (see below) and sold recently to Lloyd and Raewyn Williams, this whole of title 3.1 hectare forest covenant protects bush on flat land on Omanawa Road near the Omanawa Falls Reserve. The bush is cutover tawa and kamahi as well as podocarps, and there is good regeneration and a strong understorey. The main species are tawa, kamahi and rewarewa, as well as pukatea, rimu and miro.

Regional Rep Stephen Parr says this piece of forest is unique in this area because it is on flat land. Almost all the other flat land in the area has been developed for horticulture.

Dawson Covenant

Warren Dawson and his father, Gerald have protected a very steep 7.8 hectare block of bush on Omanawa Road close to the Omanawa Falls Reserve. Vegetation ranges from fern cover to tawa, kamahi and podocarp forest with some beech, and the covenant runs down to the Omanawa River. Regeneration of podocarps is strong, especially of miro trees, Regional Rep Stephen Parr says.

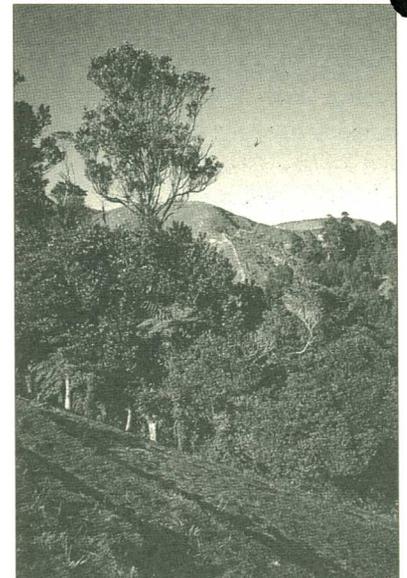
The covenant protects the flora and fauna, and also the river catchment. The Forest Heritage Fund contributed to this covenant, which links in with another covenant on the property and the Williams covenant which was previously part of the Dawsons' farm and has also been recently registered.

TARANAKI

Baker Covenant

Farm supervisor Bill Laurence of Hawera has helped protect an 18.25 hectare forest remnant on the Baker and Co. farm, 15 km northeast of Hawera. The covenant is over southerly facing tawa forest, and is very visible from the Morea Road. Other species included in the covenant, which was fenced two years ago, are kahikatea, rewarewa, hinau, mahoe, karamu and hangehange. Before fencing, the covenant was in poor condition as it had a long history of grazing with sheep and goats.

The Morea Reserve, administered by the Department of Conservation,



is right next to the farm. The Forest Heritage Fund supported this covenant.

Gaustad Covenant

Jean Gaustad of Uruti has protected a 4.5 hectare stand of predominantly rimu, totara, matai, miro, kahikatea and pokaka on flat land on her sheep and cattle farm. She has retired to near Waitara, and the farm is now being run by her son, Clive. This beautiful stand is noted as a Recommended Area for Protection in the Northern Taranaki Protected Natural Area programme survey.

While the podocarps have been cut over previously, they are now 12

to 15 metres in height. Nearby Maori food pits and the even age of the trees suggest the remnant is growing on a Maori garden site. There are other remnants of indigenous forest in the district, but they do not measure up to this covenant.

The remnant has a high value because the trees are mature enough to provide a valuable seed source to be dispersed by native birds to other areas. The Forest Heritage Fund supported this very valuable covenant.

Black Covenant

Awakino farmers Russell and Jill Black have protected a 3.7 hectare forest remnant and pa site on their property which is two kilometres out of Awakino. The newly registered covenant protects a stand of semi-coastal hard beech and tanekaha, a swamp maire-dominant wetland and an ancient Maori pa site.

The forest contains 60% hard beech, and 40% tanekaha, with scattered totara, rimu and kamahi trees. The wetland is about 50% swamp maire, and also includes raupo, manuka, cabbage trees, carex and gahnia species.

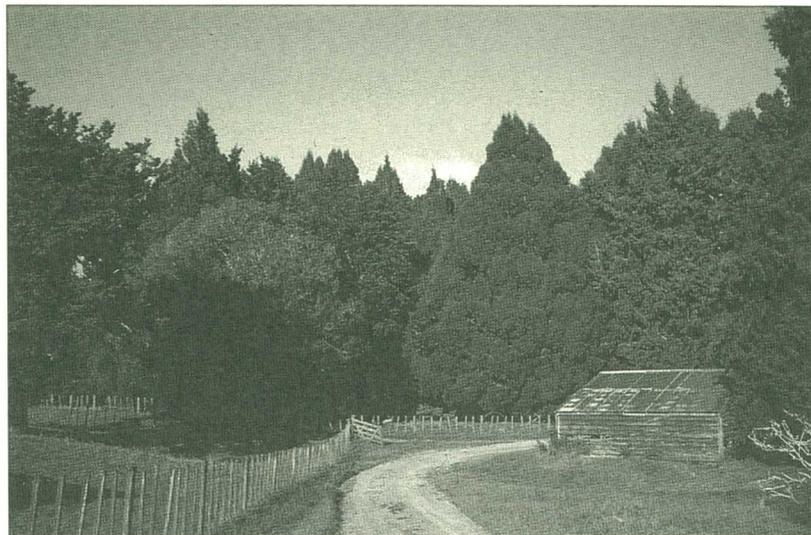
"The travelling public cannot help but notice this very attractive stand of native bush sitting on a knob above the Junction Service station on State Highway 3," says Regional Rep Ross Bishop. Because of its scenic importance, botanical interest and historical and cultural values, this covenant is one of the Trust's more notable protected areas.

MANAWATU/ WANGANUI

Manawakoara Trust

Right next to the Wanganui City boundary on Durie Hill, the Manawakoara Trust has protected three hectares of forest remnant and wildlife habitat.

Secondary growth bush species have regenerated well in this covenant, especially on the shady



Looking south at the Gaustad covenant to the fine podocarp stand. (Photo: Ross Bishop)

southerly and south-easterly faces. The species are mainly mahoe, pigeonwood, matipo, kowhai, kahikatea, tawa, lacebark and tree ferns. One large but battered pukatea remains in the valley bottom having survived several gorse fires, and is historically important to the trustees for its ability to survive against almost impossible odds.

The covenant protects the regenerating bush and wildlife refuge dams in perpetuity. Registration and survey of this covenant was supported by Lottery Grants Board funding.

Patterson Covenant

Two forest remnants have been protected by the estate of Dr Athol Patterson at Moumahaka Road, Ngutuweru, near Waverley. The blocks are 2.85 hectares and 1.13 hectares. There are many titoki, tawa, hinau, rewarewa, and nikau trees of medium size, and a wealth of understorey species encouraged by the exclusion of stock. Dr Patterson began the covenant but died before it could be completed.

Smith Covenant

David and Maureen Smith have protected a most attractive three hectare block of bush on their Marton property with a National Trust open space covenant. The covenant is 14 km from Marton on Galpins Road, and is in a basin on easy rolling country.

The bush is mainly tawa and kahikatea, with other species including titoki, pukatea, pigeonwood, lancewood, rimu, totara, mahoe, matai and nikau. A special feature of this bush is the presence of several very large and very old rata trees.

The Forest Heritage Fund supported this covenant. Despite it being grazed by cattle in the past there is an ample seed source for regeneration.

GISBORNE

Robinson Covenant

A very valuable wetland and wildlife habitat next to Tuhara village, 12 km east of Wairoa, has been protected by Lim Robinson. The 104.2 hectare Wairau Lagoon is one of four large lagoons in the Wairoa to Nuhaka-Whakaki region, says Regional Rep Richard White.

"To ensure there is always enough water in the lagoon in a severe drought Mr Robinson decided to put an embankment around the lagoon. Gates on the lagoon also ensure the water level won't go below a certain point. This work was started some years ago with a donation from the then Wildlife Service, and the local catchment authority. Mr Robinson has also put in a lot of money into the project. This has created a permanent wetland wildlife habitat for large

numbers of ducks and geese which nest and breed on and around the lagoon."

The freshwater lagoon system is very low-lying and floods severely during heavy rain. The lagoons run east-west along the northern Hawke's Bay coastline, and are protected from the sea by a massive shingle beach embankment.

Mr Robinson farms the surrounding land with his two sons, Pita and Richard.

Fencing was finished two or three months ago, and the next stage of the project is revegetation of the embankment. Mr White hopes next winter will see the start of "quite a massive planting job of native trees suitable for the area."

Another aspect of the covenanted wetland is the control of Canadian geese numbers. Bird numbers are kept to the 1500 to 1800 level by the Department of Conservation, so the geese don't over-run the wetland.

The Lottery Grants Board also helped finance this covenant.

HAWKE'S BAY

Nielsen Covenant

Carl and Jillian Nielsen have a newly registered covenant over 3.9 hectares of forest remnant on their Maraetotara farm near Havelock North. This long and thin covenant complements the adjacent 7.1 hectare covenant already registered. The covenants were both begun by the previous owners, the Kettle family.

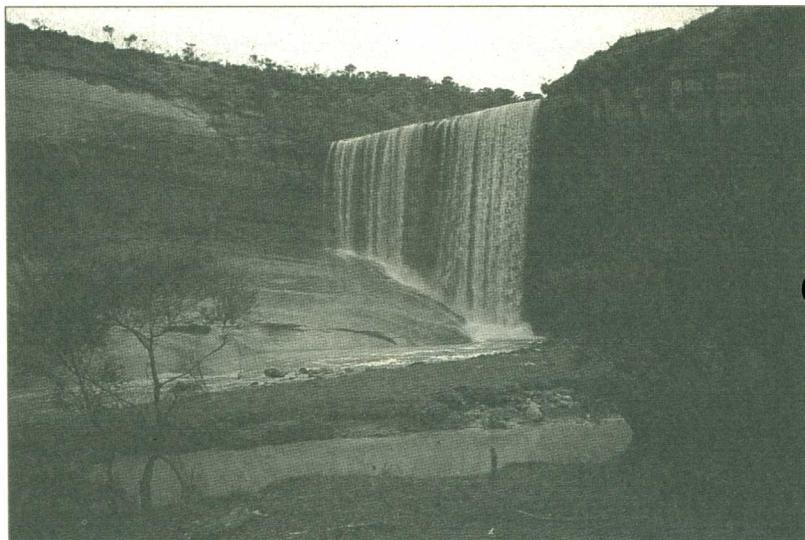
The new second covenant adds to the scenic values of the first, running alongside the Maraetotara River and including a waterfall and swimming hole area popular in summer. Mature totara dominant the covenant, and karaka, ngaio, lacebark, mahoe, pigeonwood and tarata are other species present.

WAIRARAPA

Berry Covenant

Carne and Ann Berry have two newly registered covenants on their "Falls" property 7km east of Pongoroa. The first covenant is over 2.7 hectares of forest remnant, while the second is a life of the trees covenant over 15.5 hectares of bush. The smaller block contains a large variety of species including

are isolated stands of indigenous forest in an otherwise grassed landscape. Both areas are frequently visited by the public, including organised groups from environmental organisations such as the local branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. Other covenants close by are the Robertson, Riddell, Hendrickson and Herbert covenants.



A shot of the magnificent falls in summer with a relatively low flow of water.

lancewood, cabbage trees, rewarewa, kahikatea, pukatea, kowhai and tawa.

The larger block, a steep slope above a horseshoe bend, contains spectacular falls in the Owhango River. The Berrys call the 25 metre high falls Mangātitti Falls. Kowhai are predominant in this covenant, and flower at the end of September. Other species present include lancewood, cabbage trees, rewarewa, rimu, pigeonwood, kahikatea, large pukatea, mahoe, tawa and titoki. The area is still allowed to be very lightly grazed by sheep, as it would be very difficult to fence out. The falls flow well all year round, but when it's windy the water gets blown back and the falls stop running, Mr Berry says.

"We're very pleased to have protected the bush. Both blocks are unique pieces of bush, and remnants are pretty few and far between here."

Within a highly developed rural landscape the two covenanted areas

CANTERBURY

Wilson Covenant

Lighthouse Road at Akaroa is the site for a 26 hectare whole title covenant protected by John Wilson. The property is steep and includes a gully which is part of a larger Recommended Area for Protection. John's brother Hugh, a botanist, says in a 1992 report that the area has "an extraordinary juxtaposition of species such as beech and nikau palms. Several species are at their southern limits such as nikau, kawakawa, titoki, akeake, pigeonwood, native passion vine and poroporo."

The area is a complex mosaic of pasture, old-growth forest remnants including red beech, second growth and regenerating native forest, native shrubland and scrub, gorse, fernland and pine plantation. However, there is a strong trend back into forest, and this year has been particularly

good for regeneration, Regional Rep David Webster notes. "Already mahoe, lancewood and pepper trees are emerging through the canopy. The quality of the older mature trees is very high and there is already much evidence of red beech colonising open areas. The strategic location offers spectacular views to the Akaroa Heads, the harbour and beyond."

Gliddon and Williams Covenant

An outstanding area of forty hectares of limestone rocks has been protected by Evan Gliddon and his sister-in-law Pauline Williams at Taiko, 30 km northwest of Timaru. Steep limestone cliffs, large detached blocks of limestone between the cliffs and the road, and small patches of bush around the cliffs make up the spectacular covenant. There are also a couple of small areas of wetland vegetation close to the road which add to the attractive mix of vegetation which can be seen from Limestone Valley Road.

Major species present are mahoe, red matipo, cabbage trees, kowhai, coprosma species, broadleaves and *Olearia avicenniaefolia*.

This covenant is right next to Evan Gliddon's covenant 24 hectare covenant.

Gliddon Covenant

Adjacent to the previous covenant is a further 24 hectare area protecting limestone landscape rock formations along Limestone Valley Road at Taiko.

Like the previous covenant, the limestone scarp is least developed on this property compared with the others on the east of the valley road. While most of the native vegetation has been replaced by pastures, there are a few cabbage trees remaining near the top of the slope. Both of these covenants protect the open space values of the land, the cliff faces, outcrops and fossil remnants, the native flora and fauna, and the natural scenic values of the area.



Part of the Gliddon covenant at Taiko.

A third covenant proposal, soon to be registered, is the Loomes covenant right next door.

Morrison Covenant

Ian Morrison of Kakahu, 15 km from Geraldine, has taken out a whole of title covenant over 17 hectares of limestone outcrops and their associated native vegetation. The covenant runs down from the limestone scarp at 220 metres above sea level, to the Kakahu River at 120 metres above sea level where there is a wetland. This covenant also protects notable Maori rock drawings and rare fossils.

The covenanted land, which can be seen from the Winchester - Hanging Rock Road, includes kanuka, totara, mahoe, five-finger, broadleaf, kowhai, cabbage tree, and red matipo. An important fossil bed is located within this covenant at the junction of Bush Creek and the Kakahu River. It is rated highly vulnerable and nationally important in a 1993 inventory by the Geological Society of New Zealand.

This covenant is close to existing covenants on the farm, but the limestone is quite different from the largely jaspillite outcrops of the existing covenants.

A major threat to the striking outcrops of this new covenant is from unrestricted or unauthorised use by rock climbers and fossil hunters.

COASTAL OTAGO

Watt Covenant

Eleanor and Murray Watt have covenanted 9.9 hectares of coastal Otago lowland bush on their property on the south side of Saddle Hill near Dunedin city. This area is an example of a bush remnant which has survived milling, fires and grazing in the past. Few of the very large trees remain and the bush is dominated by broadleaf forest and stands of kanuka/manuka scrub. Regeneration is strong throughout, and the bush supports a good population of native birds.

When Murray and Eleanor moved from their farm at Hindon in 1989, they were determined that their new home near Dunedin would have some native bush on it. They found what they were looking for on their present property, and soon after purchasing the area, they set about protecting the bush with fencing and covenanting. The cost of the fence was shared by the National Trust.

Eleanor and Murray have been delighted with the level of regeneration since the fencing was completed. Murray has spent many hours on the construction of walking tracks through the area, and both he and Eleanor are happy to invite visitors to enjoy the area with them. They have homestay visitors, and encourage local school and

conservation groups to come and take part in some revegetation work they are undertaking within the bush as well. A gathering to celebrate the covenant was held in October.

WESTLAND

Buchanan Covenant

This 4.2 hectare covenant is situated at Neils Beach near Jacksons Bay in South Westland. It is a whole title covenant totally covered in forest, and right next to the main highway.



Eleanor and Murray Watt in their coastal covenant near Dunedin city. (Photo: Helen Clarke)

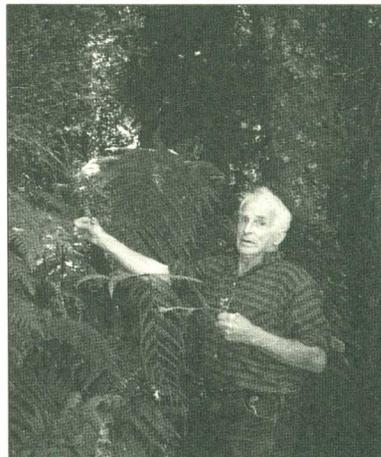
Although the area has been logged to some extent in the past it is a fair example of the South Westland forest type. Rimu, kahikatea, miro and *Quintinia* are the dominant major species present. There is much supplejack and an excellent range of ferns and orchids. Exclusion of cattle, combined with the high rainfall will ensure strong and continued regeneration. Native birdlife in this bush is conspicuous.

The owners, Bill and Mabel Buchanan, have spent much of their working lives in this area and are anxious to see their bush protected. Although native forest still dominates the general landscape in this locality, little of it enjoys formal protection, or protection from browsing animals.

SOUTHLAND

Cassee Covenant

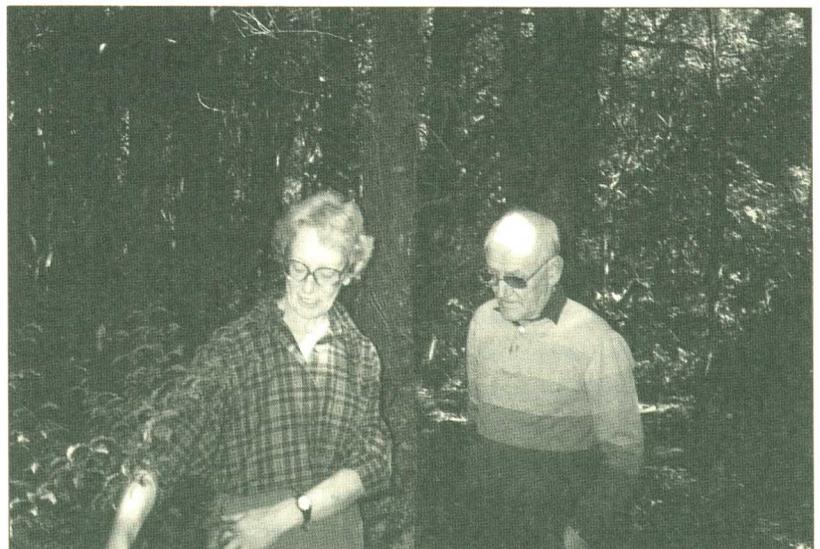
This recently registered 0.75 hectare covenant is a welcome addition to a diverse cluster of smaller covenants in the Otatara semi-urban residential area near Invercargill. This is a whole title residential covenant, most of which is in good quality native forest. It is



Bill Buchanan of Neils Beach, South Westland displays enthusiasm for the good selection of ferns in his bush. (Photo: Roger Sutton)

a pleasant mixture of kahikatea, rimu, matai, totara and pokaka with a good selection of minor species and ferns representative of the locality.

The Cassees are currently successfully engaged in revegetation of the road frontage portion of their property with native trees and plants typical of the area.



Gil and Wilma Cassee in their native forest at Otatara where they derive daily enjoyment. (Photo: Roger Sutton)

Apart from the obvious botanical and aesthetic values there are two notable features about this covenant. Firstly, it contributes to the City Council's desire, via its district plan, to retain native forest in the area.

Secondly, and most importantly, Gil and Wilma Cassee are expatriate Dutch citizens who migrated to New Zealand in 1960. Their appreciation of the open space and comparatively sparse human population that Southland offers is reflected in their obvious enjoyment of their property and its natural features. They have no difficulty in seeing the need for protecting such values.

Gamble Covenant

Ian and Jenny Gamble of Otatara, near Invercargill, have made a valuable extension to their existing covenanted land. Their existing 3.5 hectare covenant is over an interesting mixture of tall podocarp forest and tidal salt marsh. Public access facilities associated with this were described in *Open Space* No. 30.

Since then the Gambles have purchased an adjoining 0.8 hectare area of good quality podocarp forest. This is now protected under a separate additional open space covenant. This land was purchased with a view to forest protection, an action which further endorses the Gambles' commitment to conservation.

Due to the owners' initiative, the existing new board-walk is being extended to five times its original length. This greatly enhances the potential for educational opportunity and public appreciation and enjoyment in this area of high ecological value.

Southland Regional Council Covenant

The Southland Regional Council is giving out clear signals regarding its commitment to resource management and environmental protection. The use of National Trust services is part of this.

The Council inherited land held for flood control purposes in the tidal reaches of the Mataura River and Titiroa Stream near Fortrose on the Southland coast. Native forest remnants are a dominant landscape feature on this land, and there is a commitment to protect these via National Trust covenants.

The latest covenants to be registered are two in a series of six. They are 3.3 hectares and 8.6



Members of the Southland Regional Council inspect regeneration following the exclusion of cattle in one of their six covenants. Left to right: Jan Riddell, Chairperson of the Planning and Resource Management Committee, John Mills, Deputy Chairman, Marion Miller, Chairperson, and Councillor Ian Guise. (Photo: Roger Sutton)

hectares in area and are conspicuous from southern scenic highway 92. The total area of covenanted land owned by the Council is now 84.5 hectares.

The forest type on this flood plain differs significantly from that on the two adjoining terraces in that while the podocarp species are well represented as elsewhere, silver beech is also present. This appears

to be the southern limit of distribution of silver beech anywhere.

While these two areas have been subject to some logging in the distant past, and cattle damage, the protective fencing which the Council and the National Trust have jointly erected has encouraged strong natural regeneration.

WHAT DOES THE QEII NATIONAL TRUST DO?

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust was established by Act of Parliament in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee year, "to encourage and promote the provision, protection and enhancement of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of New Zealand".

One of the Trust's principal functions is to protect privately owned areas of open space, without jeopardising the rights of ownership. While private landowners may sell or gift land to the Crown or a local authority as a reserve, many wish to protect their land while retaining ownership, and open space covenants are a satisfactory

answer. Open space is defined widely in the Trust's Act as "Any area of land or body of water that serves to preserve or to facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific, or social interest or value".

A Queen Elizabeth II National Trust open space covenant is a legal agreement between the Trust and a landholder to protect a special feature for a specified time, more usually, in perpetuity. Covenants are almost always owner initiated reflecting the landholders' goodwill toward this form of protection.

Today over 770 open space covenants have been registered

and a further 460 are proceeding towards registration. These covenants protect a variety of open space, including forest and forest remnants, wetlands, lakes, peat lakes, coastline, tussockland, tracts of rural landscape, archaeological sites, and geological formations. Currently, over 80,000 hectares of land have been approved for protection.

The National Trust also accepts gifts or bequests of money or property. Some substantial cash donations and valuable properties have been given to the Trust including native forest, gardens and farms.

HELP US PROTECT THE LANDSCAPE JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST

• *Membership Application*

Name _____

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- *Subscriptions* (GST included): Tick appropriate category
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|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Individual | \$22.00 | • Corporate - business | On application |
| • Junior (under 18) | \$11.00 | • Corporate - special | \$33.00 |
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| • Life | \$550.00 | organisations, schools) | |

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